

LD reminds employers and employees to take heat stroke preventive measures in times of Heat Stress at Work Warning

As the Heat Stress at Work Warning is now in effect, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and employees to take appropriate measures during the effective period of the warning to prevent heat stroke when working in hot weather or hot environments.

Employees who work outdoors or in non-air-conditioned indoor environments face high levels of heat stress and are at a relatively higher risk of heat stroke. Employers should assess the risk factors of heat stress for employees at work and, based on the identified risk factors, take necessary preventive and control measures, including rescheduling work periods, setting up shading covers, providing ventilation and heat dissipation equipment, and reminding employees to replenish water and rest in a timely manner.

The Heat Stress at Work Warning is formulated by the LD based on the Hong Kong Heat Index. There are three levels of the warning: Amber, Red and Black, which help employers and employees better understand the level of heat stress while working outdoors or indoors without air-conditioning systems.

A spokesman for the LD said that when the department issues the Heat Stress at Work Warning, employers must refer to the criteria and recommendations provided in the "[Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work](#)" to conduct risk assessments, according to the workloads and other relevant heat stress risk factors, for employees who work outdoors or in non-air-conditioned indoor workplaces. Appropriate rest breaks should be arranged every hour, as far as reasonably practicable, based on various levels of the Heat Stress at Work Warning, to reduce employees' risk of heat stroke.

Employees must also follow instructions to rest on time. Whenever there are any symptoms of heat-related illnesses, such as headache, dizziness, thirst, and nausea, they should rest in a cool and shady place, drink water, and inform employers/supervisors to take appropriate action immediately.

The LD issued the "Guidance Notes on Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work", detailing the various risk factors that should be considered when conducting heat stress risk assessments and recommending corresponding control measures for identified risk factors for employers' and employees' reference. For the Heat Stress at Work Warning and related guidelines, please refer to the department's thematic webpage:

www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/prevention_of_heat_stroke_at_work.htm.

Woman holding charged with murder

Police today (July 1) laid a holding charge against a 32-year-old woman with one count of murder.

The woman was arrested yesterday (June 30) in suspected connection with a murder case happened in Tseung Kwan O on June 29, in which a 30-year-old man died.

The case will be mentioned at Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (July 2) morning.

HKSAR Government warmly welcomes issuance of card-type document to non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents by country to enhance convenience of immigration clearance

â€‹ The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government today (July 1) warmly welcomes and expresses gratitude to the country for announcing that non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents will soon be eligible for a card-type document (Mainland Travel Permits for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (non-Chinese Citizens)) to enhance convenience of clearance at control points of the Mainland, facilitating their visit to the Mainland for business, travelling, and visiting relatives. The Exit and Entry Administration of the country will start issuing the card on July 10.

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, said, "At this important moment when Hong Kong residents celebrate together our return to the motherland, I am grateful for the Central Government for introducing the measure in support of Hong Kong again, which demonstrates our country's care and support for the HKSAR all along. Under the new measure, individuals holding the card will be able to enjoy self-service clearance at control points of the Mainland, significantly enhancing clearance efficiency.

"Many non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents have deep roots in Hong Kong. They have been working diligently and making significant contributions to the development of Hong Kong. Among them, foreign talent working in Hong

Kong are particularly keen to better seize the historic opportunities of our country's rapid developments, especially envisioning greater involvement in the building of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) as a world-class bay area. We firmly believe that international talent of Hong Kong companies can enjoy the long-awaited clearance convenience for northbound travel with this card. This measure is not limited to any nationality or industry, which fully highlights Hong Kong's unique status under 'one country, two systems' and greatly helps Hong Kong maintain its international character and diversity, thereby providing a significant incentive for companies and talent from around the world to settle in Hong Kong," he said.

Under the new measure, all non-Chinese Hong Kong permanent residents will be able to make applications to the China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Limited entrusted by the Exit and Entry Administration of the country for travelling to the Mainland multiple times within a five-year validity period (with a stay not exceeding 90 days for each visit), without the need to apply for a separate visa to enter the Mainland. The application, approval, and issuance of this card fall within the remit of the Mainland authorities. This facilitation arrangement complements the "northbound" multiple-entry visa initiative as announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, meeting the aspirations of various sectors of the Hong Kong community on all fronts.

