

# HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (July 3).

The temporary heat shelters will remain open for people to take refuge from the heat when the Very Hot Weather Warning is in force. From 10.30pm to 8am the next day, the temporary heat shelters will also provide bedding and a sleeping place for people in need. The shelters are manned by duty attendants.

For further information, please call the department's hotline before midnight on 2572 8427.

The heat shelters are located at:

Hong Kong Island:  
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Central and Western –

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex Community Hall  
3/F, Sai Ying Pun Community Complex  
2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun

Eastern –

Causeway Bay Community Centre  
3/F, 7 Fook Yum Road, Causeway Bay

Southern –

Lei Tung Community Hall  
Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau

Wan Chai –

Wan Chai Activities Centre  
LG/F, Wan Chai Market, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Kowloon Districts:  
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Kowloon City –

Hung Hom Community Hall  
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, Sham Shui Po

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

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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

In addition to the above heat shelters, a number of community halls/community centres can also be used for taking refuge from the heat during their operating hours. For their address details, please browse the following document: [www.had.gov.hk/file\\_manager/en/documents/public\\_services/emergency\\_services/List\\_CH\\_CC\\_Day\\_E.pdf](http://www.had.gov.hk/file_manager/en/documents/public_services/emergency_services/List_CH_CC_Day_E.pdf).

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## **LCQ13: Combating illegal gambling**

Following is a question by the Hon Chan Hak-kan and a written reply by the Secretary for Security, Mr Tang Ping-keung, in the Legislative Council today (July 3):

Question:

It is learnt that the problem of members of the public engaging in illegal gambling with unauthorised bookmakers has been serious in recent years, especially during major games such as the UEFA European Football Championship 2024 currently underway. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the number of persons who have been arrested for engaging in illegal gambling activities, the proportion of juveniles in the number of persons arrested, the amount of bets seized and the types of games involved in the gambling in each of the years since 2021;

(2) of the number and proportion of illegal gambling activities conducted by telephone and on the Internet respectively in each of the years since 2021; as it has been reported that the proportion of online bets in illegal gambling activities is growing, of the measures put in place by the Government to step up combat against illegal online gambling activities;

(3) as it has been reported that many fraud syndicates are using online platforms and social media to promote illegal gambling in order to scam the public out of their money, of the measures put in place by the Government to combat such acts and whether it has made use of Scameter to further promote the relevant anti-scam messages;

(4) as it has been reported that some members of the public sell their personal bank accounts to criminals for use as "stooge accounts", of the measures put in place by the Government to educate the public that they should never sell their personal bank accounts to third parties; and

(5) regarding the UEFA European Football Championship 2024 currently underway, whether the authorities have stepped up the tripartite operations involving the Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao to combat illegal football gambling; if so, of the details?

Reply:

President,

We attach great importance to the prevention and alleviation of gambling-related problems, and have adopted a multi-pronged strategy including regulation through legislation, law enforcement against illegal gambling activities, public education on the harms of gambling addiction and provision of counselling and treatment services to people in need. Among others, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) established the Ping Wo Fund (Fund) in 2003 to finance preventive and remedial measures for problems caused by gambling.

For regulation through legislation, the existing Gambling Ordinance explicitly stipulates that all unauthorised gambling activities, apart from those situations stated in the ordinance, constitute an offence. Offences related to illegal gambling include operating or managing an unlawful gambling establishment, bookmaking, gambling in a gambling establishment, gambling in a street, etc. The Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) has put in place strategies to combat illegal gambling activities, especially those involving triad-related or organised crimes, in four aspects through prevention, education, intelligence collection and law enforcement.

