

Civic Party's Expectation on 2009/10 Policy Address

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Civic Party believes that universal suffrage is the political cornerstone of sustainable social development.

The problems of the financial tsunami are not yet over and the Government ought to put her efforts in job creation. The Six New Promising Industries proposed by Chief Executive may benefit the professional and skilled workers but not the unskilled workers, who usually suffer most during economic downturn. This is why The Civic Party promotes Green Economy to create 89,000 jobs for different classes.

Further, the Government should reduce greenhouse gas emission through a series of environmental-friendly measures to mitigate climate change.

The Civic Party puts forward 224 suggestions, covering 16 areas including political and constitutional reform, economy, social policies and environmental protection.

The Chief Executive must get his job done, both in keeping his electoral promise to resolve the question of universal suffrage during his term and to mitigate climate change. If he fails to keep his electoral pledge, he should resign.

Constitutional Reform

Ø The Civic Party supports universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive and Legislative Council in 2012. If this should prove impossible, the Chief Executive must at the very least consult Hong Kong people on the way forward (“ a road map”) leading to genuine universal suffrage when he puts forward his consultation paper for the 2012 constitutional reform later this year. By genuine universal suffrage, this means no filtering or pre-election for the chief executive election and no functional constituency for the legislative council election.

Green Economy

Ø The Civic Party puts forward Green Economy and Environmental measures to create 89,000 new jobs to improve energy efficiency, recycling and sewage treatment.

Environment

Ø The Civic Party requests higher targets for Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases Emission and Renewable Energy and proposes 20 measures that can help to achieve those objectives.

Governance

The Civic Party suggests a full review of the Principal Officials Accountability System, improving relations of the executive and the legislature, strengthening ties amongst the Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan and enhancing the quality of governance.

Economic and Industrial Development

Ø The Civic Party urges the Government to provide more financial incentives, increase investment on research and development of the Testing and Certification Industry and Information & Technology Industry. Think twice on the expansion of Conference & Exhibition facilities. It should pass legislation on fair competition, provide more support to SME in the areas of loan guarantee scheme, marketing, management skills and information of mainland market.

Financial Affairs

Ø The Civic Party recommends that the Government review current regulatory system and establish a single regulatory body to monitor the finance sector. At the same time, the Government should develop more financial products to encourage diversified development of Hong Kong financial market.

Transport

Ø The Civic Party recommends a comprehensive policy on Bicycle as a supplementary transport. The Government should review the fare mechanism of MTR and public transport, study the possibility of buying out the cross-harbour tunnel in order to balance the traffic flow among the tunnels.

Housing

Ø The Civic Party recommends new Home Ownership projects to guarantee enough supply of public housing for the middle and lower class. Besides, we urge installation of environmental-friendly facilities in public housing to enhance energy efficiency.

Education

Ø The Civic Party believes that to develop Hong Kong as an education hub, we must first satisfy the needs of local students and prepare them for a knowledge-based economy. We recommend more grants for research and development, 15 year free education, small class teaching in secondary schools, the removal of the age barrier for mentally handicapped students and on line fees for students from low income families.

Youth Development

Ø The Civic Party urges the government to put more resources into tackling drug trafficking activities and relieving the workload of youth social workers. Meanwhile, the Government ought to review the current youth policy and encourage young people to participate in public affairs.

Welfare

Ø The Civic Party recommends increased support for psychiatric patients, the disabled, the elderly and the new immigrants. Besides, the Government ought to revive the Poverty Committee, develop social enterprise and consider a pension scheme.

Labour

Ø Apart from the legislation on minimum wage, the Civic Party recommends that the Government study the possibility of standard working hours and collective bargaining legislation. We also urge the Government to include the 5 banking holidays into the statutory holidays.

Food Safety & Environmental Hygiene

Ø The Civic Party recommends a review of the public market policy, revitalize them and enhance its business environment. Besides, we urge the Government to have more patrol on hygiene black spots and clean them up.

Health

Ø The Civic Party regards that the medical service ought to be enhanced, especially on psychiatric service, prescribed drugs, the quality of health professionals, the medical complaint mechanism and the monitoring system on epidemic diseases...etc. Meanwhile, Government ought to encourage the cooperation between Western and Chinese medical practitioners, brand building, waving the registrations on travel and transport. And then, Hong Kong can develop Quality Health Service Industry.

Urban Planning

Ø The Civic Party recommends that the Government adopt a public engagement model to develop Western Kowloon Cultural District. We also suggest the development of sub-urban centre in Kam Tin and low carbon district in Kai Tak. Meanwhile, we urge the Government to draft the Tree Ordinance and review Built Heritage Policy to enhance conservation.

Home Affairs

Ø The Civic Party recommends that the Government cooperate with Guangdong and Macau Governments to nominate Cantonese Opera as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage and provide adequate support to Cantonese Opera. Meanwhile, we urge the Government to give art groups more support on trainings, facilities and management.