

'Hong Kong independence' leads nowhere

The notion of "Hong Kong independence" will lead nowhere, a government work report to be delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Sunday said.

The report, available just before the opening of the annual session of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), also pledged to fully implement the "one country, two systems" principle in the special administrative region.

It said the central government will continue to implement, both to the letter and in spirit, the principle of "one country, two systems," under which the people of Hong Kong govern Hong Kong, the people of Macao govern Macao, and both regions enjoy a high degree of autonomy.

"We will continue to act in strict compliance with China's Constitution and the basic laws of the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, and we will ensure that the principle of 'one country, two systems' is steadfastly applied in Hong Kong and Macao without being bent or distorted," the report said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China.

The report pledged full support for chief executives and governments of the two regions in exercising law-based governance, growing their economies, improving people's well-being, advancing democracy, and promoting social harmony.

It added that efforts will be made to push forward cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao.

In particular, the report said the central government will draw up a plan for the development of a city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, give full play to the distinctive strengths of Hong Kong and Macao, and elevate their positions and roles in China's economic development and opening up.

"We have always had full confidence about ensuring lasting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao," it said.