

Morse Park 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 (March 8) that due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty, Morse Park Swimming Pool in Wong Tai Sin District has been temporarily closed until further notice to ensure the safety of swimmers.

Remarks by DSJ at media session

Following are the remarks by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, at a media session after attending a radio programme today (March 8):

Reporter: Regarding the Court of Final Appeal's ruling on Thursday, what is the next step for DoJ? In what aspect does the DoJ think that the NS... needs to be improved?

Deputy Secretary for Justice: We are carefully studying the judgment handed down by the Court of Final Appeal. We will see how the judgment can further improve the law enforcement mechanism of national security in Hong Kong, but I will say that the judgment and the case law will contribute significantly to the development of jurisprudence of the national security related law in Hong Kong.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Speech by CE at International Women's Day Reception 2025

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the

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Now, I would like to turn to our English-speaking friends.

Today, as we celebrate International Women's Day, we also mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adopted at the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in 1995, this milestone document became the key global policy agenda on gender equality.

It's been a remarkable 30 years since then, in human development, in economic progress and, most importantly, in promoting women's development.

Today, Hong Kong is home to some 4.1 million female – that's over 54 per cent of our population. Seven of my 15 Directors of Bureau are women – that's almost half of them – and a whopping 60 per cent of our top civil servants are female. Over half of Hong Kong's accountants and lawyers are female, while some 40 per cent of our managers are women.

Yes, women are the backbone of our society – they include leaders, innovators, caregivers, change-makers, and more. From boardrooms to classrooms, from workspaces to marketplaces, the women of Hong Kong continue to break barriers and inspire future generations. Your resilience fuels our progress. Your vision shapes our future. And your leadership drives our success.

The Government is dedicated to promoting gender equality, and empowering women in every facet of life. Since taking office, I have established the Women Empowerment Fund in 2023, turning ideas into action, and aspirations into achievements.

The Government launched the first Family and Women Development Summit last year, igniting discussions that will shape policies for the years to come. We created a one-stop family and women information portal, ensuring easy access to essential resources.

This year, we are proud to introduce "She Inspires" – a mentorship programme led by female leaders, designed to nurture the next generation of female trailblazers and pioneers.

But that's not the half of it. When women rise, society thrives. Together with the Women's Commission, we will foster an inclusive, opportunity-filled Hong Kong, where every woman, every girl can dream big, aim high, and realise her full potential.

I wish you all a joyous, inspiring and empowering International Women's Day. Keep rising. Continue to make history. Thank you!

[DH's continues to clamp down on illegal waterpipe smoking in no smoking areas \(with photos\)](#)

The Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office (TACO) of the Department of Health (DH) continued to clamp down on illegal waterpipe smoking in no smoking areas by conducting another enforcement operation, codenamed "Pipepurge", in Central last night (March 7) and issued a total of three fixed penalty notices (FPNs).

During the operation, officers from TACO (including plainclothes officers) carried out inspections and enforcement action at one bar in Central, and issued a total of three FPNs to persons illegally smoking waterpipes. TACO's investigation is ongoing, and prosecution may also be taken against operators of the bar who are suspected of aiding and abetting smoking offences. TACO will also refer the cases to the Liquor Licensing Board for appropriate follow-up action.

Under the Ordinance, conducting a smoking act in a statutory no smoking area (such as indoor areas of bars or restaurants) is prohibited. Any person doing a smoking act in statutory no smoking areas is liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,500. Moreover, where smoking products (including waterpipes) are sold, in bars or otherwise, the restrictions on the promotion and sale of smoking products stipulated in the Ordinance apply. Offenders are liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000. Venue managers of statutory no smoking areas are empowered by the Ordinance to request a smoking offender cease the act; if the offender is not co-operative, the manager may contact the Police for assistance.

In addition, under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, any person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission by another person of any offence shall be guilty of the same offence.

"The DH will continue to closely monitor and take stringent enforcement action against illegal waterpipe smoking. Last year (2024), TACO conducted 162 operations against illegal waterpipe smoking activities in no smoking areas. A total of 162 FPNs were issued against smoking offenders, while 89 summonses were issued to staff members and operators of the bars/restaurants for other related offences," the Head of TACO, Dr Fung Ying said.

Dr Fung reminded the public that waterpipe is a smoking product, and its combustion of fuel (e.g. charcoal) releases carbon monoxide. Exposure to a low concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to a range of symptoms such as dizziness, headache, tiredness and nausea; whereas exposure to a high concentration of carbon monoxide can lead to impaired vision, disturbed co-ordination, unconsciousness, brain damage or even death. People should seek medical attention immediately if they suspect they are developing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A typical one-hour waterpipe smoking session exposes the user to 100 to 200 times the volume of smoke inhaled from a single conventional cigarette. Moreover, sharing a waterpipe apparatus increases the risk of transmitting infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis.

She cautioned against waterpipe smoking and the use of other smoking products. Smokers should quit smoking as early as possible for their own health and that of others. For more information on the hazards of waterpipe smoking, please visit www.livetobaccofree.hk/pdfs/waterpipe_leaflet_new.pdf.



Red flags hoisted at some beaches

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 (March 8) that due to big waves/inclement weather, red flags have been hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.