

Let's become more united to take good care of Hong Kong

曾讀詩經洞見君子淑女 慣用成語識穿掩耳盜鈴

In the Legislative council (Legco) yesterday, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen made a solemn apology to the public, with his head bowed and tears in his eyes.

Upon seeing such an embarrassment scene, some people may wonder whether it is too unkind and ungrateful to treat a civil servant who is about to retire after serving society for 45 years.

Being kind and grateful is surely important. But for a fair society with the rule of law, kindness and gratitude cannot substitute the criterion for right and wrong. Serving the public for 45 years is also not an excuse for violating rules in certain circumstances.

Donald Tsang only paid market fares to take business tycoons' luxury yachts and jet planes, and rented a luxuriously-decorated 6,000-square-foot penthouse in Shenzhen. When he was **engaging himself in** such matters, didn't he ever **think of** the ancient teaching: "Never doing anything that could arouse suspicion"? Didn't he ever think of anti-corruption rules that strictly forbid civil servants from accepting any interest? Didn't he ever think of the ethical integrity a CE should have and the possible social effects of his misconduct?

Facts have proved he had simply forgot all these. So when citizens saw (on the media) their CE **show up** – at ease and relaxed – on a tycoon's yacht, they felt it hard to believe what they saw with their own eyes, and even harder to accept such a fact.

Therefore, the solemn apology Donald Tsang made is a price he has to pay for his own misconducts. Toward severe criticisms in this regard made by the public, lawmakers and most media outlets, he must not feel upset and antagonistic. Instead he should feel thankful and self-reproachful. For, such criticisms show that citizens have very high moral standards and expectations for the CE and SAR Government, that there still exist in Hong Kong society strong views about right and wrong and about the rule of law, as well as the courage to speak out and resist against any unreasonable matters. Isn't this the most important and valuable quality of Hong Kong society?

Donald Tsang's apology yesterday was sincere and deep. When he mentioned that his misconducts had shaken public confidence in clean government and Hong Kong system, he became dejected, choking with sobs. He solemnly apologised for the damages on society caused by his misconducts. Such an apology should be acceptable to the public and gain their forgiveness.

With Donald Tsang's deep self-reflection and solemn apology and **giving up** his lease to rent the luxury penthouse in Shenzhen, the incident should be closed for the time being.

Right now, a series of major events are taking place in the SAR. Election of the fourth-term CE is going on vigorously. Hong Kong has recorded decline in exports in two consecutive quarters. Citizens still feel troubled by the influx of pregnant Mainland women to give birth in Hong Kong. The annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) And Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) are to be convened soon in Beijing, which

will further discuss how to integrate Hong Kong's economy into the national 12th Five-Year Plan...

With such important matters to deal with, Donald Tsang must be allowed to focus all his efforts and energy on leading the principal officials and all civil servants to do a better job to keep Hong Kong society moving forward. He will also need to prepare for handing over his duty to the next CE. There is no way for him to step back or even **stay put**.

At this moment, the job of the CE is even tougher and his responsibility heavier. Donald Tsang must hold fast to his post, working harder to repay citizens for their forgiveness.

More importantly, at this crucial moment, not only the CE must not leave his post and the government must not slacken its efforts in administration, but all Hong Kong people should also see this as a crucial moment to get united to ride out the predicament. The SAR Government is not for one person, the SAR is not of one person. Only with the participation and joint efforts of all people, can problems facing the SAR be possibly solved. Right now, it is of utmost importance for citizens to show their trust in and lend their support to the administration of SAR Government in accordance with the law, and to effectively help the SAR Government complete the current major tasks – so as to restore social confidence and rebuild social harmony. This is in the interest of Hong Kong people and for their well-being.

Not to mention that certain time-honoured core values in Hong Kong society, such as law-biding, coexistence of different interests of various sectors and tolerance toward others with good intention, must never be shaken and jeopardized.

02 March 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

- ① **Engage sb in sth/doing sth** (phrasal verb) – To involve or occupy someone in (doing) something. ( (使)從事, 參加)

Examples: 1.She engaged me in small talk. 2.He was engaged in running a small business.

② **Think of** (phrasal verb) – To keep in mind for attention or consideration. (想起, 考慮到)

Examples: 1.Think of the starving children in Africa! I couldn't think of the name of that man anyhow! I couldn't think of the name of that man anyhow2.I couldn't think of the name of that man.

③ **Show up** (phrasal verb) – To appear or arrive. (出現, 露面)

Examples: 1. I wonder if she'll show up at all. 2.He showed up late for his own wedding.

