

## **A Bracing Cosmopolitan**

### **A Promising Returns to its Community**

-- Civic Party's expectations of the forthcoming policy address

#### Summary

#### **Constitutional affairs**

- To introduce election systems for electing the CE and the forming of the LegCo that conform to the principles of the Basic Law and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights no later than 2012.
- Extend the public consultation on the Green Papers on Constitutional Development from 3 months to 6 months, that is until January 2008. Afterwards, the government should release to the public the views and figures collected as well as the origins and the methods the make up such figures.
- The government should recommend to the Central Government and seek its support.
- Enact a “Freedom of Information Act” in order to enhance transparency and accountability of the government. Principal government officials should make every effort to attend meetings of the LegCo and the Executive should also stick to the promised time-limit for submitting papers to the LegCo. To take all effective measures, including the passing of a “Non profit-making organization Bill” for the development of political parties.
- To develop a communication mechanism that involves the Central Government, the HKSAR Government and elected representatives of the community, so that views and opinions on different topics/ issues could be exchanged regularly.
- To review the accountability system as soon as possible. The public should be involved in the discussion of the current operation as well as the future of the system.
- Eliminate the appointed members of District Council in 2007. Strengthen the functions of the District Council by granting the rights to suggest, examine, manage and monitor the district environment, cultural facilities as well as the district constructions affairs to the District Council.

## **Rule of law and Human rights**

- Include newly arrivals who face similar level of racial discrimination as ethnic minority groups, in the Race Discrimination Bill.
- The government should no longer exclude racial discrimination based on language, religions and the bill should apply to the performance of governmental functions and powers as well.
- Set up a Human Rights Commission and enact legislation of stalking as soon as possible.

## **Economics affairs and finance**

- To develop a diversified industries in multi-sectors through financial initiatives
- Increase public expenses on medical, educational, social welfare and environmental sectors to narrow the disparity between the rich and the poor.
- Review the current tax regime.
- Set up an overseas investment task force to provide one-stop assistance (tax, planning, etc.) to foreign investors in HK.

## **Environment**

- Set-up an Inter-Departmental Team headed by the Chief Secretary to tackle climate change issue, including the formulation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Improve air quality by reducing emission from power plants and traffic sector through immediate measures, such as phasing out old vehicles, adopting electric road pricing system, implementing emission trading scheme
- Formulate a more sustainable and open electricity market through the new Scheme of Control with the power companies
- Further reduce waste by implementing Household Waste Charging Scheme and Producer Responsibility System
- Lower urban density and encourage green architectures to tackle urban problem, such as screen-like buildings and build up a sustainable city

## **Cultural Conservation, Community Development**

- Review current policy directions on cultural conservation and community development. Re-examine cultural conservation policies by enlarging the scope and the definition of monuments.
- Reforming the present 'Antiquities Advisory Board' into a 'Heritage and Cultural Preservation Board' with actual statutory powers entrusted to it through legislation. Clear jurisdiction in the protecting and promoting and preserving cultural heritage needs to be drawn up.
- Establish a 'Natural Heritage and Cultural Foundation' to ensure an adequate and sustained financial source in developing and maintaining sustainable heritage revitalization schemes.
- The Development Bureau should take up the role and coordinate with various government departments in formulating a general policy on open-air bazaars which should be in line with the principles of sustainable development.
- Review the urban renewal strategies and hawker license policy to vitalize street markets with local characteristics.

## **Urban Planning & Housing**

- Review the decision-making procedures in urban planning with more public engagement.
- The “Kai-tak Experience”, a relatively successful example of public engagement in urban planning, should be adopted in the near future.
- and it should include more participation from the public.
- The Secretariat of the Town Planning Board should be independent from the government and directly accountable to the Board. Include a certain number of LegCo or District Council Members so as to increase public representation of the Board.
- Maintain a constant supply of public housing and review its application criteria from time to time. The supply of public housing must be in line with the demographic changes in local population.
- Study the feasibility of resuming the construction of Home Ownership Scheme flats and the provision of flat purchase loan.
- Disputes between and among Owners' Committee (OCs) and Incorporated Owners (IOs) are very common. The government should consider setting up

a specialized “Building Management Tribunal” to specifically handle those cases in a more efficient way.

- The self-regulatory scheme of developers cannot effectively scrutinize the property sale practice. The government should review the present Sales Descriptions of Uncompleted Residential Properties Bill and ensure the developers will provide sufficient and accurate information to consumers.

## **Education**

- Alleviate the financial burden on parents and improve the quality of pre-primary education by increasing the face value of the Education Voucher from \$13,000 per annum to \$16,000 per annum immediately. The pre-primary education should be fully subsidized by the government in gradual basis.
- Reduce inter-generational poverty and alleviate the financial burden of poor families by lowering the eligibility criteria of the government's School Textbook Assistance.
- Enhance the level of financial assistance for students enrolled in sub-degree programmes to that similar for university students and increase the quota of subsidized degrees for graduates of sub-degree programmes..
- Implement small class education progressively and enhance language proficiency among local students so as to achieve quality education. Formulate effective measures to reduce the workload of teachers.

## **Welfare & Labour**

- Review the one-line budget arrangement which has been in force for 6 years and caused widespread grievance among social welfare agencies.
- Re-establish the Commission of Poverty and the commission should be more active in alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor and tackling the deficiency of current policies, such as CSSA.
- Review the level and the application criteria of the Age Allowance so as to benefit more aged people.
- 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. Set up standard working hours and consider introducing the mechanism of collective bargaining in various industries.

### **Health care & Food Safety**

- 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.
- Conduct a comprehensive review on the Hospital Authority's management structure for a better management of public resources.
- Establish a food supply chain tracking mechanism to enable food surveillance and control at source, so as to achieve the objective of ensuring food safety 'from farm to fork'.
- Enact legislation to regulate imported foods which includes setting up a licensing system for food importers.
- Implement the Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information for Pre-packaged Food. Food contains genetically modified organisms(GMOs) and trans fats must be indicated on its label.

### **Broadcasting**

- Transform RTHK to become a public broadcaster independent of the government structure.