

Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (February 1) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, February 1, 2019 is 103.3 (up 0.4 against yesterday's index).

Temporary suspension of Mobile Library 2, 4, 6 and 7 services

Mobile Libraries 2, 4, 6 and 7 will suspend services during designated periods in February and March for routine maintenance, a Leisure and Cultural Services Department spokesman announced today (February 1).

Mobile Library 7 will suspend services from February 8 to 14. The affected service points are Chuk Yuen (South) Estate and Fung Tak Estate in Wong Tai Sin, Kai Yip Estate in Kowloon Bay, Hoi Fu Court in Mong Kok West and Sceneway Garden in Lam Tin. For enquiries about Mobile Library 7 services, please call 2926 3056.

Mobile Library 6 will suspend services from February 11 to 16. The affected service points are Shau Kei Wan Market on Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, Lei Tung Estate and Ap Lei Chau Estate in Ap Lei Chau, the First Aid Station at Shek O Beach and Tsui Lam Estate in Tseung Kwan O. For enquiries about Mobile Library 6 services, please call 2505 4690.

Mobile Library 4 will suspend services from February 20 to March 5. The affected service points are Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung, Discovery Bay, Pui O, Shui Hau and Tong Fuk. For enquiries about Mobile Library 4 services, please call 2984 9417.

Mobile Library 2 will suspend services from February 25 to March 2. The affected service points are Hau Tak Estate and Po Lam Estate in Tseung Kwan O, Mei Lam Estate and Saddle Ridge Garden in Sha Tin, Tsui Ping Estate in Kwun Tong and Maple Street in Sham Shui Po. For enquiries about Mobile Library 2 services, please call 2605 1071.

Readers are welcome to use other public libraries during the service suspension periods. They may also renew library materials by telephoning 2698 0002 or 2827 2833, or via www.hkpl.gov.hk.

Sale of GSH Flats 2018 receives over 40 000 applications

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

The Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) announced today (February 1) that over 40 000 applications were received for the Sale of Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) Flats 2018 (GSH 2018), comprising around 28 000 from Green Form (GF) applicants under the Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2018 (HOS 2018) and 12 000 new GF applications.

The HA will be sending letters to applicants confirming receipt of their applications and notifying them of their application numbers.

In accordance with the pilot streamlined application procedures, the HA had earlier issued a notification letter and several SMS messages to individual valid GF applicants of HOS 2018 informing them of the need to complete and return the reply slips and declaration forms before the close of applications to indicate whether they agree to carry over their HOS 2018 applications to GSH 2018.

"Today, we have sent notification letters to those HOS 2018 applicants who have not replied on or before the closing date of application on January 10 that their HOS 2018 applications will not be carried over to GSH 2018," a spokesman for the HA said.

A total of 2 545 flats located in Blocks 1 to 4 of Lai Tsui Court at Lai Chi Kok Road in Cheung Sha Wan are offered for pre-sale under GSH 2018. The saleable areas range from about 17.1 square metres to about 42 sq m. At a discount of 58 per cent from assessed market values, the average selling

price is \$67,200 per sq m, or \$6,243 per square foot of saleable area. The selling prices range from \$932,500 to \$3,062,100.

"Balloting is planned to be held at the end of February. Eligible applicants will be invited for flat selection starting from the end of March according to their priority order," the spokesman said.

The HA will be launching e-submission of applications for the sale of subsidised sale flats in 2019-20. Applicants will be provided with an option of submitting their applications by using the e-submission forms on the HA/Housing Department website, and will be able to pay the relevant fees online. The HA will also consider how best to further streamline the application procedures for the benefit of the public.

[Hong Kong Customs mounts joint operation with Mainland Customs to combat cross-boundary endangered species smuggling activities \(with photos\)](#)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs mounted a joint operation with Mainland Customs on January 16 to combat cross-boundary endangered species smuggling activities. During the operation, Hong Kong Customs seized about 8 300 kilograms of suspected pangolin scales and 2 100 kilograms of suspected ivory tusks with an estimated market value of about \$62 million from a container at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound. This is the largest amount pangolin scales ever seized by Hong Kong Customs.

Acting on information from Mainland Customs and through intelligence analysis and risk assessment, Hong Kong Customs inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain frozen beef arriving from Nigeria. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected pangolin scales and ivory tusks inside the container.

Follow-up investigation resulted in the arrest of a male proprietor and a female staff member, aged 39 and 29 respectively, of a trading company in Mong Kok.

Investigation is ongoing and all arrested persons have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is

liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

