

Security Bureau reminds public to be vigilant against suspicious calls purportedly made by Security Bureau staff

The Security Bureau today (June 17) alerted members of the public to stay vigilant against suspicious calls purportedly made by Security Bureau staff, alleging that the citizen was suspected of breaking the law and required to visit the Security Bureau office in person for verification.

The Security Bureau solemnly clarified that this is untrue and condemned such deception tactics. The Security Bureau has displayed an alert message on its official website to remind the public to stay vigilant against scams.

Members of the public are reminded not to disclose their personal information to any suspicious or unidentified individuals and, in case of doubt, to call the Anti Scam Helpline 18222 for enquiries. Those who have provided personal information to suspicious individuals or suspect they have been scammed should contact the Police.

Auction of vehicle registration marks to be held on July 6

The Transport Department (TD) today (June 17) announced that the auction of vehicle registration marks will be held on July 6 (Sunday) at Meeting Room S221, L2, Old Wing, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai.

"A total of 200 traditional vehicle registration marks (TVRMs) will be put up for public auction in the morning session, and 144 personalised vehicle registration marks (PVRMs) will be put up for auction in the afternoon session. The list of marks has been uploaded to the department's website, www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/vehicle_registration_mark/index.html," a department spokesman said.

For the auction of TVRMs, only registration marks starting with "HK" or "XX" and special vehicle registration marks are put up for physical auction. Applicants should attend the auction and take note of the opening price as announced by the auctioneer before participating in the bidding of the mark.

The reserve price of each of PVRMs is \$5,000. Applicants who have paid a

deposit of \$5,000 should also attend the physical auction and participate in the bidding (including the first bid at the reserve price). Otherwise, the PVRM concerned may be sold to another bidder at the reserve price.

People who wish to participate in the bidding at the physical auction should take note of the following points:

(1) Bidders are required to produce the following documents for completion of registration and payment procedures immediately after the successful bidding:

- (i) the identity document of the successful bidder;
- (ii) the identity document of the purchaser if it is different from the successful bidder;
- (iii) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation if the purchaser is a body corporate; and
- (iv) a crossed cheque payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" or "The Government of the HKSAR". Any bidder who wishes to bid for both TVRMs and PVRMs on the same day, should bring along at least two crossed cheques for payment of auction prices (for an auctioned mark paid for by cheque, the first three working days after the date of auction will be required for cheque clearance confirmation before processing of the application for mark assignment can be completed). Successful bidders may also pay through the Easy Pay System (EPS), but are reminded to note the maximum transfer amount in the same day of the payment card. Payment by post-dated cheque, cash, credit card or other methods will not be accepted.

(2) Purchasers must make payment of the purchase price through EPS or by crossed cheque and complete the Memorandum of Sale of Vehicle Registration Mark or the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM immediately after the bidding. Subsequent alteration of the particulars in the Memorandum will not be permitted.

(3) A registration mark can only be assigned to a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of the purchaser. The Certificate of Incorporation must be produced immediately by the purchaser if a vehicle registration mark purchased is to be registered under the name of a body corporate.

(4) The display of a vehicle registration mark on a motor vehicle should be in compliance with the requirements stipulated in Schedule 4 to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations.

(5) Any change to the arrangement of letters, numerals and blank spaces of a PVRM, i.e. single and two rows as auctioned, will not be allowed.

(6) Special vehicle registration marks are non-transferable. Where the ownership of a motor vehicle with a special vehicle registration mark is transferred, the allocation of the special vehicle registration mark shall be cancelled.

(7) The purchaser shall, within 12 months after the date of auction, apply to the Commissioner for Transport for the vehicle registration mark to be assigned to a motor vehicle registered in the name of the purchaser. If the

purchaser fails to assign the registration mark within 12 months, allocation of the registration mark will be cancelled and arranged for reallocation by the Commissioner for Transport in accordance with the statutory provision without prior notice to the purchaser.

"Upon completion of the Memorandum of Sale of PVRM, the purchaser will be issued a receipt and a Certificate of Allocation of Personalised Registration Mark. The Certificate of Allocation will serve to prove the holdership of the PVRM. Potential buyers of vehicles bearing a PVRM should check the Certificate of Allocation with the sellers and pay attention to the details therein. For transfer of vehicle ownership, this certificate together with other required documents should be sent to the TD for processing," the spokesman added.

For other auction details, please refer to the Guidance Notes – Auction of TVRMs

(www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/vehicle_registration_mark/tvrm_auction/index.html) and Guidance Notes – Auction of PVRMs

(www.td.gov.hk/en/public_services/vehicle_registration_mark/pvrm_auction/index.html).

