



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, at the airport today (Friday):

Governor: Good evening. I am delighted to welcome Jeremy Hanley as the Minister of State for the Foreign Office on what is his first visit to Hong Kong as the Minister responsible for our affairs in the Foreign Office. This is not of course his first visit to Hong Kong. He was here few years ago. But we'll be looking forward to showing him a good deal of the community and its life over the next five days. We're looking forward to a number of meetings, to talking and listening to what he's got to say. I know that he believes that this is a useful visit as part of the briefing before Mr Qian's visit to London later in the autumn. I think Mr Hanley would like to say a few words to you.

Minister: Governor, thank you very much indeed. I'm looking forward to this visit particularly. I was last here in Hong Kong some seven or eight years ago and I can see already from the air how Hong Kong has changed, how it has advanced and what there is here that needs to be preserved. I look forward very much to working with the Governor, and learning from many people over the next few days as to what Hong Kong is now, and therefore what is so dear to so many people. I look forward also to the future over the next, what is now less than two years, to try to make sure that the good that is Hong Kong can be preserved and to try to make sure that our improving relationships with China continue to bring advantage to the people of Hong Kong. So Governor, thank you very much indeed.

Question: Governor, how can you justify the slope stabilisation leads to the closure of Tuen Mun Highway because it is causing traffic inconvenience to the Hong Kong ...?

Governor: I think everybody recognises the extreme inconvenience caused particularly of course to the residents of Tuen Mun by the closure of the Highway. I think that while noting that inconvenience, most of the community would accept that the Government's overwhelming responsibility is to avoid accidents, to avoid anything that could lead to loss of life. And it's, I think, relevant to this difficult issue that there was a rock fall on the road today, which is an indication of the sort of problems that we've got. Both the Chief Secretary and I have been kept in very close touch with the arrangements that are being made, both for increasing the number of ferry services and for increasing the bus services and making special provision for the buses to get through on the Castle Peak Road. But we've asked the Secretary for Works and a group of engineers to visit the Tuen Mun Highway tomorrow to have another look at what's being done and what needs to be done and to report to both Anson Chan and myself as a matter of urgency and to let the District Board members know exactly what the situation is and how quickly the road can be back in service. The District Board members are understandably anxious, reflecting the views of the community and we'll want to keep them fully informed about the situation. We've got an excellent Secretary for Works and he and the Commissioner for Transport will be keeping in touch with the local community.

Question: Do the Tuen Mun residents have to torture another week?

Governor: What we've got to do is to protect the Tuen Mun residents from the consequences of opening the road too early. We didn't take this decision yesterday, the Chief Secretary and I, lightly. We listened to the advice of experts and we obviously had to follow that advice. If we had ignored that advice, and if there had then been an accident leading for example to injury or loss of life, we would have quite properly been pilloried by the community for taking unnecessary risks. So what we've got to do is to be as careful as possible but to get the road back in use as rapidly as we can. We'll spare no effort, we'll spare no expense to do that, I can assure you.

Question: Do you have any plan to visit the district within a few days?

Governor: I'll be talking after the Secretary for Works' visit tomorrow. I'll be talking to him. If he and I think it would be useful to visit Tuen Mun again, for me to visit Tuen Mun again, I'll certainly do so. I was there not very long ago. If it would be useful rather than impeding the work that's got to be done on the Highway, then I'll do that.

Question: The District Board members have requested you to visit the district.

Governor: Unfortunately, my visit to the district might not be quite as useful as the visit of structural engineers. But if it would serve any purpose, I'll certainly go. But what I want first of all is to hear direct from James Blake, the Secretary for Works, tomorrow about the work that's being done and the work that needs to be done.

Question: Mr Hanley, what is your personal view on the Preparatory Committee to be set up and how would the British Government assist that?

Minister: It's an extremely important development. What I'm here for is to listen to the Governor and to discover what he feels of the likely possibilities in the future to prepare for whatever might happen. I'm certain that China will recognise the value both to China and to Hong Kong and the great quality of people here in Hong Kong should be used for the future. I therefore look forward to meeting those people and I hope that I would be agreeing with the Governor's the quality of those who help to run Hong Kong now and I hope in the future.

Question: Mr Hanley, how do you comment on the appointment of Mr Jiang Enzhu as the new ambassador to Britain?

