



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unemployment in Construction Industry Soars
Construction Industry Council Welcomes the Second Phase of
“Anti-epidemic Fund” Measures

Hong Kong • 16 April 2020 – In face of the COVID-19, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) announced a series of relief measures under the second phase of the HK\$137.5 billion “Anti-epidemic Fund”. The proposal is pending for approval at the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. The new relief fund coupled with the first phase of the HK\$30 billion “Anti-epidemic Fund” and the HK\$120 billion relief package in the 2020-21 Budget announced by the Financial Secretary, the HKSAR government has provided a total of HK\$287.5 billion monetary assistance for citizens and enterprises to cope with the difficult time, and the construction industry also benefits from the packages.

The city’s economy has been hard hit by the COVID-19. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) welcomes the government’s proposals on "supporting enterprises, safeguarding jobs, stimulating the economy and relieving people's burden" and appeals to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to approve the budget as soon as possible.

In the first phase of "Anti-epidemic Fund", HK\$710 million was allocated to eligible frontline workers and construction companies/organisations for the purchase of protective/antiseptic equipment against the virus. So far, nearly 200,000 workers and over 5,000 companies/organisations have received more than HK\$500 million subsidies through the CIC, while the remaining applications are still in progress.

Mr. CHAN Ka-kui, Chairman of the CIC, said, “The number of employed workers in construction sites has decreased by 10% compared with last year, and the unemployment rate in renovation sector is even higher. There are close to 500,000 registered workers in Hong Kong, most of whom are grassroots citizens and currently in dire straits. Social unrest together with the epidemic imposes a heavy burden on many wage earners and SMEs. Prompt relief measures rolled out by the government to ease commuters’ financial



**CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**
建造業議會

burdens are of utmost importance.”

Chairman CHAN stated in his latest blog that he encouraged the government to invest heavily in infrastructure projects and public facilities to promote economic recovery and create more opportunities. He also appealed to the Legislative Council members to stop filibustering on construction projects.

~ End ~

Media and Enquiries

Patricia CHIU / Gladys CHUK
Corporate Communications Department
Tel: 2100 9044 / 2100 9080
Fax: 2100 9090
Email: corpcomm@cic.hk

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.