

Red flag hoisted at Silverstrand Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (November 7) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Chief Secretary clears air on Hong Kong's human rights situation at UN Forum (with photo)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) held a review meeting in Geneva, Switzerland today (November 6, Geneva time) to consider China's third report, which covers the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Macao Special Administrative Region.

A team of HKSAR Government officials, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, attended the meeting as members of the China delegation.

Mr Cheung spoke at the meeting in his capacity as the Deputy Head of Delegation led by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Le Yucheng.

Some 150 Member States spoke at the meeting today and eight of them gave oral comments and four submitted written comments on the report submitted by the HKSAR.

In response to concerns and questions raised by Member States, Mr Cheung reiterated that Hong Kong enjoyed a high degree of autonomy under "one country, two systems" and that fundamental rights and freedoms were all guaranteed by the Basic Law.

"Recent concerns over some aspects of Hong Kong's human rights situation are unwarranted, unfounded and unsubstantiated. They arise from misconception and a lack of understanding of our real situation," he stressed.

"We are firmly committed to protecting press freedom. We do not exercise any censorship.

"On a recent work visa extension case, we will not comment on any specific decision on our immigration control. All such decisions are made by our immigration authorities under the laws and prevailing policies, having regard to individual circumstances of each case.

"Any concerns that Hong Kong's freedom of speech and of the press is under threat are totally groundless. On the contrary, we maintain an environment conducive to the operation of a free and active press. Some 80 foreign media organisations operate in Hong Kong and rigorously perform their role as a watchdog," Mr Cheung emphasised.

Speaking on the eligibility for running in the Legislative Council election, Mr Cheung pointed out that "Article 1 of the Basic Law stipulates that HKSAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China."

"HKSAR has the duty to safeguard our country's sovereignty, security and development interests. A person who promotes 'Hong Kong independence' or 'self-determination' or advocates independence as an option cannot uphold the Basic Law and swear allegiance to HKSAR," he emphasised.

Mr Cheung said that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress had the ultimate authority to interpret the Basic Law under Article 158. The Court of Final Appeal agreed that the Standing Committee's interpretation was valid and binding on our courts. As for Article 104 relating to oath-taking when assuming specified public offices, the Standing Committee's interpretation simply explained clearly the meaning of that Article without changing its content.

Whilst the HKSAR Government would not comment further on the decision to ban an organisation under the Societies Ordinance as appeal has been lodged, Mr Cheung pointed out that "Hong Kong people do enjoy freedom of association and expression but, like any other jurisdictions, such freedom is not absolute. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that restrictions may be imposed by law if this is necessary to protect national security or public safety, public order, or the rights and freedoms of others. This is mirrored in the Hong Kong Bill of Rights."

Mr Cheung took the opportunity to dispel the misunderstanding that some protesters were targeted for exercising their civil rights.

"I must clarify that these protesters were convicted not because of their beliefs or their exercising civil rights, but because of their disorderly or violent conduct in breach of the law. They have crossed the line separating the lawful exercise of constitutional rights from unlawful activities subject to sanctions," Mr Cheung explained.

"I must say that the number of public meetings and processions in Hong Kong last year was ten times over 1997, and the overwhelming majority of

these activities were orderly and peaceful. This demonstrates that freedom of peaceful assembly is fully respected," Mr Cheung said.

On speculations of authorities of other jurisdictions taking law enforcement actions in Hong Kong, Mr Cheung said that the Hong Kong Police had investigated and found no evidence in support of such claims.

The UN Working Group meeting noted that since the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, Hong Kong had remained the world's freest economy, a vibrant international financial and business centre, a thriving logistics and tourism hub, as well as one of the safest cities in the world.

"We are committed to building a caring and fair Hong Kong, with the Government investing heavily in education, medical services, welfare, infrastructure, poverty alleviation and helping the ethnic minorities.

"Such remarkable achievements are underpinned by our core values and unique institutional strengths which make Hong Kong tick. Hong Kong will continue to forge ahead as Asia's world city with openness, inclusiveness and diversity under the successful, innovative and well-tried 'one country, two systems'," Mr Cheung highlighted.

The delegation will attend the meeting to be held on November 9 when the report on China will be adopted by the UNHRC Working Group.

The human rights situation in Hong Kong was reported to the Working Group during the review meeting.

The meeting noted that since the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, the HKSAR Government "has been implementing 'one country, two systems' and 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' under a high degree of autonomy in strict accordance with the Basic Law of the HKSAR and with the full support of the Central People's Government."

The rule of law, executive, legislative and independent judicial power and power of final adjudication, as well as human rights and freedom are all fully guaranteed by the Basic Law. Hong Kong has been ranked as the world's most open and freest economy for many years. Such achievement is underpinned by HKSAR's strengths such as the fine tradition of rule of law, a free and open market, an efficient public sector and a robust institutional framework.

The Working Group also noted that, alongside with the promotion of economic development, the HKSAR Government had devoted significant resources to education, poverty alleviation, helping the disadvantaged, caring for children and support for the ethnic minorities, with a view to building a caring, equitable, inclusive and "people-oriented" society. All these bear strong testimony to the successful implementation of "one country, two systems", the achievements of which are widely recognised.



