

## Hong Kong Customs detects two cocaine trafficking cases worth about \$30 million at airport in a day (with photos)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (December 6) detected two cross-boundary drug trafficking cases through passenger channel at Hong Kong International Airport and seized a total of about 24 kilograms of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$30 million.

Two 25-year-old male passengers arrived in Hong Kong on the same flight from Johannesburg, South Africa yesterday morning. During Customs clearance, 12kg of suspected cocaine were found inside their check-in baggage respectively. They were then arrested.

The two arrested men have each been charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. They will appear at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts next Monday (December 9).

With the Christmas and New Year holidays approaching, there is a possibility that drug syndicates need to traffick in dangerous drugs urgently in order to meet the keen demand during long holidays. Customs will further step up enforcement action to combat transnational drug trafficking activities before the long holidays.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking 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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# CAD not to take further action against Hong Kong Airlines Limited's Air Operator's Certificate

The Civil Aviation Department (CAD), after giving due consideration to the latest operational situation of the Hong Kong Airlines Limited (HKA), decided not to take further action against HKA's Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) for the time being. HKA's AOC remains valid.

According to Article 6 of the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Cap. 448 Subsidiary Legislation C), the CAD has to be satisfied that an AOC holder is competent, having regard to his equipment, organisation, staffing, maintenance and other arrangements, to secure the proper and safe operation of his aircraft registered in Hong Kong for the purpose of public transport. In view of the latest financial situation of HKA, the CAD has great concern over the ability of HKA in operating its fleet and made a request on December 2 to HKA, which holds an AOC, to make representation on whether it is able to continue to operate stringently in accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995. HKA later submitted a representation to the CAD.

A CAD spokesman said today (December 7), "Having examined HKA's representation and considered factors including the results of our inspections of HKA lately and the relevant inspection track record, the CAD has been satisfied that HKA is able to continue to operate properly and safely in strict accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995. The CAD, therefore, has decided not to take further action according to Article 62 of the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 against HKA's AOC for the time being. Nevertheless, the CAD will continue to closely monitor HKA's operation and take decisive actions should HKA is found unable to operate in accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995.

"Moreover, the CAD has reminded HKA to operate stringently in accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 to ensure aviation safety. The CAD will continue to closely monitor HKA's flight operations and aviation safety standard, as well as actively inspects and audits HKA in order to verify that its equipment, organisation, staffing, maintenance and other arrangements comply with the above-mentioned legal requirements, for the purpose of ensuring its proper and safe operation in accordance with the conditions specified in its AOC," the spokesman added.

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# HAD opens temporary cold shelters

In view of the cold weather, the Home Affairs Department has opened 18 temporary shelters today (December 7) for people in need of the service.

The temporary shelters will remain open during the daytime tomorrow (December 8) when the cold weather warning is still in force.

To ensure that cold shelter users can rest in a quiet and undisturbed environment, members of the public or agencies wishing to make donations to shelter users are requested to register with the staff of the shelter first. Donors will then be directed to place the donated items at a specified indoor location. The staff will help notify the shelter users to collect the items on their own.

Anyone seeking temporary refuge or with any questions about the donation arrangements at the cold shelters may call the department's hotline 2835 1473 for more information.

The 18 temporary cold shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

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Central and Western:

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall  
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex, 2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern:

Causeway Bay Community Centre  
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern:

Lei Tung Community Hall  
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai:

Wan Chai Activities Centre  
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

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Kowloon City:

Hung Hom Community Hall  
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices, 42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong:

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre

71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po:  
Nam Cheong District Community Centre  
1 Cheong San Lane, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin:  
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre  
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong:  
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre  
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories:  
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Islands:  
Tung Chung Community Hall  
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,  
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing:  
Tai Wo Hau Estate Community Centre  
15 Tai Wo Hau Road, Kwai Chung

