

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 to be introduced into LegCo

The Government will introduce the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 into the Legislative Council (LegCo) to make miscellaneous amendments to various ordinances. Opportunity is also taken to make a straightforward adaptation of references which are inconsistent with the constitutional status of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and repeal obsolete provisions or references in various ordinances.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said today (May 8) that the proposed amendments in the Bill are put forth by different policy bureaux and can be broadly categorised into two groups:

(1) Amendments without adaptation of laws elements

The proposed amendments are largely minor, technical and non-controversial but are useful for the purpose of updating or improving the relevant legislation.

(2) Amendments with adaptation of laws elements

The amendments are proposed with a view to keeping the laws of Hong Kong up-to-date and commensurate with its status as a modern society governed by the rule of law under the constitutional framework of "one country, two systems".

In 2022, the Law Reform Commission Secretariat spearheaded an exercise to conduct a systematic review of statutory laws of Hong Kong which consisted of work mainly in three aspects: (1) adaptation of laws; (2) consolidation of laws; and (3) repeal of obsolete laws. The adaptation of laws refers to the process of identifying and amending certain provisions or references in the ordinances and subsidiary legislation that were in force in Hong Kong before July 1, 1997, so that they are consistent with the Basic Law and the status of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, and properly reflect the policy intent of the relevant policy bureaux.

Most of the proposed amendments with adaptation of laws elements are terminological or technical in nature, such as references to "Her Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs or Successors", "Governor", "Crown", "Government of the United Kingdom" and "Secretary of State". Currently the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) has provided for the principles for interpretation of provisions and references not yet adapted unless the context requires otherwise.

The Department of Justice has issued an information paper to the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services in February this year, briefing members of the Panel on the major legislative proposals to be included in the Bill. Relevant policy bureaux have consulted stakeholders on

their respective proposals, and no comment on or in-principle objection to the proposed amendments have been received from relevant bodies and organisations.

The Bill will be gazetted on Friday (May 10), and will be introduced into the LegCo on May 22.

Public transport arrangements at Central Harbourfront Event Space on May 9

A spokesman for the Transport Department (TD) reminded members of the public today (May 8) that there will be a large-scale event at the Central Harbourfront Event Space tomorrow (May 9). To facilitate dispersal of the crowds leaving the venue, the following special transport arrangements will be implemented:

Rail service

To facilitate the dispersal of members of the public and tourists travelling to the Mainland after the event, the last train of the MTR East Rail Line heading for Lo Wu will depart from Admiralty Station at 11.32pm on the above date.

Franchised bus service

After the end of event, franchised bus companies will operate the following six special bus routes near the event venue:

Route No.	Destination	Boarding Point
To Boundary Control Points (BCPs)		
1. Citybus route No. 976R*	Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) Public Transport Interchange (PTI)	1. Man Kwong Street near Central Ferry Pier No. 8 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
2. Citybus Route No. A11R*	Airport (via Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Port)	1. Man Kwong Street near Central Ferry Pier No. 6 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
To other districts		

3. Citybus route No. 18R	Heng Fa Chuen	1. Man Kwong Street near Central Ferry Pier No. 6 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
4. KMB route No. 160R	Hung Shui Kiu (via Tuen Mun)	1. Central Ferry Pier Bus Terminus 2. Lung Wo Road, opposite to Central Barracks
5. KMB route No. 168R	Yuen Long (West)	
6. KMB route No. 178R	Luen Wo Hui, Fanling (via Sheung Shui)	

* Cross-boundary travellers can take route No. 976R to Lok Ma Chau (San Tin) PTI and interchange Lok Ma Chau – Huanggang cross-boundary shuttle bus (Yellow Bus) to Huanggang Port; or take route No. A11R to HZMB Hong Kong Port and interchange HZMB shuttle bus (Gold Bus) to Macao and Zhuhai.

