

Explanation by the MAC on Questions Raised at a Political Party Press Conference Today (January 7, 2020)

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1. There have been public concerns about "the Anti-Infiltration Act hindering cross-Strait exchanges." In response, the MAC stated that such opinions are based on misunderstanding of the Act. The government has always encouraged and supported normal and orderly cross-Strait exchanges. The Anti-Infiltration Act, however, is an important mechanism to prevent hostile external forces from extending their underhanded political maneuvering into Taiwan's democratic society. Moreover, the Act helps maintain stable and orderly interaction and ensure people's peace of mind when engaging in cross-Strait exchanges. The claim that the Anti-Infiltration Act hinders cross-Strait exchanges is clearly a misunderstanding.

2. Other public opinions suggested that "the Anti-Infiltration Act is the new Martial Law" and that the "passage of the Anti-Infiltration Act has set democracy back by 30 years." The MAC clarified that such claims are a deliberate distortion and malicious slander. It is an internationally recognized fact that hostile foreign forces are infiltrating and dividing Taiwan, and the government needs to take appropriate defensive actions in response to maintain a free and democratic constitutional order. Since the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) proposed its "two systems model for Taiwan" early last year (2019), Taiwan has been faced with greater threats, making it necessary for the government to take appropriate defensive actions informed by international practices to maintain a free and democratic constitutional order.

3. Some individuals from religious and related industry groups have raised concerns that "peaceful cross-Strait exchanges will be investigated by the National Security Bureau," that "people visiting mainland China will be questioned," and that "provisions of the Anti-Infiltration Act are vaguely defined." The MAC hereby clarified again that activities without ulterior motives, such as religious activities, cultural exchanges, traveling to mainland China to visit relatives and friends, or selling agricultural products, are not subject to the Anti-Infiltration Act as long as people are not at the instruction or commission of or with financial support from hostile external forces to engage in five specific types of illegal activities. Moreover, the definition of "at the instruction", "commission", or "with financial support" under the Act is based on current laws and judicial practices and is without concerns of ambiguity or applicability. Furthermore, each individual case will be rigorously reviewed and judged by judicial institutions.

4. Finally, the MAC stressed again that the Anti-Infiltration Act is aimed, to the minimum extent necessary, to regulate five specific types of illegal activities, including illegal political donation, illegal canvassing, illegal lobbying, disrupting rallies and assemblies, undermining social order, and spreading disinformation to interfere with elections at the instruction or commission of or with financial support from hostile external forces. It is very clear and specific in scope. The regulations are highly tangible, clear, and specific, and by no means sweeping in scope as concerned by the public. The people of Taiwan can rest assured when engaging in normal exchanges.