

## Old and Valuable Tree on Nathan Road removed by LCSD

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) today (August 8) removed one Old and Valuable Tree (OVT) with a potential risk of collapse outside the Tsim Sha Tsui Police Station on Nathan Road to ensure public safety.

The tree being removed was a *Ficus microcarpa* listed on the Register of OVTs (registration number LCSD YTM/2) with a height of about 14 metres.

The tree was found to have advanced wood decay and cavities in a limb over the walkway and in its trunk base. The department had all along carried out regular inspections, maintenance and mitigation measures, including application of fungicide, improving the soil, applying fertiliser, conducting soil aeration, crown cleaning and cabling. The LCSD also collaborated with the Highways Department to install a steel frame to support the tree in 2013.

Despite the implementation of various maintenance and mitigation measures over the years, the health and structural conditions of the tree were found to be deteriorating. Considering the heavy pedestrian and road traffic in that part of the road, there is a need to avoid posing a danger to pedestrians and other road users. Having consulted and being supported by the Urban Forestry Advisory Panel, the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau, the tree was removed today. The LCSD will replant a Weeping Fig at Park Lane Shopper's Boulevard.

A spokesman for the LCSD reiterated that the department will continue to adopt a prudent approach in inspecting and managing trees under its care. Removal of problematic trees will be undertaken only when no other viable risk mitigation measure is available.