

# Idiom by Lon Yan

## 事有蹊蹊

*shi4 you3 qiao1 qi*

Two computers belonging to the Registration & Electoral Office containing the personal information all 3.7 million Hong Kong voters went missing from a locked room at AsiaWorld-Expo, which the government said was the “fallback site of the Chief Executive Election.”

This must be the most serious data breach ever to have taken place in Hong Kong, and the public was shocked. The responsible policy bureau has ordered the electoral office to submit a report on why this could have happened and its security implications.

It could, of course, be a theft by common thieves who wanted just to sell the laptops for money. But people are asking questions.

If the computers were intended for use in relation to the chief executive election, why did they contain not only information of the

1,200 election committee members but of all Hong Kong voters?

The timing of the theft, which coincide with the chief executive election, also led some to suspect political motive. In a situation like this, the idiom “事有蹊蹊” (*shi4 you3 qiao1 qi*) comes to mind.

“事” (*shi4*) is “affairs”, business, “matter”, “有” (*you3*) “to have”, “to exist”, and “蹊蹊” (*qiao1 qi*) is “fishy”, “dubious.” Literally, “事有蹊蹊” (*shi4 you3 qiao1 qi*) is “there is something fishy about this matter,” which is what the idiom means.

When something happened and you suspect that it isn’t as simple as what meets the eyes, you can say “事有蹊蹊” (*shi4 you3 qiao1 qi*)! It is an expression of suspicion, that you don’t believe the matter is as straight forward as it may seem.

### Terms containing the character “事” (*shi4*) include:

故事 (*gu4 shi4*) – a story; a tale

事故 (*shi4 gu4*) – an accident; a trouble

事實 (*shi4 shi2*) – a fact; a truth

事業 (*shi4 ye4*) – a career; an undertaking