<u>District Court registry and offices</u> <u>temporarily closed</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary today (December 13) announced that the registry and offices of the District Court (DC) will be temporarily closed tomorrow and the day after tomorrow (December 14 and 15).

Court proceedings and other court business of the DC will not be affected.

A staff member responsible for backend support duties at the registry of DC was earlier tested positive for COVID-19. For the Judiciary, no other staff or any other persons have been regarded as a close contact of the relevant staff. Cleansing and disinfection of all relevant offices and public places has also been completed.

Registry service is an essential public service for use by many people every day. For the sake of prudence, most of the staff members working in the same office take COVID-19 tests voluntarily for the safety of all concerned.

While the staff members are waiting for test results, the DC registry and offices will be closed because of staff deployment constraints. Depending on the actual situation and needs, the Judiciary will put in place appropriate arrangements afterwards to ensure that services will be resumed safely as soon as possible.

During this closure period, the DC registry and offices will generally be closed, except that services relating to urgent and essential court hearings/matters handled through the Duty Judge and Duty Master systems will continue.

For enquiries, court users may call the following hotline from 8.45am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays):

District Court: 2845 5696