

[The construction of Shatin to Central Link Project To Kwa Wan Station](#)

The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) and the Highways Department (HyD) are highly concerned about the recent media enquiries and reports on the construction of the To Kwa Wan Station under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project.

After learning of the incident on June 5, the HyD requested the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) on June 5 and 7 to provide relevant information of the incident. The THB also required the MTRCL to provide details of the incident as soon as possible.

According to the written reply from the MTRCL to the HyD on June 8, their contractor did not follow the construction drawings to carry out part of the works for the reinforced concrete wall adjacent to the staircases at the To Kwa Wan Station platform. The MTRCL stated that they had already required the contractor for an explanation and rectification as soon as possible. The contractor is also required to submit follow-up and remedial plans for MTRCL's consideration. However, the MTRCL's reply did not contain information such as the extent of the wall in question, the cause of the incident, the supervision of works and the impact on the structure, etc.

The HyD wrote to the MTRCL on June 11 again expressing dissatisfaction that the incident was not reported to the HyD timely. The HyD was disappointed and considered it unacceptable that the MTRCL could not identify the relevant problem during its supervision of the works. The HyD has required the MTRCL to submit a report within a week (i.e. on or before June 18) with detailed explanation of the cause of the incident and rectification plan.

[First Belt and Road Joint Conference held \(with photo\)](#)

The first Belt and Road Joint Conference was convened in Beijing today (June 12) by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) as well as other relevant central ministries. The Joint Conference mechanism was agreed at the meeting, at which the strategy for promoting Hong Kong's full participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and the work priorities for the year were also discussed.

The Vice Chairman of the NDRC, Mr Ning Jizhe, attended today's Joint Conference on the HKSAR Government's account of and suggestions of participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. Other central ministries in attendance included the HKMAO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, etc. Relevant ministries noted at the meeting that co-operation with the HKSAR Government in the areas of finance and investment; legal and dispute resolution services; construction and works related services; project interfacing; and investment promotion would be deepened.

The HKSAR Government officials attending today's meeting were the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau; the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip; the Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Joseph Chan; and officials from the Development Bureau and Invest Hong Kong. Representatives of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Insurance Authority and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council were also present.

Ms Cheng said the HKSAR Government attached great importance to the Belt and Road development, and hoped that the relevant central ministries would support Hong Kong to provide international legal and dispute resolution services on Belt and Road.

At the Joint Conference, relevant ministries also discussed how Hong Kong would develop green finance and insurance services related to the Belt and Road, and ways to encourage Mainland enterprises to use Hong Kong as the base to "go global", as well as strengthen collaboration in project interfacing.

Mr Yau pointed out that the Belt and Road Initiative was a key impetus in driving Hong Kong's future social and economic development. The HKSAR Government would strive to take forward the Initiative, and would make the most of the Belt and Road Joint Conference mechanism to strengthen communication, collaboration and mutual support with the central authorities. As the key link for the Belt and Road, Hong Kong would leverage its advantages in meeting the country's needs.

The establishment of the Joint Conference mechanism was set out in the Arrangement between the NDRC and the HKSAR Government for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative signed by the HKSAR Government and the NDRC last December. At today's meeting, it was agreed that the Joint Conference would be convened at least once a year as a platform for regular and direct communication.



CHP investigates suspected food poisoning case related to wild mushrooms

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 12) investigating a suspected case of food poisoning related to the consumption of wild mushrooms, and urged the public not to pick and eat wild mushrooms.

The three patients, a man and two women aged 37 to 58, developed symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhoea and vomiting about two to three hours after consuming mushrooms at home yesterday (June 11). They attended the Accident and Emergency Department of United Christian Hospital on the same day and did not require hospitalisation. They are in stable condition.

Initial investigations revealed that the patients had consumed wild mushrooms picked from the roadside near Laguna Park in Kwun Tong yesterday. The CHP's investigation is ongoing.

"Members of the public should not pick wild mushrooms for consumption as it is difficult to distinguish edible mushroom species from inedible ones," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Mushroom poisoning is generally acute. Common presentations include gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain appearing shortly after ingestion. Depending on the mushroom species, patients may also have other symptoms like profuse sweating, hallucination, coma or other neurological symptoms, as well as liver failure. Death may result in severe cases," he added.

"If mushroom poisoning is suspected, the patient should seek immediate medical attention and bring along any available remnant for identification," the spokesman said.

Company fined for illegal club operations

A company was fined \$6,000 at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (June 12) for contravening the Clubs (Safety of Premises) Ordinance.

The courts heard that in October last year, officers from the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA) of the Home Affairs Department conducted inspections at a club on Yee Wo Street in Causeway Bay which had been operating with a certificate of compliance (CoC).

The OLA officers posed as customers and patronised the club for drinks without being asked to show their membership status or being invited to join the club as members. Also, the staff of the club failed to show the registered drawings upon the OLA officers' request. Conditions 17 and 19 of the CoC were breached.

The company, being the CoC holder of the club, was charged with contravening section 21(2) of the Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded all CoC holders to comply with the conditions as stipulated therein. Enforcement action would continue to be taken against illegal club operations.

Manager of unlicensed guesthouse fined

A woman was fined \$8,000 at the Eastern Magistrates' Courts today (June 12) for contravening the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

The courts heard that in November last year, officers of the Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA), the Home Affairs Department, inspected a suspected unlicensed guesthouse on Queen's Road East in Wan Chai. During the inspection, the OLA officers posed as lodgers and successfully rented a room in the guesthouse on a daily basis.

According to the OLA's records, the guesthouse did not possess a licence under the Ordinance on the day of inspection. The woman responsible for managing the premises was charged with contravening section 5(1) of the Ordinance.

A department spokesman stressed that operating or managing an unlicensed

guesthouse is a criminal offence and will lead to a criminal record. Upon conviction, the offender is liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and two years' imprisonment.

The spokesman appealed to anyone with information about suspected unlicensed guesthouses to report it to the OLA through the hotline (Tel: 2881 7498), by email (hadlaenq@had.gov.hk), by fax (2504 5805) using the report form downloaded from the OLA website (www.hadla.gov.hk), or through the mobile application "Hong Kong Licensed Hotels and Guesthouses".