

Resumption of services of Sham Shui Po Home Affairs Enquiry Centre

The Home Affairs Department announced today (May 21) that the services of the Sham Shui Po Home Affairs Enquiry Centre will resume from 9am tomorrow (May 22). The services were suspended due to maintenance works.

The Centre will be open between 9am and 7pm from Monday to Friday (except on public holidays).

Suspicious mobile application (App) related to Fubon Bank (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 Fubon Bank (Hong Kong) Limited on suspicious App, 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 App concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the App 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.

Two illegal workers jailed

Two illegal workers comprising one Indian and one Vietnamese were jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (May 20).

During operation "Greenlane" conducted on March 10, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a garbage collection point in Tsuen Wan. A male Indian illegal worker, aged 40, was arrested while working as an

odd job worker. Upon identity checking, he produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits him from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that he was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

In addition, during operation "Breakthrough" conducted on May 18, ImmD investigators raided a restaurant in Tseung Kwan O. A female Vietnamese illegal worker, aged 53, was arrested while working as an odd job worker. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and an investigation is ongoing.

The two illegal workers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. They pleaded guilty to the charge and were each sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese female was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and one count of remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully. She was sentenced to 12 months' and 15 months' imprisonment respectively. All sentences are to run concurrently for a total of 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screenings on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

June 2020 adjustment in ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department today (May 21) announced an adjustment to the auto-LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations from June 1 to June 30, 2020, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts of the dedicated LPG filling stations.

A department spokesman said that the adjustment on June 1, 2020, reflects the movement of the LPG international price in May 2020. The adjusted auto-LPG ceiling prices for dedicated LPG filling stations will range from \$2.57 to \$3.13 per litre, representing an increase of \$0.44 per litre.

The spokesman said that the auto-LPG ceiling prices were adjusted according to a specified pricing formula. The formula comprises two elements – the LPG international price and the LPG operating price. The LPG international price is the LPG international price of the preceding month. The LPG operating price is adjusted on the first day of February every year according to the movement in the Composite Consumer Price Index in the previous year.

The auto-LPG ceiling prices for respective dedicated LPG filling stations in June 2020 are as follows:

Location of Dedicated LPG Filling Station	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in June 2020 (HK\$/litre)	Auto-LPG Ceiling Price in May 2020 (HK\$/litre)
Fung Yip Street, Chai Wan	3.13	2.69
Ngo Cheung Road, West Kowloon	3.13	2.69
Sham Mong Road, Mei Foo	2.79	2.35
Yip Wong Road, Tuen Mun	2.79	2.35
Marsh Road, Wan Chai	2.78	2.34
Fung Mat Road, Sheung Wan	2.71	2.27
Wai Lok Street, Kwun Tong	2.71	2.27
Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po	2.71	2.27
Cheung Yip Street, Kowloon Bay	2.76	2.32
Kwai On Road, Kwai Chung	2.76	2.32
Hang Yiu Street, Ma On Shan	2.57	2.13
Tak Yip Street, Yuen Long	2.57	2.13

The spokesman said that the details of the LPG international price and the auto-LPG ceiling price of each dedicated LPG filling station have been uploaded to the department website www.emsd.gov.hk. They are also posted at dedicated LPG filling stations to enable the trades to monitor the price adjustment.

Details of the pricing adjustment mechanism for dedicated LPG filling stations can also be viewed under the "What's New" section of the department website at www.emsd.gov.hk/en/what_s_new/current/index.html.

[Ombudsman probes maintenance and repair of playgrounds in public rental housing estates \(with photo\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Ms Winnie Chiu, today (May 21) announced a direct investigation to examine the maintenance and repair of playgrounds in public rental housing (PRH) estates to identify any areas for improvement.

There were over 4 500 playground facilities in the PRH estates managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) as at January 2019. In recent years, there have been reports about many play/fitness facilities in PRH estates

being in a state of disrepair. There has also been a delay in repairing some facilities, rendering them unavailable to PRH residents for a prolonged period. Many people also find the design of playground facilities in PRH estates to be outdated and uninspired, falling short of meeting the public's demand for engaging outdoor leisure and fitness equipment.

Currently, most playgrounds in PRH estates use multi-play equipment and movable parts to provide recreational/fitness options. Under the HA's policy, such facilities must be installed and repaired by the agents on the Housing Authority Play/Fitness Equipment Agents Reference List (the List). For day-to-day management matters, the Housing Department (HD) conducts routine inspections of the facilities in PRH estates. Under the existing mechanism, the HD will notify works staff and the agents concerned of any damages found so that staff can carry out inspections and repairs. In case any facilities need replacement, the HD will request the agents on the List to provide information and suggestions on available products for the consideration of the relevant Estate Management Advisory Committee and then invite tenders.

"In Hong Kong, PRH estates accommodate a large number of residents, and the playground facilities in those estates serve as the major outdoor pleasure area for the residents in the neighbourhood. Hence, the provision and safety of these facilities are crucial. This direct investigation will examine the mechanism for the maintenance and repair of playground facilities in PRH estates, which includes the HD's procedures for routine inspections and the HA's monitoring of agents' performance. Playground facilities to be examined include both play equipment in children's playgrounds and fitness equipment. We intend to explore ways to improve the standards of playgrounds in PRH estates in general," Ms Chiu said.

The Ombudsman now invites members of the public to provide their views on the above topic in writing to the Office of The Ombudsman by June 21, 2020:

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