

## Government cautions public on fake information online about launch of “Hong Kong Coin” purported to be announced by CE

A Government spokesman today (March 6) cautioned the public not to believe in the fake information being circulated online about the "launch of National Hong Kong Coin" on blockchain purported to be announced by the Chief Executive. The Government clarified that the information is totally fictitious with fraudulent intent, and strongly condemned those who have attempted to distribute fake information in the name of the Chief Executive.

The spokesman reminded members of the public to remain vigilant and verify the authenticity of such content.

The incident has been referred to the Police for a follow-up investigation.

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## Update on postal services to Australia

â€‹Hongkong Post announced today (March 6) that, as advised by the postal administration of Australia, due to the impact of severe weather, mail delivery services to Queensland and New South Wales in Australia are subject to delay.

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## FEHD strengthens measures to prevent employment of unqualified life-saving attendants by private swimming pools

A spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said today (March 6) that the FEHD plans to take measures starting from this year's swimming season to strengthen the prevention of suspected violations involving private swimming pools employing unqualified life-saving attendants to combat such offences. These steps aim to protect the safety of swimming

pool users.

The spokesman said, "In accordance with the law and licensing conditions, licensees of private swimming pools are obliged to arrange a sufficient number of qualified life-saving attendants on duty during the opening hours of the pools. To ensure that licensees fulfil their responsibilities, the FEHD will explicitly require licensees to verify identity documents, Pool Lifeguard Awards (PLA) and personal logbooks before employing a life-saving attendant, and to properly keep a copy of the documents. The FEHD will also establish a standard template for licensees to record the information shown on the identity document and PLA of the life-saving attendants on duty."

At the same time, the FEHD will step up inspections, including checking the identity documents of each life-saving attendant on duty during monthly surprise inspections to verify their identity. The FEHD will also co-ordinate with the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society to confirm the validity of PLAs and ensure the life-saving attendants on duty possess valid qualifications. In addition to routine inspections, the FEHD will flexibly deploy its manpower resources and analyse complaint cases to draw up a target list of private swimming pools, to which inspections will be stepped up during July and August to specifically focus on lifeguard qualifications. In case of insufficient qualified life-saving attendants on duty, the department will take immediate follow-up actions, including requiring the licensee to immediately close the swimming pool until sufficient qualified life-saving attendants can be present at the pool, and will issue a warning or institute prosecution against licensees. The FEHD will consider cancelling the licences of swimming pools with repeated contraventions. Cases involving the use of false documents or documents relating to other persons will be reported to the Police.

The FEHD will also maintain close communication and enhance collaboration with other departments and organisations. Currently, many licensees of private swimming pools are either property management companies (PMCs) or their employees. The FEHD has already discussed with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) to jointly step up publicity and educational work before the swimming season this year, including issuing letters to PMCs calling for measures to prevent the employment of unqualified life-saving attendants. Meanwhile, the FEHD and the PMSA will establish a communication mechanism in respect of violation cases for both parties to take follow-up actions, according to their respective authorities, against licensees and PMCs.

According to the Swimming Pools Regulation (Cap. 132CA) and relevant licensing conditions, licensees must arrange a sufficient number of qualified life-saving attendants to be on duty during the opening hours of the pools. The qualifications of life-saving attendants are assessed by the Hong Kong China Life Saving Society, which issues PLAs featuring the life-saving attendant's name and photograph to those who qualify. At present, there are about 1 400 licensed private swimming pools across the territory. The FEHD has required licensees to display at a conspicuous location of pool entrances the required number of life-saving attendants during the opening hours of

swimming pools, as well as recent photographs, names and PLA numbers of the life-saving attendants on duty. This empowers pool users to take part in the monitoring of swimming pools. Licensees are also required to keep duty logs of life-saving attendants for at least 90 days for inspection by the FEHD.

The spokesman said that the FEHD will consult relevant stakeholders and continue to monitor and review relevant enhancement measures in a timely manner.

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## **Correctional officers intercept smuggling of suspected dangerous drug into Tai Lam Centre for Women**

â€œCorrectional officers at Tai Lam Centre for Women today (March 6) intercepted a female remand person in custody smuggling a suspected dangerous drug into the centre by concealing it inside her body.

The 25-year-old person in custody was remanded for the offence of trafficking in a dangerous drug on February 18. After undergoing X-ray body scanning, she was suspected to have swallowed the dangerous drug before admission. She was therefore separated and put under close monitoring. After discharging one pack and three packs of the suspected dangerous drug wrapped in plastic sheets on February 21 and March 1 respectively, she further discharged a pack of the suspected dangerous drug, which was wrapped in a plastic sheet and weighed about 14 grams, at 7.30am today.

The case has been reported to the Police for follow-up.

A spokesman for the Correctional Services Department said, "The department takes every measure to stop the introduction of dangerous drugs or unauthorised articles into correctional institutions in order to maintain good order and discipline, and a drug-free environment for all persons in custody."

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## **Red flags hoisted at some beaches**

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 (March 6) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.