

# 小題大做

*xiao3 ti2 da4 zuo4*

A bag that belongs to the daughter of Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying blew up at the airport, figuratively of course, into a political storm. She left the bag outside the restricted area and, after phone calls from her father, a staff member helped retrieve it.

As a result, Leung was accused of abusing his position. Airport security rules were said to have been compromised. Politicians and unionists organized protests and petitions, escalating the issue to the international level, clearly treating it as a serious matter.

But others took a different view. Executive Council member Fanny Law Fan Chiu-fun called it a minor incident. Lawmaker and former secretary for security Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea saw no problem extending VIP treatment to the chief executive's family. Former Civic Party lawmaker Ronny Tong Ka-wah said the incident had been "made big," noting that he has been helped similarly by ground crew.

## Idiom by Lon Yan

The question is whether this is a case of “小題大做” (*xiao3 ti2 da4 zuo4*).

“小” (*xiao3*) is “small,” “題” (*ti2*) “a subject,” “a topic,” “大” (*da4*) “big,” and “做” (*zuo4*) “to make,” “to produce,” “to do.” Literally, “小題大做” (*xiao3 ti2 da4 zuo4*) is “small topic, big do,” “making a small topic big.” “小題大做” (*xiao3 ti2 da4 zuo4*) is “much ado about nothing,” “to make a big fuss over a minor issue,” “to make a mountain out of a molehill.”

The authorities have promised to look closely at the matter. And, after that, we will have a better idea of whether the controversy is “小題大做” (*xiao3 ti2 da4 zuo4*).

**Terms containing the character “題” (*ti2*) include:**

問題 (*wen4 ti2*) - a problem; a question; an issue

題目 (*ti2 mu4*) - an exam question; a title

題材 (*ti2 cai2*) - subject matter

課題 (*ke4 ti2*) - a topic for study or discussion