

Ballots drawn for Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2019 and White Form Secondary Market Scheme 2019 (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

Ballots were drawn openly today (August 15) for the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s Sale of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Flats 2019 (HOS 2019) and White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM) 2019 (WSM 2019). The Chairman of the HA Subsidised Housing Committee, Mr Stanley Wong, officiated at the ballot drawings.

“During the application period, the HA received a total of around 310 000 applications for HOS 2019 (comprising around 260 000 White Forms and around 50 000 Green Forms) and around 130 000 applications for WSM 2019, out of which around 200 000 for HOS 2019 and around 100 000 for WSM 2019 were received through on-line e-submission,” a spokesman for the HA said.

The open ballots conducted today will determine the applicants' priority sequence for HOS 2019 and WSM 2019 based on the last two digits of their application numbers. The order of priority of the applications within individual application categories, for those who hold the same drawn digits from the ballots, will be randomly generated by computer. The HA will invite White Form applicants and Green Form applicants holding valid Green Form Certificate to submit the income and asset declaration form and supporting documents within a specified period for detailed vetting according to this randomly generated order to ascertain whether individual applicants meet the eligibility criteria for HOS 2019 and/or WSM 2019 and the final priority for flat selection of eligible HOS applicants.

A total of 4 871 flats in six new HOS developments, namely Kwun Tak Court in Ho Man Tin, Hoi Tak Court in Cheung Sha Wan, Sheung Man Court in Kwai Chung, Yung Ming Court in Tseung Kwan O, Kam Fai Court in Ma On Shan and Yuk Wo Court in Sha Tin, have been put up for sale under HOS 2019. The saleable areas of the flats range from 25.6 square metres to 52.8 square metres. By applying a discount of 41 per cent to the assessed market values, the selling prices (59 per cent of assessed market value) of the flats range from around \$1.56 million to \$5.29 million. In addition, a total of 33 rescinded flats arising from cancellation of the Agreements for Sale and Purchase from five HOS developments, namely Ka Shun Court in Sha Tin, Ping Yan Court in Yuen Long, Ngan Wai Court and Ngan Ho Court in Mui Wo and Choi Hing Court in Kwun Tong, will also be put up for resale under HOS 2019. The saleable areas of these flats range from 34.4 square metres to 53.0 square metres. By applying a discount of 41 per cent to the assessed market values, the selling prices (59 per cent of assessed market value) of these rescinded

flats range from around \$1.60 million to \$3.58 million.

"The HA expects that eligible applicants of HOS 2019 will be invited in batches to select HOS flats at the office of the HOS Sales Unit in Lok Fu starting from November this year," the spokesman said.

Sales brochures covering full details of the HOS developments and price lists will be made available for collection by the public and prospective purchasers at the HA Customer Service Centre (HACSC) in Lok Fu seven days before commencement of HOS flat selection. In addition, electronic copies of these documents will be uploaded to the designated websites for the HOS developments at the same time.

Building models and doll houses of the six new HOS developments will be displayed and panels/associated documents/drawings of the six new HOS developments and the five HOS developments with rescinded flats will be exhibited at the HACSC for viewing by the public seven days before commencement up to the end of the flat selection.

The WSM 2019 provides a quota of 3 000 for applicants to purchase subsidised sale flats with premium not yet paid in the HA's HOS Secondary Market or in the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS)'s Flat-for-Sale-Scheme Secondary Market.

"The HA expects that WSM 2019 approval letters will be sent to successful applicants in December 2019 for them to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Purchase (CEP) within four weeks from the issue date of the approval letters. The CEP is valid for 12 months from the issue date and the holder is entitled to purchase a subsidised sale flat with premium not yet paid within the validity period," the spokesman said.

The ballot results for the HOS 2019 and WSM 2019 have been uploaded to the dedicated webpages on the HA/Housing Department website (hos.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/hos2019/en/ballot-results.html and www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/wsm2019/en/ballot-results.html) respectively. The randomly generated order of all applications will be uploaded to the webpages tomorrow (August 16). It will also be displayed at the HACSC in Lok Fu, the estate offices and District Tenancy Management Offices of the HA, the estate offices of the HS, the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department and the Sham Shui Po Housing Information Centre from tomorrow. Applicants may also call the HA Sales and WSM hotline 2712 8000 for enquiries.



