

## Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council

Date: 9 July 2019 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30 pm

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u> <u>(pm)</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u> <u>(pm)</u>
Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chi-chung, Dominic	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Chun-sing, Patrick	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH	2:45	end of meeting
Mr KU Kwai-yiu	2:30	end of meeting
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEE Chun-keung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Sum-lim	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAM Kei-tung, George	2:30	end of meeting
Mr SHIU Ka-fai, JP	2:30	2:50
Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHUI Chi-kin	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Howard	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Siu-sun, Patrick	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, David, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Ms LEUNG Wing-man, Bonnie	2:47	end of meeting
Mr HUI Ching-on	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KWOK Wai-keung, Aron, JP	2:30	end of meeting
Mr MAK Tak-ching	2:30	end of meeting
Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine	2:30	end of meeting
Mr WONG Kin-pan, BBS, MH, JP (Chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Dr CHIU Ka-yin, Andrew	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHIU Chi-keung, BBS (Vice-chairman)	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAU Hing-yeung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr CHENG Tat-hung	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LAI Chi-keong, Joseph	2:30	end of meeting
Mr NGAN Chun-lim, BBS, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr LO Wing-kwan, Frankie, MH	2:30	end of meeting
Mr KUNG Pak-cheung, BBS, MH	2:30	end of meeting

### **Absent with Apologies**

Ms LI Chun-chau (absent with consent)  
Mr HUI Lam-hing (absent with consent)  
Mr WONG Kin-hing  
Mr YEUNG Sze-chun  
Ms CHOY So-yuk, BBS, JP

### **In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)**

Mr CHAN Sheung-man, Simon, JP	District Officer (Eastern), Eastern District Office
Miss NGAI Lai-ying, Angora	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 1, Eastern District Office
Mr LO Cheuk-lun, Rayson	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) 2, Eastern District Office
Ms YAU Sin-man	Deputy District Commander (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAU Tak-yi, Amy	Police Community Relations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Miss LEE Sin-man	Senior Housing Manager / Hong Kong Island & Islands 2 and Management Control, Housing Department
Mr MOK Ying-kit, Kenneth	Chief Transport Officer / Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr TSANG Wing-lok, Gabriel	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Eastern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr LUK Chi-kwong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms TAM Shiu-mei	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAO Ka-man, Stanley	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Eastern District Office
Ms WONG Sze-man, Queenie	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office
Ms TANG Mei-ling, Sanny	Acting Senior Liaison Officer (3), Eastern District Office
Ms KONG Kei-kei, Hayley	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Eastern District Office

## **Secretary**

Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie                      Senior Executive Officer (District Council),  
Eastern District Office

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### **Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and government representatives to the meeting. He extended his welcome to Ms YAU Sin-man, Deputy District Commander (Eastern District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr SIT Ka-ho, District Commander (Eastern District), and Miss LEE Sin-man, Senior Housing Manager / Hong Kong Island & Islands 2 and Management Control of the Housing Department (HD) who attended the meeting on behalf of Mrs Helen CHEUNG, Chief Manager / Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands).

2. The Chairman reminded Members to declare interests where necessary in accordance with Section 48 of the Standing Orders of the Eastern District Council (Standing Orders).

### **Expression of Sorrow for the Victim of the Taiwan Murder Case and the Victims of Recent Social Incidents**

3. Mr Joseph LAI, on behalf of 10 pan-democratic Members, sought the Chairman's approval for observing a moment of silence in tribute to the victims of recent social incidents for one minute.

4. Mr Frankie LO sought the Chairman's approval for observing a moment of silence in tribute to the victim Ms Poon Hiu-wing, a Hong Kong citizen murdered in Taiwan earlier on, as well.

5. The Chairman gave his approval and invited all present to stand up and observe a one-minute silence in mourning to express their condolences to the abovementioned victims.

### **Agenda Issues**

6. The Chairman said that the Secretariat received 1 written statement and 6 oral statements, which would be handled under agenda item No. XIII - Any Other Business.

