<u>Correctional officers combat illicit</u> <u>activities of persons in custody</u>

The management of Lo Wu Correctional Institution today (September 2) launched an operation to combat illicit activities of persons in custody.

The institution management received intelligence in recent days that individual remand persons in custody have attempted to build up forces and incited others to participate. The institution management immediately monitored the activities of target persons in custody.

In the morning today, the institution management conducted surprise search to the workshop of a target person in custody. She and another five persons in custody were found in possession of prohibited articles, whereupon correctional officers immediately taken disciplinary action against them. At 3.58pm, 18 persons in custody of the same workshop exerted pressure on the institution management to rescind the disciplinary action took against the six persons in custody or else they would take further actions. The Correctional Services Department (CSD) immediately deployed reinforcement including the Regional Response Team and Dog Unit to assist the frontline staff of the Lo Wu Correctional Institution to remove 18 persons in custody from association for investigation so as to ensure institution security and stability. The operation is still in progress.

The CSD is committed to ensuring a safe and secure custodial environment, and will take every measure to combat any form of illegal activities inside the institution.

Lo Wu Correctional Institution is a medium security institution for the detention of female adult convict and remand persons in custody.