

CS expresses deep sorrow over passing of Deputy Director of Social Welfare

â€‹The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, today (January 30) expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Mr Lam Ka-tai, and extended his deepest condolences to Mr Lam's family.

"I have known K T since 1999. I worked closely with him from 2007 to 2017 on poverty alleviation, enhancement of social welfare planning and building a caring, compassionate and cohesive society when I served as Secretary for Labour and Welfare," Mr Cheung said.

"K T was instrumental in helping me in designing and launching the Old Age Living Allowance. He had a strong passion for helping the poor and the disadvantaged. He was a highly committed and conscientious civil servant. He was a real gentleman, always courteous, helpful and sincere.

"K T was highly and widely respected by all in the Social Welfare Department and in the welfare sector.

"We have lost an outstanding social welfare policymaker and practitioner with a strong sense of professionalism. I have lost a brilliant colleague and true friend. K T will be sorely missed."

CE expresses deep sorrow over passing of DDSW Mr Lam Ka-tai

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, today (January 30) expressed utmost sorrow over the passing of the Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Mr Lam Ka-tai.

"I worked with Ka-tai while I was the Director of Social Welfare from 2000 to 2003. I was deeply impressed by his enthusiasm for work, care for senior citizens and the disadvantaged groups and upholding of the profession of social workers. Modest and dedicated, he was willing to listen and resolved problems proactively, earning him the respect of the social welfare sector and the love of colleagues of the department.

"Ka-tai dearly loved his mother and was sincere to people, showing respect and care to senior citizens as if they were his own family members. During my tenure as the Director of Social Welfare, he and I joined hands to handle a request for assistance from an elderly man, Uncle Fook, who needed

urgent help. In the past decade or so, Ka-tai would accompany me to visit Uncle Fook during the Lunar New Year holidays and he also showed care for Uncle Fook's daily life in other times until he passed away not long ago. A role model for civil servants, Ka-tai continued to serve with his full passion and enthusiasm in the social welfare sector over the past 30 years or so.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of Ka-tai. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and will provide all necessary assistance for his funeral arrangements.

"With Ka-tai's departure, we have lost a best friend and best colleague. It is also a tremendous loss for the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Nevertheless, he and his spirit of serving the community will always be in our hearts.

"Ka-tai, may you rest in peace. You will be sorely missed, always," Mrs Lam said.

Transcript of remarks by SCS

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Patrick Nip, at a media session after attending a radio programme this morning (January 30):

Reporter: So does it mean that civil servants have to give up their BN(0)s?

Secretary for the Civil Service: About the BN(0) arrangements, the HKSAR Government has already made clear the new policy and arrangements, so we will follow up accordingly. As regards civil servants holding a foreign passport or all that, we just follow what it is set out in the Basic Law and the Hong Kong laws. Basically, the requirement is that they have to be Hong Kong permanent residents. Thank you.

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

AFCD's special work arrangements starting from February 2

In light of the special work arrangements for government employees

announced by the Government, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) today (January 30) announced that starting from next Tuesday (February 2), anti-rabies dog inoculations and dog licensing services conducted by the Animal Management Centres of the AFCD (except for the New Territories South Animal Management Centre, which has been launched as another quarantine facility for pet animals related to COVID-19 cases) will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.30am to noon and 2pm to 4.30pm, whereas all other Anti-Rabies Dog Inoculation and Licensing Centres will remain closed until further notice. For details, please visit the designated website: www.pets.gov.hk.

The AFCD's licensing services counters at Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices (CSWGO) and the Marine Parks Office at CDW Building, 388 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, will provide basic and limited public services to members of the public starting from next Tuesday (February 2) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.30am to noon and 2pm to 5pm, until further notice.

A spokesman for the AFCD appealed to the public to handle their licence or permit applications online or through email, post or fax. Relevant documents can also be put in the drop-in box placed at the ground floor of CSWGO. For detailed information and contacts, please refer to the AFCD website: www.afcd.gov.hk.

Meanwhile, AFCD public facilities including the Hong Kong Wetland Park, eight Country Park Visitor/Education Centres, seven Hong Kong Geopark Visitor Centres, the Endangered Species Resource Centre, and all barbecue sites and campsites of country parks will remain closed until further notice.

For enquiries, please call the AFCD on 2708 8885.

Key statistics on service demand of A&E Departments and occupancy rates in public hospitals

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

During the winter surge, the Hospital Authority is closely monitoring the service demand of Accident and Emergency Departments and the occupancy rates in public hospitals. Key service statistics are being issued daily for public information. Details are in the appended table.