

Housing Authority promotes caring culture for site works (with photo)

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

Facing the challenge of a tremendous increase in public housing construction, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has made great efforts to maintain a high standard of quality control, safety management and environmental protection. Construction tasks should not be performed at the cost of human lives and the natural environment, the Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing), Mr Stanley Ying, said today (July 3) at the opening of the Site Safety Forum for Works Contracts and Property Services Contracts 2018.

"As an organisation devoted to caring for society, we have the responsibility to create a safe and healthy working environment for our employees and front-line workers. We have been proactively promoting 'zero incidents' and 'zero fatal accidents' in the industry for years. We encourage our business partners to formulate safety standards and enhance the safety level in the workplace. We have worked vigorously to prevent the occurrence of accidents," Mr Ying added.

In 2017, the accident rate of the HA's new works was 6.9 accidents per 1 000 workers, while that of maintenance and renovation works was 4.2 accidents per 1 000 workers. Both are below the HA's corporate limit of 9 accidents per 1000 workers, and far below the rate of 32.9 accidents per 1 000 workers in Hong Kong's construction industry. The overall safety performance of HA sites has been satisfactory.

The Forum, jointly organised by the HA and the Occupational Safety and Health Council, has been held for 12 consecutive years. Keeping abreast of developments in the industry, the Forum aims to regularly disseminate updated safety information to the construction and property management services sectors. Through analysis and discussion of safety issues in different work aspects, members of the industry from management to front-line staff can further reinforce their awareness of safety practice and risk management.

The theme of the Forum this year was "Caring Culture for Safe Work Practice". Contractors and professionals were invited to share their views with about 600 participants, including their experience of creating a safe and healthy working environment for workers by taking care of their needs. The HA believes that through constant and heartfelt caring for workers, the industry can effectively establish a caring culture in the workplace and ultimately prevent accidents.



Government announces quarterly land sale programme for July to September 2018

The Government announced today (July 3) the quarterly land sale programme for the second quarter of 2018-19, i.e. July to September 2018.

"In the second quarter of 2018-19, the Government will sell by tender five residential sites, which are estimated to produce about 1 850 flats in total. Including supply from other sources, the private housing land supply in the second quarter of 2018-19 is estimated to have a capacity to produce about 2 750 flats in total," the Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, said.

Five residential sites will be put up for sale in the second quarter of 2018-19, with one each in Lantau, the Peak and Tuen Mun respectively, and the remaining two in Kai Tak. In the same quarter, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) plans to tender Package 2 of the Ho Man Tin Station project, which can provide about 900 flats.

Mr Wong reviewed the private housing land supply situation in the first half of 2018-19. The private housing land supply in the first quarter of 2018-19, which comprises one residential site put up for sale by the Government, the MTRCL's Yau Tong Ventilation Building project and Package 3 of the Wong Chuk Hang Station project, the Urban Renewal Authority's project at Tung Chau Street/Kweilin Street in Sham Shui Po, and private development/redevelopment projects, has a capacity to provide about 3 260 flats in total. Together with the supply in the second quarter, the total private housing land supply in the first half of 2018-19 is estimated to produce about 6 000 flats.

In addition, an industrial site in Fanling, which is capable of providing about 18 800 square metres of gross floor area, is currently being tendered.

On the reallocation of sites originally designated for private housing development to public housing use, Mr Wong remarked that the Government has been reviewing the situation in response to the community's needs for housing land.

"While the pool of available sites to be rolled out for private housing in the short term will be reduced after the reallocation of some private housing sites for public housing development, the Government will, taking into account other land supply sources and market conditions, continue to put up for sale suitable private housing sites in the remaining two quarters to meet the annual target of providing land with a capacity to produce about 18 000 private units," he said.

"As in the past, we will spare no effort in identifying additional sites for development under a multi-pronged strategy to meet the community's demand for land for housing, economic and other community use," he added.

In line with past practice, the Government will retain the flexibility to make adjustments in the course of the year after the announcement of the annual land sale programme.

