

[Government releases consultation conclusions on legislative proposals to enhance anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulation in Hong Kong](#)

Following the conclusion of the public consultation on proposals to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (AMLO) (Cap. 615), the Government published today (May 21) a paper outlining the views received during the consultation, its responses and conclusions on the way forward.

By the end of the consultation period running from November 3, 2020, to January 31, 2021, the Government received a total of 79 submissions on the proposals, which seek to introduce (a) a licensing regime for virtual asset services providers; (b) a registration regime for dealers in precious metals and stones; and (c) miscellaneous technical amendments under the AMLO.

"We are pleased to note that the respondents generally agreed with the overall direction and principles as well as the broad framework of the legislative proposals. Having regard to the valuable comments and suggestions from respondents, we will fine-tune the legislative proposals as appropriate to address stakeholders' concerns," a Government spokesman said.

The Government will proceed to prepare the amendment bill based on the consultation conclusions, with a view to introducing the amendment bill into the Legislative Council in the 2021-22 legislative session.

The consultation conclusions have been uploaded to the website of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau at www.fstb.gov.hk/fsb/en/publication/consult/consult_amlo.html.

[SED visits school on anti-epidemic work \(with photos\)](#)

The Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (May 21) visited Pui Tak Canossian College in Aberdeen to learn about its anti-epidemic work.

Taking into account the latest developments of the epidemic, advice of

health experts and preparedness of schools, the Education Bureau announced earlier that all kindergartens, primary and secondary schools (including special schools and schools offering a non-local curriculum) as well as private schools offering a non-formal curriculum (commonly known as "tutorial schools") would fully resume half-day face-to-face classes from next Monday (May 24).

During the visit, Mr Yeung was briefed by the Principal, Ms Wong Siu-ling, on the school's anti-epidemic work. He also inspected the related measures being put in place on the campus, including body temperature checks, seating arrangements in classrooms, and lesson arrangements and operations in relation to the epidemic.

Meanwhile, the Principal and teachers updated him on the latest developments of civic education in the school. He met and exchanged views with the winning students of the Outstanding Student Citizen Award and the Hong Kong Island Outstanding Student Award as well as teachers admitted to the InnoPower@JC: Fellowship for Teachers. The students and teachers also shared their thoughts about joining and promoting civic education activities.

Mr Yeung called on all students in Hong Kong to treasure the opportunities of on-campus schooling and interactive learning with classmates, and adapt to the changes and adjust their daily lives gradually with positive and proactive attitudes. Parents and schools should also enhance home-school co-operation to care about the physical and mental health of students and offer support to them.

As the epidemic situation may remain unstable, he reiterated that should there be any confirmed case of COVID-19 or outbreak of upper respiratory tract infections in individual schools, the schools concerned still have to suspend classes temporarily and carry out thorough cleaning in accordance with health advice. Teaching staff and students will also be required to undergo compulsory testing for the sake of safety.

The Government has earlier expanded the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and the minimum age for receiving a vaccine is 16. So far more than 2 million doses of vaccine have been administered. Mr Yeung encouraged eligible persons (including teaching staff and students) to get vaccinated as early as possible to protect themselves and others, so as to achieve herd immunity to enhance the safety of the community, families and schools.





HKSAR Government responds to media enquiries on temporary suspension of operations of Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan)

In response to media enquiries regarding the temporary suspension of operations of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (HKETCO), a spokesman for the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) today (May 21) said:

Hong Kong-Taiwan relations are a special component of the cross-Strait relations. Since Hong Kong's return to the Motherland, the Government of the HKSAR has fostered and developed Hong Kong-Taiwan relations in a pragmatic and steady manner. In 2010, the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council (ECCPC) was established as a non-official platform for discussing co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan, with an aim of enabling positive interactions between the two places. The HKETCO commenced operation in Taipei in December 2011 to promote economic, trade and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan, in accordance with the "1992 Consensus".

In recent years, Taiwan has grossly interfered in Hong Kong's affairs on repeated occasions and created irretrievable damage to Hong Kong-Taiwan relations. Most notably, Taiwan has launched the so-called "Hong Kong Aid Project" and unilaterally established the so-called "Taiwan-Hong Kong Office for Exchanges and Services" under the Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council (THEC), offering assistance to violent protesters and people who tried to shatter Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. The provocative acts of Taiwan are inconsistent with the goal of the ECCPC and the THEC, which is to promote exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and also go against the founding purpose of the THEC. The Government of the HKSAR expresses utmost regret over Taiwan's actions.

