

Editor's Note: The eighth-term Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was formed on Monday, with all 90 seats across three constituencies filled following the smooth completion of the election, which saw more than 1.3 million votes cast. The new assembly, combining institutional experience and fresh vision, will play a key role in shaping Hong Kong's policy direction over the next four years.



Lawmakers from the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong thank voters at the party headquarters in North Point on Monday after securing 20 out of 90 seats in the Legislative Council, maintaining its position as the largest party in the new legislature.

ANDY CHONG / CHINA DAILY

Lawmakers pledge service to HK

Newly elected LegCo members to focus on post-fire recovery and societal reform

By ATLAS SHAO and WILLIAM XU in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's newly elected lawmakers have expressed their determination to serve the city and to support the special administrative region government's law-based governance, with a focus on post-fire reconstruction following the fatal blaze in a Tai Po residential estate.

Following overnight vote counting, Hong Kong formed its new-term Legislative Council on Monday. The 90-member LegCo comprises 20 lawmakers elected from geographical constituencies, 30 from functional constituencies, and 40 from the Election Committee constituency.

Chief Secretary for Administration Eric Chan Kwok-ki wrote in a social media post that the election was held at a time when the city faces significant challenges — merely 11 days after the deadly fire

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Stanley Ng Chau-pei, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions

caused at least 159 deaths. Nevertheless, it demonstrated the “Lion Rock spirit” of residents, who overcame adversity and forged a shared future, he said.

The widespread participation in the election reflects public expectations for achieving good governance in the SAR, Chan said.

During a media briefing, Gary

Chan Hak-kan, chairman of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), said that the election was highly competitive but successful. The DAB emerged as the biggest winner, securing 20 seats — one more than in the previous term.

He emphasized the election's significance for the future: “It fully demonstrates the solidarity of Hong Kong society in responding to disaster relief and reconstruction, as well as its determination to promote reform and development,” he said.

Gary Chan also thanked supporters as he successfully defended his seat in the New Territories North East geographical constituency — where Wang Fuk Court is located. He pledged that supporting fire-affected residents would be a top priority for the new LegCo, assisting them in overcoming difficulties and finding new homes.

He said the DAB has identified developable land in Tai Po for reconstruction work, and will submit relevant plans to the SAR government for post-disaster reconstruction and compensation

as soon as possible.

Stanley Ng Chau-pei, president of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, was re-elected in the Hong Kong Island East geographical constituency. He also prioritized addressing the aftermath of the Tai Po fire, especially efforts to rebuild homes for displaced residents.

“The formation of a new-term LegCo will definitely help accelerate recovery from the fire and related reform efforts,” Ng said.

Christine Fong Kwok-shan, an engineer-turned-politician and member of the Sai Kung District Council, won a seat in the New Territories South East geographical constituency after five previous unsuccessful attempts.

As a new face in LegCo, Fong said that the new legislature should pass laws banning smoking on construction sites and amend the Buildings Ordinance and fire safety legislation to close existing loopholes.

The new LegCo term will commence its four-year session on Jan 1.

Contact the writers at atlasshao@chinadailyhk.com

Elected commercial, financial members to drive economic upgrades

By LI XIAOYUN in Hong Kong irisli@chinadailyhk.com

Newly elected legislators from Hong Kong's financial and commercial sectors have pledged to serve as a bridge between their industries and the community, champion digital transformation, and help businesses seize new opportunities. They said they aim to contribute to the city's economic reform while strengthening its role as an international financial center.

The 90-seat eighth-term Legislative Council was formed on Monday. Twenty-eight functional constituencies, including financial services, commerce and accountancy, account for 30 seats.

Robert Lee Wai-wang, who secured another term representing the financial services constituency, said he will focus on implementing market reforms, improving the business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises, and energizing the securities markets.

He also plans to raise the profile of futures and derivatives, and promote the comprehensive development of the gold market. These efforts, Lee said, will “reinforce Hong Kong's role as an international financial center”.

Lee emphasized that the sector must embrace technology and diversification, as digital currencies, blockchain, and artificial intelligence are transforming the financial ecosystem. For instance, AI is delivering benefits by lowering operating costs, improving research efficiency, and enhancing the safety of trade clearing.

Re-elected to the commercial (third) constituency, Yim Kong said he will continue putting forward constructive views on economic growth, livelihood improvement and regional cooperation. He also pledged to help explain national development strategies in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and enable the SAR to better capture the country's emerging opportunities.

Yim, who is also the vice-chairman of China Merchants Port Holdings Co Ltd, added that he will work to strengthen communication between Chinese mainland enterprises in Hong Kong, the SAR government, and the whole of society.

In addition to advocating a more business-friendly environment, reducing operating costs,

and streamlining administrative approvals, Yim said he will also encourage mainland companies to take on greater social responsibility in Hong Kong and contribute to the local community.

In the accountancy sector, first-time candidate Webster Ng Kam-wah won. He said the end of the election marks the start of legislative work, including funding reviews, lawmaking and follow-up measures related to the recent Tai Po fire that claimed at least 159 lives.

Ng described accounting as the “common language” of business and a foundation of market trust, which is crucial to safeguarding Hong Kong's position as an international financial center.

With opportunities arising from emerging business models and challenges to traditional practices, Ng said he will focus on the digital transformation of accounting firms and address difficulties related to cross-border operations.

