

## Commission on Children convenes 22nd meeting

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, today (September 4) chaired the 22nd meeting of the Commission on Children.

At the meeting, members were briefed by the Department of Health on the Whole School Health Programme. Based on the health-promoting school concept of the World Health Organization, the Programme improves the health of students, school personnel, as well as families and other members of the community through schools. It covers four themes including physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and social well-being. The Student Health Service of the Department of Health will provide professional advice and comprehensive support to participating schools to systematically review and formulate school-based health promotion according to the schools' circumstances and students' health needs.

Members were also updated by the Education Bureau (EDB) on the latest developments in the curriculum and related support measures for values education. The Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version)(Curriculum Framework) serves as a guiding document for schools to plan their school-based values education curriculum, with the aim of cultivating proper values and attitudes in students from an early age. The Curriculum Development Council announced enhancements to the Curriculum Framework in 2023, including optimising the content of the Priority Values and Attitudes to emphasise the role of Chinese culture as the backbone of values education and to strengthen students' sense of belonging to the country and their national identity from childhood. Members acknowledged the importance of values education and supported the EDB's continuous efforts in supporting schools in implementing values education both within and beyond the classroom in an all-encompassing manner.

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## Hong Kong Customs steps up enforcement to combat illicit cigarette telephone-ordering activities and detects two large-scale illicit cigarette cases (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs mounted a territory-wide enforcement operation

codenamed "Thunder" over the past two months to combat illicit cigarette telephone-ordering activities in public rental housing (PRH). On September 2, Customs detected two large-scale illicit cigarette cases. A total of about 18.2 million suspected illicit cigarettes and 740 kilograms of suspected duty-not-paid manufactured tobacco, with a total estimated market value of about \$86.6 million and a duty potential of about \$63.1 million, were seized.

In response to criminals exploiting young people to engage in illicit cigarette activities during the summer holiday, Customs stepped up enforcement against illicit cigarette telephone-ordering activities in PRH from July 8 to August 31. During the operation, Customs officers detected 148 illicit cigarette cases in different districts, including Sham Shui Po, Tuen Mun, Wong Tai Sin, Sau Mau Ping, Ngau Tau Kok and Yau Tong. A total of about 1.3 million suspected illicit cigarettes were seized. Among the cases, two suspected illicit cigarette storage centres and two vehicles suspected to be used for illicit cigarette distribution were involved.

In the above-mentioned operation, Customs arrested 127 men and 22 women, aged between 15 and 78, including six teenagers under the age of 18. Most of the arrested persons purchased the illicit cigarettes for personal use, and all cases have been duly followed up.

Moreover, after recent in-depth investigations and intelligence analysis, Customs raided a logistics warehouse in Man Kam To at noon on September 2 to inspect a batch of suspicious goods, resulting in the seizure of about 4.9 million suspected illicit cigarettes and 740kg of suspected duty-not-paid manufactured tobacco.

On the afternoon of the same day, Customs officers conducted an anti-illicit cigarette operation in the vicinity of Tuen Mun. They intercepted three suspicious men in an industrial building unit and seized about 9 million suspected illicit cigarettes therein. The three men were immediately arrested. After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers seized about 53 000 suspected illicit cigarettes in a truck on the ground floor of the industrial building, and further seized 2.7 million suspected illicit cigarettes from a nearby industrial building.

The two cases mentioned above are still under investigation, and the three arrested persons were released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs reminds young people, especially students, not to involve in illicit cigarette activities or distribution of illicit cigarette flyers, to avoid creating a criminal record that may affect their future.

Customs will continue to step up enforcement to vigorously combat illicit cigarette activities through risk assessment, intelligence analysis and interception at source. If PRH units are found to be involved in illicit cigarette activities, Customs will notify the Housing Department for follow-up action after the conclusion of court proceedings.

Customs stresses that it is an offence to buy or sell illicit cigarettes. Under the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, anyone involved in

dealing with, possession of, selling or buying illicit cigarettes commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$1 million and imprisonment for two years.

Members of the public may report any suspected illicit cigarette activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)) or online form ([eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002](http://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002)).



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## Public urged not to visit beaches for water sports activities during passage of typhoon

Attention TV/ radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

As Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 is in force, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) today (September 4) calls on members of the public to stay away from the shoreline during inclement weather, and should not conduct any water sports activities on beaches to avoid causing danger to themselves and rescue personnel.

The LCSD may decide to temporarily close beaches in response to changes in weather conditions. If members of the public engage in water sports at beaches that have been temporarily closed, offenders may be fined up to HK\$2,000 and imprisoned for 14 days. Members of the public are urged not to defy the law.

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## **HAD's emergency hotline activated**

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

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

Following the issuing of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3, the Home Affairs Department has activated a round-the-clock hotline, 2572 8427, for public enquiries on the tropical cyclone situation.

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## **Care centres remain open**

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following special announcement immediately, and repeat it at frequent intervals:

"The Social Welfare Department announces that while Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 3 has been issued, all child care centres, centres providing after school care programmes, elderly services centres and day rehabilitation units including sheltered workshops, integrated vocational rehabilitation services centres, integrated vocational training centres and day activity centres will remain open during their normal operating hours. If necessary, members of the public can contact the centres to make arrangements for the safe return home of their children and family members."