

## **Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”)**

1. The HKBA notes with concern observations expressed as to the role of the HKBA as a result of certain views expressed by Mr. Paul Harris SC in his personal capacity upon assuming office as Chairman of the HKBA.
2. The HKBA is not a political organisation. It is a professional body established to consider all matters affecting the profession and the administration of justice, and to take such actions as it deems proper. The HKBA, including its Chairman, discharges its duties and attains its objectives with integrity and professionalism. Such objectives include the maintenance of the Rule of Law, the Basic Law, the independence of the Judiciary and the due administration of justice in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the Peoples’ Republic of China. The HKBA, and its Chairman, are inviolable supporters of the fundamental policy of “One Country, Two Systems” enshrined in the Basic Law.
3. The HKBA welcomes and will endeavour to engage in constructive and rational dialogue with all organisations and authorities on matters touching upon the legal profession and the Rule of Law in Hong Kong.

Dated: 3 February 2021