

SHA inspects relief work by Home Affairs staff after typhoon

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, today (September 19) visited Victoria Park and Lei Yue Mun to learn about the relief work that has taken place in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Mangkhut.

Mr Lau first visited Victoria Park to learn more about the clearance work after the passage of the typhoon, so as to confirm that the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival can be held in the park as scheduled. He also thanked the park staff for their work. The typhoon caused severe damage and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department is making great efforts to conduct clearance and repair work at the venues affected under its management. Coastal facilities including all gazetted public beaches and some water sports centres, as well as promenades in many districts, have been temporarily closed.

In addition, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and a number of land-based leisure facilities including Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground and Aberdeen Sports Ground have also been closed due to serious damage brought about by the typhoon. Mr Lau appealed for public understanding, as it may take longer for these venues to undergo large-scale repair works before they can reopen for public use.

Accompanied by the District Officer (Kwun Tong), Mr Steve Tse, Kwun Tong District Council member Mr Lui Tung-hai and representatives of Lei Yue Mun resident organisations, Mr Lau then went to Lei Yue Mun to inspect the Government's typhoon defences, including Lei Yue Mun Sports Centre which was designated as a temporary shelter during the typhoon, as well as flood prevention facilities installed by various government departments after the passing of typhoon Hato in 2017. Mr Lau also observed the condition of villages affected in Lei Yue Mun and extended his sympathy to residents and business operators.

Mr Lau said the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had spared no efforts in providing emergency support services during the typhoon, including the early evacuation of residents in low-lying areas and the opening of 53 temporary shelters, which had around 1 700 visits. After the typhoon, the District Offices immediately liaised with relevant departments and arranged contractors for clean-up operations and tree removal, so as to enable the opening of roads as soon as possible.

Mr Lau thanked all staff members of the Home Affairs Bureau for remaining united and committed to their work during the typhoon. The HAD provided full support in different districts and maintained close communication with other departments, thereby handling the relief work systematically and efficiently to facilitate the early resumption of normal operations.