

# The Ombudsman appoints Assistant Ombudsman

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Office of The Ombudsman announced today (October 19) the appointment of Ms Belinda Kwan as an Assistant Ombudsman with immediate effect.

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, made the appointment under The Ombudsman Ordinance (Cap. 397). To choose the best candidate, the Office set up a Selection Board to provide advice.

Ms Kwan joined the Office of The Ombudsman as a Chief Investigation Officer in 2012. She was previously an Administrative Officer, and gained extensive experience in public administration during her postings in various government departments.

The former Assistant Ombudsman, Mr Tony Ma, left the Office on October 18. Over the past 15 years, Mr Ma had devoted himself to the work of the Office, and achieved significant results in enhancing the quality of public administration through resolving complaints about maladministration by public organisations and conducting direct investigations aimed at probing any systemic flaws. The Ombudsman expressed her heartfelt thanks to Mr Ma for his contributions and, together with all colleagues in the Office, wished him an enjoyable life, good health and happiness.

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## Sick person in custody dies in public hospital

A sick 60-year-old male person in custody at Stanley Prison died in a public hospital today (October 19).

The person in custody suffered from diabetes mellitus, heart disease and renal failure. He required continuous medical care and follow-up at the institution hospital and public hospitals. On October 7, he was sent to a public hospital for treatment due to physical discomfort. During hospitalisation, his condition deteriorated and he was certified dead at 8.13am today.

The case has been reported to the Police. A death inquest will be held by the Coroner's Court.

The person in custody was convicted for the offence of trafficking in a

dangerous drug in August 2018.

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## Amendment regulation on tightening emission standards for non-road vehicles gazetted

The Government published in the Gazette today (October 19) the Air Pollution Control (Non-road Mobile Machinery) (Emission) (Amendment) Regulation 2018, which aims at further tightening in phases the statutory emission standards for non-road vehicles to improve air quality.

The Amendment Regulation will be tabled at the Legislative Council (LegCo) next Wednesday (October 24). If approved by the LegCo, the Amendment Regulation will take effect on January 1, 2019.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department said, "To prevent the transfer of old road vehicles, which are no longer roadworthy, into use for non-road applications, it is the Government's standing policy to adopt the same emission standards for non-road vehicles as those for road vehicles. Pursuant to the Government's tightening of the emission standards for newly registered road vehicles to Euro VI in phases since July 1, 2017, the Amendment Regulation seeks to tighten the emission standards of the same class of non-road vehicles in line with the latest emission standards for road vehicles."

The spokesman added that the non-road vehicle classes affected by the Amendment Regulation include buses with design weight of more than 9 tonnes, light buses with design weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, goods vehicles and petrol private cars. Their emission standards will be tightened from the current Euro V to Euro VI. The emission standards for non-road diesel private cars will be tightened from California LEV II to California LEV III. For other non-road vehicle classes, including buses with design weight not exceeding 9 tonnes and light buses with design weight of more than 3.5 tonnes and special purpose vehicles, the prevailing emission standards will remain the same.

Compared with their Euro V counterparts, Euro VI heavy duty diesel vehicles emit about 80 per cent less nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and 50 per cent less respirable suspended particulates, while Euro VI light duty diesel vehicles emit about 55 per cent less NO<sub>x</sub>.

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## Labour Department withdraws recognition of safety training course

The Labour Department (LD) has today (October 19) withdrawn the recognition given to the Association of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited (AEME) for running the Gas Welding Safety Training Course under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Gas Welding and Flame Cutting) Regulation (Cap. 59AI) for persons employed at an industrial undertaking performing gas welding and flame cutting work.

A spokesman for the LD said the AEME was found to have breached the approval conditions attached to the running of the course. A trainer of the AEME discussed a large number of questions selected from the examination paper and their respective answer choices with all the trainees right before the written examination. In addition, a trainee was found cheating during re-examination but the trainer concerned and the invigilator did not take any action. The AEME subsequently issued a certificate to that trainee. Having conducted thorough investigation and evidence gathering, and having considered the explanations and representations given by the AEME, the LD decided to withdraw the recognition in view of the serious nature of the breach.

"We conduct surprise checks from time to time to monitor training course providers' compliance with approval conditions of safety training courses, as part of our efforts to ensure the quality of these training courses. Failure to comply with the approval conditions may result in the withdrawal of the recognition of the courses," the spokesman stressed.

There are currently 21 approved course providers running the Gas Welding Safety Training Course. The course information is available on the LD's website ([www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/content5.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/content5.htm)). People who need to take the course may enrol with these approved course providers.

"For enquiries, please call the LD's Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre hotline on 2940 7010 or the department's occupational safety and health advisory telephone service hotline on 2559 2297," the spokesman said.

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## Land resumption for urban renewal project in Sham Shui Po gazetted

The Lands Department today (October 19) announced the resumption of land at Tonkin Street and Fuk Wing Street in Sham Shui Po for the implementation

of an urban renewal development project.

The development project was included in the Urban Renewal Authority's Business Plan for 2012-13. The project site, with an area of about 1 268 square metres, will be redeveloped for residential use with retail/commercial facilities, a clubhouse, loading and unloading facilities and basement car park facilities. Its implementation will help improve the overall living environment of the area.

A total of 81 private property interests at the project site will be resumed under the Lands Resumption Ordinance. The affected interests will revert to the Government on the expiration of three months from the date on which the resumption notice is affixed on-site. Details of the private land affected were published by notice in the [Government Gazette](#) today.

Apart from statutory compensation, eligible owners of domestic properties will be offered an ex-gratia home purchase allowance or a supplementary allowance as appropriate. Eligible domestic tenants will be offered rehousing to public rental housing units provided by the Hong Kong Housing Authority or the Hong Kong Housing Society, or an ex-gratia cash allowance.

Eligible commercial property occupiers, including owners and tenants, may opt for an ex-gratia allowance in lieu of the right to claim statutory compensation for business and related losses.

If statutory claims made by the affected owners and tenants of both domestic and commercial properties under the Lands Resumption Ordinance cannot be settled by agreement, the owners and tenants may apply to the Lands Tribunal for adjudication. Professional fees reasonably incurred by the claimants in making such claims may be reimbursed by the Government.