

CE attends opening meeting of NPC annual session in Beijing (with photos)

â€‹The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, today (March 5) attended the opening meeting of the third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

The third session of the 14th NPC commenced in Beijing this morning, during which Premier Li Qiang delivered the government work report. Mr Lee attended the opening meeting in his capacity as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

In the government work report, Premier Li reviewed the work for 2024. He also outlined the overall requirements for economic and social development and major tasks of the government for 2025. He said that we should continue to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in the HKSAR, while maintaining the constitutional order in the HKSAR as stipulated in the Constitution and the Basic Law and implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong". Premier Li expressed support for Hong Kong in strengthening economy development and improving people's livelihood, deepening international exchanges and co-operation, with a view to better integrating into the overall national development and maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. He also highlighted the need to enhance the innovation capabilities and influence of economically advantaged areas, including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Mr Lee said he was most encouraged, adding that this year marks the conclusion of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the beginning of the formulation of the 15th Five-Year Plan. It is also a crucial year for further deepening comprehensive reforms, which are of significant importance for the implementation of "one country, two systems". The HKSAR Government will continue to fully, faithfully and resolutely implement the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. It will unite all sectors of society to further deepen comprehensive reforms, actively understand, respond to and embrace changes, and better leverage the institutional strengths of "one country, two systems" and Hong Kong's unique and internationalised advantages to open up new development opportunities. The HKSAR Government will also spare no effort in pursuing economic development, improving people's livelihood and exploring new growth areas.

The HKSAR Government will adopt an innovative mindset, coupled with market forces, to take forward the development of the Northern Metropolis and the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation

Zone, accelerating the development of an international innovation and technology centre. Furthermore, it aims to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre, building Hong Kong as an international hub for high-calibre talent. At the same time, it will further promote the high-quality development of the GBA, actively integrating into national development. It will also enhance Hong Kong's international competitiveness, deepen international exchanges and co-operation, and strengthen Hong Kong's role as a bridge linking the Mainland and global markets, with a view to achieving better development in Hong Kong and making further contributions to building the great country and advancing national rejuvenation.

Mr Lee extended his best wishes for the success of the third session of the 14th NPC and the third session of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee.



[Red flag lowered at Deep Water Bay Beach](#)

Attention TV/radio announcers:

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

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (March 5) that, since the water of Deep Water Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, is now suitable for swimming, the red flag has been lowered.

The red flag was hoisted at the beach earlier after a red tide was found.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected methamphetamine worth about \$360 million (with photo)

â€‹Hong Kong Customs seized about 680 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine with an estimated market value of about \$360 million in Kwai Chung on February 10.

Through risk assessment, Customs on that day inspected a seaborne consignment, arriving in Hong Kong from Mexico and declared as carrying heating panels, at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected methamphetamine concealed inside 80 heating panels. Upon a follow-up investigation, Customs arrested a 67-year-old male consignee, claiming to be a driver, in Kwai Chung on the same day.

On March 3, Customs conducted a controlled delivery operation, leading to the further arrest of two men, aged 35 and 45, who were suspected to be connected with the case in Tsuen Wan.

The investigation is ongoing.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).



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DH suspends licence of day procedure centre in Causeway Bay

In response to media enquiries about the suspension of the licence of a day procedure centre (DPC) in Causeway Bay, a spokesman for the Department of Health (DH) today (March 5) responded as follows:

"Upon receipt of a complaint about a suspected mishandling of medical equipment by a DPC, Dr MD Clinic and Ambulatory Centre located at the World Trade Centre in Causeway Bay, the DH immediately investigated and conducted unannounced inspections. During the inspections, the DPC was found to have contravened the Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance, namely improper handling and management of an anaesthetic drug, failure to properly sterilise medical equipment, and inadequate staff training and supervision. In addition, the DPC was suspected to have filled in false information in the checking and monitoring of records, including those concerning medical equipment.

The DH has not received any reports of adverse events related to this DPC on the matter so far.

Given the potential risks to patients of the multiple serious breaches of the Code of Practice, and in order to protect the public interest, the DH announced the suspension of the DPC's licence with immediate effect. The DPC in question will not be allowed to provide any specialised services listed on its licence, including surgical and anaesthetic procedures.

At the same time, the DH has initiated the process for cancellation of the licence for the DPC concerned. Under sections 30 and 31 of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance, the licensee will be given a 14 days' notice and an opportunity to make representations within 10 days from the date of the notice given to the licensee before the licence is cancelled.

If there is sufficient evidence, the DH will also refer the case to the relevant enforcement or professional regulatory bodies for necessary follow-up action on the suspected use of a false instrument and professional misconduct by the person involved.

The DH reminds those who have undergone anaesthetic procedures, including tumescent anesthesia at the above-mentioned DPC, to seek immediate medical attention if they feel unwell.

The DH will continue to closely monitor licensed private healthcare facilities to protect patient safety."