After consulting the HYAB and the HKPF, the reply to the question raised by the Hon Chan Hak-kan is as follows:

(1) The number of persons arrested (including youths) by the HKPF between 2021 and May 2024 in combatting illegal gambling offences and the amount involved are set out below:

Illegal gambling offences (Note 1)	2021	2022	2023	2024 (From January to May)
(a) Number of persons arrested for serious gambling offences (percentage of youths among the arrested)	775 (2.5%)	828 (1.8%)	666 (2.1%)	181 (1.1%)
(b) Number of persons arrested for other gambling offences of a less serious nature (Note 2)	4 956	5 953	5 435	1 760
(c) Total number of persons arrested (including youths) ((a)+(b)=(c))	5 731	6 781	6 101	1 941

Total amount of betting slips/cash seized (HK\$ million)	3,978.2	547.9	27.6	4.6
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Note 1: Illegal gambling offences comprise "serious gambling offences" and other gambling offences of a less serious nature. "Serious gambling offences" include operating or managing an unlawful gambling establishment and bookmaking; those of a less serious nature include gambling in a gambling establishment, gambling in a street, etc.

Note 2: The HKPF does not maintain separate statistical figures on youths arrested for less serious gambling offences.

For persons arrested for engaging in illegal gambling offences, the gambling activities involved include mahjong, cards, football betting and horse race betting. The HKPF does not maintain a breakdown of figures by type of gambling activities.

(2) The HKPF has been closely monitoring the trend of these crimes and taking appropriate intelligence-led enforcement actions against them. The HKPF has noted the increase in the prevalence of online illegal gambling. To combat such illegal activities, officers of the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau of the HKPF will conduct cyber patrols. Other formations of the HKPF will gather intelligence through different channels, investigate illegal gambling websites within and outside Hong Kong and take law enforcement actions after gathering sufficient evidence. In addition, the HKPF will conduct internal training and upgrade equipment and facilities, so as to raise the frontline officers' awareness of the latest development of online gambling activities and enhance their capability in handling such cases. At present, the HKPF does not maintain separate statistical figures for illegal gambling activities conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

Below are some of the cases relating to online illegal gambling activities that were detected by the HKPF in recent years:

- In December 2022, the HKPF smashed a local syndicate suspected of recruiting gamblers using a mobile game application. Gamblers would purchase game points in cash and engage in illegal gambling through the application. The syndicate would then charge commissions by providing game points redemption services. During the operation, a total of 25 people were arrested for the suspected offences of "conspiracy to promote or facilitate bookmaking" and "money laundering". Cash totalling more than HK\$6 million, a number of telephone sets and computers as well as two luxurious cars were seized. The syndicate was also suspected of manipulating a number of stooge bank accounts, involving more than HK\$240 million.
- In August 2023, the HKPF smashed a triad-manipulated illegal online

gambling platform. The syndicate promoted the platform through social media platforms, SMS or mobile phone communication applications. Gamblers could top up their accounts by money transfer or with cryptocurrencies, and could earn commissions after successfully referring others to register for an account. During the operation, the HKPF cracked down on seven operation centres and arrested 47 people, including the mastermind of the syndicate and seven core members. They were suspected of committing the offences of "conspiracy to commit bookmaking" and "conspiracy to commit money laundering", involving crime proceeds of about HK\$300 million.

- In June 2024, the HKPF conducted the Operation Nearspace to crack down on illegal gambling websites (commonly known as bookmaking websites). As at June 24, 2024, a total of 62 people were arrested for "conspiracy to commit bookmaking" and "money laundering". Among them, five were core members, 25 were suspected either to be "middlemen" or to have taken part in the operation of the bookmaking websites by assisting in the money laundering process, and 32 were holders of stooge accounts. The amount involved exceeds HK\$460 million. The HKPF's investigation and enforcement action are ongoing.

On publicity and education, the HKPF has used various channels, such as holding press conferences and producing promotional videos, to convey messages about the harm of gambling addiction (including online gambling). In addition, to address problems related to illegal online gambling, the Fund has accorded priority to financing events relating to the prevention of online gambling activities since 2020. In the light of the UEFA European Football Championship 2024 (UEFA Euro), the HYAB and the Fund launched a territory-wide anti-gambling publicity campaign titled "Stop Gambling. Be the Wise Man of the Match!" in mid-June 2024. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of gambling-related problems and promote no-gambling messages during the UEFA Euro period. The Fund will continue to disseminate anti-gambling messages to the public through different channels.

