

Special traffic and transport arrangements in Chai Wan for Ching Ming Festival

The Transport Department (TD) today (March 1) reminded the public that in view of the large number of grave sweepers travelling to the cemeteries in Chai Wan during the Ching Ming Festival, special traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented to ensure members of the public can visit the cemeteries in a safe and orderly manner.

The special traffic and transport arrangements will include:

Road closures

March 3 (Sunday), 16 (Saturday), 23 (Saturday) and 30 (Saturday); April 13 (Saturday), 19 (public holiday), 20 (public holiday), 22 (public holiday) and 28 (Sunday); and May 1 (public holiday)

In connection with the implementation of Level I road closures by the Police, vehicles will be allowed to use the section of Cape Collinson Road east of Lin Shing Road (that is, the left turn movement from Lin Shing Road to Cape Collinson Road leading to the vicinity of the Chinese Permanent Cemetery) from 7am to 6pm daily. Should traffic conditions worsen, the Police may consider escalating the road closures to Level II.

March 10 (Sunday), 17 (Sunday), 24 (Sunday) and 31 (Sunday) and April 6 (Saturday), 14 (Sunday) and 21 (Sunday)

In connection with the implementation of Level II road closures by the Police, the left turn from Lin Shing Road to Cape Collinson Road leading to the vicinity of the Chinese Permanent Cemetery will be closed to all vehicular traffic (except for green minibus (GMB) route 18M, hearses, funeral vehicles and vehicles with permits) from 7am to 6.30pm daily.

Lin Shing Road and Cape Collinson Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic from 7am to 6.30pm daily (except for franchised buses, GMB routes 16A, 16M, 16X and 18M, hearses, funeral vehicles and vehicles with permits). The Police may allow taxis and public light buses to enter Lin Shing Road and turn right onto Cape Collinson Road depending on the traffic conditions in the vicinity of the Chai Wan cemeteries.

April 5 (Ching Ming Festival) and 7 (Sunday)

In connection with the implementation of Level III road closures by the Police, Lin Shing Road and Cape Collinson Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic from 7am to 7pm daily (except for franchised buses, GMB routes 16A, 16M and 16X, hearses, funeral vehicles and vehicles with permits).

Public transport services

New World First Bus (NWFB) route 388 (Circular) between Chai Wan Station Bus Terminus and Chai Wan Cemeteries will be operated from 9am to 2pm on March 10 and 17 and April 13, 19, 20, 21 and 22; from 9am to 4pm on March 23 and 30; from 8am to 5pm on March 24 and 31 and April 6 and 14; and from 7am to 6pm on April 5 and 7. When necessary, the service will be strengthened depending on the traffic conditions and passenger demand.

NWFB route 389 (Circular) between Shau Kei Wan Bus Terminus and Chai Wan Cemeteries will be operated from 9am to 2pm on March 10 and 17 and April 13, 19, 20 and 21; from 9am to 4pm on March 30; from 8am to 5pm on March 24 and 31 and April 6 and 14; and from 7am to 6pm on April 5 and 7. When necessary, the service will be strengthened depending on the traffic conditions and passenger demand.

NWFB route 9C from Shau Kei Wan Bus Terminus to Chai Wan Cemeteries will be operated from 9am to 1pm on April 5 and 7, and when necessary the service will be strengthened depending on the traffic conditions and passenger demand.

Actual implementation of and adjustments to road closures, traffic control and public transport diversions will be made by the Police at the time depending on conditions in the areas.

Members of the public are advised to be alert to the latest traffic news on television and radio. They may also visit the TD's website (www.td.gov.hk) or call 1823 for the latest traffic and transport information.

SHA visits Wan Chai District

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, visited Wan Chai District today (March 1) to tour a music school in the district. He also visited a co-working space and met with members of the Wan Chai District Council (WCDC).

Accompanied by the Chairman of the WCDC, Mr Stephen Ng, and the District Officer (Wan Chai), Mr Rick Chan, Mr Lau first visited Haw Par Music Farm to

learn about how the Grade I historic building Haw Par Mansion was revitalised into a music school. Haw Par Music Farm provides music training and community outreach activities to foster cross-cultural exchange between Chinese and Western music, art and culture.

