

## HAD prosecutes clubhouse and related persons for suspected violations of anti-epidemic regulations

The Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department today (October 4) applied to the court for eight summonses in accordance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) respectively, against the licence holder of a clubhouse (Scout Association of Hong Kong – Commissioners' Club) located at 8/F, Hong Kong Scout Centre, 8 Austin Road, Jordan, Kowloon, a catering service provider and two of its responsible persons, and three persons who were suspected of having held a group gathering in the above-mentioned premises.

According to an investigation, the licence holder of the clubhouse, the catering service contractor and two of its responsible persons suspected of violating relevant requirements and directions issued by the Secretary for Food and Health in relation to the clubhouse under Cap. 599F on April 10, 2021, by having allowed and arranged a banquet in catering premises inside the clubhouse with the number of participants exceeding the limit of 20 persons prevailing at the time. Separately, the catering service contractor and three persons of the Scout Association of Hong Kong respectively who allowed the taking place of a prohibited group gathering and the organisation of that banquet were suspected of violating the relevant restrictions on group gathering under Cap. 599G.

Having examined all available information, the OLA applied to the court for a summons against the licence holder of the clubhouse, four summonses against the catering service provider and two of its responsible persons, and three summonses against the three persons who organised the banquet at the clubhouse. The cases will be heard in court.

The OLA will continue to proactively take stringent enforcement action and step up inspections at clubhouses in various districts across the territory to ensure that the responsible persons of the premises and the patrons strictly comply with relevant provisions in the regulations for the prevention and control of diseases. The Government appeals to members of the public for their full compliance with various anti-epidemic requirements so as to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the community.