(3) To tackle fraudulent online advertisements and websites (including frauds involving illegal gambling activities), the HKPF will swiftly request the relevant advertisers and website operators to remove such advertisements and websites, and will actively track down the whereabouts of the fraudsters. The HKPF will also request telecommunications providers to facilitate the blocking and filtering of suspicious calls and website links involving frauds, including those relating to illegal gambling activities.

The HKPF launched Scameter and Scameter+ in October 2022 and February last year respectively as the means to cope with the risks of various types of frauds (including frauds involving illegal gambling activities). As at the end of May 2024, nearly 3.6 million searches have been recorded and more than 560 000 alerts on frauds and cyber security risks have been issued. The Scameter+ was upgraded in February 2024. With a new function to issue alerts

and a new public reporting platform, members of the public can report suspicious phone numbers or websites directly through the application, thereby further enriching its database. As at May 2024, members of the public have reported a total of over 70 000 suspicious calls and nearly 9 000 suspicious websites.

The HKPF will continue to promote the use of Scameter and Scameter+ through various channels. Notably, starting from May 2024, an "anti-scam promotional truck" will spend a year reaching out to various districts in the territory. Members of the public can learn about the latest modus operandi of scams through interactive games and are encouraged to download and make good use of Scameter+.

(4) To crack down on fraud syndicates using stooge accounts to collect fraudulent payments and launder money, the HKPF continued to step up enforcement actions. In the first five months of 2024, the HKPF arrested a total of 4 361 persons for being involved in various types of deception cases and related money laundering activities, representing an increase of 30 per cent over last year. Among them, more than 3 000 were stooge account holders.

In addition, upon deliberation, the HKPF and the Department of Justice (DoJ) have streamlined the evidence gathering and prosecution procedures for relatively simple money laundering cases involving stooge accounts with a view to expediting prosecution. For conviction cases of money laundering involving stooge accounts, the HKPF and the DoJ will also apply to the court for enhanced-sentencing, so as to achieve a greater deterrent effect. As at May 2024, the sentences of 11 stooge account holders involved in deception were increased by four to 12 months (by 12.5 per cent to 33.3 per cent), leading to imprisonment terms ranging from 26 to 75 months.

On publicity and education, the HKPF launched the Anti-money Laundering Month in January 2024. The large-scale publicity campaign continued to use the slogan "Don't Rent, Don't Lend, Don't Sell!" to remind members of the public not to rent, lend or sell their accounts. The HKPF also collaborated with policy bureaux (including the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Security Bureau), regulatory bodies and stakeholders of various industries to produce promotional videos with innovative ideas.

The HKPF disseminates anti-money laundering messages through various online and offline publicity channels, e.g. large-scale publicity campaigns such as the CyberDefenders' Carnival and social media platforms of the HKPF. Through concerted efforts with public and private organisations, the HKPF raises public awareness of money laundering by broadcasting promotional videos and displaying posters and banners across the territory, on public transport systems and at boundary control points.

As syndicates tend to perpetrate money laundering through different communities (including foreign domestic helpers), the HKPF maintains close co-operation with the Consulates General of Indonesia and the Philippines in Hong Kong. In addition to publishing anti-money laundering promotional materials in English, Bahasa Indonesia and Tagalog, the HKPF arranges crime

prevention seminars for foreign domestic helpers from time to time. Furthermore, the HKPF organises seminars for new arrivals to Hong Kong and students of tertiary institutions regularly to warn them against money laundering traps. The HKPF will continue to strengthen collaboration with stakeholders, including regulatory bodies and financial institutions, for intelligence exchange and risk assessment in a timely manner, so as to formulate the latest anti-money laundering strategies.

(5) In view of the UEFA Euro being held from June 14 to July 14, 2024, the HKPF enhanced its publicity and education efforts under the theme of Stay Away From Illegal Betting. In particular, the HKPF held a press conference in early June to talk about the harm of gambling addiction, and has produced promotional videos to be broadcast on online and offline platforms. Enforcement efforts have also been stepped up to combat illegal gambling activities (including those through online platforms). As at June 24, a total of 62 persons were arrested in the abovementioned Operation Nearspace conducted in June 2024.

