

Government appeals to protesters to express views peacefully and rationally

In response to the protests today (June 21), a Government spokesman said:

The Government respects the public's rights to procession and assembly.

The protests today caused much inconvenience to the community by disrupting traffic and many public services. Since the Police Headquarters and Wan Chai Police Station at Arsenal Street have been surrounded by protesters who also blocked nearby roads, dozens of 999 emergency calls could not be dealt with immediately. More than 100 bus and minibus routes were diverted or suspended.

The Central Government Offices were closed, and public services provided by Government departments at Wanchai Tower, Revenue Tower and Immigration Tower – including services by the Labour Department, Inland Revenue Department, Environmental Protection Department and Water Supplies Department – were disrupted to varying degrees.

The spokesman appeals to protesters to act peacefully and rationally, and to take into account the needs of other members of the public when expressing their opinions.

Regarding remarks in the media today by Legislative Council members about the legislative amendments, the spokesman said the Government had put a stop to the legislative exercise relating to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance. The current term of the Legislative Council will end in July next year, after which the Bill will lapse. The Government accepts this reality.

Temporary closure of Aberdeen Sports Ground

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 21) that Aberdeen Sports Ground in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, has been temporarily closed until March 31, 2020 for reinstallation works of spectator stand covers.

For the most up-to-date closure schedule of the above leisure and sports facilities, the public may refer to the notices at the venue or contact venue

staff directly.

999 hotline service affected (3)

As the Police Headquarters was surrounded by protestors with roads obstructed in the vicinity, a total of 46 calls of 999 hotline in Wan Chai Division could not be immediately handled as at 7pm today (June 21). Extra resources were deployed and Police service of Wan Chai Division was delayed as a result. Police hereby appeal to all to leave the scene as soon as possible so that the normal operation of 999 service can be resumed.

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Hong Kong Children's Hospital officially opens

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The public paediatric service in Hong Kong reached a milestone today (June 21) as the Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HKCH) celebrated its official opening.

The hospital's opening ceremony was officiated by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan. Other guests attending the ceremony included the Hospital Authority (HA) Chairman, Professor John Leong and the HA Chief Executive, Dr Leung Pak-yin; the HKCH Hospital Governing Committee Chairman, Mr John Lee; the Dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of the

University of Hong Kong, Professor Gabriel Leung; the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Dennis Lo; Kowloon Central Cluster Chief Executive, Dr Albert Lo, and the HKCH Hospital Chief Executive, Dr Lee Tsz-leung.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Leong thanked the Government for its support and leadership. He said, "With the full funding support from the Government we were able to build a hospital with an excellent environment, ample space and advanced equipment, which allows us to develop clinical services, research, teaching and training that are comparable to the standard of our international counterparts."

Professor Leong added that the HKCH has adopted children-centred and family-friendly designs and initiatives to create a home-like environment to relieve the stress and anxiety of child patients and their families, while also supporting their care, leisure, social and learning needs.

"The establishment of the HKCH has also provided an opportunity for the HA to re-organise its paediatric services. The HKCH serves as the tertiary referral centre for complex, serious and uncommon paediatric cases requiring multidisciplinary management, providing diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services for patients with relevant clinical needs, from birth to 18 years of age over the territory, while the paediatric departments in the other 13 public hospitals continue to provide secondary, acute, emergency and community paediatric care. This new arrangement is expected to bring about a co-ordinated and coherent public paediatric service network and enhance the overall service quality," he said.

The HKCH Hospital Governing Committee Chairman, Mr John Lee, also expressed gratitude to the different sectors which have contributed to the hospital's smooth service commissioning. He said, "We are fully aware of the concerns and expectations the public have of the HKCH. This will constantly motivate us to keep improving to achieve excellence."

The operation of the HKCH has commenced in phases since December 2018. Services currently available include oncology and haematology, nephrology, metabolic medicine, intensive care, paediatric surgery, pathology, anaesthesia, radiology, pharmacy and allied health services. Other clinical services will commence gradually.

