

## Hong Kong e-News Bulletin

July 15, 2020



### SPECIAL NOTICE

In response to the local government's appeal for concerted efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (HKETO) has been closed temporarily until further notice. Users may continue to reach us via the following channels:

#### Toronto

Phone: (416) 924-5544 or

Email: [info@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

#### Vancouver

Phone: (604) 331-1300 or

Email: [info\\_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk](mailto:info_vancouver@hketotoronto.gov.hk)

For urgent assistance outside office hours, Hong Kong residents in Canada may call the 24-hour hotline of the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit of the Immigration Department in Hong Kong at +852 1868. In the event that Hong Kong residents who need assistance are not able to call the hotline due to the service settings of their telecommunication services operators or other reasons, they may try adding "0000" after entering "1868". Hong Kong residents in Canada in need of consular assistance may contact the Chinese Embassy or Consulate Offices in your province (<http://ca.china-embassy.org/eng/zlqj/>).

### UPCOMING ACTIVITY

#### **"Change and Continuity" webinar by HKETO and HKCBA**

2020 has been a year of change for the world and Hong Kong is no exception. While the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government is combatting at full steam the pandemic and gradually re-opening the economy, the state and outlook of Asia's top financial centre is full of challenges. There is also concern on the new national security law's implications on the city's long-term financial stability.

HKETO and the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) will jointly host a webinar on July 24 on the latest financial developments and the new national security law in Hong Kong. This webinar will be presented by the Secretary for Financial Services and Treasury of the HKSAR Government, Mr Christopher Hui, and joined by Mr Arthur Chan, National Chair of the HKCBA. The webinar is open to all HKCBA members. Details can be found at:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qZCQcsryQ9qF5r4TBMW2Tw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qZCQcsryQ9qF5r4TBMW2Tw)

## HONG KONG NEWS

### Government further tightens social distancing measures

The HKSAR Government gazetted on July 13 amendments and directions under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation (Cap. 599G) to further tighten social distancing measures. The above amendments and directions took effect at 0.00am on July 15, 2020.

The HKSAR Government has all along adopted the “suppress and lift” strategy in order to quickly adjust epidemic control measures should there be inevitable small-scale community outbreaks. In view of signs of further deterioration of the epidemic situation in Hong Kong recently, the Government considers that there is a need to further tighten social distancing measures, including imposing stringent limits on number of persons and capacity, and other infection control requirements on catering business and requiring the closure of scheduled premises.

The latest requirements in respect of catering business and scheduled premises take effect from July 15, 2020 to July 21, 2020, for a period of seven days.

Besides, the number of persons allowed in group gatherings in public places will be tightened from 50 to four, with effective from July 15, 2020. Unless exempted, the prohibition on group gatherings at public places will continue during the 14-day period from July 15, 2020 to July 28, 2020.

You can click the following link for details about the latest requirements in respect of catering business, scheduled premises and group gatherings.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/14/P2020071400010.htm>

In addition, under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) Regulation, a mechanism is introduced to empower the Secretary for Food and Health (the Secretary) to impose conditions related to the prevention and control of the specified disease or protection of public health, on cross-boundary conveyances arriving at Hong Kong from specified places and relevant travellers coming to Hong Kong on the conveyances. The Secretary will issue directions on the above matters in due course.

Under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Wearing of Mask) (Public Transport) Regulation, the Secretary has also published in the Gazette a notice, specifying for the period of 14 days from 0.00am of July 15 to July 28, 2020, a person must wear a mask

at all times when the person is boarding or on board a public transport carrier, or is entering or present in an MTR paid area. The relevant provision does not apply to a person who is under the age of two, and a person who has lawful authority or reasonable excuse for not wearing a mask. A person who contravenes the relevant provision commits an offence and the maximum penalty is a fine of HK\$5,000.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/14/P2020071400037.htm>

### **Updates on COVID-19 infection in Hong Kong**

The “COVID-19 Thematic Website” of the HKSAR Government has been added to the official website of HKETO. Information in the page includes the latest local situation, reported cases, health tips, travel advice etc.

You are invited to browse the page by clicking the banner on top of HKETO website or the following link:

<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>

### **Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR gazetted**

Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (Implementation Rules) were gazetted on July 6 and took effect on July 7.

The Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPCSC) passed on June 30 the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the National Security Law) and listed the legislation in Annex III to the Basic Law in accordance with the procedures under Article 18 of the Basic Law. The HKSAR Government promulgated the National Security Law in the gazette for implementation at 11pm the same day. Article 43 of the National Security Law stipulates various measures that the department for safeguarding national security of the Police Force of HKSAR may take when handling cases concerning offence endangering national security, and authorises the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, in conjunction with the Committee for Safeguarding National Security of the HKSAR (National Security Committee) to make relevant implementation rules for the purpose of applying the measures stipulated under Article 43.

