



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Friday, February 17, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Franchise for Tai Lam Tunnel & Yuen Long Approach Road sections of Route 3	1
Boundary and Election Commission issues censure	3
Works Group to visit China	5
Government to tighten vehicle emission standards	5
1994 domestic export figures classified by industrial origin	6
Registration of a 'safety officer' cancelled	9
Hong Kong handles more than one million TEUs a month	10
Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants	13
Craftsmen needed for infrastructural projects	14
BNO passport application deadline	15
Celebrities to kick off civic education day on Sunday	17
Correctional commissioner takes his farewell salute	18
Fire prevention exhibition	19

/Public Records

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Public Records Office Library on move	20
Poll cards sent to electors	20
Airport Consultative Committee meets on Monday	21
Improvement of Lung Mun Road in Tuen Mun	22
Tenders for New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre invited	22
Tenders for footbridge in Kwun Tong invited	23
Landscape works at Yuen Long Southern Bypass	24
Seminar to promote adoption of children with special needs	24
Tenders invited for school and playground projects	26
Home-school co-operation slogan competition results announced	26
Sewerage improvement works for Tuen Mun	28
Sewer and road works proposed for Tai O	28
Marine radar station at Kau Yi Chau	29
Stonecutters Island naval base project	30
Three lots of land up for auction	30
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	32

Franchise for Tai Lam Tunnel & Yuen Long Approach Road sections of Route 3

The Government will grant a "Build, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) franchise for the Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach Road sections of Route 3 to the Route 3 (CPS) Company Limited subject to the necessary legislation by the Legislative Council.

The Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma, today (Friday) said the road was a significant infrastructure project which will involve the building of a more than 10 kilometres dual-three expressway connecting Au Tau with the Ting Kau Bridge.

"The project will provide a much improved road access from the border to the container port and the urban area; and enhance further development of North West New Territories."

"It will greatly relieve traffic congestion on Tuen Mun Road and the vicinity."

"It is estimated that travelling time from Ting Kau to Yuen Long will take less than 10 minutes via the new expressway," he noted.

Mr Barma said under the proposed BOT franchise, the Route 3 (CPS) Company will be required to design, construct and operate the 3.8 kilometres Tai Lam Tunnel and 6.3 kilometres Yuen Long Approach Road, and ancillary works such as road interchanges and the toll plaza.

"The franchise to be granted to the company will last 30 years and at the end of the franchise period, the tunnel and the approach road will be transferred to the Government at no cost," he said.

He said the package was a good deal for the public since road-users could benefit from the project at the earliest possible time and at the lowest cost.

Mr Barma pointed out that the budgeted project cost of \$7,254 million submitted by Route 3 (CPS) Company was the lowest amongst the three tenderers.

"The company also offered the shortest construction period of 38 months while the technical and financial aspects of the company's proposal also met the Government's requirements.

"We hope the franchise can be awarded as soon as possible for the construction works to proceed and to be completed by mid-June 1998," he said.

On the toll structure, the Secretary for Transport said in the negotiations with the tenderer, one of the objectives of the Government was to secure a low and stable toll regime.

"To achieve this, a toll adjustment mechanism was negotiated to allow the franchisee to raise the necessary funds to finance the project and at the same time earn a reasonable but not excessive return.

"For instance, the opening tolls will be competitive - \$15 for private cars. And there are only three anticipated toll increases in the 30-year life of the franchise.

"In case the franchisee's net revenue exceeds the maximum permissible level, the excess will be channelled into a Toll Stability Fund which can be used for deferring future toll increases.

"The Fund will be deposited with and managed solely by the Government," he added.

Mr Barma said under the proposed franchise terms, the franchisee will make public financial and operational information as reasonably requested by the Government.

He explained that privatisation under a BOT arrangement had proved to be an effective way of involving the private sector in transport infrastructure investment and operation.

"It makes use of the private sector's experience and enables the Government to deploy resources otherwise needed for this essential infrastructure to other important projects not suitable for privatisation," he said.

He said the Executive Council would be consulted shortly on the draft bill on the Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach Road. The bill will then be introduced into the Legislative Council.

The Route 3 (CPS) Company comprises Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited, Bank of China Group Investment Limited, China Resources (Holdings) Company Limited and the China Travel Service (Holdings) HK Limited.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Boundary and Election Commission issues censure

The Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) today (Friday) issued a public censure against the Rev Fung Chi-wood for conducting unauthorised electioneering activities in respect of Regional Council election.

The BEC Chairman, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, said the Rev Fung had violated the BEC guidelines and obtained an unfair advantage over the other candidate in Tai Po West Constituency.

"The conduct of his electioneering activities in Kwong Fuk Estate in breach of the BEC Guidelines and without approval from the Housing Department has created an unfair advantage for himself and a corresponding disadvantage to his election opponent who has followed the BEC Guidelines relating to his intended electioneering activities in Kwong Fuk Estate," the chairman said.

BEC received complaints that the Rev Fung had conducted electioneering activities in the estate on January 24, 25, 26 and 29 without the requisite approval of the Housing Department.

It is stipulated in the BEC Guidelines that candidates must obtain prior approval from the Housing Manager before conducting any electioneering activities inside such a housing estate, and that an application for approval should be made at least two working days before the time of any intended activity.

