

[Housing Authority sets rents for two new estates](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

Rents for 1 673 flats, tentatively scheduled for completion between March and June 2021, in three non-standard blocks at two Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) new public rental housing (PRH) estates will be set at the best rent levels in their respective districts.

The best rent at \$93.80 per square metre per month for the flats in Urban District will apply to a total of 1 018 flats in Kai Wang House and Kai Chun House of Kai Chuen Court (Diamond Hill Development Project, Phase 1).

The best rent at \$82.20 per sq m per month for the flats in Tai Po District will apply to 655 flats in Ban Tip House of Fu Tip Estate (Chung Nga Road East, Tai Po).

"Under this rent-fixing exercise, over 59 per cent of the flats are set at a rent level below \$2,500 per month," a spokesman for the HA said today (February 24), adding that PRH rents, which are inclusive of rates, management fees and maintenance costs, are heavily subsidised.

"PRH applicants who are allocated new flats but cannot afford the rents may request refurbished flats at lower rents, and they may also apply for assistance under the Rent Assistance Scheme for flats in older block types where applicable," the spokesman added.

[Hospital Authority welcomes 2021-22 Budget](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) Chairman, Mr Henry Fan, welcomed the 2021-22 Budget announced by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, today (February 24) at the Legislative Council, which would increase the annual subvention for the HA from \$78.7 billion (including \$77 billion recurrent) in 2020-21 to \$82.4 billion (including \$80.7 billion recurrent) in 2021-22, a 4.7 per cent growth compared to the 2020-21 revised provision.

Mr Fan expressed gratitude to the Government's commitment to sustain the development of public healthcare with the increased financial provision to

the HA, despite facing the pressure of budget deficit.

"Under the current epidemic, the HA will utilise the resources to further enhance public hospitals' capability in managing infectious diseases," Mr Fan said.

"The HA will increase laboratory capacity and manpower of technical staff so as to enhance pathological support to clinical services."

Mr Fan added that the HA will retain staff and attract new recruits to work in public hospitals, including continuing to enhance career development and prospects for doctors; strengthening nursing roles by improving clinical supervision and promotion prospects, attracting new recruits and providing opportunities for career progression to support new projects and initiatives. As well, Hong Kong Children's Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital will continue to commission services in phases.

"The HA will continue to promote the development of smart hospitals by enhancing various information technology systems to streamline workflow and enhance efficiency, to modernise public hospitals and promote sustainability so as to cope with the increasing service demand."

The HA Chief Executive, Dr Tony Ko, also expressed appreciation to the Government for its resources support in improving the working environment and patient services of the HA.

"The HA will continue to launch services, including the addition of 300 beds, and enhance services in general outpatient clinics and specialist outpatient clinics to meet the growing service demand," Dr Ko said.

Dr Ko added, "We will further increase operating theatre, diagnostic radiology, endoscopic sessions and pharmacy services to meet with the increasing service demand."

In chronic disease management, the HA will provide additional dialysis places for end-stage renal patients and improve glaucoma examination services. For life-threatening diseases, the HA will enhance percutaneous coronary intervention and vascular surgical services, and further enhance support to cancer patients by strengthening inpatient and consultation services, radiotherapy and chemotherapy services, and expanding the cancer case manager programme to provide a patient-centred coordinated care service.

"We will widen the coverage of the HA Drug Formulary, enhance genetic and genomic services and inborn errors of metabolism screening. We will also strengthen mental health inpatient and outreach services to enhance support to children and adolescents as well as psychogeriatric patients," said Dr Ko.

Mr Fan and Dr Ko were thankful for the support of the Government to the public healthcare service. The HA will ensure the prudent deployment of the funding to implement the initiatives for the benefit of patients.

Establishment of Immigration Department Tuen Mun Regional Office

The Immigration Department (ImmD) today (February 24) announced that the newly established ImmD Tuen Mun Regional Office at the Tuen Mun Siu Lun Government Complex located at 19 Siu Lun Street will commence operation from March 1. The Tuen Mun District Births Registry and Tuen Mun Marriage Registry at 1/F, Tuen Mun Government Office, will be closed on the same day.

The Tuen Mun Regional Office will provide the following services:

Floor	Services
G/F	Provision of services for registration of births, giving notice of intended marriage, marriage ceremony services and search of birth records, death records or marriage records
1/F	Equipped with Travel Document Submission Kiosks, Passport Collection Kiosks and Enrolment Kiosk for Macao Automated Immigration Clearance Service
2/F	Provision of services for application and issue of HKSAR travel documents and extensions of stay in Hong Kong
3/F	Provision of services for application and issue of identity cards

With a view to further enhancing the quality of service, the Tuen Mun Regional Office will provide one-stop services, including one-stop registration of birth-cum-travel document services at the Tuen Mun District Births Registry at G/F and one-stop application and provision of identity card-cum-travel document services at 3/F (except first application for HKSAR passport by a person aged under 11).

For working hours and other details, please visit the website of the ImmD at www.immd.gov.hk or call the enquiry hotline 2824 6111.

