



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Measures to improve future co-ordination  
in private sector/Government projects

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The Government has completed its study on the report from the Commissioner for Administrative Complaints on the noise problem caused by pop concerts at the Hong Kong Stadium.

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, who has personally considered the report, said that the Government accepts that there was a lack of overall co-ordination among various Government branches and departments during the construction of the project. She met recently with representatives of the Recreation and Culture Branch, the Planning, Environment and Lands Branch, the Urban Services Department and the Environmental Protection Department to consider how, in future, co-ordination within Government branches and departments could be improved for projects of a similar nature.

In particular, Mrs Chan has directed that the following measures be taken:

- \* in future, for similar projects i.e. those that are not being constructed under standard Public Works Programme procedures, a policy branch will be designated to be the overall co-ordinator from the outset to ensure that all established Government procedures including those governing noise and safety standards are complied with.

- \* a checklist of major issues relevant to the projects must be drawn up; and issues that cannot be resolved speedily must be brought to the attention of senior levels in Government with a view to solving them to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

- \* in planning projects of a similar nature, the Government's laid down procedures for application of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be followed; this is already the practice insofar as Government projects are concerned.

"I wish to assure the public that the Government will take every possible step to ensure that these measures are followed up, taking into consideration also the overall observations and recommendations in COMAC's report," Mrs Chan said.

"In the case of the Stadium, we accept that there was a lack of co-ordination on noise control although we must also bear in mind the very tight timeframe that had been set for completion of a complex project involving not only Government departments but also outside bodies.

"We want to avoid a recurrence of similar problems. Policy Secretaries have been asked to keep a closer watch over major projects particularly those involving organisations outside the Government such as the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club."

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary noted that the Urban Council was to hold a test concert at the Stadium this month to test some new sound equipment which it was hoped would meet the audience's expectation as regards sound quality but also stay within the applicable noise limits.

Mrs Chan said the Government would, in co-operation with the Urban Council, continue to work positively towards a solution to overcoming the noise problem at the Stadium.

"If this test concert goes as well as expected then I am sure it will enable this magnificent facility to be put to optimal use, for the benefit of the whole community."

"We are pleased that the Rugby Sevens tournament was held there successfully and that a large international audience had this opportunity to enjoy both the event and the Stadium itself. This is certainly good for Hong Kong's international image," she added.

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#### Ferry Piers in Central to be relocated in stages for reclamation

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The passenger ferry services from Central to outlying islands and three new towns will be reprovioned in May to operate at the new piers formed by the Central Reclamation Phase I project.

The reprovioning will be carried out in two stages. The first stage involves the ferry services from Central to Lamma Island, Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Mui Wo. The second stage will affect the ferry services from Central to Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Tsing Yi and Tai O and hoverferry services to Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Mui Wo.

"The piers will have to be relocated to make way for the Central Reclamation Phase I. This project comprises the reclamation of 20 hectares of land off Exchange Square for the expansion of the Central business area as well as the construction of the Airport Railway's Hong Kong Station," a Government spokesman said today (Saturday).

"All ferry services will be maintained throughout the reclamation project."

"The reprovisioning will not take place until all the planned temporary facilities are properly provided and the progress of works will be closely monitored," he said.

The exact dates of reprovisioning will be announced later.

"The public will be fully informed of the reprovisioning arrangements and the ferry company will distribute leaflets to their regular ferry users and put up notices at the old piers advising of their impending moves," the spokesman said.

In the first stage, the ferry services to Lamma Island will be relocated to a temporary pier on the western side of the Central Reclamation near Rumsey Street.

"This temporary pier will be served by a two-metre wide covered walkway with lighting, a two-lane access road, and a point for private cars, taxis and goods vehicles to set down and pick up passengers and load and unload their cargo," said the spokesman.

At the same time, the ferry piers to Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Mui Wo will also be relocated to a new pier on the eastern side of the reclamation, next to the temporary Central-Jordan Road pier.

In the second stage, the ferry services from Central to Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Tsing Yi and Tai O as well as hoverferry services to Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Mui Wo will also be moved to another new pier on the eastern side of the reclamation.

A new bus terminus adjacent to the new piers will be opened to replace the existing bus terminus at Harbour View Street for China Motor Bus routes no. 3A, 4, 7, 37, 71, 91 and 94.

The new piers on the eastern side of the reclamation will be served by a 4.5 metres wide covered walkway with lighting, linking the piers with Connaught Place and the Connaught Road Centre elevated walkway system.

There will also be a two-lane temporary access road, a layby for cars, taxis and goods vehicles, as well as waiting and assembly areas for passengers.

By July this year, a permanent road linking the new piers with Harbour View Street and Connaught Place and an additional layby for cars and taxis to pick up or set down passengers will be available.

At the same time, the promenade and waiting areas in front of these two new piers will be opened to the public.

