

"Filibustering" to delay government restructuring intolerable

Chief Executive–Elect Leung Chun–Ying has proposed a restructuring plan to form a government with "3 + 14" policy bureaux. Promoted to the public recently, it has aroused hearty responses in various sectors, with many people expressing their support to the government restructuring aimed at improving administrative efficiency and promoting long–term economic development.

However, despite Leung proposed the restructuring after careful consideration and out of the need for his governance, despite various civil service organisations are not against the plan, despite personages in various sectors and citizens in general have confidence in and **pin their hopes on** the restructuring, opposition lawmakers are **putting on airs** that they would not let the bill pass easily when it is presented to the Legislative Council's (Legco) Finance Committee for consideration and to the Legco's general session for voting. Raymond Wong Yuk–man and Albert Chan Wai–yip are "sharpening their swords", threatening to take even more radical tactics than filibustering to "cripple" the restructuring bill. Obstacles are being placed one after another before the government restructuring plan, posing a tough challenge to Leung's first step in his governance.

Recently, the "filibustering" farce at Legco against the by–election bill has caused a big uproar in society, arousing much controversy over the legislature's democratic nature and checking function. Some people agree that the filibuster is an abuse of procedure and waste of public funds, but still think filibustering is an effective way of democratic check and thus should not be restricted. In this regard, politicians' has in fact **pulled the wool over some people's eyes** with their **banana oil**.

Needless to say, making a filibustering speech, carrying out a collective pullout and causing a lack of a quorum are all legal opposition tactics in a legislature. But the crux of the matter lies not in "filibustering" or causing "a lack of quorum" itself, but rather in the motivation behind such activities and their possible consequences.

The opposition wants to block the passage of the by–election bill because they hope to launch more "resignations on masse for de facto referendum". Right now, they want to block the consideration and passage of the government restructuring bill not out of the concern whether there is a need to create new posts for two deputy secretaries and set up two new bureaux for information and technology and culture. Rather it is simply because they want to set an obstacle to Leung's taking office and to his governance, turning a "democratic filibuster" into a "political filibuster" – that's all !

More significantly, the "3 + 14" bureaux restructuring plan proposed by Leung is itself not a political project, but a practical one aimed at optimizing the government structure, rationalising division of labour, improving efficiency and governance. It is thus a progressive plan in the interest of Hong Kong's long–term development and all citizens. If the restructuring is delayed and cannot be put into practice on July 1, Leung won't be the only victim to suffer losses.

As a matter of fact, the rationality and necessity of the restructuring proposal is beyond doubt. Of the two new deputy secretaries, the Deputy Chief Secretary

will be mainly oversee how to narrow the wealth gap, the Deputy Financial Secretary will focus on economic integration with the Mainland. These two problems exactly **result from** the "deep–layered contradictions" in Hong Kong society. As such, social progress is hardly possible if they are not well solved. Of the two new bureaux, the Information and Technology Bureau will concentrate on promoting innovative and creative industries, while the Cultural Bureau will work on improving cultural quality of Hong Kong society. They are to make up deficiencies in the administration and improve its efficiency. After these two new bureaux are established, the existing bureaux and departments could more concentrate on carrying out their designated duties to serve society and citizens.

The restructuring to form a new administration with "3 + 14" bureaux is not just an adjustment in the structure and function of the government. More importantly, Leung's basic ideal to have a "suitably proactive" government, which is different from his predecessors, needs to be materialized in and implemented by such a newly restructured administration. If the restructuring plan is delayed, it won't be considered again by the Legco until early next year the soonest. For, a new Legco will be formed in mid–September and then it will take at least two or three months for new lawmakers to get familiar with the Rules of Procedure and to complete the elections of subcommittees. As a result, an invaluable six months' time will be lost – for Leung's administration as well as for Hong Kong people's well–being.

"Political filibustering" is unprofitable and unconstructive. The Leung administration needs to race against time to get its job done. Consideration and approval of the government restructuring proposal must not be delayed. The Legco must procedurally set necessary restrictions on the length of a debate.

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WORDS AND USAGE

① **Pin one's hopes on sth/sb** (idiom) – To depend on someone or something for a successful result. (寄希望於……)

Examples : 1.He is pinning his hopes on the revival of the economy. 2.Scientists are pinning their hopes on the high–tech laboratory.

② **Put on airs** (idiom) – To act better than one really is. (擺架子)

Examples : 1.Pay no attention to her. She is just putting on airs. 2.Stop putting on airs and act like the rest of us.

