



**Statement by The Law Society of Hong Kong on
Some Public Criticism of a Judgment dated 12 August 2021**

1. The Law Society notes that there has been some recent public criticism of a Judgment dealing with an administrative challenge to the Chief Executive's request for the Legislative Council's approval of preliminary funding for the Lantau Tomorrow reclamation project.
2. Article 85 of the Basic Law provides that the courts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. The analysis and reasoning on which a court makes a decision are all set out in detail in the relevant judgment. The decision making process is open, transparent and based on proper reasoning.
3. Fair and constructive criticism may help improve the operation of the courts in Hong Kong. However, misleading and wrongly directed criticism, if unchecked, can impact judicial independence and the operation of Hong Kong's common law within "One Country, Two Systems".
4. Whilst the freedom of speech should be respected, it is important for those who intend to make comments, and those who read the comments, regarding a court's decision to verify the full context in which a judgment was issued and to study carefully the reasoning set out in the judgment, to make sure that whatever view they form is an informed view based on correct and verified information.

**The Law Society of Hong Kong
15 September 2021**