

Transcript of remarks by LegCo President on passage of Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

Following is the transcript of remarks by the President of the Legislative Council (LegCo), Mr Andrew Leung, on the passage of the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 at a media briefing at the LegCo Complex today (May 27):

The Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 has just been passed. It marks an important historical moment for Hong Kong, signifying the solid implementation of "patriots administering Hong Kong". The passage of the Bill will bring about significant political development. It would also ensure that the three sets of important elections can be conducted in an orderly manner in the next 10 months.

This legislative amendment exercise is both time-critical and complex, covering a wide range of areas which include amendments to eight principal ordinances and 24 items of subsidiary legislation.

The Government accepted a number of suggestions made by Members and finally proposed 369 amendments. This is the result of positive interaction between the executive and the legislature, with checks and balances and mutual co-operation.

Improving the electoral system will help establish a legislature that returns to rationality, which enables Members to perform their constitutional powers and functions in a pragmatic manner. I believe that after the implementation of "patriots administering Hong Kong", there will continue to be a spectrum of different voices in the legislature to reflect the overall interests of Hong Kong. I call on all aspiring individuals to actively participate in the upcoming elections. I hope we will all put the well-being of Hong Kong citizens as our first priority, and ensure the steady practice of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong in the long run.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

[Response to media enquiries on group gathering request](#)

Regarding media enquiries on a request from an organisation for the Chief Secretary for Administration to permit group gatherings under section 5 of the Prevention and Control of Diseases (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) on May 30 and June 4, on which the organisation plans to organise a procession and a gathering respectively, a spokesman for the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office responded today (May 27) as follows:

The COVID-19 pandemic remains severe and the number of cases including mutant strains around the world is rising continuously. Although cases involving mutant strains have not yet caused an outbreak in the community, there is resurgence of the epidemic in a number of neighbouring regions. We should not let our guard down. It is essential for us to take all necessary measures to strengthen epidemic control by guarding against the importation of cases and the resurgence of domestic infections. As such, there is a need for the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community through the continued implementation of various social distancing measures. As the COVID-19 epidemic still subsists, to protect public health, we do not recommend the organisation of mass gatherings involving a large number of people with prolonged duration of contact, and where there would be difficulty in controlling the crowd size and ensuring adequate social distancing among participants.

On the basis of the information provided by the said organisation, the Government is unable to establish that the proposed organisation of the procession and the gathering would meet the conditions under section 5 of Cap. 599G.

[Hospital Authority announces senior appointment \(with photo\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson announced the following senior appointment today (May 27):

Dr Loletta So will be appointed as Cluster Chief Executive (CCE) of Hong Kong East Cluster (HKEC) and Hospital Chief Executive (HCE) of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH), St John Hospital (SJH) and Wong Chuk Hang Hospital (WCHH) with effect from January 3, 2022, succeeding Dr Luk Che-

chung upon his retirement. In the interim, Director (Strategy and Planning), Dr Libby Lee, will be seconded to deputise CCE of HKEC and HCE of PYNEH, SJH and WCHH from July 1, 2021, to January 2, 2022.

Dr So is a specialist in respiratory medicine and is currently the Consultant (Medicine) of PYNEH. Dr So is a seasoned senior clinician with solid hospital management experience. She served as the Deputy HCE of PYNEH from 2014 to 2020, supporting the CCE in planning and developing health care services for the cluster. Besides being responsible for public and patient complaint management, she also participated in crisis management of the cluster. Being a respiratory physician, Dr So has played a significant role, in addition to supporting various clinical teams, to take care of patients during the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The HA Chairman, Mr Henry Fan, and the HA Chief Executive, Dr Tony Ko, congratulated Dr So on her new appointment and wished her every success in taking up the new role.

Mr Fan and Dr Ko also expressed appreciation to Dr Luk for his distinctive contributions to local public healthcare services for over 30 years and commended his strong communication skills in the engagement of community stakeholders, staff members and media partners all along. They wish Dr Luk a happy retirement.



[HAD to open temporary night heat shelters](#)

The Home Affairs Department will open 19 temporary night heat shelters tonight (May 27) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before

midnight on 2572 8427.

The 19 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Wah Kwai Community Centre
Wah Kwai Estate, Kellett Bay

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall
1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –

Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –

Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –

Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre
45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –

Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –

Tung Chung North Park (Zone B) Activity Room
29 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –

Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –

Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –

King Lam Neighbourhood Community Centre
King Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –

Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –

Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –

Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –

Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –

Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –

Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as either community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community and cannot continue to be open as heat shelters. People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas in any of the 22 designated community centres or community halls. Their opening hours are from 9am to 10pm. For the addresses of the community centres and community halls, please browse the following document:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

Illegal worker jailed

An Indonesian illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (May 26).

During operation "Twilight" conducted on May 24, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a restaurant in Causeway Bay. A female Indonesian, aged 38, was arrested while working as a dish-washing worker. Upon identity checking, she produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure,

conduct an initial screening on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.