

## **EMSD releases lift and escalator contractors' latest performance ratings**

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) today (April 18) announced the performance ratings of the registered lift and escalator contractors for the past 12 months (from April 2023 to March 2024) for public reference.

According to the rating results, 33 registered lift contractors and 15 registered escalator contractors were awarded the Safety Star. Among these contractors, 17 registered lift contractors and eight registered escalator contractors had not been found non-compliant with the safety and maintenance requirements as reported in the last two consecutive announcements of performance results, and were therefore given the highest rating of five Quality Stars. The EMSD conducted 28 383 inspections of lifts and escalators during the period.

The rating results, conviction records, summaries of the warning letters and equipment failure records are available on the EMSD website ([www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/le\\_pub\\_mpr.shtml](http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/le_pub_mpr.shtml)).

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## **Temporary traffic and transport arrangements on Lung Cheung Road in early hours this Sunday to facilitate road works**

The Transport Department (TD) today (April 18) reminded the public that the following temporary traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented on Lung Cheung Road from around 1.15am to 5.30am this Sunday (April 21) to facilitate road works:

### **(A) Road closures**

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The following road sections will be temporarily closed to all vehicular traffic:

- All lanes of Lung Cheung Road eastbound between Tai Po Road and Lion

Rock Tunnel Road; and

- The fast lane of Lung Cheung Road westbound between Lion Rock Tunnel Road and Lung Cheung Road Playground.

#### (B) Traffic diversions

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During the full closure of Lung Cheung Road eastbound, the following traffic diversions will be implemented:

- Vehicles travelling eastbound on Lung Cheung Road heading to Kwun Tong will be diverted via Tai Po Road eastbound, Lung Yuet Road eastbound, Cornwall Street eastbound, Waterloo Road southbound, Junction Road eastbound, Chuk Yuen Road northbound and the slip road leading to Lung Cheung Road;
- Vehicles travelling eastbound on Lung Cheung Road heading to Lion Rock Tunnel Road northbound will be diverted via Tai Po Road eastbound, Lung Yuet Road eastbound, Cornwall Street eastbound and Waterloo Road northbound;
- Vehicles travelling eastbound on Lung Cheung Road heading to Lung Kui Road will be diverted via Tai Po Road eastbound, Lung Yuet Road eastbound, Cornwall Street eastbound, Waterloo Road southbound, Junction Road eastbound, Chuk Yuen Road northbound and Lung Cheung Road westbound;
- Vehicles travelling northbound on Nam Cheong Street heading to Kwun Tong via Lung Cheung Road eastbound will be diverted via Nam Cheong Street southbound, Cornwall Street eastbound, Waterloo Road southbound, Junction Road eastbound, Chuk Yuen Road northbound and the slip road leading to Lung Cheung Road; and
- Vehicles travelling northbound on Nam Cheong Street heading to Lion Rock Tunnel Road northbound via Lung Cheung Road eastbound will be diverted via Nam Cheong Street southbound, Cornwall Street eastbound and Waterloo Road northbound.

#### (C) Bus route diversions

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During the full closure of Lung Cheung Road eastbound, the Tseung Kwan O bound departures of KMB overnight route No. N290 (Tsuen Wan West Station – LOHAS Park Station), Citybus overnight route Nos. N29 (Tung Chung Station – Tseung Kwan O (Hong Sing Garden)) and NA29 (Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port – Tseung Kwan O (Po Lam)) will be diverted and some of the bus stops will be suspended or relocated. Please visit the TD website for details.

The bus companies will display notices to advise passengers on the special arrangements. Appropriate diversion signs will also be erected on-site to guide motorists. The TD anticipates that the travelling time at the road sections concerned will be slightly lengthened due to the diversion

arrangements. Motorists should exercise tolerance and patience.

Members of the public are advised to plan their journeys in advance and allow sufficient traveling time to cater for unexpected delay, and stay alert to the latest traffic news through the media or the TD mobile application "HKeMobility" or website ([www.td.gov.hk](http://www.td.gov.hk)).

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## **HKMA alerts public to bogus messages and documents**

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) has received enquiries from members of the public regarding messages received on the instant messaging application WhatsApp or documents purportedly issued in the name of the HKMA. These messages and documents demand money transfers to pay charges or taxes in order to recover frozen assets or payments made to fraudsters. Some cases involved claims that the refund or unfreezing arrangement will be carried out through an overseas institution, and the name of the institution is similar to the name of a local representative office established in Hong Kong by an overseas bank.

