



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Public welcomed to report faulty signs

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Members of the public are welcomed to report faulty traffic signs and road markings to help maintain them in good and serviceable conditions.

"All they have to do is to simply fill out a purposely-designed form and fax or post it to the Complaints Unit of Highways Department," Chief Highway Engineer, Mr Lau Ka-keung, said.

Introducing this new public participation scheme today (Monday), Mr Lau said this new reporting system enabled members of the public to play a role in maintaining a good road sign and marking system in the territory.

"At their convenience, the reporting form can be handed in person to the Regional Offices of Highways Department or the Licensing Offices of Transport Department," Mr Lau said.

Items on the form will mainly help maintenance staff to locate the faulty signs or markings so that they could effect maintenance or rectification at the earliest possible time.

These include street name and direction, nearby landmarks or buildings, type of traffic signs and road markings as well as their conditions.

"We welcome reporters to include information such as location maps which can help us respond speedily," Mr Lau said.

In protecting personal data privacy, Chief Traffic Engineer of Transport Department, Mr Lee Yan-ming, said: "The reporting form is designed to request for only the reporter's name and telephone number in case we need to contact him/her for further details."

The forms will be available for collection at the four Transport Department's Licensing Offices:

- (1) Hong Kong Licensing Office at 3/F., United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong;
- (2) Kowloon Licensing Office at 9/F, Park-in Commercial Centre, 56 Dundas Street, Kowloon;
- (3) Kwun Tong Licensing Office at 5/F, Kowloon East Government Offices, 12 Lei Yue Mun Road, Kwun Tong;
- (4) Sha Tin Licensing Office at 5/F, Citylink Plaza, Sha Tin Station, New Territories.

End

Statement by WSD on water supply to Ma On Shan

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In response to the contamination of fresh water supply to Chung On Estate and Kam Fung Court in Ma On Shan by salt water last Saturday (March 1), a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department (WSD) said today (Monday):

"Upon receipt of reports on the incident, the WSD, in conjunction with the Housing Department (HD), carried out thorough investigations immediately. The results confirmed that fresh water supplied to the two estates by the WSD remained normal and was free from contamination by salt water. The WSD was informed that contractors employed by the HD were laying internal water mains within the affected estates.

"The WSD also made immediate arrangements for water wagons to supply fresh water to the residents and assisted the HD in supervising the cleansing of the fresh water supply system in the estates.

"To safeguard the health of the residents, salt water supply to these estates was suspended.

"The WSD takes a very serious view of the incident. Salt water supply to the estates will not resume until the HD has established the cause of contamination and rectified the situation."

End

Central allocation of primary one places

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All children who have applied for a public-sector primary one place but have not secured a discretionary place will be centrally allocated to a government or aided primary school for school entry in September 1997.

Parents will receive a letter from the School Places Allocation Section (Primary One Admission) of the Education Department requesting them to collect a "Choice of Schools" form and a list of all government and aided primary schools in their home Net from a specified distribution/collection centre between Saturday (March 8) and March 10 (Monday) from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Senior Education Officer, Mrs Pak Au Tak-chuen, said all centres would remain open on Sunday (March 9).

Completed forms should be returned to the same centre within the specified period.

She reminded parents that if they did not receive the letter by Friday (March 7), they should contact the School Places Allocation Section (Primary One Admission) on 2832 7700 immediately.

"The central allocation of primary one places is based on parental choices with no reference to the 'Points System'," she said.

"However, when a school is oversubscribed, random numbers will be generated by the computer to decide the order of priority in allocating places of the school.

"This is to ensure fairness to all applicants," she added.

Parents who have moved house recently or are planning to move in the near future must inform the School Places Allocation Section (Primary One Admission) so that arrangements can be made to allocate a place to their children in their new home Net.

Results of the central allocation will be released in early June and details of arrangement will be announced later.

Parents are welcome to make use of the department's automatic telephone enquiry service on 2891 0088 for the latest information on the central allocation.

End

1996 Population By-census data incinerated

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Questionnaires containing data on individual persons, households and quarters collected in the 1996 Population By-census were incinerated this (Monday) morning at the Kwai Chung Incinerator under the direct supervision of staff of the Census and Statistics Department.

The Population By-census was conducted in mid-March 1996.

A spokesman for the Department explained that legislation stipulated that data on individual persons, households and quarters obtained from the 1996 Population By-census must be treated in strict confidence and all questionnaires containing such information must be destroyed within one year after the By-census.

He stressed that at all stages of the By-census operation, steps were taken to ensure that the confidentiality of individual data was strictly maintained. "Any identifications of enumerated individual persons or households from the questionnaires were not entered into the computer," he added.

"Questionnaires completed in the By-census were destroyed in order to dispel any possible anxiety which the public might have over their use for non-statistical purposes in the future," he said.

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 78.5 per cent of capacity or 460.322 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 464.257 million cubic metres of water, representing 79.2 per cent of capacity.

End