

May 10, 2023
The Editor
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Dear Editor,

I refer to Ted Hui's interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation titled "Proposed changes threaten to further undermine Hong Kong's democracy" during the Weekend Breakfast programme (May 6). I need to point out that the interview contains misleading information and fabricated remarks against the recent announcement by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on the proposed reform in relation to the District Councils (DCs).

DCs belong to "district organisations which are not organs of political power" pursuant to Article 97 of the Basic Law. They are district advisory bodies and service organisations that are integral to district governance. However, the current-term DCs saw a large number of elected members acting with no regard to the functions of DCs. Some even went against and beyond the statutory positioning of DCs. Their outrageous acts ranged from ignoring people's livelihood, interfering with and obstructing government administration to indulging in politicking. Some members even endangered national security by objecting to the National Security Law, supporting the black-clad violence and even advocating so-called "Hong Kong independence". Regrettably, the interview in your programme has avoided mentioning the above.

It is equally displeasing when the interview regarded the proposed DC reform as "pseudo election" and would "further erode democracy". With the aforementioned situation at DCs in mind, it is imperative to get DCs back on the right track through compliance with three core principles, namely to accord top priority to national security, to fully implement the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", and to fully practise executive-led governance. Our proposals on the DC formation contain a variety of methods for the selection of DCs, so that persons who love the country and have an affection for Hong Kong and are dedicated to serving their districts can participate in the work of DCs through a variety of channels to reflect the public views more comprehensively and accurately.

The HKSAR Government steadfastly safeguards national sovereignty, security and development interests. In accordance with the law, it resolutely carries out its duties and obligations to safeguard national security and, at the same time, protects the rights and freedoms that the residents of Hong Kong enjoy, ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle.

Yours sincerely,

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