④ **Give up** (phrasal verb) – To stop having or doing something.(放棄, 終止)

Examples: 1. Coastguards had given up all hope of finding the two divers alive. 2. I wish I could give up smoking.

⑤ **Stay put** (idiom) – To stay where one is. (留在原處, 停步不前)

Examples: 1. Just stay put until I get the car. 2.We've decided to stay put and not to move to Florida.

愛護香港 市民要更有信心更團結

特首曾蔭權，昨日在立法會低頭忍淚，向公眾鄭重道歉。

對這難堪一幕，有人認為，對一位服務社會四十五年、離任退休在即的公僕來說，是不是有點太無情無義了？

情和義當然重要，但對一個公平、法治社會來說，情和義不可以代替是非，四十五年公職也不是可以在一些事情上逾矩的理由。

曾蔭權乘坐商界富豪遊艇和私人飛機，只付市場票價，又在深圳租住豪華裝修的六千呎大宅，他在做出這些行為時，難道沒有想過「瓜田李下」的古訓？沒有想過嚴格禁止收受一切利益的公務員防賄守則？沒有想過作為一位特首應有的品德操守與社會影響？

事實顯示：他把這些都忘了，而當廣大市民看到自己的特首神態自若地出現在富商遊艇上時，確實感到不能相信自己的眼睛，更不能接受這樣的事實。

因此，曾蔭權昨天的鄭重道歉，是他必須為自己不當行為付出的代價；對公眾、議員、大部分傳媒在此事上作出的嚴苛批評，他非但不應該抵觸和抗拒，而是應該感謝和愧疚。因為批評代表了市民對特首、對特區政府存有很高的道德標準與期盼，代表了港人社會仍然存着強烈的非觀、法治觀念和勇氣，對不合理的事情不能接受、不會啞忍，這不正是港人社會最重要、最可寶貴的質素嗎？

對此，曾蔭權昨天的道歉是由衷和深刻的，當他提到公眾因這些事而動搖了對政府廉潔奉公的信心、對香港制度的信心時，他黯然了、哽咽了，他是為自己造成的社會損害而鄭重道歉的。這樣的道歉應該得到公眾的諒解和接受。

有關事件，隨着曾蔭權的深刻反思、鄭重道歉，以及將會採取的解除深圳豪宅租約的行動，應該可以暫告一段落。

當前，特區正面臨一系列重大事件，第四屆特首選舉正如如火如荼進行，本港經濟面對外圍不樂觀因素已連續兩季錄得出口下跌、「雙非」孕婦問題仍令市民感到困擾、即將召開的北京「兩會」亦會進一步探討香港經濟如何更好融入國家「十二五」規劃……

連串大事，是只許曾蔭權集中精力、全心全意領導問責班子和全體公僕更好工作，領導港人社會繼續前進，還要做好與下屆特首的交接班棒工作，而不是任何退縮與卻步。

此時此刻的特首，任務更艱巨、責任更重大，曾蔭權必須在這關鍵時刻堅守崗位，以更努力的工作來回報市民的諒解。

而更為重要的是，在眼前這關鍵時刻，不僅特首崗位不能動、政府工作不能鬆，就是對全港市民來說，同樣也必須看成是一個團結一致、共渡時艱的關鍵時刻。特區政府不是一個人的政府、特區不是一個人的特區，特區一切問題都必須在全體市民的共同努力和參與下才有可能得到解決。當前最重要的，是對「一國兩制」、對基本法、對特區政府有效依法施政提供更全面的信任與支持，切實協助特區政府做好眼前幾項重大工作，重振社會信心、重建社會和諧，這才是全體市民根本利益和福祉之所在。

港人社會長期以來的一些核心價值觀，包括依法辦事、各階層不同利益可以共融，以及與人為善等，更不應被動搖和破壞。

2012/03/02 大公報社評

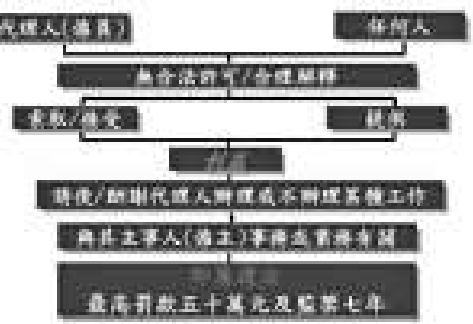
通識記憶體

廉政公署是本港專責打擊貪污的獨立機構，透過執行處（負責接受市民舉報貪污和調查懷疑貪污的罪行）、防止貪污處（審視各政府部門及公共機構的工作常規及程序，以減少可能出現貪污的情況）及社區關係處（教導市民認識貪污的禍害，並爭取市民積極支持反貪的工作）「三管齊下」打擊貪污。