The Rev Fung made two applications in the late afternoon of January 24, one for conducting home visits in the estate in the evenings of January 24 and 25, and the other for doing the same on January 26. The applications were refused on the same day by the Housing Manager on grounds of insufficient notice being given.

On January 26, he made an application for distributing leaflets and conducting a signatory campaign on January 29 at the podium and ground floor of the estate's commercial complex. This application was also refused on the same day by the Housing Manager on grounds of insufficient notice being given.

Despite the fact that his applications had not been approved, local residents saw the Rev Fung and his supporters conducting home visits in Kwong Wai House of Kwong Fuk Estate in the evening of January 24, and in Kwong Lai House in the evening of January 25.

They were also found conducting a signatory campaign at the entrance to the estate's market at 12.50 pm on January 29.

On January 26 and 27, the Rev Fung lodged a number of complaints with the BEC against the Housing Department for setting rules that had caused him difficulties in organising home visits, for being unfair to him and for rejecting his application for conducting home visits and other electioneering activities.

He argued that he followed the arrangements relating to the September District Board elections which did not require applications to be made to the Housing Department.

"The BEC finds that the Rev Fung's allegation that he did not know that prior approval of the department is required is no excuse for him to carry out such activities at the estate," the chairman said.

Mr Justice Woo said the requirements were clearly shown in paragraph 28 of Chapter 7 of the BEC Guidelines as revised and published on December 15. Four copies of the guidelines had been given to the Rev Fung on January 9 when he submitted his nomination paper.

Even if the Rev Fung only learned of such requirements on January 24, he should have complied with the requirements by adjusting his home visit schedules or he should have at least cancelled his electioneering activities which could not be covered by a valid approval, he added.

"Forging on with carrying out the scheduled activities shows a total disregard of the BEC Guidelines.

"The Rev Fung's disagreement with the requirements or the BEC Guidelines cannot provide him with any justifiable excuse or pretext to flout them," the chairman said.

He said the Rev Fung had not been able to give any reason to show that the requirements were unfair to him as a candidate vis-a-vis the other candidates of the Tai Po district.

Nor has he been able to pinpoint any incident of the requirements being applied to the other candidates of his constituency in any manner unfair to him.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Works Group to visit China

The Secretary for Works, Mr James Blake, will lead a Works Group delegation for a visit to Beijing and Shanghai from February 19 to March 2 to exchange views with Chinese officials on matters of mutual interest.

Members of the delegation will include Director of Water Supplies Mr Hu Man-shiu, Director of Territory Development Mr Lee Shing-see, Project Manager of New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office Mr Lam Moon-tim, Deputy Director of Drainage Services Mr Tse Hon-sum, Project Manager of Airport and Port Access Office of Highways Department Mr Leung Kwong-sun, and Assistant Director of Civil Engineering Mr Lo Yiu-ching.

The programme will include courtesy calls on the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Finance, the State Science and Technology Commission and the Shanghai Municipal Government.

There will also be meetings with the State Planning Commission, the Beijing Planning Commission and the Shanghai Construction Commission.

The team will make presentations on the Public Works Programme, new towns development, water supply and drainage services and port and highway development, and visit major project sites in Beijing and Shanghai.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Government to tighten vehicle emission standards

An amendment to the Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations was gazetted today (Friday) to introduce more stringent emission standards for newly-registered vehicles from April 1 this year.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department said: "Under the amendment, European emission standards will be introduced for vehicles below 2.5 tonnes while the existing Japanese emission standards for these vehicles will be tightened.

"For diesel vehicles above 2.5 tonnes, US and European standards will be introduced.

"Japanese standard for diesel vehicles above 2.5 tonnes is not included in the amendment because it is considerably less stringent than the US and European standards," he added.

The spokesman said: "Diesel vehicles are the primary targets of control under the amendment regulation as they contribute to high levels of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides in the air of Hong Kong.

"To tie in with the introduction of new vehicles into Hong Kong to meet such standards, a cleaner diesel fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.2 per cent will also be introduced on April 1."

He said: "All these are part of the measures planned by the Government to deal with air pollution problems resulting from vehicle emissions."

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

1994 domestic export figures classified by industrial origin

* * * * *

The four major industries of textiles; wearing apparel; consumer electrical and electronic products; and machinery, equipment, apparatus, parts and components together accounted for 69% of Hong Kong's total domestic exports of manufactured goods last year, according to statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Domestic exports of textiles increased by 1% to \$47.1 billion, and of machinery, equipment, apparatus, parts and components, by 8% to \$32.1 billion, in 1994 compared with a year earlier.

On the other hand, domestic exports of wearing apparel decreased slightly by 1% to \$41.1 billion, and of consumer electrical and electronic products, by 6% to \$32.5 billion.

As for other industries, significant absolute increases in the value of domestic exports were also recorded for chemicals and chemical products (+\$788 million or +12%); and food (+\$391 million or 19%).

On the other hand, notable absolute decrease in the value of domestic exports was recorded for plastic products (-\$738 million or -13%). For the transport equipment, although the change in absolute value was not as large, a marked percentage decline of 62% was recorded.

The statistics of domestic exports analysed by industrial origin are derived by re-grouping the merchandise export items originally grouped under the external trade classification system according to the industries in which these merchandise items are normally produced. Transactions in gold and specie are excluded.

