

# **Public consultation on review of Statutory Minimum Wage rate to end on June 16**

The following is issued on behalf of the Minimum Wage Commission:

The Minimum Wage Commission (MWC) today (June 5) reminded members of the public and stakeholders that the public consultation on the review of the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) rate will end on June 16.

The MWC commenced an eight-week public consultation on April 22, 2020. Various sectors of the community, including members of the public and stakeholders, are welcome to express views on the review of the SMW rate to the MWC in writing by e-Form on its website ([www.mwc.org.hk](http://www.mwc.org.hk)); fax (2110 3518); email ([mwc@labour.gov.hk](mailto:mwc@labour.gov.hk)); or post (The Minimum Wage Commission, 1/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central) on or before June 16. The public can also contact the Secretariat of the MWC at 2852 3864. Details and relevant reference information and data are available at the MWC's website.

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## **Gazettal of notice of removal and disposal of human remains from graves/urns for Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension**

The Government published in the Gazette today (June 5) a notice in accordance with section 119(1) of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Chapter 132) for the removal and disposal of human remains from graves/urns for the implementation of the Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension.

The Chief Executive in Council intends to make an order to direct the removal of any human remains from the two graves shown in the notice, and to direct their disposal in a decent manner as appropriate one month after the publication date of the notice.

The site preparation and construction works of the Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension are expected to commence in 2021. About 19 million cubic metres of additional landfill capacity for waste disposal in the territory could be provided upon completion.

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## Red flag hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh 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 (June 5) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

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## Labour Department highly concerned about fatal work accident that happened yesterday

The Labour Department (LD) is highly concerned about a fatal work accident that happened at the rear lane of a commercial building in Wan Chai yesterday afternoon (June 4), in which a male worker fell from height while dismantling a metal scaffold. He was certified dead later in the hospital. The LD is saddened by the death of the worker and expresses its deepest sympathies to the victim's family.

â€‹ The LD's spokesman said, "We commenced an immediate on-site investigation as soon as we were notified of the accident and issued suspension notices to the employer concerned, suspending the use, erection, alteration and dismantling of the metal scaffold of the building. The employer cannot resume the work process until the LD is satisfied that measures to abate the relevant risk have been taken."

The spokesman added, "We will complete investigation as soon as possible to identify the cause of the accident, ascertain the liability of the duty holders and recommend improvement measures. We will take actions pursuant to the law if there is any violation of the work safety legislation."

The general duty provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance require occupiers of premises/employers to provide safe means of

access and egress and safe working environments, plant and systems of work for the employees. Those who contravene the above provisions are liable to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for six months.

In regard to yesterday's accident, the LD will issue a Work Safety Alert through its website and email, giving a brief account of the accident concerned to duty holders, workers' unions, professional bodies of safety practitioners and others, reminding the industry of the importance of following safety precautionary measures to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents.

The LD will also remind the employer concerned of the liability for employees' compensation under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, assist family members of the deceased to claim employees' compensation and closely follow up on the case. For those with financial difficulties, the LD will assist them to apply for appropriate emergency funds. Subject to the needs and wishes of family members of the deceased, the LD will also liaise with the Social Welfare Department for financial or other assistance.

For the sake of securing the safety and health of employees at work, the LD appeals to employers to provide plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health. Employees should co-operate with their employers, adopt all safety measures and use personal protective equipment provided properly to avoid endangering their own work safety and that of other workers.

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## Government expresses regret over Central and Western District Council members' unruly and unreasonable acts

A number of members of the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) today (June 4) convened a meeting not compatible with the District Council Ordinance (DCO) and threatened the District Officer (Central & Western) and staff at the Central & Western District Office (C&WDO). The Government expressed regret over their acts.

The District Officer (Central & Western) had issued a letter to the DC members concerned, suggesting the members to revise the name and the Terms of Reference of the sub-committee so as to comply with the DCO. They were also advised to postpone the meeting. However, a number of C&WDC members convened a meeting not compatible with the DCO. They shouted loudly and threatened the staff in the office area of the C&WDO, causing disturbance to them.

The Government expressed regret over the unruly and unreasonable acts of

the DC members concerned and reserves the right to take legal action. The Government appeals once again to DC members to focus on district livelihood issues and advise the Government on district affairs in a rational, peaceful and pragmatic manner under the principles of mutual respect.