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7. 4 Members expressed their views and enquiries on the subject as summarised below:

- (a) Mr CHENG Tat-hung said that he and Mr Andrew CHIU had submitted a Paper each for discussion in the EDC meeting (Full Council meeting), but had been disapproved by the Chairman. The paper submitted by him raised questions on the use of force by the HKPF during confrontations at the public meeting on 12 June. However, the Chairman replied that as the event had been referred to the Complaints Against Police Office (CAPO) and the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC), it would be inappropriate to offer any comments. He quoted the remarks of Mr Stephen LO Wai-chung, Commissioner of Police (CP), that the criticism from outside commentators would not affect the prosecution work of the Department of Justice. Therefore, he could see no reasons for the Chairman's view that it would be inappropriate to discuss such an important livelihood-related issue during the Full Council meeting. He also quoted the opinion of The Honourable Mr Andrew LI Kwok-nang, former Chief Justice (CJ) of the Court of Final Appeal (CFA), that the CAPO and the IPCC were ineffective in dealing with recent events including those taken place since June. He thus requested for the setting-up of an independent Commission of Inquiry (COI). He said that there would be no reason for disapproving the discussion of his Paper in the meeting unless the Chairman opined that the setting-up of the COI was on the right track.
- (b) Mr Andrew CHIU said that the Chairman considered it inappropriate to discuss the event on 12 June in this meeting on the grounds that the event was currently under the HKPF's investigation. He cited the example of the disturbance in Mong Kok in 2016 and pointed out that pro-establishment Members had suggested discussion of the event in the Full Council meeting and the Chairman gave approval despite the fact that the event was at the same time under the HKPF's investigation then. Therefore, he asked the Chairman the justification for giving approval for the discussion of the event. Besides, he said that political issues raised by pro-establishment Members, for example, the support for the bogus universal suffrage proposal in 2015 and the co-location arrangement in 2017 and so on, had been discussed in Full Council meetings. He criticised the Chairman for not adopting the same criteria

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in the disapproval for discussing the territory-wide, politics-related event proposed by pan-democratic Members. He strongly opposed to it and expressed his utmost regret over the suppression of pan-democratic Members' proposal by pro-establishment Members.

- (c) Mr Joseph LAI said that in accordance with Section 6(1) of the Standing Orders, the Chairman of District Council was to preside at meetings of the District Council. However, he asked the Chairman about the Chairman's authority to make a joint declaration with the Chairmen of the District Councils of the other 17 districts to voice their support for Ms Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive (CE) to bypass the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to take the Extradition Bill to the full Council directly for the Second Reading and the Third Reading in the hope of passing it. He pointed out that the responsibility of the Chairman was only to preside at meetings and that the Chairman could not represent the district council. Therefore, the Chairman had to clarify whether the declaration was made in his personal capacity or on behalf of the Eastern District Council (EDC). Besides, he asked the Chairman to give a response whether the Chairman had followed the CE's remarks that the amendment exercise of the Extradition Bill had been suspended and that the Extradition Bill was dead.
- (d) Mr CHUI Chi-kin said that the Chairman attributed the disapproval for discussing the two Papers to the disapproval authority conferred on him under the Standing Orders. He asked the Chairman whether the decision for disapproving the discussion of the two Papers could be construed as the Chairman exercising his authority to suppress pan-democratic Members.
8. The Chairman responded to their views and enquiries as follows:
- (a) The statement of Mr Andrew CHIU would be handled under agenda item No. XIII.
- (b) Regarding the Paper submitted by Mr CHENG Tat-hung, the Chairman had provided the 10 pan-democratic Members with a written reply in which the justification for not discussing the paper had been clearly explained. He stressed that he did not exercise his authority to suppress pan-democratic Members.

