

Judiciary severely condemns intimidations against judicial officers

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary today (November 16) expressed grave concerns about recent repeated incidents involving intimidating letters sent to judicial officers. The cases have been reported to the Police.

The Judiciary stressed that attempts to exert improper pressure on Judges and Judicial Officers (JJOs) represent a direct challenge to the rule of law and the principle of judicial independence. They must be severely condemned.

As stated in express terms in the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) enjoys independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. The courts of the HKSAR shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference.

The Judiciary reiterated that, according to the judicial oath, JJOs must handle cases in accordance with the law to ensure the due administration of justice, safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour, self-interest or deceit. Judges must decide cases fearlessly, independently and professionally in accordance with the law and legal principles, regardless of whether they involve controversial laws or social events, or whether the outcomes are popular or likely to attract criticisms. Those who are dissatisfied with the verdict or sentence may seek an appeal under the existing mechanism.