A paper on the relocation of these ferry piers was issued today ( Saturday ) to members of the five concerned District Boards, including Central and Western, Islands, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Kwai Tsing.

It will be discussed by the Central and Western District Board Traffic and Transport Committee at a meeting on April 6, to be followed by the other four District Boards.

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#### Appointment of Justice of Appeal

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The Judiciary announced today (Saturday) that Mr Justice Mayo, currently a High Court Judge, will take up his appointment as Justice of Appeal from Monday (3 April). Mr Justice Mayo's appointment as Justice of Appeal was announced last December.

Mr Justice Mayo was born in England in 1937. He was admitted as a solicitor in England in 1961 and as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 1963. In 1967, he was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in West Australia. Before joining the Hong Kong Judiciary as Assistant Registrar in 1968, Mr Justice Mayo was in private practice. He was appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court in 1976 and Judge of the High Court in 1980. Mr Justice Mayo is married and has a son and a daughter.

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#### Injured employees should be duly compensated

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded employers to compensate injured employees within the period prescribed by law.

In a recent case at Tsuen Wan Magistracy, a principal contractor, Nishimatsu Construction Company Limited in Tsim Sha Tsui, and its direct employer, Tapbo Civil Engineering Company in Cheung Sha Wan, were convicted of three charges related to compensation for an injured employee.

They had pleaded guilty to failure to compensate the injured employee within 21 days after the Certificate of Compensation Assessment (Form 5) was issued ; failure to pay to the said employee a surcharge upon expiry of the payment period and; failure to pay to the said employee a further surcharge upon expiry of three months after the payment period.

The Nishimatsu Construction Company Limited was fined \$15,000 while Tapbo Civil Engineering Company was fined \$12,000.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, an employer had to compensate an injured employee according to what was stated in the Certificate of Compensation Assessment (Form 5) within 21 days after the certificate was issued.

"If he fails to do so upon expiry of the payment period, he shall pay a surcharge to the employee. Failure to pay the outstanding compensation and the surcharge upon the expiry of three months after the payment period will incur a further surcharge. The maximum penalty for each of the three offences is \$10,000," she added.

She emphasised that under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, a principal contractor was liable to pay compensation to an employee employed by his sub-contractor.

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Plea on slope safety

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With the onset of the wet season, the Buildings Department is urging owners to ensure that all drains, surface water channels on slopes and retaining walls are kept clear and free of debris.

"All buried services should also be examined for signs of leakage or water flow," the department's Assistant Director, Mr Mike Green, said today (Saturday).

To safeguard the public and bring private slopes and retaining walls up to the required safety standard, Mr Green pointed out that the Buildings Department issued "dangerous hillsides" notices under the Buildings Ordinance on the advice of the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering Department.

Since the early 80s, about 400 such notices had been served on owners of private slopes.

"These notices require the owners to appoint an authorised professional to investigate the stability of the slopes in question, to design and supervise the necessary landslip preventive works, to monitor stability until completion of the remedial works and to give warning of impending danger," Mr Green explained.

"Some 100 such notices have yet to be compiled with. Most are being properly dealt with by professionals, either appointed by the private owners in compliance with such notices or appointed by the Building Authority in the owner's default.

"Where the Building Authority carries out works in the owner's default, the owner will not only be responsible for the cost of work plus supervision charge, but also liable to prosecution and, on conviction, to a fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for one year.

"He is also liable to a further fine of \$5,000 per day for the period during which the failure to comply with the notice continued," he said.

Mr Green explained that such notices were initiated by the Geotechnical Engineering Office either after receiving a report of a landslip or rockfall incident or as a result of a recommendation from a geotechnical study.

Under its ongoing Landslip Preventive Measures programme, the Geotechnical and Engineering Office is carrying out initial investigation of old slopes and retaining walls catalogued in 1977/78.

The catalogue includes features of both Government and private ownership. Not all these features are sub-standard but all have to be investigated.

The initial investigation of these features is carried out in a single programme financed by Government.

Private slopes found to be dangerous or liable to become dangerous are referred to the Buildings Department for serving notices.

Mr Green stressed that even after a notice had been complied with, continuing vigilance by the owners was necessary to ensure the slope remained safe.

"Every slope and retaining wall must be regularly inspected and any maintenance works must be undertaken timely by the owners.

"Owners ignoring preventive maintenance needs will place those living near a slope or passers-by at risk.

"Natural elements will progressively work to undermine the stability of any slope, bringing with it the risk of collapse and injury to persons as well as damage to property," he cautioned.

Lai Wah constituency electors reminded to vote tomorrow

\* \* \* \* \*

The 7,346 electors of the Lai Wah constituency are urged to vote in the Kwai Tsing District Board by-election in respect of their constituency tomorrow (Sunday).

Two polling stations will be opened from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm.