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- (c) Earlier on, the IPCC had announced that it would proactively make a detailed fact-finding study (the Study) on the several large-scale public order events (POEs) from 9 June to 2 July 2019. The Study would cover all relevant facts relating to the POEs. Therefore, he considered it inappropriate to offer any comments before the release of the investigation findings and report.
- (d) According to Section 7(1) of the Standing Orders, the agenda and duration for each agenda item shall be subject to the Chairman's approval while Section 53 stipulated that the Chairman of the District Council should ensure observance of all the Standing Orders and that the Chairman's decision on a point of order should be final. He reiterated that the IPCC was a professional and independent investigation authority appointed by the Government and that Mr Anthony Neoh, Chairman of the IPCC, had decided to initiate an independent investigation into the events. He deemed it inappropriate to discuss the events in the meeting before the release of the investigation findings.
- (e) In response to Mr Joseph LAI's enquiry, the Chairman said that he signed and made the joint declaration in his personal capacity. He also said that the CE had pointed out that the Extradition Bill was dead.

### **I. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Eastern District Council**

- 9. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

### **II. Information Items**

#### Chairman's Report on the Discussion Items of the Regular Meeting

- 10. The Chairman reported that the Information Items had been set out in the Report of the Chairman/Vice-chairman for Members' reference. In brief, there were two Information Items: (1) Mr Thomas LEUNG, the Chief Executive Officer of the Property Management Services Authority, had given a brief introduction on the requirement for 1 500 flats and 3 000 flats under the licensing regime of the

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ordinance; and (2) The Secretary for Food and Health had given a brief introduction on the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme. The Regular Meeting of July 2019 was scheduled on 18 July. Members could send their enquiries or views to the Chairman/Vice-chairman for relaying at the regular meeting to be held in July.

### **III. Financial Position of the Eastern District Council Funds**

(EDC Paper No. 31/19)

11. Members noted the financial position of the above funds.

### **IV. Report on the Ninth Meeting of the District Facilities Management Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 32/19)

12. Members noted the above report and approved the funding proposal in Item V of the Paper.

### **V. Report on the Ninth Meeting of the Culture, Leisure, Community Building and Services Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 33/19)

13. Members noted the above report.

### **VI. Report on the Ninth Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 34/19)

14. Members noted the above report.

### **VII. Reports on the Ninth Meeting and the Special Meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee**

(EDC Paper Nos. 35/19 and 36/19)

15. Members noted the above reports.

**VIII. Report on the Ninth Meeting of the Planning, Works and Housing Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 37/19)

16. Members noted the above report.

**IX. Reports on the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the Vetting Committee**

(EDC Paper Nos. 38/19 and 39/19)

17. Members noted the above reports and approved the funding proposal in Item VII(a) of Paper No. 39/19.

**X. Reports on the Tenth and the Eleventh Meetings of the Task Group on Festival Celebrations**

(EDC Paper Nos. 40/19 and 41/19)

18. Members noted the above reports.

**XI. Reports on the Eighth and the Ninth Meetings of the Task Group on Publicity about the Work of the Eastern District Council**

(EDC Paper Nos. 42/19 and 43/19)

19. Members noted the above reports.

**XII. Report on the 231<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Eastern District Management Committee**

(EDC Paper No. 44/19)

20. Members noted the above report.



**XIII. Any Other Business**

(i) Joint Statement on “Oppose the Amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and Urge the Government to Withdraw the Hong Kong Extradition Bill” from the pan-democratic Members of the Eastern District Council

21. The Chairman asked Mr Andrew CHIU to read out a written statement.

22. Mr Andrew CHIU read out a joint written statement as follows:

***“Joint Statement on ‘Oppose the Amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and Urge the Government to Withdraw the Hong Kong Extradition Bill’ from the pan-democratic Members of the Eastern District Council”***

***“Background and Recent Development”***

*Chairmen of 18 District Councils made a statement on 20 May 2019 claiming that they supported the Government in submitting the Amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (FOO) directly to the Legislative Council, which had hijacked public opinions. It had disrupted the long-standing legislative procedures of the Council by bypassing the necessary procedures in which Bills had to be scrutinised by the Bills Committee. We, as pan-democratic elected District Council (DC) Members serving the Eastern District, felt strong dissatisfaction and made the following 5-point statement in view of the development:*

