

Government's response to remarks by Dr Hon Yeung Sum on universal suffrage

Commenting on the remarks made by Dr Hon Yeung Sum on universal suffrage in his "Letter to Hong Kong" broadcast on RTHK today (April 15), a Constitutional Affairs Bureau spokesman said that the HKSAR Government was firmly committed to developing democracy in Hong Kong step by step according to the Basic Law. Ever since the Chief Executive (CE) established the Commission on Strategic Development (the Commission) in November 2005, the Government had initiated, for the first time in Hong Kong, wide-ranging and substantive discussions about universal suffrage.

"After the third term HKSAR Government has been formed in July, we will release a Green Paper on constitutional development in mid 2007. The Government will consult the public on the possible models, roadmap and timetable for electing the CE and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) by universal suffrage. All proposals received from political parties, different organisations and individuals will be covered by the Green Paper.

"Following the end of the three-month public consultation period, we will submit a report to the Central Authorities, which will reflect any mainstream views formed during the public consultation and other views expressed," he said.

The spokesman said that any option for implementing universal suffrage should be consistent with the Basic Law, and should not require any amendments to the main provisions of the Basic Law.

"We also hope that it will attract majority support among Hong Kong people, and will stand a reasonable chance of securing two-thirds majority in the LegCo and being considered seriously by the Central Authorities.

"Only then would we be able to attain universal suffrage for Hong Kong," he said.

The spokesman added that the HKSAR Government was firmly committed to achieving the ultimate aim of universal suffrage in accordance with the Basic Law.

The Commission was engaging in substantive discussions and had been narrowing down differences.

"The Commission will have its final meeting on June 21. The discussions of the Commission will form the basis for the Green Paper to be published later this year.

"We hope that, from now to mid-June, the representatives of different sectors in the community and various political groups will put forth different options for implementing universal suffrage to facilitate discussion by the community.

"We also hope that different political groups will be able to build on common grounds and accommodate mutual differences, both within and outside the LegCo, so as to secure consensus for implementing universal suffrage in Hong Kong," he said.

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政府回應楊森議員有關普選的言論

政制事務局發言人回應今日（四月十五日）楊森議員在香港電台播出「給香港的信」中有關普選的言論時表示，特區政府是堅定不移地按照《基本法》逐步在香港發展民主。行政長官在二〇〇五年十一月成立策略發展委員會(策發會)後，政府已首次在香港社會開展了有關普選的廣泛和實質的討論。

他說：「第三屆特區政府於七月組成後，將會在今年年中發表《政制發展綠皮書》（《綠皮書》）。政府將諮詢公眾有關普選行政長官及立法會的可行模式、路線圖及時間表。所有不同黨派、團體和人士提出的建議均會載列於《綠皮書》內。」

他說：「當為期三個月的公眾諮詢結束後，我們會向中央提交報告，反映在公眾諮詢中所形成的主流意見及其他各種意見。」

發言人表示，任何普選方案都應該符合《基本法》，並且不應涉及修改《基本法》主體條文。

「我們亦希望有關方案能得到香港多數市民支持，及有可能得到立法會三分之二議員支持和獲中央審慎考慮。」

「只有這樣我們才能為香港達至普選。」他說。

發言人補充說，特區政府對按照《基本法》達至普選的最終目標是堅定不移的。

策發會現階段已進入實質討論，並正收窄分歧。

他說：「策發會將於六月廿一日舉行最後一次會議，而策發會的討論會為今年稍後發表的《綠皮書》提供基礎。」

「我們希望社會不同界別及黨派的代表，能從現在到六月中，提出不同的普選方案，以便公眾討論。」

「我們亦希望不同黨派均能在立法會內外，以求同存異的態度，為香港建立共識，落實普選。」發言人說。

完

2007年4月15日（星期日）

香港時間11時30分