

## Ballots drawn for White Form Secondary Market Scheme 2018 (with photo)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

Ballots were drawn openly today (July 30) for the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM) 2018 under a newly launched electronic balloting system. The Chairman of the HA Subsidised Housing Committee, Mr Stanley Wong, officiated at the ballot drawing.

"Over 60 000 applications were received, with about 26 200 from family applicants and about 34 300 from one-person applicants under the WSM 2018. The quota set under the WSM 2018 is 2 500, with 2 250 allocated to family applicants and 250 to one-person applicants. The open ballot conducted today will determine the priority sequence of the last two digits of the application numbers held by applicants of the scheme. Based on the ballot results, the HA will randomly generate the order of all applicants under the family and one-person applicant categories by computer," a spokesman for the HA said.

According to the random order, the HA will conduct detailed vetting to determine whether individual applicants meet the eligibility criteria. Approval letters will be sent to eligible family and one-person applicants in October 2018 for them to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Purchase, which will have a validity period of 12 months from the issue date, within two weeks from the issue date of the approval letters to purchase a flat with premium not yet paid in the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) Secondary Market from the HA or in the Flat-for-Sale-Scheme Secondary Market from the Hong Kong Housing Society.

The WSM 2018 will provide a quota of 2 500 for applicants to purchase their flats with premium not yet paid and the quota for family and one-person applicants is set at the ratio of 9:1. According to the alienation restrictions under the WSM, a buyer is not allowed to sell the flat in the secondary market within the first two years from the first assignment after purchase. He or she can sell the flat with premium not yet paid to a nominee from the HOS Secondary Market by the HA starting from the third year onwards upon the first assignment. In addition, he or she may sell the flat in the open market at any time upon payment of the premium.

WSM buyers who purchase flats sold under the Sale of Home Ownership Scheme Flats 2018 will be subject to new alienation restrictions, i.e. they are not allowed to sell their flats in the open market with the premium paid for the first five years from the first assignment.

The ballot results for the WSM 2018 have been uploaded to the dedicated webpage on the HA/Housing Department website ([www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/sms-white-form-2018/en/index.html](http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/sms-white-form-2018/en/index.html)).

The random order of all applications under the family and one-person applicant categories generated from the ballot results by computer will be uploaded to the webpage tomorrow (July 31) and displayed at the HA Customer Service Centre in Lok Fu, estate offices and District Tenancy Management Offices of the HA, estate offices of the Hong Kong Housing Society, the Public Enquiry Service Centres of the Home Affairs Department and the Sham Shui Po Housing Information Centre. Applicants may also call the HA hotline 2712 2712 for enquiries.



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## Temporary traffic arrangements for tram track maintenance works in Western district from next Monday

The Transport Department (TD) today (July 30) reminded the public that to facilitate tram track maintenance work at Des Voeux Road West, parts of the fast lane of Des Voeux Road West westbound near Kwan Yick Building Phase I will be temporarily closed during the period from about 10am next Monday (August 6) to 6pm on August 13 (Monday).

Appropriate traffic signs will be erected on-site to guide motorists.

The TD anticipates that the traffic in the vicinity of the above road section will be relatively busy. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience in case of traffic congestion. Members of the public are advised to stay alert to the latest traffic news or the department's website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).

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## Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Monday,

July 30, 2018 is 104 (up 0.1 against last Saturday's index).

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## [Proper use of 999 hotline urged](#)

Police today (July 30) appealed to the public to use the 999 hotline service only for emergencies.

In the first six months of 2018, the Police Regional Command and Control Centres received 1,073,892 calls, of which about 66.2 per cent, or 710,605 calls, were genuine. The remaining 363,287 calls were nuisance calls or misdialled.

A Police spokesman said that misuse of the emergency hotline would delay the handling of genuine emergencies. It would endanger the lives of people in urgent need of Police assistance.

The spokesman added that police stations could also promptly handle most crime reports and requests of a non-emergency nature. Members of the public are advised to seek assistance from police stations.

Police contact cards listing the telephone and fax numbers of all police stations as well as police hotlines are available for collection at police stations and Home Affairs Enquiry Centres of the Home Affairs Department. The list of contact numbers can also be found on the Police website ([www.police.gov.hk](http://www.police.gov.hk)) and the Hong Kong Police Mobile Application.

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## [Hong Kong team triumphs in International Physics Olympiad \(with photo\)](#)

A team of five secondary students representing Hong Kong achieved remarkable results at the 49th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), winning one gold medal, three silver medals and one bronze medal.

The IPhO aims to promote physics education, enhance contacts and co-operation among scientists and educators all over the world, and nurture and inspire teenagers who are highly talented in physics. This year, the IPhO was held from July 21 to 29 in Lisbon, Portugal, with the participation of around 400 students from 86 countries or regions.

Rahul Arya (King George V School) won a gold medal in the competition. Gaurav Arya (King George V School), Chau Chun-wang (St Margaret's Co-educational English Secondary and Primary School) and Joshua Leung (La Salle College) each won a silver medal, and the bronze medallist was Sean Mann (Diocesan Boys' School).

The Acting Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, congratulated the Hong Kong team today (July 30) on their outstanding performance.

"The impressive results achieved by the Hong Kong team this year demonstrate our students' great potential in physics and high level of critical and creative thinking ability," Dr Choi said.

"The Education Bureau is committed to promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education, and will continue to work in collaboration with the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) and relevant professional bodies in providing challenging learning experiences for talented students, including participating in national and international STEM-related competitions. We believe the potential of talented students could be further stretched through engaging them in these quality STEM learning activities," she added.

The members of the Hong Kong team, which was fully funded by the EDB to join the competition, had earlier distinguished themselves in last year's Hong Kong Physics Olympiad. They subsequently received training under the Physics Enhancement Programme jointly arranged by the HKAGE and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The best performing students in the programme were then selected as contestants representing Hong Kong to participate in the IPhO this year. The success of the Hong Kong team once again showcased the fruitful collaboration among relevant parties in nurturing talented students in Hong Kong.

To nurture more talents, the EDB is proposing to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council an injection of \$800 million into the Gifted Education Fund to support the enhancement of services of the HKAGE and to provide quality advanced learning programmes for gifted students by different gifted education providers, so as to further enhance the development of gifted education in Hong Kong.

