

Queen Elizabeth Hospital announces passing away of COVID-19 patient

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) announced today (August 20) that a 92-year-old female patient confirmed with COVID-19 (case number: 4281) passed away today.

The patient with chronic diseases was admitted to QEH on August 11 due to a fever. Her condition continued to deteriorate and she eventually succumbed at 8.48am today.

The Hospital was saddened about the passing away of the patient and would offer necessary assistance to her family.

Including the above case, 73 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

Government posts notices of land resumption for public housing and education facilities development in Tuen Mun

The Lands Department posted today (August 20) notices in accordance with section 4 of the Lands Resumption Ordinance (Chapter 124) and section 14 of the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Chapter 370) for the resumption of land for the development of public housing and education facilities near Kei Lun Wai and Kwong Shan Tsuen in Area 54, Tuen Mun.

A total of 54 private agricultural lots with a total area of about 21,274.3 square metres will be resumed. The said land will revert to the Government upon the expiry of a period of three months from the date of affixing the notices (i.e. November 21).

The site formation and infrastructural works of the above development are expected to commence within this year for completion in 2025. The construction of public housing is expected to be completed in 2027/28.

Results of Pharmacist Registration Examinations June 2020 announced

The following is issued on behalf of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong:

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong announced today (August 20) the results of the Pharmacist Registration Examinations held in June 2020.

There were 41, 68 and 57 candidates sitting for examinations in pharmacy legislation in Hong Kong, pharmacy practice and pharmacology respectively, with corresponding passing rates of 63 per cent, 13 per cent and 61 per cent.

Apart from meeting other requirements prescribed by the Board, any pharmacy graduate outside Hong Kong intending to be registered as a pharmacist in Hong Kong is required to pass the above three subjects.

The Board conducts its Registration Examinations twice a year, normally in June and December.

HKSAR Government strongly reprimands unilateral decision by the US on suspension or termination of bilateral agreements

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government issued a severe reprimand today (August 20) against the United States (US) administration for its unilateral decision to suspend or terminate three bilateral agreements with the HKSAR.

As part of the so-called "ongoing implementation measures" following the US President's Executive Order issued on July 14, the US Department of State announced yesterday the suspension or termination of three bilateral agreements signed between the HKSAR Government and US Government, namely the Agreement on the Surrender of Fugitive Offenders (SF0), the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (TSP) Agreement and the Agreement concerning Tax Exemptions from the Income Derived from the International Operation of Ship.

"Contrary to what was alleged in the US President's Executive Order, these agreements are not US' preferential treatment for Hong Kong. They are bilateral agreements negotiated in good faith to benefit the peoples and businesses of both sides in areas of law and order, shipping and tax treatment. The US' unilateral decision reflects its disrespect for bilateralism and multilateralism under the current administration and should be condemned by the international community," a spokesman for the HKSAR Government said.

"The HKSAR Government strongly objects to and deplores the US' action, which is widely seen as a move to create troubles in China-US relationship, using Hong Kong as a pawn."

Earlier this month, the US also imposed the so-called "sanctions" against 11 officials of the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government, as well as disallowed Hong Kong products to be marked as originated from "Hong Kong". The HKSAR Government has expressed strong opposition to US' actions via press statements of [August 8](#) and [August 11](#).

On the suspension of SFO Agreement, the spokesman pointed out that the HKSAR Government, with the authorisation and assistance of the Central People's Government, has all along conducted close and effective law enforcement co-operation with the US under the legal framework of the Agreement based on the principle of mutual assistance and reciprocity. Since the entry into force of the SFO Agreement between the HKSAR and the US in 1998, the number of fugitive offenders successfully surrendered to the US upon request with assistance rendered by the HKSAR Government amounted to a total of 69, which is much higher than the total number of 23 fugitive offenders surrendered to the HKSAR from the US. It is expected that suspension of the SFO agreement will have greater impact on the US' enforcement operation.

"Since the crimes committed by fugitive offenders are mostly of a serious nature such as fraud, drug trafficking, murder/manslaughter, rape/sexual offence, money laundering, corruption, theft, etc., suspension of the SFO Agreement will only allow such criminals to evade legal sanctions and thus failing to uphold justice for the victims. As such, the US will need to be answerable to the rule of law, to the American people and to the international community at large," the spokesman said.

The spokesman stressed that the HKSAR has established a comprehensive co-operation regime for the surrender of fugitives. The HKSAR Government will continue to uphold the principle of mutual assistance and reciprocity, and carry out law enforcement co-operation with other members of the international community in accordance with the law.

As regards the TSP Agreement, it allows sentenced persons to return to their places of origin to serve their sentence, where there are no language or cultural barriers and where friends and relatives can pay more regular visits, and is conducive to their rehabilitation. The US' decision to terminate the Hong Kong-US TSP Agreement eliminates the possibility of such

transfers and defies values of humanitarianism.

