

# **Press Reference Material on Ms. Lee Ching-yu's Planned Visit to Mainland China to Seek the Release of Mr. Lee Ming-che**

**Date: March 31, 2017**

Ms. Lee Ching-yu hopes to go to Beijing to visit her husband Mr. Lee Ming-che in concern for Mr. Lee's personal safety. The government empathizes with the family's anxiousness and is deeply concerned over Mr. Lee's current safety and whether his due rights are protected. The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) will provide the necessary assistance for Ms. Lee to visit the Mainland. It also called on the Mainland to provide conveniences for Ms. Lee during her visit to the Mainland and to ensure her personal safety.

When the Mainland restricts the personal safety of Taiwan nationals for violation of related laws, it is required by provisions in Article 12 of the Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-Fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance to promptly notify the Taiwan side. Upon receiving such notification, the related government agencies in Taiwan will immediately propose negotiations with the relevant departments in the Mainland through channels under the agreement. However, as of March 31, the Taiwan side had not yet received notification from the Mainland on Mr. Lee's case.

The government reiterated that this case has attracted a high level of attention in Taiwan. Mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office recently informed that Mr. Lee was involved in activities endangering national security but did not further explain other details. This has raised deep concerns among the people of Taiwan towards the Mainland. The Mainland should promptly give a public explanation regarding Mr. Lee's place of detention, the applicable laws, and time of restriction of his personal freedom. It should also notify Taiwan through mechanisms under the cross-Strait agreement and promptly arrange family visits to protect Mr. Lee's due rights and interests. The Taiwan side again urged the two sides to promptly communicate on and properly handle this case to facilitate a timely and satisfactory resolution and avoid affecting cross-Strait relations at a complex and sensitive time.