## THIS CIRCULAR IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

If you are in doubt about this circular or as to the action to be taken, you should consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, professional accountant or other professional adviser.

**If you have sold** all your shares in Cheuk Nang (Holdings) Limited ("the Company"), you should at once hand this circular and the accompanying form of proxy to the purchaser or to the bank, stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale was effected for transmission to the purchaser.

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# **CHEUK NANG (HOLDINGS) LIMITED**

卓能(集團)有限公司

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability) (Stock Code: 131)

## GENERAL MANDATES FOR THE PURCHASE BY THE COMPANY OF ITS OWN SHARES AND ISSUE SHARES AND RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

A notice convening the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held at One Kowloon Peak Clubhouse, 8 Po Fung Terrace, Tsuen Wan, New Territories on Wednesday, 22 November, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at which the above proposals will be considered, is contained in the 2023 Annual Report of the Company being dispatched to shareholders together with this circular. Whether or not you are able to attend the Annual General Meeting, you are required to complete and return the form of proxy enclosed with the Annual Report that is being dispatched to the shareholders, in accordance with the instructions printed thereon as soon as possible and in any event not less than 48 hours before the time of the Annual General Meeting. Completion of the form of proxy shall not preclude you from attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting should you so wish.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



# **CHEUK NANG (HOLDINGS) LIMITED**

卓能(集團)有限公司

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability) (Stock Code: 131)

Executive Directors: Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil (Chairman) CHAO Gigi (Vice Chairman) HO Sau Fun Connie

Non-Executive Director: CHAO Howard LEE Ding Yue Joseph

Independent Non-Executive Directors: TING Woo Shou Kenneth LAM Ka Wai Graham SUN Dai Hoe Harold Registered Office: Suite 4901, 49/F Central Plaza 18 Harbour Road Wanchai Hong Kong

20 October 2023

To shareholders,

Dear Sir or Madam,

## PROPOSALS FOR GENERAL MANDATE FOR THE PURCHASE BY THE COMPANY OF ITS OWN SHARES AND ISSUE SHARES AND RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this circular is to provide the Shareholders with the information in respect of the necessary resolutions which will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023 (the "AGM") to consider and, if thought fit, approve (i) the granting to the Directors a general mandate to purchase up to 10% of the shares in the issued share capital of the Company as at the date of passing of the relevant resolution; (ii) the granting to the Directors of a general mandate to allot, issue and deal with the shares in the capital of the Company not exceeding 20% of the issued share capital of the Company as at the date of passing of the relevant resolutions; (iii) the re-election of retiring Directors.

#### GENERAL MANDATE TO THE DIRECTORS FOR REPURCHASE OF SHARES

The general mandate given for repurchase of shares at the annual general meeting held on 23 November 2022 will expire on 22 November 2023. An ordinary resolution will be proposed at the AGM to give a mandate to the Directors to repurchase the shares of the Company ("Repurchase Mandate") at any time until the first to occur of the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company following the passing of the resolution (unless the mandate is renewed at such meeting) or the expiration of the period within which the next annual general meeting of the Company is required by the Companies Ordinance or the Company's Articles of Association to be held or until the mandate is revoked or varied by an ordinary resolution of the Company's shareholders in general meeting. The shares of the Company to be repurchased ("Share Repurchase") pursuant to the Repurchase Mandate is limited to a maximum of 10% of the issued share capital of the Company at 18 October, 2023 (the "Latest Practicable Date") prior to the printing of this document is 652,676,781 shares. Assuming that no further shares will be issued or repurchased, in the event the Repurchase Mandate is fully exercised, the maximum number of shares to be repurchased is 65,267,678 shares.

An explanatory statement as required under Rule 10.06 of the Listing Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("Listing Rules") to provide the requisite information of the Repurchase Mandate is set out in the Appendix I.

#### **GENERAL MANDATE TO ISSUE SHARES**

The general mandate given to issue new shares at the annual general meeting held on 23 November 2022 will expire on 22 November 2023. At the AGM, an ordinary resolution will be proposed that the Directors be given a general and unconditional mandate to issue further new shares ("General Mandate") representing up to 20% of the aggregate nominal amount of the share capital of the Company in issue on the date the resolution is passed. The issued share capital of the Company as at the Latest Practicable Date is 652,676,781 Shares. Subject to the passing of the ordinary resolution to approve the General Mandate to issue new shares and on the basis of the issued share capital of the Company as at the Latest Practicable Date and assuming that no further shares are issued or repurchased prior to the AGM, the Company would be allowed to issue a maximum of 130,535,356 shares. In addition, an ordinary resolution will also be proposed to authorize an extension of such General Mandate to be granted to the Directors to issue new shares during the period up to the next AGM of the Company or such earlier period as stated in the relevant resolution by adding to it the number of shares repurchased under the Repurchase Mandate.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### **RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil (Executive Director), Mr. CHAO Howard (Non-Executive Director) and Ms. HO Sau Fun Connie (Executive Director), shall retire by rotation and being eligible, offered for re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

Details of the retiring Directors eligible for re-election are set out in Appendix II to this circular.