The list of the sites to be tendered in July to September 2018 is attached. The actual tender timetable will be drawn up taking into account the progress of necessary preparatory work. The Lands Department will separately announce the detailed land sale arrangements before individual sites are tendered.

Opening remarks by SDEV on land sale programme for July to September 2018

Following is the transcript of the opening remarks by the Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, at a media session today (July 3) on the land sale programme for July to September 2018:

In the second quarter of 2018-19, the Government will sell by tender five residential sites, estimated to produce about 1 850 flats. The sites are located one each in Lantau, the Peak and Tuen Mun respectively, with the remaining two in Kai Tak. Separately, Package 2 of MTR's Ho Man Tin Station project will produce about 900 flats. The private housing land supply in this quarter is therefore estimated to produce about 2 750 flats in total.

Together with the residential land supply in the first quarter, the total private housing land supply in the first half of 2018-19 from all sources is about 6 000 flats.

While the pool of available sites to be rolled out for private housing in the short term will be reduced after the re-allocation of some private housing sites for public housing development, the Government will, taking into account other land supply sources and market conditions, continue to put up for sale suitable private housing sites in the remaining two quarters to meet the annual target of providing land with a capacity to produce about 18

000 private units.

Thank you.

Tender for the re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme to be held on July 11, 2018

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announces today (July 3) that a tender of 10-year Government Bonds (Bonds) through the re-opening of existing 10-year Government Bond issue 10GB2706 under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme will be held on July 11, 2018 (Wednesday) for settlement on July 12, 2018 (Thursday).

An additional amount of HK\$1.2 billion of the outstanding 10-year Bonds (issue no. 10GB2706) will be on offer. The Bonds will mature on June 29, 2027 and will carry interest at the rate of 1.25 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears. The Indicative Pricings of the Bonds on July 3, 2018 is 92.15 with an annualised yield of 2.231 per cent.

Under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme, tender is open only to Recognized Dealers which are appointed as Primary Dealers. Anyone wishing to apply for the Bonds on offer can do so through any of the Primary Dealers on the current published list, which can be obtained from the Government Bond Programme's website at www.hkgeb.gov.hk; Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Tender results will be published on the HKMA's website, the Government Bond Programme's website, the Reuters screen (HKGBINDEX), and Bloomberg (GBHK <GO>) not later than 3pm on the tender day.

HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme Tender Information

Tender information of re-opening of 10-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Issue Number : 10GB2706 (Re-open)

Stock code : 4235 (HKGB 1.25 2706)

Tender Date and Time : July 11, 2018 (Wednesday)
 : 9.30am to 10.30am

Issue and Settlement
 Date for tender amount : July 12, 2018 (Thursday)

Amount on Offer : HK\$1.2 billion

Maturity : 10 years

Remaining Maturity : Approximately 8.97 years

Maturity Date : June 29, 2027

Interest Rate : 1.25 per cent p.a. payable semi-annually in
 : arrears

Interest Payment Dates :

- December 31, 2018
- June 28, 2019
- December 30, 2019
- June 29, 2020
- December 29, 2020
- June 29, 2021
- December 29, 2021
- June 29, 2022
- December 29, 2022
- June 29, 2023
- December 29, 2023
- June 28, 2024
- December 30, 2024
- June 30, 2025
- December 29, 2025
- June 29, 2026
- December 29, 2026
- June 29, 2027

Method of Tender : Competitive tender

Each competitive tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Any tender applications for the Bonds must be submitted through a Primary Dealer on the current published list.

Tender Amount : The accrued interest to be paid by successful bidders on the issue date (July 12, 2018) for the tender amount is HK\$22.26 per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000.

(The accrued interest to be paid for tender amount exceeding HK\$50,000 may not be exactly equal to the figures calculated from the accrued interest per minimum denomination of HK\$50,000 due to rounding).

Other details : Please see Information Memorandum available on the Government Bond Programme's website at www.hkgb.gov.hk or approach Primary Dealers.

