



**Amendment Bill - Cap.586**  
**Ho Shu Ping** to: bc\_06\_16

05/09/2017 09:35

Dear Legislators,

I support the amendment of Cap.586 to end the trade in ivory and increase penalties for wildlife smugglers. I do not support any compensation to ivory traders.

It is very clear from multiple reports, experts and government authorities that the ivory trade, and its related networks, is a criminal trade.

Money from wildlife smuggling doesn't just kill elephants, it kills people and funds civil instability.

Representatives from African law enforcement as well as national parks have stated how it is almost impossible to stop the poaching due to the resources of these criminals. It is also well documented how ivory is being used by terror groups in Sudan, Somalia and Congo to fund wars, leading to death, and displacement of people, loss of homes and destruction of the environment.

Fighting in Somalia alone has led to the displacement of 1.2 million Somalis, one of the largest humanitarian crises in this decade. By allowing this trade, Hong Kong has already contributed to this tragedy.

Banning the trade is an urgent issue. Ivory traders have had ample time to sell their stocks, as well as been provided with government support for industry transformation, when most of the world had already banned ivory trade.

For this reason, I do not support any compensation for ivory.

I also support significantly higher penalties for wildlife smuggling, as well as investigative powers to trace criminal networks to their source.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Ho Shuping