

Senior Police Call Fight Crime Vigour 2018 launches (with photos)

Police today (August 1) launched the Senior Police Call (SPC) Fight Crime Vigour publicity campaign to disseminate fight crime messages to the public.

In view of the recent crime trends and statistics of traffic accidents, Police deployed two SPC Fight Crime Vigour publicity trucks, with the themes of anti-deception and road safety, to visit 40 locations in the coming 10 days to remind the public to stay vigilant against deception and comply with road traffic regulations.

During the campaign, SPC members will distribute promotion leaflets at different stops, reminding members of the public, especially senior citizens, to stay calm and call the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre hotline (18222) when they receive suspicious calls or emails, and to follow traffic regulations.

In addition, thematic computer games and information booths are available on the publicity trucks for visitors to gain a better understanding of the relevant themes.

First launched in 2015, the SPC Fight Crime Vigour publicity trucks are deployed to promote the messages of anti-crime, anti-deception and road safety to the public, in particular to the elderly community.

For more information on the SPC Fight Crime Vigour publicity trucks, please visit the Facebook page of SPC.



HAD to open temporary night heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will open 18 temporary night heat shelters tonight (August 1) for people in need of the service.

The shelters will be open from 10.30pm until 8am tomorrow.

For further information, please call the department's enquiries hotline before midnight on 2835 1473.

The 18 night heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Districts:

Central and Western –
Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex,
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern/Wan Chai –
Causeway Bay Community Centre
Waiting Lobby, 3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –
Lei Tung Community Hall
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Kowloon Districts:

Kowloon City –
Hung Hom Community Hall
Multi-purpose Room, 1/F, Kowloon City Government Offices,
42 Bailey Street, Hung Hom

Kwun Tong –
Lam Tin (West) Estate Community Centre
71 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin

Sham Shui Po –
Shek Kip Mei Community Hall
G/F, Block 42, Shek Kip Mei Estate,
Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po

Wong Tai Sin –
Tsz Wan Shan (South) Estate Community Centre

Hall, G/F, 45 Wan Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan

Yau Tsim Mong –
Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei

New Territories Districts:

Islands –
Tung Chung Community Hall
G/F, Tung Chung Municipal Services Building,
39 Man Tung Road, Tung Chung

Kwai Tsing –
Kwai Shing Community Hall
Podium, Block 6, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung

North –
Cheung Wah Community Hall
Cheung Wah Estate, Fanling

Sai Kung –
Hang Hau Community Hall
G/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,
38 Pui Shing Road, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Sha Tin –
Lung Hang Estate Community Centre
Lung Hang Estate, Sha Tin

Tai Po –
Tai Po Community Centre
2 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po

Tsuen Wan –
Lei Muk Shue Community Hall
G/F, Hong Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Tsuen Wan

Tuen Mun –
Butterfly Bay Community Centre
Butterfly Estate (near Tip Sum House), Tuen Mun

Yuen Long –
Long Ping Community Hall
Long Ping Estate, Yuen Long

Yuen Long –
Tin Yiu Community Centre
Tin Yiu Estate, Tin Shui Wai

The temporary night heat shelters will resume their functions as either community centres or community halls in the daytime for hire by the local community and cannot continue to be open as heat shelters. People may choose to take refuge from the heat during the daytime in the common areas in any of the 21 designated community centres or community halls. Their opening hours are from 9am to 10pm. For addresses of the community centres or community halls, please browse the following webpage:

www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf.

Managers of unlicensed guesthouses convicted

Two men and a woman were charged with contravening the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (August 1). One man was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and the other man and the woman were fined \$10,000 and \$8,000.

The courts heard that in January and February this year, officers of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), the Home Affairs Department, inspected three suspected unlicensed guesthouses on Shanghai Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Nam Kok Road in Kowloon. During the inspections, the OLA officers posed as lodgers and successfully rented rooms in these guesthouses on a daily basis.

According to the OLA's records, these guesthouses did not possess licences under the Ordinance on the days of inspection. The men and the woman responsible for managing the premises were charged with contravening section 5(1) of the Ordinance.

A department spokesman stressed that operating or managing an unlicensed guesthouse is a criminal offence and will lead to a criminal record. Upon conviction, the offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The spokesman appealed to anyone with information about suspected unlicensed guesthouses to report it to the OLA through the hotline (Tel: 2881 7498), by email (hadlaeng@had.gov.hk), by fax (2504 5805) using the report form downloaded from the OLA website (www.hadla.gov.hk), or through the mobile application "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses".

Government strengthens control on commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory and bans its import and re-export

A spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) reminded the public today (August 1) that Step 2 of the three steps under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Amendment Ordinance) has come into effect. The import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory is banned and control on the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory has been strengthened to phase out the local ivory trade.

The spokesman said, "The Government is highly concerned over endangered species. Species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), including elephants, are regulated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance in Hong Kong. The first step of the plan, under which the import and re-export of elephant hunting trophies and post-Convention ivory have been banned, came into effect on May 1.