③ **Pull the wool over one's eyes** (idiom) – To deceive someone. (矇騙某人)

Examples : 1.You can't pull the wool over my eyes, I know what's going on. 2.Don't try to pull the wool over her eyes. She's too smart.

④ **Banana oil** (idiom) – Nonsense ; exaggerated flattery. (油腔滑調, 花言巧語)

Examples : 1.I won't be deceived by her banana oil. 2.I should be on television ? Cut out the banana oil.

⑤ **Result from sth** (phrasal verb) – To be the outcome of something. (由……引起)

Examples : 1.It will be interesting to see what results from your efforts. 2.Nothing resulted from all that work.

施政爭朝夕 架構重組不容「拉布」

候任行政長官梁振英提出的「三司十四局」政府架構重組方案，連日在各界人士及市民中進行廣泛的推介，各方反應熱烈，對重組有利提高施政效率和推動經濟長遠發展更大表支持。

然而，儘管梁振英是經過深思熟慮及出於施政需要提出重組方案，儘管各級公務員團體對重組不持異議，儘管各界人士及市民也對重組抱有信心和寄予期望，但是，反對派議員已「擺明車馬」，當方案六月十五日提交立法會財委會審議、二十日全體大會表決時，不會讓議案順利通過；黃毓民、陳偉業更已「磨刀霍霍」，揚言要採取比「拉布」更狠的招數來「打殘」重組議案。一道道難關、一重重阻力已經橫亘在架構重組面前，梁振英施政的第一步是不是能如期邁出正面臨考驗。

連日來，由於反「出缺安排」的「拉布」鬧劇搞出滿城風雨，有關議會的民主性質、制衡作用正受到廣泛的熱議，有人認同「拉布」濫用程序、浪費公帑，但又認為「拉布」也是民主制衡的有效方法之一，因此不應受到限制。在這裡，政客的花言巧語確實是把一部分市民迷惑了。

毫無疑問，發言「拉布」、集體離場、製造流會等，都是議會內合法的抗爭手段，但是，焦點或關鍵並不在「拉布」或「流會」本身，而是其背後目的和可能產生的後果。

反對派要阻撓「出缺安排」草案審議通過，是因為他們還想再多搞幾次「五區總辭，雙相公投」；目下他們要阻撓政府架構重組方案的審議，更不是因為兩位副司長及科技局、文化局之設有無必要，而是存心要給梁振英的上任和施政設置障礙，變「民主拉布」



▲候任行政長官梁振英提出的政府架構重組方案，將現有「三司十二局」改為「三司十四局」

中句重選，新一屆議員最少三兩個月時間才能熟悉「議事規則」和完成會內各種選舉，那麼，架構重組議案重新提上議事日程，最快也將會是明年初的事。如此梁振英新政府的施政、全港市民的福祉，就此損失半年寶貴時間。

「政治拉布」無益無建設性，梁振英新政府施政只爭朝夕，架構重組議案不容拖延，立會審議程序在時間上必須予以應有的限制。

為「政治拉布」！

更重要的是，梁振英提出的「三司十四局」重組方案，本身絕不是什麼政治方案，而是一個旨在優化架構、合理分工、提高效率、改善施政的務實方案，是促進香港長遠發展和全體市民福祉的一個進步方案，方案一旦被拖延、七月一日不能如期實施，試問受害的、損失的又豈只是一個梁振英？

事實是，有關架構重組方案，其合理化和必要性已不容置疑，新增兩位副司長：副政務司長主力攻克貧富差距、副財政司長側重與內地經濟融合，兩者正是當前港人社會的「深層次矛盾」，不解決好社會將難以向前行；新增兩局：資訊及科技局着力推動創新及創意產業，文化局則致力提高港人社會的文化質素，都是「補白」和「強身」之作，而原有司、局架構則更可集中加強原有職能，服務社會和市民。

重組後的「三司十四局」，還不僅僅是一種架構、職能上的調整，更重要的是，梁振英有別於前任的、「適度有為」的基本總體施政理念，需要通過重組後的新架構來加以體現、落實和發揮。重組方案一旦被拖延，下屆立會九月中旬重選，新一屆議員最少三兩個月時間才能熟悉「議事規則」和完成會內各種選舉，那麼，架構重組議案重新提上議事日程，最快也將會是明年初的事。如此梁振英新政府的施政、全港市民的福祉，就此損失半年寶貴時間。

