



EDITORIAL

大公社評

中文基本功

Positive effects of pay freeze for principal officials

The SAR Government announced yesterday that it would not be pursuing the proposal to raise salaries of politically appointed officials by 8.1% from July 1. A government spokesman stressed that this decision was made with the consent of the Office of the Chief Executive-elect.

It is reasonable to believe that this is a decision of Chief Executive-elect Leung Chun-ying and his accountable team. In fact the current government has less than a month to go to complete its term, so whether there will be a pay rise or not has nothing to do with it. But, in order to avoid arousing suspicion about "one giving a pay rise to oneself", the decision for pay raises for the next-term government is announced by the incumbent.

In that case, it is wise and decisive for Leung and his team to make such a decision as to freeze their salaries before taking office. Obviously, such a decision has been made not with an eye to monetary gains or losses, but out of overall and political considerations. The decision can, at least, achieve three results.

The first is to quickly reverse the negative feelings of citizens aroused by a series of scandals involving the SAR Government.

There's no need to mince words. The popularity of the SAR Government has dropped to a record low since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland. Former Chief Secretary Rafael Hui Si Yan, suspected of taking bribes from the Kwok brothers of Sun Hung Kai, has been "invited to have coffee" with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for alleged misconduct committed by a civil servant. He is the highest ranking official ever to have been arrested by ICAC. The case has aroused strong reaction in society.

And this is by no means a unique case. Negative news about Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen has also been exposed, one after another. In face of "severe criticisms" in two latest investigative reports of his "big spending" of \$50,000 per day for a hotel room and his acceptance of "excessive entertainment" by tycoons, Donald Tsang can hardly raise his head. Under such circumstances, the new administration under Leung will face more difficulties in performing its duty - it will have to spend twice the effort to get half the results.

So Leung's resolute decision to freeze the remuneration for his politically appointed team could be said to be a move to kill two birds with one stone. It will help rebuild the image of a clean government and also reduce some resistance to his administration. This is the first effect.

Secondly, freezing remuneration would hopefully facilitate the early passage in the Legislative Council (Legco) of Leung's restructuring proposal to form a government of "3 + 14" bureaus.

The restructuring proposal is to be formally submitted to the Legco's Committee on Personnel Affairs today. Immediately, the opposition tables 20 motions and raises a lot of questions about it. Next, it will have to pass through the Legco's Finance Committee before it can be presented to the full council to be voted on. Prospects for a smooth passage are not optimistic.

How can Leung deal with this? There is only one way: to win over public opinion. With the move to freeze their salaries even before being sworn in, if the new team of politically appointed officials can win public approval and support by showing its sincerity to contribute to society and serve the citizens, then Raymond Wong Yuk Man and his ilk will be going against public opinion if they again pursue their "filibustering" activity in some disguised form to set obstacles to obstruct the passage of the restructuring proposal. They then would be hooted and hollered at by citizens. This is the second effect.

Predicated on the first two, the third positive effect is to foster a positive image of the new government with new work style in a new atmosphere of acting in unison. With Leung taking the lead, all principal officials take concerted action to freeze their salaries. Without regard for personal benefits, they will better serve citizens. This is in sharp contrast to the previous practice of officials "getting pay raises before taking office". This is also a timely response to an appeal of the pro-establishment camp and citizens.

As a saying has it that "a new official always works hard to show his efficiency", Leung's first move seems very timely and effective, which should be able to impress and cheer up citizens, as they can see new hopes that the next SAR Government would be enterprising enough to make some breakthroughs.

Needless to say, pay freeze is just a short-term measure, which cannot be implemented in the long-term. The future administration of Leung Chun-ying must perform its duties with greater determination and in a more down-to-earth way to make achievements. Only in this way can it truly win people's support and trust. 6 June 2012

WORDS AND USAGE

- 1 Have nothing to do with sb/sth (idiom) - Be irrelevant; be unrelated. (與...無關)
Examples: 1. I'm sure the stars high up in the sky have nothing to do with our personalities. 2. Their visit has nothing to do with the holiday.
2 In that case (idiom) - If that happens or has happened. (在此情況下)
Examples: 1. You don't like your job? In that case, why don't you just quit? 2. "I have made up my mind." "In that case, I have nothing more to say."
3 With an eye to sth (idiom) - If you do something with an eye to something else, you do it for that reason. (着眼於, 考慮到)
Examples: 1. With an eye to the upcoming election the President has hired a new speechwriter. 2. A lot of costume drama is produced with an eye to American sales.
4 Win over (phrasal verb) - To gain the support or consent of (someone). (贏取)
Examples: 1. Pretty faces win over people's love. 2. I hope I can win them all over to our side. I won over the mayor to our side.
5 Hoot and holler (idiom) - To shout in disapproval; to call and shout one's displeasure. (喝倒彩)
Examples: 1. It's hard to play a good game of basketball when the fans are hooting and hollering at everything you do. 2. The crowd hooted and hollered as the singer took to the stage.