LCQ1: Charitable foundations and charities

Following is a question by the Hon Abraham Shek and a written reply by the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, in the Legislative Council today (February 24):

Question:

The Court of Final Appeal handed down a judgment on May 18, 2015, which held that the Chinachem Charitable Foundation (the Foundation) was to hold the estate of the late Mrs Nina Wang (the estate) as a trustee; moreover, the Secretary for Justice and the Foundation's Board of Governors were required to formulate an administration scheme for the estate, including the establishment of a supervisory managing organisation, to ensure that the estate would be used for charitable purposes in accordance with the testamentary intention of Mrs Wang. Nevertheless, the judgment has not yet been fully implemented since it was handed down over five years ago. On the other hand, "charity" or "charitable purpose" are not defined in the existing legislation, nor is there dedicated legislation which governs charities and their use of donations. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) whether it will, in the light of the current serious unemployment situation in Hong Kong, recommend that the Foundation's Board of Governors set up an unemployment assistance scheme to provide assistance to members of the public who have been affected by the epidemic; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(2) whether it will consider enacting dedicated legislation for the Foundation with a view to monitoring and regulating its operation more effectively; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(3) given that there are currently about 9 200 charities in Hong Kong, and tax-exempt donations amounted to as high as \$12.7 billion in 2019, whether the Government will enact dedicated legislation so as to regulate charities more comprehensively and effectively; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

In relation to the estate of the late Mrs Nina Wang (Estate), I provided a detailed oral response at the Legislative Council (LegCo) on December 16, 2020 about the latest developments regarding the scheme of administration (Scheme) and the work of the interim administrators.

The Secretary for Justice (SJ), as the protector of charities, is necessarily a party to charity proceedings and represents the beneficial interest or objects of the charity. The Department of Justice (DoJ) has been actively following up the blueprint of the Scheme as laid down in the judgment of the Court of Final Appeal dated May 18, 2015 (CFA Judgment). Yet it must be emphasised that the relevant legal proceedings could be taken forward in a reasonable time only with the co-operation of all parties, but not just SJ as necessarily a party to charity proceedings, and their active follow-up with the Court's directions and orders.

Except otherwise prescribed by law or order by the Court, charities operate autonomously under their own governing articles and in accordance with their own rules or regulations, and decide the manner in which the public is to be informed about the relevant matters. The role of SJ is to protect charitable interests but SJ does not participate in a charity's decision and arrangement to make donations to others for charitable purposes, and has no power to direct any charity to make donations.

In relation to the Hon Abraham Shek's questions, I now reply as follows:

(1) As aforementioned, even when the Court has approved the Scheme and appointed members to the supervising managing organisation, SJ has no power to direct the Chinachem Charitable Foundation Limited (Foundation) or the Chinachem Group to make donations for charitable purposes, including providing unemployment assistance to members of the public who have been affected by the epidemic.

(2) The DoJ has been actively following up the blueprint of the Scheme as laid down in the CFA Judgment. An application was made to the Court on March 29, 2019 in respect of the propriety of the Scheme proposed by the DoJ and details thereof, in order to seek the Court's determination or directions for the DoJ to proceed to complete the remaining tasks. The Scheme has already provided a monitoring mechanism for the Foundation, which includes the setting up of a supervisory managing organisation to monitor the Foundation as trustee. As such, there is no need to enact separately a dedicated ordinance to monitor the operation of the Foundation.

Currently, the administration of the Estate is vested with the interim administrators appointed by the Court. The DoJ has also filed a caveat against a grant of probate or administration to preserve the status quo of the Estate pending a scheme to be set up and sanctioned by the Court. The DoJ will continue to actively pursue the relevant legal proceedings in relation to the Scheme to ensure the early preparation and implementation of the Scheme, and to handle the Estate in accordance with the wishes of the late Mrs Nina Wang. The DoJ will also continue to actively follow up the detailed arrangements for the implementation of the will, including handling the court proceedings already commenced, and closely monitoring the management and preservation of the Estate with a view to protecting and safeguarding the relevant charitable interest.

The Court has fixed a directions hearing on May 26, 2021. Given that the

relevant legal proceedings have already commenced, it is inappropriate for us to publicly discuss any further details.

(3) The Law Reform Commission (LRC), chaired by SJ, published its Report on Charities (the LRC Report) in December 2013, which made a number of recommendations for reform to the Government for more comprehensive and effective regulations of charitable organisations, including: (i) there should be a clear statutory definition of charitable purposes; (ii) all charitable organisations which (1) solicit from the public for the donation of cash or its equivalent; and/or (2) have sought tax exemption should be subject to the requirement of registration; (iii) a set of specifically formulated financial reporting standard should be adopted for charities in Hong Kong, and the Government should work with the professional accounting body/bodies to formulate this standard; (iv) the Government should ensure that tax-exempt charities make information about their operations available to the public by publishing certain documents, such as their financial statements and activities' reports, on their websites; (v) applicants for different types of charitable fundraising licences or permits should be required to disclose the charity's background and activities, the objective of the charitable fundraising, the use of the funds collected, and the charity's accounts for the most recent accounting year.