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內地復用繁體港漸用簡字 美學實用各取所需三十年

五月十二日，我正收看湖南衛視連續劇《笑紅顏》。恰遇鄉親來訪，他帶着剛從鄉間來的年輕子女同來。只見年少的指着熒幕上一個牌匾中三個字問是什麼字。我一看是「鎮雲臺」。我立即省悟，取過紙筆，把這三個字的簡化字寫出來。他們「哦」了一聲，讀懂了。老的卻問：「怎麼今天內地仍用繁體字呢？」我明白，這兩代人的表現，反映了兩地人缺乏溝通的一種現象。

內地復用繁體字，數量陸續增加，至今已滿三十年了，正如香港漸用簡化字的情況大致相同。我把這個概況告知來訪的兩代人，並舉些具體例子為證。

首先介紹：一九八五年《文字改革》月刊總結漢字三十年教訓的一句話：「學了簡體，還要再學繁體。」為了傳承中華文化，不能不讀簡化以前的書籍、刊物，包括古籍。這就必須學懂被稱為「繁體」的本字（其實

也非盡繁）。九十年代，有過兒童書法比賽，入選作品，都是繁體；一名三歲小童用毛筆書寫「振興中華」四個大字（無一簡體）的整個過程被攝錄下來，這無異鼓勵學習繁體字，而且從小學起。內地所播電影、電視，由古代到近代的題材，觀眾都看到繁體字，無形中也從觀賞中學到繁體的寫法。如《三國演義》，吳帝孫權，蜀帝劉備，吳將韓當，蜀將張飛、趙雲，魏將張遼、樂進、鍾會……姓名都無一簡化字，也等於叫觀眾「學了簡體，還要再學繁體」了。

至於香港，單字跡、蹟都簡為迹，昇、陸都簡為升。不少用佈的詞都改用布；不少用渡的詞都改用度。常用詞鍛鍊寫成鍛煉，辭典寫成詞典，手錶寫成手表，傢具寫成家具，黴菌寫成霉菌。地名臺灣寫成台灣，儀徵寫成儀征，崑山寫成昆曲，黃巖島寫成黃岩島，都很常見。

容若

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SOHO DIARY

How to Make the Grade? (1)

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Are students in Asia cleverer? Andreas Schleicher, who is responsible for the Programme for International Student Assessment tests, says students in Asia are expected to "make the grade". He also says that, by making life easier for children from difficult circumstances, "we lower their life chances".

Yes, make the grade! But how?

Last year I pointed out in this column that some kind of food, like banana and turkey, could send us a "don't panic" message and thus have a calming effect. So, students who are getting nervous can consider taking them before their exams.

Recently it is found that eating beetroot (紅菜頭) before running can help the runner run faster. I tried it myself. I had beetroot for lunch and went running in the afternoon. I did not really run faster but I felt more energetic and I was able to run a bit longer. Beetroot is now named as one of the top "magic" food and certainly worth having before the exam. But those who are not used to

▲紅菜頭

this vegetable might find it not very tasty. Also, one should not eat too much at a time.

What is the relation between running and taking exams? During exams, students often need to write down the answers. Writing is in fact quite demanding. It is the act of transferring information from the brain to the hand. Some writers have pointed out that jogging or running can make them write better. So, why not have beetroot for a few days, then go and jog a bit the day before the exam?

Not all people like jogging. Walking is also good for writing – if you walk long enough.

通識記憶體

港科技投資僅佔生產總值0.76%

一所機構的組織架構在增添新職能後會逐漸擴大，往往過於複雜、浪費和不符合當時要求。當運作環境出現重大改變即需重組或簡化組織架構，以確保資源和管理人員集中應付真正須優先處理的工作，創造更多有價值職務、引進新設備和技術；減少層級和重疊，提供更具效率和成效的服務，使機構運作流程更暢順有效及提升應付日後轉變的能力。

當機構職責範圍和性質、策略和使命曾經或正在計劃作出重大轉變，現行架構有礙促進效率或過於複雜，為提高靈活性和獨立性需合併或分拆時，進行架構重組尤見成效。重組可適應新形勢特點和需要，讓架構更好發揮引領、推動和平台的作用。

3年後港經濟規模或遜京滬粵深》

香港2007年架構重組取消了科技局，據中科院發布《中國城市競爭力報告》指，因港缺乏科技創新投入（2010年研發投入佔國民生產總值0.76%，而內地平均為1.83%）和高端人才，預計2015年經濟規模將落後於京、滬、粵、深等，可見恢復科技局理所當然；而增文化局、副政務司長及副財政司長亦都切合當前需要。

政府改組可增加官員團隊能力，制定更長遠計劃，把握內地經濟發展帶來機遇，以深入接觸市民及解決主要民生問題等。