***“Statement”***

1. *Strongly condemn the 18 DC Chairmen, including that of the Eastern District, for expressing their stance unilaterally and bypassing the routine discussion procedures of every DC by signing jointly to support the Government in bypassing the necessary procedures of scrutiny by the Bills Committee of the amendments to the FOO without moving the motion for pass and authorisation by respective DC. It has undermined the long-standing legislative procedures and disregarded the opposing views of pan-democratic elected Members of every DC and millions of members of the public!*

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2. *Given that the pro-establishment camp monopolises the lead in every DC, when the general procedures are disregarded by them, we can foresee how the Government will force its way through to take forward the amendments to the FOO before taking forward the draconian Article 23! Hong Kong people should always stay vigilant!*
3. *Appeal to the public to grasp a clear understanding that the DCs are the representative of public views on political issues. They have to monitor and call to account the political standpoint and behaviour of the pro-establishment camp, especially to eradicate the twisted trend that the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen hijack public opinions of 18 Districts by indicating opposition of politicisation of DCs on one hand and using DCs to bear allegiance politically on the other hand.*
4. *After the procession of one million people on 9 June and the confrontations at the public meeting on 12 June (June 12 Confrontations), the Chief Executive (CE) held a press conference on 15 June in which she only announced that the amendment to the FOO was “suspended” but did not withdraw the Bill, did not step down in view of accountability, did not apologise to the public, did not retract the “riot” classification, did not stop indiscriminating prosecution and arrest, but instead, she displayed a poor attitude throughout the press conference. This has not only caused a citizen to commit suicide as an act of protest but also triggered two million people to take to the street on 16 June. Although the CE did apologise to the citizens on 18 June, she kept on avoiding the aspirations in the community by shirking responsibility.*
5. *Signatories of this joint statement urge the Government to withdraw the amendments to the FOO immediately, deal with aspirations in the community positively and set up an independent COI headed by a retired judge to conduct an impartial investigation into the June 12 Confrontations. Involving officials (including the CE, Secretary for Justice, Secretary for Security (S for S), etc.) have to bear the*

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*responsibilities and to demonstrate accountability by stepping down in order to pacify the public and restore community stability.*

*Moved by: Andrew CHIU Ka-yin, Howard CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Signatories: Joseph LAI Chi-keong, Patrick LEUNG Siu-sun, MAK Tak-ching, KU Kwai-yiu, Patrick WONG Chun-sing, Bonnie LEUNG Wing-man, CHENG Tat-hung, CHUI Chi-kin”*

(ii) Joint Oral Statement from Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie

23. The Chairman asked Mr Eddie TING to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

24. Mr Eddie TING made a joint oral statement as follows:

*“Severe condemnation of violent acts and demand for imposing severe punishment on the rioters to uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong*

*Considerable disputes were triggered by the amendments to the FOO in Hong Kong recently. We respect peaceful assembly or the views of protestors on the amendments to the FOO and understand their concern. We, especially as DC Members, opine that whenever there are divergent views in the society, bear the responsibilities to listen to all the supporting and opposing voices and views, as well as to encourage rational discussion and peaceful expression of views. We hope that the HKSAR Government will learn its lesson and listen to the views of different stakeholders and explain the policies to the public through various channels for enhancing the transparency in policy formulation with a more open and inclusive manner so as to gain support from various social sectors when implementing policies in future.*

*Meanwhile, few demonstrators persistently charged at the police cordon lines with violence or offensive weapons to disrupt social order. On 1 July, a majority of the people who took to the street expressed their views in a peaceful manner while a group of rioters stormed in and vandalised the Legislative Council Complex and threw*

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*corrosive fluid on frontline law enforcement officers with planning, as well as publicly desecrated the national flag of the People's Republic of China and the regional flag of the HKSAR to challenge the 'one country, two system' principle which seriously damaged the rule of law in Hong Kong. These acts deserve the strongest condemnation!*

