

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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本局檔號 OUR REF.: THB(T)CR8/30/5
來函檔號 YOUR REF.: CB4/PL/EDEV

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18 February 2016

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Economic Development,
Legislative Council,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Anthony Chu)

Dear Mr Chu,

Panel on Economic Development

Meeting on 26 January 2016

**Briefing by the Secretary for Transport and Housing
on Initiatives in the 2016 Policy Address**

At Panel meeting on 26 January 2016, in considering the initiatives in the 2016 Policy Address under the purview of Transport and Housing Bureau, Members requested information on —

- (a) the number of job vacancies of the maritime industry and the number of people who had benefited from or had participated / was participating in the scholarship, training and incentive schemes relating to the maritime sector under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund; and
- (b) for Member(s) of the Legislative Council and the bereaved family members who had signed the confidentiality undertaking for reading the redacted Report of the Transport and Housing Bureau's Investigation into Staff Conduct in the Marine Department in relation to the Vessel Collision Incident near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012 ("the Report"),

whether (i) these Members could discuss among themselves the content of the Report; and (ii) these Members could discuss the content of the Report with these family members. If written consent had to be sought from the Administration in advance before any discussion could take place, the time taken for the Administration to give the consent.

I am writing to provide the requisite information.

Demand and Supply of Maritime Manpower

2. According to the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, the average number of vacancies in the maritime industry¹ in 2014 and 2015 (up to September) are 572 and 671 respectively, representing vacancy rates of 1.46% and 1.75%. These compare with the average vacancy rates of 2.73% and 2.67% for all industries in the same period.

Number of Participants of Maritime-Related Schemes under MATF

3. Since implementation of MATF in April 2014, 904 persons have taken part in the maritime-related schemes under MATF. Details are set out at **Annex**.

Discussion of the Contents of Redacted Investigation Report

4. A Member asked whether Legislative Council Members, having signed the Confidentiality Undertaking (“the Undertaking”), could discuss the contents of the redacted investigation report with the bereaved families who had also signed the Undertaking.

5. Legislative Council Members who have signed the Undertaking could peruse the redacted Report at the designated venue from 15 June to 14 August 2015. As spelt out clearly in the Undertaking, the contents of the Report in their entirety (including those in the main body and

¹ The maritime industry covered by the survey includes ship owning, ship agency and management, services incidental to water transportation (such as operation of terminal facilities, pilotage and berthing activities) and sea cargo forwarding services.

appendices) are confidential information.

6. According to legal advice, the Undertaking provides for Legislative Council Members who have signed the Undertaking to discuss the contents of the Report at any meetings of the Legislative Council and/or any panels or committees which are conducted in camera and not open to the public, and which are attended only by Members who have signed the Undertaking. They may also discuss the Report at any other meetings attended only by Members who have signed the Undertaking and in such circumstances will ensure that the confidential information will not be disclosed to any person other than those Members who take part in such meetings (Clause 2.6 of the Undertaking).

7. Save for the exceptions specified in the Undertaking, Members should not disclose any of the confidential information contained in the Report to any person. The exceptions include the disclosure of any information with the prior written consent of the Government. Any "person" includes any individual, corporation, firm, organisation, public body or statutory body whether incorporated or unincorporated (Clause 2.2 of the Undertaking). The Government has separately provided a redacted version of the Report to a bereaved family pursuant to a court order, solely for consideration of whether to make a civil claim. As the background and legal basis for provision of the Report to Legislative Council Members and the bereaved family are different, the extent of the confidential information disclosed is not the same. The Transport and Housing Bureau would handle Members' request for the Government's prior written consent to disclose the confidential information of the Report to any specified "person" as expeditiously as practically possible. Nonetheless, full account of the circumstances of each request will have to be taken before any determination can be made.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Joey Lam)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

**Number of Participants in Maritime Related Schemes under the
Maritime and Aviation Training Fund (MATF) since its Inception on 1 April 2014**

Maritime Related Schemes under MATF	Description	Number of Participants as at December 2015
(a) Professional Training and Examination Refund Scheme	Eligible applicants are refunded with 80% of the fees after completing approved courses or passing examinations, subject to a cap of \$18,000.	333
(b) Maritime and Aviation Internship Network Scheme (Maritime Sector)	The programme contributes up to 75% or \$6,000 (whichever is lower) towards each student's monthly honorarium for an internship period up to two months.	259
(c) Local Vessel Trade Training Incentive Scheme	The Scheme provides a monthly allowance up to \$30,000 for eligible deck or engine room ratings newly employed by the local vessel trade.	28
(d) Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme	The Scheme offers a monthly subsidy of \$6,000 to deck or engine room cadets on ocean-going vessels for a maximum period of 18 months.	104 ¹
(e) Ship Repair Training Incentive Scheme	The Scheme offers a monthly subsidy of \$1,500 to eligible graduates of the Vocational Training Council who have enrolled for apprenticeship in the ship repair industry for a maximum period of 36 months.	21 ¹
(f) Hong Kong Maritime and Logistics Scholarship Scheme	Scholarship for selected students of the Master of Science in International Shipping and Transport Logistics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.	21

¹ Excluding participants who had fully claimed the monthly subsidies or dropped out of the scheme

Maritime Related Schemes under MATF	Description	Number of Participants as at December 2015
(g) HKU-DMU Academic Collaboration Scheme	For Dalian Maritime University: provides scholarship for selected students to undertake the Master of Common Law course at HKU. For HKU: provides financial support to students and in-service practitioners to undertake summer courses and professional seminars.	110
(h) Hong Kong Maritime Law Scholarship Scheme	Scholarship for selected students of the Master of Laws (Maritime and Transportation Law) programme of the City University of Hong Kong.	11
(i) Overseas Exchange Sponsorship Scheme	Provides financial support (\$30,000 - \$50,000) to undergraduates or postgraduates of selected maritime-related disciplines in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the City University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to attend maritime-related courses.	17
Total		904