Electricity supply resumes in Sui Lok House, Siu Sai Wan Estate of the Housing Department

The Housing Department (HD) said today (June 5) that the electricity supply in Sui Lok House, Siu Sai Wan Estate, which was affected by a fire incident yesterday, has already resumed as normal after an overnight repair.

There was a fire incident in the main power supply room on the ground floor of Sui Lok House in Siu Sai Wan Estate early morning yesterday (June 4). The electrical installation was seriously damaged, leading to a breakdown of the electricity supply for the whole building.

Under the leadership of the local Chief Housing Manager on-site, HD staff, the property service provider, the electrical maintenance contractor, the lift contractor and the pump contractor worked collaboratively overnight for over 20 hours to perform the urgent repairs. Various public facilities in Sui Lok House have promptly resumed normal operations. At the same time, the HD also provided all necessary assistance with care to those affected residents. The HD expressed heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders including the Home Affairs Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Fire Services Department, the Water Supplies Department, the Hongkong Electric Company (HK Electric), the community care team and the Hong Kong Red Cross, etc for rendering different forms of support.

Subsequent to the incident yesterday, the HD immediately discussed with HK Electric to perform an urgent repair of the damaged electrical switch, and connected cables from neighboring buildings to Sui Lok House for temporary use. After more than 10 hours of repair work, the lighting facilities in public areas were first restored at 7.30pm. From around 9pm to 11pm, the fresh water supply and the electricity supply to some residential flats and one passenger lift also resumed as normal. In the early morning today, all electricity supply to residential flats in Sui Lok House resumed as normal and two additional lifts could be opened for public use. This morning, all residents could leave for work as usual.

The HD will continue to spare no effort to follow up on the electricity supply problem in other public facilities and minimise the impact on residents. As the current electricity supply is a temporary arrangement, the HD appeals to all residents in Sui Lok House to avoid using electricity appliances with heavy power consumption.

Moreover, the HD has already notified the insurance company of this incident for handling and follow-up actions. If any tenant was found to have breached the clauses of the tenancy agreement or the Marking Scheme for Estate Management Enforcement, the HD will take serious follow-up action.

LCQ12: Public primary healthcare services in Kwun Tong district

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Ngan Man-yu and a written reply by the Secretary for Health, Professor Lo Chung-mau, in the Legislative Council today (June 5):

Ouestion:

According to the report entitled "Projections of Population Distribution 2021-2029" released by the Planning Department, by 2029, the population aged 65 or above will be 191 800 in the Kwun Tong district, which will be the district with the highest number of persons aged 65 or above in Hong Kong. On the other hand, at present, in the Kowloon East Cluster of the Hospital Authority (HA) there are four general outpatient clinics (GOPC) and one community health centre in the Kwun Tong district. Regarding the public primary healthcare services in the Kwun Tong district, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) of the details of the planning for GOPC services in the Kwun Tong district in the next 10 years (including the number of clinics, the situation of the proposed development or redevelopment of clinics, the consultation quota, as well as the work to care for episodic disease patients and chronic disease patients);
- (2) whether it knows when the expansion project of the United Christian Hospital (UCH) will be completed, and whether HA has reviewed afresh if UCH will be able to meet the increasing service demand after its expansion; if HA has reviewed and the outcome is in the negative, whether it has plans to further expand the hospital;
- (3) of the following figures (with a breakdown by the 18 districts across the territory) since the launch of the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme (CDCC Pilot Scheme) in November last year: (i) the respective numbers of doctors and members of the public who have participated in the scheme, and (ii) among such members of the public, the respective numbers of those who have completed pre-screening consultations and screening, and among them, the respective numbers of those who have been diagnosed with chronic diseases such as prediabetes, diabetes mellitus and hypertension and need follow-up care or treatment;
- (4) whether it will introduce enhancement measures for the CDCC Pilot Scheme, including encouraging more doctors and members of the public to participate in the scheme; and
- (5) given that at present, only the interim "District Health Centre (DHC) Express" has been set up in the Kwun Tong district to provide health

promotion, consultation and chronic disease care for residents in the district, of the Government's timetable and details of its plan to set up a DHC in the district (including the services to be provided)?

