

Transcript of remarks by SCMA at media session on District Council Ordinary Election

Following are the opening remarks made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, at a media session today (November 18) at the Legislative Council Complex on District Council Ordinary Election:

The 2019 District Council Ordinary Election is just a week away. The Government's position is very clear. We will try our very best to enable that the election will be held smoothly according to schedule on November 24 so that all the 4.13 million registered electors can exercise their right to vote and choose their district representatives.

However, the situation in the past weekend has obviously reduced the chance of holding the election as scheduled. And I am very anxious about this. I must say that postponing the election is a difficult decision to make. We will not take this step unless absolutely necessary.

For the election to be held safely and orderly, there are three things that must be done. First is to stop violence and all kinds of duress immediately. Second, tunnels, highways and roads should cease to be blocked. Third, destruction to transport facilities should halt altogether to prevent paralysing the traffic.

The Government is now working in full steam in preparing for the election but the urgent task is to stop violence. Thus, I appeal to every member of the community to disassociate themselves with violence. I also call on people with different backgrounds and political views, including political parties, professionals and commentators to say "no" to violence clear and loud. The voting right of some four million people is at stake. Please treasure it and strive to create a safe and fair environment for the election to take place on November 24.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)