

TD deeply saddened by passing of operator staff member

The Transport Department (TD) is deeply saddened today (May 23) by the passing of an operator staff member in a traffic accident while working at Nam Wan Tunnel, and expressed its deepest condolences to the family of the deceased. The TD has requested the contractor to provide all practicable assistance to the family.

In the small hours today, the staff member was conducting traffic management on the closed slow lane at the Kowloon-bound entrance to facilitate the recovery of a broken-down vehicle in the slow lane inside the tunnel. The TD attaches great importance to work safety and has long required operators to strictly comply with relevant work guidelines. Initial investigations revealed that all staff members at the scene were wearing reflective vests and were following the operator's guidelines.

Police investigations into the cause of incident are underway. The TD has requested that the operator render full assistance to the investigations and submit a detailed report on the case. The TD will follow up appropriately upon its findings.

LegCo Members meet with members of Kwai Tsing and Sham Shui Po District Councils (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Legislative Council (LegCo) Members met with Kwai Tsing District Council (DC) and Sham Shui Po DC members at the LegCo Complex today (May 23). They held in-depth discussions and exchanged views on issues related to community development and public concern.

During the meeting with the Kwai Tsing DC, LegCo Members discussed and exchanged views with DC members on various issues, including the ageing water mains in the district and ways to expedite the water works in Kwai Shing Circuit and Tai Wo Hau Road; improving the planning of ancillary transport facilities in Kwai Tsing, including proposals for additional parking spaces and restructuring of bus routes; as well as enhancing barrier-free facilities in the district to address residents' needs for elevators to access uphill areas.

The meeting was convened by Dr Junius Ho. A total of 17 Members attended the meeting, including Dr Chan Han-pan, Ms Doreen Kong, Mr Stanley Li, Mr Robert Lee, Dr Tik Chi-yuen, Ms Nixie Lam, Mr Dennis Leung, Mr Kenneth Leung, Ms Chan Yuet-ming, Mr Chan Yung, Mr Chan Siu-hung, Ms Joephy Chan, Ms Lillian Kwok, Mr Benson Luk, Mr Tang Fei and Professor Lau Chi-pang.

As for the meeting with the Sham Shui Po DC, LegCo Members discussed and exchanged views with DC members on various issues, including developing in-depth local tourism through the promotion of district characteristics and better use of harbourfront resources to boost the local economy; establishing an ecosystem for the arts, culture and creative industries in Sham Shui Po to provide development opportunities for young people and support the development of such industries in Hong Kong; as well as building a smart community by leveraging technology and innovative design to advance ageing in place, with a view to transforming Sham Shui Po into an elderly-friendly community.

The meeting was convened by Dr Lo Wai-kwok. A total of 18 Members attended the meeting, including Mr Jeffrey Lam, Mr Vincent Cheng, Mr Tony Tse, Ms Doreen Kong, Dr Tik Chi-yuen, Ms Nixie Lam, Dr Wendy Hong, Mr Leung Man-kwong, Mr Kenneth Leung, Ms Chan Yuet-ming, Mr Chan Pui-leung, Mr Chan Yung, Mr Chan Siu-hung, Ms Chan Hoi-yan, Mr Benson Luk, Mr Kingsley Wong and Mr Lai Tung-kwok.





[EPD team visits PLA Hong Kong Garrison Exhibition Center \(with photos\)](#)

The Director of Environmental Protection, Dr Samuel Chui, today (May 23) led the directorate officers of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to visit the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison Exhibition Center at Ngong Shuen Chau Barracks. Accompanied by representatives of the PLA Hong Kong Garrison, the team toured the exhibition themed "Dreams of the East".

The exhibition comprises three thematic exhibition halls, namely "the Chinese Dream", "the Dream of a Strong Military" and "the PRC HK Garrison", along with a weaponry and equipment area. After the visit, Dr Chui and the team members expressed that the exhibition enhanced their appreciation of the nation's illustrious military legacy and modernisation efforts, while deepening their grasp of the strategic significance of the holistic approach to national security.

