

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Sha Tin tomorrow

Police advise motorists that special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Sha Tin to facilitate the race meeting tomorrow (April 3).

The arrangements will come into effect two hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and police will be on hand to guide motorists.

The Police also appeal to people going to Sha Tin Racecourse for the race meeting and to Happy Valley Racecourse for cross betting to make maximum use of public transport.

Parking spaces at the two racecourses are available only to holders of appropriate permits issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club and any vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.

Land Registry releases statistics for March

The Land Registry today (April 2) released its statistics for March 2019.

Land registration

* The number of sale and purchase agreements for all building units received for registration in March was 6,428 (+28.6 per cent compared with February 2019 and +0.2 per cent compared with March 2018)

* The 12-month moving average for March was 6,260 (0.02 per cent above the 12-month moving average for February 2019 and 13.1 per cent below that for March 2018)

* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in March was \$52.8 billion (+26.8 per cent compared with February 2019 and +4.6 per cent compared with March 2018)

* Among the sale and purchase agreements, 5,231 were for residential units

(+27.9 per cent compared with February 2019 and +22.7 per cent compared with March 2018)

* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in respect of residential units was \$45.9 billion (+27.1 per cent compared with February 2019 and +18.2 per cent compared with March 2018)

Statistics on sales of residential units do not include sale and purchase agreements relating to sales of units under the Home Ownership Scheme, the Private Sector Participation Scheme and the Tenants Purchase Scheme unless the premium of the unit concerned has been paid after the sale restriction period.

Figures on sale and purchase agreements received for the past 12 months, the year-on-year rate of change and breakdown figures on residential sales have also been released.

As deeds may not be lodged with the Land Registry until up to 30 days after the transaction, these statistics generally relate to land transactions in the previous month.

Land search

* The number of searches of land registers made by the public in March was 465,994 (+49.3 per cent compared with February 2019 and +3.0 per cent compared with March 2018)

The statistics cover searches made at the counter, through the self-service terminals and via the Integrated Registration Information System Online Services.

Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

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

Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

Tender date	:	April 2, 2019
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	Q1914
Issue date	:	April 3, 2019
Maturity date	:	July 3, 2019
Amount applied	:	HK\$124,215 MN
Amount allotted	:	HK\$56,252 MN

Average yield accepted	:	1.46 PCT
Highest yield accepted	:	1.52 PCT
Pro rata ratio	:	About 74 PCT
Average tender yield	:	1.56 PCT

Tender date	:	April 2, 2019
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	H1943
Issue date	:	April 3, 2019
Maturity date	:	October 2, 2019
Amount applied	:	HK\$47,450 MN
Amount allotted	:	HK\$15,000 MN
Average yield accepted	:	1.47 PCT
Highest yield accepted	:	1.49 PCT
Pro rata ratio	:	About 95 PCT
Average tender yield	:	1.63 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning April 8:

Tender date	:	April 9, 2019
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	Q1915
Issue date	:	April 10, 2019
Maturity date	:	July 10, 2019
Tenor	:	91 Days
Amount on offer	:	HK\$57,725 MN

Tender date	:	April 9, 2019
Paper on offer	:	EF Bills
Issue number	:	H1944
Issue date	:	April 10, 2019
Maturity date	:	October 9, 2019
Tenor	:	182 Days
Amount on offer	:	HK\$17,000 MN

Thirteen illegal workers jailed

Thirteen Vietnamese illegal workers were jailed by Shatin and Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on March 29 and 30.

During an anti-illegal worker operation conducted on March 27, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided food factories, a restaurant, a residential building and a cleaning service company in Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Quarry Bay and Sham Tseng. Nine male Vietnamese and four female Vietnamese illegal workers, aged 21 to 56, were arrested. Upon identity checking, two men and three women produced for inspection recognisance forms issued by the ImmD, which prohibit them from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that they were non-refoulement claimants. Furthermore, three men and two women were also suspected of using and being in possession of a forged identity card. In addition, two men were also suspected of using and being in possession of a false instrument. Three employers suspected of employing the illegal workers were arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The 13 illegal workers were charged at Shatin and Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on March 29 and 30 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 charges and were sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Meanwhile, two male illegal workers were also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and were sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 15 months' imprisonment. Furthermore, one male and two female illegal workers were also charged with two counts of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and were sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment with parts of the sentences to run consecutively, making a total of 20 months' imprisonment. In addition, two male illegal workers were also charged with one count of possessing a false instrument and were sentenced to 12 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. It is also an offence to make, possess or use false instruments. Upon conviction, offenders are liable to a maximum penalty of 14 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 on 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 interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

KY Family Practice in Kwai Chung convicted for illegal disposal of clinical waste

KY Family Practice in Kwai Chung disposed of clinical waste that was mixed into general waste. The responsible doctor of the clinic was convicted and fined a total of \$10,000 at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (April 2) for contravening the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation.

During an ambush operation in October last year, staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) successfully intercepted staff of KY Family Practice in the corridor of the first floor of Kwai Chung Shopping Centre on Sheung Kok Street in Kwai Chung disposing of clinical waste, including 19 used syringes, which was mixed into general waste and to be moved to a refuse collection point for disposal. The EPD prosecuted the doctor who operates the clinic under the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation after investigations and gathering evidence.

An EPD spokesman said that the department is very concerned about the improper disposal of clinical waste by individual medical institutions and

continuously arranges for enforcement officers to carry out blitz inspections of different medical institutions, including Chinese or Western medical clinics, veterinary clinics, medical laboratories and nursing homes, so as to combat illegal disposal of clinical waste. The spokesman pointed out that some clinical waste, for instance needles or other sharp instruments, may carry infectious substances. Those objects may pose danger to cleaning staff and the public if they are mixed with general refuse.

According to the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation, clinical waste must be collected by licensed clinical waste collectors or self-delivered by healthcare professionals to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi for treatment. It is an offence to mix any clinical waste with general waste for disposal. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000. The EPD reminded all persons-in-charge and staff of medical institutions that they must handle and dispose of clinical waste properly in accordance with the requirements of the law. The public and property management companies may report any suspected illegal disposal of clinical waste to the EPD by calling the department's hotline at 2835 1055.