Reply:

President,

In face of the rapidly ageing population, rising prevalence of chronic diseases and increasing healthcare services demand, the public healthcare system, as the cornerstone and safety net of the Hong Kong's healthcare system, has to concentrate resources and accord priority to accident and emergency (A&E) and specialist services, as well as secondary and tertiary healthcare which require complicated technologies. The Government has put forward a proposal for reform in the Primary Healthcare Blueprint, focusing on strengthening primary healthcare services and alleviating the pressure of the public healthcare system, especially the Specialist Out-patient Clinics under public hospitals. The Government will continue to advocate the concept of "Family Doctor for All". Through the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme (CDCC Pilot Scheme), the Government will establish a family doctor system and conduct screening such that people with more economic capability can be diverted to the private healthcare sector for health management through a copayment model. At the same time, the Government also has to consider concentrating the limited resources of public General Out-patient Clinics (GOPCs) by giving priority to provide primary healthcare services to those who may not be able to afford private healthcare services. The Government will gradually reposition the GOPCs to focus on taking care of low-income persons and the socially disadvantaged groups.

In consultation with the Hospital Authority (HA), the reply to the question raised by Dr the Hon Ngan Man-yu is as follows:

(1) The GOPCs of the HA are mainly positioned to serve low-income persons and socially disadvantaged groups in priority, as well as chronic disease patients with stable conditions and patients with relatively mild episodic illnesses. At present, in the Kowloon East Cluster (KEC) of the HA, there are five GOPCs in the Kwun Tong district, namely Kwun Tong Community Health Centre, Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club GOPC, Lam Tin Polyclinic GOPC, Kowloon Bay Health Centre GOPC, and Shun Lee GOPC. The five GOPCs provided a total of over 550 000 consultation quotas in 2023-24 and accounted for about 10 per cent of the city-wide GOPC quota. The GOPCs of the Kwun Tong district reserve about 50 per cent of the consultation quota for chronic disease patients and those with episodic illnesses respectively to take care of the needs of different patients. Service utilisation of the clinics in Kwun Tong district is set out in Annex I.

The HA has implemented a series of measures to augment the service capacity of the existing clinics in the Kwun Tong district. These measures include actively recruiting additional staff, carrying out clinic renovation and facility renewal so as to streamline patient flow, improving clinic environment for patients and providing additional consultation rooms. The HA completed improvement works and refurbishment of facilities for the Kowloon

Bay Health Centre GOPC and the Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club GOPC in January 2018 and August 2023 respectively to allow for further enhancement of the service capacity of GOPCs in the district where manpower permits.

The Government will set up a GOPC at Ko Chiu Road in Yau Tong to cope with the healthcare service demand in Kowloon East in the long run. Funding approval from the Legislative Council (LegCo) has been obtained in March 2023 for the relevant project and the construction work is expected to be completed in 2028. The Government has also reserved a site for the development of a community health centre building at On Sau Road in Kwun Tong as part of the Hospital Development Plan (HDP). The Government has consulted the Kwun Tong District Council on the project and will seek support from the LegCo in due course. The services provided by the planned clinics include medical consultations, multi-disciplinary medical care, chronic disease management, as well as patient education and support services. Upon completion of the two projects, it is preliminarily estimated that 300 000 consultation quotas can be provided where manpower permits.

Furthermore, to strengthen the support to chronic disease patients, the Government has rolled out a series of measures to enhance chronic diseases management in the GOPCs through HA. These include the provision of health risk assessments and specific care for patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetes mellitus (DM) or hypertension (HT), by multi-disciplinary teams so as to reduce the risk of complications among these patients and the number of their attendances at clinics so that more quota can be made available for patients with episodic illnesses.

The Government understands there is a strong demand for GOPC services in the community. The Government will continue to closely monitor the demand for public primary healthcare services in Kwun Tong district to plan and develop facilities and services accordingly, so as to provide the primary target users with appropriate primary healthcare services.

