



公民黨
Civic Party

The civic spirit, the Hong Kong spirit.
為公為民，香港精神

施政期望

Our Expectations of the SAR Government

不分貧富親疏

A CARING COMMUNITY FOR ALL OF US

共建關懷社會

公民黨對特區政府的施政期望

Civic Party's Policy Expectations of the SAR Government

www.civicparty.hk

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Diversity in Unity : a Caring Community for All

Civic Party's expectations of the forthcoming policy address

Summary

Foreword

The Civic Party urges the Government to resolve confrontation and divergent views through fair policies and just systems. Political spinning cannot take the place of prudent policy formulation and genuine consultation, which processes should always be strictly followed. The Government should have a long term vision on how to promote competitiveness and enhance urban development in a sustainable way.

“Strong governance” does not mean high-handedness, keeping the public in the dark. In drawing a distinction between political parties and organizations which are “close” and “distant”, the Chief Executive deepens divisiveness in society and further strains the relationship between the executive and the legislature.

The twin pillars of any harmonious society should be inclusiveness in diversity as well as just and fair systems. Hence the starting point should be the early implementation of universal suffrage, so that all Hong Kong residents, regardless of their race, skin colour, wealth or social status, can enjoy equal political rights.

We propose the following:

Constitutional affairs

1. To conduct a public consultation on the implementation of universal suffrage as soon as possible.
2. In the course of the legislative process of the “Interception of Communications and Surveillance Bill”, the Chief Executive demonstrates his close and distant principle by bundling the pro government legislators together to ensure that not a single amendment put forward would be passed (The Civic Party notes that in relation to a recent incident involving the

violation of privacy of a famous artist, the Chief Executive is now urging the public to consider the Law Reform Commission recommendations which proposed civil and criminal sanctions for violation of privacy when earlier in this month the government objected strenuously to the amendment proposed by the Hon. Margaret Ng to add criminal or civil sanctions in relation to breach of privacy by law enforcement agencies). If the government really intends to have a de facto government party versus an opposition party, he should take into account how this is practised in other countries. Such practices include:

- n All political parties, whether they are in the government camp or in the opposition, should have a right to know and be informed of all crucial policies being considered or studied by the government.
 - n Adequate resources to political parties that enable them to carry out independent research and studies.
 - n In order to promote institutional check and balance, a constitutional convention should be set up that certain committees of the Legislative Council, for example the Public Accounts Committee or the Finance Committee, will not be chaired by members of the pro-government side.
3. Enact a “Freedom of Information Act” in order to enhance transparency and accountability of the government. To take effective measures including the implementation of “Non-profit Making Organization Ordinance” to foster development of political parties.

Rule of law and Human rights

4. The Government failed to consult the public on the covert surveillance bill, even though the need for legislation to protect the individual’s right to privacy from infringement by law enforcement agencies had been evident for at least 10 years. The recently passed law remains deeply flawed. The Government must pledge that the legislation will be reviewed following a full public consultation.
5. Set up a Human Rights Commission and enact legislations of racial discrimination (including those against new-arrivals), and stalking.

Economics affairs and finance

6. Implement the recommendations of the Competition Policy Review Committee and introduce an across-the-board competition law in Hong Kong.
7. Provide one-stop service for mainland investors coming to Hong Kong through the QDII scheme.

8. The proposed merging of MTRC and KCRC should be considered and negotiated as an independent issue from fare reduction.
9. Release more data on the proposed GST and justify the need to alter the current simple tax regime. The administration also needs to further explain its effect on low-income family and grass roots.

Education and Environment

10. Increase the quota of subsidized degrees, allocate more resources on research development and upgrade the quality of sub-degree courses.
11. Implement small class education and enhance language proficiency among local students so as to achieve quality education. Formulate effective measures to reduce the workload of teachers.
12. Enhance the quality of early childhood education by increasing subsidized training places for in-service kindergarten teachers and providing more resources for early childhood education.
13. Request the Guangdong government to release more data on the progress of achieving the 2010 emission target. Expand the restricted area for districts with busy traffic. Legislate to require motorists to switch off the engines of their vehicles while waiting on the road.
14. Set up an Independent Energy Authority with a view to monitor the progress of emission reduction, open up the power grid, implement demand-side management schemes and regulate the competitive energy market.
15. Stipulate that all new residential buildings should reserve ample space on each floor to facilitate household waste recycling at source.
16. Formulate a comprehensive policy and work with the private sector to set up a fund for preserving cultural heritage.

Urban Planning and Housing

17. The notion of Community-oriented development should be adopted in the Kai-tak project and other urban renewal programmes. Sustainable development, rather than mere economic interest, must always be the paramount concern in every urban planning project, including the Government Hill site after the SAR Government Headquarters are moved to Tamar.
18. Reforms in the land management authorities and procedures should be carried out immediately, so that a more open and accountable Town Planning

Board can be established, and the Urban Renewal Authority can work as a “facilitator” of urban redevelopment rather than a land developer.

19. The mechanisms of dealing with the sites granted by private treaty must be strictly and carefully followed, so as to generate proper public revenue, as well as a fair and open procedure to change the uses of the land.
20. Planning aid programmes should be carried out at the level of the district councils, so as to draw more experts that can help to preserve the social, natural and cultural features of the community.
21. The level of public housing rent should be adjusted to a reasonable level before considering the system of rent adjustment both upwards and downwards.
22. Disputes between and among Owners’ Committee (OCs) and Incorporated Owners (IOs) are very common. The administration should consider setting up a specialized “Building Management Tribunal” to specifically handle those cases in a more efficient way.

Health care, welfare and labour

23. Perform a comprehensive review of the supply and demand of health care manpower and should no longer postpone the consultation paper with proposals on health care financing so as to tackle the long term problem in a fair and reasonable manner and ensure that both the middle-class and the underprivileged will be getting the best health care service in a sustainable way.
24. Review the existing framework for the provision of public and private medical care services by introducing an independent body with reference to overseas example such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), so as to facilitate the communication and cooperation between public and private medical organizations.
25. Review the one-line budget arrangement which has been in force for 6 years and caused widespread grievance among social welfare agencies.
26. Instead of being dragged into seemingly endless discussion of the definition and measurement of poverty, the Commission of Poverty should be more active in tackling the deficiency of current policies, such as CSSA.
27. Implement its obligations under the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights which provides that a working person should be able to earn minimum remuneration to sustain decent living for himself and his family.

Professional development

28. Consult the legal and accountancy sector on the professional responsibility system, with the view to allowing professionals to form a partnership with limited liability.
29. Increase higher education quota for those professional sectors facing a shortage of talents.

Civic education and community development

30. Conduct a study of and public consultations on promoting and enabling citizenship through educational, administrative and legal means.
31. Devise a code of practice on public consultation to engender a more positive and participatory model of consultation.
32. Formulate a Regional Development Policy for promoting the development and welfare of the distressed areas, i.e. the north-eastern and north-western parts of Hong Kong.
33. The almost universal requirement of Chinese Language qualification in Hong Kong and the resultant language barrier have inhibited the upward mobility of members of ethnic minorities and this is effectively a form of social exclusion. The administration needs to address this issue in coordination with minority communities, employers and schools.
34. Increase the penalty level of offences under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance, from a maximum fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment of six months, to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment of 3 to 5 years.

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