



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

Secretariat: LG2 Floor, High Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong

E-mail: info@hkba.org Website: www.hkba.org

Telephone: 2869 0210 Fax: 2869 0189

Press Release

(For immediate release)

Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”)'s Response to Media Enquiries

In response to media enquiries regarding the statement made by the Judiciary today, the HKBA's response is as follows:

1. The HKBA strongly supports Hong Kong's independent Judiciary.
2. An important aspect of an independent Judiciary is that a Judge has the duty to decide the case before him or her independently and impartially. The published judgment, which demonstrates the independent and impartial adjudication, is a well-established feature of the Hong Kong legal system, and helps uphold public confidence in the judicial process.
3. With the increasing number and growing complexity of cases, and the persistent shortage of judicial manpower and resources, our Judges have continued to shoulder heavy burdens.
4. Notwithstanding, it is recognised that excessive judicial copying may lead the parties and the public to harbour doubt as to whether the Judge has independently considered the facts and issues requiring determination, and in some cases this may result in the need for a re-trial, which imposes an unfair burden on the parties involved and creates wastage of judicial resources. That would be at odds with the reasonable expectations of the public and would not be desirable.
5. The Judiciary has the duty – which it has consistently and conscientiously discharged – to ensure that justice is administered fairly, efficiently, and properly. It is crucial the Judiciary be afforded the space and time to deal with issues concerning the operation of the Judiciary and its Judges itself in a fair and independent manner, balancing legitimate societal expectations, but without external interference.

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6. The HKBA remains confident that the Judiciary will continue to tirelessly discharge the above duty.
7. In addition, the HKBA continues to call for the allocation of additional resources to the Judiciary to meet the ever-increasing demands and challenges the Judiciary faces.

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27 July 2026