

May 27, 2021

The Editor
Bloomberg

Dear Editor,

Your articles “Hong Kong Lawmakers Set to Pass Beijing-Drafted Election Revamp” (May 26) and “Hong Kong Passes Xi Plan to End Only Open Elections in China” (May 27) have falsely suggested that the legislative amendments to improve the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) aim at “curtailing the ability of dissenting voices to participate in government”.

Under the new legislation passed by the Legislative Council (LegCo) on May 27, patriotic candidates from any political background who are committed to upholding the constitutional order of Hong Kong can stand for election and be elected in accordance with the law.

While safeguarding people’s right to stand for election, the amendments also plug loopholes in the system. In recent years, these loopholes have been exploited by radical elements intent on hijacking the political process in Hong Kong, disrupting the vital work of the government and sowing chaos in society.

Improving the electoral system will help restore rational interaction between the executive authorities and the legislature, thus enhancing the efficacy of governance.

By establishing a new Candidate Eligibility Review Committee, we can ensure that candidates standing for elections to the Election Committee, LegCo and the office of the Chief Executive fulfil the requirement to uphold the Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR.

Instead of “ending” the open elections as wrongly claimed in your article, the improved electoral system will increase the number of members of the Election Committee and LegCo by some 25% and 28% respectively and improve their composition, thereby broadening the representation and participation of different sectors of Hong Kong society.

After a period of unprecedented unrest and chaos in the city, the improvements to our electoral system will help ensure stability and usher in a new era of economic and democratic development as well as social harmony in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

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