

The DAB's Proposals of the 2017 Chief Executive Election and 2016 Legco Election

2014.4.22

The DAB wholeheartedly calls for the realization of universal suffrage for the Chief Executive (CE) in 2017, as desired by the general public. We are of the view that Hong Kong is under the rule of law and everything should be based on the law. In this light, any arrangement concerning the 2017 universal suffrage should be in accordance with the Basic Law and the decisions made in 2007 by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

2017 Universal Suffrage for the CE

The Composition of the Nominating Committee

The composition of the Nominating Committee should comply with Article 45 of the Basic Law and the decisions made in 2007 by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In other words, it should be based on the principles of broad representation and balanced participation, and, with reference to the composition of the current Election Committee, consist of four sectors that have equal number of members.

The Nominating Committee should comprise 1200-1600 members.

The four sectors of the Nominating Committee may undergo appropriate increase or adjustment in subsectors, such as establishing subsectors for the counselling profession, women and youth, and SMEs respectively. The number of committee members in each subsector (e.g. the number of representatives from the District Councils) could also be increased or adjusted.

Nomination Procedure

According to the Basic Law, the Nominating Committee is the only institution responsible for nominating CE candidates. Therefore, we oppose any nominating methods which are not stipulated in the Basic Law, including "Public Nomination" and "Political Party Nomination".

Those intending to stand for the CE election should gain endorsements from a particular number of members of the Nominating Committee, which is not less than one-tenth, and not more than one-eighth, in order to be recommended as an eligible prospective candidate.

As for the "Democratic Procedure" of nominating candidates, given that the Nominating Committee is an institution, more than fifty percent of valid votes should be required for the

collective will and the majority rule of the committee to be reflected.

Each committee member should be entitled to vote for 1 to 4 eligible prospective candidates so as to bring forward 2 to 4 CE candidates who gain the most votes and more than fifty percent of valid votes. In the voting process, if less than 2 people gain more than fifty percent of valid votes, the committee is to hold another round of voting, until there are 2 to 4 eligible CE candidates.

“One Person One Vote” Universal Suffrage

In order to ensure the CE be supported by the majority of voters, candidates should gain more than fifty percent of valid votes so as to be eligibly elected. Hence, we propose a two-round voting system. In the first round, if no candidate gains more than half of the valid votes, the two who gain the most votes will be admitted to the second round, in which the one who receives the most votes will be deemed as elected.

Appointment by the Central Government

According to the Basic Law, the CE-elect needs to undergo an appointment procedure by the Central Government before being confirmed as the CE. Hence, the current Chief Executive Election Ordinance should be amended to stipulate that if the CE-elect is not appointed by the Central Government, the election procedure and related arrangements should be re-initiated.

The implementation of universal suffrage of CE in 2017 is a significant breakthrough in the development of political system in Hong Kong. Afterwards, we should seek continuous improvement of the election arrangements according to the circumstances of Hong Kong.

2016 Legco Election

The DAB is of the view that the arrangements of the Legislative Council election in 2016 should remain basically the same, which is, to maintain the current 70 seats, the 50-50 ratio between the functional and geographical constituencies, as well as the split voting system. After the implementation of the 2017 universal suffrage of the CE, the Legco election method should undergo full review.