

Views on Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation (Amendment) Bill 2018

Dear Chief Executive

Knowing that you have a more important diplomatic task for the country is far more than the past chief executives. If you are snowed under with work, you should assign Chief Secretary for Administration Cheung Kin-chung to handle. When Mr Cheung was the Commissioner for Labour, he promoted policy of hiring problematic youth with monthly allowance of HK\$2,000 per person for employers. I supported it with action, providing jobs and letting them to learn Chinese culture - Wing Chun. They have more skills in the future. The policy has been very successful.

Regarding the problem of unlicensed guesthouses, I had sent proposals in the pass. In the reply on 28th November 2017, you said you will inform the relevant departments to deal with unlicensed guesthouses. But then Home Affairs Bureau, Security Bureau and Department of Justice do not take any actions about this problem. Only the police force responded roughly that it was the responsibility of the Office of the Licensing Authority (Home Affairs Department). All of departments are not concerning about the situation. On the other hand, the police force are considering setting up a team to help SPCA (The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to follow up the recent incident. Is it the responsibility of the police force? The answer about unlicensed guesthouses is just shirking of responsibility.

This problem of has been existing for over 20 or 30 years, and now it is even worse. In addition to the unfairness of law-abiding operators, the safety of tourists, and the lack of tax revenue in the Treasury, it also affects residential issues. Many people buy the flats for making money, renting their rooms through Airbnb, which raises property prices (this is one of the reasons). Young people are feeling disappointed and helpless in renting or buying house. These dissatisfactions cause them provoking and creating troubles to challenge the government.

The most important thing is that the Secretary for Security has not complied with the instructions of President Xi Jinping for protecting national security. Hong Kong is the gateway to China. Many criminals, terrorists, spies are hidden in these illegal residences. Because they do not need to register, the criminals are waiting for an opportunity to enter China to commit crimes against the China or Hong Kong. Every citizens has the responsibility for protecting national security. Now the foreign forces are suppressing China. We should be more careful, especially as the

government officials. The crackdown on unlicensed guesthouses will benefit Hong Kong's security and also the Treasury.

Hereby I suggest some effective solutions:

1) The working hours of the staff of the Licensing Authority is fixed and in the day time. When they received the complaint, even though they send patrol before 12am, the guests are still on the street. They return to their residence late until 3 or 4am in the middle of the night. The operators also know how to sneak into the legal gaps and teach them how to avoid inspections. HAD should seek help from Security Bureau, assigning district police forces to help in patrolling, as they work 24/7. Sending patrol in the mid night will definitely have a great result. Spending 6, 7 years on the environmental evidence is much less effective.

2) For the informers, whether the charge is successful or not, they should be rewarded. I believe all these illegal residential places will be disappeared right away.

This simple problem has been unsolved for decades, which makes me feel angry and disappointed. I have been running guesthouses since 1977 and I am always happy to give my advices.

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