(2) Regarding the expansion of United Christian Hospital (UCH) project under the First HDP, its superstructure and associated works commenced in September 2020. The relevant works will be completed in phases from 2025 onwards and the related healthcare services will correspondingly be commenced in a progressive manner. Upon completion of the expansion project, there will be adequate space and upgraded facilities for supporting A&E and specialist outpatient services to meet the increasing service demand and help shorten patients' waiting time. Other ambulatory care services will also be enhanced to provide comprehensive integrated healthcare services for the community. It is anticipated that UCH will provide about 2 100 in-patient and day beds (i.e. 560 additional beds including eight haemodialysis day beds) upon completion of the expansion project. The new Oncology Centre will provide radiotherapy, chemotherapy and psycho-social care for cancer patients in the KEC. In addition, the expansion project will enhance convalescent and rehabilitation services in the KEC. The HA also plans to add five operating theatres after completion of the expansion project. The existing diagnostic and treatment facilities, including operating rooms, the coronary care unit, intensive care unit, radiology department, A&E department and endoscopy centre, will also be improved or expanded.

Furthermore, the construction of the New Acute Hospital (NAH) in the Kai Tak Development Area under the First HDP will also provide 2 400 in-patient beds as well as other healthcare and support facilities. When planning for the NAH, the HA has already taken into consideration the projected service demand of the Kowloon Central Cluster as well as the neighbouring Kwun Tong district in the KEC.

The HA plans and develops various public healthcare services on a cluster basis, taking into account a number of factors, including the increase in service demand due to population growth and demographic changes, healthcare needs brought about by the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, and factors such as technological development, manpower supply and delivery models of relevant services, and formulates plans in line with service arrangements of various clusters. In view of the latest developments of the Northern Metropolis, the Health Bureau and the HA are proactively reviewing the Second HDP, including adding additional number of beds and facilities in the KEC, to cope with the projected service demand. The HA will continue to review the utilisation and demand of various healthcare services in the KEC with a view to providing the most appropriate healthcare service model and facilities.

(3) and (4) The Government has launched the three-year CDCC Pilot Scheme since November 13, 2023 to provide subsidised DM and HT screening and treatment services in the private healthcare sector to Hong Kong residents aged 45 or above with no known medical history of DM or HT. The CDCC Pilot Scheme has received a positive response. As at May 22, 2024 (provisional figures), around 39 200 members of the public have participated in the Scheme, of which about 22 500 participants have completed the screenings for DM and HT, and nearly 8 900 of them (i.e. nearly 40 per cent) have been diagnosed with prediabetes (note), DM or HT; the latter patients can proceed to the treatment phase and will be subsidised by the Government to continue their treatment with self-selected family doctors, and subject to their health conditions, be offered prescribed medication, follow-up care at nurse clinics and allied health services. As at April 30, 2024 (provisional figures), among the participants, about 60 per cent are female, approximately 40 per cent are male, and around 70 per cent are aged between 45 and 64. The scheme participant enrolment details are set out in Annex II.

As at May 22, 2024, over 500 family doctors enrolled in the CDCC Pilot Scheme. The district distribution of family doctors' service point and the range of co-payment set by the family doctors are set out in Annex III. Family doctors will receive a set of stickers with characters of "Family Doctor" and the official logo of the CDCC Pilot Scheme after enrolment. Family doctors need to display the stickers in visible areas within the practising location where they can be easily identified by patients and visitors at all times during the period of participation in the CDCC Pilot Scheme.

Since the launch of the CDCC Pilot Scheme, the Government has promoted the CDCC Pilot Scheme through various channels. District Health Centres (DHCs) play an important role in the promotion of CDCC Pilot Scheme. In addition to inviting existing eligible members to participate in the CDCC

Pilot Scheme, DHCs also organise large-scale promotional activities in respective districts and strengthen connection with the public through community outreach activities, mobile outreach vehicles and promotional booths in community complexes. At the same time, DHCs have been actively cooperating with community service partners and participating in local services, such as co-operating with District Services and Community Care Teams to organise activities to further recruit eligible individuals to become scheme participants. The Government has also been carrying out other forms of publicity activities in various media channels and providing the public and healthcare service providers with regular updates on the latest information of the CDCC Pilot Scheme through various communication platforms (such as website, hotline, posters and brochures, electronic newsletters and online briefings).