The industrial classification used is the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC). The HSIC is to be distinguished from the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) used in the regular trade statistics reports. In comparison, the HSIC is more related to production processes whereas the SITC is more geared to end uses of products.

Caution should be taken when referring to these domestic export statistics classified by industrial origin. There may be several intermediate processing stages in the production of certain merchandise export items.

In compiling the statistics, the total value of such an item has however been wholly related to the industry in which the item is finally produced.

The domestic export statistics of a particular industry may include products that are secondary products by establishments of other industries.

Further details of merchandise domestic export statistics classified by industrial origin may be found in a table obtainable from the General Economic Surveys Section of the Census and Statistics Department (telephone 2805 6642).

A table showing more detailed breakdowns of similar statistics for major manufacturing industries is also included in the report "Hong Kong External Trade, December 1994".

**Domestic exports of manufactured goods classified by industrial origin
for 1994**

(Value in HK\$ million)

Industrial origin of the commodities exported	Merchandise domestic exports			
	1994	1993	Value change	% change
Food	2,508	2,117	+391	+18.5
Beverages	641	529	+113	+21.3
Tobacco manufactures	2,394	2,423	-30	-1.2
Textiles (including knitting)	47,131	46,625	+506	+1.1
Wearing apparel, except footwear	41,144	41,535	-391	-0.9
Leather and leather products, except footwear and wearing apparel	1,493	1,675	-182	-10.9
Footwear, except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear	183	241	-58	-24.2
Wood and cork products, furniture and fixtures	377	434	-57	-13.1
Paper and paper products, printing and publishing	7,806	7,723	+83	+1.1
Chemicals and chemical products	7,536	6,748	+788	+11.7
Products of petroleum and coal	17	14	+3	+20.5
Rubber products	111	98	+13	+12.9
Plastic products	4,922	5,660	-738	-13.0
Non-metallic mineral products, except products of petroleum and coal	715	714	+1	+0.1
Basic metals and fabricated metal products	9,084	9,315	-230	-2.5
Machinery, equipment, apparatus, parts and components	32,099	29,682	+2,416	+8.1
Consumer electrical and electronic products	32,519	34,487	-1,967	-5.7
Transport equipment	84	217	-134	-61.5
Professional and optical equipment	16,006	15,739	+267	+1.7
Other manufacturing industries	13,882	14,478	-597	-4.1
Total	220,651	220,454	+197	+0.1

Notes : 1. Individual entries of a column may not add up exactly to the corresponding total due to rounding. All percentage changes are calculated from unrounded figures.

2. The above statistics are derived by re-grouping the merchandise export items under the external trade classification system according to the industries in which these items are normally produced. As from 1992, the Third Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC R3) has been adopted in place of the Second Revision (SITC R2) for the classification of trade statistics. The above statistics may not be strictly comparable with those published for earlier years due to the change in trade classification.

General Economic Surveys Section,
Census & Statistics Department,
Hong Kong.

Tel. : 2805 6642

February 1995

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Registration of a 'safety officer' cancelled

* * * * *

The Chief Factory Inspector of the Labour Department, Mr Chan Tat-king, revealed today (Friday) that the Commissioner for Labour Mr Stephen Ip has exercised the power conferred to him under regulation 9 of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) Regulations in cancelling the registration of Chan Ka-leung as a safety officer with effect from January 6 this year.

The cancellation of registration was published in today's Government Gazette.

The Chief Factory Inspector said Chan Ka-leung applied for registration as a safety officer with the Labour Department in June 1994 using a certificate allegedly issued by a university in Canada.

His registration was accepted on the ground that the certificate was verified by the university in question. In November last year, the university subsequently confirmed that the certificate presented by Chan was a false document. The case was then referred to the Police.

Chan Ka-leung was charged by the Police early last month with one count of using a false instrument under Section 73 of the Crime (Amendment) Ordinance. He pleaded guilty in Western Magistracy on January 9 and was fined \$3,000.

The Chief Factory Inspector appealed to people wishing to register as a safety officer to provide true information to the Labour Department as every application would be subject to very careful and close vetting by the department.

He also reminded building contractors and shipyard owners that the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Safety Officers and Safety Supervisors) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations would come into effective on June 8, 1995 after its passage in the Legislative Council on June 8, 1994.

Main amendments to the regulations are:

- a) a proprietor will be required to employ a safety officer if he employs 100 or more employees on one or more of his construction sites;
- b) the application of the principal regulations will be extended to shipyards so that a proprietor has to employ a safety officer if he employs 100 or more employees in one or more of his shipyards, and to employ a safety supervisor in any of his shipyards where 20 or more employees are employed; and

- c) a proprietor will be required to display a notice showing the proprietor's name and the particulars of the responsible safety officer or safety supervisor.

"Contractors or shipyard owners who fail to fulfil their legal obligations under the amended regulations will face a maximum fine of \$50,000," Mr Chan said.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Hong Kong handles more than one million TEUs a month

* * * * *

Hong Kong, the world's busiest container port, handled more than one million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) a month for three consecutive months from last July, according to the latest container throughput statistics released by the Marine Department.

The territory handled a total of 1.007 million TEUs last September; 1.031 million TEUs and 1.008 million TEUs in August 1994 and July 1994 respectively.

