



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, January 18, 1997

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Press statement on disclosure of reports	1
Pre-sale consents for 18,323 residential units issued	2
Record number of placements for people with a disability	3
Wong Tai Sin School Anti-drug Ambassador Scheme launched	4
\$199 million from Lotteries Fund approved	5
Anti-rabies inoculation drive in fishing ports	5
Firing practice in February	7
Hong Kong Monetary Authority interbank liquidity	8

Press statement on disclosure of reports

* * * * *

In response to media enquiries, a government spokesman today (Saturday) issued the following statement with regard to the remarks made by Chairman of the LegCo Select Committee, Mr Ip Kwok-him, yesterday concerning the disclosure of the ICAC Operations Review Committee Report and the Integrity Report.

The spokesman said: "We would like to make it abundantly clear that to date no decision on disclosure has been made.

"We were amazed that the Chairman of the Select Committee chose to say what he had said yesterday as his remarks might have led the public to believe that he had already made up his mind on the matter.

"Under section 14 of the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance and the procedures approved thereof by the LegCo, a witness before the Select Committee is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a witness before a court. If that witness claims public interest immunity in relation to any document, he is entitled to put his reasons before the Chairman for a ruling," the spokesman said.

"We are sure that if and when the Chairman faces a claim of public interest immunity, he will consider the claim and the grounds upon which it is made.

"Pending the next meeting of the Select Committee, it is unhelpful to speculate." the spokesman emphasised.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr W K Lam, and the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, will attend the next Select Committee hearing on January 22, at 8.30 am and 11.30 am respectively.

End

Pre-sale consents for 18,323 residential units issued

* * * * *

The Lands Department issued 36 consents to the pre-sale of 18,323 residential units in 1996, the Principal Solicitor of the Lands Department, Mr Tom Berry, said today (Saturday).

"The majority of these units are estimated to be completed by the middle of this year. Some of them have already been put on sale in the market while the remainder are still in the hands of the developers," Mr Berry said.

"Four developments by the Hong Kong Housing Society will be completed after June 1998."

He added that 14 of the 36 consents were granted in the fourth quarter of last year, covering 8,292 residential units located on Hong Kong Island and outlying islands, and in Kowloon, Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung and Sha Tin.

"Most of these units are estimated to be completed before the end of 1997," Mr Berry said.

As at the end of last month (December), the Lands Department was processing 20 applications for pre-sale consent, which cover 13,679 residential units, said Mr Berry.

Of these 20 applications, one is a Private Sector Participation Scheme project (with 2,340 units) and two are Hong Kong Housing Society's Flat-for-Sale developments (with a total of 1,432 units). The remaining 17 developments totalling 9,907 units are private developments subject to the 1994 measures.

"These developments are located throughout the territory and most will be completed within late 1997 and March 1998," he said.

The Lands Department has given consent to 29,280 residential units since the introduction of new measures for pre-sale of residential units in June 1994.

Four Private Sector Participation Scheme projects (totalling 5,810 units), four Sandwich Class Housing developments (totalling 3,602 units) and three Flat-for-Sale Scheme projects (totalling 3,030 units), which are not subject to new measures, have also received pre-sale consent since June 1994.

End

Record number of placements for people with a disability

* * * * *

The Labour Department's Selective Placement Division (SPD) successfully found 1,430 jobs for disabled job-seekers in 1996, breaking all previous records.

Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement), Mr Siu Lap-kei, attributed the encouraging results partly to the changing attitude of the public, especially employers, towards the disabled.

"The Government's escalated efforts in promoting employment for people with a disability and integrating them into society is also essential in achieving the results," Mr Siu said today (Saturday).

He described 1996 as a fruitful year for the SPD. The seminar on Open Employment for People with a Disability held last October, for instance, attracted some 400 employers, human resource managers and members from the rehabilitation field to participate.

In addition, it was encouraging to see that about 12,000 visitors were recorded for the eight exhibitions organised by the SPD last year to promote employment of people with a disability.

"In order to further enhance public awareness of the working potentials of people with a disability, the SPD has jointly produced television and radio programmes with Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)," Mr Siu said.

The 10-episode TV programme "Under the Same Sky - Part 3" and the 10-episode radio programme "Outstanding Disabled Persons" have been broadcast since early December last year.

"Our division will continue to make every effort to help more people with a disability to enter the employment market," he added.

The SPD will set up a booth in the Education and Careers Expo' 97 to be held between February 20 and 23 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai.