Senior appointments (with photos)

The Government announced today (August 15) the following senior appointments:

- (a) Ms Michelle Li Mei-sheung, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, will take up the post of Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services) on September 10, 2019. She will succeed Mr Andrew Wong Ho-yuen, who will commence his pre-retirement leave;
- (b) Miss Cathy Chu Man-ling, Director of Information Services, will take up the post of Postmaster General on September 9, 2019;
- (c) Mr Vincent Liu Ming-kwong, Government Property Administrator, will take up the post of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services on October 4, 2019;
- (d) Mr Rex Chang Wai-yuen, Deputy Secretary for Education, will take up the post of Director of Information Services on August 29, 2019; and
- (e) Ms Shirley Lam Shuet-lai, Special Representative for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs to the European Union, will take up the post of Permanent Secretary, Chief Executive's Office on September 2, 2019.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, said, "The five appointees are seasoned Administrative Officers with proven leadership and management skills. I have every confidence that they will serve the community with professionalism in their new capacities."

On the retirement of Mr Wong, Mr Law said, "Mr Wong has rendered 37 years of loyal and dedicated service to the community of Hong Kong. During his tenure as Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services), Mr Wong sought to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, premier asset and wealth management centre and offshore RMB centre. He also led the Financial Services Branch to drive, facilitate and co-ordinate initiatives to ensure financial stability, promote market development and enhance protection for investors in the face of global needs and local circumstances. I wish him a fulfilling and

happy retirement."

Brief biographical notes of the six officers are set out below:

Mr Andrew Wong Ho-yuen

Mr Wong joined the Administrative Service in August 1982 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 in September 2006. He has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Office of Unofficial Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the former Education and Manpower Branch, the former Trade Department, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva, the former Chief Secretary's Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels, the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office and the Chief Executive's Office. He served as Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service from February 2006 to December 2010, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) from January 2011 to December 2014 and has been serving as Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services) since December 2014.

Ms Michelle Li Mei-sheung

Miss Li joined the Administrative Service in September 1988 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in April 2016. She has served in various bureaux and departments, including the Transport Department, the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Finance Branch, the former Central Policy Unit, the former Education and Manpower Branch, the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, the Home Affairs Department and the Home Affairs Bureau. She served as Secretary General of the Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service from February 2005 to September 2009, Deputy Secretary for Education from September 2009 to July 2014 and has been serving as Director of Leisure and Cultural Services since July 2014.

Miss Cathy Chu Man-ling

Miss Chu joined the Administrative Service in June 1988 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in April 2017. She has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former Education and Manpower Branch, the former Health and Welfare Branch, the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Trade Department, the former Security Branch, the Information Services Department, the former Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau. She served as Director, Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing from July 2012 to November 2014, Commissioner for Tourism from December 2014 to February 2018 and has been serving as Director of Information Services since February 2018.

