

## **LCSD's response to media enquiries on real-name registration for ticket sales**

In response to media enquiries on the adoption of real-name registration for ticket sales to upcoming concerts by the Hong Kong musical group Mirror, a spokesman for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) today (May 25) gave the following reply:

To combat ticket scalping, the LCSD took the initiative to discuss with the organiser of Mirror's concerts on the ticket sales and admission arrangements. The Department welcomes the organiser's positive response on adopting real-name registration for ticket sales to the public through URBIX, so as to reduce the chance of ticket scalping.

The LCSD will render all practicable assistance on ticket sales and admission arrangements to the organiser, and also calls on ticket holders to arrive early at the concerts' venue, the Hong Kong Coliseum.

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## **Effective Exchange Rate Index**

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 is 99 (same as yesterday's index).

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## **Tender results of 20-year Government Bonds under Institutional Bond Issuance Programme**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announced that a tender of 20-year Government Bonds (issue number 20GB4205) under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme was held today (May 25).

A total of HK\$0.5 billion 20-year Government Bonds were allocated today. A total of HK\$1.492 billion tender applications were received. The bid-to-cover ratio, i.e. the ratio of bonds applied for to bonds issued, is 2.98. The average price accepted is 100.39, implying an annualised yield of 3.300 per cent.

#### HKSAR Government Institutional Bond Issuance Programme Government Bond tender results

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Tender results of 20-year Government Bonds under the Institutional Bond Issuance Programme:

Tender Date	: May 25, 2022
Issue Number	: 20GB4205
Stock Code	: 4255 (HKGB 3.30 4205)
Issue and Settlement Date	: May 26, 2022
Tenor	: 20-year
Maturity Date	: May 26, 2042
Coupon Rate	: 3.30%
Amount Applied	: HK\$1.492 billion
Amount Allotted	: HK\$0.5 billion
Bid-to-Cover Ratio*	: 2.98
Average Price Accepted (Yield)	: 100.39 (3.300%)
Lowest Price Accepted (Yield)	: 98.40 (3.440%)
Pro-rata Ratio	: About 24%
Average Tender Price (Yield)	: 96.02 (3.613%)

\*Calculated as the amount of bonds applied for over the amount of bonds issued.

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## [LCQ12: Consolidating Hong Kong's position as international maritime centre](#)

Following is a question by the Hon Yim Kong and a written reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan Fan, in the Legislative Council today (May 25):

Question:

The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 (the 14th Five-Year Plan) expressly proposes to expedite the development of a world-class port cluster and supports Hong Kong in enhancing its status as an international maritime centre. There are views pointing out that given the keen competition currently among various major ports in the Pearl River Delta, the Government has to keep abreast of the time, improve its development planning, and adopt more practicable and effective measures to consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it has plans to update Hong Kong's port development planning in the light of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the new trend of Mainland port development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; if so, of the time it expects to publish a specific white paper on port planning;

(2) as it is learnt that there are insufficient premium logistics storage facilities in Hong Kong, whether the Government has considered conducting planning for the provision of more logistics sites in Kwai Tsing District or other districts, so as to tie in with the development planning of enhancing Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre; if so, of the specific plans; and

(3) as there are comments pointing out that, with the development of green ports becoming an international trend, and with shipping companies' demand for liquefied natural gas refilling and onshore power supply facilities for ships being on the increase, the setting up of the relevant ancillary facilities is one crucial factor in maintaining the competitiveness of a port, whether the Government will consider expediting the setting up of such facilities; if so, of the details and the implementation timetable?

Reply:

President,

The Central Government has been clearly supporting the consolidation and promotion of Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre. Hong Kong has a steadfast maritime tradition, with port, shipping and maritime services underpinning the development of the trading and logistics sector all along. The Government will continue to proactively develop and entrench Hong Kong's position as a high value-added maritime services centre and an important transshipment hub in the Asia Pacific region, so as to fully seize the immense opportunities arising from national planning. In fact, the Government has all along been enhancing the planning and development of the maritime and port industry through various policies. Announcement is made through the Chief Executive's Policy Address if there are important development plans. For example, the Government announced a number of initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address to support and

enhance the development of high value-added maritime services, including using tax measures to foster the development of ship leasing business in Hong Kong and setting up Regional Desks of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (HKSR) of the Marine Department in selected overseas Economic and Trade Offices and Mainland Offices and Liaison Units etc. Besides, the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address also announced further developing high value-added maritime business services, including ship registration, ship finance and management, marine insurance, and maritime legal and arbitration services etc.; introducing tax concessions to attract members of the maritime industry to establish a business presence in Hong Kong; further expanding the overseas service network of the HKSR; as well as new initiatives such as developing smart port and green port.

