

March 17, 2021

The Editor  
New York Times

Dear Editor,

Re: your report “How China Plans to Control Hong Kong’s Elections and Elevate ‘Patriots’” (March 11).

The Decision by the National People’s Congress on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) follows the fundamental principles of upholding “one country, two systems” and HKSAR’s constitutional order. It safeguards people’s right to vote and stand for election. It is a timely and necessary step in the right direction.

In recent years, radical and violent elements attempted to hijack the political process in Hong Kong, sow chaos, advocate independence and bring the vital work of the government to a near standstill in the Legislative Council (LegCo). These seriously undermined the stability and prosperity of our city.

The Decision is constitutionally and legally sound. It will plug the loopholes in our electoral system. There is no question of rolling back Hong Kong’s democracy. Adjustments to the size of the Election Committee and LegCo by increasing the number of members by some 25% and 28% respectively, and to their composition, will broaden the representation and participation of different sectors of Hong Kong society.

Articles 45 and 68 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR, which stipulate respectively the ultimate aim of the selection of the Chief Executive and the election of all LegCo members by universal suffrage, remain intact.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Cheung Kin-chung  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government