EDITORIAL　大公社評

Time for Tang and Leung to compete with policy platforms

The one-month nomination period for the election of Hong Kong's fourth-term Chief Executive **came to an end** yesterday. Three runners have got sufficient nominations and been officially confirmed as candidates for the CE election. They are Henry Tang Ying-yen, Leung Chun-ying and Albert Ho Chun-yan. The list will be gazetted according to the law.

At the same time, campaigns for the CE election also officially **kicked off**. Polling will take place on 25 March. This means that in the upcoming three and a half weeks, all the three candidates must spare no efforts to solicit more supportive votes. Under effective rules, a nomination does not automatically translate into a vote. A nomination is signed while a vote is secret. Hence, it is possible that a candidate may not win all the votes from his nominators. He must try his best to secure votes from his nominators and solicit more from others.

As a matter of fact, the two candidates from the "pro-establishment" camp, Henry Tang Ying-yen and Leung Chun-ying have got 390 and 305 nominations respectively, and each still having a long way to go to secure the minimal 601 votes, or more than half of the 1,200 members of the Election Committee, for winning out as required. They surely will have to spare no pains in next three and a half weeks to solicit and secure every possible supportive vote.

Then, what should the two candidates compete with？"Exposure of scandals"？"Smearing"？Certainly not. If, in the next 20-odd days, attention would still be focused on follow-up negative news about these two candidates, then not only the 1,200 members of the Election Committee will feel greatly disappointed, but citizens will also shake their heads and sigh： Is such the standard and quality a future leader of Hong Kong society should have？

Therefore, it can be certain that as the election period begins following the conclusion of the nomination period, the two candidates from the "pro-establishment" camp must distance themselves from all "disputes" and return to the right track of election by competing with their policy platforms, ideals and capabilities. Likewise, the 1,200 members of the Election Committee must also try to "forget" the "scandals" exposed at the previous stage and make their re-evaluations of these two "pro-establishment" candidates based on their policy platforms, ideals and capabilities, so as to responsibly cast their votes on behalf of the seven million Hong Kong people.

Naturally, some people would argue that a policy platform is just something **"on paper"** full of "empty promises", which may never be honoured afterwards. Such saying has its reason. In fact, the operation of the SAR Government does not rely on the CE alone. To put into practice a good policy platform or ideals, a CE must have the help and cooperation of a good team. **In the final** analysis, however, a leader's quality, vision, capability and commitment could play a decisive role. Otherwise, there is no need to elect a CE in such a serious and solemn matter.

The policy platforms of the two "pro-establishment" candidates, as they are presented, are– generally speaking– quite detailed and comprehensive, covering issues concerning economic development, housing, education, medical care, social welfare and the influx of pregnant Mainland women to give birth in Hong Kong. But a careful examination will find they both are somewhat too broad and general. That is, all issues are touched but few sharp viewpoints and analyses are offered. Lacking are new thinking and creative ideas. Or, when there is some comparatively more innovative idea, there is short of elaboration and theoretical support – so much so that their feasibility appears dubious.

For instance, in his policy platform – We Are Tomorrow, Henry Tang proposes to grant a monthly allowance of $3,000 to each retired person whose cash asset is less than $180,000. For this, the government will spend $6 billion each year. This is not a big problem in times when the government coffers are "flooded" or full of money. However, **in case** there is a big depression in the outside economic environment, will Hong Kong as an externally-oriented economy still be able to sustain huge public expenditure？Moreover, what is the difference between his proposal and a universal retirement protection scheme？

Likewise, Leung Chun-ying, in his policy platform – One Heart, One Vision for Hong Kong, proposes to build more public housing units so as to "shorten" the wait time for qualified citizens. But where to find the land needed？How would this affect the private property market？Clear explanations are lacking. Consequently, it is believed that the two candidates will further substantiate and improve their policy platforms.

