

Press release: Welsh Secretary: Aston Martin creating a lasting legacy in Wales

Aston Martin's investment in St Athan will create a lasting legacy for the region, Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns will say when he attends a special ceremony to mark the beginning of the redevelopment of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) site into the car brand's newest manufacturing facility.

Work has already begun on staff facilities at the site and the second phase will start in earnest when the company today (6 April) gains access to the three Ministry of Defence "super hangars" that will house the manufacturing plant.

In February 2016, Aston Martin Lagonda announced that the DBX – a 'crossover' sports utility vehicle – would be made at St Athan with the creation of 750 jobs with a likely further 1,000 across the supply chain and local businesses in Wales. The first vehicle is expected to come off the production line in 2020.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns will be on hand at the prestigious event in the Vale of Glamorgan which marks the start of the transition of the aircraft hangars into Wales' newest, state of the art manufacturing plant.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns said:

Thanks to the close partnership between the UK and Welsh Governments and the prestigious Aston Martin brand, the St Athan site is springing back to life as a significant centre of employment, bringing with it valuable skills and a lasting legacy for the entire region.

As the UK exits the EU, we are determined that our country remains a great place to invest and to do business. Aston Martin's decision to invest in Wales shows that we are creating and supporting the right conditions for industry investment. The UK Government's comprehensive industrial strategy will build on that success, ensuring that we have the right infrastructure, skills and support in place for our world-leading industries as well as support for new emerging sectors to flourish.

The automotive sector is the UK's largest manufacturing export sector and is spread nationally. St Athan will be the sole production facility for the new Aston Martin crossover vehicle. With growing demand for these types of vehicles in markets such as China and the United States, it is expected that over 90% of the production from St Athan will be exported outside of the

United Kingdom.

Remarks at the bilateral meeting with His Excellency the Honourable Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru

PRIME MINISTER:

Mr President welcome, it's great to see you again.

We had a great discussion at the Pacific Islands forum and congratulations on being the chair for the next Pacific Islands forum. We look forward to meeting with all of our neighbours in the Pacific in Nauru.

I hope you are having a good visit, I know Australia for you and your team is familiar territory but we really welcome you here.

I want to thank you for the great cooperation that Nauru shows in working together with us to combat this scourge of people smuggling.

Your efforts, your collaboration is so appreciated.

We have got a lot of other things to discuss – on development, growing the economies of the Pacific and of course in dealing with the big environmental challenges you face as well.

So welcome Mr President, it's great to have you here in Sydney and in Australia.

PRESIDENT OF NAURU:

It's great to be here. We know who our friends are and we always try to work alongside them with this fight against people smuggling and I think the program is working very well.

[ENDS]

Draft to protect good Samaritans

Draft regulations aimed at protecting good Samaritans and their families in Henan province would block companies from firing employees, including those unable to work due to injuries sustained in an act of bravery.

The proposals, which are open to public feedback until April 30, also include rewards of up to 100,000 yuan (US\$14,500) and “green channels” at hospitals to fast-track patients who help save others.

Children of people killed or disabled while acting as good Samaritans could enjoy privileges when entering high school or college, according to the draft released on Saturday.

The government document clarifies five situations in which a person can be defined as a good Samaritan, including protecting State security, helping authorities crack a significant criminal case or conducting a rescue during or after a disaster.

“Good Samaritans deserve rewards and help,” said Li Min, the daughter of Li Xuesheng, a resident of Henan’s Shangqiu city who died in 2005 while saving two children playing on a railway track in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province. “I’m happy to see that the government has considered that and made it part of the regulation.”

Wang Junzhang, 36, of Jiaozuo, who saved two boys from a frozen lake in Beijing in 2014, added: “I think this draft is very detailed. It will better protect good Samaritans and will definitely encourage more people to help others.”

Last month, the Ministry of Public Security issued a draft guideline on protecting and rewarding good Samaritans. Henan followed the step and carried out a draft of its own on that basis.

“The revised version will be presented to the provincial legislature and will be officially issued as a local law if passed,” said Yuan Shuhang, an official with the Henan Legislative Affairs Office, whose office is responsible for considering the suggestions collected and making necessary revisions.

