

Police urge the public not to take part in unauthorised assemblies

Police are aware that someone has been calling on members of the public to take part in an unauthorised assembly under the pretext of religious gathering on Hong Kong Island on June 12 (Friday). According to Schedule One of the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation, gatherings during a religious activity are exempted only if they are held at any premises constructed or regularly used as a place of worship. Thus, not all religious activities are exempted.

Police reiterate that anyone participating in such events may be found guilty of “taking part in an unauthorised assembly” under the Public Order Ordinance and be liable to a maximum penalty of five years’ imprisonment. Besides, engaging in public gatherings will also increase the risk of transmission of virus in the community and may violate the prohibition of group gatherings under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation.

Police stress that any group gatherings taking place during the ongoing pandemic can also increase the risk of spreading the virus. Police call upon members of the public to refrain from taking part in unauthorised assemblies and prohibited group gatherings. Police will deploy adequate manpower in relevant locations on the day and take resolute action to enforce the law, including making arrests.