Cross-boundary Coach (CBC) service

The short-haul CBC service plying between Wan Chai and Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang Port will add a temporary pick-up point at Connaught Road Central (near World Wide House) on the above date to facilitate dispersal of cross-boundary travellers. Yellow Bus will also enhance service subject to passenger demand.

If cross-boundary travellers wish to take the CBC, apart from purchasing tickets at the CBC terminus, they may also reserve CBC tickets through the website of relevant CBC operators or mobile applications such as WeChat and Alipay in advance.

For details of public transport arrangements, please refer to the passenger notices issued by respective public transport operators.

Traffic arrangements for ports

The TD has co-ordinated with the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and Highways Department such that the Police will make appropriate traffic arrangements at Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang Port and Shenzhen Bay Port when necessary to separate various types of vehicles heading for the BCPs/ports so as to provide a dedicated passage for public transport vehicles. The TD will also closely monitor the traffic condition of the HZMB Hong Kong Port and nearby roads, and maintain close liaison with relevant Mainland departments so as to adopt corresponding traffic measures as and when necessary.

The spokesman said, "Members of the public and travellers are reminded to pay attention to the details of the public transport services concerned and the special traffic arrangements on the above date. They may contact the relevant public transport operators for assistance, if needed. The Government encourages visitors to plan their itinerary ahead, including making their

journeys during non-peak hours and considering an overnight stay in Hong Kong to enjoy a more diversified travel experience in Hong Kong."

The TD and public transport operators will closely monitor the passenger demand and make service adjustments as and when necessary. The TD's Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre will operate 24 hours to monitor the traffic conditions of different districts, especially the ports and major stations, implement response measures in due course and disseminate the latest traffic information through various channels, including radio broadcast, the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility" and the TD website.

LCQ6: Support for Hong Kong manufacturing enterprises on the Mainland

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Chow Man-kong and a written reply by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Algernon Yau, in the Legislative Council today (May 8):

Question:

The Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Industrial Sector (the Key Statistics) released regularly by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) include, in addition to statistics of local economic activities in manufacturing, statistics of local import and export firms engaged in sub-contract processing arrangement on the Mainland and providing manufacturing-related technical support services. It is learnt that the latter are regarded as an indirect reflection of the operating situations of Hong Kong manufacturing enterprises having set up their headquarters in Hong Kong and their factories on the Mainland. Furthermore, according to the information of the C&SD, there has been a continuous drop in the number of import and export firms with manufacturing-related activities, the number of persons engaged and the sales revenue in recent years, and the decrease in those numbers has accelerated since 2020 (i.e. since the outbreak of the epidemic). In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) given that the C&SD did not release the full statistical report of the Key Statistics at the end of last year as it had done in previous years, and has classified the said report as a "discontinued product", of the reasons for that;

(2) as it is learnt that Hong Kong businesses having their headquarters in Hong Kong and producing on the Mainland have created an enormous demand for

support services in finance, transport and logistics and other production service industries in Hong Kong, whether it has assessed the impact of the continuous decline in the number of relevant enterprises on the development of local production service industries (e.g. re-export trade via Hong Kong, financing and other support services for industries and commerce); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(3) given that the Financial Secretary has proposed in this year's Budget the development of Hong Kong into a multinational supply chain management centre to attract Mainland manufacturing enterprises seeking to "go global" to set up offices in Hong Kong to serve as headquarters for managing their offshore trading, and there are views that most Hong Kong manufacturing enterprises, which are a key stakeholder in bolstering Hong Kong's status as a multinational supply chain management centre, have all along chosen Hong Kong as their supply chain management centre, whether the government departments concerned have, in view of the aforesaid statistical changes, gained an understanding from the relevant sectors (including the major chambers of commerce) their latest development and how they upgrade and transform themselves; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that;

