

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 3919 3003

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Members' use of language and conduct in Council

The President has directed me to remind Members to be mindful of their language and conduct in Council.

2. Expressing his grave concern about the choice of words used by some Members at the Chief Executive's ("CE") Question and Answer Session on 17 October 2013, the President issued a letter of the same date to all Members reminding them not to use offensive, insulting and unparliamentary language, and calling upon Members to uphold the dignity of the Council and respect all persons who attend Council meetings.

3. In his reply of 23 October 2013 to Hon WONG Yuk-man's letter of the day before which was copied to all Members, the President stated that he regards the use of offensive and insulting language by Members about CE, who is the Head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, to be unparliamentary and an abuse of Members' freedom of speech and immunity from legal proceedings, which offends the dignity of the Council.

4. The President reminds Members that while enjoying freedom of speech and debate in the Council, Members should not use offensive, insulting or unparliamentary language about other Members or persons who attend Council meetings, including CE and public officers. If any Member uses such language or disrupts the proceedings in the Council, the President will call upon the Member concerned to withdraw such language or discontinue such disruption. Should the Member refuse to do so, the President will regard such conduct as grossly disorderly, and, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, order the Member to withdraw from the Council immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Chen', written in a cursive style.

(Kenneth CHEN)
Clerk to the Legislative Council