

(English Translation)

**Speech by the Hon. Wong Yan Lung, SC, JP
the Secretary for Justice,
at the Passing Out Parade of the
Foundation Training Centre,
Hong Kong Police College
on Saturday, 25 March 2006**

Commissioner, Director, police officers, officers on parade, ladies and gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to be invited to attend today's passing out parade and share this memorable moment with you. The Hong Kong Police College was formally established in January this year, turning a new page in the history of police training.

All officers on parade, you have completed the long and challenging police training successfully. The moment that you have long been waiting for has arrived. You will soon be assigned to take up various duties in the Police Force. May I congratulate you all on this important occasion. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the instructors of the College for their hard work and contribution in nurturing the next generation of police officers.

The integrity, dedication and professionalism of the Hong Kong Police Force are pivotal in making Hong Kong one of the safest cities in the world.

Similarly, the successful implementation of the rule of law in Hong Kong depends on the ability of our outstanding law enforcement agencies to discharge the onerous duties of upholding the rule of law.

As Hong Kong people, we all take pride in the excellence and professionalism displayed by the Police Force in handling the recent disturbances during the WTO Ministerial Conference. Undaunted by the unprecedented violence, members of the Force, men and women, local and expatriate alike, worked day and night, shedding blood and sweat without

grumbling. They stood united behind the Police line and discharged their duties with dedication. They deserve our admiration and respect.

As a matter of fact, an independent survey shows that 85% of the people of Hong Kong have full confidence in our Police Force. This is indeed a remarkable achievement.

However, crime lurks everywhere, and how distorted and crafty human nature can be is always beyond our comprehension.

As the newest generation of police officers, you will face increasingly tough challenges and high public expectation. While congratulating you today, I also give you my best wishes. As the Bible says, “Blessed are the pure in heart.” Let me give my best wish to every officer on parade today by sharing the meanings of the term, “pure in heart”.

The first meaning of “pure in heart” is to treasure and hold on to the lofty aims and aspirations and the commitment to serving the community that you now have. Never let your vision get blurred in the face of pressure or monotony of your work. Without vision, the efforts and endeavours you make will diminish. In fact, bravery and decisiveness in the face of urgent situations always come from the moral courage in your heart.

The second meaning of “pure in heart” is to be just. Do everything in strict accordance with the law in a fair and selfless manner. Do all you can to remove your “tinted glasses”. Respect everyone’s rights, including those of the suspects.

The third meaning of “pure in heart” is to have a high degree of self-discipline and integrity and not to succumb to the temptation of money or be corrupted by power. Wearing a gun on duty really makes you powerful. But when you discharge your duties, never do things recklessly or subject yourselves to bad influence.

The fourth meaning of “pure in heart” is to be crystal clear in thinking. You will come across a wide variety of cases, including complex commercial crimes and thorny cases of domestic violence. You need good judgment, responsiveness and constantly high vigilance. These qualities will prove to be

invaluable not only when you are investigating and handling cases, but also when you are giving evidence in court. At the Police College, you have already been given excellent professional training in this regard. But it requires a continuous drive for improvement to strengthen such diverse abilities. You must take every opportunity to enrich your knowledge of society and enhance your analytical power through continuing education.

The fifth meaning of “pure in heart” is to liberate yourselves from stress. I am aware that nowadays the manpower of the Police Force is rather tight and the work pressure on frontline officers is tremendous. In maintaining law and order, frontline officers may sometimes encounter clashes. They may also be complained against by members of the public and admonished by their superiors. As the sayings go, “Step back and you can see a wider horizon”, “My home is where my heart lies and truth is unconquerable”. Despite being tough and courageous, you sometimes need to talk heart to heart with your families and friends to cool yourselves off. Family members and friends of the officers on parade here, your support is most important to them.

It has been five months since I assumed office as Secretary for Justice. Many people have asked me how I feel about my job. To be frank, it is very demanding and stressful, but I feel good. It is because I know that what I am doing is very important and has a direct effect on the people of Hong Kong. And I know that I am directly serving the community with my professional knowledge and training. This gives me much satisfaction.

Just like me, you may be under enormous pressure and feel stressful in the days ahead. But the responsibilities you shoulder, that is to maintain law and order, do have direct and significant bearing on the lives and livelihood of the people of Hong Kong. What you have learned at the College will be used to serve the community. You will derive great satisfaction from this, for which there is no substitute.

The nobility of human nature often manifests itself in crises and extremely difficult situations. The people of Hong Kong have been grieving deeply for police constable Tsang Kwok-hang, who died a heroic death. But the sacrifice he made demonstrates the noblest and greatest spirit of the Police Force in serving the community. We hold him in high respect. He made

great contributions towards maintaining law and order in Hong Kong by displaying his courage and professionalism before his death.

I hope the heroic and noble deeds of your colleagues will be a driving force for you. Let us work together courageously for peace and the rule of law in Hong Kong!