



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Tuesday, September 17, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Reports on Old Age Allowance unfounded	1
Port clearance for Diaoyu Islands-bound vessel required	1
Mid-1996 estimated population	2
HKMA's Deputy Chief Executive's contract renewed	2
Director-General of Trade to visit Beijing and Dalian	3
99 convicted pollution cases in August	4
Monitors' report submitted to CS	4
Fresh water cut in the New Territories	5
Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results	6
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	7

Reports on Old Age Allowance unfounded

* * * * *

A spokesman for the Health and Welfare Branch said today (Tuesday) that recent reports suggesting the Governor might announce in his Policy Address plans to cut the Old Age Allowance were "wholly without foundation".

"In view of the possible confusion caused by such reports, there was a need to clarify the situation," he said.

He confirmed that a review of both the disability and old age allowances was indeed under way and that this was the last part of a comprehensive review of all social security arrangements which had started following the completion of the review of CSSA in March.

He explained that the objective of the review was not to cut costs but rather to ensure that vulnerable elderly and people with a disability would receive financial support in the best possible way.

"No recommendations have yet been made and it would be premature to speculate what they might eventually be," the spokesman stressed, adding that no changes would be introduced without prior consultation.

End

Port clearance for Diaoyu Islands-bound vessel required

* * * * *

In response to media enquiries concerning press reports that a vessel has been hired to take about 50 people from Hong Kong to mount a demonstration at the Diaoyu Islands, a Marine Department spokesman said today (Tuesday) that the department's prime concern in this case is the safety of the people at seas.

He said the vessel, like any vessels leaving Hong Kong waters, had to apply for port clearance from the department's Port Formalities Office.

"Port clearance will be issued when we are satisfied that the vessel has complied with the requirements of the International Safety Regulations at Seas, including the requirement of having sufficient life saving apparatus on board the vessel," the spokesman said.

The organisers of the voyage were today advised of these requirements, the spokesman added.

End

Mid-1996 estimated population

The estimated population of Hong Kong at the end of June 1996 was 6,311,000, according to figures released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Tuesday).

This represents an increase of 154,900 persons or 2.5 per cent as compared with mid-1995 when the revised population estimate was 6,156,100.

The above population figures are estimated on the basis of the results of the 1996 Population By-census conducted in March.

Between mid-1995 and mid-1996, there were 66,900 births and 31,300 deaths in Hong Kong. Natural increase, i.e. the balance of births and deaths, amounted to 35,600 and accounted for 23 per cent of the population growth.

During the same period, the balance of total arrivals and departures showed a net inflow of some 119,300 persons.

Population estimates for mid-1991 to end-1995 have been revised correspondingly. The revision has incorporated more accurate estimates of population changes that were not available at the time when the previous population estimates were prepared.

End

HKMA's Deputy Chief Executive's contract renewed

The contract of Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), Mr David Carse, which is due to expire on April 30 next year, has been extended for three years from that date, it was announced today (Tuesday).

The extension was approved by the Financial Secretary.

Mr Carse was seconded to Hong Kong from the Bank of England in June 1991 to be the Commissioner of Banking.

In April 1993, the Office of the Commissioner of Banking was merged with the Office of the Exchange Fund to form HKMA and Mr Carse has since assumed his current position, responsible for banking supervision and policy issues.

As a consequence of the extension, he will be resigning from the Bank of England.

"The extension of Mr Carse's contract will ensure continuity and a smooth transition for the banking arm of the HKMA in the run-up to and beyond 1997," said HKMA Chief Executive, Mr Joseph Yam.

"Mr Carse has played an important role in strengthening the banking supervisory regime in Hong Kong over the past five years. We at the HKMA are very pleased to be able to continue to benefit from his experience and expertise."

End

Director-General of Trade to visit Beijing and Dalian

* * * * *

The Director-General of Trade, Mr Alan Lai, left for a four-day visit to Beijing and Dalian today (Tuesday).

