

Civil Aid Service holds 89th Recruits Passing-out Parade (with photos)

The Civil Aid Service (CAS) held the 89th Recruits Passing-out Parade at its headquarters today (December 15). The parade was reviewed by the Controller of the Government Flying Service (GFS), Captain West Wu.

Speaking at the Parade, Captain Wu said that the CAS had been working closely with the GFS over the years. Members of the CAS Mountain Search and Rescue Company (MSaR) were on duty at the headquarters and the Kai Tak Division of the GFS on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. When members of public encountered hiking accidents, the crewmen of the GFS, together with CAS MSaR members, would head to the site swiftly in a helicopter to provide appropriate assistance. Every year, the CAS also works with other government departments, including the GFS and other organisations, to organise the Mountaineering Safety Promotion Day to advocate mountaineering safety to the public. The number of cases of requests for assistance by hikers has decreased from over 1 000 in 2022 to about 400 in the third quarter of this year. From this, it can be seen that the CAS has spared no efforts in enhancing mountaineering safety awareness.

Captain Wu said that the CAS also provides rescue services. For instance, during Typhoons Yagi and Toraji, the CAS deployed more than 200 personnel to help members of the public in need in various districts. Recently, under the combined effects of a spring tide and Typhoon Man-yi, flooding took place in various parts of the territory. CAS members provided assistance to the public in Sha Tau Kok, Tai O and Lei Yue Mun. In addition, the CAS deploys more than 100 people every weekend to the Kai Tak Sports Park to participate in drills and perform crowd management duties in test events, in preparation for the 15th National Games next year.

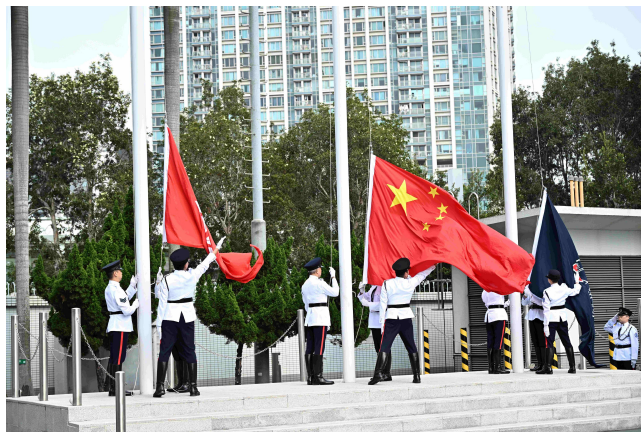
Captain Wu said that the CAS attaches great importance to the development of national security. In recent years, the CAS has been expanding the scope of youth exchange activities, and has incorporated visits to the National Security Exhibition Gallery into the training programmes for new recruits in order to strengthen their sense of belonging to the country.

Captain Wu said that loving the motherland and Hong Kong is the core spirit of the community and an essential foundation for the steadfast and successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" arrangement. He added that the graduates' strong commitment to serving Hong Kong is indispensable to maintaining the community's prosperity and stability, safeguarding national security and upholding the "one country, two system" principle. He encouraged graduates to learn from their experiences, face challenges with determination, stay true to their original aspirations, and move forward. He firmly believes that they will unite, work hard, and grow stronger together, upholding the CAS pledge of "Provide Emergency Relief, Serve the Community" to wholeheartedly serve the public.

Captain Wu presented awards to outstanding recruits at the ceremony. The graduates also performed a fire fighting and a rescue demonstration to showcase their learning outcomes.

A total of 52 recruits from diverse backgrounds of society were reviewed at the parade. The CAS Recruit Training Certificate Programme has been recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework as meeting the accreditation standards at Level 3 by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. Graduates will be awarded the Certificate in Auxiliary Forces Basic Training (Civil Defence). The graduates will apply their acquired knowledge and skills to serve society.

Recruitment of CAS Grade IV Officers and Grade I Members is open for application throughout the year. Recruitment details and application forms are available on the CAS website (www.cas.gov.hk/eng/adult_recruitment.html).



Tin Sau Road Swimming Pool temporarily closed

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (December 15) that Tin Sau Road Swimming Pool in Yuen Long District has been temporarily closed for cleaning and superchlorination following the discovery of a small amount of vomit in the pool.

It will be reopened at 7pm today.

The department appeals to swimmers to be considerate and to keep the swimming pools clean. They are advised not to swim after a full meal and should use the toilet facilities if necessary before swimming.

Red flags hoisted at Silverstrand 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 (December 15) that due to big waves, red flag have been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Liquor Licensing Board to meet on Tuesday

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

The Liquor Licensing Board will meet on Tuesday (December 17) to consider two applications for new issue and renewal of liquor licences.

â€‹The applications are (not in order of discussion):

Kowloon:

STAGE ONE BAR in Prince Edward
City University of Hong Kong – Faculty Lounge in Kowloon Tong

The meeting will be held at 9.45am in the conference room, Room 102, 1/F, 258 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Public consultation on Budget launched

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government today (December 15) commenced the public consultation exercise for the 2025-26 Budget.

The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, said, "In light of a continuously uncertain external environment, a complex and changing global political and economic landscape, and the structural adjustments taking place in Hong Kong's economy, we must manage public finances more prudently. Meanwhile, it is equally important to drive our economic development forward. At the present stage, both development and stability are central to our progress.

"I invite members of the community to share their views on the new Budget. As we work together, Hong Kong will reinforce its strengths and achievements, and accelerate advancement towards better goals amid challenging external conditions and evolving socio-economic circumstances."

Members of the public can share their views through various channels, including visiting the website www.budget.gov.hk, or by email (budget@fstb.gov.hk), phone (2810 3768), fax (2147 5770) or post (Budget Consultation Support Team, 24/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong), etc.