*These violent acts were apparently inconsistent with Hong Kong's core values, such as the rule of law, freedom, democracy, etc., and went far beyond the bottom line acceptable to the community. No violence should be tolerated for whatever reasons or excuses. We stand firm with the Police and support them to take stringent enforcement actions in apprehending rioters in order to resume normal social order.*

*Finally, we hope that all parties will stop their opposition and stand out to say 'no' to violence to enable the society to return to the right track so that we may continue to live in a society with rule of law, freedom and stability.*

*Proponents: Eddie TING Kong-ho, LEE Chun-keung, HUNG Lin-cham, David LEUNG Kwok-hung*

*Joint Signatories: WONG Kin-pan, CHIU Chi-keung, WONG Kwok-hing, KWOK Wai-keung, SHIU Ka-fai, Stanley HO Ngai-kam, HUI Lam-hing, CHOY So-yuk, KUNG Pak-cheung, LAU Hing-yeung, LAM Sum-lim, Dominic WONG Chi-chung, NGAN Chun-lim, Elaine CHIK Kit-ling, CHENG Chi-sing, HUI Ching-on, George LAM Kei-tung, Frankie LO Wing-kwan”*

### (iii) Oral Statement from Mr CHEUNG Kwok-cheong, Howard

25. The Chairman asked Mr Howard CHEUNG to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

26. Mr Howard CHEUNG made an oral statement as follows:

*“When reading the Papers prepared by the Government and the HKPF in response to the DC as well as the press release by Carrie LAM, the Chief Executive (CE) on 9 July, I finally understand what is*

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*meant by ‘people driven to revolt by the Government’. Apart from the use of more empty words to package her unwillingness to make any slight concession by Carrie LAM, the government’s response to the DC was no more than a blank piece of paper and the HKPF made repeated remarks that have been confirmed to be lies. The whole government shows no intention to lay down the direction for addressing the problems but allows continued accumulation of public discontent. The five demands of the people at present in fact are very humble. The ultimate goal is to return to the time when there was no proposal to amend the FOO, i.e. withdrawal of the amendments to the FOO in order to let those demonstrators who did not have to defy the law initially to return to their original lifestyle and make it unnecessary for them to foot the bill for the wrong decisions made by the government with their own prospects. However, until today, the Government is still evasive of public discontent and conniving with the Police and rioters of pro-establishment camp to suppress by violence to demonstrate that the Police is pleased to play the role of “hatchet man” of the regime instead of impartial law enforcement officers. The government may dream that regime violence will of no doubt overpower everything as what had happened in 2017-18 during which the people was made to keep silent. However, the fact is as long as public discontent is not addressed, no matter how much the violence, public discontent will eventually explode one day. I hereby appeal to the Government to reverse its course before it’s too late and respond to the demands of the people in a positive and proactive manner to enable the society to return to the right track in order to let Hong Kong to remain an international city with global outlook, peace, freedom and diversification.”*

### (iv) Oral Statement from Mr CHENG Tat-hung

27. The Chairman asked Mr CHENG Tat-hung to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with Section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

28. Mr CHENG Tat-hung made an oral statement as follows:

*“I have previously submitted a Paper regarding questions on the*

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*use of police force during the June 12 Confrontations, and requested the HKPF to respond. However, the Chairman, who belong to the pro-establishment camp under the leadership of the DAB, turned a blind eye to public opinion and refused to approve the discussion of the Paper. From the arising of controversies related to the Extradition Bill a few months ago, to frequent police-public confrontations recently, the pro-establishment camp persisted to blindly support the Government without listening to public opinion. I strongly condemn the pro-establishment camp for harbouring the Government, aiding and abetting injustice and disregarding public opinion.*

*After the event, Carrie LAM, the CE, John. LEE, S for S, and Stephen LO, CP remained evasive in responding to the aforementioned questions, and mentioned neither about the firing of tear gas rounds at the crowd at Citic Tower, which nearly led to stampede, nor the use of tear gas rounds, rubber bullets and bean bag rounds for dispersing protesters, which also exceeded the minimum force necessary for crowd dispersion.*

