

## **Property owner fined over \$150,000 for persistently not complying with removal order**

A property owner was fined over \$150,000 last week upon conviction at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts in September last year for persistently failing to comply with a removal order issued under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123).

This case involved several unauthorised structures with a total area of about 760 square metres on the roof of an industrial building on Sheung Hei Street and Tai Yau Street, San Po Kong. As the unauthorised building works (UBWs) were carried out without prior approval and consent from the Buildings Department (BD), a removal order was served on the owner under section 24(1) of the BO.

Failing to comply with the removal order, the owner was prosecuted twice by the BD and was fined over \$70,000 in total upon convictions by the court. As the owner persisted in not complying with the removal order, the BD instigated a third prosecution in 2023. The owner was convicted at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts on September 25, 2024, and the court adjourned the hearing and ordered the owner to report the status of the removal of the UBWs before handing down a sentence. On the adjourned hearing date of March 26, the owner reported to the court that the UBWs had been removed and eventually was fined \$154,500 by the court, of which \$124,500 was the fine for the number of days that the offence continued.

A spokesman for the BD said today (April 3), "UBWs may lead to serious consequences. Owners must comply with removal orders without delay. The BD will continue to take enforcement action and consider instigating prosecution against the owners again if they persist in not complying with removal orders to ensure building and public safety."

Failure to comply with a removal order without a reasonable excuse is a serious offence under the BO. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$200,000 and one year's imprisonment, and a further fine of \$20,000 for each day that the offence continues.

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## **Extended Designated Application Period for Northbound Travel for Hong Kong**

## Vehicles announced

The Transport Department announced today (April 3) that, starting from April 14, the arrangements for balloted new and renewal applicants for the Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles (the Scheme) will be further enhanced. The current designated application periods of three and six calendar days respectively for new and renewal applicants will be both extended to 13 calendar days to allow sufficient time for applicants to prepare the necessary application documents.

The eligibility, procedures and balloting of applications of the Scheme will remain unchanged. Applicants may refer to the Scheme's website ([www.hzmbqfs.gov.hk/en/](http://www.hzmbqfs.gov.hk/en/)) for details. The governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong will continue to monitor the operation of the Scheme and maintain close liaison to review and enhance the arrangements of the Scheme in a timely manner.

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## Korean restaurant brand Samsic establishes foothold in Hong Kong (with photos)

Invest Hong Kong announced today (April 3) that Korean restaurant brand Samsic has opened its first outlet in Hong Kong, offering authentic Korean cuisine to customers in the city.

Associate Director-General of Investment Promotion Mr Arnold Lau said, "Korean food and pop culture are popular in Hong Kong and there is a strong Korean community in the city. Together with its worldwide reputation as a culinary capital in Asia, Hong Kong is an ideal place for Samsic to expand in the region. I wish it every success and beyond."

He added, "Further to the visit by our Director-General of Investment Promotion, Ms Alpha Lau, to Seoul and a delegation of Korean food and beverage companies visiting Hong Kong to explore business opportunities last month, we are delighted to see the positive outcome from our investment promotion efforts."

The Executive Director of BMJ Samsik HK Limited, Mr Chan Hyung Hwang, said, "Hong Kong has a sophisticated customer base with high purchasing power. Its status as a global trading hub and friendly business environment also appeals to us to set up our presence in the city."

Mr Chan added, "We target to establish a strong presence in Hong Kong and plan to open more than 10 Samsic Korean Soup Restaurants in key areas throughout Hong Kong, including Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai. Hong Kong is an international city with a dynamic culture. We aim to take the lead in promoting traditional Korean cuisine globally via the city."

Located on Shelley Street in Central, the new restaurant offers a variety of authentic Korean dishes, including pork bone soup, blood sausage soup rice, stone pot rice, braised pork bone and hangover soup. Its dishes originate from a region in Korea called Byeongcheon-myeon, which is famous for the traditional Korean dish called black pudding soup, a favourite among many Koreans.

For a copy of the photos, please visit [www.flickr.com/photos/investhk/albums/72177720324814422](http://www.flickr.com/photos/investhk/albums/72177720324814422).



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## [Red flags hoisted at Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay 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 (April 3) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

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## Tsing Yi Southwest Swimming Pool temporarily closed

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (April 2) that Tsing Yi Southwest Swimming Pool in Kwai Tsing District has been temporarily closed for cleaning and superchlorination following the discovery of a small amount of vomit in the pool.

It will be reopened at 6.30am tomorrow.

The department appeals to swimmers to be considerate and to keep the swimming pools clean. They are advised not to swim after a full meal and should use the toilet facilities if necessary before swimming.