



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR'S LUNAR NEW YEAR MESSAGE - 1993

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WE ALL KNOW THAT LIFE IN HONG KONG CAN BE HECTIC. EVERYONE KEEPS UP A FORMIDABLE PACE. THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY HONG KONG IS SO SUCCESSFUL.

BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A BREAK ONCE IN A WHILE. THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IS A TIME WHEN WE CAN DO JUST THAT. A TIME WHEN WE CAN RELAX TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY. A TIME FOR REINFORCING THE BONDS OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. THE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO TAKE STOCK. IT OFFERS THE CHANCE TO REFLECT ON THE YEAR THAT IS PAST; AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET FRESH GOALS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

A PERIOD OF CONTEMPLATION ALLOWS US TO SORT OUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS FROM THE CLUTTER OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. I IMAGINE THAT FOR MOST OF YOU - AS FOR ME - THE THING THAT MATTERS MOST OF ALL IS YOUR FAMILY. IT IS WITHIN OUR FAMILIES THAT WE ARE MOST AT HOME AND MOST SECURE. THE INSTITUTION OF THE FAMILY IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, AT THE VERY HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY. AND IT IS OUR CHILDREN THAT ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR FAMILIES. SPENDING TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN AT THE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE. AND THE TIME WE SPEND WITH THEM REINFORCES OUR DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN.

IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE PARTICULAR REASON TO BE PROUD OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. THEY CARRY HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AROUND THE WORLD. OUR YOUNG ATHLETES AT LAST YEAR'S OLYMPICS IN BARCELONA PERFORMED REALLY SUPERBLY; AS DID THEIR TALENTED COLLEAGUES AT THE PARALYMPICS. I SAW FOR MYSELF THE CONTRIBUTION OUR CHILDREN MADE TO THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL IN CANADA WHERE A YOUNG CHOIR, THAT TRAINED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT SHA TIN, SANG TO DELIGHTED AUDIENCES. AND IN MY VARIOUS VISITS ABROAD I HAVE SPOKEN TO SOME OF THE STUDENTS, AS I DID IN TORONTO, WHO ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING RESULTS FOR HONG KONG AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE A TRIBUTE TO OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

I HAVE BEEN GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG NOW FOR SIX MONTHS. IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT HAS BEEN BORNE IN ON ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE DURING THAT TIME, IT IS THAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT IS ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS AND VALUABLE ASSETS. I SEE THE EVIDENCE OF IT WHEREVER I GO - WHETHER AT LAST SATURDAY'S GALA EVENING TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CANCER SERVICES; OR AT THE DAY CARE CENTRE AND THE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WHICH I VISITED IN WAN CHAI LAST WEEK, WHERE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WORK QUIETLY AND STEADILY TO HELP THE ELDERLY AND THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CONTINUE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AS PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

AT NEW YEAR IT IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD MAKE TIME TO REMEMBER THE PLIGHT OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OUR OWN; AND TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO CARE TIRELESSLY FOR THEM WHILE WE ARE ENJOYING OURSELVES. MANY OF THOSE PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS WILL BE WORKING THROUGH THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

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I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO PAY A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO WORK IN OUR PUBLIC SERVICE. HONG KONG IS EXTREMELY LUCKY. WE HAVE A FIRST-CLASS PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERING A FIRST CLASS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. ALL OF THEM DO AN EXCELLENT JOB - WHETHER IT IS CARING FOR THE SICK, EDUCATING HONG KONG'S CHILDREN, OR RUNNING HONG KONG'S ADMINISTRATION. OUR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES - EVER READY - MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR WHICH WE ARE CONSTANTLY GRATEFUL.

FOR HONG KONG, IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER REMARKABLE YEAR. ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESSES. 5% GROWTH. THE BUSIEST CONTAINER PORT NOT JUST IN ASIA, BUT IN THE WORLD. MORE JOB VACANCIES THAN PEOPLE LOOKING FOR WORK. HIGHER THAN EXPECTED SURPLUSES, NOT HIGHER THAN EXPECTED DEFICITS.

HOW MANY OTHER PLACES CAN BOAST OF ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE THESE? NOT MANY IN EUROPE, THAT'S FOR SURE. NOR IN NORTH AMERICA, LET ALONE THE THIRD WORLD. BUT HERE IN HONG KONG WE ARE AT THE HEART OF THE BOOMING ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. AS CHINA'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW SPECTACULARLY, THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR OWN ECONOMY LOOK EVEN BRIGHTER. IT IS AS WELL TO REMEMBER, IN A WORLD BESET BY TROUBLES, JUST HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE - WHATEVER OUR CHALLENGES - HERE IN HONG KONG.

I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE FOR JUST OVER HALF A YEAR. MY GOAL TODAY REMAINS EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS ON THE DAY I TOOK OFFICE; TO WORK FOR THE BEST LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF YOU, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT'S BEEN A BUSY BEGINNING. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A HISTORIC ENTERPRISE - AN ENTERPRISE THAT IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN RECENT HISTORY. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION IN RECENT MONTHS HAS CENTRED ON POLITICS. I HOPE AND AM CONFIDENT THAT IN THE NEW YEAR WE SHALL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS THAT ARE CLEAN, FAIR AND THAT YOU THINK ARE ACCEPTABLE. THIS SHOULD NOT, AT THE END OF THE DAY, PROVE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT, WITH GOODWILL FROM ALL INVOLVED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THESE MATTERS IN THE NEW YEAR. AND WHEN WE HAVE DONE SO, WE WILL ALL BE ABLE TO APPROACH WITH NEW VIGOUR THOSE OTHER ISSUES FOR WHICH WE IN GOVERNMENT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY AND WHICH HAVE SUCH A DECISIVE IMPACT ON THE WAY WE ALL LIVE.

THERE IS, AFTER ALL, PLENTY TO BE DONE - TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS, OUR HOSPITALS, OUR WELFARE SERVICES, TO CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE AND ABOUT WHICH WE CARE SO MUCH. NOT THAT WE ARE NEGLECTING THESE AREAS. UNLIKE MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES, HONG KONG HAS GENERATED THE MEANS - THROUGH YOUR HARD WORK - TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT. WE ARE BEGINNING TO DO SO ALREADY. I AM DETERMINED THAT IN THE NEW YEAR WE SHOULD MAKE FURTHER AND FASTER PROGRESS.

LET US LOOK BACK WITH SATISFACTION ON ALL WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN RECENT MONTHS; LET US RE-AFFIRM THE VALUES THAT BIND OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND GIVE IT STRENGTH; AND LET US LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR WITH CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM.

AS WE WELCOME IN THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER, I JOIN WITH MY FAMILY IN WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY AND WELL-DESERVED BREAK AND AN EXTREMELY PROSPEROUS AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

SUN LIN FYE LOK.

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STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK ON STRIKE
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"MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF CATHAY PACIFIC THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING. THEY HAVE OFFERED TO BRING FORWARD THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS FROM 2 PM TO NOON TODAY.

THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CATHAY PACIFIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT THE AIRPORT.

"I AM PREPARED TO SEE THE LEADERS OF THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS' UNION AT 11 AM AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS. HOWEVER, THE CROWD HERE (OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE) SHOULD FIRST DISPERSE.

"CLEARLY IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST THAT THIS DISPUTE IS SETTLED QUICKLY. MY DEPARTMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO HELP THE TWO SIDES TO REACH AGREEMENT."

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