

# CE statement on NPC's deliberation on improving HKSAR electoral system to implement "patriots administering Hong Kong"

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, made the following statement today (March 5) in response to the National People's Congress' deliberation at the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress on a decision to improve the electoral system to implement "patriots administering Hong Kong":

During my annual reporting of work for the year of 2020 on January 27 this year, President Xi Jinping unequivocally indicated that in order to ensure the steadfast and successful implementation of "one country, two systems", we must always adhere to the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong". This principle is fundamental to national sovereignty, security, development interests, as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. President Xi further pointed out that only through "patriots administering Hong Kong" can the Central Authorities' overall jurisdiction over the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) be effectively implemented, the constitutional order as set out in the Constitution and the Basic Law be effectively safeguarded, various deep-seated problems be effectively resolved, and the long-term stability and safety of Hong Kong be achieved.

"Patriots administering Hong Kong" is definitely not a newly created concept. Tracing to its source, the chief architect of "one country, two systems", Mr. Deng Xiaoping, clearly stated in 1984 that the idea of "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" has its scope and criteria, that is to say Hong Kong should be managed by Hong Kong people, with patriots forming the mainstay. The criteria for a patriot are to respect one's own nation, sincerely support the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong by the Motherland, and not to impair Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

"Patriots administering Hong Kong" is also completely in line with the constitutional requirement of the HKSAR. Article 1 of the Basic Law states that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China; Article 12 of the Basic Law clearly stipulates that the HKSAR shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government; and the Chief Executive has "dual responsibility" under the Basic Law – being responsible to both the HKSAR and the Central People's Government. Under this constitutional order and political system, it is a natural requirement that Hong Kong must be governed by patriots. There cannot be any ambiguity that "patriots administering Hong Kong" is the critical and necessary requirement to the successful and robust implementation of "one country, two systems". In addition to the Chief Executive and officials in

the Administration, "persons administering Hong Kong" includes members of the legislature, judges in the Judiciary, members of district organisations which are not organs of political power, i.e. District Councils, as well as civil servants.

In recent years, Hong Kong has indeed faced circumstances that are not conducive to the thorough implementation of "one country, two systems". There are groups advocating "Hong Kong independence", organising resistance against the governance of the Central Authorities, and even colluding with external elements to stir up disorders in the society. If such acts are not suppressed in time, parties which oppose the Central Authorities and cause disturbance to the law and order of Hong Kong may enter the political system of the HKSAR through elections. This will harm Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and place "one country, two systems" in jeopardy.

Just as the decision passed during the third Session of the 13th National People's Congress last year to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security, and delegate authority to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to enact the National Security Law of the HKSAR, the deliberation of the National People's Congress at the present meeting that the Central Authorities should take the lead to improve the electoral system of the HKSAR has faithfully exercised the Central Authorities' overall jurisdiction over the HKSAR. Such a deliberation will help buttress the efforts of the HKSAR Government to restore the HKSAR's law and order, govern in strict accordance with the law, and protect the well-being of over seven million citizens of the HKSAR. The HKSAR Government and I fully respect that the Central Government takes the lead to improve the electoral system. We also support the five principles enunciated by Mr Wang Chen, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, i.e. upholding and implementing the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy"; firmly safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests; administering the HKSAR according to the rule of law, in accordance with the actual situation in Hong Kong and enhancing the governance capability of the HKSAR Government. We will fully co-operate with the Central Authorities by enacting local legislation to implement the improvement measures, with a view to faithfully putting the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" into practice.

As there will be a number of elections in the coming 12 months, there is a pressing need for us to complete the necessary legislative work. The HKSAR Government will spare no efforts in reflecting the views of different sectors of the Hong Kong community, with a view to assisting the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to amend Annex I to the Basic Law which concerns the method for the selection of the Chief Executive and Annex II which concerns the method for the formation of the Legislative Council and its voting procedures. We will prepare the necessary legislative amendments to the relevant local legislation in accordance with the revised Annexes to the Basic Law for the scrutiny of the Legislative Council.

In the past two years, Hong Kong has faced unprecedented challenges. The Central Authorities have always spared no efforts in resolving the imminent problems faced by Hong Kong at the national level, and demonstrated their adherence to the principle of "one country, two systems" and care for citizens of Hong Kong. From the formulation and implementation of the National Security Law of the HKSAR, which halted chaos and restored order in Hong Kong, to the improvement of the electoral system of the HKSAR to ensure "patriots administering Hong Kong", our Motherland will forever provide staunch support to Hong Kong. I will lead the governing team of the HKSAR Government to fulfil the mission of safeguarding the fundamental interests of the country and the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

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## **MD announcement**

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Marine Department today (March 5) reminded masters, coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels navigating in Hong Kong waters to proceed at a safe speed and exercise extreme caution because restricted visibility of less than 2 nautical miles has been reported.

Appropriate sound signals shall be made when underway or at anchor. All vessels must comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea.

Also, when radar is used without the benefit of adequate plotting facilities, the information obtained from the equipment is rather limited and should be construed accordingly.

Visibility reports are broadcast by the Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC) on VHF channels 02, 12, 14, 63 and 67.

In the event of an accident, a report shall be made immediately to the VTC at Tel: 2233 7801.

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## **Revenue (Stamp Duty) Bill 2021**

## gazetted

The Government published in the Gazette today (March 5) the Revenue (Stamp Duty) Bill 2021 (the Bill) to give effect to the proposal of increasing the rate of Stamp Duty on Stock Transfers announced by the Financial Secretary in the 2021-22 Budget.

The Bill seeks to amend the Stamp Duty Ordinance (Cap. 117) to increase the rate of stamp duty payable on contract notes for sale or purchase of Hong Kong stock and correspondingly on certain transfers of such stock with effect from August 1, 2021.

"The proposal has struck a balance between the need for increasing government revenue and sustaining financial market development. The Government will continue to spare no efforts in introducing measures to facilitate the development of the securities market, so as to take our financial services sector to the next level," the Government spokesperson said.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council for first reading on March 17.

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## Results of Pharmacist Registration Examinations December 2020 announced

The following is issued on behalf of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong:

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong announced today (March 5) the results of the Pharmacist Registration Examinations held in December 2020.

There were 32, 72 and 41 candidates sitting for examinations in pharmacy legislation in Hong Kong, pharmacy practice and pharmacology respectively, with corresponding passing rates of 71.9 per cent, 38.9 per cent and 51.2 per cent.

Apart from meeting other requirements prescribed by the Board, any pharmacy graduate outside Hong Kong intending to be registered as a pharmacist in Hong Kong is required to pass the above three subjects.

The Board conducts its Registration Examinations twice a year, normally in June and December.

## [HKSAR and APEC sign memorandum of understanding to establish the APEC SELI sub-fund \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, to support the creation of the Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure (SELI) sub-fund at a virtual signing ceremony today (March 5).

The SELI sub-fund under the APEC Economic Committee, currently chaired by the Commissioner of Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office of the Department of Justice, will provide funding for capacity building work to assist APEC economies to strengthen their economic and legal infrastructure with a view to fostering economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The establishment of the sub-fund demonstrates the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) commitment and contribution to strengthening economic and legal infrastructure in the region, and charts the course for a stronger, closer and more longstanding partnership with APEC. This will also help enhance the HKSAR's visibility and reputation, further consolidating its role as an ideal hub for deal-making and a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the region and beyond.

eBRAM Centre provided technical support for the virtual signing ceremony by leveraging its online platform.

