

## CE attends opening meeting of NPC annual session in Beijing (with photos)

â€‹The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, today (March 5) attended the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

The third session of the 14th NPC commenced in Beijing this morning, during which Premier Li Qiang delivered the government work report. Mr Lee attended the opening meeting in his capacity as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

In the government work report, Premier Li reviewed the work for 2024. He also outlined the overall requirements for economic and social development and major tasks of the government for 2025. He said that we should continue to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in the HKSAR, while maintaining the constitutional order in the HKSAR as stipulated in the Constitution and the Basic Law and implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong". Premier Li expressed support for Hong Kong in strengthening economy development and improving people's livelihood, deepening international exchanges and co-operation, with a view to better integrating into the overall national development and maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. He also highlighted the need to enhance the innovation capabilities and influence of economically advantaged areas, including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Mr Lee said he was most encouraged, adding that this year marks the conclusion of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the beginning of the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan. It is also a crucial year for further deepening comprehensive reforms, which are of significant importance for the implementation of "one country, two systems". The HKSAR Government will continue to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. It will unite all sectors of society to further deepen comprehensive reforms, actively understand, respond to and embrace changes, and better leverage the institutional strengths of "one country, two systems" and Hong Kong's unique and internationalised advantages to open up new development opportunities. The HKSAR Government will also spare no effort in pursuing economic development, improving people's livelihood and exploring new growth areas.

The HKSAR Government will adopt an innovative mindset, coupled with market forces, to take forward the development of the Northern Metropolis and the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation

Zone, accelerating the development of an international innovation and technology centre. Furthermore, it aims to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre, building Hong Kong as an international hub for high-calibre talent. At the same time, it will further promote the high-quality development of the GBA, actively integrating into national development. It will also enhance Hong Kong's international competitiveness, deepen international exchanges and co-operation, and strengthen Hong Kong's role as a bridge linking the Mainland and global markets, with a view to achieving better development in Hong Kong and making further contributions to building the great country and advancing national rejuvenation.

Mr Lee extended his best wishes for the success of the third session of the 14th NPC and the third session of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee.

