

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Major policy measures of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

The work of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau can be generally divided into the following three main areas –

- (1) co-ordinate and promote closer ties and “win-win” co-operation and development with the Mainland, including co-ordinating liaison between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the relevant Central authorities, promoting regional co-operation initiatives between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and overseeing the operation of HKSAR Government’s offices in the Mainland;
- (2) responsible for constitutional and election-related matters, and maintain close liaison with the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC) to ensure that the various levels of public elections are conducted in a fair, open and honest manner; and
- (3) promote the elimination of discrimination, equal opportunities and protection of privacy.

2. This paper mainly briefs Members on the work of this Bureau in the above-mentioned second and third area, including conducting public elections, implementing patriotic education, promoting the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (the Basic Law), protecting personal data privacy, as well as promoting equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination, etc. We will separately report our work in the first area above to the Panel on Commerce, Industry, Innovation and Technology.

Our vision

3. The HKSAR Government will, as in the past, fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principles of “One Country, Two Systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy, as well as safeguard the constitutional order of the HKSAR as laid down by the Constitution and the Basic Law. We will fully

implement the improved electoral system and the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”.

4. We will strive to ensure that public elections under the new electoral system will be smoothly conducted in a fair, open, honest, safe and orderly manner. We will also fully implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” and ensure that the power to administer Hong Kong is firmly in the hands of patriots in order to achieve good governance for the public good as well as long-term stability and safety of the HKSAR. At the same time, we will proactively implement patriotic education, widely promote the Constitution and the Basic Law to members of the public, safeguard the fundamental rights protected by the Constitution and the Basic Law, protect personal data privacy, as well as endeavour to promote equal opportunities and eliminate discrimination. The relevant policy initiatives we will continue to pursue are introduced as follows –

Policy initiatives

Adhering to the improved electoral system in the long run and continuing to enhance various electoral arrangements

5. In 2021, the Decision of the National People’s Congress on Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR was adopted with a high number of votes at the fourth session of the 13th National People’s Congress. It clearly sets out the fundamental principles and core elements for improving the electoral system. Subsequently, the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 of the HKSAR was passed by the Legislative Council and took effect upon gazettal on 31 May 2021. This signifies HKSAR’s determination to steadfastly and fully implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. Later in 2023, the HKSAR improved district governance and reformed the District Councils, further implementing the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” at the district governance level.

6. As President XI Jinping emphasised, “The Government of the HKSAR must be safely kept in the hands of those who love the country. This is an essential requirement for Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability and must not be compromised under any circumstances.” To date, the HKSAR Government has held seven important elections under the new electoral system. These elections provide strong and robust guarantee for ensuring the Central Government’s overall jurisdiction over the HKSAR, ensuring steadfast and successful implementation of “One

Country, Two Systems”, and maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

7. Last year, the HKSAR successfully held the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and then the eighth-term Legislative Council General Election. Both elections were completed smoothly in a fair, open, honest, safe and orderly manner, and the overall processes of polling and counting were most satisfactory. It exemplifies the HKSAR Government’s close partnership with the EAC, in the spirit of seeking progress while ensuring stability, by striving to enhance electoral arrangements so as to make various electoral procedures more efficient and user-friendly.

8. This year, we will continue to work closely with the EAC to prepare for the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and carry out early preparatory work for the 2027 Chief Executive Election and 2027 District Council Ordinary Election. We will continue to ensure that these elections will be conducted in a fair, open, honest, safe, orderly, efficient and user-friendly manner, with a view to returning individuals who are patriotic, have an affection for Hong Kong and are dedicated to serving society so as to build a better Hong Kong together.

9. At the same time, we will continue to promote the improved electoral system and through diverse channels introduce its superiority and importance, so as to enhance public understanding of and attention to the electoral system.

Implementing patriotic education

10. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the inheritance and promotion of the spirit of patriotism in Hong Kong, and is determined to build mainstream values characterised by patriotism with affection for our country and Hong Kong and in conformity with the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”. Since its establishment in April 2024, the Working Group on Patriotic Education has made reference to the country’s Patriotic Education Law and, taking into account the actual circumstances of Hong Kong, formulated short-, medium- and long-term work objectives and policy measures –

- (a) The short-term priorities focus on commemorative and celebratory activities on special commemorative days each year, as well as solidly implementing the various measures on promoting patriotic education as raised by the Chief Executive in the Policy Address; and

- (b) The medium- and long-term measures target different groups, in particular students and young people, and take forward relevant work across nine aspects, namely school curriculum, out-of-classroom activities, experiential activities, cultural activities, museum resources, commemorative ceremonies, traditional festivals, mass media, and civil service training, with emphasises on both quality and quantity, rich and diverse content, and a step-by-step approach to enable patriotism to take root in Hong Kong and in people's hearts.

11. The four sub-groups set up under the Working Group on Patriotic Education will continue to focus efforts on aspects including school education; local community; history, politics, economy and culture; and media publicity, with a view to constantly taking forward policy measures in relation to patriotic education.

12. Last year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the War of Resistance. The HKSAR Government joined hands with community organisations and launched over 170 commemorative activities under the theme "Remembering history, Honouring martyrs, Cherishing peace, and Creating a great future", fostering a strong atmosphere of remembrance of the War of Resistance across the society. On 3 September 2025, the Chief Executive led a delegation comprising representatives from different sectors of the Hong Kong community to participate in the grand military parade held by our country in Beijing. On the same day, the HKSAR Government also held a solemn official commemorative ceremony at the Hong Kong City Hall Memorial Garden. Other activities included: The Chief Executive presenting commemorative medals awarded by the country to the veterans and others; HKSAR Government officials visiting veterans who had participated in the War of Resistance; Hongkong Post issuing special commemorative stamps; the HKSAR Government systematically organising, restoring and promoting 49 historic sites of the Communist Party of China in the War of Resistance in Hong Kong; as well as the HKSAR Government and various sectors of the community jointly organising large-scale thematic exhibitions, film screenings, themed seminars, and arranging exchange tours to the Mainland and on-site visits to local historical sites related to the War of Resistance as well as museum tours specifically targeted at students and young people, etc.

