



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor's statement on C H Tung's resignation from ExCo

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, issued the following press statement this (Monday) afternoon in response to Mr C H Tung's decision to resign from the Executive Council:

"As I told the Legislative Council in February, I discussed Mr C H Tung's position on the Executive Council with him some months ago when he was appointed to the Preparatory Committee. I told him then that I would be delighted for him to stay on ExCo and that I had always greatly valued his advice.

"But he and I recognised that, at some point, he might find that the tensions between his two roles became too difficult to reconcile. I made clear that this would be very much a matter for him to decide, if and when that time arrived.

"Clearly that point has now come. Mr Tung has asked to step down from ExCo. I have accepted his resignation with regret but also with considerable gratitude for the valuable role he has played on the Council, and for the community, over the past three and a half years."

End

Governor's letter to C H Tung

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Following is the letter from the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, to Mr C H Tung, today (Monday):

Thank you for your letter of today's date.

When we talked earlier this year, I said that I hoped that you would stay on the Executive Council for as long as you felt able to do so. As you know, I have always valued and respected your advice even, indeed particularly, when our views differed, since you always gave that advice honestly, impartially and in the interests of Hong Kong. But we both recognised that a point might come when you felt that the tensions between your appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee and your place on ExCo became too great.

I respect your judgement that you feel that that time has now come, and I therefore accept your resignation from the Executive Council. But I do so with considerable regret, bearing in mind the valuable contributions you have made to the Council's policy discussions over the last few years and the clear and articulate way in which you have represented the views of an important section of the community during that period.

Your ExCo colleagues and I will miss your presence this coming Tuesday morning, and those following. We wish you well.

End

Governor's question-and-answer session in LegCo on Feb 1

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Following is an extract from the Governor's question-and-answer session in the Legislative Council on February 1, 1996:

Governor: ... I thought that I would allow more time for questions by not making a statement today.

Mr Szeto Wah (in Chinese): Mr Governor, the Executive Council has to observe collective responsibility and so does the Preparatory Committee. If we have a person who is both an Executive Councillor and also a member of the Preparatory Committee, when there are different decisions between the Executive Council and the Preparatory Committee, where should his responsibility lie? And should it be the first one that should take precedence or should it be the last one that should take precedence over the previous one? Thank you.

Governor: I congratulate the honourable gentleman on such a clever, thoughtful, intellectually provoking, constitutional question.

It's not for me to comment on the working practices of the Preparatory Committee. Save to say that perhaps it's easier to have collective responsibility and confidentiality in a body as small as an Executive Council or a cabinet and perhaps a little more difficult, and that's not meant as a criticism, it's a statement of my views on human nature, a little more difficult when you've got 150 people. But I wish those who are organising the work of the Preparatory Committee the best of luck in that respect.

As for the dilemma which the honourable member mentioned, I would very much hope that were there such a dilemma in practice, the member of the Executive Council and Preparatory Committee would use his own judgement and apply his own integrity to decide what the honourable course of action was. I think it's difficult to answer the question in the abstract. I would only add that knowing who the honourable member has in mind, I have no doubt at all that the honourable gentleman concerned would, in that case, as in others, behave with complete integrity.

Mr Szeto Wah (in Chinese): The ExCo and also the Preparatory Committee have rules of confidentiality, so this person who has membership in both, how should we advise him? Should he try and keep things from both parties or should he try and please both? How can he really play the role of a bridge effectively?

Governor: I think he should apply his integrity and common sense in this particular instance as he has in others. Speaking for myself I think it's wholly welcome that we have a distinguished businessman playing this bridging role, if it's possible. It may be that in due course the tensions become very difficult, in which case I'm sure that the honourable member concerned would know how to resolve them, but for the time being I think the arrangements work perfectly satisfactorily. I don't hide from the Legislative Council that the member concerned raised these questions with me, raised his own concern about them and I urged him to remain a member of my Executive Council because I'm sure he'll be able to play a valuable role. But if it proves too difficult, both for him and for the two institutions of which he is a member then I'm sure he'll know what to do.