Taiwan's series of actions in recent years has severely damaged Hong Kong-Taiwan relations, gradually jeopardising the operating environment for the HKETCO in Taiwan. On the other hand, staff members of the HKETCO have been threatened by radicals in Taiwan. These circumstances have posed uncertainties for the staff members and narrowed the room for promoting Hong Kong-Taiwan exchanges in various areas. As the HKETCO could hardly fulfil its founding purpose, and to protect the safety and rights of its Hong Kong staff members, the Government of the HKSAR has eventually decided to temporarily suspend the operations of the HKETCO. All Hong Kong staff members have already left Taiwan and returned to Hong Kong.

We will closely monitor the development of the situation and consider the way forward for the HKETCO in a holistic manner. During the HKETCO's temporary suspension of operations, the Government of the HKSAR will continue to handle general enquiries and requests for assistance made by Hong Kong residents in Taiwan, as well as provide Taiwan residents with information related to Hong Kong, through the hotline services of 1823 and 1868 and the GovHK website.

The Government of the HKSAR reiterates that it will continue to handle matters related to Hong Kong-Taiwan relations in accordance with the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China, the one-China principle as well as the Basic Principles and Policies of the Central Government regarding the Handling of Taiwan-related Matters in Hong Kong.

Approved Ma Tau Kok Outline Zoning Plan amended

The Town Planning Board today (May 21) announced amendments to the approved Ma Tau Kok Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The amendments mainly involve the rezoning of a site at 128 Carpenter Road from "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Commercial Development with Public Vehicle Park" to "Residential (Group A) 4" for a composite commercial/residential development, to take forward the decision of the Metro Planning Committee of the Board on an s.12A application. Opportunity is also taken to amend the Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP to reflect the amendments and to update the general information of various land use zonings and the planning area, where appropriate.

The draft Ma Tau Kok OZP No. S/K10/27, incorporating the amendments, is now available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Kowloon District Planning Office and (iv) the Kowloon City District Office.

Any person may make written representations in respect of the amendments to the Secretary of the Board on or before July 21. Any person who intends to make a representation is advised to read the revised Town Planning Board Guidelines No. 29B on "Submission and Publication of Representations, Comments on Representations and Further Representations under the Town Planning Ordinance" (TPB PG-No. 29B).

Submission of a representation should comply with the requirements set out in TPB PG-No. 29B. In particular, the representer should take note of the following:

- * If the representer fails to provide his or her full name and the first four alphanumeric characters of his or her Hong Kong identity card or passport number as required under TPB PG-No. 29B, the representation submitted shall be treated as not having been made; and
- * The Secretariat of the Board reserves the right to require the representer to provide identity proof for verification.

The Guidelines and the submission form are available at locations (i) and (ii) above and the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Copies of the draft Ma Tau Kok OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

[HKO launches new personalised weather website to enhance weather information services for ethnic minorities \(with photo\)](#)

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) announced today (May 21) the launch of a new personalised weather website to facilitate ethnic minorities' access to local weather information.

In addition to traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese and English, the new website provides basic weather information, including the latest weather reports, weather warnings, nine-day weather forecasts, tropical cyclone tracks and radar, satellite and lightning imagery in eight ethnic minority languages, namely Hindi, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Urdu, Tagalog, Thai, Punjabi and Vietnamese.

The Director of the HKO, Dr Cheng Cho-ming, remarked that ethnic minorities can gain access to weather information in their own languages through the new website, and such information will be conducive to their

planning of daily activities and advance preparation for weather changes.

The HKO has consulted relevant ethnic minority representatives and the Centre for Harmony and Enhancement of Ethnic Minority Residents (CHEER) funded by the Home Affairs Department on the design of the new website. CHEER's Centre-in-charge, Ms Katherine Shum, welcomed the launch of the new personalised weather website by the HKO. She pointed out that the new website would help ethnic minorities living in Hong Kong understand the latest weather conditions and assist them to adapt to local life.

The new personalised weather website adopts a responsive web design that automatically adjusts the layout for different devices, such as desktop computers or mobile devices, to provide a better user experience. The website also allows users to customise the information to be displayed according to their preferences.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the new personalised weather website at my.weather.gov.hk/personalized-website/english.