In the first nine months of 1994, Hong Kong's container throughput was at 8,166,281 TEUs, a 21.1 per cent increase over the corresponding period in 1993.

Commenting on the figures, the Deputy Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, said with these figures Hong Kong would probably be the first port in the world to handle more than 11 million TEUs in a year.

"The figures indicate sustained growth in demand and the port's ability to service that demand," he said.

"More importantly, they continue to underline the need for the development of further container terminals to stay on schedule to meet forecast demand," Mr Dale added.

The container terminals at Kwai Chung including terminal 8 on Stonecutters Island handled 5,373,558 TEUs in the first nine months of 1994, representing an increase of 27.3 per cent over the same period in 1993.

During the same period container throughput in the river trade sector rose by 57 per cent to 672,788 TEUs and mid-stream operators handled 2,120,757 TEUs, an increase of 1.1 per cent over the same period in 1993.

The comparative container statistics in TEUs are:

	First nine months of 1994	First nine months of 1993	Percentage Increase
Kwai Chung Container Terminals	5,373,558	4,222,751	27.3%
Stream & Elsewhere	2,120,757	2,098,642	1.1%
River Trade	672,788	428,599	57.0%
Total	8,166,281	6,741,273	21.1%

Note: To avoid double counting, figures are adjusted downwards by 8,719 TEUs in 1993 and 822 TEUs in 1994 respectively handled by terminals vessels contracted to work in the stream.

Comparative Container Statistics for January - September 1994

	First 9-month <u>1993</u>	First 9-month <u>1994</u>	Change <u>Percent</u>
<u>KWAI CHUNG / STONECUTTERS ISLAND</u>			
Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	2 112 608	2 642 707	25.1%
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	1 440 045	2 005 487	39.3%
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	126 236	216 428	71.4%
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	543 863	508 936	-6.4%
Throughput			
a) T.E.U.	4 222 751	5 373 558	27.3%
b) Actual	2 670 797	3 428 953	28.4%
c) Ratio	1.58	1.57	
% of T.E.U. throughput being empty	15.87%	13.50%	
% of T.E.U. throughput being transshipment	14.53%	21.54%	
Container Tonnage (Tonnes)			
a) Loaded	13 135 224	17 457 614	32.9%
b) Discharged	13 214 634	19 301 227	46.1%
c) Total	26 349 858	36 758 841	39.5%
Average Weight per full T.E.U. (Tonnes)			
a) T.E.U. Loaded	6.22	6.61	
b) T.E.U. Discharged	9.18	9.62	
c) T.E.U. Total	7.42	7.91	

* STREAM AND ELSEWHERE

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	835 034	817 034	-2.2%
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	1 013 157	1 074 151	6.0%
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	128 856	128 449	-0.3%
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	121 595	101 123	-16.8%
Throughput (T.E.U.)	2 098 642	2 120 757	1.1%

RIVER TRADE (Other than those handled at Kwai Chung Terminals)

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	148 387	234 193	57.8%
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	130 949	212 139	62.0%
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	64 926	94 062	44.9%
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	84 337	132 394	57.0%
Throughput (T.E.U.)	428 599	672 788	57.0%

THROUGHPUT (Kwai Chung Terminals + Stream & Elsewhere + River Trade)

Loaded Full (T.E.U.)	3 094 708	3 693 754	19.4%
Discharged Full (T.E.U.)	2 580 400	3 291 145	27.5%
Loaded Empty (T.E.U.)	319 880	438 929	37.2%
Discharged Empty (T.E.U.)	746 285	742 453	-0.5%
Throughput (T.E.U.)	6 741 273	8 166 281	21.1%

* Figures include a total of 8 719 T.E.U. in 1993 and 822 T.E.U. in 1994 respectively handled by terminal vessels contracted to work in the stream.

To avoid double counting figures are adjusted downwards by 8 719 T.E.U. in 1993 and 822 T.E.U. in 1994 respectively handled by terminal vessels contracted to work in the stream

Joint operation to flush out illegal immigrants

* * * * *

A territory-wide operation against illegal immigration jointly mounted by the Police and the Labour Department has resulted in the arrests of 114 people.

The operation is part of the Government's continuous effort to flush out illegal immigrants.

The 114 suspected illegal immigrants arrested by the Police have been referred to the Immigration Department. Those found to be illegal immigrants will be repatriated.

A Government spokesman reiterated today (Friday) that there was no question of any amnesty for illegal immigrants.

"Our latest operation should drive home the point that there will be no change to this policy. Anyone foolish enough to believe otherwise is only cheating oneself," he said.

The spokesman stressed that apart from continuous checks throughout the territory, there was no let-up in anti-illegal immigration efforts at the border.

"A high state of vigilance will continue to be maintained by the Police and the security forces both at the land and sea borders," he said.

During the joint operation, which began at 5 am yesterday (Thursday) and ended at 5 am today, the Police stepped up their identification spot checks in public places and carried out checks at suspicious locations throughout the territory.

As a result, a total of 18,278 persons, 2,578 vehicles and 496 vessels were stopped for identification checks.

On the labour front, inspectors of the Labour Department visited 2,308 establishments to weed out any illegal immigrants who may be working there and to check that employers fulfil their legal obligation of keeping proper records of their employees.

A total of 7,284 employees had their proof of identity checked.

Thirty-four establishments were found not able to provide a record of employees for inspection.