Dr Chui said, "Ecological security is a pivotal element of the national security system. EPD has been upholding a spirit of professionalism and innovation, collaborating to build a green, resilient city. Through environmental initiatives, we reinforce the 'one country, two systems' principle and inject impetus into Hong Kong's sustainable development."

In addition to internal training to enhance staff awareness of national security, the EPD has rolled out diverse educational activities in recent years to strengthen public understanding of the country, particularly among the youth.

The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the EPD, in collaboration with the Center for Environmental Education and Communications of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, have produced the documentary series "Enchanting China". With the first series launched last September, the documentary helped the public understand the country's progress in ecological civilisation

development in building a beautiful China, as well as the contributions and achievements made by the country and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in environmental protection and nature conservation through showing the country's achievements and contributions in environmental protection. The second series of "Enchanting China" is currently in production and slated for release later this year.



CFS finds Salmonella in sample of pig ear

â€‹The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (May 23) that a sample of pig ear was found to contain Salmonella, a pathogen. The CFS is following up on the incident.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "Following up on a related food incident, the CFS collected the above-mentioned sample from a restaurant in Tai Po for testing. The test result showed the presence of Salmonella in 25 grams of the sample, exceeding the criterion of the Microbiological Guidelines for Food, which states that Salmonella should not be detected in 25g of a ready-to-eat food sample."

"The CFS has instantly sent staff to the restaurant for conducting an investigation. The restaurant concerned has also been informed of the irregularity. The restaurant has already stopped selling and discarded the affected product according to the CFS's advice. The CFS has also provided health education on food safety and hygiene to the person-in-charge and staff of the restaurant, and requested that it improve its food preparation process and carry out thorough cleaning and disinfection. Should there be sufficient evidence, prosecution will be instituted," the spokesman said.

According to section 54 of the Public Health and Municipal Services

Ordinance (Cap. 132), all food available for sale in Hong Kong, locally produced or imported, should be fit for human consumption. An offender is subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

"Salmonella infection may cause fever and gastrointestinal upset such as vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. The effects on infants, young children, the elderly and people with a weak immune system could be more severe and may even lead to death," the spokesman said.

â€‹The CFS will continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health. The investigation is ongoing.

[20 persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations \(with photo\)](#)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Fastrack", "Lightshadow", "Twilight", and a joint operation with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion", for four consecutive days from May 19 to yesterday (May 22). A total of 14 suspected illegal workers, three suspected employers and three overstayers were arrested.

During the anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 75 target locations including commercial buildings, massage parlours, residential buildings, restaurants and retail stores. Twelve suspected illegal workers and three suspected employers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised five men and seven women, aged 36 to 60. Among them, one woman was a holder of recognisance form, which prohibits her from taking any employment. In addition, three women were also suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Three women, aged 53 to 60, were suspected of employing the illegal workers and were also arrested.

During operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 30 target locations in Sham Shui Po District. Two suspected illegal workers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised one man and one woman, both aged 42. They were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment.

An ImmD spokesman said, "Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him or her 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."

The spokesman warned, "As stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land is prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. As stipulated in section 20(1)(a) of the Immigration Ordinance, the Chief Executive may make a deportation order against an immigrant, prohibiting the immigrant from being in Hong Kong at any time thereafter if the immigrant has been found guilty in Hong Kong of an offence punishable by imprisonment for not less than two years. Under the prevailing laws, 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 upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$100,000 and up to 10 years' imprisonment."

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. Under the Immigration Ordinance, the maximum penalty for an employer employing a person who is not lawfully employable, i.e. an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land, has been significantly increased from a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment to a fine of \$500,000 and 10 years' imprisonment to reflect the gravity of such offences. The director, manager, secretary, partner, etc, of the company concerned may also bear criminal liability. 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. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and to imprisonment for one year. In that connection, the spokesman would like to remind all employers not to defy the law by employing illegal workers. The ImmD will continue to take resolute enforcement action to combat such offences.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an 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 ImmD officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats 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 intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter or temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments immediately.

