

Submission from Eddie LEE Eun-sang

I'd like to voice my personal opinion regarding the ban on ivory trade. I propose that ivory trading should be banned immediately, without giving the traders any leeway to drag out this exploitative behavior. Originally, the government decided to ban ivory trading, officially imposing the ban three years from now. These three years provide the traders with a gap of time, in which period they clearly hope to achieve actions which effectively bypass the government's ban, including the opening of a black market. Trusting that the traders will just stop trading gradually is too optimistic and too implausible an outcome.

The process of extracting ivory from an elephant is truly terrifying. They rip the teeth out of the elephant, and leave them to bleed to death. And what's worse, the poachers don't do anything about the rest of the body, and leaving the animal to die in excruciating pain. Elephants are known as sentimental animals, and they mourn for their dead family members. Isn't this heartbreaking? This cruelty is unacceptable in any enlightened society.

There is also the global sustainability argument focusing on the issue of the endangered status of elephants worldwide, with the primary cause being indubitably linked to ivory trading. Is it truly worth it to sacrifice an entire species, for something as unimportant as ivory harvesting? The use of ivory does not go further than aesthetics, allowing rich people to boast about their wealth. Delaying the enforcement of the legislation does not present the Hong Kong Government in a favorable light on the matter.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the government not to give the three year waiting period, and ban ivory trading immediately.