Minister: I have just heard of that myself. If that appointment is confirmed, then indeed there will be a very experienced and wise negotiator who will be present in London to help the negotiations for the coming few months.

End/Friday, September 1, 1995

Governor discusses VM issue with visiting US Congressman

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, and the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, met the visiting US Congressman, Mr Chris Smith, this (Friday) morning and discussed various issues relating to Vietnamese migrants (VMs).

During the meeting, Mr Smith learnt that Hong Kong has since 1975 provided refuge to almost 200,000 asylum seekers from Vietnam and none of the boats arriving Hong Kong shores has ever been turned away.

The territory has spent almost US\$900 million on the matter since 1979, in addition to a debt amounting to US\$130 million owed to Hong Kong by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Under the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), to which the US is a party, all Vietnamese who have undergone the status determination process and found to be refugees should be resettled overseas and those found to be non-refugees should return to Vietnam.

It was explained to Mr Smith that the screening system in Hong Kong was designed together with the UNHCR, who has full access to the screening procedures.

The system consists of two tiers: a first instance screening by Immigration Officers in accordance with the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 and its 1967 Protocol. Those who have been screened out may then appeal to the Refugee Status Review Board, whose decision is final.

Checks and balances are built into the system. For example, the migrants were fully informed of the screening procedures and were provided with legal and other counselling services by the UNHCR during the whole screening process. The system is constantly reviewed and improved upon, taking into account suggestions by the UNHCR and non-government organisations.

The screening procedures have also been the subject of detailed scrutiny by the Law Courts of Hong Kong in a number of cases, and have been found to be reasonable and fair. There has been no accusation whatsoever of corruption of any kind of the screening procedures in Hong Kong.

The procedures are further safeguarded by the safety net of the UNHCR mandate. All negative decisions are reviewed by the UNHCR who may exercise its international mandate and grant refugee status to any migrant if it disagrees with the decision. The UNCHR has exercised its mandate to some 1,540 cases out of a total of about 48,600 screened out cases.

Screening of all the Vietnamese in Hong Kong was completed in October last year.

As for recent allegations that there is a pre-set quota for screening in refugees in Hong Kong, Mr Smith was told that there is absolutely no truth in these allegations and that there is no reason why the Government should do so. As Hong Kong is not a place for resettlement, it would have been in Hong Kong's interest to screen in everyone and push the burden of resettlement to other countries, it was explained.

On the current situation in Hong Kong, Mr Smith learnt that there are now about 1,500 refugees in Hong Kong awaiting resettlement. The major issue, however, is the return of 21,000 non-refugees.

Hong Kong prefers to return the VMs through the Voluntary Return Programme operated by the UNHCR but it is obvious that this has to be complemented by the Orderly Repatriation Programme. Over 12,000 VMs returned voluntarily in 1992 and 1993.

Voluntary return, however, dropped in March this year on the eve of the Sixth CPA Steering Committee meeting. After the meeting, at which simplified procedures of clearing the return of the VMs were agreed and were since implemented progressively, over 800 VMs signed up for voluntary return in April and early May.

A majority of these volunteers, however, withdrew from the voluntary return programme when they heard in mid-May about proposals in the US Congress concerning a chance of rescreening. New applications for voluntary repatriation have since dropped to only a handful.

The uncertainty generated by the proposals has clearly engendered a wait-and-see attitude among the Vietnamese. This runs counter to the effort by all parties to bring the VM issue to an honourable ending. The uncertainty should be removed as quickly as possible so that the CPA can be concluded as soon as possible.

Accompanied by the acting Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Gordon Leung, Mr Smith visited the High Island Detention Centre in the afternoon. Mr Smith was briefed by the management of the Centre and was shown the livelihood of the VMs.

He saw that the VMs lead a community lifestyle, not in prison cells, and are provided with all necessities such as food, medical and dental care, education and other social services. They also have access to television and radio, and there is little restriction on mail or visits.

The UNHCR also operates information centres where information on the latest developments in Vietnam, such as publications and video tapes from Vietnam and overseas, are freely available.

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Safety net already in place for the needy and unemployed

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Hong Kong has already had a well-established safety net in place to help those who are in need of financial assistance, including the unemployed.

