

## **HKSAR Government vehemently condemns coercion by US CECC**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) today (July 21) strongly condemned the attempt made by politicians of the United States (US) Congressional-Executive Commission on China to seek the imposition of so-called "sanctions" on prosecutors from the Department of Justice who have been fulfilling their righteous duties of administering justice independently and impartially.

A spokesperson for the HKSAR Government reiterated, "Our prosecutors act strictly in accordance with a longstanding international practice that the decision to prosecute will only take into consideration the admissible evidence to justify instituting proceedings and the applicable law.

"Hong Kong is governed by the rule of law where laws must be observed and lawbreakers held to account. No one is above the law. Cases will never be handled any differently owing to the political beliefs or background of the persons involved.

"It is trite that safeguarding national security falls within the internal affairs of a sovereign jurisdiction, and hence the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law should be free from any intervention. The US's arbitrary and unreasonable bullying act has demonstrated disrespect for the rule of law, seriously violated international norms and grossly interfered in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs at large."

The Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC, remarked, "Any unscrupulous attempt to pressurise our prosecutors would be futile. My colleagues and I continue to stay united in discharging our constitutional duties without fear or favour."