

## Hong Kong resident detained in Southeast Asia returns

â€‹The Security Bureau (SB) today (March 8) said that the Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung, departed for Thailand earlier to participate in the co-ordination and rescue operation for Hong Kong residents who were lured to Myanmar to engage in illegal work. Six Hong Kong residents were rescued and five of them returned to Hong Kong yesterday (March 7), while the remaining one has also arrived in Hong Kong this morning under the escort of a member of the SB's dedicated task force.

The individual had stayed in Thailand yesterday to assist in the investigation of Thai Police as a witness of the case of being lured to Myanmar to engage in illegal work. A member of the SB's dedicated task force also stayed in Thailand to accompany and assist that person, and returned to Hong Kong in the small hours today together with the individual.

Since 2024 to date, the law enforcement agencies have received a total of 28 request-for-assistance cases in relation to Hong Kong residents alleged to have been detained in Southeast Asian countries and not being able to leave. Taking into account the six persons, 25 of them have already returned to Hong Kong. The dedicated task force will continue to actively follow up on the remaining three request-for-assistance cases of individuals who have yet to return to Hong Kong and will strive to facilitate their return as soon as possible.