#### AGM

The notice convening the AGM is contained in the 2023 Annual Report and a form of proxy together with this circular were dispatched to the shareholders. Shareholders are requested to complete the form of proxy in accordance with the instructions printed thereon and return the same to Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, the Company's Share Registrar at Shops 1712-1716, 17/F., Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong as soon as practicable and in any event not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting (or any adjournment thereof). Completion and return of the form of proxy will not preclude a shareholder from attending and voting in person at the AGM (or any adjournment thereof).

Pursuant to the Listing Rules, any vote of shareholders at a general meeting must be taken by poll. The Chairman of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting will therefore put each of the resolutions to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to be voted by way of a poll. On a poll, every shareholder who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which he is the holder. Detailed procedures for conducting a poll are set out in Appendix III of this circular.

The Company will publish an announcement on the website of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (www.hkexnews.hk) and the Company's website (www.cheuknang.com.hk) of the results of the voting by poll at the Annual General Meeting on the same day after the Annual General Meeting.

If Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above, or a "black" rainstorm warning is in force in Hong Kong at 9:00 a.m. on the date of the AGM, the AGM will be automatically adjourned. The Company will post an announcement on the websites of the Company (www.cheuknang.com.hk) and of the Stock Exchange (www.hkexnews.hk) to notify members of the date, time and place of the rescheduled meeting.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### **RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

This circular includes particulars given in compliance with the Listing Rules for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Group. The Directors collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this circular and confirmed, having made all reasonable enquiry, that to the best of their knowledge and belief, there are no other facts the omission of which would make any statement herein misleading.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Directors believe that the Repurchase Mandate and the General Mandate to issue new shares and the re-election of directors are in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. Accordingly, the Directors recommend all shareholders to vote in favour of the resolutions to be proposed at the AGM.

> By Order of the Board CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil Executive Chairman

## APPENDIX I REPURCHASE MANDATE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This appendix serves as the explanatory statement required under Rule 10.06 of the Listing Rules to provide the Shareholders with all the information reasonably necessary for them to make an informed decision on whether to vote for or against the ordinary resolutions approving the Repurchase Mandate.

#### SHAREHOLDERS APPROVAL

All shares repurchases on the Stock Exchange by a Company with its primary listing on the Stock Exchange must be of fully-paid up shares and must be approved in advance by an Ordinary Resolution of shareholders, either by way of general mandate or by specific approval in relation to specific transactions.

#### SHARE CAPITAL

As at the Latest Practicable Date for determining such figure, the total number of issued share of the Company was 652,676,781 shares. Subject to the passing of the Ordinary Resolution, and on the basis that 652,676,781 shares are in issue and assuming no shares are issued or repurchased by the Company prior to the AGM, the Directors will be authorized under the Repurchase Mandate to repurchase a maximum of 65,267,678 shares.

#### **REASONS FOR THE REPURCHASE MANDATE**

The Directors believe that it is in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders to have a general authority from the Shareholders to enable the Directors to repurchase Shares in the market. Such repurchases may, depending on market conditions and funding arrangements at the time, lead to an enhancement of the net asset value of the Company and, or its earnings per share and will only be made when the Directors believe that such repurchase will benefit the Company and the Shareholders.

#### FUNDING OF REPURCHASES

Repurchase of the Company's securities would be financed by the Company's distributable profits or proceeds of a fresh issue of shares made for the purposes of the repurchases. The Company may only apply funds legally available for such purposes in accordance with its articles of association and the laws of Hong Kong.

There may be a material adverse impact on the working capital or gearing position of the Company (as compared with the position disclosed in its latest published audited accounts made up to 30 June, 2023) in the event the Repurchase Mandate is exercised in full. However, the Directors do not propose to exercise the Repurchase Mandate to such extent as would, in the circumstances, have a material adverse effect on the working capital requirements of the Company or the gearing levels which in the opinion of the Directors are from time to time appropriate for the Company.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None of the Directors nor, to the best of their knowledge, having made all reasonable enquiries, any of their respective associates (as defined in the Listing Rules), has present intention to sell any shares of the Company if the Repurchase Mandate is approved by the Shareholders.

## APPENDIX I REPURCHASE MANDATE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

No connected person (as defined in the Listing Rules) of the Company have notified the Company that they have present intention to sell shares to the Company, or have undertaken not to do so, in the event that the Directors are authorized to make repurchase of the shares.