To further enhance doctors' understanding on the CDCC Pilot Scheme, five webinars were organised by the Government to promote and introduce the CDCC Pilot Scheme to the doctors. Besides, outbound calls were made by the Scheme's call centre to private doctors/clinics to encourage their participation in the Scheme. Moreover, CDCC Pilot Scheme information was shared to GOPC Public-Private Partnership Programme (GOPC PPP) doctors via the GOPC PPP e-Bulletin to encourage their participation in the Scheme. The Primary Healthcare Office and the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians coorganised the World Family Doctor Day Symposium 2024 on May 18, 2024 to share and discuss with healthcare professionals the promotion of primary healthcare services in a concerted manner. The symposium also highlighted the enhancements introduced by the Government to support family doctors in providing necessary healthcare services to CDCC Pilot Scheme participants, and encouraged more doctors to join the Scheme.

The CDCC Pilot Scheme is a brand new pilot scheme. The Government conducted a preliminary review within three months of its launch and collected opinions from service providers and participants from various channels, including conducting meetings to collect opinions from participating doctors and institutions. In general, comments covered the reflection of issues including enrolment arrangements for family doctors and scheme participants, family doctor pairing, co-payments, drug lists, information technology (IT) systems, and services provided by DHCs. Based on the results of the preliminary review, the Government will implement a number of improvement measures in phases, some of which have already been implemented (e.g. enhance IT system to improve operational arrangements; extend registration arrangement at clinics and add outreach pilot laboratory service points for screening phase to enhance convenience for participants; expand drug list of the Scheme; provide clearer guidance to family doctors and enhance scheme flexibility at the same time; and establish a multipurpose platform for the administrative work to be handled in the Scheme).

(5) The Government will set up the Kwun Tong DHC in the Kwun Tong Composite Development Project which has secured funding from the LegCo in October 2021 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The Government has set up an interim DHC Express at the UCH in Kwun Tong prior to the completion and opening of the Kwun Tong DHC. Services of the Kwun Tong DHC Express will

migrate as appropriate to the Kwun Tong DHC upon commissioning.

DHCs provide district-based primary healthcare services to the community, which include preventive care, health promotion, health risk factor assessment, disease screening, chronic disease management, community rehabilitation. Meanwhile, DHCs play their role of a community engagement and resource centre, as co-ordinators of community primary healthcare services, case managers to support doctors providing primary healthcare services, and also district primary healthcare service hubs connecting public and private healthcare professionals with different sectors in society. With their core centres complemented by satellite centres at different locations in the district and outreach services, DHCs will build a network of healthcare service providers to provide accessible services for the community.

Note: Prediabetes with glycated haemoglobin level of 6.0 to 6.4 per cent or fasting plasma glucose level of 6.1 to 6.9 mmol/L.

SHYA officiates at inauguration ceremony of youth internship programme in Dunhuang (with photos)

The Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, officiated at the inauguration ceremony of the Dunhuang Youth Internship Programme 2024 today (June 5) in Dunhuang.

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) launched a new round of the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland (Thematic Programmes) in March this year, to provide Hong Kong youth with diverse, unique and in-depth internship opportunities, allowing them to gain first-hand understanding and experience of the latest developments of the country and the world. The Dunhuang Youth Internship Programme 2024 is one of the projects under the new round of the Thematic Programmes, which is funded by the HYAB and supported by the Dunhuang Academy. Twenty Hong Kong young people participating in the programme will receive training and undertake internship at the Dunhuang Academy. After passing the assessment, they will become guide trainees of the Mogao Caves, gaining valuable work experience from offering guided service for tourists in caves and promoting Dunhuang culture.

Miss Mak expresses gratitude to the Dunhuang Academy for its continuous support for the youth development work of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government over the years. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Miss Mak said that the Dunhuang Academy enabled Hong Kong youth to acquire knowledge of heritage conservation and restoration, as well as understanding Dunhuang art and culture through the Dunhuang Youth Internship Programme since 2018.

