

## Transcript of SCMA's remarks on national anthem law

Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, at a media session after attending the meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Constitutional Affairs today (December 17):

Reporter: There is a lawmaker talking about when lawmakers take their oaths of office, that the anthem will be played beforehand. Because there are plenty of ambiguities, let's say, whether oaths will be valid or invalid at the time. Is the Government willing to reconsider such an arrangement of having the anthem played before the oath? Would you reconsider having such an arrangement?

Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs: Let me say something on the latest position of the local legislation concerning the national anthem law. Basically, the drafting work is near completion. Our plan is to introduce the draft bill on the national anthem early next year, as early as possible. The principle is very clear. We need to reflect the intention and the principles of the national law. But at the same time, in our local legislation, we would take into account Hong Kong's legal system and also Hong Kong's circumstances. So when the bill is introduced in LegCo, you would see in the drafting of the local legislation how these principles are reflected. I would not discuss in detail about the individual provisions or how the relevant provision would be drafted in the local bill. That would become clear when we introduce the bill into the Legislative Council. But the principle is very clear. We have to reflect the intention and the principles of the national law, and so we look at each and every provision of the national law and consider how the intent and the rationale behind could be reflected in the local legislation. But at the same time, we have to make some necessary adaptation or adjustment to reflect our local legal system, our drafting convention, and also Hong Kong's circumstances.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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## Hong Kong Customs combats online sale of memory cards with infringing music files (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs conducted an operation on December 13 to combat the sale of memory cards with infringing music files on the Internet. A total of

four memory cards loaded with suspected infringing music files, seven external hard disks, a set of computer and a notebook computer as well as a batch of music discs with an estimated market value of about \$40,000 were seized.

Customs earlier received information alleging the sale of memory cards loaded with suspected infringing music files on a local discussion forum, offering around 1 000 music albums for selection.

After investigation, Customs officers conducted an operation on December 13 and arrested a 20-year-old man in Shek Kip Mei and seized two memory cards loaded with suspected infringing music files. Later, two more memory cards, the batch of computer equipment and music discs suspected to be used for producing the infringing music files were further seized at two residential units in Shek Kip Mei and Sheung Shui.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation.

Under the Copyright Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any infringing copy of a copyright work commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$50,000 per infringing copy and imprisonment for four years.

Members of the public may report any suspected infringing activities to the Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).



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**[December 2018 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now](#)**

## available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (December 17) the December 2018 issue of the "Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics" (HKMDS).

Apart from providing up-to-date statistics, this issue also contains two feature articles entitled "Fertility Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2017" and "Port Transshipment Cargo Statistics, 2007 to 2017".

### "Fertility Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2017"

Broadly speaking, Hong Kong's fertility showed a declining trend over the past 36 years. After experiencing the historic low of 901 live births per 1 000 women in 2003, the total fertility rate once rebounded to 1 285 in 2012, and then dropped to 1 125 in 2017. During the whole period, the total fertility rate of Hong Kong has been consistently below the replacement level of 2 100.

This feature article gives a brief account of the fertility trend in Hong Kong over the period from 1981 to 2017 and analyses the factors underlying the fertility trend.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Demographic Statistics Section, C&SD (Tel: 3903 6933; email: [population@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:population@censtatd.gov.hk)).

### "Port Transshipment Cargo Statistics, 2007 to 2017"

Port transshipment cargo movements have contributed to the growth of port cargo throughput of Hong Kong. With an average annual rate of increase of 0.8% between 2007 and 2017, port transshipment cargo movements took up 50.9% of port cargo throughput in 2017. In particular, port transshipment cargo movements between Hong Kong and the mainland of China accounted for the largest share (38.9%) of Hong Kong's port transshipment cargo. About 71.2% of Mainland-Hong Kong port transshipment cargo movements were between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Outward Processing and Shipping Statistics Section, C&SD (Tel: 2582 4889; email: [shipping@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:shipping@censtatd.gov.hk)).

