

[Fraudulent websites 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 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.

[Two illegal workers jailed](#)

Two illegal workers comprising a Bangladeshi and a Vietnamese were jailed at Shatin Magistrates' Courts and Fanling Magistrates' Courts on November 16 and 17 respectively.

Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators received a referral from the Hong Kong Police Force to further investigate an illegal employment case in May. Enforcement officers arrested a male Bangladeshi illegal worker, aged 31, who was found conveying goods in Kwai Chung. 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 arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

In addition, during an anti-illegal worker operation mounted on November 15, ImmD investigators raided a restaurant in Tsuen Wan. A female Vietnamese illegal worker, aged 46, was arrested. When intercepted, she was working as dishwashing worker. Upon identity checking, she produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. She was also suspected of using and being in possession of a forged identity card. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The two illegal workers were charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts and Fanling Magistrates' Courts on November 16 and 17 respectively 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 were sentenced to 22 months and two weeks and 15 months' imprisonment respectively. In addition, the female Vietnamese illegal worker was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 16 months' imprisonment.

The 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. 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 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 screening of 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 threat 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 interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Phishing email related to Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 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 the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on 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 email concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the email 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.

Re-appointment of Chairman of MTR Corporation Limited

The Government announced today (November 19) that, in accordance with the Articles of Association of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and as the majority shareholder, the Financial Secretary Incorporated has re-appointed Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang the Chairman of the board of directors of the Corporation for six months.

The re-appointment of Professor Ma will take effect from January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2019. Professor Ma was first appointed as Chairman of the board of directors of the MTRCL in January 2016.

The Government is identifying a suitable candidate to succeed Professor Ma as the Chairman of the board of directors of the MTRCL and will announce the appointment at an appropriate time.

Territory-wide anti-illegal road racing operation concludes

Police conducted a territory-wide operation between November 10 and November 18 to combat illegal road racing activities and related speeding offences to reduce traffic accidents.

During the operation, Police arrested 11 persons for dangerous driving and speeding, and detained 95 vehicles for examination. Police detected 4,392 vehicles for speeding, and issued 58 summonses and 2,586 fixed penalty tickets for various traffic offences.

In addition, Police conducted screening breath test on 251 drivers. Among them, 39 drivers were unable to pass the screening breath test and were arrested.

Police appeal to motorists to be responsible and safe road users. They are urged not to speed or drive after consuming alcohol. Convicted offenders will be liable to a fine, have their driving licenses suspended or sentenced to imprisonment. Police will continue to target dangerous and careless driving behaviours.