

12 landlords of subdivided units under regulated tenancies convicted of contravening relevant statutory requirements

Twelve landlords of subdivided units (SDUs), who contravened Part IVA of the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) Ordinance (Cap. 7) (the Ordinance) pleaded guilty and were fined a total of \$32,000 today (June 21) at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts. Since the Ordinance has come into force, the Rating and Valuation Department (RVD) has successfully prosecuted 298 cases involving a total of 255 SDU landlords, with fines ranging from \$400 to \$18,600, amounting to a total of \$555,610.

The offences of these landlords include (1) failing to submit a Notice of Tenancy (Form AR2) to the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation within 60 days after the term of the regulated tenancy commenced; and (2) requesting the tenant to pay money other than the types permitted under the Ordinance. Two of the landlords each committed eight offences under (1) and (2) above, and each of them was fined \$7,600.

The RVD earlier discovered that the landlords failed to comply with the relevant requirements under the Ordinance. Upon an in-depth investigation and evidence collection, the RVD prosecuted against the landlords.

A spokesman for the RVD reiterated that SDU landlords must comply with the relevant requirements under the Ordinance, and also reminded SDU tenants of their rights under the Ordinance. He also stressed that the RVD will continue to take resolute enforcement action against any contraventions of the Ordinance. Apart from following up on reported cases, the RVD has been adopting a multipronged approach to proactively identify, investigate and follow up on cases concerning landlords who are suspected of contravening the Ordinance. In particular, the RVD has been requiring landlords of regulated tenancies to provide information and reference documents of their tenancies for checking whether the landlords concerned have complied with the requirements of the Ordinance. If a landlord, without reasonable excuse, refuses to provide the relevant information or neglects the RVD's request, the landlord commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine at level 3 (\$10,000) and to imprisonment for three months. Depending on the actual circumstances, and having regard to the information and evidence collected, the RVD will take appropriate actions on individual cases, including instigating prosecution against suspected contraventions of the Ordinance.

To help curb illegal acts as soon as possible, members of the public should report to the RVD promptly any suspected cases of contravening the relevant requirements. Reporting can be made through the telephone hotline (2150 8303), by email (enquiries@rvd.gov.hk), by fax (2116 4920), by post

(15/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon), or in person (visiting the Tenancy Services Section office of the RVD at Room 3816-22, 38/F, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, and please call 2150 8303 to make an appointment). Furthermore, the RVD has provided a form (Form AR4) (www.rvd.gov.hk/doc/en/forms/ar4.pdf) on its website to facilitate SDU tenants' reporting to the RVD.

The RVD reminds that pursuant to the Ordinance, a regulated cycle of regulated tenancies is to comprise two consecutive regulated tenancies (i.e. the first-term tenancy and second-term tenancy) for an SDU, and the term of each regulated tenancy is two years. A tenant of a first-term tenancy for an SDU is entitled to be granted a second-term tenancy of the regulated cycle, thus enjoying a total of four years of security of tenure. Since the first batch of regulated tenancies has already approached their second-term tenancies, the RVD has started a new round of publicity and education work in order to assist SDU landlords and tenants to understand the important matters pertaining to the second-term tenancy, and procedures that need to be followed about two months prior to the commencement of the purported second-term tenancy. In addition, the RVD has started issuing letters enclosing relevant information to the concerned landlords and tenants of regulated tenancies in batches, according to the expiry time of their first-term tenancies, to remind them about their respective obligations and rights under the Ordinance. These landlords and tenants may also visit the dedicated page for the second-term tenancy on the RVD's website (www.rvd.gov.hk/en/tenancy_matters/second_term_tenancy.html) for the relevant information, including a concise guide, brochures, tutorial videos and frequently asked questions, etc. SDU landlords and tenants are also advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant statutory requirements and maintain close communication regarding the second-term tenancy for handling the matters properly and in a timely manner according to the Ordinance.

For enquiries related to regulated tenancies, please call the telephone hotline (2150 8303) or visit the RVD's webpage (www.rvd.gov.hk/en/our_services/part_iva.html) for the relevant information.

HAD opens temporary heat shelters

The Home Affairs Department will continue to open 19 community halls/community centres as temporary heat shelters today (June 21).

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:

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:

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:

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.

Update on dengue fever

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health today (June 21) reported the latest number of dengue fever (DF) cases, and urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

From June 14 to yesterday (June 20), the CHP recorded three DF cases, including two imported cases; both patients had been to Indonesia during the incubation period. The other one was the [DF case](#) announced on June 18, based on an epidemiological investigation, it was classified as a confirmed local case.

As of yesterday, 30 cases of DF, including 28 imported and two local cases, had been recorded in 2024. In 2023, 62 imported cases of DF were recorded.