Meanwhile, the HKPF has all along maintained close intelligence exchange with the Mainland, Macao and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat bookmaking and the related gambling activities. For instance, the HKPF and other law enforcement agencies exchange intelligence through annual Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao tripartite meetings and conduct joint law enforcement operations as appropriate.

The HKPF will continue to conduct intelligence-led enforcement operations and step up publicity and education, with a view to combatting various types of illegal gambling activities.

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## [LCQ4: System of public sector advisory and statutory bodies](#)

â€‹Following is a question by the Hon Doreen Kong and a reply by the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, in the Legislative Council today (July 3):

Question:

The Government has all along relied on advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) to advise on its policies and provide services. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) as the Government has indicated that its appointments of individuals to ASBs are based on merits, but it is learnt that members of the Culture and Heritage Commission (Commission) appointed by the Government are mostly from



the banking, financial services and business sectors, with only a small number of them being leaders of cultural institutions, of the criteria adopted by the Government for making the relevant appointments, and how it ensures that the proportion of the backgrounds of the appointed members is consistent with the purpose of establishing the Commission;

(2) as the Government currently has around 520 ASBs, how the Government assesses the effectiveness of setting up a system of such bodies, so as to ensure that the roles and functions of these bodies can meet the needs of society; and

(3) as the Government reviewed the system of ASBs in 2003 and indicated that it would compile a Code of Practice to provide guidance to such bodies, of the progress of the relevant work; whether the Government will consider revisiting the policies relating to the system, such as regularly reviewing the effectiveness of the work of such bodies and requiring them to streamline their structures and increase the use of social media, so as to ensure that the system meets the needs of society and effectively enhances Hong Kong's civic awareness and social participation?

Reply:

President,

As a key component in public administration, advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) play an important role of helping the Government in the consultation with stakeholders, formulation of policy objectives and performance of functions. At present, there are about 520 ASBs in Hong Kong, including advisory boards and committees, appeal boards, public bodies, regulatory bodies. Advisory bodies provide a broad platform for making recommendations on government policies according to their respective terms of reference and reflecting the views of various sectors of the community and relevant organisations. Statutory bodies, on the other hand, are public corporations, statutory bodies or other organisations established in accordance with ordinances. Apart from giving advice to the Government, they are also responsible for the provision of public services and the discharge of statutory functions.

My consolidated reply, in consultation with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, to various parts of the question raised by the Hon Doreen Kong is as follows:

(1) The basic principle of the appointments of individuals by the Government as non-official members to ASBs is "merits", which is to ensure that the appointed members are the most suitable candidates who are capable of meeting the specific requirements of the ASBs and will actively participate in their work. When making an appointment, the relevant bureau or department will take into account the candidate's ability, expertise, experience, integrity and commitment to public service, with due regard to the functions and nature of business of the ASB concerned as well as the statutory provisions of statutory bodies. Furthermore, the Government has all along adopted the "six-

year rule" (i.e. a non-official member should not serve on the same ASB in the same capacity for more than six consecutive or cumulative years) and the "six-board rule" (i.e. a non-official member should not serve on more than six ASBs at any one time), so as to ensure a reasonable turnover of members and distribution of work.

Regarding the question on the appointments to Culture Commission, the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau advised that the Government established the Culture Commission in 2023 for providing recommendations on the Government's policies with regard to arts, culture and creative industries. There are 23 non-official members in the Commission. Basically all members of the Culture Commission have backgrounds related to the arts, culture or creative industries. They are industry representatives, members of relevant ASBs of relevant arts organisations, and academics in related professions (such as music and drama). Some members also possess experiences in other professional areas, with main occupation or background related to the business sector (including banking and real estate), politics, tourism industry, or the banking sector. These diverse experiences enhance and broaden members' discussion at the Culture Commission, such as promoting cross-sector and cross-genre collaborations, or strategies to encourage private sector's participation in driving the development of the arts, culture and creative industries, further driving the industry building, strengthening collaboration among different stakeholders of the industry, and promoting the integrated development of culture and tourism. Overall speaking, members of The Culture Commission represents a balanced composition that facilitates the Government to promote the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong from multiple perspectives, and is in line with the Government's principles of soliciting diverse opinions and appointing individuals on merit.