Mr Vincent Liu Ming-kwong

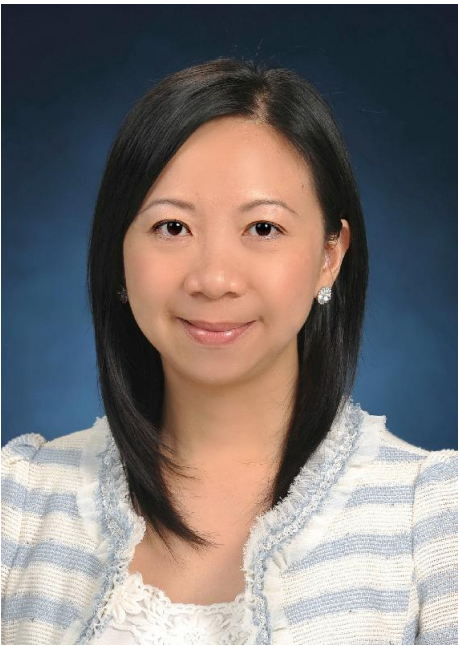
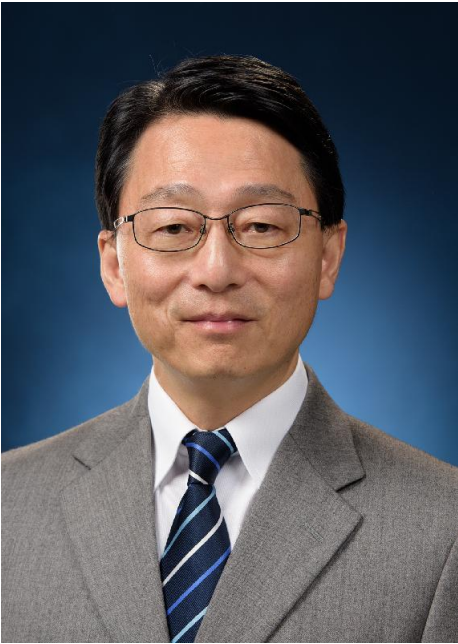
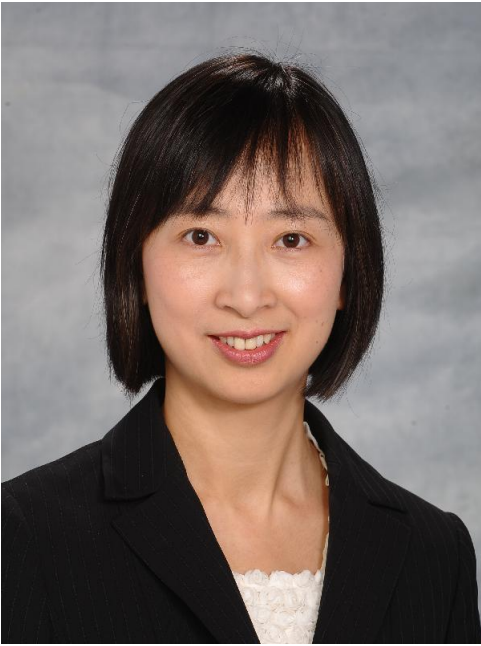
Mr Liu joined the Administrative Service in July 1987 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 in April 2015. He has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former Municipal Services Branch, the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Education and Manpower Branch, the former Chief Secretary's Office, the Civil Service Bureau, the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Home Affairs Bureau and the former Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority. He served as Deputy Director-General of Communications (Broadcasting) from April 2012 to March 2014, Deputy Secretary for the Environment from March 2014 to January 2019 and has been serving as Government Property Administrator since January 2019.

Mr Rex Chang Wai-yuen

Mr Chang joined the Administrative Service in July 1989 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 in April 2017. He has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Security Branch, the former Finance Branch, the former Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore, the Trade and Industry Department and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong. He served as Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) from August 2011 to July 2015, Director, Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) from August 2015 to July 2018 and has been serving as Deputy Secretary for Education since July 2018.

Ms Shirley Lam Shuet-lai

Ms Lam joined the Administrative Service in August 1990 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 in April 2017. She has served in various bureaux and departments, including the former Transport Branch, the former City and New Territories Administration, the former Regional Services Department, the former Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, the former Transport Bureau, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels and the Food and Health Bureau. She served as Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service from October 2010 to May 2013, Deputy Director of Marine from May 2013 to September 2015 and has been serving as Special Representative for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs to the European Union since October 2015.



Three illegal workers jailed

Three illegal workers comprising a Nigerian and two Vietnamese were jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts on August 14.

During operation "Twilight" on August 12, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided three restaurants in Chai Wan and Causeway Bay. A female Vietnamese, a male Vietnamese and a male Nigerian, aged 34 to 46, were arrested. When intercepted they were working as a waitress, a cleaning worker and a dish-washing worker respectively. Upon identity checking, the male Nigerian produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that he was a non-refoulement claimant. Four employers suspected of employing the illegal workers were also arrested and investigation is ongoing.

The three illegal workers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. They pleaded guilty to the charge and were sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Meanwhile, one of them was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card. He was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. Under the prevailing laws, 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 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.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, August 15, 2019 is 106.4 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Drop recorded in July's monthly ovitrap index for Aedes albopictus

â€‹The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) today (August 15) announced that the monthly ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* for July dropped to 10.2 per cent from 16 per cent in June. Although the index has declined and is lower than that for the same period last year, members of the public should continue to take effective prevention and control measures against mosquitoes to reduce the risk of the spread of mosquito-borne diseases in the territory.

A spokesman for the FEHD said, "*Aedes albopictus* is a kind of mosquito that can transmit dengue fever (DF) as well as the Zika virus infection. In view of the 29 local DF cases recorded last year and the warning from the World Health Organization that the number of DF cases recorded in Asian

countries this year was exceptionally high when compared with last year, and that Hong Kong recorded a local case of Japanese encephalitis in June and the hot and rainy weather of summer is favourable for massive mosquito breeding, the community must work with the Government to continue to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures. When travelling overseas, particularly to dengue endemic areas, measures should be taken to prevent mosquito bites."

