

Government releases Report of Independent Review Committee

The following is issued on behalf of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service:

The Government today (January 8) announced the release of the Report of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service (the Report), which the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service (the Committee) submitted to the Chief Executive on December 31, 2018, with part of a sentence in the "Acknowledgements" chapter of the Report redacted "to ensure a fair trial of the ongoing criminal proceedings".

Having received oral evidence over a total of 21 days from the representatives of 19 specifically identified interested parties, and that of two expert witnesses, together with a total of over 22 000 pages of written submissions/reports, the Committee has made 45 recommendations on safety-related measures which it has referred to the Chief Executive.

The recommendations were made with a view to developing and sustaining a proactive approach to franchised bus safety as well as addressing specific safety-related issues identified during the course of the Committee's work. The Committee's recommendations are set out in Chapter 23 of the Report, and a six-page "Summary of Recommendations" is set out in Chapter 24.

At the invitation of the Government, the redacted Report has been uploaded to the website of the Committee (www.irc-bus.gov.hk/eng/report.html). The Committee notes that the Government will release the full Report after all relevant criminal legal proceedings have been concluded.

7th Hong Kong Games' Vitality Run to open for enrolment on January 10 (with photos)

The Vitality Run of the 7th Hong Kong Games (HKG) will be held on March 10 (Sunday) for members of the public to share the fun of running and show support for athletes who are gearing up for the HKG competitions. Enrolment will begin on January 10 (Thursday).

The event has received overwhelming responses from the public since it

was first held in 2015. This year's Vitality Run, being the third one to be staged by the HKG, will increase the quotas once again to allow more people to take part in this community participation programme. The Hong Kong Jockey Club will continue to be the title sponsor of the Vitality Run.

The Vitality Run is scheduled for the morning of March 10 and will be held alongside the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin. Enrolment quotas of 4 100 and 1 200 are available for the about-3-kilometre run (open to all ages) and the 10km run (for those aged 16 or above) respectively.

Members of the public can register free of charge and each participant will get a souvenir T-shirt and a gift pack. Those who complete the run within the time limit will also receive a certificate and a souvenir medal. To add more fun to the event, participants can dress up and compete for the Most Creative Costume Prize and the Overall Best Team Costume Prize.

The about-3km run will begin at 9am. The route will start at Yuen Wo Road (near Sha Tin Sports Ground), proceeding to Sha Tin Rural Committee Road, Tai Chung Kiu Road, Fo Tan Road and Yuen Wo Road and finishing at Sha Tin Sports Ground.

The 10km run will commence at 8.30am, also from Yuen Wo Road (near Sha Tin Sports Ground), proceeding to Sha Tin Rural Committee Road, Tai Chung Kiu Road and Fo Tan Road, and then heading back to Yuen Wo Road. After arriving at Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre, participants will switch to the jogging and cycling tracks alongside the Shing Mun River via the Hong Kong Sports Institute campus and sports ground, then turn around before the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (without entering the Hong Kong Sports Institute) and finish at Sha Tin Sports Ground.

Enrolment will start at 8.30am on January 10 on a first-come, first-served basis through the following methods:

1. in person at any District Leisure Services Office (DLSO) or any leisure venue with Leisure Link Services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD);
2. online via the Leisure Link Internet Booking System (leisurelink.lcsd.gov.hk); or
3. through any Leisure Link Self-service Kiosk.

The prospectus and enrolment form are available at the 7th HKG dedicated website (www.hongkonggames.hk), DLSOs, leisure venues with Leisure Link Services and LCSD sports grounds.

On the event day, activities including stage performances, game booths, a family area and a photo corner will be held at Yuen Wo Playground so that participants and members of the public can enjoy the fun of sports and greet the upcoming 7th HKG.

The HKG is a territory-wide major multi-sports event held biennially with the 18 District Councils (DCs) as the participating units. The inter-district sports competitions of the 7th HKG will be held between April 28 and June 2 this year, covering eight sports competitions, namely athletics, badminton, basketball, futsal, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

Apart from sports competitions, a wide range of activities are also organised for the public to participate in. The 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition will be held on February 24 at Queen Elizabeth Stadium. The pledging ceremony will show the full support of relevant organisations and the readiness of athletes from 18 districts to strive for success in the Games, while the cheering team competition aims at encouraging members of the public to give active support to the athletes and creating a cheerful atmosphere for the games.

Other community participation programmes include voting and guessing activities, a photo contest, the Grand Opening and the Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony.

The 7th HKG is organised by the Sports Commission and co-ordinated by the Community Sports Committee along with the 18 DCs; the LCSD; the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China; and relevant National Sports Associations as co-organisers. The Hong Kong Jockey Club is recognised as the Principal Contributor.

Details about the 7th HKG are available at the [dedicated website](#).





No. 3 alarm fire in Lamma Southwest marine area (2)

The No. 3 alarm fire which broke out on a vessel in the Lamma Southwest Anchorage today (January 8) was brought under control at 3.42 pm.

Firemen are now fighting the blaze using four fire boat monitors.

A man was found dead at the scene. Four men were injured and were sent to hospital for treatment.

Four chain vegetable and fresh meat shops at Lane-Square in Tai Po convicted for repeatedly causing noise nuisance

Four chain vegetable and fresh meat shops at Lane-Square in Tai Po, comprising two vegetable shops operated by Bonnie Vegetables and Fruit Wholesale Limited on Kwong Fuk Road and Heung Sze Wui Street, a vegetable shop operated by Ka Wo Farming Limited, and a fresh meat shop (a-Ya-Yé®ä"è±Öé®è,%) on Tai Kwong Lane, caused noise nuisance to nearby residents by persistently playing promotional recordings loudly. They were fined a total of \$29,100 by Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (January 8) for contravening the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO).

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said that the department had stepped up enforcement action in July last year against excessive noise generated by chain stores to peddle goods in the vicinity of Lane-Square in Tai Po. During a series of inspections, it was found that the above vegetable and fresh meat shops played promotional recordings loudly and continuously using loudspeakers, thus causing noise annoyance. The department subsequently prosecuted the operating companies concerned in accordance with the NCO. Among these shops, a fresh meat shop (a-Ya-Yé@ä"è±0é@è,%) on Tai Kwong Lane was prosecuted twice on the same day as it refused to turn down the volume of its loudspeakers, disregarding the warning given by the department.

After a series of enforcement action taken by the EPD, the number of noise complaints against the shops in the vicinity of Lane-Square in Tai Po has largely reduced. The EPD will closely monitor the situation and conduct stringent enforcement against such irregularities. The spokesman reminded the responsible persons of retail shops and market stalls that when they play promotional recordings to sell goods, they should contain the noise level within their shop area and should not cause annoyance to people outside their shops or nearby residents. Otherwise, it constitutes an offence. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000 for each offence. For repeat offenders, the operator himself will also be criminally liable for the offence once convicted.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 is 104.3 (same as yesterday's index).