#### UNDERTAKING OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors have undertaken to the Stock Exchange that they will exercise the power of the Company to make repurchase pursuant to the Repurchase Mandate in accordance with the Listing Rules and the applicable laws of Hong Kong.

#### SHARE REPURCHASE MADE BY THE COMPANY

During each of the six months preceding the date of this circular, no repurchase of shares have been made by the Company (whether on the Stock Exchange or otherwise).

#### TAKEOVER CODE CONSEQUENCES

If as a result of a repurchase of Shares by the Company, a shareholder's proportionate interest in the voting rights of the Company increases, such increase will be treated as an acquisition for the purpose of the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers (the "Takeovers Code"). As a result, a shareholder, or a group of shareholders acting in concert, depending on the level of increase of its or their shareholding, could obtain or consolidate control of the Company and become obliged to make a mandatory offer in accordance with Rules 26 and 32 of the Takeovers Code. Save as aforesaid, the Directors are not aware of any consequences which would arise under the Takeovers Code as a consequence of any repurchases pursuant to the Repurchase Mandate.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the substantial shareholders, Yan Yin Company Limited, Szehope Securities Company Limited acting in concert with Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil, are currently holding 485,981,509 shares, representing approximately 74.46% of the issued shares. In the event the repurchase of shares is exercised in full, the aggregate shareholding of Yan Yin Company Limited, Szehope Securities Company Limited and Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil will be increased to approximately 82.73% of the issued shares. The Directors have no intention of exercising the power to repurchase shares pursuant to the Repurchase Mandate to such extent as would result in the level of shareholdings in the Company Limited, Szehope Securities Company Limited and Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil, in the event if the Repurchase Mandate is exercised and resulted the public shareholdings fall below the minimum prescribed percentage of 25% laid down in Rule 8.08 of the Listing Rules, Yan Yin Company Limited, Szehope Securities Company Limited and Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil will place out such number of shares so as to reduce their aggregate shareholding to 75% or less of the issued capital of the Company. The Directors are not aware of any other consequences which would arise under the Takeover Code as a result of any repurchase of shares pursuant to the Repurchase Mandate.

## APPENDIX I REPURCHASE MANDATE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### SHARE PRICES

The highest and lowest prices at which shares of the Company have traded on the Stock Exchange during each of the previous twelve months preceding the Latest Practicable Date were as follows:

	Highest	Lowest
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
2022		
October	2.360	2.140
November	2.250	2.130
December	2.200	2.120
2023		
January	2.460	2.120
February	2.350	2.120
March	2.350	2.100
April	2.070	1.880
May	2.100	1.880
June	2.030	1.890
July	1.900	1.800
August	1.800	1.540
September	1.680	1.500
October (up to Latest Practicable Date)	1.730	1.650

### APPENDIX II DETAILS OF RETIRING DIRECTORS FOR RE-ELECTION

Particulars of the retiring Directors subject to re-election at the AGM are set out below:

#### **CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil**

Dr. Chao, aged 87, is the founder and Executive Chairman of the Group since 1988. Dr. Chao obtained a Bachelor of architecture degree, with honours, from The University of Durham, England and subsequently worked in the field of property, construction, investment, shipping, industrial and architect for over fifty years. He has also worked for Hong Kong Government Building Department and Architectural Office. He is a Hong Kong registered architect and a member of the Royal Institute of British Architect and has obtained Honorary Doctor Degree (Ph. D.) from U.S. Morrison University. Dr. Chao is also awarded World Outstanding Chinese. He has obtained Lifetime Achievement Award given by the ASEAN Outstanding Business Award 2016. He is the Chairman and beneficial owner of Yan Yin Company Limited, Cecil Chao & Associates Limited and Szehope Securities Company Limited which are the controlling shareholders of the Group.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Dr. Chao has not entered into any service contract with the Company and he is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Director's fee paid to Dr. Chao as director of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2023 was HK\$9,310,000 which was reviewed by the Remuneration Committee of the Company.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Dr. Chao is interested in 485,981,509 ordinary shares, representing 74.46% in the issued share capital of the Company, within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Dr. Chao does not have any relationship with the directors, senior management or other substantial or controlling shareholders of the Company except Ms. CHAO Gigi (Executive Director) and Mr. CHAO Howard (Non-Executive Director) are his children.

Save for the foregoing, there is no information relating to Dr. Chao that is required to be disclosed pursuant to Rules 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules nor are there other matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders regarding the re-election of Dr. Chao.

