

Statement by ExCo Non-official Members on Decision on improving electoral system of HKSAR by NPC

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

The Non-official Members of the Executive Council (ExCo) today (March 12) issued the following statement:

The ExCo Non-official Members strongly support and warmly welcome the passage of the Decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) at the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC). Through the improvement of the electoral system, the Decision can get Hong Kong back on the right track of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", and is therefore conducive to the long-term prosperity and stability of the city.

The ExCo Non-official Members believe that plugging the loopholes institutionally will help Hong Kong deal with its internal rift effectively, thereby ensuring the full and faithful application of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in Hong Kong. The ExCo Non-official Members will render their full support to and co-operate with the HKSAR Government in enacting the relevant local legislation to ensure that the NPC's Decision can be implemented as soon as possible.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, March 12, 2021 is 101.4(same as yesterday's index).

Cluster of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae cases in Princess Margaret Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Princess Margaret Hospital made the following announcement today (March 12):

Five male patients (aged 67 to 93) in a medicine and geriatrics ward have been confirmed to be carriers of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) since March 3. Four patients are now being treated under isolation and are in stable condition. The remaining patient has been discharged earlier.

Following the activation of the Emergency Response Level in public hospitals, the visiting arrangement for the ward has been suspended. The following enhanced infection control measures have been adopted according to established guidelines:

1. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures;
2. Stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients; and
3. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the ward.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Appointments to Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the ExCo and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the HKSAR

The Government announced today (March 12) that the Chief Executive has appointed Mr Joseph Luc Ngai, Ms Winnie Tam Wan-chi and Professor Alexander Wai Ping-kong as members of the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2021.

"We would like to thank the outgoing members, Professor Leonard Cheng Kwok-hon, Ms Lau Ka-shi and Ms Elaine Lo Yuen-man, for their invaluable contributions to the work of the Independent Commission over the years," a Government spokesman said.

The Independent Commission advises the Government on matters relating to

the systems of remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council, as well as those for officials under the Political Appointment System. The Chairman of the Independent Commission is Mr Carlson Tong and the other members are Mr Philip Tsai Wing-chung and Ms Winnie Wong Chi-shun.

EPD convictions in February

Forty-two convictions were recorded in February 2021 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Eight of the convictions were under the Noise Control Ordinance, 23 were under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, two were under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance and nine were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

A company was fined \$28,000, which was the heaviest fine in February, for exporting waste not for recycling without a permit.