

## **East Wing Forecourt temporarily closed**

In view of the security assessment of the Central Government Offices (CGO) and the area in the vicinity, and the measures taken by the Police for public order, the East Wing Forecourt of the CGO is temporarily closed from 6pm today (June 11) until further notice.

During the temporary closure of the East Wing Forecourt, pedestrian access through the East Wing Forecourt to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Complex will be suspended. The public may use alternative routes to the LegCo Complex, via Tamar Park or the escalators or elevators connecting the elevated walkway to Harcourt Road and Tim Mei Avenue. The Public Entrance and the Press Entrance on the ground floor of the East Wing of the CGO will also be temporarily closed. Members of the public and reporters holding CGO press cards are advised to make use of the 2/F Entrance of the East Wing of the CGO during the period.

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## **The Chief Executive's Question Time and Council meeting**

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Chief Executive's Question Time originally scheduled for tomorrow (June 12) at 11am has been rescheduled to a later date. Accordingly, the start time of the regular Council meeting tomorrow will be advanced from 11.30am to 11am.

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## **Public consultation on District Council Election proposed guidelines commences (with photo/video)**

The following is issued on behalf of the Electoral Affairs Commission:

The Electoral Affairs Commission today (June 11) released the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the District Council Election for public consultation. The consultation will last for 30 days

until July 10.

"The 2019 District Council Ordinary Election will be held on November 24. Before each District Council ordinary election, the Commission will revise and update the guidelines for use at the coming ordinary election and the subsequent by-elections," the Commission Chairman, Mr Justice Barnabas Fung Wah, said at a press conference.

"The proposed guidelines have two aspects, namely, to explain in simple language the relevant legislative provisions and to promulgate a code of conduct in election-related activities based on the principle of fairness and equality, to ensure that the elections are conducted in an honest and fair manner," Mr Justice Fung said.

"The proposed guidelines are prepared on the basis of the existing guidelines for the District Council Election, with revisions to reflect the relevant legislative amendments and suitable updates in the light of experience in past elections. Certain parts of the guidelines are also further elaborated for better understanding of the principles."

The proposed guidelines set out the legal requirement for a registered elector to submit address proof upon an application for change of residential address and that the statutory deadline for electors to submit change of address has been advanced by one month, and stress that it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly give false or misleading information for voter registration.

The proposed guidelines update the reminders on issuing election advertisements, which include reminding persons or organisations publishing materials appealing to electors to vote for anyone capable of being reasonably understood by an elector as referring to a certain identified candidate or candidates to observe the legislative provisions relating to incurring election expenses on behalf of the candidates.

The proposed guidelines also reflect the legislative amendment that a person, other than a candidate and an authorised election expense agent, who publishes a message on the Internet capable of being an election advertisement will be exempted from the relevant criminal liability for incurring election expenses not in the capacity of a candidate or an election expense agent if the expenses incurred are only electricity and/or Internet access charges.

"Media organisations should treat all candidates in accordance with the principle of fair and equal treatment in producing and publishing election-related programmes and reports. In this context, the proposed guidelines set out the new definition for 'candidate', i.e. a person whose nomination form has been received by the Returning Officer, which is different from the definition under the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. The list of such candidates will be published on the election website for the media and public reference," Mr Justice Fung said.

He added that when determining whether any programme or reporting by the media is in breach of the fair and equal treatment principle, the Commission may take into consideration the overall reporting by the media organisation during the election period (i.e. from the start of the nomination period up to the close of polling).

The proposed guidelines also stress that under the law, canvassing activities are prohibited in the entire building where a polling station is located as well as on the ground floor level of other buildings within the No Canvassing Zone, regardless of whether they are government or private premises, and even if approval has been obtained from the building management concerned.

Mr Justice Fung also reminded electors that the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) continues to implement checking measures in the current voter registration cycle and has issued inquiry letters to about 80 000 electors. Using other contact information provided by the electors under inquiry, the REO has also contacted them via telephone, mobile phone short message service, email or fax to remind them to respond as soon as possible. Electors under inquiry are urged to respond by July 2 so that their voter registration can be retained.

The proposed guidelines can be downloaded from the Commission website ([www.eac.hk](http://www.eac.hk)). They are also available for public inspection at the REO and the Public Enquiry Service Centres of District Offices.

Written representations can be submitted to the Commission's Secretariat by post at 10/F, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, by fax (2511 1682) or by email ([eacengq@eac.hk](mailto:eacengq@eac.hk)) at the latest by July 10. Late submissions will not be considered.

To gather views on the proposed guidelines, the Commission will hold a public forum from 7pm to 9pm on June 25 (Tuesday) at Quarry Bay Community Hall, 1 Greig Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

For enquiries, please call 2891 1001.



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# Coin Collection Programm

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today announces a new service schedule of the two "Coin Carts" under the Coin Collection Programme, for the period of July 29 to September 29. The schedule and other details of the Programme are shown on the HKMA webpage ([coincollection.hkma.gov.hk](http://coincollection.hkma.gov.hk)).

Since the launch of the Programme in October 2014, the two Coin Carts have completed 25 cycles of serving the 18 districts on May 19, 2019. The Carts had carried out 591 000 transactions, collecting 483 million coins with a total face value of HK\$684 million during the period. The collected coins are re-circulated to meet demand.

The Coin Carts provide service at locations that are convenient to the public without affecting the normal flow of traffic and pedestrians. Locations that have suitable power supply facilities, such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department mobile library service locations, are preferred so as to reduce the need for using the Coin Carts' own stand-by generators. This makes the Programme more environmentally friendly. In selecting the service locations, the HKMA has taken into consideration comments and suggestions given by district councils and members of public; and has consulted the Transport Department and the Hong Kong Police Force as necessary.

The two Coin Carts collect coins from members of public in the 18 districts of Hong Kong on a rotating basis. Under normal circumstances each Coin Cart will stay at a location for a week, subject to availability of the parking space and the maintenance schedule of the Cart. Service hours are from 10 am to 7 pm. Each vehicle is equipped with two coin counting machines and operational staff will be present to provide assistance. An electrical wheelchair lift is available for use. Users can choose to exchange coins for banknotes or adding value to their stored value facilities, such as Octopus Cards or e-wallets (including AlipayHK, Octopus 0! ePay, Tap&Go, TNG Wallet and WeChat Pay). There is also a Community Chest donation box inside each vehicle. The coin collection service is free of charge.

The HKMA will review the Programme from time and time; and will regularly update the service schedule to give advance notice to the public.

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## **SWD calls on welfare practitioners to display professionalism**

Regarding the appeal by social welfare organisations/unions for a collective action tomorrow (June 12), a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department today (June 11) called on all social welfare practitioners to display professionalism while expressing their views and to ensure that any action will not affect services or users' interests.