

**For discussion on
31 March 2025**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**Briefing on the Department of Justice's
2025 work plan and progress of rule of law education and promotion**

I. Introduction

The nation emphasises the importance on law-based governance on all fronts and advancing the rule of law in China. The robust rule of law is the cornerstone for Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". To steadily advance the long-term policy priority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to continuously reinforce the rule of law, the Department of Justice (DoJ) attaches great importance to the work on rule of law education and endeavours to collaborate with different stakeholders to promote the proper understanding and recognition of the rule of law in different sectors of the community in a diversified manner.

2. Further to the DoJ's briefing on the policy initiatives in the 2024 Policy Address about the work on rule of law education at the policy briefing-cum-meeting of this Panel on 1 November 2024¹, this paper seeks to report to Members on the DoJ's 2025 work plan and progress of rule of law education and promotion.

II. Progress report on the first two phases of ROLE Stars Train-the-Leaders Programme

3. The DoJ officially launched the "ROLE Stars Train-the-Leaders Programme" (TTL Programme), themed "Rule of law Education (ROLE) Stars", in November 2023 to provide training for members of the public from different sectors

¹ LC Paper No. CB(2)1283/2024(02)

through elucidating the fundamental topics related to the rule of law and legal system of Hong Kong, so as to promote rule of law education on all fronts.

4. As at the end of 2024, a total of about 290 trainees joined the courses under the first and second phases of the TTL Programme. Of diverse backgrounds, the trainees are representatives from 21 organisations undertaking youth-related and community work and teachers from more than 100 secondary schools in Hong Kong. To date, among the participating trainees of the TTL Programme, over 250 have successfully completed the Foundation Course, of which over 80 have joined the Advanced Course activities and more than 40 of them have completed all the trainings under the Advanced Course.

III. Proposed courses under the third phase of the TTL Programme

5. As set out in the 2024 Policy Address, the DoJ will launch the third phase of the TTL Programme in 2025. In consultation with the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education (Steering Committee), the participating trainees and different stakeholders, the courses to be conducted under the third phase will consist of three components: organising a new round of the Foundation and Advanced Courses, and the new Extended Course.

Foundation Course of the TTL Programme

6. The DoJ will re-run the Foundation Course, which is the induction course of the TTL Programme, in the second quarter this year to further expand the scope and increase the number of trainees, with a view to meeting the increasing demand from different sectors which have the need and responsibility for taking forward rule of law education.

7. Based on the content of the previous courses, the Foundation Course will adopt appropriate modifications by including more real-life examples and cases, content on acts constituting contempt of court, in order to enhance the trainees' understanding of and respect for the Judiciary.

8. Regarding the target trainees, the DoJ is recruiting approximately 120 young members of district youth committees and tertiary students pursuing programmes in

education discipline to join the Foundation Course after considering the following factors:

- (1) District youth committees play a pivotal role in promoting the rule of law in the community – after completing the Foundation Course, the trainees from the district youth committees have proactively promoted their knowledge of the rule of law acquired from the TTL Programme in general community activities (such as stall games in district carnivals), which is in line with the objective of the TTL Programme in promoting rule of law on all fronts.
- (2) Schools are playing a critical role in advancing rule of law education – assisting and empowering students who are pursuing programmes in the education discipline to further enhance their proper understanding of the rule of law and the legal system of Hong Kong will bring positive effects on their capability, as a future educator, of nurturing the next generation to develop a proper perspective on the world, on life and on values.

Advanced Course of the TTL Programme

9. The DoJ plans to continue organising the Advanced Course of the TTL Programme in the second and third quarters this year for trainees who have completed the Foundation Course, with a view to further deepening their understanding of the legal system and the implementation of procedures.

10. Based on the activities held last year, the Advanced Course will include visits to various law enforcement agencies and mock court activities with appropriate modifications such as arranging visits to more law enforcement agencies and refining the details of the mock trial sessions, so as to enhance the trainees' understanding of court etiquettes and procedures, etc.

11. The DoJ plans to recruit about 80 trainees who have completed the Foundation Course to join the Advanced Course. The recruitment exercise is currently underway.

Extended Course of the TTL Programme

12. The DoJ plans to launch a new Extended Course of the TTL Programme, with the aim of strengthening the trainee's understanding of the law in specific areas and encouraging them to promote their acquired knowledge of the rule of law in daily life and work.

13. In light of the recommendations from the Steering Committee, the participating trainees and other stakeholders, the Extended Course will mainly consist of two components, namely thematic talks on specific legal topics and practice activities for promotion of the rule of law.