End

ExCo's statement on C H Tung's resignation

In response to press enquires, the Convenor of ExCo, the Hon Rosanna Wong, made the following statement today (Monday):

"I deeply regret the resignation of my colleague in the Executive Council, Mr Tung Chee-hwa. I respect Mr Tung's decision which I am sure he has carefully and thoroughly considered.

"During the past three and a half years at ExCo, Mr Tung has made a whole-hearted contribution to Hong Kong. My colleagues and I at ExCo will miss him greatly.

However, we firmly believe that whatever he does, Mr Tung will continue to work for Hong Kong in the future."

End

More transport infrastructure projects in the pipeline

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The Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma, said today (Monday) that Hong Kong had a lot to offer on the transport front as in other areas of business and Government activity.

Speaking at the opening of the Conference on Tunnel Management, Operation and Maintenance at the Hong Kong Convention Centre, Mr Barma said the Government believed involving the private sector would be more flexible and cost-effective.

This would free up government resources for other projects, and competition would ensure that the Government got the best value, Mr Barma said.

He said private sector partnership had been achieved through BOT (build-operate-transfer) projects, and response from them in undertaking major infrastructural projects had been extremely positive.

"We invite the private sector to build and operate new highways or tunnels through franchises which normally last for a period of 30 years, with the project then being transferred to government ownership," he said.

"Example of this are Eastern Harbour Crossing and Tate's Cairn Tunnel which together cost \$5 billion.

"Under construction now is the Western Harbour Crossing, estimated to cost \$7 billion and scheduled for completion by March 1997.

"And also under construction is Route 3 country park section which will provide a new superhighway from the border to the container port. The cost of this project is also estimated to be in the order of \$7 billion."

Mr Barma said to complement road network, new railway systems would play a very important role in future infrastructural plans.

He cited the Western Corridor project, the Tseung Kwan O MTR system and the Ma On Shan and Tai Wai rail link as examples.

"These BOT and railway projects offer plenty of scope for private sector involvement and they offer abundant opportunity for your expertise in tunnel management, operation and maintenance," he said.

As a specific example, said Mr Barma, the Government had decided to contract out the management, operation and maintenance of the Tsing Ma Control Area.

It will cover some 16.5 kilometre of roads, bridges and viaducts and a tunnel of the expressways leading to the new airport.

"We are now awaiting bids from four pre-qualified tenderers. These should be in shortly," he said.

"In parallel, we are also drafting the necessary legislation which will need to be enacted in time to enable the contract to be signed by the end of this year.

"The whole operation should be up and running by the middle of 1997, providing unified traffic control over a vital and strategic link," Mr Barma added.

End

CS officiates at Dragon Boat Festival in Boston

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Sunday, June 2, Massachusetts time) officiated at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in Boston.

With spectators lining the banks of the picturesque Charles River by Harvard University, some 30 teams from the Greater Boston area, in authentic 39-foot Hong Kong dragon boats, took part in the race during a perfect sunny Sunday afternoon.

The winning team will compete in the national championship races in New York in August and the champion will be flown to Hong Kong to participate in the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International Races in June, 1997.

Speaking before dotting the eyes of the dragon, Mrs Chan said the festival afforded the opportunity for Hong Kong to contribute, albeit modestly, to the cultural and recreational calendar of Boston.

She said Hong Kong had enjoyed a very close partnership with the United States for many years, a partnership founded solidly on a history of trade and commerce and shared values.

"In addition to the extensive economic and trade relationship Hong Kong has with the United States, I hope that by promoting this colourful and exciting festival, we have brought a lighter side of Hong Kong life to the community here," the Chief Secretary said.

Exhibits at the race site included displays of children's art flown in from Hong Kong as well as photographic displays about life in the territory.

