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EAST WING  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
2 TIM MEI AVENUE, TAMAR  
HONG KONG

The Editor,  
Bloomberg

31 December 2019

Dear Editor,

**Response to video report on Hong Kong after 2047 (December 30, 2019)**

The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Basic Law) is the constitutional document of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

As clearly stated in the Preamble of the Basic Law, "upholding national unity and territorial integrity, maintaining the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, and taking account of its history and realities, the People's Republic of China has decided that upon China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will be established in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, and that under the principle of 'one country, two systems', the socialist system and policies will not be practised in Hong Kong".

Since its return to the Motherland, Hong Kong has been implementing "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the Basic Law. The basic policies of the Country regarding Hong Kong have been fully implemented as per the provisions of the Basic Law.

As regards to the future of Hong Kong after 2047, I must point out that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the Country. This is a fact that has no time frame. The Country's sovereignty over Hong Kong will not change 50 years after Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, nor will the Country change its basic policies towards Hong Kong after 50 years. Hence, there is no question of the expiry of the Basic Law after 2047. As for the stipulation in Article 5 of the Basic Law that "(t)he socialist system and policies shall not be practised in the HKSAR, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years", its main purpose is to state clearly that the previous capitalist system and way of life in Hong Kong shall remain unchanged, rather than setting a time frame on it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patrick Nip', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Nip  
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region