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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

President-Elect Lai Announces New Cabinet Personnel



Photo: CNA (Focus Taiwan)

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Lai Ching-te, the Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), held a press conference today (April 10) to announce the new Cabinet appointments. The incoming Premier is Cho Jung-tai (卓榮泰), with Vice Premier Cheng Li-chun (鄭麗君), Secretary-General Kung Ming-hsin (龔明鑫), and Spokesperson Chen Shih-kai (陳世凱). The cabinet is centered around the concept of an "Action Innovation AI Cabinet," aiming to build a team full of dynamism and innovative approaches to serve the nation. Lai stated that he and Cho are close pals, both serving as former and current chairpersons of the DPP, fighting for common values and ideals. He praised Cho's abilities to communicate, coordinate, and grasp various issues, leading the country's future development direction.

Before his speech, Lai first expressed his condolences for the victims of the Hualien earthquake last Wednesday, thanking the central and local governments, police, fire services, rescue teams, and volunteers for their tireless disaster relief efforts. He expressed hope for the smooth progress of the relief and reconstruction work, believing in the nation's ability to overcome challenges through unity.

Lai mentioned that on January 13 of this year, Taiwan's democracy entered a new chapter with the sacred vote of the people, demonstrating Taiwan's commitment to defending democracy, freedom, and human rights. He and his running mate, Bi-khim Hsiao, are honored to have the people's trust, emphasizing the importance of a seamless transition to keep the country moving forward.

Lai stated that in the midst of comprehensive global competition, Taiwan must secure its place not just through inheritance but by establishing a team characterized by proactive action and innovative thinking. This is essential to meet domestic and international challenges, transforming these challenges into opportunities and propelling the nation forward. He informed the citizens that Mr. Cho Jung-tai had accepted the invitation to serve as the Premier of the new government.

Lai expressed that he and Cho are close pals and colleagues in the Legislative Yuan; when he was the Premier, Cho was the Secretary-General. What's more remarkable is that they have both served as chairpersons of the DPP, one after the other, fighting for common values and ideals, supporting each other, and trusting one another.

Lai pointed out that in the current political situation, Cho Jung-tai taking over as the Premier would bring the following strengths: First, he is skilled

in communication and coordination. He can navigate complex issues, transcending personal or party differences to find a direction quickly, stand on the ground of public interest, build consensus, propose solutions, and resolve problems.

Second, he has a complete grasp of central and local issues, from legislative to administrative matters. Having served as a city councilor and a legislator for two terms each, he is accustomed to listening to the public and understands the operations of the parliament. He has also served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the Presidential Office and twice as the Secretary-General of the Executive Yuan, well-versed in national governance. Third, he fully understands the future direction of the country: he was the general supervisor of this presidential election campaign and participated in the discussions of the National Hope Project. As the Premier, Cho Jung-tai can swiftly lead the team to implement the National Hope Project and push the country forward.

Lai added that this is a completely new situation, and inevitably, there will be a series of challenges to overcome. Therefore, he encourages Cho Jung-tai's cabinet to adhere to the spirit of "action" and "innovation" to form an "active and innovative AI cabinet" that can listen to public opinion to solve people's problems and meet their expectations.

Second, issues beneficial to the nation and society and with bipartisan consensus should be prioritized, while divisive issues that do not benefit society should be set aside. For major issues that have not yet reached consensus, a policy communication platform should be established to broaden participation and solicit public opinion to achieve the greatest social consensus.

Third, he hopes the new cabinet can actively and effectively implement the "National Project of Hope," especially in areas closely related to people's lives, such as economic development, care for the vulnerable, and various safety tasks like public, food, road, workplace, school, residential, and information security. Of course, he also hopes the post-earthquake reconstruction work from the April 3 earthquake can be completed on schedule and to quality, minimizing the impact on the lives of those affected by the earthquake.

In conclusion, Lai reiterated that he takes this rare opportunity to thank President Tsai Ing-wen and Premier Chen Chien-jen for laying a solid foundation with their administrative team. This allows the new team to continue moving forward on this basis. In the past, both he and Cho Jung-

tai were members of the administrative team. Today, they will take on responsibilities in different positions for the new era of the nation, continuing to strengthen Taiwan. He earnestly asks for the strong support of the people.

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