

For discussion on
27 September 2021

**Legislative Council Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Progress on implementation of Vision 2030 for Rule of Law**

Introduction

The Department of Justice (“DoJ”) officially launched the 10-year “Vision 2030 for Rule of Law” (“Vision 2030”) initiative in November 2020, with the view to building and maintaining a fair and rule-based society underpinned by the rule of law through collaboration with stakeholders towards sustainable development for all. One of its main objectives is to lay a solid foundation for a society underpinned by rule of law through promotion, education and capacity building to enhance the understanding and practice of the rule of law amongst youths and proper legal education.

2. On 1 March 2020¹, the DoJ introduced to Members the various tasks and projects under “Vision 2030” to empower youths and enrich young legal practitioners. This paper is to update members of the rule of law education and promotion projects and international exchanges under “Vision 2030”.

Rule of Law Education and Promotion Projects

(a) **Rule of Law through Drama**

3. In the 2020/21 academic year, the DoJ launched the “Rule of Law through Drama” project with the Hong Kong Drama Education Studio with two sets of rule of law related drama performances for primary school students. Through the interesting performances and live interactions, the students are able to learn the concept of the rule of law. The two sets of drama for junior and senior primary school students are “Xie Zhi: The Legend of Justice” and “The Adventure of Mr. Auden” respectively. For junior primary school students, the lively drama “Xie Zhi” with relatively simple and basic concept of law-abiding awareness would enable them to easily understand the spirit of the rule of law and the importance of law abiding. On the other hand, elements that require students to think has been added to the drama performances for senior primary school students. Through interactions and discussions with the drama actors, students are inspired to think about the importance of law and the rule of law in daily lives.

4. Both sets of drama were performed in Cantonese, with the duration of each performance around 40 minutes for junior and senior primary school students respectively. The drama performances were toured free of charge for primary schools of various districts in Hong Kong.

5. Between February and August 2021, the Hong Kong Drama Education Studio performed 86 drama performances for primary schools of various districts in Hong Kong. The drama performances were effective and received positive feedbacks from school principals and teachers. Schools were supportive of using interesting and interactive approaches to explain the concepts of law and the rule of law, and the moral of the story, which they can relate to in their daily lives. Given the overwhelming responses, the DoJ has decided that additional performances will be provided under the “Rule of Law through Drama” in the 2021/22 academic year.

(b) Law Quiz Competition Series

6. To highlight the importance of abiding by the law and application of law in daily lives, as supported by the Education Bureau, the DoJ plans to launch the Law Quiz Competitions Series for primary school students during the 2021/22 academic year. Through the Competition Series, the DoJ hopes to enhance the students' understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law, the rule of law, Hong Kong's legal system, concepts of law and rules, and the importance of abiding by the law, as well as the proper ways in expressing opinions.

7. There are two parts to the competition: Part I is the "Online Law Quiz Game" for all primary school students in Hong Kong to be launched in November this year and Part II is the "Inter-School Law Quiz Competition" to be held from January to April 2022. Application for Part II is now opened and primary 5 and 6 students may form teams to apply via their schools. A website has been launched for the Law Quiz Competition Series (www.lawquizcompetition.hk), and through Sing Tao Daily as the media partner, a number of promotions has been planned throughout the Competition period via online media platforms (such as facebook) and physical media platforms (such as the Sing Tao Daily newspaper, "Sing Tao Education" and "Smart Parents"). A number of schools have already expressed interests to participate in the Competition.

(c) "Rule of Law Enlightenment" programme

8. The DoJ has launched the "Rule of Law Enlightenment" Programme, a new, dedicated rule of law education programme for secondary school students in the 2021/22 academic year. The new programme consists of regular events (such as School Talks, Rule of

Law Journey and Prosecution Week), as well as an annual highlight event with a different theme each year.

9. This year's annual highlight event is the "Key to the Future" Short Video Competition, all full time secondary school and youth college students are eligible to join. It is hoped that students may promote the proper concepts of the rule of law and share their thoughts on the future development of the rule of law through the production of creative short videos. A website has been launched for the Short Video Competition (www.keytothefuture.hk). Posters for the Short Video Competition has been distributed to all secondary schools and youth colleges in Hong Kong, and the Home Affairs Department have been liaised to assist with the promotion.

10. Since the launch of "Rule of Law Enlightenment" Programme in August this year, as at 14 September 2021, applications have been received from 28 schools to arrange for 30 School Talks in the 2021/22 academic year. Topics under the School Talks include the rule of law and the role of the DoJ; introduction to the Constitution and the Basic Law; introduction to Hong Kong's legal system; basic concepts of National Security; the birth of a piece of legislation; dispute resolution (including peer mediation); judicial review; the prosecution of juvenile defendants; school bullying; and cybercrime etc. Through the School Talks, questions and answers interactions and the post-talk law quiz etc., it is hoped that participating students would have a more comprehensive understanding of Hong Kong's legal system as well as law related issues.

