

Twenty-one immigration offenders arrested

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a territory-wide anti-illegal worker operation codenamed "Twilight" from August 26 to 29. A total of 15 illegal workers and six suspected employers were arrested.

During the operation, ImmD Task Force officers raided 60 target locations including a car park, commercial buildings, a factory, a garbage collection depot, premises under renovation, a recycling site, restaurants, a studio and a wet market. The illegal workers comprised 12 men and three women, aged 24 to 63. Among them, one man and one woman were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. Meanwhile, two men and four women, aged 33 to 73, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are

trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of the exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Lifesaving services suspended at Golden Beach and Cafeteria New Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 30) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, the lifesaving services at Golden Beach and Café Cafeteria New Beach in Tuen Mun District have been suspended until further notice.

First aid services will be maintained at these beaches.

Appointments to Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee announced

The Government announced today (August 30) the appointment of five new members and the re-appointment of seven incumbent members to the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee for a term of two years with effect from September 1, 2019.

The five new members are Dr Amy Chow Yin-man, Mr Tang Wing-chun, Dr Century Tsang Hin-kei, Ms Gigi Tung Oi-lai and Ms Diana Wong.

Dr Amy Chow Yin-man is the Associate Professor of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, the Honorary Associate Professor of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and the Associate Director of the Sau Po

Centre on Ageing of the University of Hong Kong.

Mr Tang Wing-chun is a member of the Kwun Tong District Council.

Dr Century Tsang Hin-kei is a dentist. He is also the Vice-President of the Hong Kong Dental Association.

Ms Gigi Tung Oi-lai is the Founder of Food Angel by Bo Charity Foundation.

Ms Diana Wong is the Chief Executive Officer of Venchi HK Limited. She is also a member of the Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders, the Advisory Committee on Enhancing Self-Reliance through District Partnership Programme and the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee.

Seven incumbent members, namely Mr Kenneth Kwan Kin, Miss Peggy Lee Pik-yee, Ms Josephine Lee Yuk-chi, Mr Gordon Lo Siu-chung, Mr Luk King-kwong, Ms Luk Yim-ling and Mr Webster Ng Kam-wah, have been re-appointed.

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, said that the appointed and re-appointed members came from a wide spectrum of professions and he looked forward to their valuable advice on the work of the Committee. He also thanked the five outgoing members, Professor Lam Ching-man, Dr Sigmund Leung Sai-man, Mr Timothy Ma Kam-wah, Ms Michelle Tang Ming-sum and Mr Stanley Yeung Chee-tat, for their support and contribution to the Committee during their tenure.

The Committee, chaired by the Director of Social Welfare, advises on applications from welfare organisations for allocations from the Lotteries Fund and on charitable fund-raising issues including the allocation of flag days.

The membership list of non-official members of the Committee with effect from September 1, 2019, is as follows:

Dr Amy Chow Yin-man
Mr Kenneth Kwan Kin
Miss Peggy Lee Pik-yee
Ms Josephine Lee Yuk-chi
Mr Gordon Lo Siu-chung
Mr Luk King-kwong
Ms Luk Yim-ling
Mr Webster Ng Kam-wah
Mr Tang Wing-chun
Dr Century Tsang Hin-kei
Ms Gigi Tung Oi-lai
Ms Diana Wong

Appointments to Curriculum Development Council

The Government today (August 30) announced the chairmanship and membership of the new-term Curriculum Development Council (CDC). Professor Tam Kar-yan is re-appointed as Chairperson of the CDC for a term of two years from September 1.

Also appointed to the CDC are six new members. They are Professor Ching Wai-ki, Ms Hui Ha-mei, Dr Jacob Hui Shing-yan, Mr Raymond Kwok Chin-kon, Mr Shek Wai-keung and Professor Cindy Sit Hui-ping.

In addition, 12 serving members, namely Ms Chan On-yan, Mr Eric Chan Sze-yuen, Professor May Cheng May-hung, Ms Chung Po-loi, Reverend Canon Peter Douglas Koon Ho-ming, Mr David Leung Yiu-fai, Professor Joshua Mok Ka-ho, Dr Poon Po-chiu, Mr Joseph Tsang Chi-to, Ms Wat Ka-man, Ms Ayse Wong Oi-sze and Mr Wong Yu-leung, have been re-appointed.

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, said, "Professor Tam is currently the Dean of the School of Business and Management of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology with profound experience in teaching, research and administration. Under his remarkable leadership in the past term, much progress has been made in the ongoing renewal of the school curriculum. In particular, Computational Thinking – Coding Education has been implemented in primary schools since 2017, and the curricula of Chinese History and History at the junior secondary level have been revised."

He added, "The CDC is responsible for giving advice to the Government on matters relating to curriculum development from the kindergarten to senior secondary levels. Its membership comprises front-line educators and academics or administrators from tertiary institutions with profound professional knowledge in education, as well as professionals in the business and technology fields. Their active participation is conducive to providing professional advice on how to equip students to cope with local and global development needs for the future. The Education Bureau (EDB) will continue to give full support to the CDC in this regard."

Mr Yeung expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing members for their invaluable contributions to the CDC. They are Ms Kam Yin-ping, Mr Gyver Lau Kwok-leung, Mr Leung Yam-shing, Professor Ricardo Mak King-sang and Dr Pang Ming-fai. Mr Yeung also extended his deep condolences to the family of Ms Lam Tsz-ki, who passed away earlier this year.

