

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 is 104.7 (up 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Illegal worker jailed

A Pakistani illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed at Shatin Magistrates' Courts today (August 14).

Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators received a referral from the Hong Kong Police Force to further investigate an illegal employment case in March. Enforcement officers arrested a male Pakistani worker, aged 27, conveying metal waste in Yuen Long. Upon identity checking, he was found to be a holder of a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment, and further investigation revealed that he 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 today 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. After the trial, he was sentenced to 22 months' and two weeks' 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 of 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.

SLW visits Social Welfare Department **(with photos)**

The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong, visited the Social Welfare Department (SWD) Headquarters this morning (August 14) to take a closer look at its work. The Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Caspar Tsui, also joined the visit.

Accompanied by the Director of Social Welfare, Ms Carol Yip, Dr Law first met with the directorate staff to get an update on the SWD's services, including family and child welfare services, elderly services, social security and rehabilitation services. He said that colleagues' dedication and contribution were crucial to the smooth implementation of various new social welfare policy initiatives. He encouraged colleagues to uphold professionalism and continue to provide people-oriented services for the public.

Dr Law then visited the Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Branch to learn more about the latest service provision to support different kinds of persons with disabilities. Among the services, the Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services will be regularised from the new 2018/19 school year and the number of service places will be increased from about 3 000 to 7 000 in two years. He said he was glad to note that the enhancement of the SWD's Central Referral System for Rehabilitation Services (Disabled Pre-Schoolers) was near completion for more efficient service

placement.

He also visited the Information Systems and Technology Branch and was briefed on how the SWD established the next-generation information technology infrastructure (ITI) to improve service efficiency. The new ITI not only supports 238 SWD offices over the territory, but also serves as the backbone information system supporting the disbursement of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and various social security allowances to over 1.25 million recipients. It also provides an electronic platform to enhance the SWD's communications with welfare service providers. He reminded SWD colleagues to better utilise information technology and strengthen data analysis to provide modernised quality services.

In addition, Dr Law went to the Subventions Branch and was updated on its work on monitoring subvented services of non-governmental organisations under the social welfare subvention system. He was also briefed on the latest developments of projects under the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses to increase residential care places and day care places for the elderly and persons with disabilities as well as other measures, including redevelopment and conversion projects of welfare buildings led by the SWD, public and private housing development projects, redevelopment projects of the Urban Renewal Authority and development projects of government buildings.

He pointed out that, in response to an ageing population, increasing demand for elderly services and severe shortage of rehabilitation service facilities, the Government must continue to maximise land use and expedite land identification for building residential care homes and hardware for community support, and improve long-term planning in parallel. He said he was pleased to know the redevelopment works at the site of the ex-Kai Nang Sheltered Workshop and Hostel in Kwun Tong and those of the former Siu Lam Hospital in Tuen Mun, both led and steered by the SWD, were under way as scheduled. Both projects will provide a total of 2 210 residential and day rehabilitation service places and are expected to complete by the first quarter of 2019 and the third quarter of 2020 respectively to run services in the third quarter of 2019 and the second quarter in 2021 respectively.



To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter is now full

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Marine Department has announced that To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter is now full.

Local vessels are advised to use other typhoon shelters.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results:

Tender date	: August 14, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1833
Issue date	: August 15, 2018
Maturity date	: November 14, 2018
Amount applied	: HK\$117,240.5 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$43,848 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.23 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 1.26 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 51 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.28 PCT

Tender date	: August 14, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1862
Issue date	: August 15, 2018
Maturity date	: February 13, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$37,870 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$10,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.40 PCT

Highest yield accepted	: 1.43 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 20 PCT
Average tender yield	: 1.50 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Tenders to be held in the week beginning August 20:

Tender date	: August 21, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1834
Issue date	: August 22, 2018
Maturity date	: November 21, 2018
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$50,218 MN

Tender date	: August 21, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1863
Issue date	: August 22, 2018
Maturity date	: February 20, 2019
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$14,000 MN

Tender date	: August 21, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Y1893
Issue date	: August 22, 2018
Maturity date	: August 21, 2019
Tenor	: 364 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$3,000 MN