Published in bilingual form, the HKMDS is a compact volume of official statistics containing about 140 tables. It collects up-to-date statistical series on various aspects of the social and economic situation of Hong Kong. Topics include population; labour; external trade; National Income and Balance of Payments; prices; business performance; energy; housing and property; government accounts, finance and insurance; and transport, communications and tourism. For selected key statistical items, over 20 charts depicting the annual trend in the past decade and quarterly or monthly trend in the recent two years are also available. Users can download the Digest free of charge at the website of the C&SD

([www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp460.jsp?productCode=B1010002)).

Enquiries about the contents of the Digest can be directed to the Statistical Information Services Section of the C&SD (Tel: 2582 4738; email: [gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:gen-enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## LegCo Public Accounts Committee to hold public hearing tomorrow

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will hold a public hearing on "Centre for Food Safety: Management of food safety" (Chapter 1) of the Director of Audit's Report No.71 at 9am tomorrow (December 18) in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex.

Six witnesses have been invited to appear before the above hearing to respond to points raised in the Report and answer questions asked by PAC members.

The programme for the public hearing is as follows:

Date: December 18 (Tuesday)

Time: 9am

Venue: Conference Room 1

Subject:

Centre for Food Safety: Management of food safety (Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No.71)

Witnesses:

Professor Sophia Chan  
Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Eugene Fung  
Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2

Miss Vivian Lau  
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Dr Ho Yuk-yin  
Controller, Centre for Food Safety  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Samuel Yeung  
Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and Communication)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Dr Christine Wong  
Assistant Director (Risk Management)  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

PAC is chaired by Mr Abraham Shek, and its Deputy Chairman is Mr Kenneth Leung. Other members include Mr Paul Tse, Mr Steven Ho, Mr Lam Cheuk-ting, Mr Shiu Ka-fai and Ms Tanya Chan.

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## **Kwong Wah Hospital Foundation Works deferred for conduct of consolidation works in vicinity of declared monument**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for the Hospital Authority (HA) made the following announcement today (December 17) regarding the Kwong Wah Hospital (KWH) redevelopment project:

KWH commenced the first stage of the hospital redevelopment project in mid-2016, including the demolition of the South Wing of the Main Hospital Building, the Nurses Quarters and the Administration Building. A new complex will be built on the original site while the Tung Wah Museum, which is a declared monument, will also be retained at the site.

To protect the Tung Wah Museum in the vicinity from being affected by the excavation works of the first phase of the hospital redevelopment project, the building contractor has carried out excavation and lateral support works as required by the Buildings Department. In addition, the contractor has completed extra grouting work to minimise water leakage. Close monitoring of the geological conditions, including whether the ground settlement and ground water level have deviated from acceptable levels, has also been carried out.

Basement excavation works commenced in February this year and have reached the bottom of the basement level. Excavation works were conducted as usual on Saturday, November 24, while all monitoring readings were within acceptable limits.

In the morning on Monday, November 26, ponding water was found in the lift pit excavation area of the construction site, while monitoring data around the Museum indicated abnormal readings in groundwater levels and settlement. All excavation works were suspended immediately and urgent remedial measures were implemented, including the installation of additional

recharge wells, re-grouting the grout curtain around the Museum and back-filling the lift pit area. Subsequently, the groundwater levels have risen again and the settlement has been under control without further deterioration. The consultant engineer conducted a preliminary inspection of the Museum has confirmed that there is no immediate concern regarding structural safety. The preliminary findings have been submitted to the Government departments concerned.

The contractor has appointed an independent geotechnical expert to assess the geological conditions and identify the possible causes of water level changes and ground settlement, in addition to suggesting the remedial measures before works resumed. A monument preservation expert was also appointed to inspect the condition of the Museum and provide an assessment report to confirm the structural safety of the building.

The HA has reported the incident to related government departments including the Buildings Department, the Antiquities and Monuments Office and also to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. According to the initial situation assessment, the redevelopment works of KWH may be subject to a three-month delay due to the incident. The HA will ensure that the problem is resolved before the resumption of construction work to safeguard the structural safety of the declared monument. Other buildings in KWH and residential buildings in the neighbourhood have not been affected by the incident. Patient services have remained normal all along.