At the first meeting of the National Security Committee on July 6, the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the National Security Committee, exercised the power under Article 43 of the National Security Law to make relevant implementation rules for law enforcement

agencies such as the department for safeguarding national security of the Hong Kong Police Force to implement the measures stipulated under Article 43. The Implementation Rules provide for rules that relevant officers should observe when carrying out the specific measures concerned to prevent, suppress and impose punishment for offences endangering national security, and relevant offences and penalties for the effective implementation of the measures, so as to improve the enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security.

The Government spokesman pointed out that the aforementioned Implementation Rules, formulated for the exercise of various measures by relevant officers, clearly set out in detail the procedural requirements, circumstances that must be met and conditions for approval, etc. when implementing those measures. The purpose is to ensure that when relevant officers exercise powers and apply measures under Article 43 of the National Security Law to enforce the Law, the objectives of preventing, suppressing and imposing punishment for any acts and activities endangering national security can be achieved, while the requirement under the General Principles of the National Security Law to respect and protect human rights, as well as the protection of various rights and freedom in accordance with the law can be complied with.

The Implementation Rules have the force of law and cover the following:

- (1) Search of Places for Evidence
- (2) Restriction on Persons under Investigation from Leaving Hong Kong
- (3) Freezing, Restraint, Confiscation and Forfeiture of Property Related to Offences Endangering National Security
- (4) Removal of Messages Endangering National Security and Request for Assistance
- (5) Requiring Foreign and Taiwan Political Organisations and Agents to Provide Information on Activities Concerning Hong Kong
- (6) Application on Authorisation for Interception of Communications and Covert Surveillance
- (7) Requirement to Furnish Information and Produce Materials

The Implementation Rules are in compliance with the requirements concerned under the National Security Law and the Basic Law, including the requirements concerning the respect and protection of human rights. You can click the following link for details about the Implementation Rules.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/06/P2020070600784.htm>

### **Establishment of Committee for Safeguarding National Security of HKSAR**

A Government spokesman announced on July 3 that the HKSAR has established the National Security Committee in accordance with Article 12 of the National Security Law. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, in accordance with Article 16(2) of the National Security Law, has also appointed Ms Edwina Lau as Deputy Commissioner of Police (National Security), to head the department for safeguarding national security of the Hong Kong Police Force.

The National Security Committee is chaired by the Chief Executive. The members comprise the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung; the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan; the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee; the Commissioner of Police, Mr Tang Ping-keung; the Deputy Commissioner of Police (National Security), Ms Edwina Lau; the Director of Immigration, Mr Au Ka-wang; the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang; and the Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki. Mr Chan is also the Secretary General of the Committee.

As stipulated in Article 15 of the National Security Law, the Committee shall have a National Security Adviser. The Central People's Government has appointed Mr Luo Huining to take up the post, and he will sit in on meetings of the Committee. The duties of the Committee shall be (1) analysing and assessing developments in relation to safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, making work plans and formulating policies for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR; (2) advancing the development of the legal system and enforcement mechanisms of the HKSAR for safeguarding national security; and (3) co-ordinating major work and significant operations for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR.

It was also announced that a specialised prosecution division responsible for the prosecution of national security offences under the Department of Justice has been established as required by Article 18 of the National Security Law. The first batch of prosecutors of that division has been appointed by the Secretary for Justice after obtaining the consent of the Committee.

As required by Article 44(1) of the National Security Law, the Chief Executive, after consulting the Committee and the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, has also designated six serving magistrates from the Judiciary as designated judges to handle cases concerning offences endangering national security.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/03/P2020070300653.htm>

### **HKSARG strongly opposes passage of the Hong Kong Autonomy Act by US Congress**

The HKSAR Government on July 3 expressed strong opposition to the passage of the “Hong Kong Autonomy Act” (The Act) by the United States (US) Congress.

A government spokesman said, "Once again, we urge the US Congress to immediately stop interfering in HKSAR's internal matters. The Act and the so-called 'sanctions' are totally unacceptable. They will not deter us but will only harm the relations and common interests between Hong Kong and the US."

The spokesman reiterated that the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Basic Law form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR. The HKSAR is an inalienable part of the PRC. Article 12 of the Basic Law stipulates that the HKSAR shall be a local administrative region of the PRC, which shall enjoy a high degree of autonomy and come directly under the Central People's Government. The implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in the HKSAR is entirely the internal affairs of the PRC. No other state or legislature has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, in those internal affairs.

The spokesman also said that it is totally misguided for some Members of the US Congress claimed that the passage of the Act was in response to the enactment of the National Security Law in Hong Kong. National security is a matter that falls under the purview of the Central Authorities and the National Security Law enacted on June 30, 2020 by the NPCSC is a national law which by virtue of relevant provisions in Article 18 of the Basic Law shall be applied in the HKSAR.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/03/P2020070301004.htm>

### **The Cash Payout Scheme payment disbursed to over 4.3 million registrants**

The HKSAR Government announced that the Cash Payout Scheme has disbursed payment to about 1.24 million eligible people on July 7. A cumulative total of over 4.3 million eligible registrants who registered electronically with banks on or before June 30 have received payment via their selected personal bank accounts.

