

## Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation gazetted

The Government today (June 4) gazetted the Telecommunications (Registration of SIM Cards) Regulation (the Regulation) to implement the Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Cards. The Regulation seeks to facilitate the prevention and detection of crimes related to the use of pre-paid SIM cards (PPS), thereby safeguarding the integrity of telecommunications services and the communications network. It will commence on September 1 this year.

Under the Regulation, telecommunications operators are required to put in place the registration infrastructure and back-end systems for real-name registration in phase one, i.e. in around 180 days from September 1, 2021.

Phase two will start on March 1, 2022. From then, all new PPS cards that are available for sale in the market and new SIM service plans (SSP) that are effective starting from that date must complete real-name registration before activation. Existing PPS card users are required to complete real-name registration with respective operators in the 360-day grace period under phase two, i.e. on or before February 23, 2023. Existing SSP users are not required to "re-register" their personal particulars with their operators. They only need to register in accordance with the Regulation if they change to another operator or subscribe to a new phone number. For details of the Regulation, please visit the website: [www.cedb.gov.hk/ccib/en/legco-business/document/SIM%20Regulation.pdf](http://www.cedb.gov.hk/ccib/en/legco-business/document/SIM%20Regulation.pdf).

The Regulation will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on June 9.

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## Vacancies in District Councils

The Government declared by notices in the Gazette today (June 4) the existence of one vacant elected seat each in the Central and Western District Council Water Street Constituency, Chung Wan Constituency and Kennedy Town and Mount Davis Constituency; the Eastern District Council Fortress Hill Constituency, Fort Street Constituency and King Yee Constituency; the Sai Kung District Council Kin Ming Constituency; and the Sha Tin District Council Kam Ying Constituency.

Mr Hui Chi Fung, an elected member of the Central and Western District Council Chung Wan Constituency, had been consecutively absent from all the meetings of the Council since January 28, 2021, without obtaining the consent of the Council before the end of the disqualifying period. Pursuant to

section 24(5) of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap. 547) (the Ordinance), Mr Hui has been disqualified from holding office since May 29, 2021. His office has become vacant since that day under section 26(c) of the Ordinance.

Moreover, following the resignation of elected members set out in the table below, pursuant to section 26(b) of the Ordinance, their offices have become vacant from the dates specified in the table below.

Member	Office has become vacant from
Mr Ho Chi Wang (Central and Western District Council Water Street Constituency)	May 27, 2021
Mr Chan Jason Ka Yau (Eastern District Council Fortress Hill Constituency)	June 1, 2021
Ms Fu Kai Lam (Eastern District Council Fort Street Constituency)	June 1, 2021
Mr Leung Li (Sai Kung District Council Kin Ming Constituency)	June 1, 2021
Mr Ting Tsz Yuen (Sha Tin District Council Kam Ying Constituency)	June 1, 2021
Ms Tsang Yan Ying (Eastern District Council King Yee Constituency)	June 1, 2021
Ms Wong Kin Ching (Central and Western District Council Kennedy Town and Mount Davis Constituency)	June 4, 2021

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## [Road closure for MTR Mei Foo Station improvement works](#)

The Government will close and alter a portion of Lai Chi Kok Road near Exit A of MTR Mei Foo Station to facilitate the improvement works at the station. Relevant notices were gazetted today (June 4).

Part of the carriageway and footpath of the above-mentioned portion will be permanently closed and altered from July 12 for the construction of an external lift outside the station. Moreover, to facilitate the works, another part of the carriageway and footpath of the portion will be temporarily closed and altered for a period of about 48 months from the same day. During the construction period, the Government will implement a temporary traffic management scheme and pedestrian diversion measures, as well as maintain a footpath with a minimum width of about 1.5 metres.

Members of the public can view the plan showing the affected areas at the Sham Shui Po Home Affairs Enquiry Centre, G/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po, and at the District Lands Office (Kowloon West), 4/F, South Tower, West Kowloon Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei.

The Secretary for Development has, by order under section 10(1)(a) and section 10(1)(b) of the Mass Transit Railway (Land Resumption and Related Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 276), authorised the closure and alteration of roads for the purposes of construction, operation, maintenance or improvement of the MTR.

Any person entitled to compensation under the Ordinance who wishes to make a claim for compensation should write to the Director of Lands, 20/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point.

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## **Subsidiary legislation related to Information Technology Strategy Plan gazetted**

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary today (June 4) gazetted nine sets of subsidiary legislation related to the Information Technology Strategy Plan (ITSP) to provide the legal framework which would allow court users to transact court business by electronic means in the District Court (DC) and the Summons Courts of the Magistrates' Courts (MC).

