



You MUST follow through on the ivory ban
Rob Heath to: panel_ea

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TOTHE LEGCO ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL:

I am a resident and taxpayer in Hong Kong, who loves the city. But I am ashamed that our city provides the World's biggest loophole for the disgraceful and illegal ivory trade. Now at last, there is a proposal to close that loophole. The meagre few elephants that remain in Africa, along with all concerned people the World over, are desperately relying on Hong Kong to pass the proposal on June 6th and ban the sale of ivory.

Unscrupulous and dishonest traders have been flaunting the feeble rules that have been in place for the last 27 years, aided by spineless or greedy politicians who have continually ignored calls to tighten the regulations. During that time, the elephant population in Africa has been driven to the brink of extinction.

I have read that the ivory traders are demanding compensation if their stocks become unsellable due to a ban. This is wholly unacceptable and must be resisted. The traders have had more than enough time to sell their "products", and they will have an additional five-year grace period; if compensation were introduced now, many traders may seek to boost their stocks to claim more money, thereby actually increasing the amount of poaching and slaughter that will happen in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: The whole World is watching you. For the good of a magnificent but vanishing species, and for the good of the worldwide reputation of Hong Kong, please implement the ivory ban, without compensation.

Robert Heath
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