

# Illegal worker jailed

An Indonesian illegal worker holding a recognisance form was jailed by Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday (December 9).

During an anti-illegal worker operation conducted on October 31, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a restaurant in Causeway Bay. A female Indonesian, aged 41, was arrested while working as a dish-washing worker. Upon identity checking, she produced for inspection a recognisance form issued by the ImmD, which prohibits her from taking employment. Further investigation revealed that she was a non-refoulement claimant. An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Shatin Magistrates' Courts yesterday with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are 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. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. 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. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

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 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, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

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## Temporary traffic and transport arrangements for tram track renewal works in Central District from this Saturday

The Transport Department (TD) today (December 10) reminded the public that to facilitate tram track renewal work at Des Voeux Road Central and Cleverly Street, the following temporary traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented from about 10am this Saturday (December 14) to 6am on December 16 (Monday).

### (A) Traffic lane closure

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Part of the left lane of Cleverly Street southbound near Des Voeux Road Central will be temporarily closed.

### (B) Banning of turning movement

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All vehicles exceeding 7 metres in length will be temporarily prohibited from turning left from Cleverly Street southbound onto Des Voeux Road Central.

### (C) Traffic diversion

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Vehicles exceeding 7 metres in length on Cleverly Street southbound heading for Des Voeux Road Central will be diverted via Bonham Strand and Morrison Street.

### (D) Bus diversion

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Citybus routes No. 1, 5B and 10 will be diverted via Connaught Road West and Rumsey Street starting from the first departures on December 14 until the last departures on December 15, before resuming their original routings.

(E) Bus stop arrangements

The bus stop of Citybus routes No. 1, 5B and 10 at Des Voeux Road Central outside Wing On Centre will be temporarily relocated to Des Voeux Road Central outside Infinitus Plaza Shopping Arcade.

Appropriate traffic signs and road markings will be erected on-site to guide motorists. The public transport operators will display notices to advise passengers of the above temporary arrangements.

The TD anticipates that the traffic in the vicinity of the above road sections will be relatively busy. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience in case of traffic congestion. Public transport commuters are advised to pay attention to the arrangements of suspension or relocation of stops. Members of the public are advised to stay alert to the latest traffic news or the department's website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).

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## [Government extends third stage public consultation period for new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan](#)

The Labour and Welfare Bureau announced today (December 10) that the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) will extend the third stage (Consensus Building Stage) public consultation period for a new Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) by six weeks, from the original end date on December 20, 2019 to January 31, 2020. The third stage public consultation period will therefore be extended to a total of 12 weeks.

With the assistance of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Consulting Team, the RAC has arranged a series of public engagement activities under the Consensus Building Stage for a new RPP, including four public consultation sessions and 16 thematic seminars between November 5 and December 20, 2019.

Taking account of stakeholders' views, the RAC will arrange three additional public consultation sessions in the regions of Kowloon, Hong Kong Island and New Territories West respectively in January 2020 for members of the public and stakeholders to provide their views on the strategic directions and recommendations of the new RPP. The arrangements are set out as follows:

Session	Date and Time	Venue
Session Five Kowloon	January 4 (Saturday) 3pm to 5.30pm	Hall, Kwun Tong Community Centre, 17 Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong
Session Six Hong Kong Island	January 14 (Tuesday) 10am to 12.30pm	Hall, 1/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai
Session Seven New Territories West	January 16 (Thursday) 3pm to 5.30pm	Hall, Tseng Choi Street Community Hall, 27 Tseng Choi Street, Tuen Mun

Note: To be conducted in Cantonese, with Hong Kong sign language interpretation.

Please visit the Consulting Team's website ([www.rs.polyu.edu.hk/rpp](http://www.rs.polyu.edu.hk/rpp)) for registration arrangements of the public consultation sessions and methods for submitting views. Members of the public who have any views or enquiries may send an email to the Consulting Team ([rs.rpp@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:rs.rpp@polyu.edu.hk)).

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## [Government to further reduce emissions from power plants](#)

A Government spokesman said today (December 10) that the Eighth Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in Respect of Specified Licences (the Eighth TM), which will result in further emission reduction from the power plants of the two power companies (the Hongkong Electric Company, Limited and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited), has been approved by the Legislative Council on November 27.

The Eighth TM was issued under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) to cap the annual emission allowances of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and respirable suspended particulates (RSPs) from the power generation sector from 2024 and onwards at 3 150 tonnes, 12 430 tonnes and 391 tonnes respectively. As compared with the emission allowances for the power generation sector for 2022 set under the Seventh TM, the Eighth TM will tighten the emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and RSPs by 40 per cent, 29 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. This will further improve the air quality in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region.

In order to meet the new emission allowances, the two power companies are building new gas-fired generating units for completion in or before 2024. By then, the local gas generation will be around 57 per cent of the total fuel mix for electricity generation. The NO<sub>x</sub> emission performance and thermal efficiency of existing gas-fired generating units will also be improved and more electricity intake from renewable energy sources will be introduced.

In accordance with the APCO, the emission allowances for power plants stipulated in the Eighth TM will come into effect on January 1, 2024. The Environmental Protection Department will conduct a further review by 2021 to ensure timely revision of the emission allowances.

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## **Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second 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 (December 10) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.