The spokesman said, "The FEHD and relevant government departments are very concerned about mosquito infestation and they launched the All-out Anti-mosquito Operations throughout the territory in April. The major measures include carrying out fogging in scrubby areas within a 100-metre radius around residences weekly to kill adult mosquitoes; carrying out inspections, removing stagnant water, applying larvicide and disposing of abandoned water containers weekly to prevent mosquito breeding; and trimming of grass to discourage resting of adult mosquitoes.

"The relevant government departments have continued the above mosquito prevention and control work in areas under their purview, particularly in the areas with the Area Ovitrap Index (AOI) reaching alert levels. Among the 57 areas surveyed, the number of areas with the AOI exceeding the alert level of 20 per cent has decreased from 17 in June to two in July, i.e. Sheung Shui (24.6 per cent) and Ma On Shan (23.4 per cent). As for the port areas, the monthly ovitrap index for *Aedes albopictus* for July also dropped to 2.2 per cent from 2.6 per cent in June."

An inter-departmental anti-mosquito response mechanism has also been activated in the above-mentioned areas for co-ordinating relevant departments and stakeholders to carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures. Relevant departments have also individually notified the groups that had voluntarily subscribed to the ovitrap rapid alert system when the AOI reached the alert level of 20 per cent. Subscribers have been invited to post specially designed alert notices in the common parts of their premises to remind occupants and staff to carry out anti-mosquito measures promptly."

In addition, the FEHD will launch the third phase of the territory-wide Anti-mosquito Campaign on August 19, which will last for 12 weeks. During the period, the district offices of the FEHD will target areas that have drawn particular concerns, such as public markets, cooked food centres and hawker bazaars, single-block buildings, streets and back lanes, common parts of buildings, village houses, construction sites, vacant sites and road works sites, and step up publicity at those places as well as mosquito prevention and control work at relevant public places.

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The FEHD has also handled mosquito complaints promptly and taken out prosecutions under the relevant ordinance against mosquito breeding. Pest Control Inspection Teams have stepped up inspections and enforcement actions at construction sites against mosquito breeding. This year (as at August 11), the FEHD instituted 116 prosecutions for mosquito breeding found in relevant premises under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132),

comprising 107 cases involving construction sites and nine cases involving other premises.

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In order to keep the public abreast of the latest situation of mosquito infestation and assist them to take timely mosquito prevention and control measures, the FEHD is releasing two additional phased AOIs for *Aedes albopictus* before the announcement of the monthly AOI and the Monthly Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus*. The FEHD will follow the established practice of notifying relevant government departments of the aforementioned indices so that they can carry out targeted mosquito prevention and control work promptly.

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The spokesman added that as *Aedes albopictus* breeds in small water bodies, members of the public should carry out effective mosquito prevention and control measures, including inspecting their homes and surroundings to remove potential breeding grounds, changing the water in vases and scrubbing the inner surface as well as removing the water in saucers under potted plants at least once a week, properly disposing of containers such as soft drink cans and lunch boxes, and drilling large holes in unused tyres. He also advised public and estate management bodies to keep drains free of blockage and level all defective ground surfaces to prevent accumulation of water. They should also scrub all drains and surface sewers with an alkaline detergent at least once a week to remove any mosquito eggs.

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In addition, rural areas and the vicinity of shrubby areas are the natural habitats for mosquitoes, other insects and animals. Members of the public living in rural areas may install mosquito screens on windows and doors if necessary. Those staying in the natural environment should take appropriate personal protective measures against mosquitoes, such as avoiding staying in the vicinity of shrubby areas for a long time, wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers, and applying DEET-containing insect repellent. Members of the public are reminded to make reports to relevant government departments via 1823 if mosquito problems are detected.

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The spokesman reiterated that effective mosquito prevention and control requires the sustained effort of all parties concerned. The community must work together with the Government to carry out effective anti-mosquito measures.

He also reminded travellers to take the following precautionary measures when visiting areas where mosquito-borne diseases are prevalent during the summer holidays:

- * Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothes and trousers;
- * Use insect repellent over exposed parts of the body when outdoors; and
- * Use mosquito screens or nets when a room is not air-conditioned.

Travellers returning from areas where mosquito-borne diseases are prevalent should seek medical advice if they have symptoms such as fever, a severe headache or muscle and joint pain. They should also inform their doctor of their travel history.

The ovitrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* in different areas and information on mosquito prevention and control measures are available on the department website at www.fehd.gov.hk.