



REFORM HONG KONG, FOR STABILITY, EQUALITY, PROSPERITY

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Since the Handover, the “One Country, Two Systems” principle has achieved great success in Hong Kong, but some long-term issues were never resolved and continued to plague society. That led to the breeding of destructive thoughts that deviated from “One Country, Two Systems”, and coupled with malpractices that were not rectified in time, culminated in rampant violence, separatism and social unrest. It was closely followed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which dealt severe blows to the economy and people’s livelihoods. Meanwhile, the global landscape remains complicated and fraught with perils. Western imperialists are doing all they can to besiege China in a desperate bid to ruin our great cause of rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

Hong Kong shares her destiny with our nation, and our rise and fall are intricately linked. The DAB believes that we must fully put into practice the “One Country, Two Systems” principle during this time of great historical turbulence. We must seize the opportunity for stability brought about by the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL), proactively tackle challenges and push for reforms to help Hong Kong turn a new chapter. These ensure that one country, two systems can stay its course, thoroughly rid ourselves of political chaos, and build Hong Kong into a stable, prosperous and fair society spearheaded by vigorous economic development, innovation and vitality. Our ideal vision of Hong Kong will allow every resident to live and work in peace and enjoy a good life. Therefore, the DAB proposes its three core beliefs and two action agendas.



The DAB's three core beliefs

1. Defend national security and the stability of Hong Kong

Safety and stability are prerequisites for everything else.

We believe freedom is a basic human aspiration. But freedom is not absolute and has its limits in every society. Without national security and a stable society, people will never enjoy the right to live and thrive, rendering all other rights and freedoms hollow. Hong Kong must develop a comprehensive system that will effectively defend national security, social stability as well as law and order. The system must also effectively prevent any attempts at separatism, riots or interference from foreign powers. Only when our nation is secure can one country, two systems thrive and allow more room for "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong." Only in a stable and orderly society can people live and work in peace and genuinely enjoy various rights and freedoms.

Respect the Central Government's Overall Jurisdiction

We believe that the central government's overall jurisdiction and a high degree of autonomy are the two basic pillars of one country, two systems, neither of which could exist without the other. We must not allow the two to oppose each other and reject the central government's overall jurisdiction. Otherwise one country, two systems cannot exist, nor will there be room for a high degree of autonomy. Reality has demonstrated that the central government's overall jurisdiction can effectively help Hong Kong deal with its challenges, get back on track and ensure the correct implementation of one country, two systems. Therefore, the central government's overall jurisdiction remains the fundamental guarantee for the SAR's high degree of autonomy.

Strengthen governance

We believe that the merits of a political system are ultimately determined by governance efficiency. Only strong and effective governance can combat major social crises such as conflicts, riots and epidemics; display effective leadership in the face of globalised competition, and practically solve the problems of society and improve people's welfare. The SAR's political system must advance with the times by enhancing the mechanism to ensure that Hong Kong is governed by patriots, strengthening governance effectiveness and breaking free from obsolete impediments from the past. The government must adopt a "can do" attitude and reform the civil service system to establish a new culture that focuses on solving people's problems.

2. Proactively and effectively promote economic development

Integrate into our nation's overall development process

Our nation remains Hong Kong's staunchest support, with the mainland's reform and modernisation providing us with a future of limitless opportunities. Only by integrating into the national development blueprint can Hong Kong make the most of one country, two systems and glow with vitality. We must be broad-minded and actively participate in our nation's development strategy. In particular, we must seize opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to create more room for Hong Kong's economy and people to thrive. As Chinese nationals, we should also utilise Hong Kong's strengths to contribute to our nation's growth.

Support economic diversification and technological innovation

We believe that the market is not infallible and the government plays an inescapable role in economic development, especially when it concerns planning and promoting industrial development. We advocate the government to establish policies that actively promote such development. And as we seek to consolidate Hong Kong's traditionally-strong core industries, we must embrace economic diversification and technological innovation to provide more opportunities to local residents and businesses.

3. Wholeheartedly pursue social justice

It is our view that Hong Kong suffers from a plethora of deep-seated social problems. This leads to insufficient social mobility and economic vitality, causing many residents to lack opportunities and the ability to benefit from economic prosperity. The only way to solve these deep-rooted problems is to improve people's livelihood and pursue vitality and justice within society. Only then can Hong Kong enjoy long-term peace and prosperity—and ensure the smooth running of one country, two systems.

Find land to develop and breakthrough limitations on people's welfare and the economy.

We propose a multi-pronged approach to developing new land and removing the spatial limitations that hinder people's welfare and economic development. The government must step up and use its public powers to take on powerful vested interests and ensure existing land resources are utilised in ways that are more in line with public interests.

Enhance the wealth redistribution system to narrow the rich-poor gap.

We must adopt a new way of thinking towards the redistribution of social resources by reforming the tax system. Those with surpluses should be taxed more to support the grassroots and underprivileged to narrow income inequality. This ensures that the fruits of economic development can be enjoyed by all classes of society.

The DAB's Two Action Agendas

1. Strengthening self-developmen

- Converge patriotic governing talent to expand our ability to act as a politically constructive force.
- Remain steadfast in our course as a political party of all classes that strives to represent the majority of society. Reconcile conflicts in society and work hard to unite all sectors.
- Fulfil our role as a constructive political force. That includes proposing beneficial policy initiatives and promoting the effective implementation of good policies. Monitor and assist the HKSAR government to constantly improve its policymaking.
- Persist in staying rooted to each district and strengthen our professional and youth work. Remain in close contact with the community and wholeheartedly serve people from all classes and backgrounds.

2. Push for practical policy breakthroughs

- Urge the government to reform its apparatus, its administrative management and its civil service system to ensure smooth governance. Eliminate bureaucratic rigidity in the civil service system and overly complicated decision-making and administrative procedures to solve the issue of costly government projects.
- Promote further integration of Hong Kong's economic development with the rest of the nation. Proactively participate in the development of the Greater Bay Area and fully utilise our nation's Belt and Road Initiative to create more room for growth to benefit Hong Kong's economy and people.
- Urge the government to go all out to develop and reclaim land. Shorten the developmental approval and planning process to provide people with quality living environments. This would help solve the long-term issue of high land prices in Hong Kong that has become a malady for industrial and commercial development.

- Urge the government to overhaul the redistribution system. Review the tax system and plug any current social welfare loopholes. Narrow income inequality and provide comprehensive assistance to grassroots residents.
- Urge the government to improve its youth work and improve the quality of education in the city. Assist Hong Kong in nurturing a generation that is both patriotic and possesses world-class vision and professional skills.
- Promote judicial reform to ensure that the justice system can move with the times and be a solid foundation for protecting law and order as well as social stability.