*The Government's non-action in addressing such deep-seated problems will only set the time bomb of excessive police force. During police operation in Mong Kok on 7 July, members of the public witnessed police officers in plain-clothes shouting 'police officers are not required to produce warrant cards when discharging duties', police officers shoving journalists with shields to obstruct them from reporting, and rounding up protesters when they were evacuating without justification.*

*More than half month had passed since the event, nevertheless, none of the departments was held accountable for it. The CAPO mentioned by the CP is dependent on the mechanism of 'police officers investigating fellow police officers'. The Honourable Mr Andrew LI Kwok-nang, Former CJ of the CFA, opined that an independent COI into 'recent events' led by a Judge would be a much more effective mechanism for ascertaining the truth as hearings are open and witnesses could be summoned, whereas the IPCC had none of the powers and protections of an independent COI.*

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*After all, the instigator of recent confrontations is Carrie LAM, the CE, who is out of touch with reality and oblivious to public aspirations, whereas the pro-establishment camp is aiding and abetting injustice. I hereby demand Carrie LAM to stop shirking responsibility and squarely respond to all public aspirations, so as to settle the issues.”*

(v) Oral Statement from Mr MAK Tak-ching

29. The Chairman asked Mr MAK Tak-ching to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with Section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

30. Mr MAK Tak-ching made an oral statement as follows:

*“On the 22nd anniversary of the handover of sovereignty over Hong Kong, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to demand Carrie LAM to step down and withdraw the Extradition Bill.*

*Several public processions had taken place attracting 1.03 million, 2 million and 550 000 participants respectively. Regrettably, despite her so-called sincere apology, Carrie LAM, the CE still digs in her heels and disregards public aspirations, which stimulated conflicts with incessant confrontations. The underlying reason is that Hong Kong has yet to achieve a democratic universal suffrage. From 2004 SCNPC's Interpretation of the Basic Law, 2007 NPCSC Decision, to 2014 NPCSC 31 August Decision, the Communist Party of China repeatedly delayed the implementation of dual universal suffrage. Meanwhile, it kept on introducing draconian laws, disqualifying election candidates and elected members of LegCo, amending the Rules of Procedure of LegCo to castrate its functions, funding a number of “white elephant” infrastructure projects and implementing land development policies that involved collusion between the Government and the business sector, all of which made people even more discontented.*

*A few years ago after the Umbrella Movement, the Government had shelved the constitutional reform for the fine-sounding reason of focusing on livelihood issues, but now it forcibly introduced the*

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*Extradition Bill in an attempt to bury the freedom and rule of law in Hong Kong completely.*

*As the LegCo cannot represent public views, many Hong Kong people are deeply saddened and disappointed by the political predicament of Hong Kong and resorted to fierce confrontational tactics. However, the authorities persisted to impose severe punishment on general public, which has aggravated the conflicts. In light of this, the EDC should demand the government for the following:*

- 1. Withdrawal of the Extradition Bill;*
- 2. Retraction of the classification of the protests on 12 June as a riot;*
- 3. Setting up of an independent COI;*
- 4. Dropping of the charges against the arrested;*
- 5. Implementation of genuine universal suffrage; and*
- 6. Carrie LAM, the CE to be held accountable and step down.”*

(vi) Oral Statement from Mr LAI Chi-keong, Joseph

31. The Chairman asked Mr Joseph LAI to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with Section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

32. Mr Joseph LAI made an oral statement as follows:

*“Object to the CE’s forcible introduction of the ‘Extradition Bill’  
and express regret over the resulting rift in society*

*Carrie LAM, the CE lacks political wisdom and fails to recognise the need for political reform in Hong Kong. Despite the forcible introduction of the ‘Extradition Bill’ triggering 5 rounds of large-scale demonstrations attracting millions of participants, she still digs in her heels and remains oblivious to the five demands of the people, including ‘the withdrawal of the Extradition Bill, the retraction of the classification of the protests as a riot, the setting up of an independent COI, the dropping of charges against the arrested and the implementation of genuine universal suffrage’, which is infuriating.*



