

## **Transport Department alerts public to fraudulent SMS messages of HKeToll**

The Transport Department (TD) today (October 30) alerted members of the public to fraudulent SMS messages purportedly issued by the HKeToll. The SMS messages spoof the name of "HKeToll" and provide a hyperlink to a fake HKeToll website (GOV.eTollHK.xyz), which seek to deceive recipients into making payments and obtain their vehicle registration marks and credit card information.

The TD clarifies that the SMS messages were not issued by the HKeToll and has referred the case to the Police for follow-up. Members of the public are reminded that the HKeToll will not send SMS messages or emails to vehicle owners with hyperlinks which direct them to websites to carry out transactions. If a vehicle owner wishes to pay an outstanding toll online, they must log in to the HKeToll website ([hketoll.gov.hk](http://hketoll.gov.hk)) or mobile app.

Members of the public should stay alert when receiving unidentified messages. They should not visit suspicious websites or disclose any personal information. Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the websites concerned should contact the Police. For enquiries about the HKeToll, please call 3853 7333.

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## **Stamp Duty (Amendment) (Stock Transfers) Bill 2023 to be introduced into LegCo for First Reading and Second Reading**

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (November 1) at 11am in the Chamber of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, the Stamp Duty (Amendment) (Stock Transfers) Bill 2023 will be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bill will be adjourned.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Disposal Gain by Holder of Qualifying Equity Interests) Bill 2023, the Supplementary Appropriation (2022-2023) Bill and the Waterworks (Amendment) Bill 2023 will also be introduced into the Council for the First Reading and the Second Reading. The Second Reading debate on the Bills will be adjourned.

On Member's Bill, the Second Reading debate on the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Bill 2023 will resume. If the Bill is supported by Members and receives its Second Reading, it will stand committed to the committee of the whole Council. After the committee of the whole Council has completed consideration of the Bill and its report is adopted by the Council, the Bill will be set down for the Third Reading.

On Members' motions, Ms Starry Lee will move a motion on implementing patriotic education in greater depth and breadth. The motion is set out in Appendix 1. Mr Lee Chun-keung, Mr Stanley Ng and Dr Hoey Simon Lee will move separate amendments to Ms Lee's motion.

Ms Lam So-wai will also move a motion on improving policies and measures relating to family support. The motion is set out in Appendix 2. Mr Stanley Li will move separate amendment to Ms Lam's motion.

Members will also ask the Government 22 questions on various policy areas, six of which require oral replies.

The agenda of the above meeting can be obtained via the LegCo Website ([www.legco.gov.hk](http://www.legco.gov.hk)). Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting via the "Webcast" system on the LegCo Website. To observe the proceedings of the meeting at the LegCo Complex, members of the public may call 3919 3399 during office hours to reserve seats.

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## [Import of poultry meat and products from areas in US suspended](#)

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (October 30) that in view of a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) about outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Kandiyohi County, Blue Earth County and Redwood County of the State of Minnesota, Buena Vista County of the State of Iowa, and Spink County of the State of South Dakota in the United States (US), the CFS has instructed the trade to suspend the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the above-mentioned areas with immediate effect to protect public health in Hong Kong.

A CFS spokesman said that according to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong imported about 21 470 tonnes of chilled and frozen poultry meat and about 57.11 million poultry eggs from the US in the first nine months of this year.

â€‹"The CFS has contacted the American authority over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the WOAH and the relevant authorities on the avian influenza outbreaks. Appropriate action will be taken in

response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.

## Hire charges to hold wedding ceremonies in leisure venues to be adjusted from February 2024

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) announced today (October 30) that hire charges for holding wedding ceremonies in six selected leisure venues under the LCSD will be adjusted starting from February 1, 2024.

The new hire charges for outdoor and indoor leisure venues are as follows:

Venue	First 4 hours	Each subsequent hour*
<b>Outdoor venue:</b> – The beach on the west side, the seaside pavilion and the small garden at Repulse Bay Beach in Southern District – The Bauhinia Garden in Kowloon Tsai Park in Kowloon City District – The Six Arts Terrace and Bamboo Pavilion in Kowloon Walled City Park in Kowloon City District – The amphitheatre and the lawn in Tai Po Waterfront Park in Tai Po District – The platform in Sai Kung Waterfront Park in Sai Kung District	\$3,490	\$290
<b>Indoor venue:</b> – The assembly hall in Lei Yue Mun Park in Eastern District	\$3,670	\$380

\* The charge is on hourly basis for even less than an hour

"The LCSD has since February 2007 opened up six selected leisure venues with distinctive characteristics for hire by members of the public as wedding venues. The level of hire charges has remained unchanged since the adjustment in 2016. Following a comprehensive review, the department will adjust the charges so as to reflect the current costs in the provision of the services," a spokesman for the department said.

Details of the booking procedures and relevant information can be found on the designated website: [www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/wedding/index.html](http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/wedding/index.html).

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## **HKMA publishes "e-HKD Pilot Programme Phase 1 Report"**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (October 30) released the "e-HKD Pilot Programme Phase 1 Report" to discuss the key findings, learnings, and the HKMA's assessment of 14 pilots conducted by the 16 participating firms (see Annex) under Phase 1 of the e-HKD Pilot Programme. The report also sets out the next steps of the e-HKD Pilot Programme.

The pilots under Phase 1 showed that an e-HKD could add unique value to the current payment ecosystem in Hong Kong in three main areas, these include programmability, tokenisation, and atomic settlement. An e-HKD has the potential to facilitate faster, more cost-efficient, and more inclusive transactions. It can also enable new types of economic transactions. However, the HKMA recognises that these pilots are conducted on a small scale under a controlled environment. Further investigation and evaluation are required to determine if these benefits can be realised at a larger scale in real-life applications.

The HKMA has not yet made a decision on whether and when to introduce an e-HKD. The outcomes and insights gained from Phase 1 of the e-HKD Pilot Programme will help enrich the HKMA's perspective and refine its approach to the possible implementation of e-HKD. The next phase of the programme will seek to explore new use cases for an e-HKD and delve deeper into select pilots from Phase 1.

The Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue, said, "Phase 1 of the e-HKD Pilot Programme has examined many innovative use cases of an e-HKD and has provided valuable insight to the HKMA on how an e-HKD can potentially add tangible value to businesses and consumers. These pilots have also raised a number of areas for future study. We thank all participating firms for their strong interest in the programme, and look forward to continuing our close partnership with the industry in our exploration of central bank digital

currencies."

The report is available on the HKMA [website](#). Details of each pilot can be found in the factsheets and supplementary reports prepared by the pilot participants, accessible via the links in Appendix A of the report.