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WORDS AND USAGE：

① **Come to an end**（idiom）– Conclude；terminate.（期滿，結束，終結）

Examples： 1. All good things must come to an end.（天下無不散之筵席）2. Will the world come to an end？

② **Kick off**（phrasal verb）– To begin.（開始,揭開序幕）

Examples：1. The show kicks off this week. 2. What time does the match kick off？

③ **On Paper**（idiom）– If something seems good or true on paper, it seems to be good or true when you read or think about it but it might not be good or true in a real situation.（紙上（的））

Examples： 1. It's a fine scheme on paper, but will it work in practice？ 2. On paper it could work, but I won't be convinced until I see it for myself.

④ **In the final/last analysis**（idiom）– Used to say what is most important after everything has been discussed.（說到底，歸根結底）

Examples： 1. All real education is, in the final analysis, self-education. 2. They realized that in the last analysis their job was to tell the public the facts.

⑤ **In case**（idiom）– If；in the event that something takes place.（如果，一旦）

Examples： 1. He keeps a fire extinguisher in his car, just in case. 2. I don't expect much traffic, but in case there is some, I think we should leave early.

港式傳媒濫用民意一詞 以偏概全乃至以點代面

二月十九日晚上，收聽香港電台新聞報道，聽得經民意調查，過半數人反對唐英年任特首。「過半數」幾多人？港台主持並無交代。假如是全港的「過半數」，數目驚人！但何以轉瞬間就能夠查得一清二楚呢？

後經了解，才知是《南華早報》委託香港大學做了「民意調查」，查了五百一十六人，其中反對唐任特首的佔五成一，贊成的佔三成七。如此對比，相差並不太遠，何以不報告具體數字，特別是何故隱諱了所查人數，而單方面強調「過半數」呢！

「過半數」這種抽象而空泛的說法，有朋友從有線電視的新聞報道得知。無形中像香港電台那樣，製造了一個「驚人」的假象。因為不說出只查了五百一十六人，聽者可能誤會是七百萬的「過半數」，連「調查速度」也「驚人」呢！

五百一十六人就「代表」了香港的「民意」，不只以偏概全，簡直是以點代面！

在中文用字方面，把一小撮等同「民意」，恐怕只有港式中文或港式傳媒才有之。以五百一十六人這個小數目，作為「香港民意」的表達，既是濫用了「民意」一詞，也反映了宜傳這種「民意」的某些香港傳媒的「中文半桶水」。要是你聯想到香港的電台和電視天天有人讀錯音，你會說一聲：「不足怪也！」
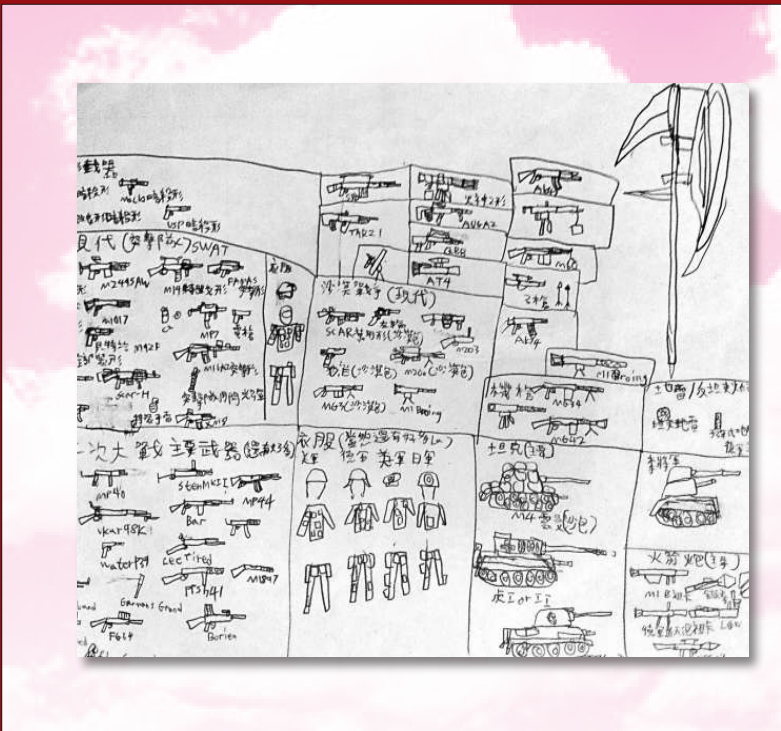
香港的一些政黨領袖，對這種「民意調查」，竟然反應狂熱，也說明他們「中文半桶水」。如果你聯繫到他們也經常讀錯字音、用錯詞語，同樣會說一聲：「不足怪也！」
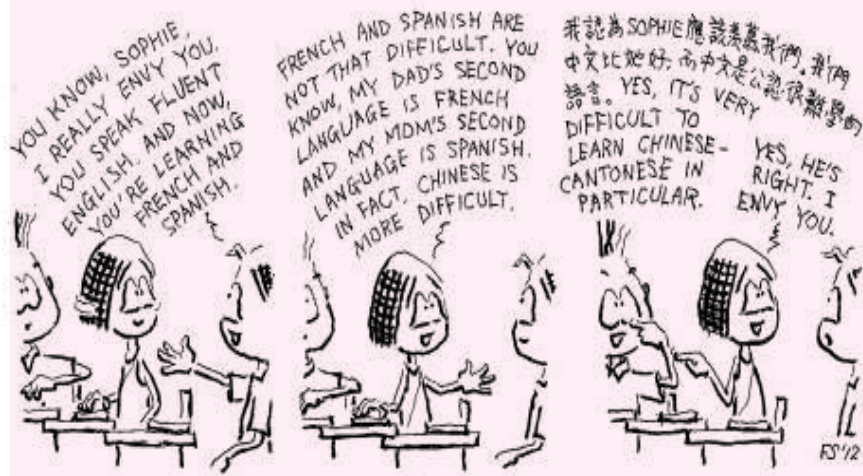
濫用「民意」一詞，和將一小撮人冒充「全港」的好戲還在後頭，如不提高警覺，恐怕受了騙而不自覺。

