<u>Statement by Chief Justice of Court of</u> <u>Final Appeal</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

In relation to media enquiries arising from a report by Reuters dated April 14, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, issued the following statement today (April 15):

Since taking office in 2010, the Chief Justice has not at any stage encountered or experienced any form of interference by the Mainland authorities with judicial independence in Hong Kong, including the appointment of judges. Judicial independence is guaranteed under the Basic Law and is a main component of the rule of law in Hong Kong.