

Director of Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of CPC Central Committee and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of State Council meets CE in Shenzhen (with photos)

The Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong, met the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, in Shenzhen this morning (March 21). The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC; the Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung; and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Ms Carol Yip, also joined the meeting.

Mr Lee briefed Mr Xia on recent work developments, including the completion of the enactment of local legislation on Article 23 of the Basic Law. Mr Lee said that the Sixth-term Government and the Seventh Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) have jointly fulfilled the constitutional responsibility and historic mission of legislating for Article 23 of the Basic Law, with the passage of the Safeguarding National Security Bill on March 19. The Safeguarding National Security Ordinance will take effect upon gazettal on March 23, ensuring the effective protection of national security. During the public consultation, the HKSAR Government has received over 13 000 submissions of opinions, 98.6 per cent of which showed support and gave positive comments. With the active and continued support and promotion for the legislative work by those who love the country and Hong Kong, the legislative exercise has a strong popular support and its early completion is a consensus of the Hong Kong community.

Mr Lee said that the HKSAR Government took a result-oriented approach and united the community to jointly accomplish the legislation of Article 23 of the Basic Law. It was a glorious achievement of the implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong". With the passage of the Safeguarding National Security Bill, Hong Kong has established solid fortifications and consolidated its "defence wall" in the transition from chaos to order, and it can now stride forward confidently on the prosperous path of development, focusing its full attention on developing a vibrant economy and a caring community.