In Beijing, Mr Lai will call on officials in China's Customs General Administration, the Hong Kong and Macau Office, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

He will also visit Dalian to gain a better understanding of the latest developments of the city.

"I hope the visit will further the contacts the Trade Department has established with corresponding authorities in Beijing, and facilitate the exchange of views on various trade and economic issues of mutual interest," Mr Lai said.

Mr Lai will be accompanied by the Deputy Director-General of Trade, Mrs Rebecca Lai; the Assistant Director-General of Trade, Mr Edward Yau; the Principal Assistant Secretary for Trade and Industry, Ms Salina Yan; and other officials from the Trade Department.

End

99 convicted pollution cases in August

* * * * *

A total of 99 convictions were recorded in courts in August for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 34 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 24 under the Noise Control Ordinance, 30 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, one under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance, nine the Waste Disposal Ordinance and one under the Dumping At Sea Ordinance.

The fines ranged from \$2,000 to \$85,000.

Cheong Hing Dyeing Factory Ltd was fined \$85,000 for failing to comply with the Water Pollution Control (General) Regulation.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

* * * * *

The monitors appointed to observe the Tai A Chau Detention Centre decantation operation this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Mr Kenneth Ting Woo-shou and Mr Lester Kwok Chi-hang; and representatives from two non-government organisations, Mr Thierry Taveaux from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Mr Edward Chan from Oxfam.

End

Fresh water cut in the New Territories

* * * * *

Fresh water supply to some premises in Fanling, Ta Kwu Leng and Sha Tau Kok will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Friday (September 20) to 6 am the following day for connection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect the following:

- * villages along Sha Tau Kok Road, between Kwan Tei to Sha Tau Kok, including Ko Po, Hung Leng Tsuen, Kan Tau Tsuen, Tan Chuk Hang Tsuen, Hok Tau Tsuen, San Uk Tsai, Sze Tau Leng, Ma Mei Ha, Ta Tong Wu, Loi Tung, Man Uk Bin, Wo Hang, Au Ha, Ma Tseuk Leng, Yim Tso Ha, Wu Shek Kok, Muk Min Tau, Tam Shui Hang, Kong Ha and Sha Tau Kok Market;
- * villages along Lau Shui Heung Road, including Fanling, Tong Po and Lau Shui Heung Tsuen;
- * villages along Ping Che Road, including Hung Leng Tsuen, Ping Che, Shui Lau Hang, Shan Kai Wat, Tai Po Tin, Ping Yeung, Lei Uk, Tong Fong, Fung Wong Wu, Chau Tin Tsuen and Kan Tau Wai;
- * villages along Luk Keng Road, including Nam Chung, Luk Keng and Kat Kuk Shu Ha;
- * villages along Lin Ma Hang Road, including Chuk Yuen, Tsung Yuen Ha, Heung Yuen Wai and Ta Kwu Leng.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	17 Sept 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q638
Issue date	18 Sept 1996
Maturity date	18 Dec 1996
Coupon	-
Amount applied	HK\$6,420 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.12 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.12 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 72 PCT
Average tender yield	5.14 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 2 Sept 1996

Tender date	24 Sept 1996	24 Sept 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q639	H674
Issue date	25 Sept 1996	25 Sept 1996
Maturity date	27 Dec 1996	26 Mar 1997
Tenor	93 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300MN	HK\$800+160MN

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,388	0930	-232
Closing balance in the account	2,039	1000	-232
Change attributable to:		1100	-232
Money market activity	-229	1200	-232
LAF today	-120	1500	-232
		1600	-229

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 *+0.0* 17.9.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.85	2 years	2808	6.00	99.84	6.18
1 month	4.92	3 years	3907	6.80	100.81	6.58
3 months	5.13	5 years	5109	7.32	100.86	7.24
6 months	5.25	7 years	7308	7.24	99.03	7.56
12 months	5.59	5 years	M503	7.35	99.79	7.54

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,841 million

Closed September 17, 1996

End