

18 June 2020

To: Editor of news.com.au
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Dear Editor,

The article “Why China wants to crush Hong Kong: Beijing’s power play to seize control and spread authoritarian rule” (15 June) carried remarks that reflected mistaken assumptions and misunderstandings.

The proposed national security legislation for Hong Kong will ensure the enduring success of “One Country, Two Systems”. “One Country” is the prerequisite for and foundation of “Two Systems”. Only when national security is safeguarded can “One Country, Two Systems” be fully and smoothly implemented.

The objective of the national security legislation is to prevent secession, subversion, terrorist activities as well as activities interfering with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s internal affairs by foreign or external forces. These are core national security matters of any state. The legislation will only target an extremely small minority of illegal and criminal acts and activities, while the basic rights and freedoms of the overwhelming majority of law-abiding citizens will be protected.

Safeguarding national security is essential to building a stable and safe society. The enactment of national security legislation will not change the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or affect the independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, exercised by the Judiciary in Hong Kong. Citizens will continue to enjoy the freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of demonstration, of procession, as well as free flow of information, capital and people in accordance with the law. The fundamental strengths that underpin Hong Kong’s success as an international city, including the rule of law, an independent judiciary, free and open society and level playing field will remain intact.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond Fan

Director

(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)