

# Appointments to Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony

The Acting Secretary for Home Affairs has appointed five new members to the Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony (CPRH), a Government spokesman announced today (May 31). Four incumbent members have also been reappointed to the Committee in the same appointment exercise. Their term of office will run from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2024.

The following is a list of the non-official members of the CPRH:

New members:

Mr Mohammad Ilyas  
Mr Vishal Melwani  
Ms Tika Rana  
Mr Yeung Tsz-hei  
Mr Eric Yuon Fuk-lung

Reappointed incumbent members:

Mr Syed Ekram Elahi  
Ms Rita Gurung  
Mr Avinash Chandiram Hotchandani  
Dr Chura Bahadur Thapa

Other incumbent members:

Ms Ping Somporn Bevan  
Ms Vivian Kong Man-wai  
Mrs Poonam Vijayprakash Mehta  
Mr Zaman Minhas Qamar  
Ms Lamia Sreya Rahman  
Ms Himeshika Samaradivakara  
Ms Yvonne Tsui Hang-on  
Mr Wong Ka-chun  
Mr Matthew Wong Man-ho

The CPRH is a non-statutory advisory body set up to advise the Government on matters relating to fostering racial harmony in the community and to enhancing mutual understanding among people of different ethnic origins. Chaired by the Deputy Director of Home Affairs, the Committee includes representatives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Labour Department and the Information Services Department. The Race Relations Unit of the Home Affairs Department provides secretariat support to the Committee.

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## **Subsidies totalling \$84 million approved under Anti-epidemic Subsidy Scheme for the Laundry Trade (Second Round)**

The Environment Bureau (ENB) announced today (May 31) that the second round of the Anti-epidemic Subsidy Scheme for the Laundry Trade under the Anti-epidemic Fund has been satisfactorily completed.

The second round of the Scheme provides a one-off subsidy ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000, depending on the scale of operation, to eligible operators providing laundry and dry cleaning services, with a view to supporting the laundry trade, which has been affected by the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic and tightened social distancing measures imposed by the Government.

A spokesman for the ENB said that the Environmental Protection Department, which is in charge of implementing the Scheme, had been carrying out vetting upon receiving applications since March 4 this year. Within three months, the department approved 1 322 applications involving subsidies totalling \$84 million, and has posted cheques to the approved applicants.

"The laundry trade is grateful for the timely launch of the second round of the subsidy Scheme by the Government that helped the trade to relieve its imminent needs during this difficult time," the spokesman added.

Following the completion of the vetting process, the Scheme's telephone service (3427 9848) will cease operation at 5pm on June 1. Laundry trade members with any questions on the Scheme may email them to [laundry\\_subsidy@epd.gov.hk](mailto:laundry_subsidy@epd.gov.hk), which will continue to operate until June 30.

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## **Contract awarded for Tsuen Wan District Health Centre**

The Food and Health Bureau announced today (May 31) that the operation service contract for the Tsuen Wan District Health Centre (TW DHC) has been awarded through open tender to the Yan Chai Hospital Board (the operator). The operator is expected to commence a three-year operation of the DHC within

this year. The contract sum for the whole period is \$337.57 million.

The operator is required to set up, apart from the DHC core centre, four satellite centres in Tsuen Wan within the first year of operation. The core centre and the satellite centres will open for 10 hours daily, six days a week. Apart from the major operating team, the operator is also required to recruit and develop a multi-disciplinary network of medical and healthcare practitioners (including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and Chinese medicine practitioners) practising in Tsuen Wan or nearby areas. This network of health professionals aims to provide multiple service channels and points, with a view to offering medical and healthcare consultations and/or assessments to the DHC members upon referral, to complement the operation of the DHC. The TW DHC is also responsible for co-ordinating with other social welfare and healthcare service community partners in the district to make referrals for members of the public in need of the services. The operator will have to follow the Vaccine Pass arrangement during the operation of the TW DHC.

The core centre of the TW DHC will be located at Plaza 88 at Yeung Uk Road with a total floor area of about 1 000 square metres. The TW DHC will provide various primary healthcare services including health promotion, health assessment, chronic disease management and community rehabilitation.

