Police to conduct dispersal action in the vicinity of the Legislative Council Complex

A group of rioters charged the Legislative Council Complex (Complex) today (July 1) and severely damaged the building and its facilities by mills barriers, iron poles and sundries. At around 9pm, the rioters vandalized the facilities after dashing into the Complex.

Police severely condemn the rioters' behavior of storming the Complex today. Owing to the violent activities of the rioters, Police warn that dispersal action will soon be taken in the vicinity of the Complex. Police will use appropriate level of force in case their actions are met with obstruction or resistance. Police also urge protestors to leave the vicinity of the Complex immediately.

Police's response to media enquiries

In response to media enquiries regarding protestors scattering unknown powder at police officers, the Police spokesperson today (July 1) replied as follows:

A group of violent protestors stormed the Legislative Council Complex by mills barriers, iron poles and miscellaneous objects this afternoon, leaving the complex facilities seriously damaged. During the period, some protestors scattered unknown powder at police officers at scene, causing some of them to feel unwell. Initial inspection by the Fire Services Department confirmed the unknown powder is slightly toxic and prolonged contact will lead to swollen and sensitive skin. Large amount of water is required to cleanse and decontaminate the substance.

Feeling unwell, two police officers were sent to hospital after getting in touch with the powder at the Legislative Council Complex. They were discharged after treatment and decontamination.

Police severely condemn the protesters who used harmful powder to attack police officers. Police will conduct comprehensive investigation and follow up the case in stringent manner.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected cocaine (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (June 30) seized about 440 grams of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$500,000 at Hong Kong International Airport.

A female passenger arrived in Hong Kong from Johannesburg, South Africa yesterday. During customs clearance, a packet of suspected cocaine was found on her. She was then arrested.

Subsequently, the woman was escorted to hospital for examination and she further discharged a batch of suspected cocaine.

The arrested woman, aged 28, has been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The case will be brought up at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (July 2).

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Member of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Public services in LegCo Complex

<u>suspended</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat announced today (July 1) that all guided tours and services to the public in the LegCo Complex, including the service of the Public Complaints Office and visits to the LegCo Library, Archives and Children's Corner, are suspended until further notice.

Government responds to July 1 procession

In response to the procession today (July 1), a government spokesman noted that the procession was conducted in a peaceful and rational manner. The Government always respects the public's freedoms and rights of assembly, procession and expression. It also understands that people have different views on Government policies. As a free and pluralistic society, Hong Kong embodies rationalism, inclusiveness, harmony and diversity. The people of Hong Kong are proud of such cores values.

"The Government clearly understands that members of the public have concerns and doubts about the proposed amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance, and has put a stop to the legislative amendment exercise. The bill will lapse after the current term of the Legislative Council ends in July next year," the spokesman said.

The spokesman reiterated that the Government had never taken a view on the nature of the confrontation on June 12. Irrespective of how an incident is defined by any person, it would not affect the Department of Justice (DoJ) in discharging its prosecutorial duties impartially.

The spokesman said that according to the press statement released by the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) on June 27, the Chairman of the IPCC, Dr Anthony Francis Neoh, has "recommended to Members of the IPCC that the IPCC should proactively undertake a study of the recent Public Order Events in performance of its statutory functions. As internal consultations are still taking place and the website is being revamped to facilitate the proposed study, the IPCC aims to give a full account of what it proposes to do in the near future".

Today, some protesters confronted Police from morning until night. They charged Police cordon lines and disrupted public order, causing serious impact on public safety. This evening, some radical protesters stormed the

Legislative Council Complex with extreme violence. These protesters seriously jeopardised the safety of police officers and members of the public. Such violent acts are unacceptable to society.

The HKSAR Government strongly condemns such acts, and protesters should stop violent acts immediately.