

## Application exercise for institutions to qualify under arrangement on interim measures in aid of arbitral proceedings by courts of Mainland and HKSAR commences

The Department of Justice (DoJ) has today (April 12) started to accept applications from arbitration and dispute resolution institutions wishing to qualify under Article 2 of the Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The details of the application procedure are set out on the webpage of the DoJ ([www.doj.gov.hk/eng/public/concerning\\_mutual\\_assistance.html](http://www.doj.gov.hk/eng/public/concerning_mutual_assistance.html)).

All applications and supporting documents shall be in writing and addressed to the DoJ as follows, to reach the DoJ on or before May 3, 2019, by post or email:

Arbitration Unit  
Legal Policy Division  
Department of Justice  
5/F, East Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Email: [interim@doj.gov.hk](mailto:interim@doj.gov.hk)

For enquiries, please contact the Senior Assistant Solicitor General (Arbitration), Mr Lee Tin-yan, at 3918 4038 or by email at [tylee@doj.gov.hk](mailto:tylee@doj.gov.hk).

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## SCED visits Kwun Tong District (with photos)

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, today (April 12) visited Kwun Tong District, where he toured a business incubator and Fly the Flyover (FF) 02 and 03 near the Kwun Tong waterfront. He also met with members of the Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) to get a better understanding of the district's latest developments.

Mr Yau first visited TusPark Hong Kong and was briefed on its operation, services and facilities. TusPark Hong Kong commenced operation in 2015 and is dedicated to supporting innovation and technology start-ups, as well as their

expansion into the markets of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and South East Asia by providing co-working spaces, cross-border resources and information sharing services and other support. During the visit, Mr Yau chatted with young entrepreneurs and learned about their experience in starting up businesses.

Mr Yau said the Government is committed to helping Hong Kong enterprises to develop overseas markets. He recently led a business mission to Georgia and Hungary, in which representatives of start-ups also joined to explore business opportunities in different markets.

Mr Yau then proceeded to FF02 and FF03, where he visited various facilities managed and operated by a non-profit making organisation, HKALPS Limited, including an open stage, a gallery and urban farms. To better utilise the unused spaces beneath Kwun Tong Bypass, the Energizing Kowloon East Office initiated the "Fly the Flyover Operation" to convert the sites for creative, arts and cultural uses. The launch of FF02 and FF03 not only provides venues for different parties to organise cultural performances and activities, but also opens up the fenced-off space for public enjoyment, injecting vibrancy into the Kwun Tong waterfront.

Mr Yau commended the project for its creativity in bringing arts and culture into the community. He added that the Tourism Commission and the Hong Kong Design Centre also launched a creative tourism project, Design District Hong Kong (#ddHK) last month, which showcases designs and activities with Hong Kong characteristics in a creative way in Wan Chai and Sham Shui Po districts, providing the public and visitors with an authentic experience of Hong Kong.

Before concluding his district visit, Mr Yau met with KTDC members to listen to and exchange views on district matters such as transport, smart city development and telecommunications and broadcasting.





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## SLW's speaking notes on labour policy areas tabled at LegCo Finance Committee special meeting

Following are the speaking notes of the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, on labour policy areas tabled at the special meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Finance Committee today (April 12):

Chairman and honorable members,

Recurrent spending on labour and manpower development in 2019-20 is estimated to be \$2,250 million, representing an increase of \$244 million (12.2 per cent) over the revised estimate of \$2,006 million last year. It accounts for 0.5 per cent of the total recurrent government expenditure. I will briefly highlight the key areas of work in respect of labour and manpower development in the coming year.

**Abolishing the "Offsetting" of Severance Payment and Long Service Payment with Employers' Mandatory Contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund System**

Abolishing the arrangement of "offsetting" severance payment and long service payment against the accrued benefits attributable to employers' mandatory contributions under the Mandatory Provident Fund System (i.e. abolishing "offsetting") is one of the priority tasks of the current-term Government. Having carefully considered the views of various stakeholders, the Chief Executive announced in last year's Policy Address the enhanced arrangements for abolishing "offsetting", and undertook to provide a two-tier subsidy to employers so as to help enterprises, in particular the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, adapt to the policy change. The first-tier subsidy will last for 12 years while the period of the second-tier subsidy will be extended to 25 years. The Government's total financial

commitment is estimated to be \$29.3 billion in the 25-year subsidy period.

