

**SPEECH OF MR RODEN TONG**  
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**AT THE SHARING SESSION ON THE SPIRIT OF “TWO SESSIONS”,**  
**COMMITTEE FOR THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SAR**  
**AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR EXTERNAL FRIENDSHIP**

Professor Hon Priscilla Leung, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to join you at this Sharing Session on the Spirit of the Two Sessions.
2. The recently concluded Two Sessions have set a clear direction for our country’s next stage of development. The Fourth Session of the 14th National People’s Congress approved the Government Work Report and the Outline of the 15th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. Together, they provide a forward-looking blueprint for the nation and for Hong Kong in the years ahead.
3. One of the most important messages of the 15th Five Year Plan is that high quality development must be supported by high standard opening up and by governance in accordance with the law. For Hong Kong, this principle is deeply rooted in our system and our long-standing strengths.
4. Under one country, two systems, Hong Kong occupies a unique position. We are the only common law jurisdiction in the country, and the only bilingual common law jurisdiction in the world, operating in both Chinese and English. This enables Hong Kong to provide internationally trusted legal and dispute resolution services that connect China with the rest of the world. This is not only Hong Kong’s competitive advantage, but also an important institutional asset for the nation.

5. As the Law Society of Hong Kong, a statutory self-regulatory body, we have always been committed to upholding the rule of law and enhancing the standards of the legal profession. We often say that law comes first. By this, we mean that a sound legal foundation must come before and support economic development, social progress and international cooperation. Without legal certainty, fairness and credibility, confidence cannot be sustained and development cannot be durable.
6. This is fully reflected in the 15th Five Year Plan. Its goals depend on an efficient, transparent and internationally aligned legal system, particularly in areas such as cross border trade, investment, innovation and dispute resolution. These are precisely the areas where Hong Kong can make a meaningful contribution.
7. International confidence in Hong Kong's legal system is well recognised. According to the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2025, Hong Kong is ranked 24th out of 143 jurisdictions worldwide, and is placed among the top ten globally in the areas of absence of corruption and order and security. These are key considerations for businesses when deciding where to invest, where to contract and how to resolve disputes fairly and efficiently.
8. Hong Kong is often described as a super connector. Equally important, we are also a super value-adder. Through our professional services, including legal, financial and accounting services, we help structure transactions, manage risk and resolve disputes. When Mainland enterprises go global, and when overseas enterprises enter the Mainland market, Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services play an indispensable role.
9. This is why the legal profession matters to the objectives of the 15th Five Year Plan. The Law Society represents nearly 14,000 solicitors, many of whom hold both Hong Kong and Greater Bay Area practice qualifications. Hong Kong is also home to nearly 1,700 registered foreign lawyers from

more than 30 jurisdictions. With this breadth of expertise, Hong Kong solicitors provide high quality services in areas such as cross border finance, corporate compliance, intellectual property protection, arbitration and mediation, supporting both Mainland and international business activities through Hong Kong.

10. The Plan also places strong emphasis on the development of the Greater Bay Area and on governance in accordance with the law.<sup>4</sup> Concrete measures are already in place. The expanded CEPA arrangements allow Hong Kong invested enterprises in the Greater Bay Area to adopt Hong Kong law and to choose Hong Kong seated arbitration. This strengthens legal certainty for businesses and highlights Hong Kong's role as a trusted legal platform.
11. Emerging sectors further illustrate Hong Kong's value. In areas such as aerospace, Mainland enterprises are keen to use Hong Kong to connect with international investors and partners. They require legal advice on financing, intellectual property, regulatory compliance and dispute resolution that overseas counterparties can accept. Hong Kong is uniquely placed to meet these needs.
12. The same applies to the rapidly growing sports industry. As our national and Hong Kong athletes achieve success on the international stage, issues such as athletes' career development, commercial rights and event governance have become increasingly important. The Law Society has actively supported this sector, including through our Sports Law Conference and our efforts to strengthen arbitration and mediation mechanisms in the sports field.
13. Capacity building is equally important. Through the Common Law Centre under our training institute, we are advancing common law education and professional exchange, and positioning Hong Kong as a bridge for the sharing of common law experience. We also cooperate with leading Mainland law schools to deliver English taught common law programmes,

contributing to the cultivation of talent to support the country's foreign related rule of law needs.

14. We also maintain close engagement with international legal and business communities through visits and exchanges in Europe and the Middle East. These efforts help explain Hong Kong's unique advantages under one country, two systems, and strengthen international confidence in our legal system.

15. In conclusion, the 15th Five Year Plan supports Hong Kong in enhancing governance in accordance with the law and in consolidating our unique position.<sup>5</sup> To serve the nation's high standard opening up and the Greater Bay Area's high quality development, Hong Kong must continue to leverage what no other city can replicate: an internationally trusted, bilingual common law system and a mature dispute resolution ecosystem.

16. By studying and implementing the spirit of the Two Sessions, and by working together across sectors, we can contribute meaningfully to the building of a rule of law based, internationally connected Greater Bay Area.

17. Thank you very much.