

Temporary closure of central lawn, football pitches and basketball courts at Victoria Park (with photo)

An organiser filed a notification to hold a public meeting at Victoria Park today (June 4), for which a Letter of Objection has been issued to the organiser. Police are aware that some netizens are still inciting participation in such unauthorised assembly. Considering public safety, public order, people's rights and freedom, as well as the serious health risks brought by the ongoing pandemic to the society, the central lawn, football pitches, basketball courts and the relevant entrances at Victoria Park (prohibited areas as shown in the photo) have been closed since 2pm today to prevent any unauthorised assemblies.

Police intelligence has shown that an unauthorised assembly is likely to take place at Victoria Park despite objection by the Police. To prevent any unauthorised assemblies from taking place, public access to the above locations has been barred according to Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245) s17(4). Anyone who knowingly enters or remains in a public place to which access has been closed without permission may breach relevant offences under Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245) s17A(1c) and is liable to a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment and a fine at level 3.

Police appeal to members of the public to refrain from participating in, advertising or publicising any unauthorised assemblies and prohibited gatherings. According to the Public Order Ordinance, taking part in an unauthorised assembly is liable to a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment; advertising or publicising an unauthorised assembly is liable to a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment. In addition, taking part in the events may be in breach of relevant offences under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) (i.e. Prohibition on Group Gathering). Police will keep monitoring the situation and take resolute action to enforce the law.