The spokesman reminded employers that they could be fined up to \$250,000 and jailed for up to three years if they were found to be employing illegal immigrants.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Craftsmen needed for infrastructural projects

* * * * *

Hong Kong's current major infrastructural projects and many other smaller engineering works are in great need of the contribution of craftsmen.

This was stated by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Hugh Phillipson, while officiating at a graduation ceremony for Government craft apprentices today (Friday).

He noted that the major projects included the new airport, sea terminals, Mass Transit Railway extension and housing estates.

Graduating today are 37 craft apprentices who have acquired a particular skill and are proficient in their own trade.

Mr Phillipson pointed out that the successful completion of the craft apprenticeship training did not mean that the graduates had reached their destination.

"What it signifies is the beginning of a new stage in your life which is full of challenge, hope and promise," he said.

Observing that the training had given them a "solid foundation", Mr Phillipson encouraged the graduates to continue to broaden their view and absorb new knowledge and techniques.

"This will enable you to meet new challenges and to create a better future for yourselves and for Hong Kong," he said.

Noting that Hong Kong's best resource was its manpower, in particular people who have technical skills, Mr Phillipson said in September 1969 the Government took the lead and organised a structured apprentice training scheme to supply well-trained craftsmen for Government service, as well as for the community.

The scheme, which is run by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, is now jointly sponsored by the Water Supplies and Fire Services Departments.

Under the scheme, selected candidates undergo a four-year training programme which comprises both theoretical learning and practical work.

The theoretical knowledge is obtained by studying at technical institutes while the practical skills are acquired through attachments to the various workshops of participating departments.

The present annual recruitment figure for craft apprentices is 100, with two intakes per year.

Three hundred and one craft apprentices are currently being trained, and since 1969, more than 2,100 skilled personnel have passed.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

BNO passport application deadline

* * * * *

Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) born between 1947 and 1956 will have until the end of the month (February 28) to apply for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) passports, a Government spokesman reminded the public today (Friday).

Hong Kong BDTCs, such as persons born, naturalised or registered in Hong Kong, must obtain a BN(O) passport if they wish to continue to travel on British passports beyond 1997.

As specified in the Second Schedule to the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986, applications for BN(O) passports must be submitted on or before the final dates relevant to their age groups.

Further publicity will be made in respect of BDTCs born in other years so that they may submit their applications by phases according to their age groups.

They are of course free to submit their applications now.

"In view of the very large number of applications we are receiving each day, priority will have to be given to applicants for first passport or replacement of passport with validity of less than 12 months," he said.

Persons who do not comply with the relevant cut-off dates will not be able to travel on British passports beyond 1997.

An application made after the final date will only be accepted if the applicant can show that there are special circumstances that justify his late application.

A BN(O) Late Registration Appeals Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Governor on those late applications that have been rejected by the Immigration Department.

The spokesman emphasised that those who already had a BN(O) passport, either the conventional hard-cover type or the burgundy red machine-readable type, needed not apply again.

Applications for BN(O) passports may be submitted to the Immigration Department either by post or in person.

Applicants may also deposit their applications into the drop-in boxes installed at the Immigration Headquarters or at any Immigration Branch Offices throughout the territory.

Application forms are available at all Immigration Offices and District Offices.

Hong Kong BDTCs living, working or studying abroad, are also required to observe the cut-off dates if they want to apply for a BN(O) passport.

However, they are not required to return to Hong Kong for their applications. They should submit their applications to the nearest British passport issuing office either by post or in person.

The required overseas application forms can be obtained at those offices or the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

For more information, members of the public may telephone 2824 1177 (English) or 2824 1717 (Chinese).

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Celebrities to kick off civic education day on Sunday

* * * * *

Legislators, celebrities and television stars will kick off the Civic Education Day 95' on Sunday (February 19) at the open piazza of Times Square in Causeway Bay.

The highlight of the day will be an "all-rounder" contest to drive home the message of sex equality by having both genders reversing roles in performing everyday chores - men cook and do flower arrangements while their female counterparts will demonstrate their expertise in replacing a car tyre and carpentry work. And more.

What follows promises to be full of clever and witty humour when the two genders engage in a debate and take part in a quiz on sex equality and equal opportunities in employment.

They will also talk about their division of labour in the family and their share of responsibility for raising their children.

Two game stalls and an exhibition will also be on the programme.

A spokesman for the organiser - the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education - invites the public to join the fun from 11 am to 5 pm outside the shopping centre.

A mascot going by the name of "Elite Owl" will also be distributing gifts and souvenirs.

Attention news editors:

The Civic Education Day 95' organised by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education will be held on Sunday (February 19) at the open piazza of Times Square in Causeway Bay.

The officiating guests will be the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen and the chairman of the committee, Dr Daniel Tse.

Other guests will include Ms Christine Loh, Mr and Mrs Fung Kin-kee, Mr Albert Cheng, Mr and Mrs Fred Li Wah-ming and Mr Cheng Kai-nam.

Your representatives are invited to cover the event which will take place from 11 am to 5 pm. They are requested to arrive at the venue by 1.15 pm to cover the opening ceremony which will start at 1.30 pm.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Correctional commissioner takes his farewell salute

* * * * *

The outgoing Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Eric McCosh, said the Correctional Services Department (CSD) had been providing the community with a standard of service that was second to none.

