

Appointments to Land and Development Advisory Committee

The Government today (June 28) announced the appointment of the Chairman and members to the Land and Development Advisory Committee (LDAC) for a new term of three years, from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027. The appointments will be gazetted on July 5, 2024.

The Chief Executive has appointed Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun as the new Chairman of the LDAC, succeeding Dr Greg Wong Chak-yan who has served the committee for six years. The other 19 non-official members, appointed on an individual basis, are nine nominees from professional and trade organisations, and 10 persons from diverse professional backgrounds covering engineering, buildings, surveying, logistics, real estate development and administration, business, economics, policy research and social services.

The newly appointed members are Mr Aaron Bok Kwok-ming, Mr Chan Chak-bun, Mr Albert Chan Chung-yee, Ms Amy Cheung Yi-mei, Mr Francis Lam Ka-fai, Mr Nathan Lee Hoi-tat, Mr Mike Wong Chik-wing, Professor Eddie Hui Chi-man, Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan, Professor Tang Hei-wai and Mr Eric Yeung Ka-hong. The reappointed members are Ms Iris Hoi, Mr Eddie Lam Kin-wing, Mr Sunny Ho Lap-kee, Mr Ryan Ip Man-ki, Mr Wilson Kwong Wing-tsuen, Ms Janice Lai Wai-man, Professor Wong Sze-chun and Mr Michael Wong Yick-kam.

Welcoming the above appointments, the Secretary for Development, Ms Bernadette Linn, said, "Mr Ng has extensive public service experience, including his long association with the work of the Harbourfront Commission. The Government looks forward to the wise counsel of the LDAC on important development policies and projects, and will work together with the committee on the development of our city."

She continued, "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Chairman, Dr Greg Wong, for his significant contributions as the Chairman of the LDAC for the past six years. Under his chairmanship, the LDAC provided valuable advice and suggestions to the Government on important policies and projects including the Northern Metropolis Action Agenda, the Study on Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands, streamlining of development-related statutory and administrative procedures, legislative proposals for lowering of thresholds for compulsory sale and lease extension, etc. Dr Wong's contributions and able leadership are well recognised."

Ms Linn also expressed gratitude to the outgoing members, Mr Au Choi-kai, Mr Joel Chan Cho-sing, Professor Chan Siu-lai, Mr Chiu Kam-kuen, Mr Donald Choi Wun-hing, Mr Thomas Lee, Mr Douglas Woo Chun-kuen, Professor Leung Hing-fung, and Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing for their contributions to the LDAC.

The LDAC is tasked to advise the Government, through the Secretary for

Development, on policies and procedures in relation to planning, land and buildings matters, and specific development proposals and projects including those which carry broader economic or social merits.

The full membership of the Committee commencing on July 1, 2024, is as follows:

Chairman

Mr Vincent Ng Wing-shun

Non-official members nominated by professional/trade organisations

Mr Aaron Bok Kwok-ming (Hong Kong Institution of Engineers)
Mr Chan Chak-bun (Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design)
Mr Albert Chan Chung-yee (Hong Kong Institute of Architects)
Ms Amy Cheung Yi-mei (Hong Kong Institute of Planners)
Ms Iris Hoi (Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects)
Mr Francis Lam Ka-fai (Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors)
Mr Eddie Lam Kin-wing (Hong Kong Construction Association)
Mr Nathan Lee Hoi-tat (Hong Kong Institute of Real Estate Administrators)
Mr Mike Wong Chik-wing (Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong)

Other non-official members

Mr Sunny Ho Lap-kee
Professor Eddie Hui Chi-man
Mr Ryan Ip Man-ki
Mr Wilson Kwong Wing-tsuen
Ms Janice Lai Wai-man
Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan
Professor Tang Hei-wai
Professor Wong Sze-chun
Mr Michael Wong Yick-kam
Mr Eric Yeung Ka-hong

Ex-officio members

Secretary for Development
Director of Buildings
Director of Lands
Director of Planning
Government Economist

Government appeals to citizens to plan their trips via Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in advance during long weekend of July 1 holiday

The Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) announced today (June 28) that during the long weekend of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day holiday (July 1 holiday), there may be a large number of passengers travelling to and from the Mainland or Macao via various land-based boundary control points (BCPs). The Transport Department (TD) will closely monitor the traffic conditions at all ports, and in particular will strengthen the dissemination of the latest traffic information to citizens who use the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) to travel between the three places.

