

Appointments to Air Transport Licensing Authority announced

The Government announced today (July 26) the reappointment of the Chairman, Mr Eugene Fung Ting-sek, and two incumbent members, Ms Fung Po-yee and Mr Suen Jenkin, and the appointment of two new members, Professor Fong Yuk-fai and Mr Alan Lui Siu-lun, to the Air Transport Licensing Authority for two years from August 1, 2024.

The Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mr Lam Sai-hung, said, "We are confident that the team of new and serving members, with their expertise and backgrounds in different sectors, will make valuable contributions to the work of the Authority in facilitating the development of air services in Hong Kong.

"The Government is most grateful to the retiring members, Professor Leung Siu-fai and Ms Miranda Kwok Pui-fong, for their invaluable contributions during their six years with the Authority. Their current term of service will expire on July 31, 2024."

The appointments have been published in the Government Gazette today.

The Authority is an independent statutory body established under the Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations (Cap. 448A). It is responsible for considering applications from airlines of Hong Kong for licences to operate scheduled services to and from Hong Kong in accordance with the provisions of the said regulations. The Authority comprises a Chairman and seven non-official members. The membership list with effect from August 1, 2024, is as follows:

Chairman

Mr Eugene Fung Ting-sek

Members

Ms Kelly Chan Yuen-sau

Professor Fong Yuk-fai

Ms Fung Po-yee

Ms Jasmine Lee Shun-yi

Mr Alan Lui Siu-lun

Mr Suen Jenkin

Ms Avon Yue Nga-fong

21 persons arrested during anti-illegal worker operations (with photo)

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Lightshadow" and "Twilight", and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" and "Windsand", for four consecutive days from July 22 to yesterday (July 25). A total of 19 suspected illegal workers, one suspected employer and one overstayer were arrested.

During the anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 40 target locations including premises under renovation, residential buildings, restaurants and a retail shop. Eleven suspected illegal workers were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised nine men and two women, aged 19 to 45. Among the arrested persons, five men were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. In addition, one man was suspected of using and being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card.

During operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 62 target locations in Eastern and Western districts. Eight suspected illegal workers, one suspected employer and one overstayer were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised four men and four women, aged 20 to 52. One man, aged 29, who was suspected of employing the illegal workers, was arrested. One female overstayer, aged 43, was also arrested. Among them, eight suspected illegal workers and one suspected employer were handled by the ImmD.

An ImmD spokesman said, "Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him or her shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties."

The spokesman warned, "As stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land is prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$100,000 and up to 10 years' imprisonment."

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people

who are not lawfully employable. Under the Immigration Ordinance, the maximum penalty for an employer employing a person who is not lawfully employable, i.e. an illegal immigrant, a person who is the subject of a removal order or a deportation order, an overstayer or a person who was refused permission to land, has been significantly increased from a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment to a fine of \$500,000 and 10 years' imprisonment to reflect the gravity of such offences. The director, manager, secretary, partner, etc, of the company concerned may also bear criminal liability. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence.

According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$150,000 and to imprisonment for one year. In that connection, the spokesman reminded all employers not to defy the law by employing illegal workers. The ImmD will continue to take resolute enforcement action to combat such offences.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct an initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the ImmD officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter or temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments immediately.



Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 26) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Twenty-two beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), and 18 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	Silverstrand Beach*
Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach	South Bay Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	St. Stephen's Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Kiu Tsui Beach	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Kwun Yam Beach	Trio Beach
Lido Beach*	Turtle Cove Beach
Lo So Shing Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach*	Golden Beach*
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach*	Kadoorie Beach

Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Pui O Beach*
Casam Beach*	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Ting Kau Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Tong Fuk Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Lido Beach, Shek O Beach and Upper Cheung Sha Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Cafeteria Old Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Kadoorie Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, an EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a tropical cyclone or heavy rainfall.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666. Members of the public can also obtain the latest daily water quality forecast information for all beaches that are open for swimming through the Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application (available for download from: www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast) on the EPD's beach thematic website.

