

March 17, 2021

The Economist

Dear Editor,

I write to set the record straight on your article “To crush democracy, China is changing Hong Kong’s political rules” (March 13, 2021).

The Decision by the National People’s Congress on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is not designed to “snuff out” democracy.

Rather, after recent social unrest and political turmoil, the Decision is a timely and necessary move to preserve Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability under the “one country, two systems” principle.

Safeguarding the right for Hong Kong permanent residents to vote and to stand for election is clearly stated in the Decision.

In recent years, radical and violent elements attempted to hijack the political process in Hong Kong, seriously disrupt the vital work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), advocate independence and sow chaos in society. 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. 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.

The Decision is essential for Hong Kong to get back on the right track and forge ahead.

Yours sincerely,

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