"Hong Kong is indeed fortunate to have a service of such high calibre," he said.

Speaking at a farewell parade in his honour this (Friday) afternoon, Mr McCosh said CSD was a very dedicated and highly professional service, whose standards compared more than favourably with similar services around the world.

"You will discover professional pride, motivation, esprit de corps and, also a commodity which is most useful: a sense of good humour.

"Most important of all you will find teamwork and support at all times and at all levels, both on and off duty," he pointed out.

Mr McCosh noted that CSD staff had to face pressures and at times their duties were extremely onerous and stressful.

"Sometimes, those pressures will affect not only you, but your families.

"You will also have detractors, fortunately relatively few, but some will be quick to criticise, often unfairly and often before they are in full possession of all the relevant facts," he said.

Despite the difficulties, he said the hard work and commitment of CSD staff were worth the effort.

Mr McCosh will be retiring on Monday (February 20) after more than 36 years of service with the Government, the last four as head of CSD.

"I leave Correctional Services with regrets. I have had four very happy years and I have been made extremely welcome.

"It has been a great privilege and have been proud to have been a part of the department," he added.

Mr McCosh joined the Hong Kong civil service as Probationary Police Sub-Inspector in 1958 and rose to the rank of Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police in 1988. He was appointed Commissioner of Correctional Services in 1990.

On parade today were 221 CSD staff members. The event also marked the passing-out of 67 Assistant Officers who had just completed a 23-week basic training at the department's Staff Training Institute.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Fire prevention exhibition

* * * * *

The Fire Services Department will hold an exhibition on fire prevention at Po Lam Estate Commercial Complex, Tseung Kwan O, from noon to 4 pm on Sunday (February 19) for local residents.

The exhibition is one in a series of publicity activities to promote this year's fire prevention campaign.

Information pamphlets will be available at a booth set up there.

Another exhibition will be held at Hin Keng Estate in Sha Tin on March 26.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Public Records Office Library on move

* * * * *

The reference library of the Public Records Office now situated on the mezzanine floor of the Murray Road Multi-storey Carpark Building will be moved to a new Town Reading Centre on March 13.

The centre is located on the sixth floor of the Central Government Offices, West Wing, Lower Albert Road.

To facilitate the packing of the library collection, the bulk of which are valuable original historical records requiring careful handling, the existing library will be closed to the public from tomorrow (Saturday).

A spokesman for the Government Records Service said today (Friday) the move was part of a programme to reprovision the Public Records Office.

"The opening of the Town Reading Centre will continue to cater for the needs of the public patronising the library," he added.

The Public Records Office will be moved to the Tuen Mun Government Storage Centre at 1 San Yick Lane, Tuen Mun, in April this year.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Poll cards sent to electors

* * * * *

The Registration and Electoral Office is issuing poll cards to electors informing them the Municipal Council elections will be held on Sunday, March 5.

Information contained on the poll card includes the polling day, the polling hours and the polling station where an elector is to cast his vote.

A spokesman for the office said today (Friday) that an elector did not have to bring along the poll card to the polling station.

"But it will facilitate checking and avoid delay if they do so," the spokesman said.

An elector must bring along his Hong Kong identity card to establish his identity at the poll.

He said those electors who did not receive a poll card by February 21 may enquire of the office on tel 2827 1122.

Electors of the seven uncontested constituencies will not need to vote and they will not receive poll cards.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Airport Consultative Committee meets on Monday

The Consultative Committee on the New Airport and Related Projects (ACC) will hold its plenary meeting at 9.30 am on Monday (February 20) to discuss various proposals to enhance the monitoring role of the ACC.

The meeting will take place at the Conference Hall, first floor, Central Government Offices, Main Wing (New Annexe), Lower Albert Road, Central.

Members of the public who wish to observe the proceedings are requested to reserve a seat by telephoning the Committee Division of New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office on 2829 6745 during office hours.

As seats are limited, bookings will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attention News Editors:

You are invited to cover the meeting.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Improvement of Lung Mun Road in Tuen Mun

* * * * *

The Civil Engineering Department proposes constructing a carriageway and footpaths in Tuen Mun Area 38 to cope with the traffic load generated by the proposed development of a Special Industries Area and a River Trade Terminal in the area.

Works include the construction of about 2.6 kilometres of carriageway and footpaths; reconstruction of parts of Lung Mun Road and the associated roads; closure of parts of the existing carriageway and footpaths within the works area; and carrying out the associated street furniture, drainage, sewerage and geotechnical works.

Works are expected to start in December for completion by March 1998.

The relevant plans and scheme can be inspected during office hours at the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; the Tuen Mun District Lands Office, sixth and seventh floors, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, and the Tuen Mun District Office, second floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices.

Any person who wishes to object to the works is required to write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, second floor, East Wing, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong before April 18, describing his interest and the manner in which he will be affected by the works.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Tenders for New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre invited

* * * * *

The Transport Department is inviting tenders for a contract to manage, operate and maintain the New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre in Kowloon.

The invitation to tender was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

The contract, for a period of four years with provisions for extension at the option of the Government, will commence on June 1 this year, or such later date as specified by the Government.

The successful tenderer will be responsible for certifying the roadworthiness of two-axled goods vehicles with a permitted gross vehicle weight exceeding 1.9 tonnes but not exceeding 16 tonnes, and for the maintenance of the interior of the centre and all equipment and building service installations at the centre.

