

# S for S briefs district organisations on improving Hong Kong's electoral system

The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, today (April 7) held three briefing sessions, meeting with representatives of District Fight Crime Committees, District Fire Safety Committees and Area Committees of Central and Western District, Islands District and Tuen Mun District respectively. Mr Lee briefed the participants on the amended Annex I "Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)" and Annex II "Method for the Formation of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and its Voting Procedures" to the Basic Law as approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

In the meetings, Mr Lee gave an overview on the background and objectives of the improvements to the electoral system. He said that the Central Authorities, following the enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR, specified clearly the regulations of Hong Kong's electoral system through the amendments, plugging the loopholes and eliminating the deficiencies in the existing electoral system. Citing chaos and illegal acts that happened in various council meetings in the past as examples, Mr Lee pointed out the importance and necessity of full implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong", as well as safeguarding the constitutional order as enshrined under the Constitution and the Basic Law.

Mr Lee emphasised that improving Hong Kong's electoral system further enhances its broad representation and balanced participation in accordance with the actual situation in Hong Kong. It allows Hong Kong society to move away from the excessive politicisation and the internal rifts that have plagued the city in recent years, thereby enhancing the governance capability of the HKSAR.

The participants from the district organisations welcomed and supported improving the electoral system of Hong Kong. They expressed the hope that the HKSAR Government can focus on dealing with economic and livelihood matters in the future, which will help preserve Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, as well as public peace and safety.

The Permanent Secretary for Security, Ms Carol Yip, and the Political Assistant to the Secretary for Security, Mr Cassius Lau, also attended the briefing sessions today.

Mr Lee will continue to meet with representatives of various District Fight Crime Committees, District Fire Safety Committees and Area Committees tomorrow to explain issues related to improving the HKSAR's electoral system.