According to the World Health Organization, the global incidence of DF has markedly increased over the past two decades, posing a substantial public health challenge. In 2023, ongoing transmission, combined with an unexpected spike in DF cases, had resulted in close to an historic high of over 5 million cases and more than 5 000 dengue-related deaths reported in over 80 countries/territories. The latest surveillance data shows that there is an increase in DF cases noted in some places in Asia (such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) compared to the same period last year. Since the beginning of 2024, the Americas, including Brazil, Argentina and Peru, have recorded over 9 million cases, a record number. Detailed information on the latest DF situation in Hong Kong, as well as neighbouring and overseas countries and areas, has been uploaded to the CHP website (www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/df_imported_cases_and_overseas_figures_eng.pdf).

"Apart from general measures, travellers returning from areas affected by DF should apply insect repellent for 14 days upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to a doctor," a spokesman for the CHP said.

The public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;

- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

â€‹DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Reapply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

â€‹The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the following pages for more information: the DF page of the [CHP](#) and the [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), and the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#).

[Award-winning Swedish choreographer to stage tactile dance installation performance “Fields of Tender” July 12 to 14 \(with photo\)](#)

The International Arts Carnival (IAC), a summer arts festival organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), will present a one-of-a-kind dance installation performance, "Fields of Tender", from July 12 to 14. Designed by award-winning Swedish choreographer Dalija Acin Thelander for infants, toddlers and their parents, the programme blends dance, music and toys with images, and stimulates the audience's senses in fascinating ways. Infants aged 3 to 18 months are welcome to freely explore an imaginary wonderland filled with malleable decorations.

Thelander is a seasoned choreographer and stage designer with a special

interest in neurodiversity studies and related performing arts practices. Her latest work, "Fields of Tender", with its unique stage design and soft lighting, crafts an intimate, welcoming and interactive space for the very young. Inside this caring, dreamy world are fluffy and cuddly decorations. The dancers open their arms to embrace every curious toddler, who can explore the surroundings as they wish, or just fall into a daze, feeling at ease in the peaceful environment.

Thelander's immersive sensory dance productions have been staged in Asia, Europe, South America and Africa. She received commissions from the Royal Swedish Opera in 2017 and 2022 respectively, and won the ASSITEJ International Award for Artistic Excellence in 2021.

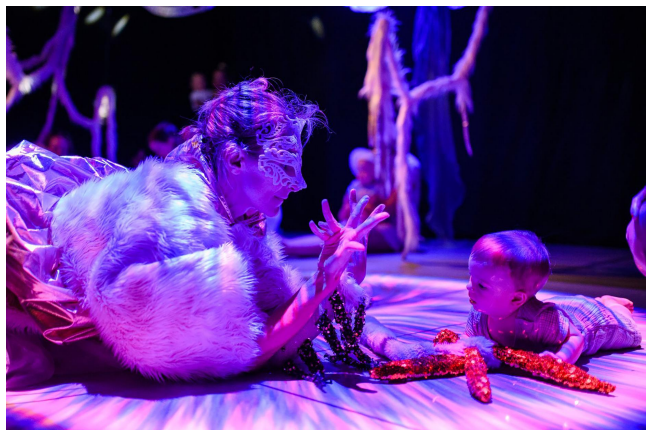
"Fields of Tender" will be held at 5.15pm on July 12, and 11am, 2.15pm and 4pm on July 13 and 14 at the Black Box Theatre of Kwai Tsing Theatre. Free-seating tickets priced at \$320 (half-price discount for infants) are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288, or use the mobile ticketing app "URBTIX".

Children must be accompanied by parents or adults. Audience members may enter and exit the venue at any time. They will be seated on the floor and are requested to take off their shoes before entering the performance area.

As well, a free outreach dance performance will be held on July 7 (Sunday) from 2pm to 2.30pm at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Foyer. Dancers will put on a flash mob specially designed for children of all abilities, followed by Thelander's sharing. The outreach performance is one of the programmes of the LCSD's Dance for All Community Care Inclusive Dance Scheme. With "Everybody can dance" as its slogan, the scheme serves as a platform for people of all abilities to dance together in an effort to promote social inclusion.

For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2370 1044 or visit www.hkiac.gov.hk.

This year's IAC will run from July 5 to August 11, featuring a wide array of fun-filled educational programmes by overseas, Mainland and local art groups and artists. In addition to acrobatics, magic, dance, music, theatre and puppetry, the IAC will also offer film screenings, online programmes, parent-child workshops and an exhibition.



