

Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (September 5):

Reporter: Good morning, Mr Lee. The first question: At least nine restaurants that originally promised to hold a banquet for the Democratic Party over the past two years have cancelled at the last minute. Would this development, which some might suggest involved political pressure, send a mixed signal for the party's participation at the upcoming District Council election, where authorities hoped they would run. And would you agree perhaps with views by pro-establishment lawmakers that holding the banquet itself is a form of soft resistance? The second question is recently some lawmakers have also courted controversy over their participation in a singing concert, as well as two thirds of bills in the current LegCo (Legislative Council) term were passed in the presence of less than half of total lawmakers. How would you see the performance of the lawmakers under the current patriots-only system? Is there room for any improvement? Thank you.

Chief Executive: Any organisation that wants to organise activities for their own is a matter for themselves. How successful they can do that and how things can be arranged is also a matter for themselves.

As regards participation in the upcoming District Council election, it is open to anybody who's qualified according to the law. The only requirement that I can say is they have to, first of all, be able to swear allegiance to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and uphold the Basic Law. I think these are the two basic requirements. Anybody who satisfies that and who believes that they can contribute, of course, they are welcome to participate.

As regards public officers who discharge their duties, whether they are government officials or legislative councillors, then of course, they are subject to the scrutiny of members of the public and the press. I'm sure that they will be having their ears wide open to listen to any opinions about what is expected.

As regards the improved LegCo election, which has produced the current LegCo members, they have been, I think, making good performances to pass legislation and also in good communication with the Government. They also make a lot of suggestions to improve policies in some areas. They also have criticisms against the Government where they think the Government requires improvements. I thank them for making all these views to the Government to ensure that the measures that the Government takes will benefit society. I am also improving the communication with LegCo members, as you can see through regular Ante Chamber exchange sessions and also through the CE's interactive

exchange Q&A sessions. I will be looking for further opportunities to enhance communication with LegCo members, so that all of us can jointly work to the benefit of Hong Kong.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Temporary closure of some Hong Kong Velodrome facilities

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 5) that the arena and the cycling track of the Hong Kong Velodrome in Sai Kung District will be temporarily closed from September 22 to December 19 for improvement works. During this period, other facilities of the Velodrome will remain open.

During the closure period, members of the public may use the facilities of the Hang Hau Sports Centre, the Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre, the Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre, the Tsui Lam Sports Centre and the Po Lam Sports Centre in the same district.

LCSD to reopen some Lockhart Road Sports Centre facilities

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 5) that the table tennis room and the squash court-cum-activity room (1) of the Lockhart Road Sports Centre will reopen for public use from September 15 (Friday), while the multi-purpose arena, two fitness rooms and the squash court-cum-activity room (2) remain temporarily closed for refurbishment works until further notice. This venue was temporarily closed earlier for renovation works.

Members of the public can reserve these reopened fee-charging facilities from September 9 (Saturday) via the Internet booking services of Leisure Link, counter bookings and self-service kiosks, or via the Booking Offices of the District Leisure Services Offices during office hours. For enquiries, please contact the venue staff at 2879 5521.

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The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 5) that the table tennis room and the squash court-cum-activity room (1) of the Lockhart Road Sports Centre will reopen for public use from September 15 (Friday), while the multi-purpose arena, two fitness rooms and the squash court-cum-activity room (2) remain temporarily closed for refurbishment works until further notice. This venue was temporarily closed earlier for renovation works.

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Stanley Main Beach reopened

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (September 5) that the shark prevention net at Stanley Main Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island has been repaired and the beach is reopened.

The beach was temporarily closed earlier for shark prevention net maintenance work.