

“Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Property Management Sector” under “Anti-epidemic Fund” continues to disburse subsidies

A Government spokesman today (April 2) said that the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA), which has been commissioned to implement the "Anti-epidemic Support Scheme for Property Management Sector" (ASPM), has been receiving more applications from property management (PM) companies or owners' organisations. As of April 1, the PMSA has received about 2 500 applications, covering about 20 000 frontline PM workers. The PMSA also notes that applications from more large residential estates are now under preparation and will soon be submitted. The PMSA is proactively speeding up the examination and approval work, with a view to disbursing the subsidies earlier, such that frontline PM workers, PM companies or owners' organisations, and residents can benefit from the scheme as soon as practicable. 315 applications have already been approved, involving subsidies of around \$8.7 million and benefiting over 2 000 building blocks. The name of the properties for which applications have been approved has been uploaded to the website of the PMSA.

"The application deadline for the ASPM is April 15. Eligible PM companies or owners' organisations should submit the applications for their respective properties and the frontline PM workers they engage as soon as practicable. There is no need for individual frontline PM workers to make the application, so as to save them from the additional burden in preparing the relevant documents," the Government spokesman emphasised.

The stepping up of the cleansing efforts in residential buildings is crucial to minimising the risks of virus infection and spreading in local community. The frontline PM workers serving these private residential buildings have been under immense pressure. Their workload has been increasing substantially and they are facing much higher health risks given their very frequent contacts with residents during their daily work. Some of them may even be working in buildings with residents under 'home quarantine'. The additional cleansing efforts have created imminent burdens to PM companies and owners' organisations. Through the ASPM, we would provide urgent financial support to the frontline PM workers, and PM companies or owners' organisations, so as to help them better cope with the present public health challenge and would directly benefit the residents in Hong Kong. Each residential and composite (i.e. commercial cum residential) building block may receive a maximum subsidy of \$26,000 under the ASPM.

For details on the ASPM, please contact the PMSA at 3696 1156 or 3696 1166, or visit the website of the PMSA (www.pmsahk.org.hk/en/index.html).