最近常常說到的「利益衝突」，是指當員工的「私人利益」與其職權出現衝突；利益可指任何有價值的東西，例如金錢、饋贈、佣金、職位、服務或優待等，但不包括款待（即供應在當場即時享用的食物或飲品）。比方說：一名正獲公司考慮

的應徵者，是負責招聘的職員的親屬；一個公司考慮聘用的供應商，是由該公司採購職員的親屬或友人開設等。即使雙方只是口頭上達成了有關協議並沒有或未進行實際交易，其實都是違法。若被發現或檢舉，有關人士是觸犯《防止賄賂條例》第9條（見右圖），最高刑罰為入獄7年及罰款港幣50萬元。

另外，政制及內地事務局局長譚志源表示，《政治委任制度官員守則》內已列明，特區政府各主要官員均應避免接受比較奢華的款待，避免執行職務時引起尷尬，以及避免損害公職人員的聲譽。守則內容包括防止公職人員涉利益衝突，並要求包



中文基本功

曾讀詩經洞見君子淑女 慣用成語識穿掩耳盜鈴

二月十九日和二月二十日兩天，電台和電視不斷播放兩則新聞：一則是有兩位政界領袖相繼參加角逐特首之位，其中一位指對方同自己的競爭是「君子與淑女之爭」。另一則是某些新聞主播或節目主持人，不斷強調「過半數人」反對某君做特首；其中一名主持人咒罵支持某君做特首的人為「無恥」「不知恥」。我覺得，上述情況中都有人用錯或濫用詞語。

提出「君子與淑女之爭」的那一位，不知是未讀過詩經《關雎》篇還是讀而忘了。詩曰：「關關雎鳩，在河之洲。窈窕淑女，君子好逑……」誰讀過而又牢記者，都會明白「君子」與「淑女」之間只有愛而無爭；若彼此相爭，就不應用「君子與淑女」來形容了。更重要的是：我可以讚你是淑女，但不可以自稱為淑女，猶如可以讚你是君子，而不可以自稱為君子。這既是行文上的規矩，也是生活上的禮貌。

至於那些不斷說到「過半數人」反對某君做特首的，無一而不是掩蓋着所謂「過半數」的真相。原來，《南華早報》委託香港大學做「民意調查」，查了五百一十六人，當中五成一人反對某君做特首，而贊成的有三成七。所謂「過半數」，原來只是五百一十六人的過半數，那些人故意掩蓋真相，是要製造「過半數」就是全港居民過半數（三百五十萬人以上）的假象。慣用成語，都知道這叫「掩耳盜鈴」。

主持人中把支持某君的人咒罵為「無恥」「不知恥」，不論依靠大調查的實際數字，還是依靠提名某君為候選人的人數，都超過三百人。一口氣咒罵三百多人為「無恥」「不知恥」，慣用成語都知道，這叫「潑婦罵街」。

容若

觸景立畫

觀鳥速寫之麻雀  
香港常見的麻雀（素描）



筲箕灣官立小學 5B 何偉恆

SOHO DIARY



The Students' Parents

Hark Yeung ( yeung@harkyeung.com )

The schooling system in Hong Kong should enable students to have better language skills. I strongly believe that most students in Hong Kong can have better language skills if they are given enough support.

The kind of support I have in mind is not just what we have been talking for years, such as having smaller classes or having more native speakers as teachers. Of fundamental importance is the design of a comprehensive programme to let students know better their attitudes towards language learning and how they can improve their language skills.

It is also useful if we have more knowledge about why different students have different language skills. Schoolteachers can give students better support if they know more about their students' parents. For exmaple, while talking to the students' parents, I will ask them whether they like to talk to their children. In particular, I will like to know whether they like to listen to their children. If they are those "traditional" parents who do not like their children to "talk back" to them, then it is likely that their children will not have enough chance to express themselves and to develop their language skills.

Talking to the parents and listening to their ways of using language can enable teachers to know the potential of their students. The kind of language the parents use will inevitably affect their children. If the parents often use abusive language to hurt their children, like shouting to them and picking their mistakes, then it is difficult for their children to love learning languages.