"Under Step 2 which has been implemented today, the import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory have been banned. Except for antique ivory, the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory in the local market is subject to the same licensing control as the one on post-Convention ivory. Generally, the AFCD will not issue a new Licence to Possess to non-registered pre-Convention ivory.

"The whole process will be completed by December 31, 2021, and the local trade in all ivory (except antique ivory) will be completely closed down."

Meanwhile, various departments, including the AFCD, the Customs and Excise Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, will continue to take vigorous enforcement action against smuggling and illegal trade in ivory.

The spokesman also reminded the public that the penalties for violating the Amendment Ordinance have been increased since May 1. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years. The specimens will also be forfeited upon conviction. For more details of the Amendment Ordinance and the control of endangered species, please visit www.cites.hk or call the AFCD on 1823.

Provisional statistics of retail sales for June 2018

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released the latest figures on retail sales today (August 1).

The value of total retail sales in June 2018, provisionally estimated at \$37.8 billion, increased by 12.0% over the same month in 2017. The revised estimate of the value of total retail sales in May 2018 increased by 12.9% over a year earlier. For the first half of 2018, it was provisionally estimated that the value of total retail sales increased by 13.4% over the same period in 2017.

After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales in June 2018 increased by 9.8% over a year earlier. The revised estimate of the volume of total retail sales in May 2018 increased by 11.5% over a year earlier. For the first half of 2018, the provisional estimate of the total retail sales increased by 11.8% in volume over the same period in 2017.

Analysed by broad type of retail outlet in descending order of the provisional estimate of the value of sales and comparing June 2018 with June 2017, the value of sales of jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts increased by 27.8%. This was followed by sales of commodities in supermarkets (+1.1% in value); wearing apparel (+5.4%); medicines and cosmetics (+18.3%); commodities in department stores (+15.0%); other consumer goods, not elsewhere classified (+14.9%); food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (+8.9%); electrical goods and other consumer durable goods, not elsewhere classified (+0.4%); motor vehicles and parts (+11.3%); fuels (+13.9%); footwear, allied products and other clothing accessories (+11.4%); furniture and fixtures (+8.9%); books, newspapers, stationery and gifts (+3.1%); Chinese drugs and herbs (+10.3%); and optical shops (+6.9%).

Based on the seasonally adjusted series, the provisional estimate of the value of total retail sales decreased by 0.2% in the second quarter of 2018 compared with the preceding quarter, while the provisional estimate of the volume of total retail sales decreased by 0.1%.

These retail sales statistics measure the sales receipts in respect of goods sold by local retail establishments and are primarily intended for gauging the short-term business performance of the local retail sector. They cover consumer spending on goods but not on services (such as those on housing, catering, medical care and health services, transport and communication, financial services, education and entertainment) which account for over 50% of the overall consumer spending. Moreover, they include spending on goods in Hong Kong by visitors but exclude spending outside Hong Kong by Hong Kong residents. Hence they should not be regarded as indicators for measuring overall consumer spending.

Users interested in the trend of overall consumer spending should refer to the data series of private consumption expenditure (PCE), which is a major component of the Gross Domestic Product published at quarterly intervals. Compiled from a wide range of data sources, PCE covers consumer spending on both goods (including goods purchased from all channels) and services by Hong Kong residents whether locally or abroad. Please refer to the C&SD publication "Gross Domestic Product (Quarterly)" for more details.

Commentary

A government spokesman indicated that retail sales value sustained double-digit growth over a year earlier in June, as local consumer sentiment stayed favourable amid a tight labour market while visitor arrivals continued to record solid growth.

Looking ahead, favourable job and income conditions and buoyant inbound tourism should continue to provide support to the retail sector in the near term. Yet, we need to closely monitor how the heightened external uncertainties might affect consumption sentiment going forward.

Further information

Table 1 presents the revised figures on value index and value of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet for May 2018 as well as the provisional figures for June 2018. The provisional figures on the value of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet as well as the corresponding year-on-year changes for the first half of 2018 are also shown.

Table 2 presents the revised figures on volume index of retail sales for all retail outlets and by broad type of retail outlet for May 2018 as well as the provisional figures for June 2018. The provisional figures on year-on-year changes for the first half of 2018 are also shown.

Table 3 shows the movements of the value and volume of total retail sales in terms of the year-on-year rate of change for a month compared with the same month in the preceding year based on the original series, and in terms of the rate of change for a three-month period compared with the preceding three-month period based on the seasonally adjusted series.

The classification of retail establishments follows the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC) Version 2.0, which is used in various economic surveys for classifying economic units into different industry classes.

More detailed statistics are given in the "Report on Monthly Survey of Retail Sales". Users can download this publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=B1080003). Alternatively, the historical series of retail sales statistics can be downloaded in the form of a statistical table at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp320.jsp?productCode=D5600089).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the
Distribution Services Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7400; Email :
mrs@censtatd.gov.hk)