(2) and (3) Since the objectives, functions and nature of the various ASBs are different, their composition, operation and review are taken care of by the respective bureaux and departments. These bureaux and departments closely monitor the operation of the ASBs under their purview and keep in view whether their composition can meet the policy needs and prevailing social circumstances, so as to ensure that the ASBs can perform their duties effectively.

The Government conducted a review on the system and operation of ASBs in 2003 and continuously reported to the then Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council on it. In fact, in the light of the scope and content of the review set out in the reports, the Government has formulated or updated the general guidelines on appointments to ASBs. The guideline set out clearly the guiding principles for compliance by appointing authorities, including "the principle of appointment by merits", "the six-year rule", "the six-board rule", and the benchmarks for participation of female and youth members. Besides, the Government has also drawn up guidelines on the operation of ASBs in relation to matters such as enhancing transparency and making arrangements for declaration of interest. At present, the overall compliance with the guidelines by the bureaux and departments is satisfactory. For example, the proportion of non-official female members appointed by the Government

increased from 22.8 per cent in March 2004 to 35.6 per cent in December 2023, meeting the target of 35 per cent set earlier.

Moreover, the Government launched in 2017 the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY) to engage young people in public affairs. Persons aged between 18 and 35, and with the commitment to serving the community, may self-nominate to become members of ASBs. The Chief Executive announced in the 2022 Policy Address to expand the MSSY and aim to triple the number of number of participating advisory committees from around 60 in mid-2022 to no less than 180 within the current term of the Government to engage more young people in public affairs and enhance their interaction and trust with the Government. 85 committees have participated in the MSSY so far, offering 172 seats in total. Recruitment of the next phase of MSSY will start in mid-2024. In addition to the MSSY, the Government has also invited applicants attending the interviews to authorise the inclusion of their personal particulars in the Central Personality Index database, so that bureaux and departments may retrieve the information for reference during selection of candidates for appointment as members of other ASBs under their purviews. So far, more than 570 posts are held by young people appointed to ASBs directly or indirectly through the MSSY.

In addition, the Government has been encouraging ASBs to enhance their transparency and make use of the internet in disseminating information wherever feasible. We have made public the above principles of appointments to ASBs by uploading them onto the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB)'s webpage. Members of the public can have access to the information about the ASBs through hyperlinks on the HYAB's webpage.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of the relevant policy and mechanism, so as to enable ASBs to continue effectively fulfilling the role of helping the Government in the consultation with stakeholders, formulation of policy objectives and performance of functions.

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## [Appeal for information on missing girl in Tseung Kwan O \(with photo\)](#)

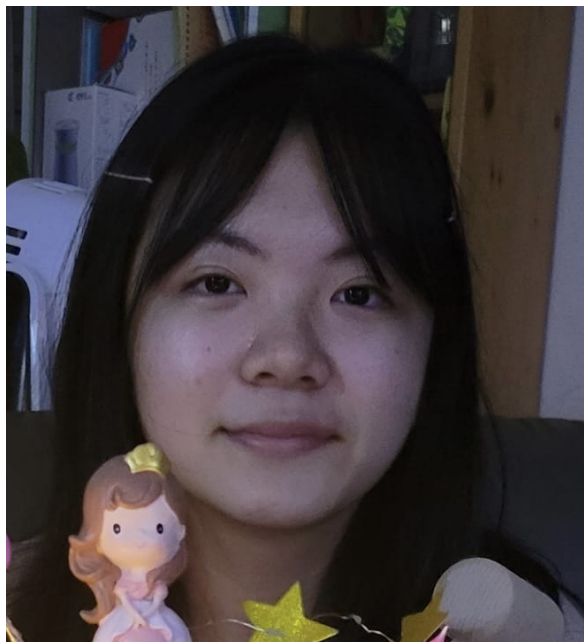
Police today (July 3) appealed to the public for information on a girl who went missing in Tseung Kwan O.