(4) whether the New Industrialisation Development Office established in February this year will join hands with government departments such as the Trade and Industry Department, the C&SD and the Special Administrative Region Government's economic and trade offices on the Mainland to conduct a more thorough survey on the development of Hong Kong manufacturing enterprises on the Mainland (or trading firms defined by the C&SD as being engaged in manufacturing-related activities) and provide targeted support; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(5) given that the Financial Secretary announced in the 2022-2023 Budget that a total funding of \$135 million would be allocated to the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in the three years that followed for the introduction of the Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland, but there are views that the effectiveness of such measure has room for improvement, whether the Government will consider, by drawing reference from the initiative proposed in last year's Policy Address of earmarking \$30 million for clansmen associations, providing regular or project-based subsidies for chambers of commerce and groups of Hong Kong people on the Mainland, so as to assist Hong Kong manufacturing businesses, in particular, in developing the Mainland domestic sales market; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

In consultation with the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the consolidated reply to the different parts of the question is as follows:

(1) Statistical reports regularly published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) in the past were in traditional desktop publishing format (PDF format). In order to enhance users' reading experience, starting from April 2023, these statistical reports are published by the C&SD in the new "web report" format, which provides more interactive features and is more convenient for users to read directly using computers or mobile devices. The detailed results of the 2022 Annual Survey of Economic Activities in respect of the industrial sector were already published in "web report" format on December 29, 2023, in the report "Key Statistics on Business Performance and Operating Characteristics of the Industrial Sector in 2022" (www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/wbr.html?ecode=B10800122022AN22&scode=310). Key statistics relating to manufacturing firms as well as import and export firms engaged in sub-contract processing arrangement and providing manufacturing-related technical support services are presented in Table 610-72013 of the report under Section 7.

(2) and (4) Government bureaux and departments maintain liaison with various trade and industrial organisations and, through different consultation channels, understand the development situations and needs of the relevant sectors, with a view to formulating appropriate policies and support measures. Apart from liaising and exchanging views with various major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong from time to time, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) has also established the Trade and Industry Advisory Board and the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee comprising, among other members, representatives from a number of business and professional services sectors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), for tapping the trades' views. Other Government bureaux and departments also keep abreast of the operation and actual needs of the relevant sectors through different channels, including the advisory bodies under their purviews. The C&SD also regularly conducts surveys of economic activities to collect statistical data on the business performance and operation of Hong Kong enterprises (including those with business operations on the Mainland) of various sectors (including the manufacturing industry). The ITIB will continue to maintain close liaison with the C&SD and duly consider if there is any need to conduct a more comprehensive study.

(3) and (5) In line with the trend of Mainland manufacturing enterprises extending their production supply chains abroad, the Financial Secretary has proposed in the 2024-25 Budget to develop Hong Kong into a multinational supply chain management centre. In that regard, as a premier financial and commercial centre in the region, Hong Kong has the capacity to offer full-fledged and comprehensive professional support services (e.g. consulting services, trade financing and corporate training) to meet the overseas business needs of those Mainland enterprises wishing to "go abroad".

The CEDB is co-ordinating and working together with "Team Hong Kong" organisations to study the relevant details, including the provision of one-stop services for enterprises. Invest Hong Kong will also support the work and step up efforts in attracting Mainland manufacturing enterprises to set up offices in Hong Kong to serve as headquarters for managing their offshore trading, and continue to organise and sponsor a series of investment

promotion activities to provide them with the latest information on Hong Kong's business environment and proactively promote Hong Kong's distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and our close connections to the world under "one country, two systems".

