

## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*My froglike husband, Bo-Bo, has been giggling at the recent problems that have confronted Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam Kuen (), also known as Donald-the-Duck, in respect of some clearly, unauthorised structures, affixed to his luxury, Mid-Levels flat on MacDonnell Road. Well, Donald-the-Duck, after some lengthy considerations, lasting not longer than one week, agreed to remove the unquestionably illegal structures: Large glass panels on the balcony of the flat. In a statement, issued on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, Donald-the-Duck agreed to remove the offending structures in order, as he said, publicly, 'to put things beyond doubt ...'. Donald-the-Duck, it seems only too clearly, had no official permission to erect the illegal structures in the first place and so his official statement of Wednesday, June 1, being more than a little arrogant and smacking, strongly, of offensive platitudes, did not get him off the hook, using the American vernacular. This suggestion of mine is reinforced by a statement, sent to Donald-the-Duck or his private company, which owns the flat at the centre of this controversy, by the Hongkong Government's Buildings Department, suggesting, inter alia, '... take the initiative to remove the large, glass panels ... or appoint an Authorised Person to substantiate that the works comply with the requirements of the relevant regulations ...'. Even the Buildings Department, in its letter to Donald-the-Duck, is wrong because there is no provision at law to permit an illegal structure to be made legal, retroact to its erection. Even if the Buildings Department approves a retroactive application from an Authorised Person for the erection of the offending, large glass panels, there is, still, the matter that no formal application had been made, officially, to this Government Department for the erection of the large glass panels in the first instance and, therefore, the erection of the panels was, at law, illegal – and is, still, illegal. And, now, of course, the question is raised as to whether or not the matter of the illegal structures should be turned over to the relevant Hongkong Authorities in order for a determination to be made as to the actionability of the entire situation. If it is determined that the company, which owns the property on MacDonnell Road, is liable for prosecution under Hongkong Law, and since Donald-the-Duck has declared his interest in the owning company, it is a very embarrassing situation for the man, appointed by Beijing to lead the Government of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.*

*'He is so stupid! Stupid! Stupid!' remarked The Frog, one evening after being seated in his favourite chair, following devouring copious quantities of kau yuk ken (). 'I have been following the entire saga of the MacDonnell Road flat. It is, plainly, ridiculous! Does this insufferable little twerp think he is, already, in Beijing, sitting in The Great Hall of The People, voting at the next session of The National People's Congress, awaiting his turn to be named to some high post in China? One of the many problems that he has, personally, created is that, if the Buildings Department or the Legal Department does want to take legal action against the company, owning the MacDonnell Road flat, or, alternatively, against the company and Donald-the-Duck, it could well backfire on the person or persons, making the official complaint when the time comes round for the approval of promotions. From what I have read, the matter is actionable, but who would be brave enough to take the first*

*step in order to show that nobody is above the law in Hongkong? Don't bring up the matter of de minimis non curat lex (The law does not concern itself with trifles) because this is a matter in which the Chief Executive of 416 square miles of Chinese territory, being the home to 7 million-plus Chinese citizens, has been, directly or indirectly, involved in the erection of an illegal structure for his own benefit. His procrastination in making the decision to have the offending structure removed has just irritated and exacerbated the situation. The entire matter could have been dealt with in the tried-and-true manner of Beijing, just by talking to the correct person in the relevant Hongkong Government department (or departments) over which he still has absolute control. Now, he is for it!'*

*According to my Filipina manicurist, Julia, she agrees with The Frog, but suggested that it is, still, not too late to save the bacon from being completely burned to a crisp in the hot Hongkong wok although the signs of it, being a little too crispy, cannot be completely eradicated. She suggests that Donald-the-Duck do the Japanese 'thing'. Instead of Donald-the-Duck, trying to continue to maintain that he did not realise that the erection of the large glass panels on the balcony of the MacDonnell Road flat was illegal, he should take a large white towel, place it on the floor of the Legislative Council Chamber and kneeling on the praying towel, kowtow to the Legislative Councillors, touching his forehead to the ground in order to show respect and submission as well as asking for forgiveness for his crimes against the sovereign soil of China. The more yelling and jeering that he receives from the Legislative Councillors, the more he should not look at those, making the expressions of disgust (as he used to do when statements were made in this Chamber, statements that were not to his liking), but he should keep repeating: 'I am sorry. Please forgive me! I shall not do it, again.' If the long-haired lout throws a banana at him, provided that it is a fresh one, of course, he should pick it up and eat it, claiming that he is eating his humble pie in order to atone for his sins against the people of Hongkong.*

*What a suggestion! Do you think, My Dear Grandchild, that Donald-the-Duck is sufficiently brave to admit, publicly, that he wants to atone for his sins, kowtowing in the Legislative Council Chamber? He goes to Confession, weekly, one is told, but the priest, hearing his confession, cannot see the face of the sinner only hear of his sins. In the Legislative Council Chamber, he is exposing himself for all to see: 'I am sorry. Please forgive me! I shall not do it, again.' (A few tears would be a nice touch, also.) If I discover him, going to the next Legislative Council Meeting, carrying a white towel, I am going to the visitors' gallery in order to take a photograph of him, doing his Japanese 'thing'.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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