

DSW joins Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund to celebrate Lunar New Year with elderly (with photos)

The Director of Social Welfare (DSW), Ms Carol Yip, and members of the Management Committee of the Tang Shiu Kin and Ho Tim Charitable Fund, including advisors Mr Richard Tang and Mr Hamilton Ho, today (January 8) hosted an annual reception for the elderly and distributed lai see packets to them in celebration of the upcoming Lunar New Year.

Speaking at the reception, Ms Yip said that the Fund has since its inception in 1977 been providing financial assistance to needy families and individuals to help tide them over amid difficulties. Assistance from the Fund helps the poor facing adversity in life and relieves their distress by providing timely and substantial support.

She pointed out that the Fund granted \$2.77 million to 719 approved cases in 2017-18, and the Fund had also approved a further 288 applications totalling \$1.21 million from April to September 2018. A total sum of \$3 million has been earmarked for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) as social relief grants for the coming fiscal year.

Ms Yip took the opportunity to extend her sincere thanks to all members of the Management Committee for their long-term support and care for those in need.

Ms Yip added that the Government has devoted extensive resources to various services for the elderly in the face of the ageing population. To strengthen home care services so as to enable frail elderly persons to age in place, the Government will increase the service quota under the Enhanced Home and Community Care Services by 2 000 in 2019, and will implement a new scheme in 2019-20 to set up day care units for the elderly at qualified private and self-financing residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). Around 120 day care places for the elderly will be provided.

In September 2018, the SWD launched the Dementia Friendly Community Campaign, a three-year public education programme, with the aim of promoting public awareness and understanding on dementia. Its series of publicity activities and events include the newly released Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio, a new thematic webpage at the SWD's website, a television docudrama series to be broadcast in late January, a large-scale highlight event to be held on January 26 and related district-level activities as well as talks organised by 11 SWD District Social Welfare Offices. In addition, citizens are encouraged to register as internationally recognised "Dementia Friends" and turn care and support into actions for people with dementia and their families in order to build a dementia-friendly community.

As regards residential care, the Government strives to increase subsidised residential care places for the elderly under a multi-pronged approach. Apart from continuing to build new contract homes and implementing measures such as the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses, it was announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will purchase an additional 5 000 EA1 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme in the next five years to increase the supply of subsidised residential care places for the elderly and enhance the overall service quality of private RCHes.

For helping the social welfare care sector attract young people and retain talent, the Government will continue with the operation of the Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services, providing an additional 1 200 training places in the coming years under an enhanced scheme.

Attending the reception today were some 40 elderly persons, with the oldest at the age of 92. The Fund treated them to a wonderful show and a lavish and healthy lunch, as well as offering them best wishes for a happy Lunar New Year.

The Fund was founded by the late Sir Tang Shiu-kin and the late Dr Ho Tim, with the DSW Incorporated acting as the trustee of the Fund under Chapter 1096 of the Laws of Hong Kong. Members of the Management Committee include descendants of the founders (advisors), prominent members of the community and representatives from relevant government departments, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Po Leung Kuk.

The objective of the Fund is to provide timely financial assistance to needy individuals and families in emergency situations for which other sources may not be applicable or readily available. Recipients of the Fund include the unemployed, disaster victims, the chronically ill, persons with disabilities, single parent families and the elderly.





Appointments to Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

The new term of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee has been appointed. The tenure is from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. The membership list of the advisory committee is as follows:

Chairman:

Professor Cheng Pei-kai

Members:

Dr Dominic Chan Choi-hi

Dr Stephen Cheung Kwok-hung

Professor Ching May-bo *

Professor Chiu Yu-lok

Professor Choi Chi-cheung

Professor Chu Hung-lam

Mr Berry Chu Kim-hung

Mr Ip Cheung-ching *

Ms Fanny Iu Kai-fan

Mr Ronald Kan Yu-him

Professor Lai Chi-tim

Ms Lee Mei-yin

Ms Candice Leung Wai-yee *

Mr Li Sai-lung *

Professor Liu Tik-sang

Professor Joshua Mok Ka-ho

Ms Stella See Sau-ying *

Ms Chloe Suen Yin-wah *

Professor Timothy Wong Man-kong *

Professor Yau Chi-on *

Professor Henri Yeung Wing-on

Representative of the Home Affairs Bureau

Representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(* new appointees)

The Home Affairs Bureau thanks the four retiring members (Professor Sidney Cheung Chin-hung, Professor Lau Chor-wah, Mr Thomas Pang Cheung-wai and Professor Poon Shuk-wah) for their invaluable support and contributions to the work of the advisory committee over the years.

Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Happy Valley tomorrow

Special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Happy Valley tomorrow (January 9). The arrangements will come into effect one and a half hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

A. Traffic arrangements before the commencement of the first race

1. Road closure

Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp outside Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will be closed except for vehicles heading for Aberdeen Tunnel.

