

**Legislative Council's Motion on
"Measures for combating drink driving"
on 18 February 2009**

Progress Report

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the follow-up actions taken by the Administration since the passing of the captioned motion at the Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting on 18 February 2009.

Latest Development

2. In the past two months, we have put in a great deal of effort on enforcement, legislation and publicity fronts to further combating drink driving.

3. On enforcement, since the commencement of those provisions relating to drink driving under the Road Traffic Legislation (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 on 9 February 2009 and police officers are empowered to require drivers to conduct random breath tests ('RBT'), the Police have carried out 356 operations and conducted RBTs on 7,431 drivers as at 16 April. Among them, 24 were proved to have blood alcohol concentration exceeding the prescribed limit and were / will be prosecuted with the offence of drink driving. The Police will continue to conduct RBT operations in the five Police land regions, and will report the result and effectiveness of the RBTs about six months after implementation to LegCo as planned.

4. On legislation, we are studying relevant legislation and experience in overseas countries and will consider introducing a scale of penalties according to different extent of drink driving, a new offence of 'dangerous driving causing serious bodily harm', as well as bringing in "aggravating factors" to all dangerous driving offences. With specific proposals on the above aspects, the court would hand down sentences that could more effectively reflect the seriousness of the accident and the responsibility of the drivers involved. Consultation will be conducted in the following months after we have formulated the specific proposals.

5. On education and publicity, we have displayed the message of 'If you drink, don't drive' on major trunk roads, tunnels, flyovers and electronic message signs over the territory as a reminder to drivers. We have also publicized the new measure on RBT through television and radio to combat drink driving. We will continue to join hands with the Road Safety Council to enhance education and publicity against drink driving.