<u>Government condemns vandalistic acts</u> <u>of violent protesters</u>

In response to the vandalistic acts of violent protesters at Hong Kong International Airport and MTR stations today (September 1), a Government spokesman said the following:

Despite the issuance of separate injunction orders earlier by the court to restrain people from obstructing the operation of the airport and railway, a large number of protesters deliberately obstructed the operation of the airport today with no regard for law and order. They blocked traffic and set fires in the vicinity, seriously paralysing traffic around the airport, affecting a large number of travellers and damaging the economy of Hong Kong. Some violent protesters threw objects at the railway tracks, jeopardising the safety of the railway operation. Some violent protesters wantonly vandalised MTR stations, particularly Tung Chung station which was severely damaged, suspending the services of several MTR lines. Some people assaulted other members of the public during the protests and some offenders burned a national flag removed at Tung Chung Swimming Pool, challenging national authority and the bottom line of "One Country, Two Systems".

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government severely condemns the vandalistic and illegal acts of the violent protesters. The protesters totally disregarded the needs of travellers and members of the public. They threatened with violence and took malicious revenge on people with different views as well as innocent people and organisations. Their acts are barbaric and outrageous. The police will take resolute enforcement actions against all illegal and violent acts to protect the safety and rights of the members of the public.