

Hospital Authority welcomes Policy Address

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Chairman of the Hospital Authority (HA), Professor John Leong, has welcomed the various healthcare initiatives in the "The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address" delivered by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Legislative Council today (October 10).

Professor Leong expressed gratitude to the Government for the commitment to enhance public healthcare services in various areas to address community needs. The triennium progressive funding arrangement introduced last year also allows the Authority to formulate proactive plans and sustained initiatives for the coming three years through medium-term strategies.

"To meet the challenges of the increasing demand and the ageing population, the HA needs to improve the infrastructure and facilities of public hospitals to augment our capacity. The redevelopment and expansion works of Kwai Chung Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and United Christian Hospital have commenced smoothly, while planning and preparation are under way for the expansion projects of North District Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital's Lai King Building," Professor Leong remarked.

"Hong Kong Children's Hospital, North Lantau Hospital and Tin Shui Wai Hospital will continue to expand their service capacity, and a total of around 500 hospital beds will be added in various public hospitals. At the same time, day hospital and ambulatory services will be enhanced."

To address community concerns towards the need to use ultra-expensive drugs by patients with uncommon disorders, Professor Leong said that a consultancy study is currently reviewing the means test systems of the Samaritan Fund and the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programme. He added that the HA will follow up on the recommendations of the Consultancy Report. "We look forward to using the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programme in supporting ultra-expensive drug treatments for spinal muscular atrophy patients before the end of this year. We will also strengthen multidisciplinary care for these patients," he said.

"To improve time-critical care and treatment for life-threatening diseases, the HA will improve the coverage of 24-hour intravenous stroke thrombolysis networking service for acute stroke patients to the remaining Kowloon Central and Kowloon West Clusters, 24-hour primary percutaneous coronary intervention services will also be extended to Hong Kong Island network and Kowloon East Cluster, and more haemodialysis places for renal patients will be added. We will also strengthen palliative care consultative services in three Clusters, apart from continuous support of terminally ill residents of elderly homes with Community Geriatric Assessment Team

services."

Professor Leong said he was delighted to learn that the Government will further develop Chinese medicine services to provide a more comprehensive range of healthcare services for Hong Kong. "To dovetail with the development, the HA will continue with the third phase of the pilot programme of Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine, and work together with the tripartite partners, i.e. the non-government organisations and the universities, in enhancing the Chinese medicine services for the 18 Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research," he said.

"The HA will also dovetail with the Government in promoting primary care by raising the General Outpatient Clinic quota by 99 000 in two years to alleviate pressure on Accident and Emergency services, and enhance the collaboration of Family Medicine with Surgery and Orthopaedics & Traumatology to better manage the waiting time of these Specialist Outpatient Clinics," Professor Leong said.

"The HA earlier restored the annual salary increment mechanism to all affected staff to boost morale, and the HA will continue to provide more Associate Consultant promotion posts for Residents, create additional posts of nurse consultants and Advanced Practice Nurses, and strengthen clerical support to assist nurses to focus more on nursing care. To allay manpower shortage, the Special Retire and Rehired Scheme and recruitment of non-local trained doctors will continue."

Professor Leong pointed out that the HA will align with the Government's strategy in the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong. "The HA will consolidate and enhance its data analytics systems to standardise data collection work. The HA Data Collaboration Lab will soon be set up to facilitate research projects in collaboration with external parties and contribute to research under the Big Data Analytics Platform," he said.

Professor Leong also welcomed the Government's tobacco control measure in proposing the legislative amendments to ban electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products. He said, "The HA has always supported the Government for more stringent controls on the sale of electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products to mitigate the associated health risks."

Currently, the HA is providing smoking cessation services in 69 Smoking Counselling and Cessation Centres for patients who intend to quit smoking with a full range of assessment, counselling and follow-up services. The Centres can provide services to 18 000 patients each year. The success rate has been over 50 per cent. The HA will continue to enhance smoking cessation services to safeguard the health of the people of Hong Kong.

"Once again, we are very thankful for the Government's strong commitment and resolve towards promoting healthcare for the community as demonstrated in the Policy Address. The Authority will diligently implement all the initiatives outlined in the Address," Professor Leong added.

Result of the tenders of RMB Sovereign Bonds held on October 10, 2018

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

Result of tenders of RMB Sovereign Bonds held on October 10, 2018:

Tender Result

Tender Date : October 10, 2018

Bonds available for Tender : 2-year RMB Bonds

Issue Number : BCMKFB18016 (Re-open)

Issue and Settlement Date : October 12, 2018

Maturity Date : July 9, 2020 (or the closest coupon payment date)

Coupon Rate : 3.65 %

Application Amount : RMB 9,923.5 million

Issue Amount : RMB 3,000 million

Average Accepted Price : 100.15

Lowest Accepted Price : 100.00

Highest Accepted Price : 110.00

Allocation Ratio : Approximately 11.99 %

Tender Result

Tender Date	:	October 10, 2018
Bonds available for Tender	:	5-year RMB Bonds
Issue Number	:	BCMKFB18017 (Re-open)
Issue and Settlement Date	:	October 12, 2018
Maturity Date	:	July 9, 2023 (or the closest coupon payment date)
Coupon Rate	:	3.80 %
Application Amount	:	RMB 3,738 million
Issue Amount	:	RMB 1,500 million
Average Accepted Price	:	100.29
Lowest Accepted Price	:	100.00
Highest Accepted Price	:	102.00
Allocation Ratio	:	Approximately 69.03 %

Employer fined for violation of safety legislation

The Incorporated Owners of Hilltop Gardens was fined \$40,000 at Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (October 10) for violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance. The prosecution was launched by the Labour Department.

The case involved a fatal accident that occurred on August 9, 2017, in a residential estate in Ngau Chi Wan. While a worker was carrying out vegetation trimming work on a planter, he fell a distance of 3.7 metres to the floor below. He sustained severe injuries and passed away two days later.

Managers of unlicensed guesthouses fined

A man and a woman were fined \$8,000 and \$15,000 at the Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts today (October 10) for contravening the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

The courts heard that in November last year and March this year, officers of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), the Home Affairs Department, inspected two suspected unlicensed guesthouses on Reclamation Street in Mong Kok and Tai Nan Street in Sham Shui Po. 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 man and 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".

CFS finds excessive coagulase-positive staphylococci organisms in noodles sample

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department today (October 10) announced that a sample of dry noodles with stir-fried egg and BBQ pork was found to contain an excessive amount of coagulase-positive staphylococci. The CFS is following up on the case.

A CFS spokesman said, "Following up on a food complaint, the CFS took the above-mentioned sample from a restaurant in Wan Chai for testing. The result showed that the food sample contained coagulase-positive staphylococci at a level of 470 000 organisms per gram. Under the Microbiological Guidelines for Food, ready-to-eat food that contains coagulase-positive staphylococci at a level of more than 10 000 organisms per gram is considered unsatisfactory."

The CFS has informed the restaurant concerned of the irregularity and instructed it to suspend the sale of the food concerned. The CFS has also provided health education on food safety and hygiene to the person-in-charge and staff of the restaurant, and requested it to review and improve the food production process and carry out thorough cleaning and disinfection.

According to Section 54 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap 132), all food for sale in Hong Kong, locally produced or imported, should be fit for human consumption. An offender is subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

"Coagulase-positive staphylococci can produce enterotoxins that cause food poisoning. Common symptoms include nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain, often accompanied by diarrhoea," he added.

The CFS will continue to follow up on the case and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health.