The HKMA wishes to reiterate that it will not contact the public regarding personal financial matters, nor will it communicate with the public by forming groups on instant messaging applications.

Regarding the local representative offices of overseas banks, according to the Banking Ordinance, their role is primarily limited to liaison work with their customers in Hong Kong and they are not permitted to engage in any banking and deposit-taking business. A list of authorized institutions is available on the HKMA's website ([www.hkma.gov.hk](http://www.hkma.gov.hk)). Members of the public may also verify the status of an entity by emailing the HKMA's public enquiry service ([publicenquiry@hkma.gov.hk](mailto:publicenquiry@hkma.gov.hk)).

The HKMA has reported the cases to the Hong Kong Police Force. Members of the public who suspect that they have become victims of fraudulent acts should contact the Commercial and Technology Crime Hotline of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012 for further action and investigation by the police.

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## Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (April 18) will be cancelled.

If the thunderstorm warning is cancelled and weather conditions permit by then, the flag-raising ceremony may be resumed without further notice.

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## EPD responds to media enquiries about EIA report for San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node

In response to media inquiries regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node (STT), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has made the following response yesterday (April 17):

The STT is a designated project that requires an EIA report under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has already completed the EIA report of the project in accordance with the EIAO. The EIA report of the project was exhibited for public inspection from February 2 to March 2, 2024.

A spokesperson for the EPD said that the statutory EIA process is a professional, objective and open system. The operation of the EIAO is open and transparent. The Technical Memorandum (TM) under the EIAO lay down principles, procedures, guidelines, requirements and criteria for various EIA matters. All EIA reports will be submitted to the EPD and relevant authorities for review in strict accordance with the provisions of the TM. The EIAO also stipulates statutory procedures for consulting the public and the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on project profile and EIA report, which include requiring the EPD to consider the comments raised by the public and the ACE in considering approval of EIA reports.

The CEDD engaged a professional environmental consultant to conduct the EIA study of the STT, which included an ecological impact assessment and had completed a 12-month ecological survey. Relevant literature and research information/data and the ecological aspects of the project had also been considered. Survey recorded (including bird observation data and ecological surveys of Eurasian otters), and assessed the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Study Brief (SB) and the TM. In order to compensate for the ecological impact

caused by the development of San Tin Technopole, the EIA report has proposed mitigation measures including creating environmental capacity through the proposed Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park to ensure that there will be no net loss in ecological functions and carrying capacity of the wetlands concerned.

Regarding the earlier claim by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society that the photos in the EIA report did not match the names of the birds, the CEDD has explained that it was due to editing problems when the consultant team compiled the attachments to the EIA report. Regarding the above issues, the CEDD has submitted the amended attachments to the EPD, explaining in detail the causes of the incidents and follow-up work. According to paragraph 4.5.2 of the TM, in case the EIA report requires certain amendments but such amendments will not affect the validity of the assessment and the overall results and conclusions of the report, there is no need to resubmit the EIA report.

On the ecological impact of the project on Eurasian otters, although the ecological survey did not find Eurasian otters within the assessment area of the project, the EIA report has referred to relevant survey records in recent years. Since otter excrement was found within the assessment area in surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, the ecological assessment has assumed that the assessment area is a habitat for Eurasian otter. Corresponding assessment on the potential impact of the project on otters was conducted in the EIA report and relevant mitigation measures were recommended.

The EPD issued the SB for the project on June 30, 2021. Prior to announcing the revised development area last year, the CEDD had notified the EPD in writing of the revised project scope in accordance with the requirements of the SB. The EPD considered that the SB can still cover all the environmental issues that need to be assessed in the EIA report. In addition, the scope of the study will also be adjusted as the project area increases. For example, the study area of the ecological impact assessment will include an area of 500 meters beyond the revised boundary of the project. Therefore, the EPD considered that the SB could cover potential environmental impacts caused by the revised San Tin Technopole development scope and land use proposals, and confirmed that the SB is still valid.

Regarding CEDD's application for approval of the EIA report, the EPD will strictly follow the provisions of the EIAO in processing application, including detailed review of the EIA report, and comprehensive and careful consideration of the requirements of the SB and TM and comments on the environment raised by the public and the ACE during the public inspection period, before making the decision on whether to approve the EIA report and the conditions to be imposed if the EIA report is approved.