

# Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected smuggled frozen beef (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs detected a suspected smuggling case involving a fishing vessel in the waters off Waglan Island and seized about 120 tonnes of suspected smuggled frozen beef with an estimated market value of \$4.7 million on January 12.

Customs officers conducted an anti-smuggling operation in southeast waters on that day. A suspicious fishing vessel was spotted near Waglan Island and was then signalled to stop for inspection. Failing to stop, the vessel continued to sail towards the southeast water boundary.

Later, a speedboat approached the fishing vessel. The crew members immediately jumped onto the speedboat and fled the scene.

During the operation, Customs officers seized about 120 tonnes of suspected smuggled frozen beef and detained the fishing vessel for further investigation.

An investigation is ongoing.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

Customs will continue to take stringent enforcement action to combat sea smuggling activities.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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## SDEV continues visit to Singapore (with photos)

â€‹The Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, today (January 14) continued his visit to Singapore, where he met with senior government officials to exchange views on issues relating to urban planning and development. He also visited two development projects adopting the modular integrated construction (MiC) method.

In the morning, Mr Wong visited a private high-rise development project using MiC modules in the Little India area. He was briefed on the project design and the construction process, and in particular on the experience of transportation, lifting and installation of large modular units in the busy city centre.

He then met with the Minister for National Development, Mr Lawrence Wong, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Mr Lim Eng Hwee, to exchange views on land use planning, urban development and urban renewal issues. Mr Wong was given an overview by URA officials on the Master Plan 2019, which sets out the land use plan for Singapore's development over the next 10 to 15 years. He was also briefed on how Singapore adopts innovative technology to facilitate its urban planning process.

Accompanied by the minister and Mr Lim, he toured Singapore City Gallery, which showcases the country's development story over the past 50 years.

At noon, Mr Wong attended a lunch hosted by Mr Lawrence Wong. There, he kept the minister abreast of the latest developments of Hong Kong, while they discussed matters of mutual concern.

In the afternoon, Mr Wong visited a private residential project under construction. It consists of two 56-storey towers and will become the tallest MiC buildings in the world when completed. He was briefed by staff on-site on the project design and details of the conservation of five historic buildings during the construction process.

He also visited an integrated construction and prefabrication hub to see for himself how different processes of manufacturing prefabricated construction units are consolidated in a single multi-storey factory to optimise land use.

Mr Wong also paid a courtesy call on the Chinese Ambassador to Singapore, Mr Hong Xiaoyong, today.



Tomorrow (January 15), he will meet with the Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, before returning to Hong Kong in the afternoon.





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## CHP closely monitors confirmed case of infection of novel coronavirus in Thailand

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health said today (January 14) that the CHP has been closely monitoring a new confirmed case of infection of novel coronavirus in Thailand reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). The public is again urged to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and during travel.

According to information from the health authority of Thailand, the case involved a patient from Wuhan, Hubei Province, in Mainland China, who arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, on January 8 and was detected to be having high fever. The patient was subsequently taken to a local medical institute for isolation and management. Laboratory tests there returned a positive result for the novel coronavirus on January 12. The patient has recovered and there have not been additional cases.

The WHO said it is working with officials in the Mainland and Thailand following the report. It pointed out that the possibility of cases being identified in other countries was not unexpected and has also issued guidance on how to detect and treat patients infected with the novel coronavirus.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "The CHP will continue to maintain its liaison with the WHO, the health authority of Thailand and the National Health Commission, and closely monitor the situation for risk assessment. Port health measures will be adjusted as and when appropriate."



In response to the pneumonia cases infected with the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, the Port Health Division (PHD) of the CHP has earlier strengthened port health measures and enhanced temperature screening of travellers with increased frequency of random checking at all boundary control points. An additional thermal imaging system dedicated for temperature screening of travellers from flights arriving in Hong Kong from Wuhan has been put in place at Hong Kong International Airport.

Moreover, additional temperature checks using handheld infrared thermometers for all inbound travellers during the periods when the two daily high-speed trains with stops at Wuhan arrive in Hong Kong are conducted to ensure that the body temperatures of all passengers from these two trains are checked. Travellers with fever and acute respiratory symptoms who had visited Wuhan within 14 days prior to the onset of illness will be immediately referred to public hospitals for isolation, treatment and follow-up.

The PHD has advised the MTR Corporation Limited, the Airport Authority Hong Kong and relevant airlines to strengthen the cleaning and disinfection work for the high-speed trains and aircraft arriving in Hong Kong from Wuhan. Cleaning and disinfection work for West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and airport terminal buildings have also been stepped up. Furthermore, the PHD has enhanced the dissemination of health messages through broadcast to travellers in, for example, flight cabins and West Kowloon Station, distribution of leaflets, displaying posters and promulgating travel health news via website. The PHD will continue to maintain close liaison with stakeholders of all boundary control points to update them in a timely manner about the latest situation and relevant measures.

A dedicated webpage ([www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html)) has been set up by the CHP to provide relevant information and health advice. To address the public's concern, the CHP will announce the details of cases fulfilling the reporting criteria ([www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/enhanced\\_sur\\_pneumonia\\_wuhan\\_eng.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/enhanced_sur_pneumonia_wuhan_eng.pdf)) on the above webpage daily to enhance transparency.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs; or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing.

Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and

- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

The public should take heed of the health advice below when travelling outside Hong Kong:

- avoid touching animals (including game), poultry/birds or their droppings;
- avoid visiting wet markets, live poultry markets or farms;
- avoid making close contact with patients, especially those with symptoms of acute respiratory infections;
- do not consume game meat and do not patronise food premises where game meat is served;
- adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, eggs and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or contaminated products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
- if feeling unwell when outside Hong Kong, especially if having a fever or cough, wear a surgical mask, inform the hotel staff or tour escort and seek medical advice at once; and
- after returning to Hong Kong, consult a doctor promptly if having a fever or other symptoms, inform the doctor of recent travel history and wear a surgical mask to help prevent spread of the disease.

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## Manager and operator fined for illegal club operations

A woman and a company were fined \$9,000 each at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (January 14) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in May last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted an inspection at a club on Amoy Street in Wan Chai which had been operating with a certificate of compliance (CoC).

During the investigation, the club's staff failed to show a copy of the certificate of fire service installation and equipment, and the registered drawing upon the OLA officers' request. Moreover, the OLA officers found that the club had a layout that deviated from the registered drawing. As well, the number of people at the club exceeded the maximum allowable capacity as stipulated in the CoC. Conditions 3, 6, 10 and 14 of the CoC were breached.

The woman and the company, being the manager of the club and the CoC holder of the club respectively, were charged with contravening section 21(1) (a) and section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action will continue to be taken against illegal club operations.

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## Analytical Accounts of Exchange Fund

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released today (January 14) the key analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund at the end of December 2019.

Foreign assets, representing the external assets of the Exchange Fund, increased during the month by HK\$38.3 billion to HK\$3,617.3 billion.

The Monetary Base, comprising Certificates of Indebtedness, Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, the balance of the banking system and Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued, amounted to HK\$1,662.4 billion.

Claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$253.2 billion.

The analytical accounts of the Exchange Fund are released in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and are referred to as the Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank under SDDS (Annex).

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At present, four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund's data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund's Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA's policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. For the month of January 2020, the scheduled dates for issuing the press releases are as follows:

January 7 (Issued)	SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong's Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
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January 14	SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Analytical Accounts of the Exchange Fund)
January 31	SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity
January 31	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account