

Government responds to media enquiries on remarks by HKMAO and LOCPG

In response to media enquiries on recent remarks made by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) and Liaison Office of the Central People's Government (LOCPG) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on the operation of the House Committee of the Legislative Council, a spokesman for the HKSAR Government gives the following reply today (April 18):

"The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China.

"The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a local administrative region of the People's Republic of China, which enjoys a high degree of autonomy and comes directly under the Central People's Government (CPG).

"The LOCPG is one of the three organisations set up in the HKSAR by the Central Government in accordance with Article 22(2) of the Basic Law, and is authorised by the CPG to have special responsibility to handle issues relating to Hong Kong. It is entrusted with the authority and responsibility to represent the CPG to express views and exercise supervisory power on major issues such as those concerning the relationship between the CPG and the SAR, the accurate implementation of the Basic Law, the proper operation of the political system and the well-being of the community as a whole.

"The House Committee of the Legislative Council has failed to elect its Chairman after 15 meetings over the past six months. The concerns expressed and comments made by the HKMAO and LOCPG on the matter are legitimate from the perspectives of the Constitution, governance and operation, and are in full compliance with the constitutional order under "one country, two systems". Such moves do not constitute any interference to the affairs which the HKSAR administers on its own in accordance with the Basic Law.

"As with offices set up in the HKSAR by departments of the Central Government, or by provinces, autonomous regions, or municipalities directly under the CPG, the LOCPG and its personnel shall abide by the laws of the HKSAR in accordance with Article 22(3) of the Basic Law."