As regards understanding the latest development situation of the relevant sectors for promoting upgrading and transformation and providing targeted support, the measures being implemented include:

- The CEDB assists enterprises (including the manufacturing industry) in developing brands, upgrading and transforming, enhancing competitiveness, and exploring the Mainland and overseas markets through various funding schemes. Among others, the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund) provides funding support for Hong Kong enterprises to develop business in a total of 39 economies (including the Mainland) with which Hong Kong has signed free trade agreements and/or investment promotion and protection agreements. Enterprises can make use of the funding of the BUD Fund to set up production lines, procure or lease machinery and equipment, conduct publicity and promotional activities, as well as develop their own brands on the Mainland. Since the launch of the BUD Fund in 2012 to end March 2024, over \$4.73 billion of funding has been approved, benefitting over 5 200 enterprises, about 40 per cent of which engaged in the manufacturing industry. The Financial Secretary announced in the 2024-25 Budget the further injection of \$500 million into the BUD Fund, thereby increasing its total commitment to \$7 billion, to continue providing support for SMEs.
- The Mainland Offices of the Government have all along been striving to maintain close liaison with associations, chambers of commerce and enterprises of Hong Kong people on the Mainland, to understand their working and living situations, and provide appropriate assistance as required. They organise trade seminars and investment promotion meetings, etc. and offer support and sponsorship to the activities organised by associations of Hong Kong people as appropriate. Furthermore, the Mainland Offices have been proactively serving as an important bridge between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Aside from enhancing communication and liaison with their Mainland counterparts, the Mainland offices also disseminate information on new laws and regulations, policies and significant regional developments on the Mainland to the Hong Kong business sector through giving public speeches, media interviews and briefings, issuing information circulars, newsletters and press releases, etc. The Mainland Offices also convey the living and development needs of Hong Kong people to the Mainland authorities and strive for the full implementation of facilitation measures for Hong Kong people.

- Starting from 2022-23, the Government has been implementing the three-year-long Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland through the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), organising different types of activities having regard to the situation and needs of Hong Kong enterprises on the Mainland, including assisting those engaging in the manufacturing industry on the Mainland in understanding the latest Mainland policies and measures, and grasping the market opportunities for further business development.

To understand the needs of Hong Kong enterprises on the Mainland, at the early implementation stage of the Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland, the HKTDC conducted studies through surveys and seminars, and received more than 1 700 replies from these enterprises. The HKTDC, having regard to the findings and in partnership with relevant Mainland organisations, launched a series of activities and services that could cater for enterprises' needs. From the commencement of the Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland in April 2022 to end March 2024, the HKTDC had organised more than 290 events in around 50 Mainland cities with the participation of more than 22 000 representatives of Hong Kong enterprises and professionals. The events include introduction and briefing of policies, online and offline seminars, business forums, visits to work sites and enterprises and thematic salons, covering different sectors such as finance, innovation and technology, professional services, biomedicine, catering, environmental protection and cultural and creative industries. In organising these activities, the HKTDC had collaborated with more than 270 relevant organisations including Mainland-based chambers of Hong Kong businesses, economic and trade associations, professionals' groups, young entrepreneur associations, industry associations as well as relevant Mainland governmental and economic and trade bodies.

The Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland is well-received by Hong Kong enterprises and relevant organisations on the Mainland, and has helped deepen our trades' understanding of the Mainland's policies and market developments, as well as broaden their Mainland network so as to extend their business from major cities to neighbouring provinces or cities. The Government does not plan to change the current operation and mode of funding of the Support Scheme for Pursuing Development in the Mainland.

Government bureaux and departments will continue to closely monitor the latest developments of different sectors, and review the effectiveness of their work in due course for enhancing their policies and support measures.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 is 106 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected crack cocaine and synthetic cathinone \(bath salts\) worth about \\$6 million \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (May 7) seized about 4.4 kilograms of suspected crack cocaine and about 600 grams of suspected synthetic cathinone (bath salts) with a total estimated market value of about \$6 million in Sai Wan. A man suspected to be connected with the case was arrested.

During an anti-narcotics operation conducted in the vicinity of Sai Wan yesterday, Customs seized the batch of suspected crack cocaine and suspected synthetic cathinone (bath salts) inside a mini-storage locker in an industrial building.

On the same day, Customs officers arrested a 19-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case in Sai Wan. He claimed to be a transportation worker.

An investigation is ongoing. The likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking 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/).

