

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: January 7, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2002
Issue date	: January 8, 2020
Maturity date	: April 8, 2020
Amount applied	: HK\$176,660 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$59,139 MN
Average yield accepted	: 2.01 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 2.03 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 77 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.10 PCT

Tender date	: January 7, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2031
Issue date	: January 8, 2020
Maturity date	: July 8, 2020
Amount applied	: HK\$62,781 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$18,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.97 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.98 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 54 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.07 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning January 13:

Tender date	: January 14, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2003
Issue date	: January 15, 2020
Maturity date	: April 15, 2020
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$61,121 MN

Tender date	: January 14, 2020
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2032
Issue date	: January 15, 2020
Maturity date	: July 15, 2020
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$18,000 MN

Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo meeting (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting this morning (January 7):

Reporter: Hello, Mrs Lam, how would you comment on Beijing's appointment of an official with no Hong Kong experience, out of semi-retirement, to lead the Liaison Office, and will he play any role in Hong Kong Government's decision making to curb violence and to ease our political tension? And the second question is that last month you chose to meet the defeated District Councillors in the pro-establishment bloc so now, and when Matthew Cheung would like to set up meetings with the Councillors-elect, they – at least 10 District Councils – vowed to boycott the meeting. So will you yourself extend any extension, any invitations to them again?

Chief Executive: On the first question, I could offer no particular comment on the personnel changes in the Central People's Government agency in Hong Kong. I have issued a press statement to welcome the appointment of Director Luo and I will meet him. We have scheduled to meet later this week. I will meet him and I am sure that we could work together in strict accordance with the implementation of 'One Country, Two Systems' and the Basic Law to ensure the continued stability of Hong Kong, especially after the seven months of social unrest that has caused society very major concern.

About our working relationship with the new District Councils, let me reiterate again that District Councils are important components in Hong Kong's political structure. They are there to provide us advice, I hope pertinent advice on district affairs, and also to look after some district minor works and community participation projects. We will offer to the District Councils, regardless of their political makeup, whatever support

that we used to have. The invitation sent out by the Chief Secretary for Administration is part of that established practice, especially to give new District Council members a good briefing on the roles and functions of the District Councils and how we intend to cooperate with them in future. It's of course a pity that I notice that many District Council members belonging to some political parties or groups have said in public that they will not attend this briefing. I hope they will change their mind, because this is a briefing for us to give them information and also to listen to what they have to tell us.

As far as my own involvement, the reception that I have hosted on a Saturday at Government House is merely to express our appreciation to the then-incumbent District Council members who were going to retire. They comprised members who have lost in the election and also District Council Members who did not consider it necessary to contest again. The target of the guests invited to the Government House reception were retirees, they were going to step down from the District Council. Myself and my Principal Officials thought it was a good idea for us to personally thank them for their support in the last four years. The two events should not be compared or contrasted in the way that it has been done in some quarters.

In the coming years, of course as I have said, the Government accords importance to the District Councils. My colleagues, whether they are the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Principal Officials, the heads of departments, the regular representatives of the relevant departments at the District Council level, will continue to meet and work with them. I have indicated to the Secretary for Home Affairs that I am happy to find a suitable way to listen to views from the District Councils when I compile my annual Policy Address. And in the last couple of years I have also, on occasions, extended invitations for lunches or dinners to the District Council Chairmen so that we can have more interactions in a more informal way and I certainly will continue to consider these arrangements.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected illicit cigarettes \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (January 6) seized about 800 000 suspected illicit cigarettes with an estimated market value of about \$2.2 million and a duty potential of about \$1.5 million at Shenzhen Bay Control Point.

Customs officers intercepted an incoming truck declared as carrying assorted goods at Shenzhen Bay Control Point yesterday afternoon. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected illicit cigarettes

inside 80 cartons mix-loaded with other goods on the truck.

The 48-year-old male driver was arrested and the truck was detained. 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.

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



[Fraudulent website related to Bank of Singapore Limited](#)

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of Singapore Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

[Illegal worker jailed](#)

A Bangladeshi illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (January 6).

During an anti-illegal worker operation conducted on January 2, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a restaurant in Causeway Bay. A female Bangladeshi, aged 30, was arrested while working as a dish-washing worker. Upon identity checking, she produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting

services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.