The existing employment legislation also provides a number of benefits and protection to workers who lost their jobs, said Mr Joseph W P Wong, who has today (Friday) assumed the post of Secretary for Education and Manpower. Speaking at a media session, Mr Wong said he noted that some trade unions had called for the setting up of an unemployment relief assistance scheme.

In response, he explained that workers had already been provided with benefits and protection under the Employment Ordinance, including wages in lieu of notice, contractual end-of-year payment, and severance/long service payments.

Stressing the Government's serious concerns on the unemployment situation, Mr Wong said the Labour Department and the Social Welfare Department were working closely to offer employment service to the unemployed workers and advise them of their entitlements under the Employment Ordinance.

Under normal circumstances, one month's salary is paid in lieu of notice. Workers who have two years' service and are made redundant are qualified for severance payment. Those who have five years' service and are dismissed for reasons other than redundancy are entitled to long service payments. The rate of severance payment or long service payments is two-thirds of the monthly wages for each year of service.

In case the employer is insolvent, workers can get such payments from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund.

For those unemployed persons who might need financial assistance, officers from the two departments will assist them to apply for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) which comprises not only standard rates to meet basic needs such as food and clothing but also a wide range of special grants to meet specific needs of individuals.

The average monthly CSSA payment now ranges from \$2,650 for a one-person household to \$8,210 for a four-person household.

All unemployed persons are eligible for CSSA so long as the value of their assets does not exceed the prescribed limit (for cash savings: \$26,650 for a single person household and \$17,750 for each member of a family) and their income is less than their CSSA entitlement.

Also, there is no need for the applicant to satisfy any qualifying period of unemployment in order to be eligible for CSSA.

Meanwhile, CSSA recipients are encouraged to earn income through work with a view to moving towards self-sufficiency.

To provide an incentive to work, a CSSA recipient's monthly earnings can be disregarded up to a maximum of \$1,210 in the calculation of his CSSA entitlement. For certain CSSA recipients who get full-time jobs, their first month income will also be disregarded.

Mr Wong said the Administration's first priority was to help the workers who had lost their jobs to be employed again quickly.

"To this end, the Local Employment Service (LMS) of the Labour Department has been enhanced with the introduction of the Job Matching Programme (JMP) in April this year and this service is available in all nine LMS offices throughout the territory.

"So far, the success rate has been encouraging and we have already found jobs for over 800 job seekers under the programme," he said.

In addition, special outreach teams of the Labour Department are providing on the spot assistance and advice to workers affected by retrenchment.

Another priority area was to ensure that workers possessed the skills to re-enter or remain in the workforce through retraining schemes, Mr Wong said

He pointed out that unemployed workers were given priority in enrolling in retraining courses and the Government was working with employers to set up tailor-made courses to retrain people to fill actual vacancies. "We understand that 1,100 retrainees were successfully placed in the month of July," he noted.

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Legislation to promote equal opportunity

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Hong Kong has taken a number of major steps forward in terms of legislation in 1995 to promote equal opportunity and integration into the community for people with a disability.

This is stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he attended the 4th International Abilympics Conference at Perth, Australia, today (Friday).

Delivering a speech on "Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunity", Mr Strachan said the Hong Kong Government fully subscribed to the principle that people with a disability should enjoy the same basic rights as other members of the community.

"We fully recognise the importance and need to develop legislation in areas such as establishment and safeguarding of human rights; measures to permit full participation by people with a disability; and measures to provide for equalisation of opportunities for all vulnerable groups in community life," he said.

On planned changes in legislation to help persons of intellectual impairment give evidence in court, Mr Strachan said these new measures included the use of Cantonese in court proceedings; special procedures at the trial, for example, judges and lawyers would wear ordinary clothes instead of their usual robes; the giving of evidence by means of a television link; and the use of video recording of statements which can be used as evidence in court.

"In addition, we have completed a review of our Mental Health Ordinance and are drafting proposed amendments to it," he said.

"Our primary aim is to improve the rights and well-being of people with mental handicap and mental illness."

Mr Strachan said new measures included the setting up of a Guardianship Board to make independent decisions on issues related to guardianship for mentally incapacitated adults; additional provisions on the management of property and financial affairs of mentally handicapped and mentally ill persons; as well as new provisions on consent to medical and dental treatment.

"All these, I am sure, will go a long way towards bringing people with a disability more fully into the community," he said.

