

Special traffic arrangements in Kowloon

Police will implement special traffic arrangements this Sunday (March 3) to facilitate a public order event to be held in Kowloon.

Phase I (From 12.01am to 11.59pm)

A. Road closure

- Beech Street between Ivy Street and Fuk Tsun Street;
- Lime Street between Larch Street and Fuk Tsun Street;
- Pine Street between Ivy Street and Fuk Tsun Street;
- Oak Street between Ivy Street and Fuk Tsun Street; and
- Fuk Tsun Street between Fir Street and Tai Kok Tsui Municipal Services Building.

B. Traffic diversions

- Traffic along southbound Fuk Tsun Street cannot turn right to the loading area of Tai Kok Tsui Municipal Services Building and leave via northbound Fuk Tsun Street;
- Traffic along northbound Larch Street cannot turn left to westbound Lime Street;
- Traffic along westbound Lime Street will be diverted via northbound Larch Street; and
- Traffic along westbound Ivy Street cannot turn right to northbound Pine Street and northbound Beech Street.

Phase II (From 9am to 11.59pm)

A. Road closure

- Fuk Tsun Street between Tai Kok Tsui Road and Tai Kok Tsui Municipal Services Building; and
- Walnut Street between Fuk Tsun Street and Larch Street.

B. Traffic diversions

- Traffic along Tai Kok Tsui Road cannot enter Fuk Tsun Street.

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.

Thirty-two immigration offenders arrested

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations, including an operation codenamed "Twilight" and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" from February 25 to 28. A total of 23 illegal workers, seven suspected employers and two overstayers were arrested.

During operation "Twilight", ImmD Task Force officers raided 36 target locations including a bar, companies, a construction site, an industrial building, learning centres, restaurants and a shop. Ten illegal workers and four employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised four men and six women, aged 36 to 62. Among them, one woman was a holder of a recognisance form, which prohibits her from taking any employment. In addition, two women were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. Meanwhile, four women, aged 30 to 59, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

In addition, during operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided seven target locations in North Point, Chai Wan and Mong Kok including massage parlours and restaurants. Thirteen illegal workers and three employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised seven men and six women, aged 24 to 61. Among them, two men and three women were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. In addition, four men and five women were suspected of using and being in possession of Hong Kong identity cards related to other persons. Meanwhile, three women, aged 31 to 48, were suspected of employing the illegal workers. Furthermore, one male overstayer and one female overstayer, aged 38 and 47, were arrested.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that 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 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.

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 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 of 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.

Government announces appointment of Chairman of Hong Kong Trade Development Council

The Government today (March 1) announced the appointment of Dr Peter Lam Kin-ngok to succeed Dr Vincent Lo Hong-sui as Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) for two years from June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2021.

Commenting on the appointment, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, said, "With extensive commercial experience and

active participation in public services, Dr Lam is well suited for taking up the HKTDC chairmanship. I am confident that he would lead the HKTDC to provide sterling support to enterprises to respond to uncertainties in the global trade environment and to explore new markets and opportunities."

Mr Yau expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr Lo for his invaluable contribution in leading the HKTDC.

"As Chairman of the HKTDC, Dr Lo is an outstanding ambassador for Hong Kong. Under his chairmanship, the HKTDC has fully leveraged on Hong Kong's advantages in enhancing Hong Kong's business profile in the Mainland and overseas markets, with outstanding achievements particularly in promoting Hong Kong's role in the pursuit of opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative," Mr Yau said.

A brief biographical note of Dr Lam is set out below:

Dr Peter Lam Kin-ngok is the Chairman of Lai Sun Group. He is currently an ex-officio member of the HKTDC (as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board) and a member of the Trade and Industry Advisory Board.

Government announces appointment of Chairman of Hong Kong Tourism Board

The Government today (March 1) announced the appointment of Dr Pang Yiu-kai to succeed Dr Peter Lam Kin-ngok as Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) for three years from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2022.

Commenting on the appointment, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, said, "With rich experience in business management and public services, Dr Pang is eminently suitable to take up the chairmanship of the HKTB. I am confident that he would steer the Board in promoting Hong Kong worldwide as a world-class premier tourist destination."

Mr Yau expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr Lam for his long and distinguished contribution to the HKTB.

"Dr Lam's passion and outstanding leadership in the HKTB have brought proven success in promoting Hong Kong as a premier tourist destination and enriching diversified tourism offerings," Mr Yau said.

A brief biographical note of Dr Pang is set out below:

Dr Pang Yiu-kai is the Deputy Managing Director of Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited. He is currently the Chairman of the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service, the Standing Committee on

Directorate Salaries and Conditions of Service and the Advisory Committee on Gifted Education, and a member of the Trade and Industry Advisory Board.

Appeal for information on missing boy in Tin Shui Wai (with photo)

Police today (March 1) appealed to the public for information on a boy who went missing in Tin Shui Wai.

Chan Tsz-hin, aged 13, went missing after he left his residence in Tin Ching Estate yesterday (February 28) morning. His family made a report to Police today.

He is about 1.6 metres tall, 53 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a round face with yellow complexion and short black hair. He was last seen wearing a black jacket, light blue long-sleeved shirt, black trousers, black sports shoes and carrying a blue backpack.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing boy or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of New Territories North on 3661 3128 or 6273 5787 or email to rmpu-ntn-1@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.