「未履新先凍薪」有三正面效果

特區政府昨日宣布擱置政治委任官員由七月一日起加薪百分之八點一的建議。

發言人強調這是現屆政府在候任行政長官辦公室同意下作出的決定。

有理由相信，這是候任特首梁振英和他的問責班子的決定。事實是，現屆政府已只餘下大半個月任期，加薪與否，與他們已無關，只是出於「自己加自己」的避嫌，才由現屆政府宣布下屆政府的加薪建議而已。

那麼，梁振英和他的班子能夠作出「未履新、先凍薪」的決定，是明智和果斷的，有關決定顯然不是僅僅着眼於金錢上的得失，而是有其全面的、政治上的考慮。

有關決定，最少可以達到以下三方面的效果：

一是從速扭轉近日市民對特區政府連串「醜聞」的負面觀感。

毋庸諱言，近日特區政府在廣大市民中的評分，可以說是跌至回歸以來的最低點。前政務司司長許仕仁，涉及「新地」郭氏兄弟的涉嫌賄賂事件，作為公職人員行為不當，被廉政公署請去「飲咖啡」。這是歷來職位最高的官員被廉署拘捕調查，事件在市民中引起很大反響。

而無獨有偶，在特首曾蔭權身上亦接連出現負面新聞，最新公布的兩份調查報告「狠批」外訪酒店一夜五萬金的「豪花」以及接受富豪的「過度款待」，更令到曾蔭權幾乎連頭也抬不起來。而在這種極度低迷的氛圍下上台的梁振英新一屆政府，要施展新政必然困難重重、事倍功半。

因此，梁振英毅然決然新班子凍薪，可說「一為神功、二為弟



▲候任特首梁振英及其班子「未履新先凍薪」有助政府重建清廉形象

子」，既為特區政府重建清廉形象，二來也可減輕自己的一點施政阻力。此其一也。

其次，凍薪有利梁振英「三司十四局」架構重組方案早日在立法會得到通過。

有關議案，今日正式提交立會人事委員會，反對派劈頭就來一個二十項動議和大量提問，接着還有財委會一關要過，最後才能在全體大會付諸表決，看來情況未許樂觀。

如此梁振英可以用什麼招數來化解呢？答案只有一個，就是民意。如果新班子未上場、先凍薪，能夠得到廣大市民的認同和好感，能夠從中展示新班子的貢獻社會、服務市民的誠意，那黃毓民之流再在立會變相「拉布」、從中作梗，阻撓架構重組議案的通過，那不啻是站到了民意的反面，民衆肯定是要報以喝聲的，此其二也。

至於第三點正面影響，就是在前述兩點的基礎上，進一步營造「新班子、新作風、新氣象」以及團結齊心、步調一致的正面形象：梁振英以身作則、「振臂一呼」，班子同聲同氣，大家齊齊凍薪，不計個人得失，更好服務市民、與先前「未上任、先加薪」的局面形成強烈對比，也及時回應了建制派和市民的訴求。

俗語云「新官上任三把火」，梁振英這「第一把火」看來燒得頗為及時、奏效，應該能夠令到市民精神一振、眼前一亮，彷彿看到了未來特區政府有所作為、有所突破的新希望。

當然，凍薪只是一項短期性措施，也不可能長期執行，未來梁振英政府一定要以更大的決心，更加踏實、有為的施政，才能真真正贏得市民的支持和信任。 2012/06/06 大公報社評

睫在目前長不見 呂端大事不糊塗

香港電台《一分鐘閱讀》介紹清代書畫家鄭板橋，提到他的名言「難得糊塗」，主持人認為，如是小事，糊塗一點也無所謂；要是大事，就要學西方人的認真了。言下之意，糊塗的在中國，認真的在西方。

其實，「難得糊塗」不過是鄭燮（板橋）晚年的牢騷話：假如他早年也糊塗，中年何能成爲聞名當時和後世的書畫家？在中國幾千年歷史中，以早年認真而晚年建大功、立大業的人不知凡幾，豈盡「糊塗」而非學西方那種「認真」不可？

