

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board (LLB) will meet on Tuesday (June 2) to consider six applications for new issue, renewal, transfer and amendment of liquor licences.

The applications are (not in order of discussion):

Hong Kong:

Missy Ho's in Kennedy Town
Detour and Bun Cha Vietnamese Restaurant & Cafe in Sheung Wan

Kowloon:

MONG KOK DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS' MESS in Mong Kok
SUPER BOY in Kowloon City

New Territories:

BAR PACIFIC in Tai Po

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. In response to the latest developments of coronavirus disease 2019, to avoid the gathering of people in an enclosed environment and safeguard the health of all participants, public seats will not be available for all open hearings of the LLB in the interim.

Public urged to live tobacco-free for their own health and that of loved ones

In support of World No Tobacco Day today (May 31), the Department of Health (DH) reminded members of the public that smoking causes cancers and many chronic diseases, and called on smokers to quit as early as possible for their own health and that of their families and friends.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has marked May 31 as World No

Tobacco Day annually to highlight the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocate effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

"It is well established that smoking causes cancers which may result in permanent damage that seriously affects basic bodily functions, such as eating, excreting and speaking. To raise public awareness of smoking-related cancers and their consequences, a territory-wide publicity campaign was launched to tie in with this year's World No Tobacco Day and encourage smokers to quit," a spokesman for the DH said.

"According to available research on the association of smoking and severe cases of COVID-19, it was found that smokers have about 1.4 to 2.4 times the risk of developing severe COVID-19 infection compared to non-smokers," the spokesman added.

Smokers are urged to visit the newly launched website www.livetobaccofree.hk or call the Quitline (1833 183) for more information on quitting and the available supporting tools and services. They can also download the new Quit Smoking Mobile App to keep track of their progress on quitting and get tips to deal with cravings and stay tobacco-free.

[Seize the opportunity and register online for CuMask+\[TM\]](#)

The online registration period for the CuMask+™ will end on June 6. The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) appealed to residents to seize the opportunity and register online (qmask.gov.hk).

As at 9am today (May 31), the CuMask+™ online registration system has received over 1.37 million registrations, covering more than 3.75 million registrants in total. Over 3.23 million masks have been delivered successfully by the Hongkong Post.

A spokesman for the ITB said today that the online registration for the CuMask+™ is quick and convenient. On average, citizens will receive masks delivered at door one week after registration. The spokesman added that both residential and commercial addresses are accepted. Citizens may consider providing a commercial address to facilitate collection of mail and seize the remaining week of registration period to register for themselves, family members and friends.

Citizens who do not register online may go to designated collection points in person and present their Hong Kong Identity Card to receive the CuMask+™ in due course. Details and the exact date will be announced later.

Injured person found case in Cheung Sha Wan reclassified as murder and robbery

Police today (May 30) reclassified an injured person found case in Cheung Sha Wan on May 24 as murder and robbery.

On May 24 morning, Police received a report from a man that his mother was found injured and collapsed at their residence. Sustaining head injuries, the 55-year-old woman was rushed to Caritas Medical Centre in unconscious state and was certified dead at 4.48pm yesterday (May 29).

Initial investigation revealed that the 55-year-old woman was attacked by two men with hard object and was robbed of a gold necklace outside 757 Lai Chi Kok Road on May 24 morning. The two men fled away afterwards.

A 56-year-old man and a 57-year-old man were arrested in suspected connection with the case in Kwai Tsing in the small hours of today. They are being detained for further enquiries.

Post-mortem examinations will be conducted on the deceased to ascertain the cause of death.

Investigation by the Regional Crime Unit of Kowloon West is underway.

HKSAR Government refutes statements by US Administration

In response to the statement by President Trump on May 29 afternoon (about 3am, May 30, Hong Kong time) and comments by the United States (US) State Department over the last two days, a Government spokesman today (May 30) said:

"We note with deep regret that President Trump and his administration continue to smear and demonise the legitimate rights and duty of our sovereign to safeguard national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) which in turn is aimed at restoring stability to Hong Kong society. Our society has been traumatised by escalating violence and threats of terrorism over the past year.

"Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China. Any suggestion that the People's Republic of China does not have the right to protect its own territory from separatists, terror and anarchy does not stand up to scrutiny and smacks of hypocrisy and double standards. To allege that the improved legal system and enforcement mechanisms targeting an extremely small minority of criminals to be introduced by the national security law is undermining Hong Kong people's freedoms is simply fallacious.

"As pointed out by the Secretary for Security in the Legislative Council on May 27, every country has legislation in place to safeguard national security. He said that by way of web search, it was easy to find such legislation in the United States – comprising at least 20 relevant laws including the National Security Act, Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA Patriot) Act, Logan Act, Homeland Security Act, Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Foreign Agents Registration Act, Foreign Missions Act, Alien Registration Act and Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act.

"We believe the existence of those laws to safeguard a country's national security and sovereignty does not give rise to fears of the loss of liberties by its people that will warrant international debate or interference by another country. It is generally acknowledged that all citizens should have the duty to safeguard their country's interests and hence the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights explicitly states that the rights of individuals are subject to legal restrictions on the grounds of national security.

"If the mere enactment of a national security law is a universal sovereign obligation and does not contradict with individual freedoms and the rule of law, the reactions of the US and other foreign governments since the approval by the National People's Congress (NPC) of the Decision to enact such a law for application in the HKSAR are totally misplaced. The Decision to authorise the NPC Standing Committee to prepare and enact the law is part of a two-step legislative process and as stipulated in the Decision, the NPC Standing Committee has to prepare the legislation based on clearly stated objectives and basic principles.

"The proposed law only targets acts of secession, subverting state power, organising and carrying out terrorist activities, as well as activities interfering with HKSAR's internal affairs by foreign or external forces. The five basic principles include firmly safeguarding national security, bettering the system of 'One Country, Two Systems', governing Hong Kong in strict accordance with the law, resisting external interferences in Hong Kong's affairs and upholding the legal rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people.

"In a subsequent statement issued by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council on May 29, it reaffirmed that the enactment of national security legislation would not change the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the HKSAR; it would have no impact on the HKSAR's judicial independence, including that of final adjudication as enshrined in the Basic

Law.

"President Trump's claim that Hong Kong now operated under 'one country, one system' was completely false and ignored the facts on the ground," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that in exercising our high degree of autonomy under "One Country Two Systems", the HKSAR Government was resolutely committed to upholding its international responsibilities and agreements with the US and all countries in areas such as trade, investment protection, mutual legal assistance, the fight against transnational crime and terrorism, as well as education and cultural exchanges. It is relevant to note that many of these bilateral co-operations are underpinned by multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, etc. or bilateral agreements negotiated over the years such as the Tax Information Exchange Agreement or Air Services Agreement. They are not a "gift" to Hong Kong by another jurisdiction.

"We do not believe that sanctions or trade restrictions against Hong Kong are justified. They will lead to a breakdown of the mutually beneficial Hong Kong-US relationship built up over the years and only hurt local and US businesses in Hong Kong and the people working for them.

"We are not unduly worried by such threats as Hong Kong will continue to rely on her fundamental strengths of the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, free and open trade policy, level playing field, etc. and unique advantages brought about by the continuous opening up of the Mainland economy. Also, in recent years, we have been doubling our efforts in diversifying our markets, including more focus on the fast-growing ASEAN economies, which as a whole was Hong Kong's second largest trading partner, accounting for 12.1% of our total trade in 2019 (as compared to 6.2% with the US) and destined to grow," the spokesman said.

In terms of bilateral trade, the US has been enjoying a trade surplus with Hong Kong over the years which has been the biggest among all its trading partners. In 2019, total trade in goods between Hong Kong and the US stood at HK\$517 billion (i.e. 6.2% of our total trade in goods), whereas our domestic exports to the US was a modest HK\$3.7 billion. According to the US, US enjoyed a trade surplus of over HK\$200 billion with Hong Kong in 2019.