

PRESS STATEMENT

9 November 2019

### **MTR Corporation Strongly Condemns Attacks Targeting Operating Stations and Vehicles**

The MTR Corporation expresses its strong indignation over the repeated attacks and vandalism by rioters targeting operating stations, a Light Rail vehicle and an MTR Bus last night (8 November). The concourse of Tsuen Wan Station, which was in operation, was attacked with a petrol bomb. This posed a severe threat to the safety of passengers and MTR staff. In addition, a number of Light Rail stops in Tin Shui Wai, an operating coupled-set Light Rail vehicle (LRV) and an MTR Bus were also damaged. The Corporation condemns such illegal acts by rioters and has reported the cases to the Police.

As malicious vandalism occurred in various MTR stations yesterday, the train service to and from the stations concerned was suspended immediately for safety reasons. At about 9:50pm last night, the CCTV cameras, Customer Service Centre, entry/exit gates, ticketing machines and add value machines in the concourse of Tsuen Wan Station were smashed and a petrol bomb was hurled into the concourse. The station staff immediately reported the case to the Police, used powder fire extinguisher to extinguish the fire and activated evacuation procedures to help passengers leave the station as quickly as possible.

The Corporation is very concerned about the case as the station was still in operation at the time of the incident, as which could result in severe casualties. The case was classified as arson by the Police.

Furthermore, at around 9:35pm last night, a coupled set LRV serving Route 705 (Tin Shui Wai Circular) encountered road blockage by protesters at Tin Heng Stop. The train captain arranged passengers to evacuate from the LRV and subsequently the rioters damaged the windows of the LRV. Later, at around 9:55pm, some rioters smashed the windscreen, electronic route display panel, octopus processor etc. of an MTR Bus at Tin Heng Bus Terminus.

The MTR Corporation reiterates that any violence, vandalism or other malicious acts in the railway network will disrupt services impacting on the travelling public, and will also generate risks which may result in emergency situations that seriously endanger the safety of passengers, MTR staff and railway facilities. Furthermore, the damaged stations and their facilities may not be able to resume service the next day or for an even longer period.

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Having regard to risk assessment conducted in consultation with relevant government departments, train services on all MTR Lines (excluding Airport Express), Light Rail and MTR Bus will end at 10pm today (9 November) and tomorrow (10 November). We will continue to assess the risk and may shorten the service hours in response to increased risk or disruption of railway facilities. If our services are affected, relevant information will be disseminated via the MTR website, MTR Mobile, station and in-train announcements as well as the media.

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Photo caption:

1. The concourse of Tsuen Wan Station is attacked by petrol bomb.



2. The windows of a couple set LRV are damaged.



3. An MTR Bus is vandalised with its windscreen smashed.

