

# SCED speaks on RTHK and Hong Kong Policy Act Report released by US State Department

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, on Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the Hong Kong Policy Act Report released by the US State Department at a media session after attending a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council today (May 29):

Reporter: Have you narrowed down the list of the members of the (RTHK) task force? Can you further address concerns that this would affect the editorial independence of RTHK? My second question is about the ongoing concerns raised by the international community on the national security law. Is it the Government's attitude to just shrug off all concerns and tell everyone that nothing will be affected in Hong Kong, instead of actually addressing and conveying those messages and their concerns to Beijing?

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development: On your first question about RTHK, we have not yet come up with the list (the line-up). We will issue it in the fullness of time.

As regards the US policy towards Hong Kong, I think we have stated time and again that the special trading status that Hong Kong enjoys is part and parcel of the "one country, two systems", because this provision has been given to Hong Kong by the Basic Law, Articles 116 and 151. It is not a gift (given) unilaterally by any trading partner. In fact, it is also recognised multilaterally, throughout the world, through our multilateral trading relations as well as our membership under the World Trade Organization. We take exception to the US policy recently announced by their Secretary of State towards Hong Kong, because it gives no regards to Hong Kong's constant upholding of "one country, two systems". We have explained very clearly why the national security law is needed, i.e. largely to plug the loophole in our constitutional arrangement. We accept that we have not been able to fulfil our constitutional obligation to enact this part of the law under Article 23 of the Basic Law. Therefore, particularly in the light of things that happened in the last two years, the social unrest and the problems that we encountered, the Central Government has taken this exceptional step to introduce (the national security law) to plug this loophole. We see there is a need to do so.

As regards the US' position, I think, in my personal view, it is hypocritical to say on the one hand that you stand by or support the people of Hong Kong, but (on the other hand) what the US Government is trying to do would intend to harm Hong Kong's interests. It is also self-kidding to say that this would only harm one side of the equation. Actually, trading relations is a two-way street. So our reaction and our forecast is that it would hurt the bilateral relations between Hong Kong and the US. Look at the

trade figures, we have seen a major decline between the US and China, and also between Hong Kong and the US, as a result of the trade tension between the two (the US and China). We have been suffering from the collateral damage of the US-China trade tension, and I believe this would also harm further the US' interest in Hong Kong, which we have all along considered it as a mutual benefit.

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

---

## **CFS urges public not to consume a kind of bottled apple juice drink contaminated with patulin**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (May 29) announced that a sample of a bottled apple juice drink imported from Australia was found to be contaminated with a mycotoxin, patulin, at a level exceeding the action level adopted by the CFS. A follow-up is in progress.

"The CFS collected the above-mentioned sample at a supermarket in To Kwa Wan for testing under its routine Food Surveillance Programme. The test result showed that the sample contained patulin at a level of 110 parts per billion (ppb), exceeding the action level of 50 ppb adopted by the CFS. The level is the same as the standard of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on patulin in apple juice," a CFS spokesman said.

Product details are as follows:

Product name: Cold Pressed Granny Smith Apple

Brand: Presha Fruit

Country of origin: Australia

Distributor: A.S. Watson Group (HK) Ltd.

Volume: 350ml per bottle

Best-before date: August 7, 2020

The CFS has informed the importer, PARKnSHOP (HK) Limited, and the distributor concerned of the irregularity. The importer and distributor concerned have stopped sale and removed from shelves the affected batch of the product, and initiated a recall according to the CFS' instructions. Members of the public may call the distributor's hotline at 2606 8658 during office hours for enquiries about the recall.

"Patulin mostly occurs in rotten apple and its products. Animal studies have shown that ingesting high doses of patulin can induce liver, spleen and kidney damage, as well as toxicity to the immune system. For humans, nausea,

gastrointestinal disturbances and vomiting have been reported," the spokesman said.

According to Section 54 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132), all food for sale in Hong Kong, locally produced or imported, should be fit for human consumption. An offender is subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

The CFS will alert the trade, continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health. An investigation is ongoing.

---

## **Government invites MTRCL to proceed with detailed planning and design of Tuen Mun South Extension project**

The Chief Executive in Council has given approval for the Government to invite the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the detailed planning and design of the Tuen Mun South (TMS) Extension project.

A spokesman for the Transport and Housing Bureau said today (May 29) that the TMS Extension is one of the seven recommended railway schemes in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014). It will extend the West Rail Line from Tuen Mun Station southwards by about 2.4 kilometres. In addition to a new TMS Station to be provided near Tuen Mun Ferry Pier as envisaged in RDS-2014, there will also be an intermediate station in Tuen Mun Area 16 (A16) to unlock the development potential of the area.

The TMS Extension largely runs along the Tuen Mun River and will improve railway access to the community south of the current Tuen Mun town centre (near Wu King Estate, Siu Hei Court and Yuet Wu Villa) and connectivity to Tuen Mun Ferry Pier. The area near Tuen Mun Ferry Pier is one of the major residential areas in the district, which has approximately 60 000 residents within the 500-metre catchment of the proposed TMS Station, while there are about 49 000 residents living within the 500-metre catchment area around the proposed A16 Station.

The spokesman said, "The TMS Extension with the A16 Station will offer an alternative commuting choice to the residents in the vicinity and divert more commuters to rail-based transport, which may help relieve the congestion of the existing roads. Furthermore, the provision of the proposed A16 Station is essential for unleashing the potential for residential development at the A16 site and helps increase the housing supply."

"It is estimated that the TMS Extension will save the public a

cumulative total of about 300 million hours of commuting time over 50 years of operation. The economic benefits, including the said time saving, of the TMS Extension are estimated to be about \$28 billion in 2015 prices," the spokesman added.

The construction of the A16 Station and the related residential development will necessitate the reprovisioning of the Tuen Mun Swimming Pool as well as the Tuen Mun Community Green Station. For the Tuen Mun Swimming Pool, a potential site for off-site reprovisioning has been identified within the existing Tuen Mun Golf Centre, subject to a technical feasibility study. A suitable location will also be identified for reprovisioning the Tuen Mun Community Green Station.

The Government has invited the MTRCL to proceed with the detailed planning and design of the TMS Extension project, and will further negotiate with the MTRCL on the funding arrangement of the project.

It is expected that construction of the TMS Extension project may commence in 2023 for completion in 2030.

---

## **HKMC Annual Report 2019**

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

The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) today (May 29) published its Annual Report for 2019. The Report reviews the business performance, corporate governance, and initiatives on corporate social responsibility of the HKMC in 2019.

The Report is now available on the HKMC website ([www.hkmc.com.hk](http://www.hkmc.com.hk)).

---

## **Grading of beach water quality released**

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 29) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Twenty-eight beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and 11 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cafeteria New Beach	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Pui O Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Shek O Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	Silverstrand Beach
Discovery Bay	South Bay Beach
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	St Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Kadoorie Beach	Tong Fuk Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Trio Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Golden Beach*
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Lido Beach*
Butterfly Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Casam Beach*	Ting Kau Beach
Castle Peak Beach	

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality ([www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that 15 gazetted beaches (marked with an asterisk above) have reopened since May 23, while all the other beaches will remain temporarily closed until further notice.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.