## APPENDIX II DETAILS OF RETIRING DIRECTORS FOR RE-ELECTION

#### **CHAO Howard**

Mr. Chao, aged 40, is the elder son of Dr. CHAO Sze Tsung Cecil, the Group Executive Chairman and the controlling shareholder of the Company and is the brother of Ms. CHAO Gigi, the Executive Director of the Company. Mr. Chao holds a Master of Science Degree in Real Estate from the University of Greenwich and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton and was awarded a Certified of Completion for the Leadership Programme on Real Estate Sustainability by the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Mr. Chao has over 16 years of experience in real estate development, construction, corporate finance and asset management his experience covers the region of Hong Kong, Mainland China, Malayasia and Macau. In the years past, Mr. Chao actively engaged in social work promoting economic real estate and construction industry's interests, also to advocate and to promote economic ties between Hong Kong and Mainland China. In 2021, Mr. Chao was a running candidate for office of the Legislative Council Election, under the functional constituency of Real Estate and Construction Sector.

Mr. Chao is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Maximus Capital Management Limited and Maximus Surveyors Limited and a independent non-executive director of Mexan Limited, a company listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange (Stock Code: 22). He is also a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Chongqing, Committee Member and the Vice-Chairman of Young Executives' Committee of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Advisor of the Our Hong Kong Foundation, Director of the Hong Kong Securities Association, Vice-President of the Hong Kong Foundation, Director of the Hong Kong Securities Association, Vice-President of the Hong Kong Chongqing Friendship Federation, Member of the Hong Kong Real Property Federation, and the Convenor of the Hong Kong Real Estate and Construction Concerned Group.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Chao has not entered into any service contract with the Company and he is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Director's fee paid to Mr. Chao as director of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2023 was HK\$69,885 which was reviewed by the Remuneration Committee of the Company.

Mr. Chao does not have any interest in the shares of the Company within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Mr. Chao does not have any relationship with the directors, senior management or other substantial or controlling shareholders of the Company except Dr. Chao (Executive Director) and Ms. Gigi Chao (Executive Director) are his father and sister respectively.

Save for the foregoing, there is no information relating to Mr. Chao that is required to be disclosed pursuant to Rules 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules nor are there other matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders regarding the re-election of Mr. Chao.

## APPENDIX II DETAILS OF RETIRING DIRECTORS FOR RE-ELECTION

#### HO Sau Fun Connie

Ms. Ho, aged 56 was appointed as a Director of the Company since 1996. She is an associate member of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute (formerly known as The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries) and The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of U.K. She has been working in the company secretarial field for over 30 years. Ms. Ho is also a director of the subsidiaries of the Company.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Ms. Ho has not entered into any service contract with the Company and she is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Director's fee paid to Ms. Ho as director of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2023 was HK\$69,885 which was reviewed by the Remuneration Committee of the Company.

Ms. Ho does not have any interest in the shares of the Company within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Ms. Ho does not have any relationship with the directors, senior management or other substantial or controlling shareholders of the Company.

Save for the foregoing, there is no information relating to Ms. Ho that is required to be disclosed pursuant to Rules 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules nor are there other matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders regarding the re-election of Ms. Ho.

## **APPENDIX III**

The chairman of the meeting will put all resolutions set out in the notice of the Annual General Meeting to be voted by way of a poll pursuant to Article 74 of the Articles of Association.

On a poll, pursuant to Article 80 of the Articles of Association, subject to any special rights, privileges or restrictions as to voting from time to time attaching to any class or classes of Shares, every shareholder who (being an individual) is present in person or by proxy or (being a corporation) is present by a duly authorised representative or proxy, shall have one vote for every Share of which he/she is the holder.

A shareholder present in person or by proxy or by authorised representative who is entitled to more than one vote does not have to use all his/her votes (i.e. he/she can cast less votes than the number of Shares he/she holds or represents) or to cast all his/her votes the same way (i.e. he/she can cast some of his/her votes in favour of the resolution and some of his/her votes against the resolution). It is believed that in most situations, shareholders (other than nominee companies) usually cast all their votes either in favour of a resolution or against a resolution.

The poll voting slip will be distributed to shareholders or their proxies or authorized representatives upon registration of attendance at the Annual General Meeting. Shareholders who want to cast all their votes entitled may mark a " $\checkmark$ " in either "FOR" or "AGAINST" box corresponding to the resolution to indicate whether he/she supports that resolution. For shareholders who do not want to use all their votes or want to split votes in casting a particular resolution shall indicate the number of votes cast on a particular resolution in the "FOR" or "AGAINST" box, where appropriate, but the total votes cast must not exceed his/her entitled votes, or otherwise, the voting slip will be spoiled and the shareholder's vote will not be counted.

After closing the poll, the Company's Share Registrars, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, will scrutinize the votes counting and the poll results will be published on the website of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (www.hkexnews.hk) and the Company's website (www.cheuknang.com.hk) on the same day after the Annual General Meeting.