

# Government clarifies rumours on Internet

Regarding the rumours on the Internet that some government departments are forcing their staff to participate in voluntary work related to the fight against the novel coronavirus disease, a government spokesman clarified today (February 7) that the rumours are totally unfounded.

The spokesman said that to tackle the critical situation, the Government hopes that departments would encourage their staff and former civil servants who had retired to participate on a voluntary basis in the voluntary work to provide support arising from operational needs. The tasks involved would be non-medical and non-professional in nature.

Their own operational requirements permitting, the departments will release their staff who have voluntarily signed up to be volunteers on loan to the Department of Health, the Home Affairs Bureau and its departments, or the Social Welfare Department for the work concerned.