據《宋史》記載，宋真宗要用呂端爲宰相，有人反對，說「呂端爲人糊塗」；宋真宗說：「呂端小事糊塗，大事不糊塗。」終於用他爲宰相。

看來，《一分鐘閱讀》主持人讀萬卷書，少讀《宋史》一部，便不知一千年前宋代已有呂端這個「認真」

的典型，才叫人非學「西方」不可。這好比眼睫毛離眼睛最近，反而看不見；要離眼睛更遠的事物才看到，難怪難怪！

走筆至此，想起一副對聯：「諸葛一生惟謹慎，呂端大事不糊塗。」諸葛，就是諸葛亮（字孔明），大家耳熟能詳；呂端比較少人知道。但看到人們拿呂端與諸葛亮相提並論，也該悟出呂端會是諸葛亮那麼有作爲的宰相。

香港是個十里洋場，加上受西人統治百多年，人們從小也受西方影響，自不免會養成「眼觀西方」、「耳聽西方」，以至「心想西方」的習慣。只要經常記住，凡事從兩方面取得平衡，就會不偏不倚，乃至無偏無頗。西方雖然好處甚多，但如果這種好處中方也有，那就不必捨近圖遠了吧？

容若

觸景立畫

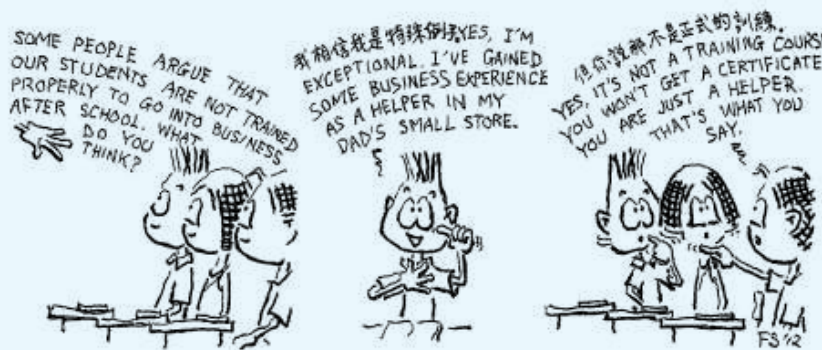
科學園



從綠景園俯瞰科學園，右爲正在施工的第三期，預期2016年全面落成，整個科學園有近500間科技公司進駐

于敏霞

SOHO DIARY



Young People and Business (1)

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

Many developed countries are trying hard to do something to help young people stand on their own feet. It is a waste of human resources if young people remain jobless and have no ways to express themselves.

In France there are schools giving a second chance to people who quit school early.

In the UK the government is using £82m to set up a loan scheme for young people. Those aged between 18 and 24 can apply if they have a business idea and are keen to realize it. The applicants can get a loan of about £2,500. They have to return the money within five years, but interest is relatively low.

The most important thing about this scheme is that young people can at least get the funding to start their own business. It is very difficult for businessmen to borrow money from commercial banks these days. And young

people who have no experience will probably get nothing if they approach the banks.

What is the Hong Kong Government doing to help local young people? If the government sets up a similar scheme, will it work?

The first thing the government officials in Hong Kong have to consider is the amount of the loan. If a young person can only get £2,500, about HK \$32,000, will it be enough to start anything? Perhaps that young person has to be very very smart to start a business with such a small amount of money. Note that rent is very high in Hong Kong, too high even for experienced businessmen. The room for small business is very small because there are big companies staying in the market.

The only area that appears to be less costly is the business related to the Internet.

通識記憶體

2002年首推高官問責制

香港政治委任制度（俗稱高官問責制）是香港特別行政區首任行政長官董建華於2002年7月1日開始推行的改革，將所有司長和局長職級由公務員職位改爲以合約方式聘任，並須爲過失負政治責任。政治委任官員是政治任命的人士，他們屬於某些政治團體或與某些政治團體有聯繫。自實施後已有三位高級官員因被指控犯錯而自動辭職。

擱置政治委任官員加薪建議》》》

2007年10月17日，政府發表《進一步發展政治委任制度報告書》，建議設立副局長及政治助理等政治委任職位，協助局長處理政治事務，亦爲進一步發展從2002年開始實行的主要官員問責制。任命政治班子作精英培訓，有系統地補充香港政治人才的欠缺，給有志參政人士提供發展途徑，爲香港實現全民普選作部署。

至2012年1月31日，政府共有政治委任職務41個，實際在任

Table with 3 columns: 職級, 職級描述, 平均工資. 高級公務員: 14.12萬美元; 中級公務員: 6.49萬美元; 初級公務員: 2.34萬美元.