

**Summary of the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the
Tai Po District Council in 2015**

Date : 5 March 2015
Time : 9:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.
Venue : Conference Room, Tai Po District Council

P.S. (At the beginning of the meeting, three pan-democratic Members displayed placards that read “I Want Genuine Universal Suffrage” and “NPCSC’s 8.31 Decision be Overruled” and put up yellow umbrellas at their seats. Some other Members then held placards with slogans like “Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage - A Chance not to be Missed” and “I want Universal Suffrage in 2017” and opened blue umbrellas at their seats.

The Chairman remarked that according to the Standing Orders of the Tai Po District Council, at a meeting, no one should perform any acts that would affect the conduct of the meeting. Hence, he demanded that they keep away their placards and umbrellas.

The three pan-democratic Members said that they would not take part in the second round consultation on the universal suffrage proposals under the framework of the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on August 31 2014 (8.31 Decision). They walked out of the meeting in protest. Other Members kept away their placards and umbrellas. The meeting resumed.)

I. Consultation Document on the Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage

The Chairman welcomed the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Atg.).

2. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Atg.) remarked that on visiting different districts during the first and the second round consultation on the government’s universal suffrage proposals, he found that many people were eagerly looking forward for selecting the Chief Executive (CE) through “one person, one vote” in 2017. He hoped that Members could continue to speak up for the universal suffrage proposals in the coming few months.

3. Members' views were summed up as follows:

- (i) constitutional development in Hong Kong should be progressive and in accordance with the Basic Law (BL), the framework set out in the 8.31 Decision and the prevailing situation. Hong Kong as a part of China, should, as a matter of course, abide by the BL and the 8.31 Decision;
- (ii) to select the CE through "one person, one vote" was not only a chance not to be missed but also a historic moment for us all as we had never been allowed to choose our own government officials throughout the colonial period. It was indeed a big step forward;
- (iii) the government's universal suffrage proposals were both reasonable and lawful. If the proposals were endorsed, the CE candidates would have to consider the views of five million eligible voters instead of the 1 200 members of the Nominating Committee. The legitimacy and representativeness of the CE so elected would be enhanced and the resistance in implementing policies would be reduced too;
- (iv) major public opinion polls reflected that more than half of the respondents were in support of the government's universal suffrage proposals. Legislative Council (LegCo) Members should thus respect the majority's view and vote in favour of the proposals so that five million eligible voters would be able to select the CE through "one person, one vote" in 2017 and our constitutional development could move forward. LegCo Members doing the opposite would deprive the voters of their political right and put a standstill on our constitutional development;
- (v) no election system was perfect. The method for selecting the CE by universal suffrage in 2017 was not ultimate and could be optimised in the future; and
- (vi) democracy and people's livelihood were equally important. We should pursue universal suffrage without compromising stability, prosperity and the rule of law. The 79 day-occupation movement started up by the opposition camp to fight for their ideals of democracy and "genuine universal suffrage" had seriously affected people's everyday live. Organisations advocating "civil disobedience" were actually undermining the rule of law in Hong Kong while the pan-democratic camp was merely putting up "political shows" and their intentions were questionable.

4. The Chairman remarked that the Secretariat had received a motion entitled "Joint Motion by Members of the Tai Po District Council: Support for the Second Round Consultation on the Government's Universal Suffrage Proposals" from Dr. LAU Chee-sing, which was seconded by 19 other Members.

5. The motion was put to vote and was endorsed with 19 votes in affirmation. No Members voted in objection or abstention.

6. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Atg.) responded as follows:

- (i) the 8.31 Decision was irrevocable. The government would proceed with the third step of the “Five-step Process”, i.e. to submit a resolution on the universal suffrage proposals to the LegCo in accordance with the 8.31 Decision for endorsement;
- (ii) the method for selecting the CE by universal suffrage in 2017 was not ultimate and could be optimised in the future. The method for nominating the CE, which had been the point of contention, could also be improved in the future;
- (iii) after the completion of the second round consultation on constitutional development, the government would continue to listen to people’s views on the subject. The government would do its utmost to implement the universal suffrage proposals so that five million eligible voters could select the CE through “one person, one vote”; and
- (iv) if the universal suffrage proposals were vetoed, the CE would continue to be selected by the 1 200 members of the Nominating Committee and 500 eligible votes would be deprived of their right to select the CE. Hence, LegCo Members who were against the universal suffrage proposals should think hard before casting their votes.

II. Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the TPDC in 2015 on 8 January 2015

P.S. (The three pan-democratic Members joined the meeting again.)

7. Prior to this meeting, the Secretariat received no proposed amendments to the minutes of the 1st meeting of the TPDC in 2015. The said minutes were confirmed without amendment.

III. Review on Guideline on Allocation of District Council Funds

8. The TPDC agreed to revise the Guideline on Allocation of District Council Funds according to the proposals set out in TPDC Paper No. 15/2015. The revised guideline would come into effect from 1 April 2015.

IV. District Management Committee Report to the TPDC

9. The TPDC noted the captioned report.

V. Reports of the TPDC Committees and the Working Group on Signature Projects of Tai Po District

10. The TPDC noted the reports of the TPDC Committees (i.e. Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce, Industries, Tourism and Recreation Affairs Committee; the Environment, Housing and Works Committee; the Social Services Committee; the Traffic and Transport Committee; and the District Facilities Management Committee) and the Working Group on Signature Projects of Tai Po District.

VI. Applications for DC Funds

11. Members declared interest accordingly.

12. The TPDC approved two revised applications for DC Funds, believing that the activities to be organised were within the scope of DC Funds and would benefit people living, working or studying in Tai Po. Also, it noted 14 funding applications and revised funding applications approved by the TPDC or its Committees in the two months preceding this meeting.

13. The TPDC agreed to authorise the Secretariat to deal with the problems arising in the vetting of applications for reimbursement of DC Funds in accordance with established practice and arrange for the reimbursement of funds before the close of the financial year, and bring up cases concerned for discussion at the meetings of the respective committees in May 2015 if needed.

VII. Any other business

(1) The 6th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign

14. The TPDC agreed that the Social Services Committee would look for a suitable local organisation to co-organise activities with the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health

(COSH) under the 6th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign. It further agreed to allow the COSH to use the logo of the TPDC on related publicity materials.

(2) **Report on the work of Tai Po District Healthy and Safe City Steering Committee**

15. The Chairman reported that the Tai Po District Healthy and Safe City Steering Committee would raise funds to conduct preparatory work and activities relating to the reconfirmation of Tai Po as a safe community.

(3) **Statement of Income and Expenditure of Social Activities of the TPDC in 2015**

16. The TPDC noted the captioned statement.

(4) **New Territories Walk of the Community Chest 2014/15**

17. The Chairman encouraged Members to take part in the New Territories Walk on 15 March 2015.

VIII. Date of next meeting

18. The next meeting would be held on 7 May 2015.

Tai Po District Council Secretariat
May 2015