

Application period for Employment Support Scheme for Construction Sector (Casual Employees) to end on July 31

The Employment Support Scheme for the Construction Sector (ESSC) under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund will offer subsidies to construction sector employers who have employed casual employees on a long-term basis. The ESSC was opened for applications on July 6, and the application period will end on July 31 (Friday). Eligible construction sector employers wishing to apply for the subsidy should submit their applications before the deadline.

As of yesterday (July 26), around 1 200 construction sector employers have submitted their applications for the ESSC. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) will process the applications expeditiously so as to provide assistance to eligible construction sector employers promptly.

"We expect that the subsidy will be disbursed to applicants within six to eight weeks upon receipt of applications. The CIC will notify the applicants of the result via email, and arrange for the disbursement of the subsidies by autopay. The CIC will also publish the list of successful applicants, the amount of subsidies and their committed headcount of long-term casual employees on its website," a spokesman for the Development Bureau said today (July 27).

The application form, authorisation and declaration form and undertaking form can be downloaded from the CIC's dedicated website (www.cic.hk/eng/main/anti_epidemic_fund_2nd/ess/).

The Government has launched two rounds of the Anti-epidemic Fund so far. As of yesterday, more than \$4.8 billion in subsidies had been disbursed to some 490 000 construction workers and some 19 000 construction-related enterprises. Apart from the ESSC, the application deadline for other subsidy schemes offered to the construction sector is August 31. Further details are available at www.cic.hk/eng/main/anti_epidemic_fund_2nd/.

QEH announces passing away of COVID-19 patient (2)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) announced today

(July 27) that a 92-year-old male patient confirmed with COVID-19 infection (case no: 1306) passed away this morning.

The patient with chronic disease was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on July 7 due to shortness of breath and cough. His condition continued to deteriorate and the hospital had communicated with the family about the patient's condition. The patient's family agreed to have Do-Not-Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation if the patient condition further deteriorated. The patient eventually succumbed at 9.13am today.

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

Including the above case, 20 COVID-19 confirmed patients have passed away in public hospitals so far.

No. 3 alarm fire in Tuen Mun

A fire broke out at a construction site of Castle Peak Bay, Castle Peak Road in Tuen Mun at 12.41pm today (July 27). The fire was upgraded to No. 3 alarm at 1.12pm.

Firemen are now using two jets and mobilising two breathing apparatus teams to fight the blaze. About 150 persons were self-evacuated to places of safety.

No casualties have been reported so far.

Grants approved for cyclone victims in India

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has accepted the advice of the Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee and approved from the Disaster Relief Fund three grants totalling \$13.479 million to three agencies for providing relief to cyclone victims in West Bengal and Odisha, India.

Announcing the grants today (July 27), a spokesman for the Government said that the cyclone had affected around 18 million people in West Bengal

and Odisha. The three grants – one of \$5.099 million to Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong, one of \$4.52 million to Save the Children Hong Kong and one of \$3.86 million to World Vision Hong Kong – will be used to provide hygiene kits, food kits and education kits as well as household items and shelter materials to benefit around 104 040 victims. The Committee hoped the grants would facilitate the provision of timely relief to the victims and help them restore their normal living. The grants, together with those approved earlier for this cyclone in India, will take the accumulative value of grants and number of beneficiaries to \$25.593 million and 189 590 respectively. As the targeted localities of relief agencies are different, there will be no overlapping of resources.

"To ensure that the money is used for the designated purposes, the relief agencies will be asked to submit evaluation reports and audited accounts on the use of the grants after the relief projects have been completed," the spokesman said.

Firing practice for August 2020

Firing practice will take place at two military sites, namely the San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range and the Tsing Shan Firing Range, next month (August).

Red flags or red lamps will be hoisted at the firing areas before and during firing practice. For their safety, people are advised not to enter the firing area.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice sessions in August 2020:

San Wai/Tai Ling Firing Range

| Date | Time |
|------|------|
|------|------|

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| August 3 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 4 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 5 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 6 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 7 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 10 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 11 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 12 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 13 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 14 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 17 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 18 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 19 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 20 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 21 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 24 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 25 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 26 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 27 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 28 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 31 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |

Tsing Shan Firing Range

| Date | Time |
|-----------------------|---------|
| August 3 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 4 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 5 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 6 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 7 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 10 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 11 (Tuesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 12 (Wednesday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 13 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
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| August 27 (Thursday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 28 (Friday) | 8am-9pm |
| August 31 (Monday) | 8am-9pm |