Mr Lau then proceeded to Mustard Seed Co-working Space to tour the co-working space and met with its young users. Mustard Seed Co-working Space is one of the participating properties under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth. In addition to leasing shared space to young entrepreneurs at concessionary rent, they also provide related start-up support such as thematic seminars and workshops.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Lau met with WDC members to exchange views on various district issues.

Cheung Chau Sports Ground to reopen

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 1) that Cheung Chau Sports Ground in Islands District will be reopened for public use at 6pm today, except for tracks No. 2 to 4 of the all-weather running track which are still under repair. The sports ground was temporarily closed earlier for use as a temporary emergency helicopter landing site.

Advisory Committee on Chinese Medicine Development Fund set up

The Food and Health Bureau announced today (March 1) the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Chinese Medicine Development Fund to advise and make recommendations to the Government on matters relating to the overall administration and operation of the Fund.

The Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, said, "The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address announced the establishment of a \$500 million dedicated fund. We aim to provide Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine drug sectors with financial support through the Fund to jointly promote the development of Chinese medicine and enhance the overall standard of the industry, by nurturing talent necessary for the Chinese medicine hospital development and promoting Chinese medicine-related studies and scientific research as well as providing assistance to local Chinese medicine traders in enhancing the quality and standards of production and

registration of proprietary Chinese medicines in accordance with statutory requirements. It is also intended to enhance public knowledge and understanding of Chinese medicine."

The Committee, for which the Chairman and members are appointed by the Secretary for Food and Health, comprises representatives from the sectors of Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese medicine drugs, testing and certification, and healthcare, as well as experts, academics and lay persons with rich experience in business management and public administration. The appointments will take effect from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2021, for a term of two years. The Hong Kong Productivity Council will be serving as the secretariat.

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Douglas So Cheung-tak

Members

Professor Bian Zhaoxiang
Dr Chan Kei-wai
Mr Chan Wing-suen
Ms Anne Chuah Ah-poh
Dr Feng Yibin
Miss Lam Pui-yan
Ms Serena Lau Sze-wan
Mr Lee Kaiping
Dr Liong Ching
Mr Gerry Ma Kwai-yung
Dr Or Ka-hang
Ms Wang Huimin
Mr Wong Ka-on
Professor Justin Wu Che-yuen

Ex-officio Members

Representative(s) from the Food and Health Bureau
Representative(s) from the Department of Health
Representative(s) from the Hospital Authority
Representative(s) from the Innovation and Technology Commission

The Government, together with the Committee, will work closely with the Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine drug sectors and relevant stakeholders to ensure the Fund effectively serves its purpose of promoting the development of Chinese medicine.

Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme invites new round of applications

The Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) is inviting a new round of applications today (March 1) from non-profit-distributing organisations such as professional bodies, trade or industrial organisations and research institutes.

The PASS, with a total allocation of \$200 million, aims at funding non-profit-making industry-led projects to increase exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong's professional services and external counterparts, promote relevant publicity activities, and enhance the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services.

The maximum grant under the PASS for each approved project is \$3 million or 90 per cent of the total eligible project cost, whichever is lower. A wide range of professional services is covered by the PASS, including accounting, legal, building and construction, healthcare, information and communications technology, design as well as technical testing and analysis. Sector-specific projects and cross-sectoral projects are both welcome.

So far, 38 projects have been funded under the PASS, including seminars, forums, workshops, exchange events, exhibitions, and research and studies. Costs directly incurred for implementing a project, such as manpower costs, venue and set up costs, production and promotion costs, and the project team's travel and accommodation costs outside Hong Kong, are typically eligible for funding under the scheme. More details about the PASS and the funded projects are available at www.pass.gov.hk/en/home/index.html.

The PASS receives applications all year round and they are processed on a quarterly basis. The deadline for the new round of applications is May 31, 2019.

A briefing session will be held on March 21, 2019 for organisations interested in applying for the PASS funding. For registration for the briefing session or other enquiries, please contact the PASS Secretariat at 3655 5418 or pass@cedb.gov.hk.