

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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9 March 2020

Ms Betty Ma
Clerk to Legislative Council
Panel on Security
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Ma,

Re: Panel on Security
Joint letter from Hon Tanya Chan and Hon Jeremy Tam

I refer to your letter dated 6 February 2020 inviting the Administration's response to the issues of concern raised in the joint letter from Hon Tanya Chan and Hon Jeremy Tam regarding the Customs vessel sinking incident. Our bilingual response is at Annex.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Percy Leung', written over a horizontal line.

(Percy Leung)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Commissioner of Customs and Excise

Annex

**Response to the joint letter from
Hon Tanya Chan and Hon Jeremy Tam**

- (1) A Customs vessel was conducting patrol at the waters near Sha Chau at around 9 pm on 21 January 2020 and five officers on board fell to the sea. They were rescued by the Fire Services Department and Marine Police. Two of them were sent to North Lantau Hospital in a conscious state. The other three officers were rushed to Tuen Mun Hospital but were later certified dead. The cause of the incident is now under investigation by the Police. There was sign of collision on the Customs vessel. The Police will conduct a full investigation and submit a detailed report to the Coroner for consideration of a death inquest.

After the incident, the Customs and Excise Department has immediately stopped using another Customs vessel of the same model, and requested the Marine Department and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to conduct a thorough inspection on the subject vessel and this other vessel of the same model.

- (2) According to the guidelines of the Marine Department, all Government vessels have to undergo thorough inspection and maintenance at the Government Dockyard at an interval of 12 to 18 months. The subject vessel had its hull and mechanical system inspected at the Government Dockyard between November and December 2018, and passed all required safety tests.
- (3) The subject vessel and the other vessel of the same model both have a good navigation record. No similar capsizing or collision incident has happened before.
- (4) The subject vessel is equipped with the necessary navigation safety equipment, including radars, global positioning system, echo sounder and electronic sea charts. Moreover, the vessel is also installed with a wireless radio system for instant communication with the officers on duty at the Customs Marine Base and the Vessel Traffic Centre of the Marine Department.

(Chinese Translation)

- (一) 2020 年 1 月 21 日晚上約九時，一艘海關巡邏艇在沙洲一帶海面進行巡邏期間，船上五名人員墮海。消防及水警將他們救起，其中兩名人員清醒，被送往北大嶼山醫院；另外三名人員被送往屯門醫院，其後證實死亡。有關事故正由警方跟進調查中，該艘海關巡邏艇有撞擊痕跡。警方會進行全面調查，並提交詳細報告予死因裁判官考慮進行死因研訊。

事發後，香港海關已即時停用同型號的另一船隻，並要求海事處和機電工程署對涉事船隻及此同型號的另一船隻作全面檢查。

- (二) 根據海事處指引，所有政府船隻均須每隔 12 至 18 個月在政府船塢進行一次全面檢查及維修保養。涉事船隻已於 2018 年 11 月至 12 月期間在政府船塢進行船體及機械檢查，並通過全部所需的安全測試。
- (三) 涉事船隻及同型號的另一船隻的航行紀錄良好，以往沒有發生過同類型翻沉或碰撞事故。
- (四) 涉事船隻配備所需的航行安全設備，包括先進的雷達系統、全球定位系統、測深儀及電子海圖。此外，船上亦配備無線電系統，船員可即時與海關船隊基地當值人員及海事處船隻航行監察中心聯絡。