



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subsidy for Employers of Long-term Casual Employees in the Construction Sector under the “Anti-Epidemic Fund” - Now Open for Application

Hong Kong • 6 July 2020 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC) announces that the Employment Support Scheme for the Construction Sector (ESSC) supporting **employers who have employed casual employees on a long-term basis** is now open for application.

This new measure for the construction sector under the “Anti-epidemic Fund” (the Fund) aims to supplement the scope not covered by the Employment Support Scheme (ESS) and provide further support to the industry.

If an employer in the construction sector has made contributions for a “casual employee” under Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Industry Schemes for at least 15 days in March 2020, the employee will be regarded as a “qualified employee”. An employer may apply for a subsidy of **\$36,000 per “qualified employee”**, but must undertake not to make their employees redundant between August 2020 and January 2021, and to spend the full amount of the subsidy on paying wages to their “qualified employees”.

Applicants have to authorise the MPF trustees to provide their MPF contribution data in March 2020 and from August 2020 to January 2021 to both the HKSAR government and the CIC. The contribution data will be used to determine the number of “qualified employee” and the amount of subsidy, and will also be used in the future to monitor the applicant’s compliance with their undertakings.

Applicants have to download the application forms and relevant documents from the CIC’s website (www.cic.hk/eng/main/anti_epidemic_fund_2nd/), and submit their applications by email (essc_application@devb.gov.hk) to the Development Bureau between 6 July 2020 and 31 July 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted. It is expected that the subsidy will be disbursed to successful applicants via auto-payment within six to eight weeks after receipt of valid applications.

For further enquiries, please email PPEFund@cic.hk or call 3199 7377.

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**CONSTRUCTION
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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.