

## **Effective Exchange Rate Index**

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Thursday, October 18, 2018 is 105.5 (up 0.3 against Tuesday's index).

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## **Approval Letters to be issued under White Form Secondary Market Scheme 2018**

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

Following the ballot for the White Form Secondary Market Scheme 2018 on July 30, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has completed detailed vetting on the eligibility of the applicants. Approval Letters to the 2 500 successful applicants (2 250 family applicants and 250 one-person applicants) will be issued tomorrow (October 19).

"Each successful applicant will be issued two Approval Letters for the HA's Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Secondary Market and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS)'s Flat-for-Sale Scheme (FFSS) Secondary Market respectively. Within two weeks from the date of issue, holders of the Approval Letters may apply for the Certificate of Eligibility to Purchase (CEP) from the HA and/or the HS to purchase a flat with premium not yet paid on the HA's HOS Secondary Market or the HS's FFSS Secondary Market. The fee for each CEP is \$770," a spokesman for the HA said.

"The CEP is valid for 12 months from the date of issue and no extension will be granted upon its expiry. To complete the transaction, holders of the CEP need to apply for a Letter of Nomination from the HA or the HS after they have entered into a Provisional Agreement for Sale and Purchase," he said.

The list of successful applications will be uploaded to the HA/Housing Department website ([www.housingauthority.gov.hk](http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk)) tomorrow.

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## **Special traffic and transport**

## arrangements in Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai North this Sunday

The Transport Department (TD) today (October 18) reminded the public that special traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented in Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai North this Saturday and Sunday (October 20 and 21) to facilitate the holding of the Cross Harbour Race 2018.

The special traffic and transport arrangements mainly include:

- \* Expo Drive East outside Golden Bauhinia Square (including the pick-up/drop-off area) will be temporarily closed from about 1.30am to 2pm on October 21;
- \* Landing steps No. 1 to 3 and No. 6 of Kowloon Public Pier and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre Landing will be suspended from about 9am on October 20 to 10.30am on October 21; and
- \* Ferry services plying between Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai will be suspended from about 7.30am to 10.30am on October 21, subject to the actual re-opening time of the harbour.

Motorists are advised to avoid driving to the affected areas. In case of traffic congestion, motorists should exercise tolerance and patience, and follow the instructions of the Police. Members of the public planning to go to the affected area are advised to use public transport as far as possible.

The TD and the Police will closely monitor the traffic situation and implement appropriate measures whenever necessary. Members of public are advised to stay alert to the latest traffic news on radio and television.

Details of the special traffic and transport arrangements are now available on the TD's website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).

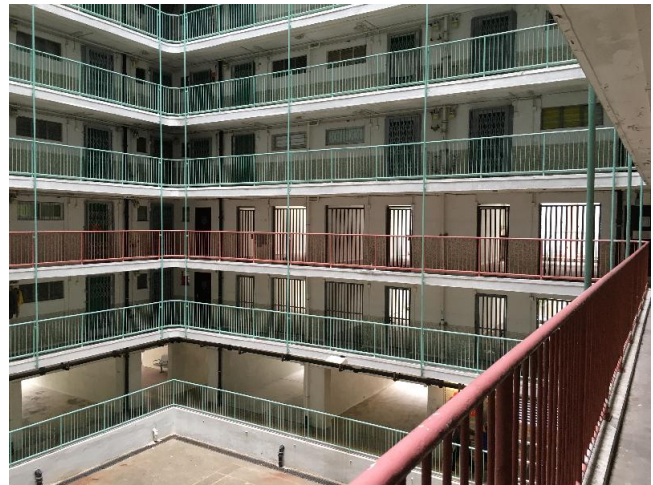
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## Office of The Ombudsman press conference (with photos)

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

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, held a press conference this morning (October 18) to announce the results of a direct investigation report on "Housing Department's Arrangement for Using Idle Spaces in Public Housing Estates" and a full investigation report on "Transport Department's Improper

Arrangement for Implementation of Two-way Toll Collection at the Lantau Link That Caused Serious Traffic Congestion". The reports are available on the Office of The Ombudsman's website: [ofomb.ombudsman.hk/abc/en-us/news](http://ofomb.ombudsman.hk/abc/en-us/news).



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## [LegCo Finance Committee meeting](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The meeting of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Finance Committee originally scheduled at 3pm tomorrow (October 19) in Conference Room 1 of the LegCo Complex will start at 3.15pm.