North:  
Cheung Wah Community Hall  
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung:  
Hang Hau Community Hall  
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,  
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin:  
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre  
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po:  
Tai Po Community Centre  
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan:  
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall  
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun:  
Butterfly Bay Community Centre  
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long:  
Long Ping Community Hall  
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

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## Transport and Housing Bureau's follow-up on financial situation of Hong Kong Airlines Limited

The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has been closely following up on the financial problems of Hong Kong Airlines Limited (HKA) over a long period of time. Apart from repeatedly requesting HKA to expeditiously and pragmatically resolve its financial problems, the Bureau has taken resolute actions by gradually scaling down HKA's operation in the hope that HKA's situation would be under better control.

THB noted that the Air Transport Licensing Authority (ATLA) announced its decision today (December 7) not to take further action against HKA for the time being after careful consideration of the latest financial information and representation submitted by HKA.

THB concurs with ATLA's decision and believes that ATLA has carefully taken into account various considerations, including public and travellers' interests. The Bureau expects HKA to fully and proactively work with ATLA in meeting all the Authority's demands. The Bureau also expects HKA to cherish and make good use of traffic rights to provide stable and quality air services, so as to sustain and enhance Hong Kong's status and reputation as an international aviation hub.

A spokesman for THB said today (December 7), "Our aviation policy is to encourage healthy competition. HKA should address the fundamental issues and make the best endeavours to resolve its structural financial problems and improve its financial situation as soon as possible. The Government will continue to closely scrutinise HKA's operations."

THB has reminded HKA again that whilst providing services to passengers in accordance with the terms and conditions of air tickets, it should remain alert and advise the public in a timely manner any situation which may affect the interests of the public and passengers, and make appropriate arrangements. HKA should also take care of its employees' interests in accordance with applicable laws.

At the same time, the THB will continue to closely monitor the financial situation of HKA, including whether HKA will respond to ATLA's requirement in a timely manner, and whether its cash and cash equivalent level is maintained at no less than that stipulated by ATLA. THB will also closely scrutinise the

implementation of HKA's financial improvement plan and its effectiveness. Where necessary, the THB would not rule out the possibility of further scaling down HKA's operation.

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## 2019 Mental Health Month promotes individual mental health

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, today (December 7) officiated at "Enjoy Mental Wellness" ceremony, the finale of 2019 Mental Health Month (MHM), and presented prizes to the winners of MHM activities.

With the theme "Enjoy Mental Wellness. Seek Support from Others", the 2019 MHM aimed to encourage the public to raise awareness on mental health starting from themselves.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr Law pointed out that the Government has raised the funding for Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness (ICCMWs) to approximately \$427 million in 2019-20, representing over three times of the resources when the service first started in October, 2010.

Dr Law added that as at September this year, these ICCMWs have provided rehabilitation services for over 81 000 ex-mentally ill and needy persons, with some 24 000 public education activities held. In addition, the Government expanded the service scope of ICCMWs to secondary school students aged under 15 in 2019-20 to strengthen professional support for youths and their families. Since July this year, the Social Welfare Department has deployed five mobile vans for publicity on mental health services.

Members of the Organising Committee of 2019 MHM consist of 12 non-governmental organisations providing mental health rehabilitation services in Hong Kong. The Committee organised a series of publicity and education activities in the community and on campus in the past six months, including a sharing session on rehabilitation of ex-mentally ill persons in which participants not only gained a better understanding of mentally illnesses, but also learned how to handle individual mental issues.

Also officiating at the ceremony were the Chairman of the Sub-committee on Public Education on Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, Dr Raymond Leung; the Commissioner for Rehabilitation of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB), Ms Manda Chan; the Ambassador of 2019 MHM, Ms Ranya Lee; and the Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Dr Fung Cheung-tim.

Organised by the LWB in collaboration with various bureaux/departments, public organisations and non-governmental organisations, the MHM echoes with

the World Mental Health Day, an initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health. The public may visit the [MHM Facebook page](#) (Chinese only) for details.