

Fraudulent website and phishing email related to Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent website and phishing email, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Fraudulent websites related to Livi VB Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Livi VB Limited on fraudulent websites, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on the [HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the websites concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the websites should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

LCQ13: Trading of animals

Following is a question by the Hon Elizabeth Quat and a written reply by the Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, in the Legislative Council today (June 3):

Question:

From 2007 to 2018, the diversity of species imported into Hong Kong according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora increased by 57%. As pointed out by a study conducted locally, this was likely due to an increasing demand for wildlife rather than the stepping up of law enforcement actions by the authorities. For the exotic pet trade alone, such period saw the import of four million live animals comprising at least 580 species, representing a nine-fold increase from 2007. Besides, the total number of animals imported in 2016 for the purpose of pet trading (excluding dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs) amounted to as vast as 1 108 000. Regarding the trading of animals, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the current number of licensed animal traders (excluding traders of cats and dogs), broken down by the type of animals traded;
- (2) of the number of animals traded by licensed animal traders in each of the past 10 years, broken down by the type of animals;
- (3) of the number of pet birds traded by licensed animal traders in the past three years, broken down by the species to which the birds belonged; if such information is not available, of the reasons for that, and whether it will keep such statistics in future;
- (4) whether there were bulk imports of pet birds in the past three years; if so, of the number of birds involved on each occasion, and whether it knows the number of traders to which the imported birds were subsequently sold;
- (5) why the requirement for licensed animal traders to keep a detailed record of transactions is applicable only to pet birds and not other animals;
- (6) of the health screening measures put in place to contain the zoonotic risks posted by the trading of exotic pets;
- (7) whether the Government has set up a comprehensive database on the import and the trading of animals, including information such as the species, countries of origin and the purposes (such as for re-export and for sale locally); if it has, whether it will make public the database; if it has not, of the reasons for that, and whether it will consider doing so;
- (8) whether the Government will review if the current legislation and policies governing the trading of animals are sufficient; if not, of the

reasons for that; and

(9) whether the Government will consider banning the import of animal species that are captured illegally in their countries of origin; if not, of the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

Having consulted the Environment Bureau, I would like to reply to the question as follows:

(1) to (3) and (5) Under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) Regulations (Cap. 139B), a person must not carry on business as an animal trader unless with a licence (i.e. an Animal Trader Licence (ATL)) granted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). As at May 26, 2020, the number of valid ATLs in Hong Kong is tabulated below:

Type of ATL	Number
Small mammals (excluding dogs and cats)	19
Reptiles	103
Birds	31
Mixed*	26

*These licensees are allowed to sell different types of animals at the premises concerned.

Currently, animal traders who sell dogs, cats and birds are required to provide the relevant transaction records for checking upon request from the AFCD for prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and avian influenza (AI). Apart from dogs, cats and birds, the AFCD does not keep statistics on other types of animals sold by licensed traders. The numbers of birds sold by licensed traders over the past three years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of birds sold by licensed bird traders (head)
2017	28 975
2018	29 015
2019	28 107

While the AFCD does not have the information on the breakdown of species of birds sold by the above traders, it has been closely monitoring the trading of birds in Hong Kong with a view to preventing and controlling AI. The AFCD will also continue to ensure that relevant traders comply with the

licensing conditions.

(4) A total of 21 licensed bird traders imported birds for sale in the past three years. The number of each consignment of birds imported by these traders during the period is in Annex.

(6), (8) & (9) Import and trading of live animals are mainly regulated for the prevention of introduction and transmission of zoonotic and animal diseases through enforcing the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) and the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421), as well as their regulations. Under the relevant legislation, a special or import permit should be obtained from the AFCD prior to the import of the animals. In consideration of an application for a special or import permit associated with species of animals new to Hong Kong, the AFCD will conduct assessments covering, for example, the animal disease situation of the importing country/place, the suitability of the species to be kept as a pet, protection of public health and safety, as well as potential impact on local biodiversity for the animal species. If the species are considered to be acceptable for importation into Hong Kong, the AFCD would impose relevant terms pertaining to health of the species to be imported, including requiring veterinary health certification from the importing country/place when issuing the permits, in order to minimise the risk of transmission of animal diseases into Hong Kong. No permit will be issued if that species is considered to be unsuitable for import into Hong Kong. The Government will continue to follow international practices on trading of animals when regulating the import of animals into Hong Kong.

Under Cap. 139B, all licensed animal traders have to comply with public health and animal health practices as stipulated in the licensing conditions. All licensed premises will be inspected by AFCD staff at least once every month to ensure animal health and welfare. Veterinary advice will also be provided to traders on how to improve and monitor animal health to minimise the possible risks of animal diseases. As far as pet birds are concerned, in addition to routine inspections, AFCD staff will also collect environmental samples at the licensed premises for testing of AI, which help monitor and determine the occurrence of AI at these premises.

In 2016, the Government amended Cap. 139B to better regulate animal trading, as well as dog breeding and trading activities with a view to further enhancing animal health and welfare. We will keep under review the effectiveness of the relevant regulation.

(7) The information on the import of animals into Hong Kong, such as the relevant quantity, type, and importing country/place, is available from the Census and Statistics Department's website (tradeids.censtatd.gov.hk/Index).