[Response by CS at UNHRC Universal Periodic Review meeting](#)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, attended the meeting under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council today (November 6, Geneva time) in Geneva, Switzerland. Following is the response made by Mr Cheung at the meeting:

Mr President,

Human rights in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are fully protected by the Basic Law, Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance and other laws. The rule of law, an independent judiciary and freedom of speech are amongst Hong Kong's core values.

Recent concerns over some aspects of our human rights situation are unwarranted, unfounded and unsubstantiated. They arise from misconception and a lack of understanding of our real situation. Let me explain.

Under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy. Fundamental rights and freedoms are all guaranteed by the Basic Law.

We are firmly committed to protecting press freedom. We do not exercise any censorship. On a recent work visa extension case, we will not comment on any specific decision on our immigration control. All such decisions are made by our immigration authorities under the laws and prevailing policies, having regard to individual circumstances of each case. Any concerns that Hong Kong's freedom of speech and of the press is under threat are totally groundless. On the contrary, we maintain an environment conducive to the operation of a free and active press. Some 80 foreign media organisations operate in Hong Kong and rigorously perform their role as a watchdog.

As for the eligibility for running in the Legislative Council election, upholding the Basic Law and swearing allegiance to HKSAR is a basic legal duty of a legislator. One cannot do so if one promotes "Hong Kong independence" or "self-determination" or advocates independence as an option. These run counter to the constitutional and legal status of Hong Kong SAR. Article 1 of the Basic Law stipulates that Hong Kong SAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. It is our duty to safeguard our country's sovereignty, security and development interests.

On speculations of authorities of other jurisdictions taking law enforcement actions in Hong Kong, our Police have investigated and found no evidence in support of such claims.

On the decision to ban an organisation under the Societies Ordinance, as an appeal has been lodged, we will not comment further. But let me stress that Hong Kong people do enjoy freedom of association and expression but, like any other jurisdictions, such freedom is not absolute. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides that restrictions may be imposed by law if this is necessary to protect national security or public safety, public order, or the rights and freedoms of others. This is mirrored in the Hong Kong Bill of Rights.

On the misunderstanding that some protesters were targeted for exercising their civil rights, I must clarify that these protesters were convicted not because of their beliefs or their exercising civil rights, but because of their disorderly or violent conduct in breach of the law. They have crossed the line separating the lawful exercise of constitutional rights from unlawful activities subject to sanctions. I must say that the number of public meetings and processions in Hong Kong last year was ten times over 1997, and the overwhelming majority of these activities were orderly and peaceful. This demonstrates that freedom of peaceful assembly is fully respected.

On interpretation of the Basic Law, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (the Standing Committee) has the ultimate authority to do so under Article 158 of the Basic Law. This is part of our constitutional order. Our Court of Final Appeal agrees that the Standing Committee's interpretation is valid and binding on our courts.

As for Article 104 relating to oath-taking when assuming specified public offices, the Standing Committee's interpretation simply explains clearly the meaning of that Article without changing its content.

Since the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 1997, Hong Kong has remained the world's freest economy, a vibrant international financial and business centre, a thriving logistics and tourism hub, as well as one of the safest cities in the world. We are committed to building a caring and fair Hong Kong, with the Government investing heavily in education, medical services, welfare, infrastructure, poverty alleviation and helping the ethnic minorities. These remarkable achievements are underpinned by our core values and unique institutional strengths which make

Hong Kong tick.

Mr President, Hong Kong will continue to forge ahead as Asia's world city with openness, inclusiveness and diversity under the successful, innovative, and well-trying "one country, two systems". Thank you.

Death on arrival case in Cheung Sha Wan reclassified as manslaughter

Police today (November 6) reclassified a death on arrival case in Cheung Sha Wan as manslaughter.

At about 7.50am yesterday (November 5), Police received a report from a male staff of a hospital in Cheung Sha Wan in which a 41-year-old male patient was found lying on the floor in the bathroom of a ward at about 9.00pm on November 4. Sustaining head and face injuries, he was rushed to Princess Margaret Hospital in conscious state and was subsequently certified dead at 2.15am on November 5.

Police's investigations revealed that the deceased was pushed by a male patient in the bathroom of the ward in the evening of November 4.

Police arrested the 33-year-old male patient for manslaughter in Cheung Sha Wan this afternoon. He is being detained for further enquiries.

Post-mortem examinations will be conducted later to ascertain the cause of death of the deceased.

Investigation by the District Crime Squad of Sham Shui Po District is underway.

Second-day auction results for Victoria Park Lunar New Year Fair stalls

A total of 86 dry goods stalls and eight thematic stalls were successfully let on the second day auction for stalls at the 2019 Victoria

Park Lunar New Year Fair today (November 6).

Around 480 people attended the auction at the Assembly Hall, Lai Chi Kok Government Offices, 19 Lai Wan Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, from 9am to 6pm today, a spokesman for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department said.

The average bid price for the dry goods stalls today was \$26,630, with the successful bids ranging from \$14,230 to \$80,000. The highest bid, \$80,000, was about 5.6 times the opening price of \$14,230.

The successful bids of the eight thematic stalls ranged from \$70,700 to \$76,500 with an average of \$73,313, against an opening price of \$41,650.

The auction for the remaining 196 dry goods stalls will be held at 9am tomorrow (November 7) and on Thursday (November 8) at the same venue.

The spokesman reminded the successful bidders to comply with all the stipulations and provisions as set out in the licence agreement. Otherwise, the department is entitled to terminate the agreement and the licensee shall immediately vacate the stall.