

Illegal worker jailed

An Indonesian illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (September 13).

During a joint operation conducted by the Immigration Department (ImmD) and the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Powerplayer" on August 6, enforcement officers raided a restaurant in Wan Chai. A female Indonesian illegal worker, aged 28, was arrested. When intercepted she was washing dishes. Upon identity checking she produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers,

illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Meeting of Legislative Council Committee

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

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Committee will hold an open meeting during the week from 17 September 2018 to 21 September 2018 in the LegCo Complex. Details of the meeting 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 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.

HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (September 14) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's enquiries hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
Waiting Lobby, 3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
Multi-purpose Room, 1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate
Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
Hall, G/F, 45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –

Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –

Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as either community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community and cannot continue to be open as heat shelters. People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas in any of the 21 designated community centres or community halls. Their opening hours are from 9am to 10pm. For addresses of the community centres or community

halls, please browse the following webpage:

https://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf

September 2018 issue of “Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics” now available

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) published today (September 14) the September 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 "Analysis on Full-time and Part-time Employment, 2007 to 2017" and "Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017". Statistics presented in the "Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017" article are based on the data source from the Social Welfare Department.

"Analysis on Full-time and Part-time Employment, 2007 to 2017"

During 2007 to 2017, the number of part-time employed persons registered a higher growth rate than that of full-time employed persons, thus part-time employment accounted for an increasing share of total employment. This feature article provides an analysis on the profiles of full-time and part-time employed persons of Hong Kong over this period, using information obtained from the General Household Survey.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Household Statistics Analysis Section, C&SD (Tel: 2887 5208; email: ghs@censtatd.gov.hk).

"Statistics on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, 2007 to 2017"

According to the data source from the Social Welfare Department, the total number of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) cases has decreased gradually at an average rate of 2.1% per annum in the past decade. The number of cases fell from nearly 290 000 as at the end of 2007 to about 230 000 as at the end of 2017. Larger extents of decrease were noted in low-earnings cases (-12.8%) and unemployment cases (-9.0%). There were 336 681 CSSA recipients as at the end of 2017, representing a drop of 32.2% when compared with that as at the end of 2007.

This feature article describes the major changes in the number of CSSA

cases and recipients during the period from 2007 to 2017.

For enquiries about this feature article, please contact the Research and Statistics Section, Social Welfare Department (Tel: 2892 5225; email: rsenq@swd.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).

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).

Leonis Quartet promise classical music and laughter in "Total Eclipse"

Graduates of some of the most prestigious music schools in France, the members of Leonis Quartet, namely violinists Guillaume Antonin and Sebastien Richaud, violist Alphonse Dervieux and cellist Julien Decoin, promise an evening of classical music and laughter in a concert "Total Eclipse" to be staged in October.

Highly cultivated in the field of classical music, the four musicians will entertain the audience with a burlesque and poetic performance involving anything from passionate tango and free-spirited gypsy music to psychedelic rock and classical.

"Total Eclipse" is a musical and visual theatre show that offers an alternative image of classical music through humour and movement. The show uses comical situations rather than musical gags, and relies-in part-on a musical repertoire often unknown to the general public, also including some of the greatest string quartet pieces by Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn. The show takes the audience on a voyage to the fantastic world of the classical musician, who may try to free himself from the rigorous demands of classical music but gets drawn back in again and again.

"Total Eclipse" by Leonis Quartet is one of the highlights of the Music Delights Series presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The concert will be staged at 8pm on October 6 (Saturday) at the Auditorium of the Sha Tin Town Hall. Tickets priced at \$120, \$180 and \$240 are now available from the URBIX (www.urbtix.hk).

For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_590.html