To dovetail with the country's efforts in building a high-level talent hub, the HKSAR Government has been maintaining close communication with the Mainland authorities, striving to promote the "southbound and northbound" two-way flow of talent, and has received positive responses from the Mainland. Since early 2023, the Mainland has successively introduced measures to promote the "southbound and northbound" flow, including launching and expanding the GBA "southbound" exit endorsement for talent to Beijing and Shanghai, extending the duration of stay in Hong Kong of the exit endorsement for business visit from seven days to 14 days, and introducing the "northbound" multiple-entry visa. These measures have greatly facilitated the two-way flow of talent. The HKSAR will certainly make good use of these measures, proactively playing the special role and carrying out the mission endowed by "one country, two systems", telling the good stories of Hong Kong, and making even greater contributions to the development of the country.

Red flags hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh Beach and Pui O Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (July 1) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Hung Shing Yeh Beach and Pui O Beach in Islands District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

[Speech by CE at reception in celebration of 27th anniversary of establishment of HKSAR](#)

Following is the translation of the speech by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at the reception in celebration of the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre this morning (July 1):

Distinguished guests, fellow citizens,

Today marks the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China and the second anniversary of the current-term Government. This year is particularly significant, in marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

On this day two years ago, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech here in Hong Kong. In it, he put forward "four musts" and "four proposals" for Hong Kong. These have become the basis of my governance blueprint. Over the past two years, we acted in line with the spirit of President Xi's series of important speeches for Hong Kong. With concerted and collective efforts of all concerned, many policies launched by the current term of the Government are delivering results.

Over the past two years, I have formed a pragmatic and result-oriented team. And it has been working hard to unite the community and build a better Hong Kong. We have ridden out the storm of the epidemic and fully resumed normal travel. We have completed the local legislation for Article 23 of the Basic Law, fulfilling the constitutional responsibility and historic mission that Hong Kong had waited 26 years, 8 months and 19 days to accomplish.

We have improved district governance and fully implemented the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong". We have established Care Teams in all 18 districts to help citizens in need at different levels. This Government has been working assiduously to develop the economy and improve people's livelihood. We have abolished all demand-side management measures for

residential properties. That has resulted in a substantial rise in the registered number of property transactions and a stable property market.

I attach great importance to housing issues. The waiting time for public rental housing has been capped at six years. With the smooth implementation of Light Public Housing projects, the Advance Allocation Scheme and more, waiting time will be shortened to about 4.5 years by 2026-27. The establishment of the Task Force on Tackling the Issue of Subdivided Units squarely addresses our very real concerns of subdivided units. Our strategy of targeted poverty alleviation directs resources to help sectors most in need.

We took note of opinions on Hong Kong's dwindling fertility and requests for government action, and changed the past non-interventionist approach and took a combination of measures to promote childbirth. These include giving families with newborns priority in purchasing subsidised sale flats and in the allocation of public rental housing units, providing tax allowances and deductions, strengthening child care services, enhancing support for assisted reproductive services and dispersing the Newborn Baby Bonus.

We are also concerned about labour welfare. The minimum wage will now be reviewed annually rather than every two years. We have worked to attract enterprises, investment and talent on an extensive scale. As a result, about 120 000 talent have already come to Hong Kong.

We are committed to fueling the city's hustle and bustle, attracting people and generating economic momentum. We are staging more than 200 events throughout this year and organised activities under the "Day x Night Vibes" initiative across 18 districts. We have adopted an "industry-driven" approach to promoting economic and social development. My Principal Officials and I have travelled the world exploring business opportunities and promoting our city.

I am grateful for the Central Government's support and care in launching a variety of further measures benefitting Hong Kong. These include extending the Individual Visit Scheme to cover 10 more Mainland cities, implementing new initiatives to deepen financial co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong, especially in promoting the listing of leading Mainland enterprises here, the recent announcement of increasing the duty-free allowance for luggage articles brought into the Mainland from Hong Kong by visitors who are Mainland residents and more.

Over the past two years, the Government has worked to further improve governance, continued to create strong impetus for growth, earnestly addressed the concerns of the people of Hong Kong, and united efforts in safeguarding harmony and stability. We have been innovative and proactive in addressing issues and solving problems. I often emphasise that good can always be better – this is our attitude towards work. I lead my team in the spirit of manoeuvring a ship. We head in the right direction, share the same beliefs, act with increasing speed, braving the wind and waves, moving towards our goal.

