

December 8, 2021

The Sunday Times

Dear Editor,

I refer to the article titled “China shows its true colours – and they’re not pretty” published on December 5, 2021, which contains factual inaccuracies. I am writing to set the record straight with regard to the condition of Hong Kong and the upcoming Legislative Council General Election.

Under the improved electoral system, people from all walks of life with different opinions about government policies are able to participate in the political system, as long as they uphold the Basic Law and swear allegiance to the HKSAR. This pledge of allegiance is no different from that required of public office holders around the world.

The principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” is fundamental to safeguarding national sovereignty, security, development interests, as well as maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. It is a groundless accusation that the election will be a sham because only “patriots” are allowed to stand.

Your article has suggested that the election to be boycotted “to the point where a low turnout would be an embarrassment for the authorities”. Please be advised that inciting another person not to vote, or to cast invalid vote, by activity in public during election period is an offence under section 27A of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, irrespective of whether the incitement is made in Hong Kong or abroad.

Gilford LAW

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