The Asian-American performances during the day comprised episodes from the Monkey King Opera, taiko drummers, traditional Chinese dancers, kung fu and other martial arts performers, and arts and crafts activities.

End

DGT to visit Geneva, Brussels and Washington

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, will depart this (Monday) evening for a duty visit to Geneva, Brussels and Washington where he will attend a series of trade meetings.

The purpose of the discussions is to strengthen bilateral understanding and furthering discussion on multilateral trade issues of mutual concern in advance of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Singapore Ministerial Conference (SMC) in December.

In Geneva, Mr Miller will participate in a high-level meeting of the Negotiating Group on Maritime Transport Services to be held on June 4 and 5 under the auspices of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services.

The talks are one of the four extended tracks of service negotiations required by the Uruguay Round to achieve a higher level of liberalisation.

The other three sectors are Basic Telecommunications, Financial Services and Movement of Natural Persons. The deadline for the maritime transport negotiations is June 30.

In addition, Mr Miller will attend an informal meeting of the WTO General Council and will call on senior WTO officials, including its Director-General, Mr Renato Ruggiero.

Mr Miller's itinerary then takes him to Brussels where he will have a series of meetings with senior trade officials of the European Union on both bilateral and multilateral issues before proceeding to Washington.

While in Washington, Mr Miller will call on senior officials of the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the United States Customs for an exchange of views on various US/Hong Kong trade issues and again on the SMC agenda.

He will then join the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, who will be in Washington between June 12 and 15, to further lobby senior officials of the US Administration and Congress for the unconditional renewal of China's most favoured nation trading status.

Mr Miller will return to Hong Kong on June 16.

End

Students advised to check school registration

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The Education Department advises students to check whether a local school at which they intend to enrol this summer is registered with the department under the Education Ordinance.

"Under the Education Ordinance, an institution, organisation or establishment which provided education to eight or more students at any one time or 20 or more students during any one day is required to register with the department," Senior Education Officer, Mr Tse Tak-on said.

"To enable students or their parents to easily verify a school's credentials, schools are required to state their registration or provisional registration number on any advertisement."

Students should be particularly cautious with institutions which operate a chain of centres under the same name in different districts but with only some of the centres or courses properly registered.

They are also advised to check whether the place they register for admission is the location where the course operates.

"A school that operates without registration may jeopardise the studies of its students," Mr Tse said, adding that there was no control as to the safety of the premises, sanitary conditions and teacher qualifications.

"Furthermore, members of the public are reminded that only bona fide Secondary 5 students of registered schools approved to participate in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination may sit for the examination as school candidates."

Mr Tse said schools were required to display in a conspicuous place in each of the registered premises the registration certificate showing the name of school in English and Chinese, address and registration number and a fees certificate in respect of the class, tuition fee per instalment and number of instalments.

By looking at the registration and fees certificates, students who wish to enrol at an institution or on a course should know whether or not requirements set out in the Education Ordinance are complied with.

Students or parents are welcome to check with the department's district education offices or Registration Section to find out if a school is registered with the department.

Mr Tse said the department conducted 97 inspections on educational establishments between September last year and May this year to ensure that they did not contravene the provisions of the ordinance.

During the same period, the department had issued 10 warnings to some of these schools, requiring them to comply with the law, Mr Tse said.

Irregularities spotted by the department included collection of unapproved fees, teachers without registration certificates or teaching permits and excess enrolment.

In the 1994-95 school year, the department had conducted 152 inspections and issued 21 warnings to unregistered schools

End

Tender for the 8th issue of 5-year exchange fund notes

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (Monday) announces the tender for the eighth issue of 5-year exchange fund notes will be held on June 10 for settlement on June 11.

Similar to the previous issue, an amount of \$500 million 5-year notes will be on offer.

