



**Occupational Safety and Health (Headquarters)
Labour Department**

勞工處職業安全及健康（總部）

Your reference 來函編號：

Our reference 本處檔案編號： LD CR 1/814

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23 July 2014

Miss Betty MA
Clerk to the Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss MA,

Reply to the Panel on Manpower on follow-up actions required

The Panel on Manpower discussed the situation of the occupational safety in Hong Kong and the construction industry at the meetings on 19 November 2013 and 15 April 2014 respectively. The Government would like to respond to the follow-up actions as requested by the Panel in the ensuing paragraphs.

Meeting on 19 November 2013: To check if information on the number of cases and the proportion of occupational injuries/fatalities and industrial accidents involving ethnic minorities and imported workers was available

Ethnic minorities

2. In 2013, there were 20 occupational fatalities¹ involving ethnic minorities, accounting for 11% of the total number of occupational fatalities in

¹ Occupational fatalities refer to fatal cases in workplaces reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO).

the year, among which two were industrial accidents², accounting for 7% of all fatal industrial accidents. The other 18 fatal cases involving ethnic minorities were non-industrial fatal cases, among which four involved foreign domestic helpers falling from height while at work, five happened outside Hong Kong, and nine cases unrelated to work safety (including five deaths due to natural diseases, three suspected suicide cases and one traffic accident). The Labour Department (LD) does not have information on the number of occupational injuries³ and injury cases arising from industrial accidents involving ethnic minorities.

Imported workers

3. In 2013, there were 19 occupational injury cases⁴ of workers imported under the Supplementary Labour Scheme of LD, amounting to 0.05% of the total number of occupational injury/fatal cases of the year. Out of these, six were industrial accidents, accounting for 0.05% of the overall figure. The Government does not have relevant statistics involving persons imported under various admission schemes of talents/professionals to Hong Kong.

Meeting on 15 April 2014: Latest progress of investigation of the fatal accident involving two workers falling from height while using a tower working platform that occurred on 25 March 2014

4. LD is investigating the accident jointly with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to ascertain the causes of the accident and the legal liabilities of duty holders. LD would take actions pursuant to the law in case we discover any breaches of occupational safety and health legislation. Meanwhile, LD has already released a Work Safety Alert on its website and sent emails to contractors, workers' unions and professional organisations of safety practitioners, etc., giving a brief account of the accident

² Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.


³ Occupational injuries refer to injury cases in workplaces reported under ECO resulting in incapacity for work of over three days.

⁴ No fatal cases.

and reminding the industry to take safety precautionary measures so as to prevent occurrence of similar accidents.

5. In addition, LD and EMSD conducted a joint enforcement operation after the accident to inspect the other two construction sites involving the use of tower working platforms, and urged the contractors to enhance the relevant safety measures, including providing a safety harness and an independent lifeline to every worker working on the tower working platforms and ensuring that the safety harness is continuously attached to a secure independent lifeline.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above the printed name.

(LIANG Lok-man)
for Commissioner for Labour