



2021 Policy Address

Legislative Proposals for
the Seventh Term of the Legislative Council



This leaflet outlines a total of 40 new initiatives in respect of amending existing legislation or enacting new legislation to tackle a wide range of constitutional, social and economic issues which the Government intends to present to the Seventh Term of the Legislative Council (LegCo). The list is not an exhaustive one.

Fully implementing “One Country, Two Systems”

1. To amend the **Regional Flag and Regional Emblem Ordinance (117 of 1997)** to better align it with the amended National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance (116 of 1997) as recommended by the Bills Committee for the latter.
2. To introduce a bill to implement co-location arrangement at Huanggang Port to allow passengers completing clearance procedures of both places in one go by declaring an area in the Huanggang Port on the Mainland as the Hong Kong Port Area, and by applying the laws of Hong Kong there and providing jurisdiction for Hong Kong courts. A Government motion supporting the co-location was passed by LegCo in March 2021.

Facilitating technology adoption in the public sector

3. To introduce a bill to enable the courts to conduct remote hearing when it is not desirable, if not impossible, to conduct physical hearing. General support was received from the first round of stakeholders’ consultation completed in May 2021.
4. To amend the **Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553)** to facilitate bureaux/departments to adopt technology in enhancing public services, a policy direction welcomed by LegCo and the community.
5. To amend the **Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237)**, the **Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240)** and the **Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)** to enable the serving of electronic fixed penalty notices against traffic offences to enhance the efficiency of traffic enforcement and foster better driving attitude as supported by the relevant LegCo Panel in April 2021.
6. To amend the **Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)** to accept electronic driving licences presented by mobile applications to bring greater convenience to driving licence holders and keep up with international trend.
7. To introduce a bill to facilitate the use of electronic certificates for Hong Kong registered ships to enhance the efficiency of marine services.
8. To amend the **Bankruptcy Ordinance (Cap. 6)** and the **Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 32)** to implement the electronic submission system of the Official Receiver’s Office and streamline requirements, for providing a one-stop portal to receive and handle voluminous documents and forms submitted to the Office with a view to enhancing service efficiency and quality.

Promoting economic development

Enhancing Hong Kong as an international financial centre

9. To amend the **Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112)** to provide tax concessions to attract more family offices to Hong Kong to enhance the city’s status as an asset and wealth management hub, subject to industry consultation.
10. To amend the **Insurance Ordinance (Cap. 41)** to implement a risk-based capital regime to align Hong Kong’s regulatory standards with international standards.
11. To amend the **Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615)** to introduce a licensing regime for virtual asset services providers among others. General support was received from public consultations completed in January 2021.

Enhancing Hong Kong as an international transportation centre

12. To amend the **Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112)** to provide tax concessions to attract more ship managers, agents and shipbrokers to set up presence and conduct shipping business in Hong Kong to enhance the city as a maritime services hub. The tax measure is recommended by the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board based on a study.
13. To introduce a bill to combat drink and drug boating by introducing compulsory tests for alcohol and drug to improve marine safety as supported by the relevant LegCo Panel in March 2019.

Enhancing Hong Kong as an international trade centre

14. To amend the **Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60)** to fully implement the Trade Single Window (TSW) providing a centralised information technology platform for one-stop, round-the-clock lodging of over 40 different types of business-to-government import and export-related trade documents to enhance Hong Kong as an international trading and logistics hub. With support from LegCo and the industry, TSW Phase 1 was launched in 2018 and Phase 2 is under development. Further industry consultation will be carried out for Phase 3 implementation (the final phase).

Enhancing Hong Kong as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific Region

15. To introduce a bill to give effect to the *Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*, which allows reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters to reduce the need for re-litigation of the same disputes in both places to enhance Hong Kong as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Speeding up housing and land supply

16. To amend the **Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131)** and other legislation related to land development to streamline and expedite rezoning, planning and other major development-related approvals including the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures as appropriate to speed up land supply, a direction much advocated by LegCo and the community. Opportunity will also be taken to amend the Town Planning Ordinance to respond to public expectation for Government to better protect areas of high ecological value in certain rural areas subject to development pressure.
17. To amend the **New Territories Ordinance (Cap. 97)** to facilitate the administration of land held by Tso/Tong to free up more land for development, which has the support of Heung Yee Kuk.
18. To amend the **Land Titles Ordinance (Cap. 585)** to implement land title registration system on new land first upon extensively engaging and reaching consensus with key stakeholders.

