

Acting SLW sends regards to welfare personnel for support to users after typhoon (with photos)

The Acting Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Caspar Tsui, sent his regards to personnel of welfare service units and district staff of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (September 18) for their commitment and duty during the passage of the typhoon, serving members of the public and service users in need with key community support.

Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern and Wan Chai), Miss Hannah Yip, Mr Tsui went to St James' Settlement in Wan Chai this afternoon to learn more about its contingency arrangements on staff deployment as well as elderly day care and meal delivery services during the passage of Super Typhoon Mangkhut. He noted that the SWD had reminded all District Elderly Community Centres to pay special attention to the needs of the hidden elderly and those living alone during the typhoon period.

He also visited its child care centre in Causeway Bay to show support to social workers and care staff. He thanked them for providing child care services for needy working parents.

Mr Tsui said that district colleagues of the SWD and its Emergency Relief Support Unit have been actively involved in the emergency relief support services across the territory during the typhoon, as well as maintaining close liaison with social welfare organisations and their front-line units before and after the passage of the typhoon to provide necessary services as far as possible, weather and actual situation permitting. He expressed gratitude for the professionalism of front-line personnel as they provided necessary support when public transport services had yet to return to normal.



[TCU's second quarterly report of 2018 released](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The Transport Complaints Unit (TCU) of the Transport Advisory Committee received 6 816 complaints and suggestions in the second quarter of 2018, with 46 pure suggestions. The total number of cases represents an increase of 23 per cent as compared with 5 543 cases in the previous quarter and an increase of 5.4 per cent when compared with 6 466 cases in the same quarter of 2017.

The complaints and suggestions received during the quarter were mostly related to public transport services (87 per cent), enforcement matters (10 per cent) and traffic conditions (1 per cent).

The number of cases on public transport services increased by 23.2 per cent from 4 811 in the previous quarter to 5 929 this quarter, while complaints and suggestions on traffic conditions increased from 106 to 114. Cases about road maintenance decreased from 29 to 26 and the number of complaints about illegal parking and other enforcement matters increased from 569 to 711.

All the complaints and suggestions received by the TCU in the quarter were referred to the relevant government departments and public transport operators for follow-up action.

During the period under review, investigations into 6 023 cases were completed. Of these, 4 242 cases (70 per cent) were found to be substantiated, 60 cases (1 per cent) were unsubstantiated, and the remaining 1 721 cases (29 per cent) could not be pursued due to lack of evidence.

For the substantiated cases, the relevant government departments and public transport operators have either taken steps to rectify the situation or are considering possible solutions to the problems identified.

During the quarter, the relevant government departments and public transport operators took on board 13 suggestions made by the public to enhance public transport services and improve traffic conditions. A summary of the cases is in the Appendix.

Members of the public may make their suggestions or complaints to the TCU by dialling the hotline 2889 9999 (voice mail service is available outside office hours), by fax to 2577 1858, by email to info@tcu.gov.hk or by filling in a form on the TCU website (www.info.gov.hk/tcu).

[TAC briefed on operating arrangements for Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-](#)

Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) was briefed today (September 18) by the Government on the operating arrangements for the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

The XRL will commence operation on September 23. It will connect with the national high-speed rail network, offering direct trains to 44 destinations. During the early stage of commissioning of the XRL, there will be 114 pairs of short-haul trains daily during peak periods. As for weekdays and weekends (i.e. Friday to Sunday), there will be 70 and 82 train pairs respectively. Subject to the market demand, the train schedule can be adjusted based on patronage. There will also be 13 pairs of direct long-haul trains daily.

The TAC Chairman, Mr Larry Kwok, said, "Members note that the XRL will not only provide a faster and more convenient means of cross-boundary transport to and from the Mainland for people in Hong Kong, but also strengthen links between Hong Kong and the Mainland. It will foster commercial and cultural exchanges between Hong Kong and major cities in the Mainland. As an important part of transport network with high connectivity in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the XRL will enhance the strategic role of Hong Kong as the regional transport hub. With more and more Hong Kong people working, conducting business, studying and retiring in the Mainland, the commissioning of the XRL can enhance long-term development opportunities for promoting sustainable growth in trades including tourism, commerce and professional services, which will bring out enormous economic and social benefits."

