

Illegal worker jailed

A Vietnamese illegal worker was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (March 7).

During operation "Twilight" on March 5, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a hair salon in Hung Hom. A female Vietnamese illegal worker, aged 40, was arrested. She was suspected of working as a salon assistant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was 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. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. In addition, the female Vietnamese illegal worker was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and one count of possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card, and was sentenced to imprisonment of 15 and 12 months respectively. 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. 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 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.

EMSD announces test results of LPG quality in February 2019

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (March 8) announced that the department collected 10 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) samples from auto-LPG filling stations and LPG terminals on a random basis in February 2019 for laboratory tests. The results showed that the LPG quality of all these samples complied with auto-LPG specifications.

The detailed test results are available on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/rl/lpg_sample_analysis_simple). Enquiries can also be made to the EMSD's hotline on 2333 3762.

In addition, the EMSD has been vetting independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.

STH to lead HKMPB delegation to Nordic countries

The Secretary for Transport and Housing and Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (HKMPB), Mr Frank Chan Fan, will lead a delegation comprising members of the HKMPB and representatives of the maritime industry to visit Copenhagen in Denmark, and Oslo and Bergen in Norway from March 11

to 15 to promote Hong Kong as an international maritime centre.

Arriving in Copenhagen, Denmark on March 11, the delegation will call on various maritime-related organisations including the Danish Maritime Authority, the Danish Ship Finance and the Danish Maritime Fund, meet with local shipowners and industry representatives, and visit the Copenhagen Business School to learn about the local maritime industry and related developments. Mr Chan will give a speech at a seminar-cum-luncheon jointly organised by the HKMPB, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO), and the Denmark-Hong Kong Trade Association.

On March 13, the delegation will proceed to Oslo, Norway. Mr Chan will call on the Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, Mr Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, and will deliver a speech at a seminar-cum-reception jointly organised by the HKMPB, the HKTDC, the London ETO and the Norway-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce. Joined by members of the delegation, Mr Chan will visit a hybrid electric sightseeing vessel. They will also meet with DNV GL, an international accredited ship classification society.

On March 15, the delegation will visit Bergen, Norway for the last leg of their Nordic tour. They will call on local shipping enterprises and tour various types of green vessels to learn about the development of green shipping. They will also meet with the Mayor of Bergen, Ms Marte Mjøs Persen, and representatives of the local maritime sector.

Mr Chan will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on March 16. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Dr Raymond So Wai-man, will be the Acting Secretary for Transport and Housing.

[Healthy Ageing in Public Rental Housing Estates programme promotes active ageing \(with photos\)](#)

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

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA), in collaboration with the School of Nursing of the University of Hong Kong (HKU), held a health talk under the Healthy Ageing in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates programme in Lai Chi Kok Community Hall last month. Under the guidance of a School of Nursing team's professional fitness trainer and AI robots, over 100 elderly tenants from five PRH estates in Kwai Chung exercised together.

The elderly people who participated in the talk worked out happily to

strengthen their muscles with simple exercises under the guidance of two AI robots from the School of Nursing. In addition, a hand-grip test to measure the muscle strength of elderly persons was also conducted by the team. Sarcopenia is an age-related problem that leads to a decrease in muscle and affects the mobility of the elderly's limbs and their ability to balance, thereby increasing the risk of falls. AI robots can serve well as fitness coaches, especially for elderly people, because robots can stimulate the elderly's interest in exercise and help them remember the movements better.

Health talks are part of the Healthy Ageing in PRH Estates programme, which is aimed at showing the HA's care for its elderly tenants and promoting active ageing among them. The HA's Healthy Ageing in PRH Estates 2018/19 includes a number of health talks on sarcopenia and its prevention in collaboration with the School of Nursing of HKU for elderly tenants from different PRH estates throughout the territory. The current programme started in September last year and ends this month. Apart from the School of Nursing of HKU, the HA is also collaborating with the Oral Health Education Unit of the Department of Health. The two institutions have organised a total of six talks for the programme period on sarcopenia and oral health education for about a 1,000 elderly PRH tenants from different districts.

Other activities under the programme include providing free health assessment for elderly tenants through home visits and setting up 13 mobile health assessment stations in various PRH estates in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories, and Domain, an HA shopping centre in Yau Tong. Exhibitions on sarcopenia have been held alongside the stations to educate the elderly about the problem and how to prevent falls. A total of about 6,000 elderly tenants have benefited from various activities under the 2018/19 Programme.





Appeal for information on missing man in Kwai Chung (with photo)

Police today (March 8) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing in Kwai Chung.

Lo Ho-wai, aged 46, went missing after he left his residence on Tai Ha Street yesterday (March 7) afternoon. His family made a report to Police today (March 8).

He is about 1.5 metres tall, 68 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a square face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a pair of glasses, a long-sleeved jacket in pinkish blue, dark coloured trousers and white sports shoes.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories South on 3661 1176, 9689 7445 or email to rmpu-nts-2@police.gov.hk, or any police station.

