

Enhancement measures implemented to safeguard employment priority for local workers under Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme

The Labour Department (LD) announced the implementation of the following measures under the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme (ESLS) from today (June 17) to safeguard employment priority for local workers:

(i) To ensure that employers will not displace local employees with imported workers, the LD launched an online complaint form on the ESLS dedicated webpage (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/plan/iwESLS.htm) to enable local employees to lodge complaints against employers for suspected violations of the requirements of ESLS. Members of the public can continue to call the dedicated hotline of 2150 6363 to lodge complaints.

(ii) For applications of ESLS which thereafter pass the initial screening and will commence the four-week local recruitment process, the LD will display the names of applicant companies when publishing the job vacancies on the Interactive Employment Service website to encourage job seekers to apply for the jobs.

(iii) After an employer has submitted an ESLS application, other application(s) submitted by the same employer within the following six months will generally not be processed (except under exceptional circumstances, such as applications for renewal of imported workers' employment contracts).

(iv) The LD will launch a special inspection campaign to check whether establishments employing imported workers have continuously met the manning ratio requirement of full-time local employees to imported workers of 2:1. In parallel, the LD will, adopting a risk-based approach, require employers to report information on full-time local employees and imported workers as well as the relevant manning ratios. The LD will investigate any suspected violations. If substantiated, the LD will impose administrative sanctions on the employers.

A Government spokesman reiterated that the priority of the Government's manpower policy all along is to nurture the local workforce. On the premise of ensuring employment priority for local workers, the Government suitably allows employers to apply for importation of workers.

To ensure employment priority for local workers, applicant employers of the ESLS must undertake local open recruitment and give priority to employing qualified local workers to fill the vacancies at a salary not lower than the prevailing median monthly wage of a comparable position in the market. In parallel, employers approved to import workers are required to sign a

Standard Employment Contract with imported workers and shall pay a salary not lower than the median monthly wage of a comparable position to prevent the imported workers from becoming "cheap labour" and undermining the employment opportunities of local workers.

The ESLS also requires employers not to displace local workers with imported workers. In the event of redundancy, imported workers should be retrenched first. If there is sufficient evidence to substantiate any violation of the requirement, the LD will impose administrative sanctions on the employers, including withdrawal of approvals for importation of labour previously granted and refusal to process other applications submitted by the employers in the following two years.

The LD will continue to closely monitor the local labour market, and from time to time review the operation and implementation arrangements of the ESLS, with a view to safeguarding employment priority for local workers.

SCED to visit France

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, will depart for France this evening (June 17) to visit Toulouse, Bordeaux, Cognac and Paris to promote Hong Kong's favourable business environment and its advantages as a wine and liquor trading hub.

During the trip, Mr Yau will meet with the French business sector and attend business roundtables to exchange views with local wine and liquor producers. He will also attend the China Forum 2025 organised by Business France to promote Hong Kong's unique role as a gateway to the Mainland market.

Mr Yau will return to Hong Kong on June 26 morning. The Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development during Mr Yau's absence.

Director of Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of CPC Central Committee and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of

State Council Mr Xia Baolong to attend 5th Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum in Hong Kong

The Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong, will visit Hong Kong from June 18 to 22. He will attend the 5th Anniversary of Promulgation & Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government. He will also take the opportunity to inspect the latest economic and social development of Hong Kong.

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The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, expressed gratitude to Mr Xia for his continued concern and support for Hong Kong. He also extended his warmest welcome to Mr Xia for visiting Hong Kong for the Forum and inspection. The HKSAR Government endeavours to support and facilitate the inspection, ensuring the smooth conduct of the visit.

Red flag hoisted at Pui O Beach

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 (June 17) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Pui O Beach in Islands District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

SITI continues visit to Netherlands (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, continued his visit to the Netherlands on June 15 (Amsterdam time).

Professor Sun visited a start-up incubator and community workspace, Amsterdam Venture Studios Startup Village, built with containers being turned into offices. The village currently brings together 35 start-ups focusing on AI and quantum technology, with an aim to promoting interaction, collaboration and knowledge exchange among science, business and start-up ecosystem.

Professor Sun visited Omni Wind Tech BV in the community, a Dutch start-up that focuses on the innovative development of patented power generation technology by compact wind turbines to promote the high-performance application of wind energy in commercial and community settings. He was briefed on the company's development strategies and core technologies, and learned about its practical mode of promoting sustainable development of clean energy through green innovation.

Professor Sun then visited Nearfield Instruments to learn about its latest technologies and global businesses. The company is a supplier of advanced metrology solutions for the semiconductor industry, focusing on high-precision measurement technology to support manufacturing in the high-end nano-electronics industry.

In the afternoon, Professor Sun met with Deputy Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Ms Yvette Van Eechoud, to exchange views on promoting innovation and technology (I&T) collaboration. Professor Sun said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government attaches great importance to maintaining relations with European countries, including the Netherlands. He emphasised that as an international city, Hong Kong has all along been playing the roles and functions of "super connector" and "super value-adder". The current-term Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into an international I&T centre and there is a broad room of collaboration between the two places in the fields of I&T.

Professor Sun also called on Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in the Netherlands, Mr He Shiqing, to brief him on Hong Kong's efforts in "deepening international exchanges and co-operation and better integration into the national development". Professor Sun expressed his gratitude to the Embassy for supporting the enhanced co-operation between Hong Kong and the Netherlands in I&T development and attracting enterprises and investments.

Professor Sun concluded his visit to the Netherlands and will return to Hong Kong in the morning on June 18 (Hong Kong time).