Prospective tenderers are required to provide evidence of experience and competence in the management, operation and maintenance of vehicle examination centres to enable the Government to make assessments.

Tender documents are obtainable from the Transport Department, 41st floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, by producing a company letter indicating interest in tendering for the contract.

A receipt for the deposit made must be attached to each tender.

Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman, Central Tender Board and placed in the Government Secretariat Tender Box at the lift lobby on the lower ground floor of the Central Government Offices (East Wing), Lower Albert Road before noon on March 17.

Late tenders will not be accepted.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Tenders for footbridge in Kwun Tong invited

* * * * *

The Highways Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a footbridge across Lei Yue Mun Road at Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong.

The works include the associated road and drainage works. The works are expected to start in April this year and be completed in January 1997.

A notice inviting tenders was published in the Gazette today (Friday).

Tender forms and further details are obtainable from the Regional Highway Engineer/Kowloon, Highways Department, 13th floor, room 1321, Nan Fung Commercial Centre, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay. The contact telephone number is 2707 7436.

Tenders must be placed in the Government Secretariat tender box situated in the lift lobby on the lower ground floor of Central Government Offices, East Wing, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong, before noon on March 10.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Landscape works at Yuen Long Southern Bypass

* * * * *

The Highways Department is inviting tenders for the soft landscape works associated with the Yuen Long Southern Bypass.

The bypass was open to traffic in November 1994. Landscaping works will be carried out over the entire length of the road in keeping with its rural setting.

The works are expected to start in May this year and will take about seven months to complete.

There will be a one year establishment period to ensure the proper growth of the tree and shrubs.

A notice inviting tenders was published in today's (Friday) gazette.

Tender forms and other particulars are obtainable from Binnie Consultants Limited, 11th floor, New Town Plaza, Pak Hok Ting Street, Sha Tin. Their contact telephone no. is 2601 1000.

Tenders must be placed in the Public Works Tender Box on 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, before noon on March 10.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Seminar to promote adoption of children with special needs

* * * * *

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, today (Friday) appealed to members of the public and those who may be thinking about child adoption to consider giving children with special needs an opportunity to become a member of their family.

He urged them to share their love and to have the joy of seeing love reciprocated.

Mr Strachan made the appeal when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the second seminar on children with special needs at Excelsior Hotel.

He noted that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children was extended to Hong Kong last October.

This convention upholds the belief that the family, as the fundamental group of society and natural environment for growth and well-being of all its members particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.

It also recognises that for the full and harmonious development of a child's personality, they should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Embracing the same principles, Mr Strachan said the Adoption Unit of the Social Welfare Department had always been making vigorous efforts to find suitable adoptive families for children in need of a permanent home.

"As a result of the efforts made, we are happy to see a steady increase in the number of adoption applications in respect of my wards and a relatively short length of time to place these children with their adoptive families.

"Take 1994 as example, we received a total of 151 new adoption applications in respect of children under our care and a total of 125 children were successfully placed into adoptive families.

"Also, among the children successfully placed locally last year, over 93 per cent of them joined their adoptive families within three months after they were confirmed eligible for adoption," he said.

Noting that the Adoption Unit was not without its difficulties in placing all children awaiting adoption, Mr Strachan said while there was virtually no problem to find a suitable adoptive home quickly for young and healthy children, the department had to make additional efforts to locate a suitable home for children with special needs.

"In order to improve the chance of adoption of children with special needs, the Adoption Unit has explored not only the local but also the overseas channels in finding adoptive families for them.

"Through the co-operation of the International Social Service, Holt International and Mother's Choice, we have been able to locate more suitable adoptive families for some of our children with special needs," he added.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Tenders invited for school and playground projects

* * * * *

The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of the Caritas St. Godfrey Prevocational School in Wah Fu Estate, Pok Fu Lam.

Works include the construction of a seven-storey L-shaped building block housing 18 classrooms, a library, an education television room, a medical inspection room and 16 special rooms.

The special rooms include a metal workshop, an electrical workshop, an accommodation or catering workshop and science laboratories.

The school will also have staff rooms, administration offices, an assembly hall, a covered playground, a basketball court, a car park, a planting area, menial staff quarters and other ancillary facilities. Meanwhile, tenders are also being called for the upgrading of a playground at Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin.

Works consist of the provision of toilet facilities, children's play areas, sitting benches with shade, a rain shelter, a store room, and the improvement of the existing basketball courts, sitting benches and footpaths. The two projects are expected to start in May for completion in August and January next year respectively.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway.

Tender offers for the school and the playground will close at noon on March 17 and 10 respectively.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Home-school co-operation slogan competition results announced

* * * * *

The Committee on Home-school Co-operation today (Friday) announced the results of the Home-School Co-operation Slogan Competition.

The 26 winners -- 13 each from the primary and secondary sections -- were chosen from 1,143 entries, of which 877 were from primary section and 266 from secondary section.

The contest is part of the promotion activities organised by the working group on publicity and promotion under the Committee on Home-School Co-operation.

It is aimed at cultivating artistic talent of the youth, enhancing home-school co-operation and promoting the formation of parent-teacher associations.

The champion and the first and second runners-up will be awarded trophies and book coupons of \$1,000, \$700 and \$500 respectively. Ten outstanding winners will also receive book coupons of \$200 each.