The Government has embarked on the preparatory work for abolishing "offsetting" and is working with the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and other stakeholders to sort out operational details for the abolition. It will then prepare the relevant enabling legislation and strive to introduce the bill into LegCo by 2020, with a view to securing its passage by 2022 and implementing the arrangements for abolishing "offsetting" two years after the enactment of the enabling legislation.

#### Extending Statutory Maternity Leave

We have commenced the drafting of the enabling legislation to extend the statutory maternity leave (ML) from the current 10 weeks to 14 weeks. The extra expenditure for this additional four weeks' ML pay, subject to a cap of \$36,822 per employee, will be funded by Government. The employer shall first pay the employee the ML pay for the additional four weeks' ML together with the current 10-week ML pay, and may apply to the Government for reimbursement afterwards. The Government aims at introducing the enabling legislation into LegCo by the end of this year and implementing the proposal, including the reimbursement mechanism, in 2021.

#### Strengthening Employment Support for Ethnic Minority Job Seekers

On employment services, the Labour Department (LD) will strengthen its manpower for launching a pilot programme in conjunction with non-governmental organisations to provide employment services for ethnic minority job seekers through a case management approach.

#### Protecting Employees Injured at Work

LD is actively looking into a feasible way forward to strengthen the rehabilitation services for injured employees in need. Preliminary ideas include pairing an independent case manager with each participating injured employee to follow up on the case, co-ordinate the communication amongst relevant stakeholders and assist the injured worker to return to work. LD is also considering to engage the private sector to provide timely and highly-coordinated treatment and rehabilitation services for injured employees. LD will complete the study and come up with recommendations as soon as possible, and will consult different stakeholders in the process.

In parallel, LD will strengthen the processing of employees' compensation claims with the enhanced Claims Support Services to help resolve disputes between employers and employees through dedicated follow-up, early intervention, proactive contact and arrangement of meetings. LD will also implement a new screening process to improve follow-up procedures for sick leave relating to work injury to speed up case processing so that employees who do not require assessment by the Employees' Compensation Assessment Board will not have to attend the follow-up procedures at LD in person.

#### Enhancing Occupational Safety and Health

LD attaches great importance to safeguarding the occupational safety and health (OSH) of employees. To further enhance the OSH performance of the construction industry, LD will continue to adopt targeted measures to further improve the OSH performance of major infrastructure projects. These measures include conducting in-depth surprise inspections of construction sites involving high-risk processes or with poor safety performance, and stepping up participation in site safety management committee meetings of public work projects so that LD will be apprised of their latest risk situation and give advice, and adjust the inspection strategy accordingly in a more focused manner. In addition, in view of the increasing number of old buildings due for large-scale maintenance works, LD will deploy new resources to improve the OSH of repair, maintenance, addition and alteration works through enhanced inspection and enforcement.

The numbers of occupational fatalities have remained at a high level in recent years. The public generally considers that the sentences for OSH offences failed to pose sufficient deterrent effect on duty holders violating the law. We agree that it is necessary to enhance the deterrent effect of OSH penalties. We have consulted relevant stakeholders on the preliminary amendment proposals of raising penalties in OSH legislation, including consultation with the LegCo Panel on Manpower on March 19, 2019. We are consolidating the views of stakeholders with a view to completing the legislative amendment exercise within the current-term Government.

Moreover, LD will continue to encourage workers to lodge complaints against unsafe operations and promote the newly-launched online complaint platform. LD will also make efforts to ensure the compliance of the Guidance Notes on Standing at Work and Service Counter Design issued at the end of last year through promotional visits and inspection work, so as to reduce employees' health risks associated with standing at work.

#### Continuing Education Fund

The Government has injected additional funding of \$10 billion to the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) to implement a series of enhancement measures, which have just been effective from April 1 this year, to further encourage the public to better equip themselves through continuing education. The enhancement measures include doubling the subsidy ceiling to \$20,000 per applicant, relaxing the upper age limit for applicants from 65 to 70, expanding the scope of CEF courses to all eligible courses registered in the Qualifications Register, and enhancing the quality assurance monitoring of CEF courses, etc. All those who once opened a CEF account are eligible for the enhancement measures. We have launched the promotion of CEF and the enhancement measures since early 2019, and will closely monitor the implementation progress.

