

CEDB staff member preliminarily tests positive for COVID-19

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) today (February 7) said that a staff member of the CEDB has preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member, who works on 23rd floor of the West Wing of the Central Government Offices in Tamar, does not have contact with the public in her daily work. She last went to work on February 4. She wore surgical masks and followed relevant disease prevention measures at work. She has no recent travel history.

Thorough cleaning and disinfection operations have been conducted at the concerned workplaces. The CEDB has also followed the advice from the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health in arranging for the staff members concerned to undergo COVID-19 tests.

The CEDB will continue to strictly implement various disease prevention measures. Staff members are also reminded to pay attention to personal hygiene and stay vigilant at all times. They should seek medical advice immediately and inform the CEDB if they feel unwell.

Land Registry releases statistics for January

The Land Registry today (February 7) released its statistics for January 2022.

Land registration

* The number of sale and purchase agreements for all building units received for registration in January was 5,911 (-16.5 per cent compared with December 2021 and -4.8 per cent compared with January 2021)

* The 12-month moving average for January was 7,986 (0.3 per cent below the 12-month moving average for December 2021 but 26.5 per cent above that for January 2021)

* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in January was \$54.4 billion (-38.0 per cent compared with December 2021 and -18.6 per cent compared with January 2021)

* Among the sale and purchase agreements, 4,275 were for residential units (-16.9 per cent compared with December 2021 and -6.3 per cent compared with January 2021)

* The total consideration for sale and purchase agreements in respect of residential units was \$43.4 billion (-10.5 per cent compared with December 2021 but +9.3 per cent compared with January 2021)

Statistics on sales of residential units do not include sale and purchase agreements relating to sales of units under the Home Ownership Scheme, the Private Sector Participation Scheme, the Tenants Purchase Scheme, etc, unless the premium of the unit concerned has been paid after the sale restriction period.

Figures on sale and purchase agreements received for the past 12 months, the year-on-year rate of change and breakdown figures on residential sales have also been released.

As deeds may not be lodged with the Land Registry until up to 30 days after the transaction, these statistics generally relate to land transactions in the previous month.

Land search

* The number of searches of land registers made by the public in January was 429,213 (-1.6 per cent compared with December 2021 and -3.8 per cent compared with January 2021)

The statistics cover searches made at the counter, through the self-service terminals and via the Integrated Registration Information System Online Services.

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**Applications invited for Basic Law
Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme
and Basic Law Promotion Research**

Sponsorship Scheme

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is inviting a new round of applications under the Basic Law Promotion Activity Sponsorship Scheme and Basic Law Promotion Research Sponsorship Scheme (Sponsorship Scheme).

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has been promoting the Basic Law to members of the public through various channels. The Sponsorship Scheme aims to promote the Basic Law among different sectors of the community and to encourage different groups or organisations to conduct research on ways to further enhance the promotion of the Basic Law, with a view to enhancing public understanding of and support for the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law.

Application information can be downloaded from the Basic Law website (www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/committee/sponsorship.html). The deadline for application is March 31, 2022.

For enquiries, please contact the Secretariat of the Sponsorship Scheme at 2810 2106.

Applications invited for Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) invites applications under the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme 2022-23 from today (February 7).

"The Government is committed to fostering the culture and values of inclusiveness, mutual respect and non-discrimination, and promoting equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations and transgenders. The funding scheme provides funding support to worthwhile community projects which aim at promoting equal opportunities on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, or seek to provide support services for sexual minorities," a spokesman for the CMAB said.

Information on making applications is available at the CMAB website (www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/equalsdofs_sex.htm). The deadline for applications is March 31, 2022.

An online briefing session will be held on February 21, 2022, to brief

interested parties on the scope and operation of the Funding Scheme.

For enquiries, please contact the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit of the CMAB at 2810 3205.