

倒行逆施

dao4 xing2 ni4 shi1

A short video that has gone viral recently showed a car running at high speed on Tuen Mun Highway.

It is only a 19-second clip, but is extremely hair-raising (驚嚇的), not only because of the speed but also the car, a Mercedes, is going against the traffic, narrowly missing other vehicles a few times.

Netizens said on that stretch of the highway, the car would have to go in the wrong direction for at least 1.5 kilometers before it could leave the road.

Going in the opposite direction is called “倒行” (*dao4 xing2*), a term that can be found in the idiom “倒行逆施” (*dao4 xing2 ni4 shi1*).

“倒” (*dao4*) means “in the wrong direction,” “in reverse order,” “行” (*xing2*) “to go,” “to walk,” “to do,” “逆” (*ni4*) “contrary,” “to go

Idiom by Lon Yan

against,” and “施” (*shi1*) “to execute,” “to carry out.” “倒行逆施” (*dao4 xing2 ni4 shi1*) means “perverse (不合常理的) acts,” “to do things in a perverse way.”

The idiom is often used to describe governments that carry out high-handed policies against sound principles, or those that exercise tyrannical (專制的、殘暴的) rule.

The character “倒” (*dao4*) also means “to fall,” “to collapse” or “to topple.” Some people are always trying to topple the chief executive. “倒曾” is “to topple Donald Tsang,” and “倒梁” is “to topple Leung Chun-ying.”

Terms containing the character “倒” (*dao4*) include:

倒閉 (*dao3 bi4*) – to go out of business

倒車 (*dao3 che1*) – to back a car

倒地 (*dao4 de*) – collapse to the ground

倒數 (*dao4 shu3*) – to count backwards; to count down