

**Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry
on the construction works of Hung Hom Station extension
under the Shatin to Central Link Project**

The MTR Corporation welcomes the interim report of the Commission of Inquiry (“The Commission”) into the Construction Works at and near the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link (“SCL”) Project, which was made public by Government today (26 March 2019). The Commission has made a clear determination that the diaphragm wall and platform slab construction works are safe and finds no rebuilding or strengthening of the works to be necessary. The Commission is also satisfied that there was no extensive or systematic cutting of the threaded ends of rebars.

The Corporation also welcomes and recognises the other findings and recommendations in the Commission’s interim report. The Corporation will take account of these as it seeks to improve its project management to enhance quality assurance, a process which has already started.

“We understand that there has been much public concern relating to construction issues of the SCL,” said Mr Lincoln Leong, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, “We would like to thank the Commission for its detailed investigation into these matters.”

“Safety has always been the top priority for the Corporation. MTR has successfully constructed many railway projects, and these railways are now serving the public safely every day. While our project management system has served us well in the past, we note the Commission’s view that changes to the system are warranted and will make further improvements going forward,” added Mr Leong.

The Commission has made valuable recommendations on how the Corporation can improve its project management, many of which are in line with the findings of the review conducted by the Capital Works Committee of the MTR Board aided by an external consultant. The Corporation has already started to implement these recommendations.

Besides strengthening our project management, the Corporation will make further efforts through enhanced senior leader involvement, checks and balances, supervision, audit and improved collaboration and communication to ensure that its staff, as well as contractors, comply with the project management system, as per the recommendations of the Commission and the Board’s Capital Works Committee.

-more-

“To achieve this, we are putting in place the necessary enablers, such as the provision of additional training to all relevant personnel on our project management processes and procedures, and using technology to assist our staff and contractors’ staff in keeping proper records and tracking non-conformances at construction sites. We have already started work on these fronts,” said Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer - Designate of the Corporation. “Some of the challenges we faced in the SCL project, such as how to keep good construction records, are also challenges for the industry as a whole. We commit to share the lessons learnt and the areas for improvement that we have identified, such as digital solutions to record on-site construction information, with other industry practitioners so that the industry as a whole can improve together.”

“It is the management team’s top priority to make the necessary improvements so that we can move forward and regain the trust of the public,” said Dr Kam.

While the Commission is confident that the station box structure is safe, in order to give further assurance to the public, we will continue with the holistic plan agreed with Government.

The Corporation notes that the Commission also finds that the construction works were not executed in accordance with the contract in material respects. The Corporation is disappointed with Leighton Contractors (Asia) Limited in their performance in the construction works and, as the project manager of the SCL project, reserves its rights to take action against them.

The Corporation will also fully cooperate with the Commission in its further investigation into the issues related to the North and South approach tunnels and the Hung Hom Stabling Sidings. We will continue to use our best endeavours to take the SCL project forward in a safe manner.

- End -

About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 12 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk

*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide