

Demand notes for Government rent issued

The Lands Department has issued demand notes for Government rent in excess of \$100 per annum for the half year ending June 24 in respect of properties subject to the Government Leases Ordinance (Chapter 40) and certain other properties.

Payers can settle Government rent through various electronic means including autopay, bank automated teller machines (ATMs), e-Cheque/e-Cashier's Order, payment by phone service (PPS), and bill payment services provided by banks and PPS on the Internet. Payment may also be made in person and in cash at designated convenience stores. For details, please visit the Treasury's website at www.try.gov.hk.

Payment may be made by sending a crossed cheque to PO Box No. 28000, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong, or in person at any post office. Please ensure sufficient mailing time and postage to make delivery in order. Underpaid mails will be rejected. For locations of post offices and their opening hours, please call Hongkong Post's enquiry hotline on 2921 2222 or visit Hongkong Post's website at www.hongkongpost.hk.

Government rent payers who have not received their demand notes should enquire at the Government Rent and Premium Unit of the Lands Department at 1/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong. Enquiries can also be made at 2231 3033.

Purchasers of properties are strongly advised to instruct their solicitors to ensure that Government rent has been paid to date at the time of purchase. Enquiries on outstanding accounts can be made at 2231 3033. An enquiry fee is payable for each property if a written confirmation of accounts position is needed.

EMSD releases latest lift maintenance cost information of private residential and commercial premises

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (May 25) released the latest maintenance cost information on lifts in private residential and commercial premises for public reference.

The EMSD had earlier engaged an independent consultant to conduct a

sampling survey on the maintenance costs of lifts in private residential and commercial buildings in Hong Kong. The consultant analysed the data provided by around 7,700 questionnaires collected, and calculated the average monthly maintenance costs of the lifts as follows:

Private Residential Buildings			
Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Change as compared with last survey (Note 1)
1 to 15	≤ 1.0m/s	\$3,824	+0.0%
	> 1.0m/s	\$4,468	+0.5%
16 to 25	≤ 1.5m/s	\$4,064	+1.5%
	> 1.5m/s	\$5,277	+2.2%
26 to 35	≤ 1.75m/s	\$5,199	+2.0%
	> 1.75m/s	\$6,717	+3.0%
More than 35	≤ 2.5m/s	\$7,690	+0.6%
	> 2.5m/s	\$8,716	+1.0%

Private Commercial Buildings			
Lift travel level	Rated speed of lift	Average monthly lift maintenance cost	Change as compared with last survey (Notes 1 and 2)
1 to 15	≤ 1.5m/s	\$4,767	+0.5%
	> 1.5m/s	\$6,834	+0.6%
16 to 25	≤ 2.0m/s	\$5,877	+0.4%
	> 2.0m/s	\$9,096	+0.2%
26 to 35	≤ 3.0m/s	\$7,984	+0.3%
	> 3.0m/s	\$11,958	-2.4%
More than 35	≤ 3.5m/s	\$11,626	+2.6%
	> 3.5m/s	\$16,865	-4.0%

The cost information is available in the Responsible Persons' Corner on the EMSD's website (www.emsd.gov.hk/en/lifts_and_escalators_safety/responsible_persons_corner/index.html). The EMSD will update it on a half-yearly basis.

In choosing registered lift contractors, the responsible persons of lifts are advised to make reference to the materials published in the Responsible Persons' Corner in addition to the price factor. The materials include:

- * performance ratings of registered contractors;
- * sample contracts for procurement of lift maintenance services;
- * a guidebook for persons responsible for lifts;

- * guidelines for selection of registered contractors for provision of maintenance services;
- * guidelines for modernisation of existing lifts;
- * guidelines for management of lift maintenance works;
- * a checklist for building management staff to conduct daily safety inspection of lifts; and
- * common questions and answers on lift management.

Note 1: The above price figures were updated on March 31, 2018, whereas the previous price figures were updated six months ago on September 30, 2017.

Note 2: As there are very few lifts with travel of more than 35 levels and rated speed of 3.5m/s or less, the surveyed price obtained through sampling of lifts in this group is prone to higher fluctuation.

Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools set up and 2018/19 priority themes of Quality Education Fund announced

The following is issued on behalf of the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee:

The Chairman of the Quality Education Fund (QEF) Steering Committee, Dr Gordon Tsui, today (May 25) announced the direction of the QEF, including the setting up of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools with the QEF allocating \$3 billion as proposed in the 2018-19 Budget, and the 11 priority themes for the 2018/19 QEF applications.

Dr Tsui said that since its introduction in 1998, the QEF, in line with the education development and policies of Hong Kong, had been striving to enhance the quality of school education and promote quality education. The QEF organises professional development activities, establishes quality school networks, and shares fruitful results with the education sector, with a view to facilitating professional exchanges and promoting a culture of quality education.

He added that the QEF Steering Committee had made a proactive response to the Government's suggestion in the Budget earlier and decided to allocate \$3 billion for the setting up of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools for schools to launch school-based curriculum development and support measures for students, as well as relevant school campus improvement works and procurement of supplies. This measure will be applicable to all publicly funded primary and secondary schools, including

schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS), special schools, and the kindergartens under the New Kindergarten Education Scheme. It is a four-year programme starting from the 2018/19 school year. The first call for application will be made from July this year. To simplify the application procedures, the QEF has designed a designated application form and will upload examples to the QEF website for schools' reference.

"The QEF hopes that the programme would better assist schools to launch school-based pilot or improvement projects to enhance learning and teaching as well as student support measures. The QEF Steering Committee agreed to set a total indicative value for each school from the primary and secondary schools sector and the kindergarten sector for reference purposes only. The indicative value of projects from the kindergarten sector is \$500,000 and that of projects from the primary and secondary schools sectors (including special and DSS schools) is \$2 million. By making reference to the total indicative values, each school may apply for one or more projects in the four school years. The total indicative values are intended to enable schools to plan ahead in preparing their budgets, and should not be taken as absolute ceiling amounts or a grant of a fixed value provided to schools. Simplified procedures have been designed for this dedicated funding programme to reduce the workload of schools in the application process," Dr Tsui said.

In addition, the QEF will continue to provide 11 priority themes, covering the areas of "Learning and Teaching", "Support for Students and School Ethos" and "Management and Organisations". Elaboration on the respective priority themes is given to facilitate the preparation of proposals.

The 11 priority themes for 2018/19 are:

Areas	Priority Themes
Learning and Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Catering for Learners' Diversity * Effective Learning and Teaching of Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Enhancing Learning and Teaching, and Assessment Literacy with a view to Enhancing Student Learning Outcomes in Primary General Studies, Key Learning Areas/Subject Curricula and Liberal Studies * Using e-Learning (IT) for Effective Learning * Values Education * Creative Arts and Culture Education
Support for Students and School Ethos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Healthy Lifestyle and Positive Students and Development of Students * Support for Students with Diverse Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promoting Whole-person Development among Kindergarten Children
Management and Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Supporting Effective School Organisations Management and Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Teacher Development and Wellness for

Promoting Schools as Learning Organisations

The QEF will continue to enhance communication and partnership with various stakeholders to create and share successful QEF project experiences. In addition to implementing the QEF Thematic Networks for knowledge transfer and sustainable professional development of teachers, the QEF has expanded the scope of the Thematic Networks to include initiatives which, not funded by the QEF, have been implemented in schools with good effect, in order to promote professional exchange and collaboration over quality education and benefit more schools.

To familiarise potential applicants with the application procedures of the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools and the priority themes, the QEF Secretariat will hold briefing sessions for the applicants of the following groups:

- * kindergartens (June 1, am)
- * primary schools, special schools and school sponsoring bodies (June 4, am)
- * secondary schools, special schools and school sponsoring bodies (June 4, pm)
- * tertiary education institutions (June 8, am)
- * non-government organisations (June 13, am)

Details of the application procedures will be uploaded to the QEF website (qef.org.hk) on May 29. Apart from briefing sessions, the QEF Secretariat will organise regular proposal-writing workshops and individual consultation sessions for prospective applicants pertaining to the preparation of proposals. The public can make reference to proposals of funded projects via the QEF Cyber Resource Centre (qcrc.qef.org.hk).

QEF deliverables, such as teaching and learning resources, can be purchased by mail or online at the QEF website and Hong Kong Education City (www.hkedcity.net). The QEF has also identified good projects for developing electronic deliverables with interactive functions to facilitate self-directed learning. So far, over 100 sets of electronic deliverables have been developed. The public can access these deliverables via the QEF Cyber Resource Centre and Hong Kong Education City.

[Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme extended to cover water closets](#)

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) today (May 25) extended the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme to cover water closets and invited applications for registration.

The WSD launched the scheme in 2009 to further promote water

conservation. Plumbing fixtures and water-consuming devices registered under the scheme are classified into four grades, with Grade 1 being the most water-efficient. Registered products bear a label that states their level of water consumption and water efficiency to help consumers choose water-efficient products to save water. Apart from covering water closets, the scheme has covered showers for bathing, water taps, washing machines, urinal equipment and flow controllers. As at May 15 this year, about 1 600 products were registered under the scheme.

The WSD encourages manufacturers, importers and related parties in the water closet business to join the scheme. For registration, applicants just need to submit a test certificate issued by a recognised laboratory that proves the level of water consumption of their water closets together with relevant documents to the WSD.

For details of the scheme, please visit the WSD's website (www.wsd.gov.hk/en/plumbing-engineering/water-efficiency-labelling-scheme/index.html) or call the WSD's hotline at 2824 5000.

Puxian opera performances to showcase musical heritage in June

The Chinese Opera Festival presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will showcase the ancient Puxian opera genre in June.

Initially known as Xinghua opera, Puxian opera originated from the region of Putian and Xianyou and became one of the five major opera genres of Fujian. Puxian opera has a long history and a traditional stock repertoire of more than 5 000 titles, with about 80 of the works retaining all of the elements of the original Southern opera as the cultural provenance. Therefore, the genre is known as the "living fossil" of Southern opera from the Song and Yuan dynasties. The genre was inscribed onto the first national list of intangible cultural heritage in 2006. Puxian opera is influenced by puppetry, and much of the gesturing reminds the audience of the style of marionettes. In terms of music, the genre features a rich repertoire of set tunes and unique vocal styles. It is sung in the dialect of Puxian and has preserved much of the musical heritage of Southern opera from the Song and Yuan dynasties, full of local style and colour.

Fujian Puxian Theatre will come to Hong Kong to perform traditional repertoire of Puxian opera. Winner of the Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre and National Class One Performer Wang Shaoyuan will join Wu Qinghua and Huang Yanyan, the director and vice director respectively of Fujian Puxian Theatre, and lead a fine cast to perform "The Imperial Scholar and the Beggar", "Thrice Begging Fan Lihua" and an excerpt performance. In these

performances, the unique nuance of Puxian opera will be demonstrated through the special body movements of the genre, such as "sedan chair carrying", the "chair routine", "floor-sweeping skirt", "the three-legged cane" and the "hoe routine".

Details of the performances are as follows:

June 29 (Friday), 7.30pm

"The Imperial Scholar and the Beggar"

Main cast: Huang Yanyan, Wu Qinghua, Ma Yanyu, Yang Junsheng, Zheng Rensen

June 30 (Saturday), 7.30pm

"Thrice Begging Fan Lihua"

Main cast: Wang Shaoyuan, Wu Qinghua, Zheng Rensen, Yu Lixiang, Lin Chunhong, Zheng Chaofan

July 1 (Sunday), 2.30pm

Excerpts: "Gualao Grows Gourds", "'Mourning' from 'The Butterfly Lovers'", "'Bearing the Sedan Chair' from 'Chuncao Barging into the Court Room'", "'Cosmetics Shop' from 'Guo Hua'", "'Rescuing Brother-in-law' from 'Li Yangui'", "'Great News from the Capital City' from 'Lu Mengzheng'"

Main cast: Wang Shaoyuan, Wu Qinghua, Huang Yanyan, Zheng Rensen, Yu Zhi, Yu Lixiang

All performances will be staged at the Theatre of Hong Kong City Hall. Tickets priced at \$150, \$250 and \$320 are now available at [URBTIX \(www.urbtix.hk\)](http://www.urbtix.hk).

For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7325 or visit www.cof.gov.hk.

Meet-the-Artists sessions (in Putonghua) entitled "'Living Fossil' of Song and Yuan Southern Opera – Artistic Charm and Heritage Development of Puxian Opera" and featuring Wu Qinghua, Huang Yanyan and Wang Shaoyuan will be held at 7.30pm on June 28 (Thursday) at AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The moderator will be Chinese opera researcher Chan Chun-miu. Admission is free. Limited seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.