The Government is progressively setting up DHCs and DHC Expresses in all 18 districts in a bid to establish a prevention-centred primary healthcare system in Hong Kong. The first DHC was established in Kwai Tsing District in September 2019, and the second DHC in Shum Shui Po District commenced service in June 2021. It is expected that the Tuen Mun and Wong Tai Sin DHCs will commence operation in May and June this year respectively, while the Southern and Yuen Long DHCs are also planned to start operation within this year. In addition, 11 DHC Expresses across the city have already commenced operation progressively starting from September last year.

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## **[“Quarterly Report on General Household Survey” for January to March 2022 published](#)**

The "Quarterly Report on General Household Survey" for January to March 2022 is now available for download.

The report contains statistics on labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment for the first quarter of 2022. It also contains detailed analyses of the characteristics of different categories of members of the labour force, including their age, sex, educational attainment, employment

status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week and monthly employment earnings, etc. Information on reasons for leaving last job and duration of unemployment for the unemployed is also presented.

Users can download the report from the website of the Census and Statistics Department ([www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1050001&scode=200)).

The summary of broad survey findings published in the report is shown in Table 1 attached. Enquiries about the contents of the report can be directed to the Household Statistics Analysis Section, Census and Statistics Department (Tel: 2887 5508 or email: [ghs@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:ghs@censtatd.gov.hk)).

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## [Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at a media session before the Executive Council (ExCo) meeting today (May 31):

Reporter: Good morning, Mrs Lam. First, will residents face any legal consequences if they show up at Victoria Park on June 4? Could you state where the red line is, such as will residents who commemorate the June 4 crackdown in private, such as lighting up a candle in their house, violate the National Security Law? And second, several ExCo Members have expressed reservation over suggestions of senior civil servants receiving a record pay increase when many people are jobless. Will you or the ExCo consider cutting down the increments for senior civil servants? And third, are you worried about the pub clusters and will you postpone further easing or reduce the capacity per table at the bars? Thank you.

Chief Executive: First of all, any public activity in Hong Kong, regardless of the purpose, has to fulfil the requirements in the law. As far as any gathering is concerned, there are a lot of legal requirements. There is the National Security Law; there are the social distancing restrictions under Cap. 599 (Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance); and there is also a venue question – whether a particular activity has received the authorisation to take place in a particular venue has to be decided by the owner of the venue.

About the civil service pay, this is an annual exercise. In the last two years, the pay has been frozen. This year, yes, the pay trend survey results show that there is a positive rate, especially at the higher level. But as the Secretary for the Civil Service has repeatedly said in public, and we have been practising this repeatedly in previous years, we do not just

rigidly follow the pay trend survey results to adjust the civil service pay on an annual basis. There is a basket of six factors. Ultimately, it is for the Chief Executive in Council to take account of the six factors to decide on the pay for the civil service. We are still in this process. For the time being, no decision has been made on adjustments to the civil servants' pay in the 2022 pay adjustment exercise.

As far as the third phase of the social distancing measures is concerned, as I announced on March 21, the roadmap for relaxing the social distancing measures should take three stages over a period of three months in a gradual and orderly manner, but the ultimate objective is to ensure public safety. So, in announcing the implementation of each stage, we also have to take into account the actual COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong, not only the number of positive cases reported daily, but also the hospitalisation situation, the risk of community infections and also the prevalence of the variant of BA.2.12.1 of Omicron. As things now stand, we are in a sort of stagnant situation, with the daily number of positive-tested cases staying at around 200 and 300 cases, including local infections as well as imported cases. But there have already been over 10 such infection clusters in the community, especially the two most recent cases involving bars. So, we will have to take a very prudent approach, and my position at this moment is we probably will not introduce the third and final stage of the social distancing relaxation before the end of June.

But the final phase actually involves only removing any remaining restrictions on the operation of these premises, for example, the maximum number of people in a banquet, the capacity – whether it is 75 or 85 per cent, whether it should go back to 100 per cent – and the permission of dancing and live performances. On balance, I feel these activities would not be very detrimental to the return to normalcy of the great majority of Hong Kong people. In finding a pragmatic balance, as I have been doing in the last two and a half years, we will have to take a more prudent approach.

Thank you.

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