11. For the "Rule of Law Journey", participating students would have the opportunity to attend a guided tour to visit the various landmarks of the Hong Kong Legal Hub, including the Function Hall, Former Ex-Co Chambers and Mock Court of the Justice Place. Colleague from the DoJ would introduce the Hong Kong's legal system, the role of

the DoJ, share interesting cases and other rule of law related information with the visiting students. Students would also have the chance to visit the former French Mission Building and some of the law-related organisations (such as eBRAM Centre). So far, the DoJ has received applications from 16 schools for the “Rule of Law Journey”. The first Rule of Law Journey was successfully held on 30 August 2021 for 17 students from the 18th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme.

(d) Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme

12. The DoJ has supported the talks and activities organised by the Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Hong Kong. The 18th Basic Law Ambassador Training Scheme, for local secondary school students, was held during July to September this year. Under the training scheme, various activities including seminars, workshops and visits to different organisations were organised to enhance the secondary school students’ understandings of the Basic Law. On 13 August 2021, a representative from the DoJ delivered a talk on the topic of “Understanding and Practising the Rule of Law” to the student ambassadors. On 30 August 2021, 17 student ambassadors were invited to participate in the “Rule of Law Journey” by attending a guided tour of the Hong Kong Legal Hub (including the Justice Place and the former French Mission Building). With the introduction of Hong Kong’s legal system, the role of the DoJ and other rule of law related information, and by retracing the development of the Hong Kong’s legal system under a relaxing atmosphere, it is hoped that the students will be able to strengthen their understanding of the law and the rule of law.

13. The “Youth Basic Law Summit cum Graduation Ceremony” of the Scheme was held on 18 September 2021 and about 150 students were appointed as the Basic Law Ambassadors. The Secretary for Justice

delivered the keynote speech for the Ceremony and presented the graduation certificates to the student ambassadors.

(e) **Pilot Scheme on Rule of Law Education for Secondary School Students**

14. The DoJ supported the “Pilot Scheme on Rule of Law Education for Secondary School Students” organised by the Hong Kong Policy Research Institute (“HKPRI”) during the 2020/21 academic year. The HKPRI partnered with 21 secondary schools and conducted rule of law education activities for over 4,000 Form 1 and Form 4 students between February and August 2021.

15. In order to make it easier for students to understand the discussions of the rule of law, HKPRI has customized a set of rule of law teaching materials for secondary school students to focus on the teaching of three core principals of the rule of law: equality before the law, judicial independence and the culture of lawfulness. The pilot scheme invited practising solicitors and barristers to act as facilitators and university law school students as ambassadors. Through short videos, interactive games, small group discussions, sharing and discussions on real cases and presentation after the activities, the experiential learning method is able to arouse students’ learning interests, to reflect on their relationships with the rule of law and the society.

16. As observed by the facilitators, ambassadors and teachers, students were engaged and participated actively in the discussions throughout the activities. And as noted from the post-activity questionnaires, students were able to acquire deeper understandings of the rule of law. Teachers who have participated in the pilot scheme also expressed their support towards organising more rule of law related

activities in the future. The DoJ is in active discussion with HKPRI to organize more trainings to students and teachers in this academic year.

(f) e-Resources for Rule of Law and the Basic Law

17. The DoJ supports the “e-Resources for Rule of Law and Basic Law” (basiclawresources.info) produced by the Basic Law Foundation launched in November last year, to offer support and assistance to teachers for the relevant teaching. The e-Resources website is a platform that combines regular lectures/training seminars, online teaching resources and a membership system.

18. Since its launch, the website has recorded over 1,500 visits to the website, attracted over a hundred registrants as members from about 40 schools and education-related organisations. Currently, teaching materials on the e-Resources website (including PowerPoint slides and worksheets) covers various topics for secondary school students, such as the Constitution, the Basic Law, the National Security Law, “One Country, Two System” and the rule of law, and has organised 8 online training seminars. Going forward, the Foundation will enhance the content and increase the materials available on the website, plans to develop English teaching materials and continue to expand the number of registered members and partnering schools.

(g) Training course for Teachers

19. The DoJ supports activities organised by the Education Bureau, including the training course entitled “Respecting the Law, Reinforcing the Rule of Law” organised by the Endeavour Education Centre and the Education Bureau for teachers. Prominent local and Mainland legal experts were invited as speakers for the training course on topics including the legal system before and after the returning to the

Motherland; content of the Constitution; the status and content of the Basic Law; as well as Hong Kong's obligation to maintain national security etc. Through interactive small group discussions, teachers were able to further discuss the presentation by the speakers thereby strengthening their understanding and knowledge on the various topics such as Constitution, the Basic Law, national security, Hong Kong's legal system and the rule of law.

