

CS meets with LegCo Members and Hong Kong members of national organisations on improving Hong Kong's electoral system (with photos/video)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, today (April 7) met with some of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members and Hong Kong members of national organisations at three briefing sessions to continue to explain the improvements to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)'s electoral system.

Mr Cheung stressed that the amended Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress ensures that the electoral system of the HKSAR can progress with wider representation and better cope with the actual situation of Hong Kong, with a view to putting Hong Kong's political structure back on a firmer and more promising footing. Improving the electoral system is an urgent move to ensure the steadfast and successful implementation of "one country, two systems" and a pragmatic move to promote Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

He said that the HKSAR Government would spare no effort in taking forward the task in amending the relevant local electoral laws within a tight time frame, with a view to introducing a bill to the LegCo in mid-April. He expressed the hope that LegCo Members would support the work on local legislation and strive to pass the bill by the end of May.

Mr Cheung said that the core of the current improvements to the electoral system is to enlarge the membership of the Election Committee (EC) to 1 500 and to adjust and improve the composition of the EC by empowering it with new functions. The Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) and Hong Kong members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will be the Ex-officio Members in the new "fifth sector" of the enlarged EC, while some EC seats will be returned through election among Hong Kong members of the relevant national organisations. Apart from nominating LegCo Members, the Hong Kong deputies to the NPC, Hong Kong members of the CPPCC and that of the relevant national organisations will elect one LegCo Member in one of the new functional constituencies of the LegCo.

He encouraged participants to brief people in different sectors of the community on the improvements to the electoral system to deepen their understanding of the new electoral system as well as its necessity and urgency.

