

## Ombudsman meets with Chief Secretary for Administration (with photo)

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

The Ombudsman, Mr Jack Chan, was invited to meet with the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki; the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs Ingrid Yeung; and relevant senior officials, today (May 9) to deliberate on the findings and analyses of the investigation by the Office of The Ombudsman into the Government's regulation of occupational safety and health in the construction industry and exchange views on strengthening departmental management systems and reinforcing performance accountability.

The Ombudsman said, "I must, once again, express my gratitude to the Chief Executive for his recognition of our work. I am also very grateful that he has announced earlier that the Chief Secretary for Administration will lead a working group to conduct in-depth reviews of recommendations in the direct investigation operation reports issued by the Office of The Ombudsman to ensure that government departments will actively follow up on the recommendations from these investigations. I am also grateful for the Chief Secretary for Administration's invitation to this meeting. During our meeting today, we had an in-depth and focused deliberation on my Office's investigation findings as regards the Government's regulation of occupational safety and health in the construction industry, and a candid discussion on the bottlenecks and challenges. We also had a thorough exchange of views on ways to strengthen departmental management systems and reinforce performance accountability. I am pleased to learn that the working group led by the Chief Secretary for Administration will monitor relevant departments' follow-up actions to ensure full implementation of our recommendations. I am also pleased to note that the Labour Department and the Buildings Department have been actively following up the recommendations of our report and commenced various work including enhancing effectiveness of enforcement and expediting the processing of cases omitted earlier. The current-term Government is committed and determined to strengthen departmental management systems, reinforce performance accountability among departmental managerial staff, and enhance public service management and efficiency, demonstrating its devotion and dedication to fostering good governance. My Office will give full support and co-operation in enhancing the effectiveness of public administration to ensure high-quality and efficient public services."



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## [CS meets with Ombudsman to discuss strengthening departmental management system and performance accountability \(with photo\)](#)

To enhance governance efficiency and strengthen performance accountability, the Chief Executive has instructed the Chief Secretary for Administration to lead a working group to conduct in-depth reviews of the direct investigation operation reports issued by the Office of The Ombudsman from time to time. This aims to ensure that all heads of government departments proactively follow up on the recommendations from these investigations while strengthening the establishment of departmental management systems and reinforcing performance accountability among departmental managerial staff to enhance public service management.

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, met with the Ombudsman, Mr Jack Chan, today (May 9) to follow up on the Direct Investigation Operation Report on Government's Regulation of Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Industry, published by the Office of The Ombudsman on April 16, and discussed extensively the Ombudsman's findings, analyses and recommendations. At the meeting, both sides had in-depth discussions on the bottlenecks and inadequacies in the occupational safety and health (OSH) regulatory system for the construction industry. They also

held candid and pragmatic exchanges on strengthening the management systems of government departments, particularly focusing on the leadership and supervisory responsibilities of management personnel, as well as issues such as performance accountability among departmental managerial staff.

The Government attaches great importance to OSH in the construction industry. The Labour Department (LD) and the Buildings Department (BD) have been taking a number of follow-up actions on the recommendations in the report. The LD has amended the relevant OSH legislation to increase the penalties. It also plans to start a trial of using small unmanned aircraft for inspections, investigations and evidence collection in the second half of 2025 and to explore the adoption of automatic speech recognition to assist in taking statements, thereby improving the efficiency of frontline officers in law enforcement. The LD and BD have strengthened communication and collaboration and improved the inter-departmental referral mechanism. The BD has improved the internal monitoring system for case handling in early 2025 and speeded up processing of previously omitted cases, and is reviewing lowering the threshold for instigating disciplinary actions to enhance deterrent effect. In addition, the Government will introduce a bill into the Legislative Council to amend the Buildings Ordinance in the first half of 2026 to further enhance the regulatory regime for registered contractors.

Mr Chan said, "The Government attaches great importance to the Office of The Ombudsman's investigation operation report and appreciates the valuable observations and recommendations put forward by the Ombudsman. In accordance with the Chief Executive's instruction, the working group will ensure that all government departments conscientiously and proactively follow up on the recommendations, while strengthening the establishment of departmental management systems at source and reinforcing performance accountability of the management to effectively improve governance efficiency, with a view to continuing to provide high-quality and efficient services for the public."



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## [Red flag lowered at Stanley Main Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

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

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department said today (April 5) that the red flag at Stanley Main Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island has been lowered.

The red flag was hoisted earlier due to big waves.

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## **Home and Youth Affairs Bureau launches “60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong” thematic event series (with photos)**

The Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, today (April 5) officiated at the kick-off ceremony of the "60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong" thematic event series. The year 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Dongjiang water supply to Hong Kong. To commemorate and celebrate this remarkable milestone, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will organise and provide a series of thematic activities for young people.

Speaking at the ceremony, Miss Mak said that six decades ago, Dongjiang water was first diverted through mountains and valleys into the Hong Kong waterways, resolving the prolonged water scarcity that had plagued the city. Subsequently, the country expanded and upgraded the water supply system three times. Today, Dongjiang water accounts for over 70 per cent of Hong Kong's freshwater supply. Every drop of water carries the profound sentiments of a national commitment spanning over half a century. Through the various activities organised under the theme of "60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong", the HYAB aims to enhance young people's understanding of the history of Dongjiang water supply to Hong Kong and the significant role that Dongjiang water has played in Hong Kong, enabling the youth to appreciate the substantial support rendered by the country to Hong Kong and strengthening their awareness on cherishing water resources.

The Youth Link will organise the "Exchange Tour to Guangdong Province for the 60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong" (the Exchange Tour) on April 12 and 13 as the debut thematic activity. Around 80 Youth Link members will visit national major water conservancy projects and cultural and historical sites in Guangdong Province. Taking this opportunity, the HYAB will also arrange for the Youth Link members to meet and exchange with local youth and Hong Kong youth residing in the area.



Besides, the HYAB, in collaboration with the Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation, will lead 500 young people to visit and explore the source of the Dongjiang River at Sanbai Mountain and its surrounding regions in June this year. The HYAB will also collaborate with different youth organisations and provide funding support under the "HYAB Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland 2025-26" for around 30 exchange projects under the theme of "60th Anniversary of Dongjiang Water Supply to Hong Kong". The visits will cover water conservancy projects and historical and cultural sites in the Sanbai Mountain in Jiangxi Province, as well as in Dongguan, Huizhou, Heyuan in Guangdong Province, enabling the young people to learn more about the history, management and protection of the Dongjiang water engineering project, as well as the culture and history along the areas.

Miss Mak encouraged young people to seize these valuable opportunities and actively participate in relevant activities to learn more about the story of Dongjiang water and pass on the spirit of gratitude. Miss Mak expressed her hope to work with young people together in future in cherishing this precious resources which has not come easily, and create for a better tomorrow.

Other officiating guests included the Vice-Chairman of the Youth Development Commission (YDC), Mr Kenneth Leung; the Commissioner for Youth, Mr Eric Chan; member of the YDC Mr John Li; and the Chairman of Dynamic Youth of Huizhou, also the collaborative partner of the Exchange Tour, Mr George Lau. Members of the YDC also attended the event.