All the winning works will be on display at Cityplaza II exhibition area, Level 2, Taikoo Shing, on Saturday, March 18.

The winners are:

Primary Schools

Kwok Ho-yan (First Prize)
Ng Ting-ting (Second Prize)
Sung Sze-chun (Third Prize)
(Outstanding)
Kwok Ka-yin
Ho Hing-lun
Choi Yiu -ling
Lau Yuen-chi
Kwok Nga-yin
Wai Tak-shun
Tse Kai-ming
Yip Wing-sum
So Cheuk-hang
Leung Hoi-ting

Secondary Schools

Leung Siu-wing (First Prize)
Cheung Man-chung (Second Prize)
Lee Ka-man (Third Prize)
(Outstanding)
Poon Wing-king
Lai Wan-chi
Mak Man-fai
Kwok Wing-chung
Chiu Yan-chi
Kwok Wing-man
Kwok Tsz-ki
Chan Ka-yi
Cheng Chun-pong
Lam Siu-yin

Sewerage improvement works for Tuen Mun

* * * * *

The Government will construct a sewage pumping station and the associated sewerage network within an area of about 3,240 square metres of foreshore and seabed in Tuen Mun to improve the efficiency of conveying sewage across the Tuen Mun nullah.

The work will begin in July this year and will be completed by about June 1997.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice of authorisation in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plans are available at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and at the Tuen Mun District Office, second floor, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before February 17, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Sewer and road works proposed for Tai O

* * * * *

The Territory Development Department's Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office is planning to lay sewers and build two pumping stations in Tai O, Lantau Island.

The works also involve construction of a new road, reconstruction of sections of Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O Market Street, Kat Hing Back Street and Kat Hing Street, reclamation of foreshore and seabed and construction of drainage and other ancillary works.

A notice of the proposed works is notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The plan and scheme of the proposed works can be seen at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office and Islands District Office, on the ground floor and 20th floor respectively in Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; the Mui Wo Sub-office, ground and second floors, Mui Wo Government Offices, 2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road, Mui Wo, Lantau Island and the District Lands Office, Islands, on 19th floor of Harbour Building.

Any person objecting to the works should send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Central, not later than April 18, describing his interest and the manner in which he will be affected.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Marine radar station at Kau Yi Chau

* * * * *

The Government will construct a remote marine radar station at Kau Yi Chau for development of Container Terminals 8 and 9.

In association with this project, a submarine cable for supplying electricity to Kau Yi Chau from Peng Chau will be laid by the China Light & Power Company Limited. The works will start in July for completion by October this year.

The extent of the area affected is described in a notice of authorisation in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plans are available at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road and at the Islands District Office, 20th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central. The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of lands on or before February 17, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate his claim.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Stonecutters Island naval base project

* * * * *

The Architectural Services Department is inviting approved contractors to participate in a prequalification exercise for the construction of a naval base at the south shore of Stonecutters Island.

The project comprises the construction of 11 main buildings of different sizes, complexity and structural types, 15 ancillary buildings, and other land facilities such as access roads, drainage services and related landscaping works on a 12-hectare site being reclaimed at the south shore.

Works are scheduled to start in October for completion in January 1997.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I in Group C for Building Works or on the List II for Building Works can apply for prequalification.

Interested parties may apply for prequalification documents from Mr Kwan Pak-lam, Assistant Director (A)1, Architectural Services Department, room 3508, 35th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway. The deadline for submission of applications is noon on March 10, and tenders will be invited from the prequalified contractors in July.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Three lots of land up for auction

* * * * *

Three lots of Government land in Kowloon and the New Territories will be offered for sale at a public auction on March 14, it was notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The auction will start at 2.30 pm in the Concert Hall of Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The first lot, located at the junction of Sheung Yee Road and Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay, has an area of 12,590 square metres. It is intended for (i) industrial or godown or both, or (ii) offices ancillary and directly related to an industrial operation, or (iii) any combination of (i) and (ii), excluding offensive trade.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 90,648 square metres before March 31, 2000.

Located in Cha Kwo Ling Road, Kwun Tong, the second lot has an area of 4,104 square metres for non-industrial use, excluding godown, hotel and residential.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 29,600 square metres before March 31, 1999.

Covering an area of 4,991 square metres in Tuen Mun, the third lot is designated for non-industrial use, excluding godown, residential, hotel, service apartment and a petrol-filling station.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 28,450 square metres before March 31, 1999.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, and the District Lands Offices Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 10th floor, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Conditions of sale will also be available at the District Lands Offices of Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, North, Sai Kung and Islands.

End/Friday, February 17, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,148	0930	+1,412
Closing balance in the account	2,884	1000	+1,412
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,235
Money market activity	+1,236	1200	+1,236
LAF today	-500	1500	+1,236
		1600	+1,236

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.7 *-0.2* 17.2.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.66	15 months	2605	6.35	99.14	7.20
1 month	6.05	21 months	2611	6.90	99.34	7.43
3 months	6.41	29 months	3707	6.95	98.70	7.68
6 months	6.73	35 months	3801	8.00	100.67	7.89
12 months	7.03	58 months	5912	8.15	99.71	8.39

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$13,871 million

Closed February 17, 1995

End/Friday, February 17, 1995