Leveraging Hong Kong's deep familiarity with international accounting standards, Ng pledged to strengthen the city's role as a superconnector, helping the profession support companies expanding into the wider Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the markets involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, one of the city's largest business groups, said it expects the new lawmakers to live up to their mandate over the next four years by delivering tangible results and driving economic growth.

Association President Lo Kam-wing said that the business sector and the public used their votes to signal their hopes for Hong Kong's future and to show firm support for the government's post-fire recovery efforts, which “underscores the city's resilience and cohesion when confronted with challenges”.

The Federation of Hong Kong Industries also voiced hopes that lawmakers will prioritize the city's overall interests, make full use of their professional expertise and foster constructive interaction between the administration and the legislature. It added that lawmakers should work together to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong's industries, improve the business environment, and promote more diversified economic development.

New LegCo to prioritize fire recovery, livelihoods

By WU KUNLING in Hong Kong amberwu@chinadailyhk.com

Hong Kong political heavyweights on Monday called on the newly elected Legislative Council members to focus on post-fire relief efforts, continuously improve public livelihoods, and align Hong Kong's unique strengths with the broader national development agenda.

These remarks followed the successful return of all 90 seats in the eighth-term Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at Sunday's election.

In an interview with China Daily on Monday, Tam Yiu-chung, vice-chairman of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies and one of the SAR's first lawmakers from 1997 to 2016, said

that the election took place as the recent deadly fire at Tai Po's Wang Fuk Court cast a shadow of grief over the community.

He said he hopes the incoming legislators will closely monitor the judge-led independent committee's review of the blaze, scrutinize systemic issues exposed by the tragedy, and review existing regulatory loopholes. He also called on them to assist in ongoing relief efforts, particularly by helping residents secure long-term housing solutions.

Improving people's livelihoods must remain a key focus for the new LegCo, Tam said.

Drawing on his previous role as the Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the nation's top legislature, he urged lawmakers to

continue promoting Hong Kong's integration into national development strategies.

This is especially crucial as next year marks the start of the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), he said.

He highlighted the need for Hong Kong to leverage its strategic positioning as the “three centers and a hub”, including its traditional status as an international financial, shipping and trade center, as well as an emerging global hub for high-caliber talent.

Regarding the 40 first-time legislators, Tam said, “They are like new blood injected into the legislature. I hope that both new and re-elected members will diligently fulfill their duties and live up to public expectations.”

Eliza Chan Ching-har, a member

of Hong Kong's Executive Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said the successful completion of the election exemplifies the upholding of Hong Kong's constitutional order and the rule of law, advancing the development of high-quality democracy that suits Hong Kong's realities.

She said that the 161 candidates had diverse backgrounds but were all highly capable, with the election results emerging from practical and vigorous competition. She expressed confidence that the new LegCo, bearing significant responsibilities, will better serve its duties, empower Hong Kong's development, and ensure that the SAR's governance structure operates effectively.



Paris Olympic fencing champion Vivian Kong Man-wai (center) poses for a group photo with her campaign team at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday after winning the 2025 Legislative Council seat for the tourism functional constituency. Kong entered the legislature with 131 votes in her debut election. ADAM LAM / CHINA DAILY

Community leaders call for legislators to reform

By STACY SHI in Hong Kong stacyshi@chinadailyhk.com

Hong Kong community leaders praised the smooth conduct of the eighth-term legislative election, which concluded on Sunday, and said they are looking forward to seeing the new legislators perform their duties in accordance with the law while promoting the city's development.

Angus Ng Hok-ming, chairman of

the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Association, told China Daily that the election, held in an orderly manner and on schedule, holds great significance for Hong Kong, especially following the recent tragic fire in Tai Po that claimed at least 159 lives.

“Residents have become more acutely aware of how closely public safety and institutional effectiveness are tied to daily life after the fire. The role of the legislature is precisely to

work with the government at critical moments to solve problems and rebuild confidence,” Ng said.

He urged the new legislature to prioritize urban safety, as lawmakers bear responsibility for reforming relevant legislation and overseeing its implementation.

Ng also highlighted the need for clearer policy support to “help young people see a future in Hong Kong”, including removing barriers to research transformation and tal-

ent exchanges, as well as promoting regional cooperation, to better align with the nation's development.

Chan Man-chau, president of the Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Association, said that the election featured healthy competition, and upheld integrity while embracing innovation.

Voters have, through their ballots, selected capable individuals and voiced their opinions, demonstrating Hong Kong's high-quality

democracy, he added.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong society expects the new lawmakers to firmly uphold the principle of loving the country and Hong Kong, serve the people with the utmost dedication, drive forward reforms, and improve the city's governance standards.

In particular, they should actively advance post-fire recovery and deepen institutional reforms, Chan said.

Yip Kin-ming, executive vice-president of the Hong Kong Island Federation, said that new legislators must not only focus on immediate post-disaster reconstruction efforts, but should also leverage their pro-

fessional expertise and pragmatic approaches to drive systemic reforms in relevant institutions.

He said that, during this critical transition from order to prosperity, lawmakers should actively listen to voices from all sectors of society — especially grassroots communities — and strengthen communication to unify efforts for Hong Kong's development.

At the same time, they must keep in mind the nation's broader interests, implement the central leadership's expectations for Hong Kong, and better integrate the city into national development, Yip added.