

PRESS STATEMENT

22 July 2019

Outbreak of Violence at West Rail Line Yuen Long Station

At around 10:45pm on 21 July 2019, station staff at Yuen Long Station (YUL) of the West Rail Line noticed disputes occurred at the station concourse. Staff immediately reported the situation to the Operations Control Centre (OCC) and the OCC summoned the police at 10:47pm. Conflicts then occurred at the station concourse and the fire alarm was also triggered.

To ensure the safety of other passengers in light of the unexpected situation in YUL, at 10:56pm the OCC arranged West Rail Line trains of both directions not to stop at YUL and at the same time tried to arrange trains to pick up passengers at YUL. However, as there were trains not being able to depart from the platforms of YUL due to train doors being obstructed, the empty trains could not be arranged to go to YUL.

A train has stopped at the Tuen Mun-bound platform of YUL at the time, and conflicts then occurred at the platform. The train departed from the platform at 11:14pm.

The OCC made arrangements for the trains to resume stopping at YUL from 11:19pm.

Clashes then occurred at the station concourse of YUL again and the OCC arranged West Rail Line trains of both directions not to stop at YUL from 11:44pm. At the request of the police, YUL was closed at 11:55pm.

At the time of the outbreak of this unexpected incident, there was only a limited number of staff members at the station. MTR staff had immediately contacted the OCC for the necessary train regulation. As there were large-scale conflicts inside the station, the OCC also notified the police for assistance after learning about the situation.

"MTR Corporation strongly condemns the violence which occurred on railway premises last night (21 July). We will fully cooperate with the law enforcement authorities on the investigation. On behalf of the Corporation, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the passengers who were injured and I feel sorry for what they had experienced," said Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of the MTR Corporation.

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