“It will have greater legal validity than similar regulations or guidelines released before,” he added.

Girls apologize over assault on young students

Four female students who appeared in a viral video of an assault on two young girls in Sichuan Province have been forced to apologize and their families ordered to pay compensation, police said on Wednesday.

The group—identified as Li, Liu and Zhao, all 14, and Zhang, 13—were taken into custody after an investigation into footage filmed on Friday that showed the victims being repeatedly slapped and kicked.

According to the local authorities, the video was recorded outside a high school attended by the victims in Longfeng town, which forms part of Pengzhou. The suspects attend other schools in the area.

The city's public security bureau said on Wednesday that the suspects' families had been fined an undisclosed sum and ordered to cover any medical expenses. All of the suspects were placed in administrative detention, except for Zhang, as children under the age of 14 cannot be detained.

The victims had accepted the girls' apologies, the bureau added.

Lasting just over two minutes, the video shows a girl dressed in black who first slaps a young student in a green school uniform 14 times within 35 seconds, and then kicks and hits a short-haired girl. Neither victim is seen fighting back.

Police did not reveal which of the suspects was the girl in black or the motivation behind the assault.

The incident is the latest in a string of bullying cases that have gained media attention in the past year.

On April 22, a video showed a female student in Hunan Province being slapped 32 times by a group of female students in less than 100 minutes.

On May 16, a male high school student in Shandong Province was beaten by another boy in a school toilet.

Officials approved the arrest of 1,180 people involved in school bullying and violence nationwide last year, according to the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the top prosecuting authority.

A total of 688 first-time juvenile offenders or those who committed minor offenses were exempt from prosecution in the hope they would return to society a better person.

School violence has aroused widespread concern. The National People's Congress, the top legislature, announced in March that it will conduct an inspection of school safety this year and study how to reduce violence on

campuses.

Subway to compensate man over injury

A man left paralyzed after being crushed by fellow passengers on a Beijing subway train has been awarded 260,000 yuan (\$37,700) in compensation, a court said on Wednesday.

The Changping District People's Court ruled that Beijing Subway, which operates the line, was 20 percent responsible for the accident that left the plaintiff, identified only as Liu, in need of 24-hour care.

Liu attempted to board a subway train on Line 5 at Tiantongyuan North Station at about 7 p.m. on Jan. 15, 2014, when he was crushed in a surge of passengers.

The then-56-year-old fell unconscious on the train, "but the rush hour crowd did not pay any attention to him, let alone help him", according to his lawyer, Liu Yongfei.

"My client was not sent to hospital until the train arrived at Lishuiqiao, three stations later, which is when subway workers spotted him on surveillance cameras," he said. Although similar cases caused by overcrowding at Chinese subway stations are not rare, the attorney said, "the injury suffered by my client can be said to be the most serious and tragic."

The victim, who worked at an advertising company and had previously complained of neck problems, was hospitalized for 765 days after the accident, "and even now he cannot stand up and have a meal by himself", Liu said. "He cannot live by himself."

Considering the seriousness of the injury, the man's family appealed to the court in early 2015, requesting the metro company pay 1.9 million yuan in compensation, including medical fees and loss of income for the man's absence from work, according to Liu.

In February 2015, the court accepted the case. It made the judgment at the end of last year and disclosed the verdict online to receive public supervision on March 30.

In the judgment, the court said the subway company, as the regulator of the system, should take more security measures to protect passengers during rush hour.

"Although the litigant's injuries were not directly caused by the metro operator, the case highlighted a lack of protection and security measures for passengers, and the company did not provide enough evidence to prove it had

fulfilled its responsibility at the time," said Huang Ying, the judge in charge of the case.

Therefore, the court decided to ask the company to claim 20 percent of the responsibility in the case and pay compensation to the victim, Huang said.

The court said the 260,000 yuan was to cover three years of medical fees and that the plaintiff can ask for further compensation in line with the law if he needs to in the future, the attorney added.

The litigant and his family were satisfied with the result and said they would not appeal to a higher court, Liu said.