容 若

武器

筲箕灣官立小學 5B 何偉恆

唐梁票數遠未足 要以政綱比高下

▲特首候選人唐英年（左）、梁振英（右）

香港特別行政區第四屆特首選舉，為期一個月的提名期已於昨天結束，共有三位參選人獲得足夠的提名票，正式成為第四屆特首候選人，他們是唐英年、梁振英和何俊仁，名單將依法刊登於政府憲報。

而與此同時，特首選舉也正式揭開帷幕，投票日已定於三月二十五日舉行，也就是說，在未來這三周半時間內，三位候選人要盡一切努力去爭取選票。在現行規定下，提名票並不等於選票，前者記名、後者不記名，候選人得到提名票也不意味選票就十拿九穩，還需要繼續努力去「箍票」及爭取更多的選舉支持。

事實上，眼前兩位建制派候選人：唐英年和梁振英，提名票分別為三九〇票及三〇五票，與當選所需最低票數——一千二百名選委過半數的六〇一票，還有一段不小的距離，未來三周半時間肯定要全力拚搏，「一票也不能少」。

那麼，兩位候選人要「拚」的到底是什麼呢？是「緋聞」？是「爆料」？當然都不是，如果未來二十多天圍繞兩位候選人的仍然只是前一階段的負面新聞，那不但一千二百位選委會深感失望，全港市民也會搖頭嘆息：這是未來港人社會領導者所應該具有的水平和質素嗎？

因此，可以肯定，提名期結束、選舉期正式開始，兩位建制派候選人必須立即遠離一切「是非」，回歸到比政綱、比理念、比能力的選舉正軌上來。同樣，一千二百名選委，也必須「忘記」前一階段派「八門的「爆料」，集中從政綱、理念、能力三方面對兩位建制派候選人重新作出客觀公正的評價，最終為七百萬市民投下負責任的一票。

當然，有人會說，政綱只是「紙上的東西」，「說的比唱的還好聽」，日後未必都能兌現。這一說法，有一定的道理；事實是特區政府的施政不是靠特首一個人，還必須要有一個好的團隊、好的管治班子配合，才有可能將良好的政綱和理念付諸實行。但說到底，作為一個領導者，質素、識見、能力和承擔還是可以起到決定作用的，否則也就不需要如此嚴肅、鄭重的去選出一位特首人選了。