The spokesman pointed to the fact that the HKSAR Government has not approved any application for transfer of sentenced persons from Hong Kong to the US since 2012.

"This is because we have grounds to question the US' system for continued enforcement of sentences. Our concern has arisen from a case involving a drug convict, who was sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment in Hong Kong in 2009. After serving three years and four months in Hong Kong, he was subsequently transferred to the US under the TSP Agreement in December 2011 to serve out the remainder of the sentence. However, the United States Parole Commission substantially reduced the sentence from 24 years to five years (by 80 per cent), leading to the discharge of the sentenced person in November 2012, less than a year after transfer (with roughly 20 per cent of the original sentence served in total). We doubt whether full justice has been done in upholding law and order," the spokesman added.

On the Agreement concerning Tax Exemptions from the Income Derived from the International Operation of Ship, it provides for mutual tax exemption on income derived by residents/companies of the other side from international shipping operation business on a reciprocal basis.

"Should the Agreement between Hong Kong and the US be terminated, for the US companies, they would need to pay taxes to both the US and Hong Kong governments, whereas Hong Kong companies will be required to pay tax to the US government only, as their shipping income are exempted from tax liability in Hong Kong by virtue of section 23B of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

"The termination of the Agreement increases the operating costs of the shipping companies concerned, in particular the US companies as they will be subject to double taxation. It would hamper the development of the shipping sector between Hong Kong and US, and is to nobody's interest," the spokesman said.

Referring to the earlier US measure on Hong Kong products exported to the US, the spokesman said that the HKSAR Government will take action at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against US' measures which violate WTO rules.

"US' new rule on origin marking of Hong Kong products disregards Hong Kong's status as a separate WTO member and violates WTO rules," the spokesman said.

"Hong Kong will take action against the US under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism to defend our separate customs territory status and protect our interest. Specifically, as our permanent representative at the WTO, the Geneva Economic and Trade Office will follow up the case in accordance with the WTO processes," the spokesman said.

The spokesman pointed out that the HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and a local administrative region which enjoys a

high degree of autonomy under "One Country, Two Systems" and comes directly under the Central People's Government. The Basic Law confers special status to Hong Kong under "One Country, Two Systems".

"Article 116 of the Basic Law provides that the HKSAR is a separate customs territory; Article 151 provides that Hong Kong may on its own, using the name 'Hong Kong, China', maintain and develop relations and conclude and implement agreements with foreign states and regions in a range of appropriate fields.

"We urge the US administration to immediately stop interfering in HKSAR's internal affairs, and retract its baseless allegations against The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) enacted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and applied in the HKSAR in accordance with the Basic Law. We need to solemnly point out that implementation of the National Security Law preserves the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems' and restores the much needed stability in the HKSAR especially after the social chaos and violence that had taken place in Hong Kong in the latter half of last year," the spokesman said.

[Former North Kowloon Magistracy included in Batch VI of Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme](#)

The Development Bureau today (August 20) announced that the Former North Kowloon Magistracy has been included in Batch VI of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), and revitalisation proposals from non-profit-making organisations are invited with a view to identifying a new use for the building.

The Former North Kowloon Magistracy, located at No. 292, Tai Po Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, was one of the projects under Batch I of the Revitalisation Scheme. It was revitalised into the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) (Hong Kong) by the SCAD Foundation (Hong Kong) Limited, which commenced operation in September 2010 for the provision of non-local higher education courses in art and design.

SCAD (Hong Kong) notified the Government earlier that it would discontinue operation starting from June 1, 2020. The Government has taken over the historic building after the expiry of the tenancy (i.e. on August 1)

in accordance with the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement.

The application guide, the application form, the resource kit containing the historical background of the building and conservation guidelines, and other related information of the above revitalisation project can be obtained from the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau (Unit 701B, 7/F, Empire Centre, 68 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon), or downloaded from its website at heritage.gov.hk. The deadline for submission of applications is noon on December 21.

Separately, an open day of this historic building with guided tours and briefings will tentatively be arranged on September 15 (pending the COVID-19 situation) for interested applicants to learn more about the application procedures and assessment criteria.

The invitation for applications for the other four projects under Batch VI of the Revitalisation Scheme (i.e. Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Staff Quarters Compound; Homi Villa in Ting Kau, Tsuen Wan; King Yin Lei in Wan Chai; and Fong Yuen Study Hall in Ma Wan, Tsuen Wan) have commenced earlier and the deadline for applications is noon on September 3.

Enquiries can be made to the Revitalisation Scheme Secretariat by email at rhb_enquiry@devb.gov.hk or by phone on 2906 1560.