Chinese Culture Festival 2025's "Encountering Chinese Culture" Carnival to be held in Sha Tin on June 22 (with photos)

The Chinese Culture Festival (CCF) 2025, organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will hold the "Encountering Chinese Culture" Carnival on June 22 (Sunday) at Sha Tin Town Hall and New Town Plaza. Through stage performances rich in Chinese cultural characteristics, "Vibrant ICH" performances, booth activities and more, the Carnival will bring fine traditional Chinese culture and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) items into the community for public enjoyment and raise people's awareness of and interest in Chinese culture as well as ICH. Members of the public are invited to join for free. "Vibrant ICH" performances and booth activities are also programmes of Hong Kong ICH Month 2025.

The Carnival will kick off with a fire dragon dance by the Pok Fu Lam Village Fire Dragon Association at 2pm at the Entrance Arena at L1, Phase 1 of New Town Plaza, followed by a number of performances by outstanding arts groups and ICH practitioners from the Mainland and Hong Kong. Audience members can preview highlighted excerpts from some of this year's CCF programmes, including the Museum Series: "The Sounds from Cultural Relics",

the "Ancient Styles & Modern Chants" Classical Literature × Contemporary Dance and the "Taisheng and Huayin Lao Qiang: Big Uncle, Second Uncle are All His Uncles" Concert with collaboration from the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles Hong Kong Member Association.

Coinciding with the Hong Kong ICH Month organised by the LCSD's Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICH0) is held in June, a series of "Vibrant ICH" song and dance performances as well as a puppetry show will be presented in the Carnival at the Entrance Arena of New Town Plaza. The Gannan Art and Creative Institute of Jiangxi Province will present multiple ICH performances, including Xingguo folk songs, a Gannan tea-plucking opera as well as Hakka folk songs and dances. Hong Kong puppeteer Wong Fai will perform the puppet show "Journey to the West – Flaming Mountain", while two members of the Sai Kung Hakka Folk Song Group will present local Hakka songs.

The Carnival specially features multiple "Vibrant ICH" interactive experiential booth activities at the Exhibition Gallery and Foyer of Sha Tin Town Hall as well as the West Wing at L1, Phase 1 of New Town Plaza, showcasing various ICH-related craftsmanship, including Chinese brush making, Hong Kong cheongsam making, puppetry, fishing net plaiting, movable-type printing, patterned band weaving and gold leaf decoration. Members of the public can watch demonstrations and participate in workshops to explore the essence of ICH.

The "Mobile ICH" vehicle from the ICH0 and a "Library-on-Wheels" from the Hong Kong Public Libraries will arrive at the Plaza of Sha Tin Town Hall on that day. The "Mobile ICH" will introduce Hong Kong's ICH items through on-board exhibitions and interactive devices, while the "Library-on-Wheels" will offer a selection of Chinese culture-themed collections for the public to borrow on-site. Story ambassadors will host engaging storytelling sessions at the West Wing at L1, Phase 1 of New Town Plaza to promote reading. The Carnival will also hold "ICH Story-telling" sessions at the Foyer of Sha Tin Town Hall, using illustrated books on ICH to help participants of all ages learn about ICH items in Hong Kong.

A trainee's ensemble from the Music Office of the LCSD will perform on pipa, erhu and dizi at the Entrance Arena of New Town Plaza. The ensemble will also stage Chinese instrumental performances at the Foyer of Sha Tin Town Hall.

In addition, the "Mystery of Chinese Writing" Roving Exhibition will be held on the same day at the Exhibition Gallery of Sha Tin Town Hall. The exhibition will use simple writings and images of artefacts to showcase the development and cultural connotations of Chinese characters. The Ganzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Media and Tourism will also set up Jiangxi ICH booths and a photo exhibition at the Plaza and Exhibition Gallery of Sha Tin Town Hall, introducing the "Genesis and Spirit – Treasures of Nature · Extraordinary Hakka: Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition of Jiangxi" currently being held in Hong Kong Central Library along with other aspects of Jiangxi culture.

For the venue and time of each carnival activity, please visit www.ccf.gov.hk/en/programme/encountering-chinese-culture/.

The CCF, presented by the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) and organised by the Chinese Culture Promotion Office under the LCSD, aims to promote Chinese culture and enhance the public's national identity and cultural confidence. It also aims to attract top-notch artists and arts groups from the Mainland and other parts of the world for exchanges in Chinese arts and culture. The CCF 2025 is held from June to September. Through over 280 performing arts programmes in various forms and related extension activities, the festival provides members of the public and visitors with more opportunities to enjoy distinctive programmes that showcase fine traditional Chinese culture, thereby facilitating patriotic education and contributing to the inheritance, transformation and development of traditional Chinese culture in Hong Kong. For details, please visit www.ccf.gov.hk.

Hong Kong ICH Month 2025 is presented by the CSTB and organised by the ICHO of the LCSD with ICH June as the strategic partner. Delightful programmes include 80 ICH performances, 60 interactive experiential booths and 20 "ICH Highlight Tours", covering over 100 ICH items and bringing together over 50 ICH practitioners, including representative bearers of the national ICH. For details, please visit www.icho.hk/en/web/icho/hk_ich_month_2025.html.