眼前，兩位建制派候選人的政綱，大致說來都相當細緻和全面，舉凡經濟、房屋、教育、醫療、社福以至「雙非」孕婦都囊括其中了，但要認真評價，則都略有「大而全」之嫌，即問題的方方面面都談到了，但卻欠缺突出的觀點和分析，也未見有什麼新思路和創見，或者是有一些較具創意的想法，但解釋、理據卻不充分，令人對可行性存疑。

如唐英年「明天在你我」政綱中提出，退休人士現金資產不逾十八萬的，每月可領取三千元，初步估計一年要支出六十多億，這在庫房「水浸」時期可以應付，但一旦出現外圍經濟環境大衰退，外向型的香港經濟又是否可以維持龐大的公共開支？而且這與全民退休保障計劃又有何區別？

同樣，梁振英「齊心一意撐香港」政綱中也提出了大建公屋、增建公屋、縮短「上樓」輪候冊等一系列房屋新猷，但地在那裡？與私人市場關係如何，也尚欠一些明晰的答案。相信未來二十多天的時間，兩位候選人的政綱將會進一步充實和完善。

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Multi-lingualism

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On the website of the BBC there is a story about a new book by Michael Erard. It is a book on learning languages called *Babel No More: The Search for the World's Most Extraordinary Language Learners*.

Michael Erard found that very few people could speak more than 11 languages. According to Erard, if the languages are English, French, Mandarin, Japanese, Hindi and Russian, that would be more significant from a learner's perspective than 11 Chinese languages such as Italian, French and Spanish. It might imply that learning two languages from Europe and Asia could be more difficult than learning four European languages.

In his book, he tries to explain why some people can learn so many languages. He believes those people have an ability to switch between languages very easily, and that involves cognitive（認知）skills which are often heritable（可遺傳的）.

It might be a good excuse for some students in Hong Kong whose first language is Cantonese because if they are asked by their parents or teachers why they cannot speak good English, they can simply answer："because I do not have the inherited ability." Of course most of the teachers and parents would not accept that answer. However, I think when we have more knowledge on bilingualism, we might be more open to answers like that.

The same BBC story also points out something interesting : the easiest language for native English speakers to learn is said to be Dutch; and the five most difficult languages for native English speakers are Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.

通識記憶體

兩大特首熱門候選人梁振英和唐英年的政綱主題分別為「齊心一意撐香港」和「明天在你我」。梁振英認為香港回歸後，特別是近幾年停滯不前，遂打出「穩中求變」的口號，唐英年則香港人不支持大變，重申「穩中求勝」。

房屋‧經濟‧勞工‧社福‧教育‧政制範疇比拚》》》》

在港人最關注的房屋問題上，梁振英提出未來5年所建的7.5萬間公屋中，3.5萬可以提早一年落成。

唐英年則建議，在現有5年建7.5萬間公屋的指標上，加建4萬個資助單位。

經濟方面，梁振英計劃成立「金融發展局」，增加政府的科研發展投資。

唐英年則倡議設置「金融服務業諮詢委員會」及「中小型企業委員會」，發展六大產業，另設「中產專責委員會」。

梁主張「穩中求變」 唐強調「穩中求勝」

在勞工政策上，唐英年要將法定勞工假期增至每年17天，公務員則全面實施五天工作制。梁振英支持男士侍產假。

社會福利方面，梁振英要重設「扶貧委員會」，將老人生果金加倍，長者醫療券則增至每年一千元。唐英年則要落實殘疾人士乘車劃一2元優惠，向合資格長者每年發放三千元退休津貼，以及將長者醫療券常規化。

教育方面，梁、唐都支持落實十五年免費教育，梁振英贊成中學彈性實施小班制，唐英年則同意試行中學小班。

關於來港生育政策，梁振英表明2013年起公立醫院停收雙非孕婦，唐英年則支持公立醫院停止接受內地孕婦預約，同時禁止衝關孕婦兩年內來港。

梁振英則同意檢討醫院管理局制度或架構，又贊成設立文化局。

政制方面，梁振英提議廢除副司長，唐英年也有此議，又表示2016年全面取消區議會委任制。