

Government response to protests in Yau Tsim Mong District

In response to the protests in Yau Tsim Mong District yesterday (August 3), a Government spokesman said the following:

Despite that a Letter of No Objection has been issued for the public procession in Tai Kok Tsui following discussion between the Police and the organiser, some protesters deviated from the approved route soon after the procession had started and blocked a number of thoroughfares in Yau Tsim Mong District, including the entrance of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel at one point, seriously affecting the traffic, commercial activities and people's daily living in the vicinity. We express regret over such behaviours which are illegal and disregard the public order and the needs of other members of the public. Indeed, illegal behaviours and road blockage involved in recent protests, held in the name of expression of aspirations, are getting worse and way beyond the boundary of freedom of expression in a civilised society.

Violent behaviours recurred during the protests. Some radical protesters violently charged police stations, vandalised vehicles, set fire in various places, etc. In addition, protesters were suspected to have deliberately damaged the national flag, breaching the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance. The Government strongly condemns the radical protesters who disregarded the law and order, blatantly breached the public peace, and even challenged the national sovereignty. The police will strictly enforce the law. Violent protesters who breached the law should also be brought to justice.