

# **Red flags hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (February 23) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

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# **Commencement notice for remaining four elements of safety management system of Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation gazetted**

The Government published in the Gazette today (February 23) the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2024 (CN), to appoint April 29, 2024, as the day on which the uncommenced provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Management) Regulation (Regulation) come into effect.

The uncommenced provisions refer to the remaining four elements of the safety management system (SMS) specified in Part 3 of Schedule 4 of the Regulation which include "Job-Hazards Analysis", "Safety and Health Awareness", "Accident Control and Hazard Elimination", and "Occupational Health Assurance Programme".

The Regulation was approved by the Legislative Council in 1999 and the 14 SMS elements listed in Schedule 4 of the Regulation was brought into operation by phases. The first 10 elements of the SMS specified in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 of the Regulation have been put into operation since April 1, 2002. The phased implementation of the Regulation aims to let the relevant industries become accustomed to the SMS and make necessary preparations for the implementation of the remaining four elements.

Upon the full operation of the Regulation, proprietors and contractors of relevant industrial undertakings (RIUs) (i.e. factories, construction sites, shipyards and designated undertakings having 100 or more workers in a day working therein, as well as construction projects with a contract value of HK\$100 million or more) are required to implement the SMS which contains all 14 elements, and to regularly carry out safety audits of their SMSs.

A spokesman for the Labour Department (LD) said, "Since the commencement of the Regulation, we conducted a number of reviews to assess the readiness of the industry on the implementation of the remaining four elements. The latest review showed that the general feedback from the industry was positive and there was no objection to the implementation of the remaining four elements. In addition, Occupational Safety Officers of the LD regularly visited the management of the RIUs to proactively promote the implementation of an SMS containing all 14 elements. Considering the Regulation has been enacted for more than two decades, the proprietors and contractors of the RIUs should have prepared for the implementation of the remaining four elements."

The Government also gazetted the revised Code of Practice on Safety Management (CoP) today. The major amendments include enhancing the requirements for conducting a safety audit and review, adding the requirements for notification of a safety audit and submission of a safety audit report, adding the assessment form on the SMS, so as to provide more practical guidance for the duty holders in complying with the requirements of the Regulation.

The spokesman added, "This CoP has a special legal status. In criminal proceedings, if a relevant person fails to observe any provision of this CoP, that failure may be taken by a court as a relevant factor in determining whether or not a person has breached the relevant occupational safety and health legislation."

The revised CoP can be downloaded from the LD's website ([www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2\\_8.htm](http://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_8.htm)). Enquiries about the CoP can be made at 2559 2297.

There will be a grace period of six months after the commencement date to allow sufficient time for the RIUs to make necessary preparations.

The CN will be tabled at the Legislative Council for negative vetting on February 28, 2024.

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**Commissioner for the Development of**

## the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area visits Guangzhou (with photos)

â€‹The Commissioner for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Ms Maisie Chan, visited Guangzhou today (February 22) to meet with leaders of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province (GDHKMAO). She also visited a Hong Kong youth innovation and entrepreneurial base as well as high and new technology enterprises in Nansha.

Upon her arrival in Guangzhou in the morning, Ms Chan called on the Director of GDHKMAO, Ms Chen Li-wen, to discuss the continuous enhancement of co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, with a view to injecting strong impetus into the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Ms Chan said the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has all along attached great importance to GBA development, and has been maintaining close liaison with relevant Central Ministries and Commissions, and working with the governments of Guangdong and Macao in a concerted manner under the principles of complementarity to proactively seek policy innovations and breakthroughs, with a view to promoting a higher level of connectivity and integrated development in the GBA.

The Central Government promulgated the Three-year Action Plan for the Development of International First-class Business Environment in the GBA and the Overall Development Plan for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone, as well as two important planning documents related to the development of the Guangdong-Macao Zone in Hengqin in December 2023, providing important guidance and support for the steadfast and successful development of the GBA, as well as the better integration of Hong Kong and Macao into the overall development of the country. With the promulgation of these important documents, the HKSAR Government has also promptly communicated with the Guangdong Provincial Government and Shenzhen Municipal Government to jointly explore enhanced collaboration for implementing more policy measures conducive to the development of the country and the GBA which are also beneficial to Hong Kong.

Ms Chan added that the HKSAR Government will continue to lead all sectors of the community to seize the significant opportunities brought about by the development of the country and the GBA, and will fully leverage Hong Kong's dual roles of "super connector" and "super value-adder" between the Mainland and global markets. At the same time, we will strengthen our co-operation with the Guangdong Province in promoting the compatibility and alignment of the rules and mechanisms to higher standards, in a wider range of areas, and to a deeper level, in order to create greater opportunities for

residents and enterprises in Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the GBA.

In the afternoon, Ms Chan visited Nansha, Guangzhou to learn about the planning and latest development of the Nansha New Area. Ms Chan also visited a youth innovation and entrepreneurial base there, as well as two high and new technology enterprises specialising in artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicle technology respectively. She was briefed about the latest developments of the industries by the representatives of the two high and new technology enterprises, and took a test ride on an autonomous vehicle. She welcomed the two enterprises to share their experiences and enhance co-operation with their counterparts in Hong Kong.



## [Tai Po Hospital announces incident of healthcare staff suspected to be assaulted](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesman for Tai Po Hospital (TPH) made the following announcement today (February 22) regarding an incident of a healthcare staff member suspected to be assaulted:

A staff member from the Department of Psychiatry was suspected to be assaulted this afternoon during a meeting with a patient and the patient's relatives. Ward staff and security staff immediately arrived on the scene to assist, and reported to the Police for assistance. The injured staff member was sent to the Accident and Emergency Department of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital for treatment. The staff member's left face was injured and was discharged after treatment. Police arrested a patient at the ward later, who was suspected in connection with the case.

The hospital is highly concerned about the incident, expressed sympathy and rendered necessary support to the injured staff member. The hospital resolutely adopts a zero-tolerance attitude to any workplace violence and strongly condemns the violent act. The hospital will follow up seriously and fully co-operate with the Police investigation.

TPH has all along attached great concern to work safety for its staff under prevailing guidelines and measures to prevent workplace violence. The hospital appeals to patients to follow the advice of healthcare workers.

The hospital has reported the incident to the Hospital Authority Head Office via the Advance Incident Reporting System.

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## [Transcript of remarks by FS at media session \(with photo/video\)](#)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, at a media session today (February 22):

Reporter: How would you interpret Director Xia's second visit to Hong Kong in such a short period of time? How would you respond to comments that the second visit may signal concerns from Beijing that the city's governance and economy is not doing as well as it should? And secondly, did Director Xia give any guidance or advice on the upcoming Budget, and did he give any key performance indicators for the Government concerning the economy? Thank you.

Financial Secretary: We warmly welcome the visit by Director Xia (the Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr Xia Baolong) to Hong Kong. His visit that lasts for seven days would cover such areas as Hong Kong's economic development and district administration. Under the leadership of the Chief Executive, along with the Deputy Financial Secretary and six other Policy Secretaries, we reported to Director Xia about the economic and financial situation in Hong Kong; our development in innovation and technology and commerce; as well as work related to land and housing supply. We had very good exchange of views. He

understands the situation of Hong Kong very well. During the discussion, he encouraged us to continue with our good work. He is confident with this Government and appreciates our work. Going forward, the whole team in the Government will continue to work hard to develop our economy. In the process, we will make good use of the various policy support measures from the Central Authorities.

As to your question about the possible measures that benefit Hong Kong, I think if there are any such measures, they would be announced at the appropriate time. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