Note 1: Lifesaving services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 21 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from June 1. Due to the damage caused to the footpaths leading to Chung Hom Kok Beach by landslides, the beach is temporarily closed until further notice. For details, please refer to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Special Announcement (www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/index.html).

Note 2: This refers to Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach which is a non-gazetted beach that has no lifesaving service.

[Draft Yau Ma Tei Outline Zoning Plan approved](#)

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Yau Ma Tei Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide the development and redevelopment within the Yau Ma Tei area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (July 26).

The planning scheme area, covering about 122 hectares, is bounded by Jordan Road and Gascoigne Road to the south, the MTR East Rail Line to the east, Dundas Street to the north, and Ferry Street and Man Cheong Street to the west.

The approved OZP has incorporated amendments shown on the draft Yau Ma Tei OZP No. S/K2/25, which mainly involve (i) removing the maximum plot ratio (PR) restriction for the "Commercial" ("C") zone; (ii) revising the maximum domestic PR restriction for the "Residential (Group A)" ("R(A)") zone; (iii) rezoning various sites along the character streets, including Temple Street (southern section) and Woosung Street, from "R(A)" to "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Mixed Use"; and (iv) relaxing the building height restrictions for the "C" and "R(A)" zones. The above amendments are intended to take forward some of the recommendations of the Urban Renewal Authority's District Study for Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok.

Opportunity is also taken to amend the Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP to reflect the above amendments and to update the general information of various land use zonings and the planning circumstances, where appropriate.

The approved Yau Ma Tei OZP No. S/K2/26 is available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Tsuen Wan and West Kowloon District Planning Office and (iv) the Yau Tsim Mong District Office.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed at the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).

[Draft Tuen Mun Outline Zoning Plan](#)

approved

â€‹The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Tuen Mun Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide the development and redevelopment within the Tuen Mun area", a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (July 26).

The planning scheme area, covering an area of about 2 260 hectares of land, is located at the head of Castle Peak Bay in the North West New Territories. It is bounded by the ridges of Castle Peak to the west, Lam Tei Interchange of Castle Peak Road to the north, and Tai Lam Country Park to the east. To the southeast, it extends to Siu Lam Interchange of Tuen Mun Road, while to the southwest, it extends to the power station at Tap Shek Kok.

The approved OZP has incorporated amendments shown on the draft Tuen Mun OZP No. S/TM/38, which mainly involve (i) rezoning a site at the upper section of Hong Po Road from "Green Belt" ("GB") and an area shown as 'Road' to "Residential (Group A)28" ("R(A)28"); (ii) rezoning a site at the junction of Hong Po Road, Tsing Lun Road and Ng Lau Road from "Residential (Group E)1" ("R(E)1") and an area shown as 'Road' to "R(A)28"; (iii) rezoning a site to the west of Ng Lau Road from "R(E)1" to "Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC"); (iv) rezoning a site in Tuen Mun Area 9 from "Comprehensive Development Area (1)" ("CDA(1)"), "CDA(2)" and an area shown as 'Road' to "Commercial (2)"; (v) rezoning a site adjacent to Ho Tin Light Rail Station from "CDA(1)" to "Open Space" ("O"); and (vi) rezoning two sites to the west and further west of Hing Fu Street from "GB" to "G/IC(3)" and "G/IC(4)" respectively.

The Notes and Explanatory Statement of the OZP are amended to take into account the above amendments. Opportunity is also taken to reflect the above amendments and to update the general information of various land use zones and the planning circumstances, where appropriate.

The approved Tuen Mun OZP No. S/TM/39 is available for public inspection during office hours at (i) the Secretariat of the Town Planning Board, (ii) the Planning Enquiry Counters, (iii) the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West District Planning Office, (iv) the Tuen Mun District Office and (v) the Tuen Mun Rural Committee.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the OZP can be viewed at the Town Planning Board's website (www.tpb.gov.hk).