

# Yuen Long food premises Pao Dim Tat Yan convicted for illegal wastewater discharge

Yuen Long food premises Pao Dim Tat Yan at Yuen Long New Street discharged sub-standard wastewater into a communal storm drain and was fined \$30,000 by Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (August 28) for contravening the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO).

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) officers conducted a blitz inspection in Yuen Long in January and found that sub-standard wastewater was being discharged by the food premises concerned into a communal storm drain at the rear lane, thus polluting nearby drainage channels. After evidence gathering, the EPD initiated prosecution against the operator of the restaurant in accordance with the WPCO.

The EPD spokesman said that anyone who directly discharges untreated wastewater into storm drains will pollute the environment and adversely affect public hygiene. The spokesman reminded the responsible persons of food premises that they should ensure proper operation of their wastewater treatment facilities and properly treat wastewater before its discharge to avoid causing environmental pollution.

Under the WPCO, anyone who discharges wastewater into storm drains commits an offence. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. A maximum fine of \$400,000 and six months' imprisonment may be imposed on second or subsequent convictions.