13. Last year also marked the 60th anniversary of the Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong. The HKSAR Government organised a diverse range of commemorative activities under the theme of “An Inseparable Bond, Our Blessed Origin” in collaboration with various professional and social organisations. These included a commemorative ceremony, an international summit, special television programmes, exhibitions, seminars, local and Mainland study tours, on-campus education, as well as sports, cultural and art events, etc. These events were well received by the public. The HKSAR Government will continue to raise amongst young people and students the awareness of the historical background of the Dongjiang water supply through primary and secondary school curriculums, as well as various forms of public education activities, with a view to deepening the public’s appreciation for the care and steadfast support of our country for Hong Kong over the past 60 years.

14. Apart from the aforementioned activities, the HKSAR Government will continue to take forward various medium- and long-term initiatives, with the aim of ensuring that patriotic education achieves a steady, sustained and enduring effect, yielding long-lasting results through persistent and consistent efforts. The work in this regard includes soft measures such as optimising the curriculum in school education, organising exchange and study tours to the Mainland for teachers and students, as well as promoting Chinese history and Chinese culture through the Chinese Culture Promotion Office. The key focus of our work this year includes continuing the promotion of patriotic education facilities in the Mainland and making them patriotic education bases of the HKSAR, as well as encouraging visits by more Hong Kong students and youths to help them comprehensively understand the history and culture as well as the development and achievements of our country. Also, the HKSAR Government will also establish close relationship with patriotic groups to co-organise a wider range of patriotic education activities, with a view to effectively utilising the resources and network of various sectors in the community and patriotic groups, thereby promoting patriotic education together.

Strengthening promotion on the Constitution and the Basic Law

15. The Constitution is the root and origin of the HKSAR and the Basic Law. The Constitution and the Basic Law together form the constitutional basis and order of the HKSAR, providing a solid legal basis and constitutional framework for the country’s basic policies regarding the HKSAR, including “One Country, Two Systems”, while at the same time providing the strongest safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

16. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the promotion and education on the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security as well as “One Country, Two Systems”, and has been steering on the overall strategy for promoting the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security, and co-ordinating the promotional and educational efforts of various parties concerned both in the Government and in the community through the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (CBLPSC). The CBLPSC and its five sub-groups, namely, Teachers and Students Sub-group, Local Community Sub-group, Civil Servants Sub-group, Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors Sub-group and Community Outside Hong Kong Sub-group¹, have done a great deal of work to organise different kinds of activities to actively promote the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security to relevant target sectors.

17. The HKSAR Government will continue to strengthen publicity and education through diverse channels and innovative approaches, including displaying large-sized outdoor publicity messages, producing publicity video clippings, making extensive use of online platforms and social media for publicity, organising various kinds of physical activities to reach into the community, providing sponsorship to non-governmental organisations or community organisations for conducting different promotion and research, and consolidating community efforts for enhanced publicity, so as to strengthen public understanding on the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security and “One Country, Two Systems”.

Enhancing exchanges with the HKSAR deputies to the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the HKSAR members of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

18. The HKSAR deputies to the NPC (NPC deputies) and the HKSAR members of the National Committee of the CPPCC (CPPCC members) are members of the country’s major institutions. Consisting of leaders from various sectors, they are a key force dedicated to the country and Hong Kong. They shoulder the vital responsibility of taking part in the deliberation of national affairs, and with their deep understanding of Mainland and Hong Kong affairs, they greatly contribute to the construction of the rule of law at national level as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

¹ The Education Bureau, Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Civil Service Bureau, Trade and Industry Department, and Information Services Department provide secretariat support to the five sub-groups respectively.

19. Since the establishment of the regular exchange mechanism in 2023, the HKSAR Government has received strong support and valuable feedbacks and suggestions on the work of the Government from the NPC deputies and CPPCC members. The HKSAR Government will continue to facilitate regular exchange with the NPC deputies and CPPCC members to enhance communication and collaboration, so as to fully rally patriots with affection towards the country and Hong Kong in pursuit of achievements as well as the steadfast and successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” together.

Protection of privacy

20. The HKSAR Government is committed to safeguarding personal data privacy. In light of the rising public concern over personal data breach incidents in recent years, the HKSAR Government has been working closely with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) in reviewing enhancements to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance with a view to ensuring the proposals can effectively curb personal data breach incidents, without imposing undue operational pressure on the industry. The HKSAR Government aims to report the relevant work progress to the Legislative Council within this year. Meanwhile, the PCPD will continue to rigorously enforce the law to combat doxxing offences, and to enhance its work on publicity in raising the public’s awareness in protecting privacy of personal data.

Promotion of equal opportunities and elimination of discrimination

21. The HKSAR Government is committed to eliminating discrimination and building a caring and inclusive society. The HKSAR Government has always been supporting the Equal Opportunities Commission in enforcing the four anti-discrimination ordinances (i.e. the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance) and stepping up promotion and public education to positively disseminate the message of mutual respect and diversity, promoting social harmony and stability, with a view to ensuring that all citizens, irrespective of their gender, disability, family status or race, can fully participate in the society.

Conclusion

22. We will continue to implement the above-mentioned various policy measures. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
January 2026**