"The Expo is targeted at youngsters and we hope to promote peer group acceptance of people with a disability through the younger generation. Exhibition, quiz and trade tests will be conducted at the venue to publicise the working abilities of the disabled," Mr Siu said.

Various promotional activities will also be launched to promote employment of people with a disability, including the distribution of quarterly newsletters and other publicity materials to employers, exhibitions, seminars, talks and the annual Outstanding Disabled Employees' Award.

End

Wong Tai Sin School Anti-drug Ambassador Scheme launched

* * * * *

Young people should remember that there is "no take two for life" and that they should actively participate to help beat drug, Wong Tai Sin District Officer, Miss Diane Wong, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the School Anti-drug Ambassador Scheme, Miss Wong said it was good news that drug abuse among young people in the district was not serious compared with other districts. However, the issue should be treated seriously as it would have long-term effect on society.

She said the Governor opened in 1995 the first summit meeting on drug abuse by young people with the objective of working out strategic plan and co-ordinating various departments to deal with the issue.

The School Anti-drug Ambassador Scheme, organised by the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Wong Tai Sin District Fight Crime Committee and Wong Tai Sin District Schools Liaison Committee, was aimed at assisting youngsters to gain a better understanding of drug abuse problem and promoting the "say yes to life, say no to drug" message.

Exhibitions will be arranged from today to mid-February to spread the anti-drug message.

At today's ceremony, winners of the Fight Crime, Anti-Narcotics and Anti-Corruption Slogan Competition were presented with prizes. Following the opening ceremony were singing performance, magic show and drama by various youth centres.

Also present at the ceremony were the Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (Narcotics), Ms Cathy Chu; the Chairman of Wong Tai Sin District Board, Mr Chan Kam-man; and the Wong Tai Sin District Commander, Mr Ng Man-kim.

End

\$199 million from Lotteries Fund approved

* * * * *

A total of \$199,241,590 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the last quarter of 1996, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"Of the amount, \$17,927,300 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$147,699,490 to elderly and medical social services, \$24,453,000 to rehabilitation services, \$5,509,600 to youth services, \$3,133,000 to community development services and \$519,200 to services for offenders," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

End

Anti-rabies inoculation drive in fishing ports

* * * * *

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) will launch a half-yearly dog inoculation drive in fishing ports next week to enable fishermen to have their dogs immunised against rabies and implanted with microchips.

Starting from Monday (January 20), AFD's mobile dog inoculation teams will go to the territory's fishing ports and make boat-to-boat visits between 10 am and 4 pm daily. The inoculation schedule is as follows:

<u>Port</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sha Tau Kok	January 20
Aberdeen	January 20 and 21
Sam Mun Chai	January 21 and 22
Shau Kei Wan	January 22 and 23
Castle Peak Bay	January 23 and 24
Cheung Chau	January 27 and 28
Sai Kung	January 28 and 29

The drive, a regular exercise since 1980, is intended to help fishermen who find little time to take their dogs to an inoculation centre or a government kennel for vaccination.

An AFD senior veterinary officer, Dr Leslie Sims, said the drive was part of the Government's continuing effort to prevent rabies in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong has enjoyed rabies-free status since July 1989. It is a status which we intend to maintain," said Dr Sims.

He stressed that rabies was a deadly disease transmissible from animals to human beings. Dogs on fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable because of their possible contacts with other animals outside Hong Kong.

Under the Rabies Ordinance, all dogs more than five months old are required to be inoculated against rabies, microchipped and licensed. Failure to do so will render the owner liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. A licence fee of \$70 will be charged per dog.

End

Firing practice in February

* * * * *

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on 13 days next month (February). The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 3 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 4 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 5 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 6 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 13 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 17 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 18 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 19 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 20 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 24 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 25 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 26 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 27 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority interbank liquidity

		TIME	AGGREGATE BALANCE OF SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS
OPENING AGGREGATE BALANCE	1,607 MN	0930 HR	8,140 MN
CLOSING AGGREGATE BALANCE	784 MN	1000 HR	9,364 MN
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100 HR	10,968 MN
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	NIL MN	1130 HR	9,467 MN
LAF REVERSAL	+6249 MN		
LAF TODAY	- 7072 MN		

LAF RATE 4.00% BID/6.00% OFFER TWI 126.00 *+0.2* 18.1.97

CLOSED JANUARY 18, 1997

End