#### Talent List

Upon the promulgation of the first Talent List of Hong Kong containing 11 professions in August 2018, the bureaux and departments concerned have

been actively publicising the List locally, on the Mainland and overseas to attract targeted quality talent from all over the world in a more effective and focused manner, so as to support Hong Kong's development as a high value-added and diversified economy.

Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. Members are welcome to raise questions.

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## Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees will hold 15 open meetings and two closed meetings during the week from April 15 to 19 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meetings are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to observe open meetings of LegCo and its Committees. Interested individuals and groups are advised to make advance booking of seats by calling the LegCo Secretariat at 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also listen to or watch all open meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

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## Special traffic arrangements on Hong Kong Island

Police will implement special traffic arrangements this Sunday (April 14) to facilitate a sports event to be held on Hong Kong Island.

From 12am to 10.30am

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The western general pick-up/drop-off and loading/unloading area on Lung Wo Road north of Star Ferry Multi-Storey Car Park will be closed.

From 4am to 10.30am

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A. Road closure

- Part of the fast lane of Man Po Street;
- Part of the slow lane of southbound Man Yiu Street;
- Yiu Sing Street;
- Lung Wo Road between Man Yiu Street and Expo Drive;
- Eastbound Expo Drive between Lung Wo Road and southbound Expo Drive;
- Northbound Lung Hop Street, except the fast lane;
- Legislative Council Road, except for vehicles heading to Legislative Council Complex;
- The slow lane of eastbound Lung Wui Road; and
- All lay-bys along Tim Wa Avenue.

B. Traffic diversions

- Traffic along southbound Man Yiu Street or eastbound Man Cheung Street heading for Wan Chai North will be diverted via southbound Man Yiu Street, eastbound Connaught Place, southbound Connaught Place, eastbound Connaught Road Central and eastbound Harcourt Road; and
- Traffic along northbound Edinburgh Place east of City Hall and westbound Expo Drive heading for Central District will be diverted via eastbound Connaught Road Central or southbound Fenwick Pier Street, eastbound Harcourt Road, eastbound Gloucester Road, northbound Fenwick Street, westbound Fenwick Pier Street, flyover, westbound Harcourt Road, westbound Connaught Road Central and northbound Man Yiu Street.

From 6am to 8.30am

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A. Road closure

- Northbound Tim Mei Avenue;
- Eastbound Harcourt Road between Cotton Tree Drive and Tim Mei Avenue, except for vehicles heading to Central Barracks;
- Part of the lanes of Harcourt Road between Cotton Tree Drive and Edinburgh Place;
- Eastbound Harcourt Road flyover;
- The fast lane of westbound Harcourt Road flyover;
- The fast lane of westbound Harcourt Road between Arsenal Street and Harcourt Road flyover;
- Northbound Cotton Tree Drive between Lambeth Walk and Harcourt Road;
- Eastbound Connaught Road Central between Gilman Street and Edinburgh Place, except the slow lane and the second leftmost lane;
- The fast lane of westbound Connaught Road Central between Murray Road and Jubilee Street;
- Eastbound Connaught Road Central underpass;
- The fast lane of westbound Connaught Road Central underpass; and
- The fast lane of westbound Gloucester Road between Fenwick Street and Arsenal Street.

## B. Traffic diversions

- Traffic along eastbound Connaught Road Central heading for Wan Chai North will be diverted via eastbound Harcourt Road, southbound Cotton Tree Drive, eastbound Queensway, northbound Arsenal Street and eastbound Gloucester Road; and
- Traffic along northbound Cotton Tree Drive heading for Wan Chai North will be diverted via Lambeth Walk, southbound Murray Road, eastbound Queensway, northbound Arsenal Street and eastbound Gloucester Road.

### Suspension of parking spaces

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All motorcycle parking spaces at the western general pick-up/drop-off and loading/unloading area on Lung Wo Road north of Star Ferry Multi-Storey Car Park will be suspended between 12am and 10.30am.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts mentioned above will be towed away without prior warning.

Actual implementation of the traffic arrangements will be made depending on traffic and crowd conditions in the area. Motorists are advised to exercise tolerance and patience and take heed of instructions of the Police on site.