

Time for Hung and the KMT to step aside

Written by James Wang 王健
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The Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) national congress, during which Deputy Legislative Speaker Hung Hsiu-chu (洪秀柱) was officially enthroned as the party's presidential candidate, was a farce. It wanted to give the impression of unity, but was completely lacking in any incentive or desire for unity. Its star, Hung herself, even shied away from any actual substance regarding how she actually intends to fight the coming campaign. She talked at length in platitudes and sound bites without really saying anything.

The "Little Red Pepper" proved very flexible, stowing for a second the idea of "one China, same interpretation" and focusing on the so-called "1992 consensus." This was no accident, as any evocation of the "same interpretation" would only get in the way of her "sacred duty" and "grand mission." What exactly is her "sacred duty" and her "grand mission"? She chose not to go into that. The national congress had agreed to accept her as the party's presidential candidate, but, in her acceptance speech, there was no mention of the position of "president of the Republic of China (ROC)."

Had Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Chairperson and presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) failed to say that she was running for ROC president, the pro-unification media would have been all over her, baying for blood. President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) is quite content to be seen as the head of an area, while Hung has felt uncomfortable talking about the very existence of the ROC. You cannot help but feel that this is because she cannot bring herself to speak of the existence of the position of ROC president.

She did, on several occasions, mention the term "ROC," and uttered the word "president" once. However, on no occasion did she string the two terms together. All she managed was "after I am elected president." The first time she spoke of the ROC, it was in a historical context, talking about how the KMT old guard had traveled to Nanjing to commemorate the founding of the ROC by Sun Yat-sen (孫中山).

For Hung, there is a difference between Taiwan and the ROC: They are on two different levels. She wants to "sincerely love Taiwan, and protect the ROC with [her] life." Her sincerity goes as far as to step back from acknowledging the existence of the ROC, and her saying that the ROC would only win if she is elected president is a betrayal of her own true conviction.

The Little Red Pepper's stated sacred mission has nothing to do with freedom, democracy or

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justice; it only knows the language of pro-China, pro-unification sentiment, dismissing Taiwan's democracy as "populism," and absolving Ma and his administration of any responsibility.

Democracy enables citizens to oust incompetent governments with the power invested in them through the ballot box. Ma has proved himself to be completely incompetent at the nation's helm, and yet he still feels able to say that he owes Taiwanese no apology. Hung tried to place the blame for the Ma administration's incompetence at the feet of the DPP, and the KMT thinks that Taiwanese owe it something. It is time for the KMT to relinquish power.

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Translated by Paul Cooper

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