In addition to that, another \$100 million will be held as reserve by HKMA for supply to market makers in the secondary market. The notes will mature on June 11, 2001, and will carry interest at the rate of 7.23 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may do so through any of the market makers or recognised dealers on the published list which can be obtained from HKMA at 30th floor, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong, Tel 2878 8150. Each tender must be for an amount of \$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Following is the tender information for the eighth issue of 5-year exchange fund notes:

Issue number	: 5106
Tender date and time	: Monday June 10, 1996, 9.30 am to 10.30 am
Issue and settlement date	: Tuesday June 11, 1996
Amount on offer	: \$500 million plus an additional \$100 million as reserve stock for the Monetary Authority
Maturity	: Five years
Maturity date	: June 11, 2001
Interest rate	: 7.23% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears
Interest payment dates	: Dec 11, 1996, Jun 11, 1997, Dec 11, 1997, Jun 11, 1998, Dec 11, 1998, Jun 11, 1999, Dec 13, 1999, Jun 12, 2000, Dec 11, 2000, Jun 11, 2001

Tender amount : Each tender must be for an amount of \$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may approach market makers or recognised dealers on the published list

Other details : Please see information memorandum published or approach market makers or recognised dealers

End

More staff to promote occupational safety and health

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Promotion letters were recently presented to two superintendents of factory inspectors (SFI), elevating them to Deputy Chief Factory Inspector (DCFI) with effect from May 22.

The letters were handed to Mr Wong Wai-chi and Mr Ma Shi-hang by the Deputy Commissioner for Labour in charge of occupational safety and health, Mr Lee Kai-fat.

Mr Lee also presented letters to four SFIs who have been appointed acting DCFI with a view to substantive promotion.

Commenting on the advancement, Mr Lee said promotion prospects in the Factory Inspectorate grade had been greatly enhanced following the creation of additional professional posts this financial year.

The creation of the new directorate and non-directorate posts has resulted in the setting up of a new Occupational Safety and Health Branch headed by Mr Lee and its mission is to ensure that risks to people's health and safety from work activities are properly controlled.

Mr Lee is assisted by an Assistant Commissioner for Labour who looks after occupational safety and a Medical Consultant responsible for the provision of occupational health services.

On the occupational safety side, the former FID has been restructured into Operations, Support Services, Planning and Training and Legal Services divisions.

These divisions, together with the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Division, will provide enforcement actions and field services to different work places, technical support and safety promotion activities, planning and training functions as well as legal advice in prosecution cases, civil claims and other legal matters.

The Operations Division and the Support Services Division are each headed by a Chief Factory Inspector.

The department's former Occupational Health Division has been split into Occupational Medicine, Occupational Hygiene (Operation) and Occupational Hygiene (Development) Divisions.

These three divisions are responsible for investigating and providing clinical services in respect of occupational diseases, assisting in employees' compensation cases, providing health educational services to employees, conducting research on potential health hazards in various work activities, defining hygiene standards, compiling and disseminating research findings and hygiene standards.

"Staff members of the new Occupational Safety and Health Branch are working closely together in implementing various recommendations contained in the Consultation Paper on the Review of Industrial Safety in Hong Kong which had been endorsed by the Executive Council late last year," Mr Lee said.

"We have made great progress, especially in the preparations of a number of proposed new occupational safety and health legislation which should improve Hong Kong's occupational safety and health situation if endorsed by the Legislative Council."

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 85.4 per cent of capacity or 500.257 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 368.664 million cubic metres of water, representing 62.9 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,778	0930	+182
Closing balance in the account	2,730	1000	+182
Change attributable to :		1100	+182
Money market activity	+182	1200	+182
LAF today	+770	1500	+182
		1600	+182

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *-0.1* 3.6.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.96	2 years	2805	6.30	100.16	6.31
1 month	5.03	3 years	3904	6.30	99.14	6.74
3 months	5.11	5 years	5103	6.75	97.90	7.41
6 months	5.23	7 years	7305	7.60	99.50	7.84
12 months	5.61	5 years	M502	7.30	99.35	7.61

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$14,298 million

Closed June 3, 1996

End