Turning to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance which was passed in July, Mr Strachan said it provided a legal means for people with a disability, as well as for their families and carers, a comprehensive system of redress in areas of life in which they might face discrimination, harassment or vilification.

"These areas include employment; education; transport; access to buildings and services; and participation in partnerships, professional organisations, clubs and sports.

"Our aim in drawing up the legislation was to strike a balance between the interests of people with disability and the community as a whole," he said.

Mr Strachan said the provisions of the Ordinance would be enforced by the courts and the Equal Opportunities Commission which would be set up in early 1996.

"The Equal Opportunities Commission will propose Codes of Practice for each sector so that all parties involved will have practical guidelines to follow regarding how they are expected to behave," he said.

"In drawing up these codes, the Commission will consult groups representing people with a disability and the sector concerned."

Apart from the legislative measures, Mr Strachan said the Government released in June the White Paper on Rehabilitation which was a policy document setting out a comprehensive picture of current services and the future direction for the development of rehabilitation policy.

"We believe that this two-pronged approach of developing legislation and policy for people with a disability is vitally important in promoting rights and well-being," he added.

End/Friday, September 1, 1995

Civil Service Branch on the Internet

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More than 38 million global users of the world-wide communication system Internet will have the access to the latest information from the Civil Service Branch from today (Friday) under a joint project of the Branch and the University of Hong Kong. Information contained in CSB's Home Page on the Internet's World Wide Web includes government job vacancies, facts and policy issues of the Branch and news for the pensioners.

At a demonstration session, the Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service Branch, Mr Chris Jackson, said he expected the prospective applicants of Civil Service posts both in Hong Kong and overseas would find the service very useful.

"We see the Internet as another excellent way of improving our communication with colleagues and the public. It will also be a means of keeping retired civil servants in touch with us," Mr Jackson said.

The Civil Service Branch Home Page will be updated regularly and it also provides a facility for users to communicate directly with the Branch through E-mail in its "Feedback and Suggestion Box".

The Civil Service Branch Home Page is at <http://www.hku.hk/hkgcsb>.

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Two Civil Service Salaries Commission members re-appointed

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The Government announced today (Friday) that the Governor had re-appointed Mr David W Gairns and Mrs Janie Kaung Lai-chun as members of the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service.

The appointments are for a term of two years with effect from October 1, 1995.

Both Mr Gairns and Mrs Kaung have served on the Standing Commission for two years.

Chaired by Sir Sidney Gordon, the Standing Commission advises the Government on the principles and practices governing the pay and conditions of service of the non-directorate civil service other than the disciplined services. Other members include Mr Alexander Au Siu-kee, Dr Wilfred Chan Siu-yuen, Mr Nicholas Chiu Sai-chuen, Mr Lo King-man, Mr David A Morris, Mr Tang Kwai-nang and Professor Robert Ian Tricker.

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Operation smooth for Citybus new routes

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The Transport Department has set up a special team to monitor the transfer of the 14 routes this (Friday) morning from China Motor Bus to Citybus.

Observers have been deployed to various strategic locations to monitor the operation of both Citybus and CMB.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said: "We have monitored the transfer of these routes and other services by Citybus as well as the operation of CMB starting 5.30 am and through the morning peak hours, so far, they have been operating smoothly and according to their schedules despite the adverse weather.

"There were no long queues observed at bus stops along the new Citybus routes.

"Up to now (as at 9 am) both Citybus and CMB are performing to the required standards.

"The department will deploy survey staff to continue monitor the situation later today and in the coming week to evaluate their performance."

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Day schools to remain closed tomorrow

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The Education Department announced today (Friday) that all day schools will remain closed tomorrow (Saturday) morning.

A department spokesman attributed this to an arrangement whereby bisessional schools attend classes on alternate Saturdays.

"As schools are closed today, students of bisessional schools at the start of the school year will not know whether it is their turn to attend school tomorrow, which is Saturday," the spokesman said. "To avoid confusion and difficulties caused to parents, all day schools will remain closed tomorrow morning.

"In reaching the decision, the Education Department has also taken into account traffic situation and the safety of students."

The spokesman said that all schools will resume normal classes on Monday (September 4).

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Teacher Recruitment Information Office stands down

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The Education Department's Teacher Recruitment Information Office (TRIO) stands down today (Friday) as schools have all the teachers in place and are ready for the start of a new school year.

