

Bun Scrambling Competition in Cheung Chau to open for applications on February 17

The e-ballot application period for joining the Bun Scrambling Competition, which is the finale of the 2025 Bun Carnival at Cheung Chau, will start next Monday (February 17). Physically fit climbers aged 18 or above who are interested in the competition should submit their applications on or before February 28.

The final selection exercise, to be held on April 13, will consist of two rounds. Twenty-four contestants recording the shortest time in the preliminary round (including no fewer than six female participants) will be eligible to enter the semi-final on the same day to compete for 12 finalist places (including no fewer than three female participants). The 12 finalists will enter the Bun Scrambling Final to be held from 11.30pm on May 5 to 12.45am on May 6. Trophies will be awarded to the champion as well as the first and second runners-up in the men's division, and to the champion in the women's division. The contestant who bags the highest number of buns within the time limit will be the prize winner of "Full Pockets of Lucky Buns".

To acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the winners and enhance the appeal of the event, any male or female athlete who has been the champion for three times in the Bun Scrambling Competition since 2016 will be the "King of Kings" or the "Queen of Queens" of the competition and be awarded a trophy.

Persons interested in participating in the competition should complete SmartPLAY user registration and identity authentication, and submit their electronic ballot applications from February 17 to 28 via the SmartPLAY website (www.smartplay.lcsd.gov.hk/home), the mobile app (My SmartPLAY) or Smart Self-service Stations. User registration at SmartPLAY is free of charge. To register as SmartPLAY users, please refer to the link (www.smartplay.lcsd.gov.hk/website/en/user-registration/how-to-register.html).

The maximum number of entrants for the Bun Scrambling Competition is 200. All places will be allocated by ballot via SmartPLAY. Applicants who live, work or study at Cheung Chau will be accorded priority in the ballot. All selected applicants are required to complete the safety training sessions on bun tower climbing and prevention of falls on April 6 to be eligible for the competition. Details are provided in the prospectus available on the SmartPLAY website, the mobile app (My SmartPLAY) and the 2025 Bun Carnival dedicated website (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/bun/index.html).

The 2025 Bun Carnival is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Cheung Chau Bun Festival Committee and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(LCSD). Besides the Bun Scrambling Competition, the Bun Tower Climbing Team Relay will be held on the morning of April 27. Local tertiary institutions, Government Departments, public utilities and commercial and industrial organisations will be invited to take part in the relay. Members of the public are welcome to watch the game on-site and cheer for the contestants. At the Climbing Carnival to be held in the afternoon on the same day, there will be a bun tower climbing fun day, game stalls, handicrafts making and variety shows. A Wishing Bun Tower will also be set up, and the winning entries of the Student Drawing Competitions will be displayed. Members of the public are welcome to attend the carnival.

For enquiries, please contact the Islands District Leisure Services Office of the LCSD at 2852 3220, or visit the 2025 Bun Carnival dedicated website.

Reclamation works at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and off Area 132 proposed

The Government proposes to carry out reclamation works within an area of about 46 hectares of foreshore and seabed to the southwest of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 (TKO 137) and within an area of about 55 hectares of foreshore and seabed to the southeast off Tseung Kwan O Area 132 (TKO 132). The extent of the area of foreshore and seabed affected is described in a [notice](#) gazetted today (February 14).

The proposed works at TKO 137 include construction of about 1.7 kilometres of seawall, filling of the seabed to form about 20 hectares of land for housing and community facility development, and reprovisioning of temporary facilities. The proposed works off TKO 132 include construction of about 1.3km of seawall, and filling of the seabed to form about 20 hectares of land for accommodating public facilities. The proposed works are tentatively scheduled to commence by the end of 2025.

The notice and its related plan are posted near the site. The plan is also available for inspection at:

- * Survey and Mapping Office of the Lands Department (6/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong) (where copies can be purchased on order);
- * Sai Kung Home Affairs Enquiry Centre of the Sai Kung District Office (G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex, 38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories); and
- * Lands Department's website (www.landso.gov.hk) under Government Notices.

Enquiries regarding the proposed works can be addressed to the East Development Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department as stated in

the notice.

Any person who considers that he or she has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands, 20/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong, within two months from the gazette date, i.e. on or before April 14. The objector shall describe in the notice of objection his or her interest, right or easement, and the manner in which he or she will be allegedly affected.

Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 2) Notice 2025 gazetted

The Government today (February 14) published in the Gazette the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 2) Notice 2025. The Notice seeks to update the safety standards for toys and seven classes of children's products listed in Schedule 2 (Schedule 2 products) under the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance (Cap. 424).

The seven classes of Schedule 2 products are (i) babies' dummies; (ii) baby walking frames; (iii) bottle teats; (iv) bunk beds for domestic use; (v) carry cots and similar handled products and stands; (vi) children's paints; and (vii) wheeled child conveyances. The Notice will take effect on August 1, 2025.

The Ordinance stipulates that a person must not manufacture, import or supply a toy or a Schedule 2 product unless it complies with all applicable requirements contained in any one of the safety standards (international standards or standards adopted by major economies) specified in Schedule 1 (applicable to toys) or Schedule 2 (applicable to Schedule 2 products). The Government keeps in view any updates or amendments to the safety standards to apply up-to-date and operative versions of the standards to toys and Schedule 2 products supplied in Hong Kong. The last updates to Schedules 1 and 2 came into operation in August 2024.

Appointments to Management Committee

of Consumer Legal Action Fund announced

The Government announced today (February 14) the appointment of a new member and the reappointments of three incumbent members to the Management Committee of the Consumer Legal Action Fund for a term of two years.

New appointment (with effect from February 17, 2025):
Mr Ma Tak-yan

Reappointments (with effect from April 1, 2025):
Ms Astina Au Sze-ting
Dr Karen Shum Hau-yan
Mr Philip Wong Wing-cheong

The Consumer Legal Action Fund was established in 1994 to facilitate consumer access to legal remedies by providing legal assistance to consumers in cases involving significant consumer interests.

The Consumer Council is the trustee of the Fund. The Management Committee assists the Consumer Council in managing the Fund and determining the eligibility of applications under the Fund.

The membership of the Management Committee with effect from April 1, 2025, is as follows:

Ms Astina Au Sze-ting
Ms Theresa Lena Chow
Ms Stephanie Hung Yu-jie
Mr Richard Khaw Wei-kiang, SC
Ms Vinci Lam Wing-sai, SC
Mr Eugene Liu
Mr Johnny Ma Ka-chun, SC
Mr Ma Tak-yan
Mr Alan Ng Man-sang
Dr Karen Shum Hau-yan
Ms Gilly Wong Fung-han (ex-officio member)
Mr Philip Wong Wing-cheong

2026 Population Census

The Census and Statistics (2026 Population Census) Order (the Order) was published in the Gazette today (February 14) to enable the conduct of a

population census from January 1 to December 31, 2026.

The Order was made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 9 of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Cap. 316) to specify the dates for and purpose of conducting the 2026 Population Census; the persons, premises and vessels in respect of which particulars are to be obtained; and the deadline for destroying the completed questionnaires. The Schedule to the Order also specifies the matters in respect of which respondents are required to give particulars.

A Government spokesman said, "The purpose for conducting a population census is to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population of Hong Kong. Such information is important to the Government for planning and policy formulation, and the private sector and academia for business and research purposes respectively. As a major step to modernise and reform Hong Kong's population censuses, several re-engineering initiatives will be implemented from the 2026 Population Census, such that about nine-tenths of the population will no longer be required to fill out any questionnaire as only the sampled one-tenth population will be subject to detailed enquiry by 'long form' questionnaire. In addition, government administrative data will be used more extensively to supplement survey data with a view to reducing the reporting burden of respondents. A Small-scale Test Survey for the 2026 Population Census will be conducted from April to July this year."

The spokesman added, "Sampled households are encouraged to participate in the Census by means of online questionnaires. Households may also choose to provide the requested information by telephone interview. Census officers of the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) will visit households who have not yet completed their questionnaires to collect the requested information."

The spokesman reminded members of the public that households selected to participate in the Census will receive a household notification letter issued by the C&SD. If households have not provided the C&SD with their telephone numbers, the C&SD will not initiate calls to the households. When visiting households, census officers will wear a vest uniform and carry a Government Identity Card/Enumerator Identity Card and a Census Officer Certificate of Identity issued by the C&SD for identification purposes.

"To protect the privacy of respondents, the C&SD will implement strict procedures to handle all data collected and will only release statistics that do not reveal the identity of the individuals involved," the spokesman said. All completed questionnaires, in both paper and electronic forms, will be destroyed on or before December 31, 2027.

The Order will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting next Wednesday (February 19).