Hong Kong's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position statistics for first quarter of 2024

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (June 21) the preliminary Balance of Payments (BoP) and International Investment Position (IIP) statistics of Hong Kong for the first quarter of 2024. This release also included the preliminary External Debt (ED) statistics of Hong Kong for the same period.

I. Balance of Payments

Hong Kong recorded a BoP deficit of \$35.5 billion (4.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)) in the first quarter of 2024. Reserve assets correspondingly decreased by the same amount. This compared with a BoP deficit of \$9.1 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Current account

The current account recorded a surplus of \$101.0 billion (13.1% of GDP) in the first quarter of 2024. This reflects that Hong Kong's savings was greater than its investment, enabling Hong Kong to accumulate external financial assets (such as equity securities or debt securities) as a buffer against global financial volatilities. Compared with the current account surplus of \$44.4 billion (6.2% of GDP) in the first quarter of 2023, the increase in surplus was mainly due to the decrease in goods deficit and the increase in net inflow of primary income.

The goods deficit decreased substantially to \$6.7 billion in the first quarter of 2024, compared with \$37.8 billion in the same quarter of 2023. Over the same period, the services surplus increased from \$46.6 billion to \$50.9 billion. The primary income inflow and outflow amounted to \$494.9 billion and \$433.6 billion respectively, thus yielding a net inflow of \$61.3

billion in the first quarter of 2024, compared with a net inflow of \$39.4 billion in the same quarter of 2023.

Financial account

An overall increase in financial non-reserve assets amounting to \$170.8 billion (22.2% of GDP) was recorded in the first quarter of 2024, compared with an overall increase of \$46.5 billion (5.9% of GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2023. The overall increase recorded in the first quarter of 2024 was due to the net increases in portfolio investment, financial derivatives and direct investment, partly offset by the net decrease in other investment.

In the first quarter of 2024, reserve assets decreased by \$35.5 billion, compared with a decrease of \$9.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 2023.

II. International Investment Position

At the end of the first quarter of 2024, both Hong Kong's external financial assets and liabilities stood at a very high level, amounting to \$49,051.1 billion (16.2 times of GDP) and \$34,990.2 billion (11.5 times of GDP) respectively, a typical feature of a prominent international financial centre.

Hong Kong's net external financial assets (i.e. assets minus liabilities) amounted to \$14,060.9 billion (4.6 times of GDP) at the end of the first quarter of 2024, compared with \$13,939.4 billion (4.7 times of GDP) at the end of the fourth quarter of 2023. Hong Kong's net external financial assets to GDP ratio is one of the largest in the world, which provides the economy with a strong cushion against sudden external shocks.

III. External Debt

At the end of the first quarter of 2024, Hong Kong's gross ED amounted to \$14,409.5 billion (4.8 times of GDP). Compared with \$14,362.4 billion (also 4.8 times of GDP) at the end of the fourth quarter of 2023, gross ED increased by \$47.1 billion. This was mainly attributable to the increases in ED of other sectors and debt liabilities in direct investment (intercompany lending), partly offset by the decrease in ED of the banking sector.

As one of the world's major financial centres, Hong Kong has a significant amount of ED held against the local banking sector arising through normal banking businesses. At the end of the first quarter of 2024, 56.0% of Hong Kong's ED was attributable to the banking sector. Other ED mainly consisted of ED of other sectors (26.7%) and debt liabilities in direct investment (intercompany lending) (16.3%).

Further information

BoP is a statistical statement that systematically summarises, for a specific time period (typically a year or a quarter), the economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world (i.e. between residents and non-residents).

IIP is a balance sheet showing the stock of external financial assets and liabilities of an economy at a particular time point. The difference between the external financial assets and liabilities is the net IIP of the economy, which represents either its net claim on or net liability to the rest of the world.

Gross ED, at a particular time point, is the outstanding amount of those actual current, and not contingent, liabilities that are owed to non-residents by residents of an economy and that require payment of principals and / or interests by the debtors at some time points in the future.

Table 1 presents Hong Kong's BoP. Table 2 presents the detailed current account and capital account, while Table 3 presents the detailed financial account. Table 4 shows Hong Kong's IIP, and Table 5 shows Hong Kong's ED.

Statistics on BoP, IIP and ED for the first quarter of 2024 are preliminary figures, which are subject to revision upon the availability of more data.

The latest statistical tables of BoP (including seasonally adjusted current account), IIP and ED can be downloaded at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/scode260.html). Analysis of the statistics, together with the conceptual and methodological details, are presented in the publication Balance of Payments, International Investment Position and External Debt Statistics of Hong Kong, First Quarter 2024 published by the C&SD. Users can download the publication at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1040001&scode=260).

For enquiries about the BoP, IIP and ED statistics, please contact the Balance of Payments Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 6979 or email: bop@censtatd.gov.hk).