

Remarks by Chairperson of Committee on Initiation of MNE Subject

Following are the main points of remarks by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Initiation of Moral and National Education Subject, Ms Anna Wu, at a media session today (September 27):

- Insofar as the discussion of the committee is concerned, today we have resolved on two issues. Firstly, because of the change in government policy in not requiring the subject to be taught, and if taught, in whatever form that the school decides upon, in other words, the autonomy and decision-making power has been fully delegated to the schools. Along this line, we feel that there is no need to have an official set of guidelines. Since we do not need a set of official guidelines, it is also our recommendation, therefore the Government need not proceed with the review of the subject. These are the two points that we have looked at, reviewed, discussed and concluded upon today.
- We also talked about a variety of other subjects, such as whether or not to encourage a civil society platform to continue and to become a better channel of communication between all parties, and to promote additional discussion and consensus building. It is very important for our community as a whole to be able to advance the subject of civic education or different types of education, be it matters relating to conduct, environment and so on. These parallel and related subjects are of importance in Hong Kong. I would like to see the civil society progress on those and perhaps come to a better consensus in future. Most importantly, I would like to see the civil society and the Government have better channels of communication and formulate better levels of trust in future. These are all measures that were discussed pursuant to the change in policy announced by the Chief Executive on September 8.
- In terms of our deliberation, we received the appointment on August 22, and today is September 27, we have had several major changes in between, including a major structural and huge change of policy. We have taken a great deal of time to discuss this set of guidelines and have not quite finished. We will be coming out with more decisions and recommendations, and hopefully we will be able to wind down this particular exercise at some point. But even so, I would hope that the committee members individually and the committee itself would have some kind of involvement. This is my wishful thinking in terms of strategizing and helping community building consensus, in particular dispelling distrust and suspicion in one form or another, and building bridges of communication.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the main points of remarks.)

Ends/Thursday, September 27, 2012