An Education Department spokesman said the TRIO was activated every year between around March and the end of August to help teachers looking for a teaching appointment as well as schools that needed new teachers.

During its period of operation this year, the TRIO attracted 5,194 applications.

Among the applicants, 2,997 are degree holders and 1,126 graduates from the Hong Kong Institute of Education or previous colleges of education. A total of 514 have obtained diplomas from approved post-secondary colleges. To facilitate schools to employ supply teachers to fill vacancies arising during the school year, the TRIO has set up two databases.

The first database contains information about applicants who had indicated in TRIO's questionnaire that they were willing to serve as supply teachers or to fill vacancies arising during the school year. The second database contains data about applicants whom the TRIO is not sure whether they are prepared to become supply teachers.

Schools are encouraged to fully utilise the databases which are available at the Education Department's district education offices and the department's Special Education section.

The spokesman thanked applicants who have shown interest in joining the teaching profession as well as schools for their readiness in making use of the rich pool of manpower resources contained in TRIO's databank.

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OZP amended for housing development

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced amendments to the draft Fanling/Sheung Shui Outline Zoning Plan (No. S/FSS/4).

The major amendment to the draft plan is to rezone an area in Area 49, Fanling South from "Industrial" to "Residential (Group A)" for a public rental housing cum Home Ownership Scheme development of 3,500 flats, and to "Government/Institution/Community" for the development of educational, health and welfare facilities.

A piece of land to the east of Tin Sum Temporary Housing Area in Area 47 has also been rezoned from "Open Space" to "Residential (Group A)" for private residential development.

The amendment plan (No. S/FSS/5) is available for public inspection until September 22 from:

- * Planning Department,
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;

- * Sha Tin and North East District Planning Office,
ground floor, Sha Tin Government Offices,
6 Tung Lo Wan Hill Road,
Sha Tin,
New Territories; and

- * North District Office,
third floor, North District Government Offices,
3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling,
New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendment plan can submit written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road before September 22.

Copies of the amendment plan can be bought from the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, and Kowloon Map Sales Office, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

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Tenders invited for marine vessel service building

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of a three-storey marine vessel service building with a gross floor area of about 500 square metres at the Marine Police West Division Base in Tai Lam Chung. Facilities to be built include three covered vessel bays, an electrical and mechanical workshop, a storage area, an office and a fitness training room.

Works are expected to start in December for completion in a year.

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

Tender offers will close at noon on September 29.

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District Offices to organise election forums

Seven District Offices of the Home Affairs Department will organise election forums to promote the 1995 Legislative Council Elections tomorrow (Saturday).

To enable voters to have a better understanding of the platforms of candidates running in their constituencies, the forums mainly comprise self-introductions by candidates, and question-and-answer sessions and floor discussions involving the public.

Details of the forums are:

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Hong Kong Island South	3 pm	Pui Tak Canossian Primary School, 180 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen	Yeung Sum Cheng Kai-nam
New Territories South	2 pm	Shek Wai Kok Community Hall, Shek Wai Kok Estate, Tsuen Wan	Lam Chi-leung Sin Chung-kai Hui Chiu-fai
Kowloon Central	3 pm	Assembly Hall, Centenary Bradbury Centre, Holy Trinity Church, 135 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon City	Tsang Yok-sing, Jasper Liu Sing-lee
Kowloon South-west	3 pm	Henry G Leong Community Centre, 60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei	To Kun-sun, James Chung Yee-fong, Helen Wong Kwok-tung Sit Ho-yin, Kingsley

New Territories North-east	3 pm	Tai Po Civic Centre, Tai Wo Road, Tai Po	Cheung Hok-ming Lee Peng-fei, Allen Cheung Wing-fai Law Yuk-kai
New Territories East	4 pm	Sha Tin Central Park Outside Sha Tin Town Hall, Sha Tin	Emily Lau Lau Kong-wah, Ray
Hong Kong Island Central	5 pm	Southern Playground, Hennessy Road, Wan Chai	Lam Pei, Peggy Loh Kung-wai, Christine

Attention News Editors:

Media representatives are invited to cover the election forums.

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Polling starts at Trade Department - for best staff awards

Polling started today (Friday) at the Trade Department as users of its services voted for the staff members who in their eyes should win the department's best staff awards.