The full list of membership of the CDC with effect from September 1, 2019, is as follows:

Chairperson

Professor Tam Kar-yan	Dean of the School of Business and Management and Chair Professor of Information Systems, Business Statistics and Operations Management of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
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Appointed members

Ms Chan On-yan	Principal of the Church of Christ in China Tuen Mun Church Kindergarten
Mr Eric Chan Sze-yuen	Chief Public Mission Officer of Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited
Professor May Cheng May-hung	Associate Vice President (Academic Affairs) cum Registrar and Chair Professor of Teacher Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Education University of Hong Kong
Professor Ching Wai-ki	Professor of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, the University of Hong Kong
Ms Chung Po-loi	Principal of Po On Commercial Association Wan Ho Kan Primary School
Ms Hui Ha-mei	Senior Teacher of Yan Oi Tong Pang Hung Cheung Kindergarten
Dr Jacob Hui Shing-yan	Vice Principal of Christian and Missionary Alliance Sun Kei Secondary School
Reverend Canon Peter Douglas Koon Ho-ming	Provincial Secretary General of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
Mr Raymond Kwok Chin-kon	Senior Assistant Executive Director (Academic Development & Enterprise)-designate of the Vocational Training Council
Mr David Leung Yiu-fai	Head of Operations Training of MTR Corporation Limited and Dean of the MTR Academy
Professor Joshua Mok Ka-ho	Vice-President and Lam Man Tsan Chair Professor of Comparative Policy of Lingnan University
Dr Poon Po-chiu	Principal of Ju Ching Chu Secondary School (Yuen Long)
Mr Shek Wai-keung	Principal of Hong Chi Morninghill School, Tuen Mun
Professor Cindy Sit Hui-ping	Associate Professor of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education and Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies) of the Faculty of Education, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr Joseph Tsang Chi-to	Vice Principal of Ying Wa College
Ms Wat Ka-man	Vice Principal of King's College Old Boys' Association Primary School
Ms Ayse Wong Oi-sze	Vice President – Human Resources of Regal Hotels International Limited
Mr Wong Yu-leung	Chairman of the Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations Sham Shui Po District Limited

Ex officio members

Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Development) of the EDB, also the Vice-chairperson of the CDC

Chairperson of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Council or his/her representative

Representative from other divisions of the EDB

Schedule for issuing press releases on statistical data

Following is a reminder of the press releases on statistical data to be issued between September and December 2019. The schedule for issuing press releases on statistical data in 2019 was provided to the media in September 2018. No change has been made to the original schedule.

September 2019

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Date

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Press Release

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Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for second quarter 2019

9

Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries for second quarter 2019

10

Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China for second quarter 2019

11

Construction output statistics for second quarter 2019

12

Index of industrial production and producer price index for the industrial sector for second quarter 2019

16

Gross National Income and external primary income flows for second quarter 2019

17

Unemployment and underemployment statistics for June – August 2019

17

Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for July 2019

19

Employment and vacancies statistics for June 2019

19

Chain volume measures of Gross Domestic Product by economic activity for second quarter 2019

20

Consumer Price Index for August 2019

23

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for second quarter 2019

26

External merchandise trade statistics for August 2019

26

Wage and payroll statistics for June 2019

October 2019

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Date

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Press Release

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2	Retail sales statistics for August 2019
15	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for August 2019
18	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for July – September 2019
18	Business expectations for fourth quarter 2019
22	Consumer Price Index for September 2019
24	External merchandise trade statistics for September 2019
25	Salary indices for managerial and professional employees for June 2019
31	Advance estimates on Gross Domestic Product for third quarter 2019 (Note)
November 2019	
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Date	Press Release
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1	Retail sales statistics for September 2019
5	Restaurant receipts and purchases statistics for third quarter 2019
14	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for September 2019
15	Revised figures on Gross Domestic Product for third quarter 2019 (Note)
18	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for August – October 2019
21	Consumer Price Index for October 2019
26	External merchandise trade statistics for October 2019
December 2019	
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Date	Press Release
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2	Retail sales statistics for October 2019
5	Statistics on vessels, port cargo and containers for third quarter 2019
9	Quarterly business receipts indices for service industries for third quarter 2019
10	Statistics on trade involving outward processing in the mainland of China for third quarter 2019
12	Construction output statistics for third quarter 2019
13	Index of industrial production and producer price index for the industrial sector for third quarter 2019
13	Gross National Income and external primary income flows for third quarter 2019
17	Unemployment and underemployment statistics for September – November 2019
17	Volume and price statistics of external merchandise trade for October 2019
19	Employment and vacancies statistics for September 2019
20	Consumer Price Index for November 2019
20	Chain volume measures of Gross Domestic Product by economic activity for third quarter 2019
20	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for third quarter 2019

27 Wage and payroll statistics for September 2019

30 External merchandise trade statistics for November 2019

Note:

Starting from the reference period of the first quarter of 2019, C&SD will issue press releases on advance estimates on quarterly GDP. C&SD will compile and release revised figures on GDP in the "Gross Domestic Product (Quarterly) Report" when more data become available. The revised figures on GDP for the third quarter of 2019 will also be included in the "Third Quarter Economic Report 2019" and the press release to be issued by the Office of the Government Economist under the Financial Secretary's Office on the economic situation in the third quarter of 2019 and final update of GDP and price forecasts for 2019 as a whole. No separate press release on the revised figures on GDP will be issued by C&SD.

The schedule for regular press releases in the other months of 2019 can be downloaded at the website of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/press_release/index.jsp).