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*The current chaos in Hong Kong mainly stem from the undemocratic political system and unfair electoral system.*

- 1. Instead of a universal suffrage of 'one person, one vote', the incumbent CE was elected by 777 members of the Election Committee, which only represented 0.02% of approximately 3.6 million voters across the territory, showing a lack of public mandate and small electorate base.*
- 2. The Government has maintained a 1:1 ratio between seats for LegCo Members returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections for decades out of fossilised thinking. Such election system is difficult to adapt to the rapidly evolving civil society of Hong Kong. Furthermore, it induces the CE to rely on and fool the pro-establishment camp, whom in return fawn on those in power and collude with the Government to forcibly introduce oppressive policies and draconian laws against public will, leaving Hong Kong people in dire straits.*
- 3. There has been no progress in the constitutional development for 30 years, and a genuine universal suffrage remain a distant dream. From Ko Shan rally in which people demanded for direct election in 1988, call for dual universal suffrage in 2007-08, call for dual universal suffrage in 2012, to the Umbrella Movement in 2014 in which people demanded genuine universal suffrage, Hong Kong people suffered great hardships in striving for a genuinely democratic universal suffrage system, but all attempts had failed. Oppressive policies also intensify public grievances. Over the past month or so, the Government has been colluding with the pro-establishment camp for the introduction of the 'Extradition Bill' through institutional violence, which caused public grievances to boil over.*

### (vii) Oral Statement from Mr CHUI Chi-kin

33. The Chairman asked Mr CHUI Chi-kin to make an oral statement, and reminded him that in accordance with Section 29 of the Standing Orders, the oral

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statement should not last more than 2 minutes.

34. Mr CHUI Chi-kin made an oral statement as follows:

*“Call for the setting up of an independent COI to mend the rift in society, help people resume normal lives, and do justice to the HKPF and the public*

*Carrie LAM, the CE had initiated the legislative procedure for the Extradition Bill in February this year in the name of extraditing the suspect of the Taiwan murder case to Taiwan. However, the issue has aroused strong reverberations in society. Various sectors in the society, such as international and local chambers of commerce, Consulates-General, Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, social service organisations, pan-democratic LegCo Members, pan-democratic parties, took turns to indicate their worries and objections and requested the Government to extend the consultation period, so as to address public concerns.*

*Unfortunately, the CE and the Government is bent on pushing through the Extradition Bill through the legislative procedure of the LegCo before the adjournment of the LegCo in July, which triggered several rounds of protests since June, including public procession on 9 June attracting 1.03 million participants, police-public confrontations on 12 June, suicide as an act of protest by a citizen on 15 June, massive public procession on 16 June attracting 2 million participants, and public processions on 1 July and 7 July.*

*However, the CE and the Government only indicated that the Extradition Bill would be suspended and failed to address public requests for a withdrawal. Furthermore, she refused to review the handling approach by the HKPF of the June 12 event, which triggered the recent wildcat-style protests, such as blockage of the LegCo Complex, Police Headquarters and Revenue Tower, as well as the storming of the LegCo Complex on 1 July, and the situation has yet to show signs of easing.*

*Therefore, we express support to the five demands of the people and request the CE and the Government to accede to the demands for*

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*addressing current social unrests, as well as to improve future policy objectives and channels to response to public views after review.*

- 1. Withdrawal of the Extradition Bill;*
- 2. Retraction of the classification of the protests as a riot;*
- 3. Dropping of charges against protesters for the offence of riot;*
- 4. Setting up of an independent COI to look into the issues; and*
- 5. The CE to be held accountable and step down.”*

## **XIV. Date of the Next Meeting**

35. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm. The Twentieth EDC Meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 17 September 2019 (Tuesday).

Eastern District Council Secretariat  
September 2019