20. Training courses were held in November 2020 and March 2021 respectively. Responses were overwhelming, with participation of over 200 principals and teachers from primary and secondary schools. DoJ's counsel also participated and shared their views on certain topics during the discussions. If an attendance of 80% or more is reached and the participating teacher has attended the last class of the training course, the hours spent in attending the training course can be included in their continuous professional development hours. With positive feedbacks received from participated principals and teachers, the DoJ will continue to support the training courses to be held in October and November of this year, and April and June 2022.

(h) “Empowerment” Booklet

21. To enhance the public's understanding on the various rule of law education projects organised by the DoJ, the “Empowerment” Booklet was published in August 2021 to highlight the various rule of law education projects for primary and secondary schools. The “Empowerment” Booklet has been distributed to all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, relevant education-related organisations and Members of this Panel. The DoJ has also promoted the various rule of law education projects and “Empowerment” Booklet via all primary and secondary school Councils, District and Regional School Heads Associations of Hong Kong.

22. Interested persons may also obtain a copy from the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of various districts. An electronic copy has also been uploaded onto the DoJ website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/ebook/v2030_empowerment_booklet/index.html) for public's reference. A PDF version has also been attached at **Annex** (Chinese only).

(i) **National Security Law Legal Forum-Security Brings Prosperity**

23. Aiming to enhance public's understanding and awareness of the National Security Law, the DoJ organised the National Security Law Legal Forum with the theme of "Security Brings Prosperity" on 5 July this year, brought together a number of prominent legal experts to discuss and exchange views on the application and interpretation of the National Security Law.

24. The Legal Forum comprised a series of keynote speeches given by distinguished speakers as well as three panel discussions, where legal experts examined the provisions of the National Security Law, including its substantive and procedural aspects, and delivered a comparative study of national security laws of other jurisdictions. Full videos of the Legal Forum have been uploaded onto the DoJ website (Gallery: video album) for public's viewing.

International Exchanges

(a) **Secondment to International Organisation**

25. The DoJ is committed to nurture legal talents through continuous training opportunities, including secondment arrangements

with international organisations. The latest developments of the various secondment programmes are set out in a separate discussion paper. Please refer to the panel paper entitled “Professional development for legal profession – international organisation secondment programmes” for details.

(b) International Youth Legal Exchange Conference 2021

26. The DoJ co-organised the “International Youth Legal Exchange Conference 2021” with the International Youth Legal Exchange Federation which was successfully held virtually on 11 September 2021. 11 delegations from different jurisdictions across the Asia-Pacific region participated in the conference, namely Cambodia, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Macau SAR, Mainland China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. Members of the adjudicating panel of the Conference includes Mr Justice Patrick Chan, non-permanent judge of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr CM Chan, head of the Centre for the Rule of Law of Hong Kong Policy Research Institute and president of the Law Society of Hong Kong, and Mrs Perenami Momodu, partner of ALEX and Regional Coordinating Committee Member of the International Chamber of Commerce Young Arbitrators Forum Africa Chapter. The Conference was opened by the Secretary for Justice, and Professor Zhang Yuejiao, member of the Task Force on Vision 2030 and Professor of Law of Tsinghua University delivered the closing remarks for the Conference.

27. The Conference provided a platform for exchange amongst youths with different culture and legal background. Papers submitted by the delegations and their presentations at the Conference provided in-depth analyses on the relationship between cultural, socio-economic factors and legal traditions and the development of the rule of law as well as the key role of these factors in the promotion of inclusive society and

sustainable development. Through the delegations' sharing of their views on the legal system and the access to justice mechanism of their respective jurisdictions, it is hoped that the Conference could strengthen youths' understanding of the rule of law and encourage young legal professionals to make contribution to maintain and enhance the rule of law in the region. The delegations awarded with the "Best Paper" and "Best Presentation" will be invited to participate the Rule of Law Signature Engagement Event during Hong Kong Legal Week 2021 to discuss topics relating to culture and rule of law with other distinguished legal experts and practitioners.

Conclusion

28. Apart from the above-mentioned youth exchanges and rule of law education projects, the DoJ has also actively taken forward other projects under the "Vision 2030" initiative, including the collation of objective data pertaining to the rule of law and the preparation of the Hong Kong Legal Week 2021 in November.

29. Rule of law is the core value of Hong Kong, as well as the cornerstone of Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. Quality rule of law education is also the key foundation to cultivating talents and building a society underpinned by the rule of law. The DoJ will continue to promote rule of law education projects and international exchanges, and will spare no effort in providing relevant support for rule of law education in schools to further enhance students' and youths' proper understanding and practice of the rule of law. We welcome views from Members on the activities mentioned above.

Department of Justice
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