



4th September 2017

Hon Kenneth Leung
Room 918, Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

I am Lindsey Anne McAlister, I was born in the UK and have lived in HK for 30 years.

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill. It is a particularly timely issue as I have just returned from a visit to South Africa, where I spent time in the Okavango Delta. During the visit, I had the privilege to observe elephants in their natural habitat. These wonderful animals deserve protection; it is our responsibility to stand up for them and put a halt to this barbaric treatment of these majestic beasts.

I fully support the government's three-step plan to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade; and its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance (Cap 586). However, I do not support any proposition to compensate traders or buy out their stocks. My reasons are as stated:

- Providing any form of compensation will signal that Hong Kong is 'buying' ivory, likely triggering a surge of poaching in Africa.
- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade.
- The Hong Kong Government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property.
- Traders and others who have speculated on ivory have done so, knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market.

- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade.

- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban, to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

It's shocking that annually 33,000 elephants are being slaughtered for their tusks and rangers, trying to protect wildlife, are losing their lives. In HK ivory traders have been operating illegally, if compensation is granted we are sending the wrong message, we are saying this is OK; this is acceptable, when it is absolutely NOT! How do we want to be perceived by the rest of the world? Come on HK!

Sincerely Yours,



Lindsey McAlister, OBE, JP