



## **The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong Comment on "Article 23 Legislation"**

The Association is in support of the Government's proposal to legislate Article 23 of the Basic Law. It is a duty of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to protect national security, which in turn will be conducive to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

It is stipulated in Article 23 of the Basic Law that the HKSAR shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central Government, or theft of state secrets. Most of the countries in the world, including the United States and United Kingdom, have laws related to national security. Hong Kong, being part of China, is obliged to protect the security and maintain the stability of the nation. In respecting the spirit of national sovereignty and constitution, it is, therefore, necessary for Hong Kong to devise and enact national security legislations to embody the full implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

According to the Basic Law, Hong Kong can devise and enact on its own on protecting national security, based on the standards and principles of Common Law. In fact, the Basic Law has given plenty of room for Hong Kong to ensure that the legislations can cope with the real situation. Adding that the Basic Law has also provided sufficient protection to Hong Kong's judiciary independence and high level of freedom. It is for sure that the rights enjoyed by Hong Kong people will not be undermined. Moreover, enactment of the legislations will help remove those grey areas and minimise disputes, as well as preventing people from making use of Hong Kong to stage destructive activities. Therefore, legislation is not only good for the prolonged development of China, but also conducive to maintaining the stability of Hong Kong.

The Association welcomes the Government in publishing the consultation paper on Article 23 of the Basic Law and suggests that more publicity and communication with the public are needed in order to reach a social consensus. The Association also urges the community to look at the proposals objectively and rationally and from the perspective of the well-being of the nation. The public is encouraged to take part in the discussions and voice out their opinions to facilitate the completion of the legislation process.