Expected commencement date of dealing on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited : The tender amount is fully fungible with the existing 10GB2706 (Stock code: 4235) listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Price/Yield Table of the re-opening Government Bonds at tender for reference* only:

Yield-to-Maturity Price		Yield-to-Maturity Price	
1.231	100.19	2.231	92.16
1.281	99.77	2.281	91.78
1.331	99.35	2.331	91.40
1.381	98.94	2.381	91.03
1.431	98.52	2.431	90.65
1.481	98.11	2.481	90.27
1.531	97.70	2.531	89.90
1.581	97.29	2.581	89.53
1.631	96.89	2.631	89.16
1.681	96.48	2.681	88.80
1.731	96.08	2.731	88.43
1.781	95.68	2.781	88.07
1.831	95.28	2.831	87.70
1.881	94.89	2.881	87.34
1.931	94.49	2.931	86.99
1.981	94.10	2.981	86.63

2.031	93.71	3.031	86.27
2.081	93.32	3.081	85.92
2.131	92.93	3.131	85.57
2.181	92.55	3.181	85.22
2.231	92.16	3.231	84.87

*** Disclaimer**

The information provided here is for reference only. Although extreme care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date, the HKMA does not warrant that all, or any part of, the information provided is accurate in all respects. You are encouraged to conduct your own enquiries to verify any particular piece of information provided on it. The HKMA shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of any use or reliance on any of the information provided here.

Two Hong Kong resident employers and four illegal workers jailed

Two Hong Kong resident employers and four Indonesian illegal workers were jailed at Shatin and Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on June 29 and 30 respectively.

During an operation conducted by the Immigration Department (ImmD) codenamed "Twilight" on November 1, 2017, and a joint operation conducted by the ImmD and the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" on February 6, enforcement officers raided a restaurant in Tsuen Wan and a container terminal in Kwai Chung respectively. Two Vietnamese illegal workers and one Bangladeshi illegal worker were arrested. Two Hong Kong resident employers of the illegal workers were also arrested during the operations.

The illegal workers were jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts earlier. The two Hong Kong resident employers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on June 29 for being an employer of a person who was not lawfully employable as they did not take all practicable steps to ascertain whether the applicants were lawfully employable prior to employment. After trial, they were sentenced to three months' imprisonment and six weeks' imprisonment.

In addition, during a joint operation conducted by the ImmD and the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Powerplayer" on June 27, enforcement officers raided a restaurant in Jordan. Two Indonesian female illegal workers, aged 38 and 39, were arrested. When intercepted, they were performing kitchen work. Upon identity checking, they 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, during an anti-illegal worker operation mounted on June 27, ImmD investigators raided a restaurant in Yuen Long. Two female Indonesian illegal workers, aged 36 and 41, were arrested. When intercepted, they were serving customers and performing dish washing duty respectively. Upon identity checking, one of them produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. The other woman was an overstaying foreign domestic helper (FDH). They were also suspected of using and being in possession of Hong Kong identity cards relating to other persons. Meanwhile, a Hong Kong resident employer suspected of employing the illegal workers was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The three illegal workers holding recognisance forms were charged at Shatin and Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts on June 29 and 30 respectively 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 to 16 months' imprisonment. In addition, one of them was also charged with one count of using a Hong Kong identity card relating to another person and one count of possessing a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. She was sentenced to 15 months and 12 months' imprisonment respectively. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 15 months' imprisonment. For the other illegal worker, she was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts on June 29 with one count of breaching conditions of stay by taking up unapproved employment in Hong Kong as an FDH. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment. She was also charged with one count of overstaying and one count of using a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. She was sentenced to 16 days and 15 months' imprisonment 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.

The ImmD spokesman stressed that any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. An FDH should only take up employment as such and reside at the contractual address as stipulated in the contract, as approved by the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to criminal prosecution and upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for two years. Aiders and abettors are also

liable to prosecution.

The spokesman also warned that it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or an identity card relating 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.