Building a caring and just society

19. To amend the **Offences against the Person Ordinance (Cap. 212)** to enhance child protection by introducing a mandatory reporting requirement to identify, report and intervene in child abuse cases early and to implement as appropriate recommendations of the Law Reform Commission in its report on “Causing or Allowing the Death or Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult” as supported by the relevant LegCo Panel in September 2021.
20. To introduce a bill to enable courts to implement procedural reforms to the family justice system for enhancing efficiency of family proceedings which would help reduce the time and costs for affected parties. The bill seeks to take forward the recommendations set out in the 2015 Final Report of the Chief Justice’s Working Party on Family Procedure Rules.
21. To amend the **Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156)**, the **Nurses Registration Ordinance (Cap. 164)** and the **Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359)** as recommended in the Report of the Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development (“Strategic Review”) promulgated in 2017 to modernise the regulatory structure and enhance the professional standards of relevant healthcare professions by means such as updating the composition of the statutory regulatory bodies to achieve minimum lay membership of 25%; mandating continuing professional education and/or development; and allowing patients’ direct access to certain healthcare professionals (e.g. physiotherapists and occupational therapists) for the provision of service. The relevant healthcare professions were consulted in the course of formulating the recommendations in the Strategic Review.

22. To amend the **Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance (Cap. 459)** and the **Residential Care Homes (Persons with Disabilities) Ordinance (Cap. 613)** to enhance the quality of residential care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities as supported by the relevant LegCo Panel and the Joint Committee in April 2019 and June 2020 respectively.
23. To amend the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169)** to enhance animal welfare by introducing a positive duty of care to animals, enhance offences against cruelty and strengthen enforcement powers. General support was received from public consultations completed in July 2019.

Enhancing labour protection

24. To amend the **Employment Ordinance (Cap. 57)**, the **Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Schemes Ordinance (Cap. 485)** and other related legislation to abolish the “offsetting” arrangement under the MPF system to fulfil the Government’s pledge to strengthen MPF as one of the retirement protection pillars.
25. To introduce a bill to provide for a compulsory savings scheme for meeting employers’ potential severance payment and long service payment expenses following the abolition of the “offsetting” arrangement under the MPF system as provided for under item 24.
26. To amend the **Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance (Cap. 59)** and the **Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509)** to enhance protection of workers’ safety and health by raising the maximum penalties for occupational safety and health offences as generally supported by the relevant LegCo Panel and other stakeholders in public consultations completed in 2019 and 2021.

Promoting sustainable development

27. To amend the **Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)** and the **Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603)** to promote plastic waste reduction by regulating the use of disposable plastic tableware and introducing a new producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers.
28. To amend the **Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403)** to phase down the manufacturing and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons to fulfil Hong Kong’s international obligations to combat climate change.

Building a liveable city

29. To amend the **Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)** to provide for a regulatory regime for autonomous vehicles to enable wider and more flexible trial and use including an autonomous vehicle passenger-carrying transportation system being planned by the Airport Authority Hong Kong running on the Airport City Link, as supported by the relevant LegCo Panel in May 2021.

Providing quality education

30. To amend the **Education Ordinance (Cap. 279)** to extend the retirement age of the newly-joined teaching staff in aided schools from 60 to 65.
31. To amend the **Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320)** to enhance the regulatory framework and improve governance of self-financing post-secondary education institutions.

Legislative proposals to be preceded by a public consultation exercise

32. To amend existing legislation or introduce a bill to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law to safeguard national security.
33. To introduce a bill to strengthen the cybersecurity of critical information infrastructure in Hong Kong, as in line with international standards and practices.
34. To study and examine whether legislation should be amended or enacted to tackle the spreading of fake news and hate speech on social media and insulting public officers.
35. To introduce a bill to establish a policy holders’ protection scheme to better protect policy holders in case an insurance company becomes insolvent.
36. To amend the **Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528)** to modernise Hong Kong’s copyright regime and strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment.
37. To examine the scope for improving the **Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap. 531)** to facilitate particularly the carrying out of works for improving connectivity or enhancing harbourfront areas for public enjoyment. In doing so, the Government upholds its position that reclamation within the harbour for the purpose of boosting land supply would not be supported.
38. To amend the **Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance (Cap. 545)** to lower the existing thresholds for compulsory sale of old and dilapidated buildings to speed up urban renewal to arrest urban decay.
39. To amend the **Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571)** to propel the development of the securities market to improve market integrity and safeguard investor interests by enhancing the enforcement regime of the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong and its regulatory regimes for funds.
40. To amend the **Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572)** to enhance fire safety in old composite and domestic buildings by empowering the Fire Services Department and Buildings Department to carry out fire safety improvement works for owners of buildings who have failed to comply with the requirement of the Ordinance, and to recover the relevant fees from them afterwards.