Li Yat-ching, aged 15, went missing after she left her residence in Hau Tak Estate on June 22 night. Her family made a report to Police on the next day (June 23).

She is about 1.59 metres tall, 50 kilograms in weight and of thin build. She has a pointed face with yellow complexion and long golden brown hair. She

was last seen wearing a grey jacket, black shorts, white shoes and carrying a beige crossbody bag.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing girl or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Persons Unit of Kowloon East on 3661 0321 or email to [rmpu-ke-2@police.gov.hk](mailto:rmpu-ke-2@police.gov.hk), or contact any police station.



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## [Fire Safety \(Buildings\) \(Amendment\) Bill 2024 to be gazetted on Friday](#)

A spokesperson for the Security Bureau said today (July 3) that the Government will publish the Fire Safety (Buildings) (Amendment) Bill 2024 (Amendment Bill) in the Gazette on Friday (July 5).

The spokesperson said, "Existing buildings were constructed in accordance with applicable construction and fire safety standards prevailing at the time when they were constructed. The Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) (Ordinance) aims to require the upgrading of fire safety standards of pre-1987 composite and domestic buildings (target buildings) to meet modern fire protection requirements. The Government has been proactively providing various kinds of support assisting owners of old buildings (including support on financial aspects, co-ordination among owners and technical aspects) to carry out fire safety improvement works. That being the case, some owners of old buildings, in particular those of 'three-nil' buildings, may still face difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Ordinance due to the lack of co-ordination capability, etc. We see the need to introduce targeted measures to assist those with genuine difficulties for meeting the statutory requirements, and at the same time, drive other

owners of target buildings to comply with the Ordinance.

"We will make reference to the Buildings Department's experience in the work of building safety and the similar mechanism under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) to amend the Ordinance, empowering the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department as the enforcement authorities (EAs) to carry out fire safety improvement works for owners of target buildings who have failed to comply with the Ordinance (defaulted works), and to recover the costs of defaulted works from such owners upon completion of the works, with a view to assisting those with genuine difficulties in enhancing the fire safety standards of old buildings. We will also take the opportunity to introduce different measures with a view to driving owners' compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance on their own initiative. Relevant measures include increasing the penalties for non-compliance with the Ordinance, introducing provisions preventing any person from obstructing an owners' corporation (OC) in complying with the requirements of the Ordinance, empowering EAs to register Fire Safety Directions issued against the involved buildings or their relevant parts in the Land Registry, etc.

"Considering that some owners may encounter financial difficulties, we will allow owners of eligible target buildings to apply for the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, so that they can use the subsidy to partially cover the costs of the defaulted works. We will also allow owners who cannot set up OCs because of special circumstances (for example, some owners are missing/untraceable) to apply for the aforementioned scheme for using the subsidy to partially cover the costs of the defaulted works. The subsidy can reach up to 60 per cent of the costs of works," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson emphasised, "It is the responsibility of owners to repair and properly maintain private buildings in a timely manner, including carrying out the required fire safety improvement works to enhance the fire safety standards of buildings according to the Ordinance. The Government would only, under exceptional circumstances, carry out defaulted works for buildings which do not comply with the Ordinance.

"The earlier No. 3 alarm fire incident at New Lucky House in Jordan has heightened public concern over fire safety of old buildings. We have purposely expedited our legislative amendment work and strive to introduce the Amendment Bill into the Legislative Council for scrutiny in July," the spokesperson added.

While proceeding with the work of perfecting the Ordinance, the Government will remain committed to improving fire safety standards of old buildings by providing financial, technical and co-ordination support, as well as taking enforcement actions and other various measures. By adopting this multipronged approach, the Government aspires to foster a safe living environment for the community.

The Government will introduce the Amendment Bill into the Legislative Council on July 10 for First Reading and Second Reading.