

## **South China Morning Post**

### *A1: No third trial, but Tsang May have to pay millions in costs*

---

Donald Tsang Yam-kuen may have to pay millions of dollars in court costs if prosecutors have their way, but they will not seek to put the former Hong Kong leader on trial for the third time on a bribery charge.

Prosecutor David Perry QC announced on Monday that it had been decided, after “careful and deliberate thought”, to leave the bribery charge against Tsang on file at the High Court. While he stopped short of saying they were dropping the case, that was the effect as it meant the prosecution was handing control over to the court.

However, Perry did not completely rule out a retrial based on the bribery charge because Tsang was currently appealing against his earlier conviction.

A “change of circumstance” or “new evidence” might arise, he said, adding that any further trial would not go ahead without the High Court’s approval or the approval of the Court of Appeal.

### *C2: Squatter villagers given eviction reprieve*

---

Residents of squatter villages affected by a controversial housing project in Wang Chau will not be evicted before the Lunar New Year, but occupants of about 80 homes ineligible for compensation could be left without shelter once plans are completed.

Lawmakers were asked to endorse the government’s plan to table the HK\$2.4 billion preliminary construction cost to Legco’s Finance Committee.

The funding will be used to level hillside land in Wang Chau, Yuen Long, and to build retaining walls and slopes as well as other public facilities such as an underpass and a footbridge.

The infrastructure is needed to prepare for the construction of 4,000 flats in the first phase of a controversial public housing project on a 5.6-hectare green belt site.

The project has drawn heavy public criticism since the government admitted in September last year that it had shelved original plans to develop a nearby 33-hectare brownfield site.