

# HKSAR Government responds to US report

In response to media enquiries, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government made the following response today (March 22) to the Hong Kong Policy Act Report issued by the United States Department of State:

"Since the return to the motherland, the HKSAR has been exercising 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' and a high degree of autonomy in strict accordance with the Basic Law. The 'one country, two systems' principle has been fully and successfully implemented.

"As a matter of fact, Hong Kong has all along been a vibrant, highly open and international city. The Heritage Foundation of the United States has ranked Hong Kong the world's freest economy for 25 consecutive years. Hong Kong ranks first in Asia in terms of judicial independence. We are also one of the world's safest cities.

"Human rights and freedom in Hong Kong are fully protected by the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and other legislation. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to them and is determined to safeguard them.

"However, relevant international human rights conventions and court cases have clearly pointed out that freedom of speech is not absolute. The Basic Law clearly stipulates that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Any suggestion for 'Hong Kong's independence' is a blatant violation of the Basic Law and a direct affront to the national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the PRC. 'Hong Kong's independence' runs counter to the successful implementation of 'one country, two systems' and undermines the HKSAR's constitutional and legal foundations as enshrined in the Basic Law.

"For other issues mentioned in the report, including the prohibition of the operation of the Hong Kong National Party, a visa application case, the Legislative Council By-election in November 2018 and the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election, the HKSAR Government emphasises that it has all along been handling Hong Kong affairs strictly in accordance with the 'one country, two systems' principle, the Basic Law and the laws of Hong Kong.

"The HKSAR Government reiterates that foreign governments should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR."

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## [Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool temporarily closed](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

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

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 22) that Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool in Yuen Long District has been temporarily closed for cleaning and superchlorination following the discovery of a small amount of vomit in the pool.

It will be reopened at 7pm today.

The department appeals to swimmers to be considerate and to keep the swimming pools clean. They are advised not to swim after a full meal and should use the toilet facilities if necessary before swimming.

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## [Effective Exchange Rate Index](#)

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, March 22, 2019 is 103.1 (up 0.3 against yesterday's index).

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## [Business seminar in Auckland showcases unparalleled business opportunities of Greater Bay Area \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney (HKETO Sydney), together with the Auckland Business Chamber, held a business seminar in Auckland, New Zealand, on March 21 (Auckland time) on the unparalleled opportunities offered by Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area for New Zealand businesses.

Entitled "Accessing the world's largest market through Hong Kong", the

seminar presented to New Zealand business leaders the important role Hong Kong plays in the Greater Bay Area's development and how Hong Kong can provide benefits for New Zealand across many areas given that it is the most open international city in the Greater Bay Area, a well-connected transport hub, and an innovation and technology centre.

The Greater Bay Area, comprising the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao and nine Guangdong cities with an estimated GDP of US\$1.5 trillion and a population of some 70 million, is the safest and most strategic entry point into the massive North Asia market, and an economy actively promoting unimpeded trade and investment with New Zealand.

The seminar comprised three sessions – "Making New Zealand Greater Bay Ready: New Zealand's Unleashed Potential", "Building for Tomorrow, Today: Thinking Infrastructure, Think Hong Kong" and "A World Connected: Hong Kong as an International and Technology Hub" – and panel discussions.

The Director of HKETO Sydney, Mr Raymond Fan, spoke on Hong Kong's strong ties with New Zealand and the latest developments of the Greater Bay Area. He said the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promulgated by the Central Government clearly supported Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong's status as an international financial, transportation and trade centre as well as an international aviation hub; strengthening Hong Kong's status as a global offshore Renminbi business hub and its role as an international asset management centre and a risk management centre; promoting the development of high-end and high value-added financial, commercial and trading, logistics and professional services; making great efforts to develop the innovation and technology industries; nurturing emerging industries; and establishing Hong Kong as the centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.

"These areas of work are all conducive to developing Hong Kong further as an international metropolis with enhanced competitiveness. Meanwhile, we are also glad to learn about the eight policy measures introduced by the Central Government which could assist Hong Kong residents to develop, work and reside in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, as well as strengthen the convenient flow of people and goods within the Greater Bay Area," he said.

The Director, Australia and New Zealand, of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Ms Bonnie Shek, highlighted Hong Kong's role in connecting New Zealand companies with the Greater Bay Area, pointing out that New Zealand companies could commercialise products or service systems through professionals or intellectual property trading in Hong Kong. The Head of Transport and Industrial of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), Mr Benjamin Wong, said Hong Kong's unique advantages under "one country, two systems", together with the city's geographical location, robust legal system and low and simple tax system, could bring unequalled benefits to New Zealand business.

In addition, HKETO Sydney also co-hosted a reception in Auckland on

March 21 with the HKTDC, InvestHK and the Hong Kong-New Zealand Business Association, under the theme of "Connect and Excel".

Speaking at the reception, Mr Fan said Hong Kong in 2018 continued to build on its reputation as the gateway to Asia, growing its connections with the Mainland of China and the region. Hong Kong continues to be one of the best-connected cities in the world, with world-class transport and infrastructure making it a business, transport and trade hub.

"The Greater Bay Area will surely bring Hong Kong significant opportunities to diversify its economy and develop innovation and technology, which is an economic driver in the new era," Mr Fan said.

"As we enter another busy year in 2019, I look forward to the fostering of a stronger relationship between Hong Kong and New Zealand. Hong Kong stands ready to connect you to your next opportunity and to help you to not only succeed in your endeavours, but to excel in them," Mr Fan added.



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## [Appeal for information on missing man in North Point \(with photo\)](#)

Police today (March 22) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in North Point.

Law Wai-man, aged 87, went missing after he left an elderly home in Tong Shui Road last night (March 21). Staff of the elderly home made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.55 metres tall, 67 kilograms in weight and of fat build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short white hair. He was last seen wearing a blue jacket, a light-coloured polo shirt with stripes, dark-coloured trousers and black shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Hong Kong Island on 2860 1040 or 9886 0034, or email to [rmpu-hki@police.gov.hk](mailto:rmpu-hki@police.gov.hk), or contact any police station.