Miss Mak said, "The art of Dunhuang is our country's invaluable cultural treasure. Dunhuang culture holds a prestigious position across different fields in the country and the world. Upon completion of the training, the youth interns will serve as guide trainees, explaining Dunhuang culture to tourists, which will foster their sense of mission to preserve Dunhuang culture."

After the inauguration ceremony, Miss Mak exchanged views with the interns. She expressed her hope that the students would seize the opportunity and learn the "Mogao Spirit" in a humble manner.

Accompanied by instructors of the Dunhuang Academy yesterday morning (June 4), Miss Mak visited the facilities in the Academy, including the Mogao Caves digital exhibition centre, the Multi-Field Coupling Environmental Laboratory of Immovable Heritage, the monitoring centre of the conservation research institute and the Dunhuang grottoes cultural relics conservation research and exhibition centre. In the afternoon, she observed the interns' cave-learning activities and was briefed by the Academy's instructor on the internship work. The internship programme lasts for six weeks, during which the students will gain an in-depth understanding of Dunhuang's humanities and geography as well as cultural relic protection from art, culture, history, folklore, science and other aspects, under the guidance of experts and scholars from the Academy. Arrangements were also made for them to participate in cultural activities and visits, and engage in thorough exchanges with local people to deepen their internship experiences.

â€<Miss Mak will commence her visit to Chengdu tonight.









LCQ2: Properties available for data centre use

Following is a question by the Hon Tony Tse and a reply by the Acting Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Ms Lillian Cheong, in the Legislative Council today (June 5):

Ouestion:

Some members of the innovation and technology sector and the real estate sector have relayed that there is a severe shortage of properties in Hong Kong suitable for hosting higher-tier data centres, including those for supercomputing centres in support of the development of artificial intelligence, thereby undermining the competitiveness and future development of the relevant industries. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (1) whether it has assessed the demand for and supply of properties available for data centre or supercomputing centre use; if so, of the details, and the measures put in place to ensure adequate supply in the market; if not, the reasons for that;
- (2) given that while the Government introduced measures in 2012 to encourage the partial conversion of industrial buildings for data centre use, some members of the industry opine that existing industrial buildings are simply not fit for conversion into higher-tier data centres, whether the Government will review the relevant measures and introduce new ones to encourage the demolition and wholesale redevelopment of industrial buildings into data centres or supercomputing centres; and
- (3) as there are views pointing out that some building laws and regulations

as well as planning standards, such as those pertaining to requirements on the height and load bearing of storeys, fire safety, security, sewage disposal, as well as the numbers of parking spaces, lifts and toilets, may be obsolete for properties to be used as data centres or supercomputing centres, whether the authorities have reviewed the relevant laws and regulations as well as standards; if so, of the outcome?

Reply:

President,

Data centre is a key infrastructure to drive the development of digital economy and technology innovation. To promote the development of data centres in Hong Kong, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) set up the Data Centre Facilitation Unit in 2011 to provide one-stop support services to enterprises interested in developing data centres in Hong Kong. The Government had also introduced concessionary land-related measures since 2012 to encourage conversion of IBs (industrial buildings) and use of industrial lots for data centre use.

In consultation with the Development Bureau, my reply to the question raised by the Hon Tony Tse is as follows:

(1) The Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint promulgated in 2022 put forth accelerating the development of new digital infrastructure, encompassing a comprehensive assessment on the planning and development of data centres in Hong Kong. According to the OGCIO's estimation, there was about 800 000 square meters (sq m) of data centre floor area in 2022, and it was expected that the available data centre floor area would increase by over 700 000 sg m by 2026. Currently, there is about 970 000 sg m of data centre floor area, with the supply mainly coming from conversion of parts of existing IBs, redevelopment of the entire IBs, land sold through the Land Sale Programme that can be used for "Information Technology and Telecommunications Industries", and transactions of land on the market. In 2023, the OGCIO also surveyed data centre operators whom indicated a shortto-medium term demand for data centre floor area of approximately 300 000 sq m. Based on the current estimation, together with the existing supply, the total floor area of data centres in Hong Kong is estimated to reach 1.5 million sq m by 2026, which should be able to meet the short-to-medium term demand.

