

Labour Department highly concerned about fatal work accident today

The Labour Department (LD) is highly concerned about the work accident that happened at a residential estate in Ho Man Tin today (May 24), in which a worker fell down from the top of a water tank on the roof of a building and sustained fatal injury. The LD is saddened by the death of the worker and has expressed its deepest sympathy to the victim's family.

The LD's spokesman said, "We commenced immediate on-site investigation as soon as we were notified of the accident and will issue suspension notices to the contractors/employer involved to suspend all work activities at the water tank concerned. The contractors/employer cannot resume the work process until the LD is satisfied that measures to abate the relevant risk have been taken."

The spokesman added, "We will complete investigation as soon as possible to identify the cause of the accident, ascertain the liability of the duty holders and recommend improvement measures. We will take actions pursuant to the law if there is any violation of the work safety legislation."

The general duty provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance require employers to provide safe working environments, safe plant and safe systems of work for their employees. Those who contravene the above provisions are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for six months.

In regard to today's accident, the LD will issue a Work Safety Alert through its website and email, giving a brief account of the accident concerned to duty holders, workers' unions, professional bodies of safety practitioners and others, and reminding the industry of the importance of following safety precautionary measures to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.

The LD will also remind the employer concerned of the liability for employees' compensation under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, assist family members of the deceased to claim employees' compensation and closely follow up on the case. For those with financial difficulties, the LD will assist them to apply for appropriate emergency funds. Subject to the needs and wishes of family members of the deceased, the LD will also liaise with the Social Welfare Department for financial or other assistance.

For the sake of securing the safety and health of employees at work, the LD appeals to employers to provide plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health. Employees should co-operate with their employers, adopt all safety measures and use personal protective equipment provided properly to avoid endangering their own work safety and that of other workers.

[Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service visits depots of franchised bus operators \(with photos\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service:

The Chairman of the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service, Mr Justice Michael Lunn, and Members of the Committee Mr Rex Auyeung Pak-kuen and Professor Lo Hong-kam, visited the depots of New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited, two franchised bus operators, in Chai Wan today (May 24).

During the visit, Mr Justice Lunn, Mr Auyeung and Professor Lo sought to gain a better understanding of the operational management of franchised buses from the point of view of safety, including:

- daily checks and annual inspections of franchised buses to ensure their roadworthiness and safety;
- technical capabilities and use of tachographs and black boxes installed on franchised buses to monitor the driving behaviour of bus captains; and
- the deployment of the fleet of franchised buses by the 24-hour Operations Control Centre.

The Committee was appointed by the Chief Executive on March 13, 2018, following the fatal incident on Tai Po Road on February 10, 2018 and in light of other recent serious incidents involving franchised bus services, to conduct a comprehensive review of the operation and monitoring of franchised buses and to make recommendations on safety-related measures to ensure that franchised bus services in Hong Kong are safe and reliable.





Immigration Department combats Mainland visitors abusing transit arrangement for holders of PRC passports

Seven Mainland visitors were convicted of making false representation to Immigration Officers at Shatin Magistrates' Courts earlier and today (May 24).

To tackle abuse by Mainland visitors of the existing transit arrangement for holders of People's Republic of China (PRC) passports, the Immigration Department (ImmD) conducted an operation codenamed "Breakshadow" at Lo Wu Control Point, Lok Ma Chau Control Point, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point and Shenzhen Bay Control Point on April 17. During the operation, seven Mainland visitors, comprising three men and four women aged 24 to 54, were arrested. A total of six invalid onward flight tickets were also found in the operation. Upon arrival for immigration clearance, the Mainland visitors concerned falsely told Immigration Officers that they were transiting through Hong Kong to other countries. Upon further investigation by the ImmD, they admitted that their actual purpose of visit was not to transit via Hong Kong to other countries but sightseeing in Hong Kong.

All the arrestees were charged with making false representation to Immigration Officers. They all pleaded guilty and among them five were sentenced to five to six months' imprisonment. The other two arrestees were sentenced to four to six months' imprisonment suspended for 18 months to two years.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, under the laws of Hong Kong, any person who makes false representation to an Immigration Officer commits an offence. Offenders are liable to prosecution and, upon conviction, the maximum penalty will be a fine of \$150,000 and imprisonment for 14 years. In addition, if

Mainland visitors abuse the existing transit arrangement for holders of PRC passports by not departing for other countries or territories according to their original itinerary, relevant information will be recorded by the ImmD. Upon their next arrival, Immigration Officers at control points will conduct detailed examination before a decision to grant or refuse permission to land is made.

Transcript of remarks by FS (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session after attending Hong Kong Disneyland Welcome Party for "Moana: A Homecoming Celebration" this afternoon (May 24):

Reporter: Can you tell us more about the competitiveness of Hong Kong, as it dropped its ranking into number second, today?

Financial Secretary: The World Competitiveness Yearbook has published their ranking this year, and this year Hong Kong has slipped from the previous place one to place two. But we remain to be a very competitive economy because when compared to the one ranking in the first, that is the USA, the scores are very close.

In assessing the competitiveness of the economy, they look at four areas. One is economic performance, second is government effectiveness, the third one is business effectiveness and the fourth one is infrastructure. Our ranking in terms of business efficiency and government efficiency, we still ranked number one.

In terms of economic performance, as you know we did very well last year, but in the US last year President Trump announced cutting profits tax and also boosting investment in infrastructure. So in terms of business sentiment, the business sentiment in the US according to the surveys with the business sectors there, they rank before us.

The second area that we are a little behind is in terms of infrastructure. It is not the usual infrastructure like transportation, but technological infrastructure and scientific infrastructure. As you may have seen in the past two years we have devoted substantial resources in innovation and technology, with a view to improving our infrastructure and the ecosystem. We are working very hard on that. We will continue to invest on that and work very hard to enhance the overall infrastructure of Hong Kong in terms of technology, in terms of attracting people and in terms of building a better ecosystem for the innovation and technology sector.

On economic performance, perhaps one point I should supplement is that

our unemployment rate has been coming down – 2.8 per cent – in other words it's full employment. It is not just that. It also reflects a very tight supply in terms of the labour market, and this has, in a way, hurt us in terms of availability of manpower.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Cluster of Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter cases in Pok Oi Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Pok Oi Hospital (POH) made the following announcement today (May 24):

Three male patients, aged 57 to 89, in a Medical and Geriatric ward have been confirmed to have Multi-drug Resistant Acinetobacter (MDRA) since May 18. The patients are in a serious condition and are currently hospitalised under medical surveillance and isolation treatment.

The following enhanced infection and cleansing measures have already been adopted:

1. Enhance disinfection and cleansing of the ward concerned
2. Apply stringent contact precautions, including use of dedicated clinical equipment for MDRA carriers and enhance hand hygiene
3. Enhance attention to contamination-prone procedures

The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow up. The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the ward.