(1) Thematic talks on specific legal topics

14. Unlike the Foundation Course which is in essence an introductory course on the basic concepts of the rule of law, the legal talks under the Extended Course focus on specific legal topics with more in-depth exposition and discussion to enhance trainees' understanding of the law in specific areas.

15. In response to the prevalence of criminal activities and civil disputes relating to the cyber world, the thematic talks on specific legal topics this year will cover common cybercrimes (e.g. bullying, fraud, doxxing) and common online civil disputes (such as online consumer disputes). Speakers will explain relevant legal topics in an easy-to-understand way by using real-life examples, cases and interactive Q&As.

16. The first talk was successfully conducted on 22 March with the attendance of more than 50 trainees. According to the feedback collected after the talk, over 90% of the participating trainees were satisfied with the content of the talk. The second talk is scheduled to be held in the fourth quarter this year for which recruitment of trainees is currently underway.

(2) Practice activities for promoting the rule of law

17. To encourage the trainees to actively promote the rule of law in their daily life and work, the DoJ has featured practice activities for promoting the rule of law

within the Extended Course, requiring the trainees to spend a certain number of hours on promoting the rule of law, so as to consolidate and convey their acquired knowledge of the rule of law to their peers, and gradually build up their confidence in disseminating the concept of the rule of law.

18. Regarding the modes of practice in promotion of the rule of law, trainees may choose to join the activities organised from time to time by the DoJ. For instance, they may serve as facilitators of the Foundation Course. Trainees may also organise or participate in various rule of law activities on their own, and submit a report to the DoJ afterwards with information on how they have applied their acquired knowledge of the rule of law and the teaching materials of the TTL Programme, the duration and outcome of the activities, and the feedback received, etc.

ROLE Ambassadors

19. To promote continual participation in and completion of all courses under the TTL Programme and encourage proactive organisation or participation in activities for promoting the rule of law, the DoJ will launch ROLE Ambassadors to recognise, encourage and commend trainees who strive to enhance their knowledge of the rule of law and actively promote the rule of law in their respective capacities in the community, in order to maintain their learning momentum and enthusiasm, and ultimately enhance their confidence in the practice of promotion of the rule of law.

IV. Other rule of law education programmes and promotion activities

20. Apart from launching activities under the third phase of the TTL Programme, the DoJ will organise the following programmes in connection with rule of law education in 2025:

“Rule of Law through Drama” and DoJ’s Rule of Law Drama Day

21. Since the launch of the “Rule of Law through Drama” project in 2021, over 300 drama performances have been presented for participating primary schools in

all districts of Hong Kong with positive feedback. The DoJ will continue to run the project this year.

22. To further promote rule of law education from schools to families and the community, the DoJ plans to hold a large-scale Rule of Law Drama Day at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on 3 and 4 May 2025. Staging a fun and interactive drama to promote rule of law education among its major audience of senior primary school students and parents, the programme aims to make rule of law education an integral part of family education, hence achieving the goal of promoting rule of law education on all fronts. The two performances are expected to attract an audience of about 1,500 people.

Rule of Law Journey: Guided Tour of Landmarks of the Hong Kong Legal Hub

23. The DoJ has been organising the Rule of Law Journey: Guided Tour of Landmarks of the Hong Kong Legal Hub upon requests from various institutions and organisations (including secondary schools and youth organisations, etc.). Visitors are guided to historic buildings such as the Justice Place (which housed the former Central Government Offices) and the former French Mission Building (which housed the former Court of Final Appeal), and they are introduced to the Hong Kong's legal system, the role of the DoJ and other rule of law related information along the way.

24. Given its light-hearted and interactive nature, the Rule of Law Journey has been highly popular among schools and is suitable to form an integral part of rule of law education and promotion activities. As such, the DoJ plans to make the Rule of Law Journey a regular activity by organising around 10 sessions intended for secondary schools in Hong Kong from 2025 to 2026. The DoJ will further discuss the details with government departments concerned (including the Education Bureau) to pursue the relevant work.

25. In addition, the DoJ will continue to actively take forward rule of law education and promotion through diversified channels such as short videos, publications, online media, social media platforms and the dedicated website (<https://www.role-ttl.gov.hk>).

V. Conclusion

26. Looking ahead, the DoJ will continue to work closely with relevant government departments and different stakeholders in the community to pass on a law-abiding culture and consolidate the HKSAR's excellent foundation of the rule of law through diversified programmes for rule of law education and promotion, hence jointly contributing to upholding the rule of law in the community.

Department of Justice
March 2025