Regarding supercomputing centre facilities, according to the feasibility study on the establishment of Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre (AISC) conducted by a consultant commissioned by the OGCIO in 2023, the total computing capacity of supercomputing facilities (i.e. supply of computing power) in local universities and research centres, etc, (excluding the computing power for individual research projects not to be opened up for use) was estimated to be around 60 petaFLOPS (PFLOPS) at that time. The consultant also made a forecast that the short-to-medium term local demand for supercomputing power would be around 3 000 PFLOPS. Cyberport is making preparation for the establishment of the AISC, the first phase of which is

expected to commence operation in the second half of this year at the earliest. It is expected that the AISC will be able to provide a computing power of 3 000 PFLOPS in early 2026 at the earliest, which should broadly meet the estimated demand for supercomputing services in the short-to-medium term.

The Government will continue to identify suitable sites for the development of data centres and supercomputing centres. Potential land sources include the San Tin Technopole, Lau Fau Shan area and Sandy Ridge in the Northern Metropolis. Taking account of the actual supply and demand situations as well as commercial considerations, the market can also make use of the existing concessionary measures and flexibly explore the conversion of suitable sites or premises into data-related facilities to cater for different operational need, scale, tier and design of development. Upon the commissioning of Cyberport's AISC, the Government will also examine ways to further meet Hong Kong's medium-to-long term demand for advanced computing power facilities.

(2) and (3) The Government is committed to promoting data centre development in Hong Kong by implementing various facilitation measures. Since 2012, the Government had introduced two concessionary land measures, namely the exemption of waiver fee for changing part(s) of IBs as data centres (wavier application), and assessing the land premium for the data centre part on the basis of high-tier data centre use and the actual development intensity during lease modification of industrial lots (lease modification application). The Government also, through the relaxation of maximum permissible plot ratio by up to 20 per cent, encourages the redevelopment of eligible old IBs for different uses, including data centre as well as other information technology and telecommunications uses.

As at mid-May 2024, a total of 44 waiver applications for converting the IB floor space into data centre use have been approved. Around 70 per cent of these applications involve the development of high-tier data centres. Moreover, five lease modification applications for redevelopment on industrial lots as high-tier data centres were approved. These waiver applications and lease modification applications are estimated to provide about 300 000 sq m of total floor area for data centres, including over 240 000 sq m for high-tier data centre use. These demonstrate that the prevailing concessionary measures have been effective in encouraging the industry to utilise IB spaces for promoting the development of data centres, including those at higher tiers.

The Government has also disposed of two sites in 2013 and 2018 respectively in Tseung Kwan O that could be developed into high-tier data centres. Moreover, industrial and commercial sites disposed in recent years can also accommodate a wide range of uses, including data centres.

As regards the setting up or construction of data centres, the current applicable planning and building construction regulations do not impose different or higher requirements when compared to other general industrial or commercial uses. Whether a particular premises or site is suitable for

conversion into a data centre generally depends on the scale of the facility as required by the developer and data centre operator. Regarding the specific development parameters, design and technical standards of data centres, including floor height, loading, power supply and backup generation facilities, the industry in general also makes reference to the international standards.

To facilitate the development of data centres, apart from the various measures above, we will also provide assistance through the Data Centre Facilitation Unit of the OGCIO, as well as continue to monitor the market development and industry feedback closely, and review the development needs and support measures of data centres from time to time.

Update on cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci cases at TWGHs Wong Tai Sin Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on a cluster of Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) cases, the spokesperson for TWGHs Wong Tai Sin Hospital (WTSH) gave the following update today (June 5):

Following a contact-tracing investigation, one more patient, an 87-year-old female in the rehabilitation and extended care ward of WTSH, was identified as a VRE carrier. She is currently being treated in isolation and is in stable condition.

The following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted in the ward concerned:

- 1. Isolation of VRE cases and application of stringent contact precautions;
- 2. Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfection; and
- 3. Enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients.

The hospital will continue the enhanced infection control measures and closely monitor the situation of the ward concerned. The cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.