Looking ahead, the HKSAR Government will focus its efforts in three main areas:

First, developing the economy and improving people's livelihood. In the past two years, we have turned Hong Kong's economy around from negative to positive growth. Our GDP, which recorded negative growth of 3.7 per cent when this Government took office in 2022, grew 3.3 per cent last year. And we expect positive growth of 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent this year.

Earnings over the past two years have also gone up. Median monthly earnings of full-time employees have risen from about \$21,000 two years ago to \$23,500 in the first quarter of this year, an increase of \$2,500, or 11 per cent.

Going forward, the Government will make every endeavour to pursue economic growth, advance development and improve the livelihood of the people of Hong Kong. For example, the first phase of Light Public Housing is now open for applications, providing about 4 400 units for intake in the first quarter of next year. My goal is to make Hong Kong a better place for all – for everyone to enjoy a better living environment, for young people to realise their potential, for our elderly to be well taken care of. I am determined to create a caring, cohesive and flourishing community for all.

Second, reinforcing Hong Kong's competitive edge and exploring new areas of growth. I have been working to better integrate a "capable government" with an "efficient market", introducing measures to compete for talents, strategic enterprises and capital to Hong Kong. Going forward, we will continue to sharpen our edge and grasp the opportunities to develop new areas of economic growth. Apart from reinforcing such traditional sectors as finance, trading, shipping, logistics and professional services, we must also tap into the immense opportunities brought about by national and international dual circulation. We must develop "headquarters economy", unleashing the city's advantages in financial services, while deepening mutual access with the Mainland's financial market.

We must, as well, continue to pursue innovation and technology, developing new quality productive forces, adopting an industry-oriented approach to promote new industrialisation and such emerging strategic areas as pharmaceutical research and development and new energy transport.

Encouraging our cultural and creative industries is also a priority. The Kai Tak Sports Park will be completed by year's end. More than sports, it will also drive our progress in culture, entertainment, tourism and related industries, boosting Hong Kong's competitiveness as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

Third, seizing both national and international opportunities, and boarding the "fast train" of our country's development. Hong Kong now faces an opportune moment to advance from stability to prosperity. And we have boarded our country's "fast train" for the development of new quality

productive forces and comprehensive deepening of reforms. Hong Kong has the distinctive advantages of enjoying our country's strong support while being closely connected to the world. We will continue to realise those advantages, upholding our institutional strengths and sharpening our competitiveness. While doing so, we will also integrate into our country's development, and consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's "eight centres" of development.

With the Northern Metropolis as the new engine for growth and adopting an industry-oriented approach, we will align with national development strategies, seizing, in particular, the opportunities brought about by the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.

No less important, Hong Kong will reinforce its advantages as a global city, maintaining its high degree of internationalisation. We will strengthen regional collaboration, targeting such markets as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Middle East. We will, as well, strive for accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and increase our links with Europe and other western markets, thereby serving well as an important node of the national and international dual circulation, creating new opportunities and fresh impetus.

Distinguished guests, fellow citizens, there is a Chinese saying that things are born out of planning and completed in practice. While there are both opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong today, our opportunities decidedly outnumber the challenges. The Government will bravely shoulder its responsibilities and deliver good results. During this economic transition, we will unite and lead society in seeking innovation. We will strive for excellence and succeed. We should have the big picture in mind, seeing the forest as well as the trees. We must stand up high and look far ahead, dealing with issues from the perspective of the overall development of the country and the world. We must continue to adopt innovative thinking, bottom-line thinking and a result-oriented approach, enhancing speed and efficiency, proactively seizing opportunities and capitalising on our strengths for the benefit of our community.

Distinguished guests, fellow citizens, good news for Hong Kong comes one after another. On this festive day, I have more good news. Hong Kong will soon welcome two new family members: a pair of giant pandas.

I am deeply grateful to the Central Government for its care and support for Hong Kong, and for considering my proposal of sending us a pair of giant pandas. We will start the preparation work immediately to receive the giant pandas. They will arrive in Hong Kong in a few months and bring us amusement and happiness.

Fellow citizens, we are all part of the Hong Kong family. Let's stand united and scale new heights for Hong Kong together!

Thank you.