

Motion Debate on “Constitutional reform” Progress Report

Background

At the Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting on 26 November 2014, the motion on “Constitutional reform” moved by the Hon Ronny TONG was carried. The motion reads as follows:

“That this Council urges the Government to expeditiously put forward a practical and feasible constitutional reform package.”

2. This report informs Members of the follow-up actions taken by the Government in respect of the motion.

Latest Progress

3. On 7 January 2015, the Government published the Consultation Document on the Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage (Consultation Document), formally launching a two-month public consultation on the method for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) by universal suffrage. The consultation period will end on 7 March 2015. In accordance with the Basic Law and the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on Issues Relating to the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by Universal Suffrage and on the Method for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2016 (Decision) adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPCSC) on 31 August 2014, the Consultation Document sets out the following key issues regarding the specific arrangements of selecting the CE by universal suffrage to consult the public:

- (i) composition and formation method of the Nominating Committee (NC);
- (ii) procedures for the NC to nominate CE candidates;

- (iii) voting arrangements for selecting the CE by universal suffrage; and
- (iv) other related issues for the selection of the CE by universal suffrage.

4. The Government hopes that different sectors of the community could, under the Basic Law and the framework laid down by the Decision, discuss in a rational and pragmatic manner and forge consensus, so as to establish a suitable system of universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

5. After the conclusion of the public consultation, the Government will consolidate and summarise the views received as soon as possible, with a view to submitting a resolution to the LegCo in the second quarter of 2015 to amend Annex I to the Basic Law regarding the method for selecting the CE (i.e., the Third Step of the “Five-step Process” of constitutional development) and securing a two-thirds majority endorsement from the LegCo, so that five million eligible voters could elect the next CE in 2017 through “one person, one vote”.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
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