Having consulted the Environmental Protection Department and the Marine Department, our reply to various parts of the Hon Yim Kong's question is as follows:

(1) Regarding development in Hong Kong Port (HKP) and consolidation of its position as an international maritime centre, the "Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035" (National 14th Five-Year Plan) endorsed by the 13th National People's Congress in March 2021 supported the positioning of HKP and the development of high value-added maritime services in Hong Kong for better integration into the country's development course. The "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)" (GBA Development Plan) promulgated in February 2019 also expressed such support. The GBA Development Plan supports enhancing the overall international competitiveness of the Pearl River Delta port cluster, and emphasises a complementary and mutually beneficial system of ports to achieve synergy; whereas the National 14th Five-Year Plan mentions the functional co-ordination of ports in proactively and progressively taking forward the development of the GBA. As such, Hong Kong will continue to develop high value-added maritime services and leverage on the high efficiency, strong connectivity and coverage of the HKP for consolidating and enhancing its status as an international maritime centre. To strengthen the collaboration with the GBA ports, the Government will explore establishing communication mechanisms with ports in Guangdong.

Furthermore, on the development of smart port etc., while the industry traditionally has relied heavily on manual operations and paper-based processes, it has in recent years started to embrace digitisation of port operations and leverage on innovative technologies to enhance their efficiency, so as to stay competitive and provide more convenient services for the customers. Through the Task Force on Smart Port Development formed under the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board, the Government is working with the trade on the concrete proposal to drive the smart port development, with a view to further enhancing port efficiency and reducing cargo handling time and cost through streamlining and optimising the multi-party co-ordinated processes electronically.

(2) The Government has been actively identifying suitable sites for

supporting modern logistics development. We have concluded two feasibility studies on developing a multi-storey complex for container storage and cargo handling at a site in Tsing Yi and a multi-storey heavy goods vehicle carpark-cum-modern logistics complex at another site in Kwai Chung respectively, so as to support port and logistics operations. The Tsing Yi site was released through public tender on December 17, 2021, but the public tender was cancelled on February 23, 2022 due to the identification of the Tsing Yi site as one of the locations for constructing community isolation and treatment facilities in support of the Government's anti-epidemic work. For the sustainable development of the modern logistics industry, the Kwai Chung site was also put up for sale through public tender on March 25, 2022, and the tender invitation will close on July 15, 2022. We plan to conduct a feasibility study on another logistics site in Kwai Tsing area. Furthermore, under the Approved Hung Shui Kiu and Ha Tsuen Outline Zoning Plan, about 37 hectares of land have been designated by the Government for logistics development as well. We will continue to identify suitable sites and examine their feasibility for modern logistics development in collaboration with relevant departments.

(3) As an international maritime centre, Hong Kong has been promoting the development of green port through different measures and encouraging the industry to adopt more sustainable shipping initiatives. To this end, Hong Kong becomes the first port in Asia to mandate ocean-going vessels (OGVs) to switch to low sulphur fuel while at berth. The Government has been collaborating with the Mainland to reduce emissions from vessels, including establishing jointly with the Guangdong Provincial Government a Domestic Emission Control Area in the waters of the Pearl River Delta Region that further tightened requirements for all vessels to use compliant fuel (i.e. low sulphur fuel or liquefied natural gas, LNG), irrespective of whether they are sailing or berthing. To further encourage the use of clean marine fuel by OGVs, the Government has also been examining measures to take forward the adoption of LNG in OGVs, such as actively exploring the use of the offshore LNG terminal newly constructed by the two power companies as a bunkering facility for OGVs, planning for LNG bunkering areas, and formulating technical requirements and related safety regulations and requirements for offshore LNG bunkering, etc. Relevant bureaux and departments of the Government have been working closely with the industry on the arrangements to promote LNG bunkering for OGVs in Hong Kong.

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**Five persons arrested for suspected illegal sale and possession of Part 1 poisons and sale of alternative**

## smoking products

The Department of Health (DH) and the Police yesterday (May 24) conducted a joint operation against the illegal sale of alternative smoking products (ASPs). During the operation, three men and two women, aged 21 to 24, were arrested by the Police. The five persons were suspected of illegal sale and possession of Part 1 poisons as well as the illegal sale of ASPs.

The Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office and the Drug Office of the DH, with the Police, yesterday conducted an operation against two premises in Yuen Long suspected of selling ASPs. During the operation, a batch of suspected ASPs, including about 900 electronic smoking devices and 5 900 boxes of suspected nicotine-containing electronic cigarette cartridges, were seized. An investigation is continuing.

The Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 (Cap. 371) came into operation on April 30. The Ordinance prohibits the import, promotion, manufacture, sale and possession for commercial purposes of ASPs. Offenders are subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months. In addition, according to the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations (Cap. 138A), nicotine (except tobacco) is listed as a Part 1 poison and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine are regarded as pharmaceutical products. The Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138) also stipulates that all pharmaceutical products must be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong before they can be legally sold in the market. Illegal sale or possession of unregistered pharmaceutical products or Part 1 poisons are criminal offences. The maximum penalty for each offence is a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment.

A spokesman for the DH said that the department will continue to take stringent enforcement action. The spokesman also cautioned against the use of any ASPs and stressed that these products contain amounts of nicotine similar to those of conventional cigarettes in order to sustain addiction. In addition, health hazards of long-term exposure to these new products are unknown. The Government appeals to smokers to quit smoking as early as possible for their own health and that of others. They are encouraged to call the DH's Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline on 1833 183. The hotline is operated by registered nurses and provides professional counselling services on smoking cessation. Information on smoking cessation can also be obtained from [www.livetobaccofree.hk](http://www.livetobaccofree.hk).