The TAC was briefed on the train schedule for short-haul and long-haul services, fares and ticket purchase arrangements, traffic and public transport arrangements to and from the West Kowloon Station, station facilities and more. In addition, the TAC Members also noted that the Government, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) have signed legal documents to vest the land or interests or other rights in respect of land for the operation of the XRL, and assigned the movable assets of the XRL to the KCRC. The KCRC has formally granted the operating right of the XRL to the MTRCL for 10 years according to the Supplemental Service Concession Agreement.

Coin Collection Programme

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (September 18) announces a new service schedule of the two Coin Carts under the Coin Collection Programme, for the period of October 29 to December 30. The schedule and other details of the Programme are shown on the HKMA webpage (coincollection.hkma.gov.hk).

Since the launch of the Programme in October 2014, the two Coin Carts have completed 21 cycles of serving the 18 districts on August 26, 2018. The Carts had carried out 480 000 transactions, collecting 399 million coins with a total face value of HK\$547 million during the period. The collected coins are re-circulated to meet demand.

The Coin Carts provide service at locations that are convenient to the public without affecting the normal flow of traffic and pedestrians. Locations that have suitable power supply facilities, such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department mobile library service locations, are preferred so as to reduce the need for using the Coin Carts' own stand-by generators. This makes the Programme more environmentally friendly. In selecting the service locations, the HKMA has taken into consideration comments and suggestions given by district councils and members of public; and has consulted the Transport Department and the Hong Kong Police Force as necessary.

The two Coin Carts collect coins from members of public in the 18 districts of Hong Kong on a rotating basis. Under normal circumstances each Coin Cart will stay at a location for a week, subject to availability of the parking space and the maintenance schedule of the Cart. Service hours are from 10am to 7pm. Each vehicle is equipped with two coin counting machines and operational staff will be present to provide assistance. An electrical wheelchair lift is available for use. Users can choose to exchange coins for banknotes or adding value to their stored value facilities, such as Octopus Cards or e-wallets (including AlipayHK, Octopus 0! ePay, Tap&Go, TNG Wallet and WeChat Pay). There is also a Community Chest donation box inside each vehicle. The coin collection service is free of charge.

The HKMA will review the Programme from time and time and regularly update the service schedule to give advance notice to the public.

Diets and physical activity of preschool students show improvements

The Department of Health (DH) today (September 18) announced that the results of the Survey on Healthy Lifestyle of Preschool Students 2016/17 were satisfactory, with findings showing that lower class students of full-day classes at kindergartens and child care centres had been served an average of

1.2 servings of fruit, two servings of vegetables and 3.1 glasses of water, as well as conducted an average of 120 minutes of physical activity per day.

The DH also announced the launch of the Healthy Drinks at School Charter, which aims to enhance the school culture conducive to healthy eating and reduce the sugar intake of preschool students.

The Survey was conducted between November 2016 and March 2017, during which 380 schools and 3,639 parents of lower class students were interviewed to assess the diets and physical activity of preschool students during and after school. Most of the interviewed kindergartens and child care centres provided a conducive environment to healthy eating and physical activity for preschool students. Over 60 per cent had formulated a healthy eating school policy while around 80 per cent had formulated a physical activity school policy.

The Assistant Director of Health (Health Promotion), Dr Anne Fung, at a press conference today said, "Compared to a similar survey conducted by the DH in 2013, kindergartens and child care centres provided fewer instant drinks (not including milk formula) and used food as rewards for preschool students less frequently. However, more than half of the interviewed kindergartens and child care centres still provided full-cream or sweetened dairy products for their students. Fifty-one per cent provided instant drinks (not including milk formula) (a drop of 16 per cent compared to the 2013 survey), with half of them adding full-cream or other sweetened dairy products (49 per cent) or sugar (24 per cent) to those drinks. Forty-five per cent of staff members had used food such as biscuits, cookies, sweets and chocolate as rewards (a drop of 19 per cent compared to the 2013 survey)."

