

“Quarterly Report on General Household Survey” for July to September 2019 published

The "Quarterly Report on General Household Survey" for July to September 2019 is now available for download.

The report contains statistics on labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment for the third quarter of 2019. It also contains detailed analyses of the characteristics of different categories of members of the labour force, including their age, sex, educational attainment, employment status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week and monthly employment earnings. Information on reasons for leaving last job and duration of unemployment for the unemployed is also presented.

Users can download the report free of charge from the website of the Census and Statistics Department (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp200.jsp?productCode=B1050001).

The summary of broad survey findings published in the report is shown in Table 1 attached. Enquiries about the contents of the report can be directed to the Household Statistics Analysis Section, Census and Statistics Department (Tel: 2887 5508 or email: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk).

Police search operation finished and cordon lifted at PolyU

After two days, Police have removed all dangerous goods and have handled scenes of crime at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU).

To sum up, Police have seized in total 3,989 bottles of petrol bombs, 1,339 pieces of explosives, 601 bottles of corrosive liquids and 573 pieces of weapons.

Police investigators have retreated and the cordon surrounding the PolyU has been lifted. The campus has been handed over to PolyU's management for their further actions.

We reiterate that Police adopt a flexible approach in solving the crisis at the PolyU. Police make every effort to resolve the situation peacefully.

Tender period extended for remaining works of Infrastructure Works for Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill Site

â€œIn response to requests from tenderers, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) today (November 29) announced that the tender period for the contract for Tseung Kwan O Further Development – Infrastructure Works for Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill Site – Remaining Works (Contract No. ED/2019/01) would be extended to noon on December 27.

The CEDD invited tenders for the contract on October 11. The original tender closing date was noon on December 6.

The extension of the tender period was gazetted today. Details of the tender notice are available on the CEDD's website (www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/tender-notice/contracts/tender-notice/index.html).

The CEDD has appointed AECOM Asia Company Limited as the consultant to design and supervise the works. For enquiries, please call the company at 3922 9000 during office hours.

Cirque Mechanics to perform “Pedal Punk” in December

Cirque Mechanics from the United States will perform "Pedal Punk" in December, bringing a fun-filled show to Hong Kong that is suitable for audiences ages 3 and above.

The stories that make up "Pedal Punk" are told through circus acrobatics, mechanical wonders and a bit of clowning around. Audiences will experience the excitement, artistry and surprises that occur when a wacky bike shop mechanic interacts with cyclists and bikes, ultimately repairing more than broken bicycle parts. "Pedal Punk" promises to provide an entertaining acrobatic experience for audiences looking for fun and excitement.

Founded in 2004, Cirque Mechanics quickly established itself as a premiere American circus, with its unique approach to performance, lively storytelling and innovative mechanical staging. Although inspired by the

modern circus, Cirque Mechanics finds its roots in the mechanical and its heart in the stories of American ingenuity.

Details of the performances are as follows:

December 26 to 28 (Thursday to Saturday), 8pm

Arena, Queen Elizabeth Stadium

Tickets: \$160, \$220, \$300 and \$380

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, "Pedal Punk" is one of the attractions of the "Cheers!" Series. Tickets are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). Children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult, and one ticket per person is required regardless of age (including very young children). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_880.html.

A meet-the-artist session (in English) will be held after the performance on December 27 (Friday). Members of the audience are welcome to stay behind for the session.

[Thirty-one persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations](#)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Twilight" from November 25 to yesterday (November 28). A total of 23 suspected illegal workers and eight suspected employers were arrested.

During the operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 36 target locations including a bar, a company, a commercial building, garbage collection depots, a gym room, an industrial building, a logistics centre, a massage parlour, premises under renovation, a recycling site, restaurants and a wet market. The suspected illegal workers comprised 16 men and seven women, aged 24 to 62. Among them, a woman was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. Meanwhile, six men and two women, aged 34 to 74, were suspected of employing the suspected illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment.

Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The 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 in 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. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

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 initial screenings 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.