The TD has put in place corresponding traffic and transportation arrangements at various land-based BCPs. The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will operate 24 hours to monitor traffic conditions of the ports and major stations, implement response measures in due course, and disseminate the latest traffic information through various channels, including radio broadcasts, the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility", and the TD's website.

The TD anticipates that there will be increased cross-boundary vehicles using the HZMB to depart and return to Hong Kong on the first day (June 29) and the last day (July 1) of the long weekend of the July 1 holiday respectively. The TD will closely monitor the operation of the HZMB, especially the clearance and traffic conditions at the HZMB Port during peak hours. Citizens can check the situation of the Hong Kong Port through the newly added real-time snapshots of traffic conditions at the vehicle clearance plaza of HZMB Hong Kong Port on the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility"; access the WeChat official accounts "hzmbzhport" or "zhuhaifabu", which provide real-time vehicle clearance situations of HZMB Zhuhai port (traffic-info.gzazhka.com:5015/#/) (Chinese only); as well as access the WeChat official account of the HZMB integrated information dissemination platform (mp.weixin.qq.com/s/mT9D9et-FybKKXDw9nJ9Dg) (Chinese only) to check the forecast of peak hours of inbound and outbound vehicles at the HZMB Zhuhai Port. The TD will issue the latest information through traffic notices and the TD's website, and will also send emails to citizens who have made bookings for travel under "Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles" during the long weekend of the July 1 holiday, reminding them to plan their trips returning to Hong Kong in advance, and travel during non-peak periods as far as possible.

[Hong Kong Customs detects three smuggling cases involving ocean-going vessels \(with photos\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs mounted a special operation codenamed "Big Wave" in June and detected three suspected smuggling cases involving ocean-going vessels. A large batch of suspected smuggled goods with a total estimated market value of about \$100 million was seized.

Through intelligence analysis and risk assessment, Customs suspected that criminals were using ocean-going vessels to smuggle goods. Strategies were thus formulated and three suspicious containers scheduled to depart from Hong Kong to Malaysia through ocean-going vessels were selected for inspection.

Upon examinations, Customs officers found a large batch of suspected smuggled electronic goods, including printed circuit boards, smart phones, computer tablets and car parts, in the three containers declared as carrying aluminium flakes, aluminium alloys and communication accessories respectively.

After follow-up investigations, Customs officers arrested a 60-year-old man suspected to be connected with one of the above-mentioned cases. Investigations are ongoing. The arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation and the likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

Being a government department primarily responsible for tackling smuggling activities, Customs has long been combating various smuggling activities at the forefront. Customs will keep up its enforcement action and continue to fiercely combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, with targeted anti-smuggling operations carried out at suitable times to disrupt these activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

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Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).



[Sick person in custody dies in public hospital](#)

â€‹A sick 71-year-old male person in custody at Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre died in a public hospital today (June 28).

The person in custody suffered from hypertension and diabetes mellitus. He required continuous medical care and follow-up treatment at the institution hospital. On June 25, he was sent to a public hospital for treatment due to physical discomfort. During hospitalisation, his condition deteriorated and he was certified dead at 3.38pm today.

The case has been reported to the Police. A death inquest will be held by the Coroner's Court.

The person in custody was convicted for the offence of possession of offensive weapon and detained under a hospital order for psychiatric treatment in April 2024.

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

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations codenamed "Greenlane", "Lightshadow" and "Twilight" and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force codenamed "Champion" and "Windsand" for four consecutive days from June 24 to yesterday (June 27). A total of 11 suspected illegal workers, three suspected employers, one suspected aider and abettor and four overstayers were arrested.

During the anti-illegal worker operations, ImmD Task Force officers raided 91 target locations including premises under renovation, residential buildings, restaurants and retail shops. Eleven suspected illegal workers, three suspected employers, one suspected aider and abettor and one overstayer were arrested. The arrested suspected illegal workers comprised four men and seven women, aged 22 to 57. Two men and one woman, aged 38 to 54, were arrested on suspicion of employing the illegal workers. One woman, aged 40, was arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting a person who breached the conditions of stay in Hong Kong. One woman, aged 29, was the arrested overstayer.

During operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 49 target locations in Hung Hom and Kowloon City districts. Three overstayers were arrested. The arrested overstayers comprised one man and two women, aged 32 to 45.

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 in 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 would like to remind 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.