A spokesman for the department said the month-long election aimed at promoting the department's performance pledge and reinforcing the awareness of a "client-based" culture.

"Apart from promoting their team spirit and co-operation, it also gives recognition and encouragement to the staff who have been consistently providing meritorious services to the public," he said. Sponsored by the Textile Council of Hong Kong, election for the best staff awards will end on September 30. Staff members of the Trade Department and their relatives may not vote.

Awards will go to the top five officers and two divisions with the highest numbers of votes.

Voting forms can be obtained at B1, ground, mezzanine, second, third, eighth and 17th floors of the Trade Department Tower at 700, Nathan Road, Kowloon. Completed forms can be either put into ballot boxes on these floors or sent by fax on 2396 9899.

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Update on landslip incidents associated with typhoon Kent

The Geotechnical Engineering Office's (GEO) Emergency Control Centre of the Civil Engineering Department has received 10 reports of landslips between 1 pm yesterday and 4.30 pm today (Friday).

Of these, nine have affected roads and one occurred behind a squatter hut. Most of the incidents involved very small movements of soil or rock and there were no casualties.

Of the incidents, five occurred in the New Territories, one in Kowloon, three on Hong Kong Island and one on Lantau Island.

Up to 4 pm today about 130 mm of rainfall were recorded over the most part of the territory since noon yesterday. More than 200 mm fell in the Tsuen Wan-Sha Tin area.

The GEO Emergency Control Centre was manned at 1 pm yesterday and was stepped down at 4.30 pm today.

Four emergency teams were mobilised to respond to incident reports. Geotechnical engineers inspected the landslide sites and provided advice to other departments with regard to remedial measures. The landslide warning was in force from 6 pm yesterday until 4.30 pm today.

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Six landslip incidents associated with typhoon Kent

The Geotechnical Engineering Office's (GEO) Emergency Control Centre of the Civil Engineering Department has received six reports of landslips between 1 pm yesterday and 9 am today (Friday).

Of these, five have affected roads and one occurred behind a squatter hut. No casualties were reported so far.

Of the incidents, three occurred in the New Territories, one in Kowloon, one on Hong Kong Island and one on Lantau Island.

Up to 9 am today about 130 millimetres of rainfall were recorded at the Royal Observatory since noon yesterday. More than 120 mm fell over the most part of the territory during the same period. Locally more than 180 mm fell in parts of Hong Kong Island and in the Tsuen Wan-Sha Tin area.

Since the GEO Emergency Control Centre was first manned at 1 pm yesterday, the GEO has mobilised four emergency teams to respond to incident reports. The landslip warning has been in force since 6 pm yesterday.

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No mail services during Mid-Autumn Festival

The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Friday) that there would be no mail delivery during the Mid-Autumn Festival (September 9).

All post offices will be closed on that day.

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Fresh water cuts in Eastern and Southern districts

Fresh water supply to some premises in the Eastern district will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (September 4) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at 335-391 King's Road, 55-113 and 62-128 Chun Yeung Street, 21-75 and 26-68 Java Road, 64-132 Wharf Road, 2-16 North Point Road and 5-25 Tong Shui Road.

Meanwhile, fresh water supply to some premises in the Southern district will also be temporarily cut off from 10 pm on Tuesday (September 5) to 6 am the next day to facilitate waterworks.

The affected areas will include Chung Hom Kok Road, Cape Road, Cape Drive, Ching Sau Lane, Horizon Drive, Headland Road, South Bay Road, Beach Road, South Bay Close, Bellevue Drive, 32-52 and 33-55 Island Road as well as 28-110 and 47-129 Repulse Bay Road.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,095	0930	+118
Closing balance in the account	1,186	1000	+118
Change attributable to :		1100	+109
Money market activity	+98	1200	+108
LAF today	-7	1500	+98
		1600	+98

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.2 *-0.1* 1.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills			EF notes			
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.81	2 years	2708	6.06	100.05	6.12
1 month	5.79	3 years	3807	6.16	99.47	6.46
3 months	5.79	5 years	5006	6.60	98.61	7.06
6 months	5.81	5 years	M501	7.90	101.73	7.59
12 months	5.85					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$16,236 million

Closed September 1, 1995

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