Members of the public who have not yet registered are encouraged to register through Internet banking or banks' websites so as to receive payment in the most secure and convenient way. Eligible registrants will receive payment about one week after registration. Registration for the Scheme is open until December 31, 2021.

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The public may visit the website of the Scheme ([www.cashpayout.gov.hk](http://www.cashpayout.gov.hk)) or call 18 2020 for detailed information on the Scheme.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/07/P2020070700493.htm>

### **Singapore-headquartered corporate service provider establishes foothold in Hong Kong**

Singapore-headquartered corporate service provider 3E Accounting opened its Hong Kong office on July 8, tapping the continuous growth in demand for corporate services among newly set up companies in the city.

The office is located in downtown Central and offers a series of professional services including company incorporation, accounting, tax, immigration and compliance services for start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises. The company said it is confident that the number of foreign investors setting up a base or presence in Hong Kong will continue to grow in the long term given the city's unique economic and geographic advantage in relation to Mainland China's development.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/08/P2020070600305.htm>

### **Government launches measures to energise Hong Kong films**

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau announced on July 13 that the HKSAR Government will earmark around HK\$260 million under the Film Development Fund to implement five major measures to increase the number of local film productions, nurture young directors and scriptwriting talents and enhance professional training, with a view to adding value to the trade, helping the trade tide over this difficult period and re-energising Hong Kong's film industry.

The five major measures are the Directors' Succession Scheme; relaxation of the Film Production Financing Scheme; the Scriptwriting Incubation Programme; short-term advanced training programmes, organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers and the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild; and implementation of the enhanced First Feature Film Initiative.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, said that as a result of social events and the epidemic, local film production and investment have shrunk, posing acute challenges to the trade and practitioners in the past year. The Government is therefore committed to providing multi-pronged support for the trade to go

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through this difficult period and sustaining the success story of Hong Kong films. The measures respond to the needs of film practitioners of different fields and provide platforms for them to showcase their talents, thereby injecting fresh impetus into the industry.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/13/P2020071300574.htm>

### **Limited registration approved for non-locally trained doctors**

The Hospital Authority (HA) on July 13 announced that confirmation was received from the Medical Council of Hong Kong earlier on the approval of seven applications of non-locally trained doctors for practice with limited registration in public hospitals to help relieve the frontline workload. Among the seven applications, three are new applications while the other four are for renewal. The seven doctors will be serving in anaesthesia, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, paediatrics and radiology departments.

Currently, there are 26 non-locally trained doctors working in public hospitals under limited registrations to relieve the manpower shortage and workload pressure of frontline doctors in the specialties of anaesthesia, cardiothoracic surgery, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, radiology and surgery.

Click the following link for details.

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202007/13/P2020071300245.htm>

### **Recruitment of qualified doctors outside Hong Kong**

The Department of Health in Hong Kong is recruiting qualified doctors outside Hong Kong for the positions of Non-civil Service Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) and Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment). Applications for the above two posts are accepted all year round. Eligibility requirements are set out in the attached recruitment notices of the Department of Health.

Enquiries can be made to the Department of Health at [appts\\_registry1@dh.gov.hk](mailto:appts_registry1@dh.gov.hk) and online application can be made through the Civil Service Bureau's website at <http://www.csb.gov.hk>. Job numbers are 40221 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration)) and 40248 (Contract Doctor (without Full Registration) (Child Assessment)).

[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration\)](#)

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[Click here to read the details of Contract Doctor \(without full registration \(Child Assessment\)\)](#)

### **TV segment of “Hong Kong’s New Business and Cultural Normal”**

Euronews, in partnership with the Hong Kong Information Services Department, broadcast a TV segment entitling “Hong Kong’s new business and cultural normal”. The 5-minute TV segment illustrates how Hong Kong’s start-up and cultural scene are adapting through a hybrid of on- and off-line events. The segment and a gist in English and French are available in the following links:

English

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/07/hong-kong-s-new-business-and-cultural-normal>

French

<https://fr.euronews.com/2020/07/07/hong-kong-n-a-pas-mis-sa-vie-culturelle-et-economique-sur-pause>

### **ICAC updates international communities on anti-corruption efforts**

The latest issue of the ICAC’s electronic newsletter, *ICAC Post - A Better Hong Kong*, has been uploaded on the ICAC corporate website.

Highlights of this issue is: Together we safeguard a clean and stable society

Click here to read the details.

<https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/extra2020/en/index.html>

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Brand Hong Kong Instagram page [www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/](http://www.instagram.com/brandhongkong/)

Brand Hong Kong Twitter page [https://twitter.com/Brand\\_HK](https://twitter.com/Brand_HK)

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