

Speech by the Reviewing Officer at the Hong Kong Police College Passing Out Parade on 12 September 2015

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Commissioner Lo (Wai-chung), Director (Paul) Lau, Instructors, Graduates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honoured to join you here today to review the Passing Out Parade of the Hong Kong Police College. Firstly, let me extend my sincere congratulations to today's 247 graduates. As I take the salute at your Parade, I can see that every one of you is strong, confident, and fully demonstrating the fruitful results of your training in the past few months. I believe that all your Instructors and all the guests here are extremely proud of you. As a Hong Kong citizen, I am also very proud that Hong Kong has such a world class Police Force.

The Hong Kong Police Force has long been renowned as one of the world's most outstanding police forces. According to a report of the World Economic Forum, under the indicator of "Reliability of Police Services", Hong Kong was ranked within the top 10 in the past few years; and in an annual publication of the Legatum Institute, under the "Safety & Security" indicator, Hong Kong has been ranked number one in the world for the past two years. It is Hong Kong's pride to have such a world class Police Force. To achieve this, professional management and comprehensive training no doubt play a very important role. As the elite of the disciplinary forces, after your stringent and professional training at the Police College, your next step will be to officially carry out your duties and serve the community. This is where the real challenge lies.

Hong Kong is a densely populated society, where interactions between citizens and police

officers are frequent. In the past year since my appointment as the Chairman of the IPCC, I have had a lot of opportunities to interact with frontline police officers and to listen to what they experienced and how they felt while they were on duty. As the society evolves, citizens' expectations of police officers' work performance and conduct are continuously rising. This presents a huge challenge to the Police Force, and it more or less also puts pressure on the frontline officers. Nevertheless, the Force members whom I have had the pleasure to meet, whether they were experienced officers or enthusiastic new blood like you, all gave me the impression that they were professional and brilliant, with a vision and passion for their job.

Hong Kong is a very safe city, with one of the lowest crime rates in the world. This is not only a result of Hong Kong citizens' fine law-abiding culture, but also a result of the Police's dedication, professionalism, integrity and a strong sense of responsibility. Some of my expatriate friends who are now living in Hong Kong told me that not long after they moved here, they already very much admired Hong Kong people for having such a safe living environment where they could take a walk in the streets with their families after dinner without having to worry about their personal safety. On hearing this, I truly felt that we were very fortunate living in Hong Kong. We should value the longstanding peaceful, law-abiding and harmonious social atmosphere in our society.

In the future, when you are discharging your duties, you may encounter tough situations where citizens will, for various reasons, make harsh requests or even take their anger out on you. I have noticed that among the many values laid down by the Police Force, one of them is "Fairness, impartiality and compassion in all our dealings". I hope that as a member of a professional Police Force, if you do encounter such a situation, you will enforce the law, but at the same time, be patient, understanding and empathetic. I believe that this will help avoid unnecessary conflicts and make your work a lot smoother.

Apart from monitoring the handling and investigation of the police complaints, another function of the IPCC is to identify any deficiency in police practices and procedures that has led or might lead to police complaints and make recommendations in respect of such practices and procedures. This is very much in line with the Force's value of "Dedication to quality service and continuous improvement".

I believe that a professional and high quality Police Force naturally deserves citizens' great expectations and increasing demands. The Police Force shoulders the duty to uphold the law, maintain order and to protect lives and properties. When you take up your duty in the future, even when faced with pressure and challenges, you must not back down. As long as you are discharging your duty and serving the community with fairness, impartiality and legality, your efforts will be recognised.

To all the graduates, today's Passing Out Parade symbolises a new stage in your life, and I express my best wishes to you. I wish all of you a fruitful career in the years ahead and that you will all contribute to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Thank you all.