The publication of the LRC Report marks the completion of the LRC's study of the relevant subject. The LRC Report was then be passed to the Government for the relevant policy bureau to consider whether and how to implement the recommendations. In fact, the LRC Report has already been included as an outstanding item for discussion of the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services. Members who are concerned with the implementation progress of a specific LRC report may request the relevant Panel to follow up with the responsible bureau.

We have consulted the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) regarding the implementation progress of the LRC Report. The HAB indicates that the recommendations in the LRC Report are relevant to the purviews of various Government bureaux and departments. Since many recommendations in the LRC Report carry significant implications on charities in Hong Kong in terms of their definition and operation, the Government needs to consider the recommendations thoroughly and carefully. The HAB points out that it has been assigned to co-ordinate inputs from relevant bureaux and departments in formulating a response to the LRC's recommendations for the Government's overall consideration. According to the HAB, it has been actively following up the co-ordination with a view to formulating a response for the Government's consideration as soon as possible. In the process of co-ordinating inputs from relevant bureaux and departments, the HAB will make reference to the improvement measures recommended in the Director of Audit's Report No. 68 (Audit Report) as well as in the Public Accounts Committee Reports No. 68 and 68A (PAC Reports).

With reference to the recommendations in the LRC Report, the Audit Report as well as the PAC Reports, the Government introduced by phases since August 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019 and put in place a series of administrative

measures relating to charitable fundraising activities.

[Appointments to Council for Sustainable Development announced](#)

The Government today (February 24) announced appointments to the Council for Sustainable Development for a new two-year term starting from March 1, 2021.

"Dr Lam Ching-choi has been appointed as Chairman of the Council while 10 new members have also been appointed to the Council. The Council membership represents a mix of stakeholders from different sectors of the community including the environmental, social services and business sectors. We will continue to work closely with the Council in promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong," a government spokesman said.

"We are immensely grateful to the outgoing Chairman, Professor Arthur Li, and other members for their invaluable contribution to the work of the Council in the past years," the spokesman added.

The Council advises the Government on priority areas for promoting sustainable development that will integrate environmental, social and economic perspectives. It also seeks to encourage community participation and promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.

The Council has implemented a number of stakeholder oriented engagement processes to engage the community in active discussion on sustainability issues. The Council is also responsible for vetting applications for the Sustainable Development Fund to support community projects aimed at raising public awareness of sustainable development.

The new Chairman, Dr Lam Ching-choi, is the Chief Executive Officer of Haven of Hope Christian Service. He is also a member of the Executive Council, and Chairman of the Elderly Commission of the HKSAR, with a long and meritorious track record in a wide range of public and social services.

The other 10 new members are Professor Emily Chan Ying-yang, Ms Grace Kwok May-han, Mr Jonathan Leung Chun, Mr Li Sai-lung, Ms Pamela Mar Chia-ming, Mr Simon Ng Ka-wing, Professor Dennis Ng Kee-pui, Mr Kevin Orr Ka-yeung, Mr Allan Wong Wing-ho and Dr Daniel Yip Chung-yin.

Professor Emily Chan Ying-yang is the Assistant Dean (External Affairs) of the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ms Grace Kwok May-han is the Chairman and Executive Director of Allied Sustainability and Environmental Consultants Group Limited; Mr Jonathan Leung Chun is the

Executive Director of Seafood Delight Group Management Limited; Mr Li Sai-lung is a member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong; Ms Pamela Mar Chia-ming is the Executive Vice President, Knowledge and Applications of Fung Group; Mr Simon Ng Ka-wing is the Director – Policy & Research of the Business Environment Council; Professor Dennis Ng Kee-pui is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Vice-President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Mr Kevin Orr Ka-yeung is the Group Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Winner Medical Group; Mr Allan Wong Wing-ho is the Founder and Director of Chun Shing Development (Hong Kong) Limited; and Dr Daniel Yip Chung-yin is the Managing Director of G.E.W. International Corporation Limited.

The membership for the new term is as follows:

Chairman

—
Dr Lam Ching-choi #

Members

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Ms Chan Shin-kwan
Professor Emily Chan Ying-yang #
Professor Paul Chu Hoi-shan
Miss Natalie Chung Sum-yue
Professor Laurence Ho Hoi-ming
Ms Grace Kwok May-han #
Mr Jonathan Leung Chun #
Mr Li Sai-lung #
Ms Pamela Mar Chia-ming #
Mr Simon Ng Ka-wing #
Professor Dennis Ng Kee-pui #
Mr Kevin Orr Ka-yeung #
Miss Samanta Pong Sum-yee
Mr Tam Kent-chung
Mr Allan Wong Wing-ho #
Professor Jonathan Wong Woon-chung
Dr Daniel Yip Chung-yin #
Dr Rita Yu Man-sze
Dr William Yu Yuen-ping
Secretary for Development *
Secretary for the Environment *
Secretary for Home Affairs *
Secretary for Transport and Housing *

New member

* Or Permanent Secretary