



17 April 2014

The Hon Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, GBS, JP
President
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear President,

Legislative Council Meeting of 16 April 2014

I write to express the Government's utmost regret over the incident in which the Hon Leung Kwok-hung threw objects at the Financial Secretary at the Council meeting yesterday (16 April). While the Government has been expressing similar concerns to you in recent years, we regret that such an incident has occurred yet again, and caused disruption to the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill 2014 which should have been a solemn act.

As you would have witnessed yesterday, the Hon Leung Kwok-hung crossed the floor to throw objects at the Financial Secretary within a close distance. The objects had hit the Financial Secretary before the security personnel inside the Chamber managed to take any effective actions to stop Leung. Such violent misbehaviour was menacing in nature and might constitute criminal conduct such as common assault. Pending our further consideration of the matter, we reserve our right in taking whatever legal action as deemed appropriate.

This incident reveals that there is much to be desired on the security arrangements inside the Chamber. Apparently, the personal safety of public officers attending proceedings therein could be threatened easily. We are also disappointed that government representatives have not been receiving a reasonable level of respect they deserve when they perform their duties at proceedings of the Legislative Council (LegCo).

Under the LegCo Rules of Procedure (RoPs), public officers attending meetings of the Council should enjoy the same protection and respect as any LegCo Member. Under no circumstances should public officers attending LegCo meetings be subjected to any intimidating or abusive acts by Members. It is perhaps high time that the RoPs, which clearly had no effect on some Members in terms of deterrence or consequence, be revisited and tightened. We feel strongly that such disorderly behaviour must be stopped and relevant Members disciplined.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carrie Lam".

(Mrs Carrie Lam)
Chief Secretary for Administration