

Main Points of the statement made by the Secretary for Justice,
Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC
October 20, 2005

I am deeply honoured to be appointed the Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR. I am very grateful to the Chief Executive and the Central Government for reposing their trust in me.

To maintain the rule of law in Hong Kong is the mission and duty of the Secretary for Justice. He has to uphold the independence of the Judiciary, to make decisions on prosecutions free from any interference, to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to act as the guardian of public interests.

The new constitutional order of “One Country, Two Systems” has no precedent anywhere else in the world. Because of the differences between the Mainland and the Hong Kong legal systems, we have experienced controversies and trials on the constitutional front. How to implement this new constitutional order is an important task of the Secretary for Justice.

The Secretary for Justice is also the principal legal adviser to the Chief Executive and the Government. He has to assist the Government to ensure their acts are not only efficient but also in accordance with the law.

This is a position of utmost public importance and tremendous responsibility. I would like to join the Chief Executive to thank Elsie for her tremendous dedication in the past 8 years in serving Hong Kong in this most onerous position.

I have never under-estimated the difficulties of the task before me. However, as in the past, provided the cause is a meaningful one (and it certainly is), I see arduous challenges as the means to increase one’s strength and capacity.

Like many Hong Kong people, my childhood days were not exactly easy. However, I am deeply grateful to the Hong Kong community for giving me plenty of opportunities and help. As an act of repayment, apart from my legal practice, I have contributed some of my time to serve in professional, public and Christian organizations. Today, presented with this opportunity to serve the community with my professional knowledge, training and experience, my conscience dictates the acceptance of the invitation.

I promise I will lead my department to discharge these important responsibilities fairly, efficiently and independently. I will also utilize my good relationship and cooperation with the legal professions to better the legal services and protection to the public, as well as to expand Hong Kong's legal services into the Mainland. I will continue the communication with the Mainland legal officials and professionals, so as to strengthen the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

Allow me to publicly thank my wife for taking up this challenge with me. The sacrifice she has to make will be huge.

Lastly, it is my sincere hope that all of us in Hong Kong can work together with a sense of trust rather than suspicion, to pursue our goals by collective efforts, so as to make Hong Kong a better home for us and for our children.