

Meetings of Legislative Council and its Committees

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) and its Committees will hold 14 open meetings, two public hearings and three closed meetings during the week from December 10 to 15 December 2018 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meetings are available in the meeting schedule attached.

The information in the meeting schedule is subject to change. Please refer to the "LegCo Calendar" on the LegCo Website (www.legco.gov.hk) for the latest details of meetings.

Members of the public are welcome to observe open meetings of LegCo and its Committees. Interested individuals and groups are advised to make advance booking of seats by calling the LegCo Secretariat at 3919 3399 during office hours. Members of the public can also listen to or watch all open meetings via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website.

Secretary for Justice visits Sai Kung District

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, visited Sai Kung District today (December 7) to call on a secondary school in Tseung Kwan O and meet with District Council members.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Sai Kung District Council, Mr George Ng, and the District Officer (Sai Kung), Mr David Chiu, Ms Cheng visited Carmel Divine Grace Foundation Secondary School. She was briefed by staff on how their students took part in the Mock Trial – Justice Education Project. A mock trial competition and other related educational activities are arranged for secondary school students under the Project to enhance their understanding of Hong Kong's judicial system, rule of law and civic responsibility.

Ms Cheng observed students participating in simulated court proceedings and chatted with them. She encouraged students to continue joining various activities to strengthen their thinking and communication skills.

Ms Cheng then met with members of the Sai Kung District Council and exchanged views on issues of concern.

Company and manager sentenced to fine and community service for wage offences and default on Labour Tribunal awarded payment

Eagle Development (Holdings) Company Limited and its manager were prosecuted by the Labour Department (LD) for failing to pay wages to an employee and defaulting on a sum awarded by the Labour Tribunal (LT) as required by the Employment Ordinance (EO). The company and its manager earlier pleaded guilty at West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts and were sentenced respectively to a fine of \$5,000 and 120 hours' community service today (December 7). Both defendants were ordered to pay a sum of about \$42,000 via the court to the employee.

The company failed to pay an employee wages within seven days after the expiry of the last day of wage periods and termination of employment. The company also failed to pay the employee the awarded sum of about \$42,000 in total within 14 days after the date set out by the terms of the LT award in accordance with the EO. The manager concerned was convicted for his consent, connivance or neglect in the above offences.

â€‹"The ruling helps disseminate a strong message to all employers and responsible officers of companies that they have to pay wages to employees within the time limit stipulated in the EO and the awarded sums according to the terms of the awards of the LT or the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board. The LD will not tolerate these offences and will continue to make dedicated efforts in enforcing the EO and safeguarding employees' statutory rights," a spokesman for the LD said.

STH visits Yau Tsim Mong District

The Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, visited Yau Tsim Mong District this afternoon (December 7) to view the West Kowloon Corridor and the pedestrian footbridge at Mong Kok Road, and meet with local District Council members.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council, Mr Chris Ip, and the District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong), Mrs Laura Aron, Mr Chan first visited Tak Sun School. He was briefed on the school facilities and

observed students attending class.

Mr Chan then proceeded to Tai Kok Tsui to learn more about the noise problem at the West Kowloon Corridor. He was briefed by Highways Department officers on the follow-up actions.

After that, Mr Chan went to the pedestrian footbridge at Mong Kok Road where Highways Department officers updated him on the works progress of the extension of the footbridge system straddling Nathan Road.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Chan met with members of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council to exchange views on local transport and housing issues.

Hong Kong Customs combats unfair trade practices at fitness centre

Hong Kong Customs today (December 7) arrested a male director and a male staff member of a fitness centre suspected of engaging in aggressive commercial practices in the course of selling fitness service, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TD0).

Customs earlier received information alleging that staff members of a fitness centre in Mong Kok imposed undue influence in selling fitness services to three customers who were forced to procure fitness club membership valued at \$14,000, \$21,600 and \$80,000 respectively.

After investigation, Customs officers today arrested two 26-year-old men.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested men have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TD0 and consumers to procure services at reputable shops. Before making any purchase decision, consumers should be cautious in providing their identity cards or credit cards to a salesperson. Consumers should firmly refuse signing any documents if they do not clearly know the content and price of the service to be provided, or have no intention to purchase the service.

Under the TD0, any trader commits an offence of engaging in aggressive commercial practices if harassment, coercion or undue influence is used to impair consumer's freedom of choice or conduct, causing the consumer to make a transactional decision. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years. The management staff will also be liable if the offence is committed with their consent or connivance or is

attributed to their neglect.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TD0 to the Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).