

Legal experts, academics and young leaders participate in afternoon session of 5th Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum (with photos)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government held the 5th Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum today (June 21), inviting renowned legal experts and academics to review the legislative intent and background of the Hong Kong National Security Law (HKNSL), and discuss the fruitful achievements since the implementation of the HKNSL, in the afternoon session of the Forum. The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, also engaged with young leaders from various sectors to convey the message that national security is closely related to citizens, enabling members of the public to understand the importance of uniting everyone's strength in building a great wall for safeguarding national security.

In the afternoon session of the Forum, Mr Lam said in his welcome remarks that the most important direction for safeguarding national security in the future is to balance the relation between security and development, strictly adhering to the principle of rule of law and the requirements of respecting and protecting human rights and freedoms set out in Articles 4 and 5 of the HKNSL. This, he said, would enable members of the public to study, work and live with peace of mind and unite to seek breakthroughs and changes, overcoming various challenges to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international centre in several areas and encouraging people from abroad to be willing and eager to come to Hong Kong for their development.

The Director of the Research Office of the HKSAR Basic Law Committee and Macao Special Administrative Region Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Yang Zhaoye, delivered a keynote speech in which he examined the significance and remarkable achievements of the implementation of the HKNSL over the past five years, as well as its key role in safeguarding Hong Kong's prosperity, stability and people's livelihood.

There were two panel sessions in the Forum. With the theme of "The legal great wall for refining and safeguarding national security", legal experts and academics reviewed in the first session the legislative intent and background of the HKNSL. They also had an

in-depth discussion on how national security is effectively safeguarded under the compatibility and complementary of the laws including the HKNSL and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance, and looked ahead to the future development of the HKSAR's legal system for safeguarding national security.

In the second session, titled "An arduous and important journey – our youth sharing the mission to safeguard national security", Mr Lam engaged with young leaders from various sectors to explore the vital role of young people in safeguarding national security, and envisage further joint endeavours between the Government and the community in enhancing legal literacy. This, he said, would better jointly promote the concepts of "security brings prosperity" and "respecting and observing the law", and have them rooted in the community, enabling members of the public to identify themselves closely with the harmony and stability brought about by national security, making "being patriotic and loving Hong Kong" a mainstream value among the city's younger generation.

Concluding the Forum, the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, said that today's Forum aimed to provide an in-depth and broad discussion loaded with insights and humour. He added that the number of young attendees of the Forum was believed to be the highest in the history of national security legal forums held by the Department of Justice. He said that safeguarding national security is the responsibility of every generation and must be passed from generation to generation. Dr Cheung also emphasised that Hong Kong has built legal protection measures for safeguarding national security, and that Hong Kong's future will be bright as long as the city remains vigilant at all times, seizing the opportunity to integrate into the national development and deepening international exchanges and co-operation.

Ends/Saturday, June 21, 2025