To reduce the sugar intake of preschool students from drinks, the DH has launched the Healthy Drinks at School Charter to be implemented from the 2018/19 school year. Kindergartens and child care centres signing the Charter, which is valid for three school years, have committed to encouraging young children to drink water and to make healthy drinks available to them. They have also vowed not to provide drinks with added sugar or with a relatively high sugar content, and not to use food as a reward. So far more than 300 kindergartens and child care centres have signed the Charter.

Dr Fung pointed out that excessive intake of sugar not only increases the risk of overweight and obesity in children, but also their chance of suffering from tooth decay. Children having sugary drinks will even develop a sweet tooth, which in turn hinders the development of a healthy eating habit. In addition, unhealthy foods with high sugar, high salt or high fat are usually used as rewards. She expressed the hope that the Charter can help create and enhance a school environment and culture conducive to healthy eating, as well as promote healthy drinks at school, thus urging more kindergartens and child care centres to sign the Charter.

The survey also found that parents' knowledge on healthy eating and physical activity for preschool students requires improvement. Less than half of the interviewed parents knew that children aged 4 to 6 years should

consume at least two servings of fruit per day, while only 15 per cent knew that children aged 2 to 6 years should perform at least 180 minutes of physical activity each day. On the other hand, 79 per cent parents knew about restriction of screen time for preschool students (an increase of 17 per cent compared to the 2013 survey), and the median duration of preschool students' screen-time activity had been reduced from 80 minutes to 60 minutes.

Dr Fung noted that 94 per cent of preschool students had not consumed enough fruit and vegetables and over 70 per cent had less than 180 minutes of physical activity per day, while over 40 per cent of parents had used food as rewards. She advised parents to pay attention to their children's daily intake of fruit and vegetables and whether they have performed sufficient physical activity. Parents should use rewards such as verbal encouragement or applause, or give extra parent-child activity time or offer small school supplies to their children instead of food, to ensure their healthy development.

She added, "Compared to students in full-day classes, those in half-day classes were served less fruit and vegetables in kindergartens and child care centres and performed less physical activity per day. Parents of students in half-day classes should pay special attention since the diets and physical activity of these students are mainly arranged by their family."

To combat the threat of non-communicable diseases, the Government this year announced "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong", setting out nine local targets to be achieved by 2025, which include halting the rise in prevalence of raised blood pressure, diabetes and obesity as well as attaining a 30 per cent relative reduction in mean population daily intake of salt/sodium. The DH will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to promote the adoption of healthy eating habits by the public to achieve the targets.

The survey results also revealed that the kindergartens and child care centres which had joined the StartSmart@school.hk Campaign (SSS Campaign) of the DH performed better in promoting healthy diet and physical activity at school than those that had not joined the campaign. Over 60 per cent of parents agreed that the SSS Campaign had enhanced their knowledge and concern on healthy eating and physical activity, and was effective in enhancing healthy eating and physical activity among their children.

Dr Fung said that the DH will continue to empower schools, school staff and parents in promoting healthy eating and physical activity by strengthening co-operation with kindergartens, child care centres and school sponsoring bodies through the SSS Campaign. A series of education materials such as videos and posters will also be produced.

The Controller of the Centre of Health Protection of the DH, Dr Wong Ka-hing, presented certificates of appreciation to representatives of 10 task force members of the SSS Campaign for their support and contribution to the Healthy Drinks at School Charter.

The territory-wide SSS Campaign was launched by the DH, the Education Bureau and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2012, and is targeted at children aged 2 to 6 years. Using effective health education resources and training targeting kindergartens and child care centres, it aims to encourage and support parents and caregivers to create conducive environments to healthy eating and physical activity for preschool students in the school and at home, and to help preschool students cultivate a sustainable healthy lifestyle.

The public is welcome to visit the StartSmart@school.hk Campaign website (www.startsmart.gov.hk) to learn more about the Healthy Drinks at School Charter and health tips for preschool students.