

## **Police clarifies rumour**

Regarding an online post claiming that some Mainlanders have secretly joined the Hong Kong Police Force for reinforcement, a spokesman for Police stressed today (August 8) that the allegation was absolutely unfounded and was a complete fabrication.

The spokesman stressed that this is just another wild rumour to confuse the public and generate conflicts in the society. Hong Kong Police officers are Hong Kong permanent residents under the command of the Commissioner of Police.

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## **Phishing email related to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 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 The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on phishing email, 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 email concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the email 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.

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## **Government to sell site in Kai Tak by public tender**

The Lands Department (LandsD) announced today (August 8) that a site, New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kai Tak, Kowloon, in the 2019-20 Land Sale Programme will be disposed of by public tender. The

tender invitation for the lot will commence on August 9 and close on September 20.

New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 6546 has a site area of about 10 692 square metres and is designated for non-industrial (excluding residential, godown and petrol filling station but including hotel) purposes. The minimum gross floor area and the maximum gross floor area are 48 114 sq m and 80 190 sq m respectively.

Land sale documents including the Form of Tender, the Tender Notice, the Conditions of Sale and the sale plan of the lot will be available for downloading from the LandsD website ([www.landso.gov.hk](http://www.landso.gov.hk)), and the sale plan will be available for distribution and inspection by the public from August 9, when the particulars of the tender will also be gazetted.

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## New deposit and premium payment arrangements for government land sale by public tender

The Lands Department (LandsD) announced today (August 8) the following revised requirements for paying the initial deposit and balance of the tendered sum for government land sale by public tender:

(1) The initial deposit payable by each tenderer upon its submission of tender for the relevant site will be increased from the previous maximum amount of \$25 million to a maximum amount of \$50 million. This maximum amount will apply to all land sale sites with a ballpark land value of \$400 million or above as estimated by the LandsD. For land sale sites with estimated values of less than \$400 million, the amount of initial deposit payable will be determined with reference to the following schedule:

Ballpark Estimate of Land Value (HK\$)	Amount of Initial Deposit Payable (HK\$)
Less than \$100 million (M)	\$10 M
Between \$100 M and less than \$200 M	\$20 M
Between \$200 M and less than \$300 M	\$30 M
Between \$300 M and less than \$400 M	\$40 M

(2) The successful tenderer is required to pay a part payment equal to 10 per cent of its tendered sum less the initial deposit already paid, rounded up to the nearest \$100,000, within seven working days of the date of tender award

issued by the LandsD.

The revised requirements will start to apply to land sale sites for which tenders are invited on or after August 8, 2019.

The existing arrangement of requiring the successful tenderer to pay the balance of the land premium within 28 days from the date of tender award will remain unchanged. Following current practice, the deposits paid by the unsuccessful tenderers will be returned shortly after the tender award is made.

A spokesperson for the LandsD said that the two new measures taken together will increase the cost of default by the successful tenderer, hence strengthening the deterrent effect and better protecting the Government's interest in the event of such a default.

In a recent land sale of a government site, namely New Kowloon Inland Lot (NKIL) No. 6546 at Kai Tak Area 4C Site 4, Kowloon, the successful tenderer failed to settle the balance of the premium within the 28-day period after the award of the tender. As a result, the LandsD cancelled the land sale on June 13, 2019, and forfeited the deposit paid by the successful tenderer. The LandsD has since then reviewed the relevant payment arrangements.

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## [Territory-wide cleaning operation to be extended to mid-November \(with photos\)](#)

The interdepartmental Pest Control Steering Committee met this afternoon (August 8) to review the anti-rodent work carried out by various government departments since the territory-wide cleaning operation commenced on May 20. The Committee decided to extend the operation for three months to mid-November to continuously carry out anti-rodent work, in particular, works such as repaving back alleys, installation of rodent-proofing structures in public rental housing (PRH) estates and intensive anti-rodent work in public markets, which require a longer time to complete.

Various departments briefed the meeting on the progress of territory-wide cleaning work in all 18 districts. They include:

\* The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has collected 5 215 dead rodents, caught 3 906 live rodents as well as filled 2 144 rat holes in the first two months of the territory-wide cleaning operation.

\* The Highways Department will complete the repair works of 99 back alleys with damaged road surfaces or surface channels by this month. The department is now planning to partially repave 27 back alleys with relatively serious environmental hygiene problems. The works are expected to be completed within this year.

\* The Housing Authority (HA) has already examined the operation of rodent-proofing structures installed in more than 180 PRH estates and found some of the existing structures required maintenance or reinforcement. The relevant works will be commenced progressively and additional structures will be installed in PRH estates when necessary. The works will be tentatively completed by the third quarter of this year.

\* The FEHD has carried out a three-month intensive anti-rodent operation in three public markets, namely Lai Wan Market, Ap Lei Chau Market and Kam Tin Market since mid-July. Speedy refuse removal and cleaning of all drainages in the markets have been carried out every night after the stalls are closed to eliminate food sources for rodents. Traps have been extensively placed to strengthen rodent disinfection.

\* The FEHD has organised eight seminars on rodent prevention and control to outsourced cleaning service contractors of departments and property management companies in July.

\* The FEHD has conducted a special operation targeted at irregularities of food premises such as food preparation, scullery, improper storage of articles and illegal disposal of refuse in back alleys. During the first 10 weeks of the special operation from May 20 to July 28, a total of 219 summons, 335 Fixed Penalty Notices, 463 Notices to Remove Litter/Waste and to Clean Areas, 2 609 advisory letters, 739 verbal warnings, six warning letters and two Nuisance Notices were issued.

To tie in with the territory-wide cleaning operation, the HA has launched the Summer Cleaning Campaign in PRH estates since June to strengthen cleaning and pest control work. The measures include stepping up the cleaning work at hygiene blackspots, inspecting estates and filling rat holes, removing stagnant water, and strengthening publicity and education. The HA has also carried out additional measures including strictly implementing the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement in more than 20 priority PRH estates. In addition, the HA and the FEHD have also arranged seminars for residents and shop operators. The FEHD would also increase junk collection frequencies for 40 PRH estates.

Hong Kong is entering the peak season of mosquito infestation in August. A local case of Japanese encephalitis was recorded in June. The Under Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Chui Tak-yi, who chaired the meeting today, reminded various departments to pay attention to anti-mosquito work and stay vigilant before the end of the rainy season.

In respect of anti-mosquito work, there were three areas surveyed with ovitrap indices for *Aedes albopictus* exceeding 40 per cent in June and July

last year, whereas there is only one area surveyed with an index higher than 40 per cent so far this year. In June this year, the ovitrap indices of 17 areas surveyed exceeded the alert level of 20 per cent and the preliminary data of July revealed that the number of areas surveyed exceeding the alert level has dropped to two.

Regarding mosquito control techniques, the FEHD has conducted field trials of a new mosquito trap design at So Kwun Wat Tsuen in Tuen Mun and the Hong Kong Observatory in Tsim Sha Tsui since May. The preliminary results show that breeding of adult mosquitoes is effectively contained. The traps use female mosquitoes as the media. When female mosquitoes lay eggs in the traps, the insect growth regulator (IGR) will be adhered to them. Once they land in other water bodies to lay eggs, the IGR will be disseminated to prevent mosquito larvae from maturing, thus achieving the effect of mosquito control. The FEHD introduced the new mosquito traps to representatives of other departments at the meeting. The new traps will be provided to the relevant departments for trial in Ma On Shan and Sheung Shui. Other departments are also recommended to install the traps in suitable locations as needed.

Representatives from three bureaux and 20 departments/organisations attended today's meeting.