Seven of the nine pieces of subsidiary legislation which were made by the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal on May 25 are:

- (a) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (Specification of e-Courts) Rules;
- (b) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (Magistrates' Court) Rules;
- (c) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (District Court Civil Proceedings) Rules;
- (d) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (District Court Criminal Proceedings) Rules;
- (e) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (District Court) (Electronic Fees) Rules;
- (f) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (Magistrates' Court) (Electronic Fees) Rules; and
- (g) the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Ordinance (Commencement) Notice.

The remaining two pieces of subsidiary legislation, namely the District Court Civil Procedure (Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2021 and the Rules of the District Court (Amendment) Rules 2021, were made by the District Court Rules Committee on May 25. The nine sets of subsidiary legislation will be tabled at the Legislative Council (LegCo) on June 9 for negative vetting.

Separately, the Chief Justice made the Costs in Criminal Cases (Amendment) Rules 2021 under section 22 of the Costs in Criminal Cases Ordinance (Cap. 492) on May 25. This set of Rules will be submitted to LegCo for approval in due course.

The Judiciary has been making on-going efforts to make use of technology for enhancing the efficiency of court operations. The ITSP is being implemented in two phases, with the first phase being divided into two stages. In Stage 1 of Phase I, the integrated court case management system (iCMS) is being implemented in the DC and the Summons Courts of the MCs. In Stage 2 of Phase I, the iCMS is expected to be extended to the Court of Final Appeal, the High Court, the remaining part of the MCs and the Small Claims Tribunal. For the remaining courts and tribunals, the iCMS is planned to be implemented under Phase II.

To provide an overall legislative framework to enable court-related documents to be handled in electronic form, eventually covering all levels of court, the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Ordinance (Cap. 638) was enacted on July 17, 2020. Its key features include:

- (a) electronic filing or sending of documents to the court will generally be allowed;
- (b) documents between parties may be served electronically if there is mutual consent to serve and accept documents by electronic means;
- (c) signatures other than traditional manual signatures, such as digital signatures and electronic signatures, for court-related documents will generally be allowed; and
- (d) provide proper legal status for printouts/copies of printouts for documents issued by the court.

Cap. 638 also provides that the Chief Justice may specify by subsidiary legislation the detailed court and operational procedures for the use of electronic mode. The nine sets of subsidiary legislation are tabled at LegCo to regulate or facilitate the use of electronic technology in Stage 1, Phase I e-Courts (the DC and the Summons Courts of the MCs). Examples of matters provided for in the subsidiary legislation include documents that can be sent electronically through the iCMS, the conditions and requirements for using electronic signature, and the electronic payment of fees and fines.

The Judiciary aims to implement the iCMS for DC civil cases in batches starting from the fourth quarter of 2021, followed by the Summons Courts of MCs and DC criminal cases in 2022. Subject to the completion of the relevant legislative processes, subsidiary legislation related to DC civil cases will come into operation on October 1, 2021. The Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (Magistrates' Court) Rules, the Court Proceedings (Electronic

Technology) (District Court Criminal Proceedings) Rules and the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) (Magistrates' Court) (Electronic Fees) Rules will come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Chief Justice by notice published in the Gazette in due course.

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## [Hong Kong Customs and Police seize suspected illegally imported strategic commodities in joint operation \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs and the Police today (June 3) conducted a joint operation to combat the illegal import of strategic commodities. A batch of strategic commodities, including 14 gas masks and eight filter canisters, suspected to be imported without a valid licence was seized in Tai Po and Tai Wai. Two persons were arrested.

Law enforcement agencies earlier received information alleging the sale of suspected illegally imported strategic commodities on the Internet. After investigation, Customs and the Police conducted a joint enforcement operation today and seized a batch of strategic commodities suspected to be imported without a valid licence, including 12 gas masks and seven filter canisters, at a residential unit in Tai Po. A 27-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case was arrested. Police also seized seven imitation firearms and two walkie-talkies in the unit and follow-up action will be taken.

Later, law enforcement agencies arrested a 14-year-old male suspected to be in connection with the case in Tai Wai and seized two gas masks as well as one filter canister in his possession.

Investigation is ongoing. The two arrested persons have been released on bail pending further investigation and the likelihood of further arrests is not excluded.

Customs reminds members of the public, and youths in particular, to abide by the law. Under the Import and Export Ordinance (IEO), any person who imports or exports gas masks, filter canisters or helmets in the control list of strategic commodities under the Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Regulations without a valid import or export licence commits an offence and is liable to an unlimited fine and to imprisonment for seven years on conviction.

Members of the public may report any suspected violation of the IEO to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).