LCQ2: Development plans for three squatter areas

Following is a question by the Hon Wilson Or and a reply by the Secretary for Development, Mr Michael Wong, in the Legislative Council today (June 3):

Question:

The Chief Executive put forward in the 2019 Policy Address the resumption of the private land in three squatter areas in Kowloon East (i.e. Cha Kwo Ling Village, Ngau Chi Wan Village and Chuk Yuen United Village) to make way for the development of seven hectares of urban sites into a new community mainly comprising high-density public housing. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the latest progress of the aforesaid development projects; the number of housing flats that may be provided, the population that may be accommodated and the average living space per person upon completion of the projects;

(2) given that the population in Kowloon East is aging and welfare facilities in that area have all along been in short supply, of the floor area to be reserved by the Government in such development projects for constructing welfare facilities; and

(3) given that Cha Kwo Ling Village is the only remaining ancient village in Hong Kong, which has a history of 400 years with rich cultural relics and heritage (including not only the Tin Hau Temple of Cha Kwo Ling, which has been classified as a Grade 3 historic building, but also activities in celebration of Lu Pan Patron's Day and Tin Hau Festival which are held annually), whether the Government has drawn up any conservation framework and blueprint for the three villages?

Reply:

President,

To increase land continuously for housing development and speed up Government-led planning, the Government announced in the 2019 Policy Address the commissioning of studies on three urban squatter areas (viz. Cha Kwo Ling Village, Ngau Chi Wan Village and Chuk Yuen United Village) for integrated planning comprising mainly public housing. The studies aim to make better use and expedite development of sites that are suitable for high-density housing development, so as to meet the keen housing demand of the public.

My reply to the three parts of the question raised by Hon Or is as follows:

(1) In respect of the planning of the three squatter areas, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has commissioned two Engineering Feasibility Studies (EFSs), with the one covering Cha Kwo Ling Village commenced in mid-2019 and the one for Ngau Chi Wan Village and Chuk Yuen United Village started in early 2020. These studies will cover formulation of the development options, detailed land use proposals (including the distribution of housing, Government, Institution or Community (GIC) facilities, open space and supporting infrastructure) and implementation arrangements, as well as technical assessments. On the premise that these three projects will be taken forward at a relatively high development intensity, we estimate preliminarily that more than seven hectares of land in these three squatter areas can altogether provide about 6 300 public housing units. As regards the development parameters including the actual number of flats to be provided, plot ratio and population figures, these will be confirmed upon completion of EFSs. In the course of the development, we will listen to views of the local community and stakeholders on the development proposals and implementation timetable. Our target is to complete these studies within 2021, followed by local consultation and relevant rezoning procedures of the Outline Zoning Plans. Detailed design for infrastructural facilities will also be carried out concurrently to pave way for funding applications for the related works, and subsequently conduct land resumption, clearance and works in accordance with the established mechanism. If things go well, we will make our best endeavours to officially commence works in around 2025, with a view to increasing public housing supply in the medium term. As and when the epidemic subsides, we will arrange to brief the affected households, business undertakings and possibly affected parties on the studies, implementation processes and the Government's compensation and rehousing arrangements, etc.

(2) As stated above, other than public housing, the development proposals for the three squatter areas will also provide suitable GIC facilities to address the needs arising from the additional population brought by the future development and district demand. Based on the scale of the proposed development and the supply-and-demand of local community facilities, and with reference to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines and comments from relevant departments, we will pursue comprehensive planning addressing the needs of the community. Land and floor space will be accordingly reserved for the provision of facilities for children, elderly, education, healthcare, recreation and transport, etc. We will try to optimise the land resources reserved for implementation of these GIC facilities under the "single site, multiple use" concept wherever practicable. Details like the actual types, floor space required and exact mode of development of GIC facilities will be confirmed by the EFSs and subject to consultation with relevant departments. We will further gauge views from stakeholders during local consultation prior to initiating the rezoning process.

(3) These three squatter areas have a long history. The study area of Cha Kwo Ling Village covers the Law Mansion, a historic building accorded with Grade 3 status by the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB). As for Ngau Chi Wan squatter area, it has Man Fat Nunnery, also a Grade 3 historic building. To strike a balance between development needs and heritage conservation, we will

assess, during the course of the EFSs, whether the proposed works would affect buildings with historical significance and sites of archaeological interest in the squatter areas. Subject to any impact identified, necessary heritage impact assessment and consultation with the AAB will be conducted, so as to devise suitable heritage conservation measures and arrangements. Generally speaking, when formulating development options, our overarching principle is to preserve in-situ the graded historic buildings accorded by the AAB as far as practicable, and to incorporate these buildings in the future development through comprehensive planning. As such, subject to the findings of the studies, our current intention is to preserve the Law Mansion and Man Fat Nunnery in-situ while developing the squatter areas. We will present detailed conservation proposals at the local consultation prior to commencement of rezoning procedure. As for the Tin Hau Temple in Cha Kwo Ling Village, it falls outside the study area of the EFS on Cha Kwo Ling Village. Hence, we believe that the temple and its current associated activities with conservation and cultural values would not be affected by the proposed development.

Interest rate of third interest payment for Silver Bond Series due 2021

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), as representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR Government), announces today (June 3) the relevant per annum interest rate for the third interest payment of Silver Bond Series due 2021 (Issue Number 03GB2112R) (the Bonds) issued under the Retail Bond Issuance Programme of the Government Bond Programme.

According to the Issue Circular dated November 22, 2018 for the Bonds, the third interest payment of the Bonds is scheduled to be made on June 17, 2020, and the relevant interest rate is scheduled to be determined and announced on June 3, 2020 as the higher of the prevailing Floating Rate and Fixed Rate.

On June 3, 2020, the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate are as follows:

Floating Rate: +2.28 per cent (Annex)

Fixed Rate: +3.00 per cent

Based on the Floating Rate and Fixed Rate set out above, the relevant interest rate for the third interest payment is determined and announced as

3.00 per cent per annum.