2. Traffic diversions

- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the up-ramp outside HKJC will be re-routed one way northbound;
- Vehicles from eastbound Queen's Road East heading for Wan Chai and Happy Valley will be diverted to turn left to Morrison Hill Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic along Queen's Road East cannot turn right to Wong Nai Chung Road except for vehicles heading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Queen's Road East will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Morrison Hill Road to turn right at the junction of Wong Nai Chung Road and Queen's Road East; and
- Traffic from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley or Racecourse will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from southbound Canal Road flyover to Canal Road East, southbound Morrison Hill Road, Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road.

B. Traffic arrangements before the conclusion of race meeting

1. Road closure

The following roads will be closed from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- The up-ramp on Wong Nai Chung Road outside HKJC leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Queen's Road East and the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel;
- Southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Village Road and the Public Stands of HKJC;
- Westbound Leighton Road between Wong Nai Chung Road and Canal Road East; and
- Southbound Morrison Hill Road between Leighton Road and Queen's Road East.

In addition, southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between the up-ramp leading to Aberdeen Tunnel and the Public Stands of HKJC will be closed from about 10 minutes before the start of the last race.

2. Traffic diversions

The following traffic arrangements will be implemented from 35 minutes before the start of the last race:

- Eastbound Queen's Road East at its junction with Morrison Hill Road will be reduced to one-lane traffic heading for northbound Canal Road flyover;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Wan Chai will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, U-turn slip road beneath Canal Road flyover, Canal Road West and Hennessy Road;
- Vehicles from Cross Harbour Tunnel heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via the down-ramp leading from Canal Road East, eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Traffic on southbound Morrison Hill Road will be diverted to turn left to eastbound Leighton Road;
- Traffic along southbound Morrison Hill Road heading for Happy Valley will be diverted via eastbound Leighton Road and Wong Nai Chung Road; and
- Traffic along westbound Leighton Road will be diverted to Wong Nai Chung Road.

C. Learner drivers prohibition

Learner drivers will be prohibited to turn left from Caroline Hill Road to Leighton Road between one and a half hours before the start of the first race and one hour after the last race. In addition, learner drivers will be prohibited from accessing the following roads within the above period of time:

- Shan Kwong Road between Yik Yam Street and Wong Nai Chung Road;
- Village Road between its upper and lower junctions with Shan Kwong Road;
- Percival Street between Hennessy Road and Leighton Road;
- Canal Road East; and
- The service road leading from Gloucester Road to Canal Road flyover.

D. Suspension of parking spaces

Parking spaces on southbound Wong Nai Chung Road between Sports Road and Blue Pool Road will be suspended from 11am to 7pm during day racing, from 4.30pm to 11.59pm during evening racing, and from 5pm to 11.59pm during night racing.

Any vehicles found illegally parked within the precincts of the above affected areas will be towed away without prior notice.

Actual implementation of road closure and traffic diversion will be made by the Police at the time depending on traffic conditions in the areas. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of Police on site.

Local and Japanese young musicians to perform in Music Office's Youth Music Marathon

The Music Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will present the Youth Music Marathon from 2pm to 5.30pm on Saturday (January 12) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza C. About 500 youth musicians from six ensembles of the Music Office and the Kagoshima University Wind Orchestra from Japan will perform a diverse repertoire of Chinese, wind and string music, offering a music-filled afternoon for the audience.

The performing groups from the Music Office include the Music Office Youth Brass Band, the Kowloon Youth Symphonic Band, the Island Youth Strings, the Kowloon Youth Strings, the Island Youth Chinese Orchestra and the New Territories Youth Chinese Orchestra.

The programme consists of the Chinese orchestral pieces "Festive Dance" and "Jasmine"; animation music from "My Neighbour Totoro" and "Frozen"; and well-known classical music of Brahms, Dvořák and Schubert and more.

Admission to the Youth Music Marathon is free. For enquiries, please call 2598 8335 or 2582 5334 or visit the website www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/mo/activities/communityprogrammes/2019_ym_marathon.html.

Release of Report of Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service

The Government released today (January 8) the Report of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service which was submitted by the Committee to the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, on December 31, 2018.

In commenting on the release of the Report, Mrs Lam again expressed her deep appreciation to the Committee's Chairman, the Honourable Mr Justice Michael Victor Lunn, and members Mr Rex Auyeung Pak-kuen and Professor Lo Hong-kam for their dedicated work.

"I have personally studied the Committee's report which has comprehensively covered the various aspects relating to bus safety. I have asked the Transport and Housing Bureau to oversee actions by the Transport Department and other relevant parties to ensure that the Committee's recommendations are thoroughly examined and expeditiously implemented where appropriate. The Government will take proactive steps in ensuring a safe and reliable franchised bus service in Hong Kong," Mrs Lam said.

The Report is released in full, except that, after seeking legal advice, a part of a sentence in the acknowledgement chapter of the Report is redacted to ensure a fair trial of the ongoing criminal proceedings. It can be accessed online at www.irc-bus.gov.hk/eng/report.html. The Government will release the full Report after all relevant criminal legal proceedings have been concluded.