WSD-registered consumer convicted of failing to provide relevant information or documents for suspected

case of overcharging for water

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) announced that a holdings limited was convicted today (June 17) of failing to comply with the Water Authority's request to provide relevant information or documents for a suspected case of overcharging for water, in contravention of regulation 47A of the Waterworks Regulations. The consumer pleaded guilty to the offence at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts. The holdings limited is a WSD-registered consumer of a flat with subdivided units (SDUs) in Mong Kok, Kowloon.

A spokesman for the WSD said that the Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 (the amended WWO) has strengthened the power of the Water Authority in evidence collection and information disclosure during the investigation of suspected cases of overcharging for water. The Water Authority can request the landlords, their agents, etc, to provide the tenancy agreement, receipt or payment record for charges for water. Failure to comply with such a request can be an offence, and the offender is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a further fine of up to \$1,000 for each day the offence continues. It is anticipated that there will be more prosecution cases. The maximum penalty for overcharging tenants of SDUs for water has been raised to \$25,000 to deter this illegal act. Moreover, providing false or misleading information to the Water Authority is also an offence with a maximum penalty of a \$25,000 fine and six months' imprisonment.

The WSD spokesman strongly appealed to landlords to apply for the installation of separate water meters for their SDUs, which can greatly reduce the risk of contravening the amended WWO. The WSD encourages the public to report any illegal act of overcharging SDU tenants for water for follow up and investigation by the department. The public can call the WSD Hotline 3468 4963 or WhatsApp 5665 5517 to apply for the installation of separate water meters for SDUs. The WhatsApp hotline also handles matters relating to water overcharging in SDUs. Alternatively, the public can call the WSD Customer Enquiry Hotline 2824 5000 to report water overcharge cases. After calling the hotline and choosing a language, they can press "7" for reporting to staff directly.

Remarks by CE at media session before ExCo (with video)

Following are the remarks by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (June 17):

Reporter: Thank you. CE, good morning. My first question is, Hong Kong has

banned the mobile game "Reversed Front" under the National Security Law. Are you concerned the measure could lead to accusations of restricting rights and freedom? And the second one is about the recent air flight. An Air India Boeing flight from Hong Kong to New Delhi returned to Hong Kong after reports of technical issues post-takeoff. Given recent frequent aviation incidents, will you consider enhancing inspections for all aircraft models, particularly Boeing planes? Thank you.

Chief Executive: Regarding your first question about the mobile application, according to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (PRC), all citizens have the obligation to uphold national security. Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the PRC; the residents of Hong Kong have that constitutional obligation. The mobile application in question was released under the guise of a game, with the aim of promoting secessionists' agendas of "Taiwan independence" and "Hong Kong independence". This endangers national security, and the Government will always take strict enforcement action in accordance with the law for all activities and acts endangering national security. The Secretary for Security and the Hong Kong Police have taken action in accordance with the Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Hong Kong National Security Law, carrying out their responsibilities and duties to safeguard national security. They are doing the right thing.

I would like to reiterate the warning. First, any person or organisation who knowingly publishes the application or related content, including sharing or recommending the application to others via the Internet, may be liable under the relevant laws. Second, those who have downloaded the application may be regarded as being in possession of a publication that has a seditious intention. According to the relevant laws, this may be an offence. Third, any person who provides pecuniary or other financial assistance or property to the application developer, with the intent to provide funding to the relevant developer for the commission of secession or subversion, may also commit an offence.

It is coming to the five-year anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law. If you look at the arrest figures for people who have been arrested for national security-related offences, then the total number is 332. If you look at the annual arrest figures of the Hong Kong Police for crimes in general, then roughly every year, there are about 30 000 people arrested. For five years, people arrested for offences under the national security-related laws amount to 330-odd, which means, on average, each year, about 66 people are arrested under the national security-related laws. Sixty-six out of 30 000 – I think it is a percentage of 0.2. When we promulgated the Hong Kong National Security Law, we make it very clear that the law is aiming at only a small portion of people who endanger national security. This figure reinforces that clear message. On average, it is only 0.2 per cent of the total of 30 000 the Police arrested each year. It is really a very small portion. For the day-to-day activities carried out by normal citizens, they are very well protected to freely go about their daily activities, and that is thanks to the Hong Kong National Security Law, restoring stability, security and order for Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has been rated as the sixth safest city in the world (in 2023). We will work together to ensure that stability and security will continue. With that, we can fully focus on developing our economy and better improving the livelihood of our citizens.

As regards the accident, which took place in India, of course we feel grieved to see it happening with so many deaths. I send my condolences to those whose families suffered in this tragic accident. We pay attention to aircraft safety, and relevant departments in Hong Kong will pay serious attention to the development and investigation of this incident. We have a very good system to ensure that aircraft safety is of the highest standard in the world. We will continue to do that.

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