

Government response to public procession in Sheung Shui

In response to the public procession in Sheung Shui today (July 13), a Government spokesperson said that the majority of the protesters behaved in a peaceful and orderly manner, but regrettably some protesters deliberately blocked the roads after the procession, hurled iron poles, scattered an unknown powder, charged police cordon lines and assaulted police officers. The Government strongly condemns the violent acts committed.

The spokesperson said the Government always respects the public's right to express their views and demands in a peaceful, rational and orderly manner, and that this reflects the precious freedom of expression in Hong Kong and lawful quality of the Hong Kong people. But a minority of protesters used violence to charge and cause damage. It is believed the majority of Hong Kong people would also disapprove such unlawful acts.

The Government has also been concerned about the nuisance caused by parallel trading activities to the daily lives of local residents. The relevant law enforcement agencies and organisations have implemented a series of measures to improve the orderly operation at railway stations and boundary control points, as well as to mitigate the nuisance caused to the daily lives of local residents and any impact on environmental hygiene. The Government has also adjusted enforcement strategies in response to the mode of operation of parallel traders.

The Immigration Department (ImmD) established a "watch list of suspected parallel traders" in September 2012 to assist frontline officers in identifying suspected parallel traders for examination among the large number of passengers. If the purpose of visiting Hong Kong is in doubt, the ImmD will refuse the entry of such visitors and repatriate them immediately. As at the end of June 2019, the ImmD has placed information regarding over 25 300 persons who were suspected to be carrying out parallel trading activities on the watch list. In the past 18 months, the ImmD has refused entry to about 5 000 Mainland visitors due to suspected involvement in parallel trading activities.

The ImmD and the Police also conduct joint law enforcement operations from time to time, and arrest any visitors suspected of contravening conditions of stay by being involved in parallel trading activities. In the past 18 months, the ImmD and the Police have conducted about 140 joint operations against visitors contravening conditions of stay by being involved in parallel trading activities. During those operations, a total of 126 Mainland visitors were arrested for suspected contravention of their conditions of stay by being involved in parallel trading activities, and one local employer was arrested for suspected employment of illegal workers.

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and Shenzhen authorities have

always maintained close contacts. In addition to conducting regular joint operations, the C&ED and Shenzhen Customs also mount dedicated operations to combat parallel trading activities as necessary, with a view to stepping up efforts in enforcement against parallel trading activities. Between January 2018 and May 2019, Shenzhen Customs reported that they had detected a total of about 9 000 smuggling cases by parallel traders at the boundary control points, involving about 9 000 parallel traders and goods with a total value of over \$75 million. During the same period, the C&ED detected a total of about 5 500 cases of illegal export of powdered formula, involving the arrest of about 5 500 persons and the seizure of over 26 000 kilograms of powdered formula.

In addition to enhancing immigration control and co-operation in law enforcement between the customs authorities of both sides, the Government has also been committed to co-ordinating various law enforcement agencies in implementing a series of measures on environmental hygiene, tidiness and street management to improve the situation. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has stepped up street cleaning services and enforcement actions at parallel trading black spots in North District and Yuen Long District. From January 2018 to May 2019, the FEHD conducted about 400 raids targeting parallel trading black spots in North District and issued about 8 100 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance to offenders. As for Yuen Long District, the FEHD conducted about 170 raids targeting parallel trading black spots in the district and issued about 660 FPNs under the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction) Ordinance to offenders during the same period.

The Police have also from time to time patrolled parallel trading black spots and enhanced law enforcement against obstruction caused by parallel traders placing goods in public places and road obstruction caused by illegal parking and loading or unloading of goods relating to parallel trading activities. Between January 2018 and May 2019, the Police issued 18 summonses for obstruction caused by parallel traders placing goods in public places under the Summary Offences Ordinance and about 18 500 FPNs for road obstruction caused by illegal parking and loading or unloading of goods related to parallel trading activities under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance and the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance in New Territories North Region, including such districts as Sheung Shui, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Lok Ma Chau.

The relevant Government departments will continue to proactively implement appropriate measures to mitigate the impact on the community brought by parallel trading activities.

Police to conduct dispersal action

Police found that a large number of protestors assembled near MTR Sheung Shui Station, particularly along San Wan Road. The scene became very chaotic and dangerous at the moment.

Police observed that the actions of protestors were highly organised and a large amount of equipment was distributed. Some protestors collected a lot of iron poles and other offensive weapons, demolished the railings nearby, and blocked the roads using water barriers and some miscellaneous objects.

Police severely condemn the protestors who actively charged police officers. Some protestors assaulted the police officers with iron poles and scattered unknown powder at them. During which, some officers and reporters at scene were injured.

The scene became highly chaotic and dangerous at the moment. Police appeal to other members of the public to leave the scene as soon as possible and stay safe. Police will soon conduct dispersal action. All the protestors at scene should leave immediately and stop any violent and illegal actions.

Police urge protestors to stop using violence and leave immediately

A public procession was held in the afternoon today (July 13) near Shek Wu Hui in Sheung Shui and ended at about 5pm as announced by the organiser. Some protestors argued with other people at scene and attempted to charge police officers when the officers intervened.

Police also found that a large number of equipment like helmets and goggles were distributed premeditatedly near MTR Sheung Shui Station along Lung Sum Avenue, Lung Wan Street and San Wan Road. Some protestors demolished the railings and blocked the roads using water barriers and miscellaneous objects.

Police urge the protestors to stop using violence and leave as soon as possible. Police also appeal to other members of the public to leave the scene as soon as possible and do not engage in any illegal acts.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (July 13) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate

Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –

Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –

Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Winning entries of contests to promote “Healthy Information, Healthy Mind” announced

The Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) today (July 13) announced the results of the winning entries in four contests which aimed to promote the message of "Healthy Information, Healthy Mind" and enhance public understanding of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO).

The first two contests, namely the 2018 Healthy Mobile Phone/Tablet Apps Contest and the 2018 Meritorious Websites Contest, are OFNAA's annual educational programmes for promoting public awareness of apps and websites with healthy, practical and educational content, while also giving recognition to the contributions made by the producers of those apps and websites. The two contests received 257 app and 199 website nominations respectively and each attracted more than 16 000 participants to cast their votes this year. The winning entries were selected after taking into account the results of public voting and the assessment of a judging panel based on the content and design of the apps and websites.

The other two contests, namely the Healthy Comic Strip Contest 2019 and the COIAO Slogan and Colouring Competition, are organised regularly to enhance public understanding of the COIAO through creative activities as well as to alert youngsters to the adverse impacts of objectionable information. Over 1 800 and 8 000 entries were received respectively for the two contests this year.

Details of the winning entries are available at www.ofnaa.gov.hk/document/eng/press/press_release_contests_results_eng_appendix.pdf.