They are Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School in Lai Yiu Estate and The Incorporated Owners of Lai Chi Kok Bay Garden's Club, at 3A, Ground Floor, Block B of Lai Chi Kok Bay Garden in Lai Chi Kok.

A spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office said an elector was required to bring along his Identity Card to the polling station. But it would facilitate the polling proceeding if he could also bring along the poll card sent to him earlier.

"Those who have lost or failed to receive their poll card are still eligible to vote at their designated polling station," he said.

They may enquire about their designated polling station by calling 2741 1445 during the polling hours.

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Pilot job matching programme launched

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The Labour Department will play an active role as a go-between to match unemployed workers with industries hard-hit by labour shortage.

A pilot job matching programme was jointly launched today (Saturday) by the Labour Department and the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) to help unemployed persons aged 30 or above to find jobs.

The Commissioner for Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, urged job-seekers aged 30 or above to register for the programme at the five designated Local Employment Service (LES) offices - Hong Kong, Wang Tau Hom, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun.

"Our Placement Officers will conduct in-depth interviews with job-seekers to assess carefully their job preference and training needs.

"They will then be referred to selection interviews with employers who have reported to us vacancies in their establishments," Mr Ip said.

In addition, job-seekers who need to acquire special skills required by employers of particular industries may be provided with tailor-made retraining courses.

Upon completion of retraining, active placement assistance will be given to them.

Mr Ip said LES officers would also contact employers of industries with acute shortage of labour and identify the skills required for the vacancies.

"Employers will be invited to help in the design and contents of the required training courses to be organised by the ERB," he added.

For enquiries on the programme, please call 2591 1316.

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#### More financial assistance to MACs and VOs

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Financial assistance to Mutual Aid Committees (MACs) and village offices (VOs) is increased from \$700 to \$900 per quarter as from today (Saturday), representing an increase of about 30 per cent.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Department said today that this increase followed a recent review of the costs of running MAC offices and VOs. The purpose of the financial assistance is to augment residents' own contributions to the expenses incurred in administration of the offices.

Apart from the financial assistance, MACs and VOs can obtain subsidy from, for example, District Board Fund and Sir David Trench Fund for organising community building activities as well as the purchase of recreational and sports equipment. The Liaison Officers and Community Organisers in the Department's eighteen District Offices also provide advice on and assistance in their operation.

"MACs and VOs are playing a vital role in providing a better living environment for and promoting mutual care among residents. They have also been giving valuable support to many community projects at the district level," the spokesman added.

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Fire safety advice for grave-sweepers

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) today (Saturday) urged the public to take extra care in handling fire when they visit their ancestral graves in the countryside during the Ching Ming festival period.

The department's Country Park Protection Officer, Mr. Edmond Lam said: " In view of the potential high fire risk during the Ching Ming festival period, the department will mobilise 22 teams of 198 fire fighters on stand-by duties round the clock to safeguard country park plantations."

Six teams of 120 Civil Aid Services personnel will join the AFD fire fighters.

Mr Lam said most of the countryside fires were caused by human negligence and could have been prevented if people observed a few simple rules.

These rules are:

- \* Burn worshipping items in metal containers;
- \* Do not leave lighted candles, joss articles and papers unattended; and
- \* Make sure all burning items are extinguished before leaving grave sites.

Mr Lam said the department would provide metal containers at strategic locations inside country park areas for their use.

He also reminded picnickers to light fires only at designated barbecue sites.

"Illegal lighting of fires inside country parks may lead to a maximum fine of \$5,000 and one year's imprisonment," he added.

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HK stadium noise complaint report

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to Government's announcement today (Saturday) of its response to the COMAC investigation report on the complaint of noise problem caused by pop concerts at the Hong Kong Stadium, Mr Andrew So, Commissioner for Administrative Complaints, said he was glad to learn of the positive response, which he found most encouraging and reassuring.

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### Firing practice scheduled for two days in April

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on two days this month.

The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

Date	Time
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April 20 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
April 27 (Thursday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

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### New health centre improves service

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The Government has initiated 10 construction projects of new clinics in the health care development programme to cater for the increasing demand for services in the next 10 years, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Tin Shui Wai Health Centre, Mrs Fok said: "We are fully aware that general out-patient service is an important element in our medical and health care system."

Noting that the general out-patient service had been improved as recommended by the Working Party on Primary Health Care, Mrs Fok said she appreciated the efforts made by the Department of Health in implementing its Performance Pledge Programmes.

Mrs Fok said: "The Department of Health has made numerous improvements since 1992 which include individual patient's record, better clinic environment, shorter waiting time and drug labelling.

"Performance pledges now cover all the General Out-patient (GOP) Clinics and half of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Centres," Mrs Fok said.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan, said the Tin Shui Wai Health Centre was the fourth government clinic in Yuen Long, serving almost 100,000 residents of Tin Shui Wai.

Dr Chan said the GOP clinic and MCH centre of Tin Shui Wai Health Centre had joined the performance pledge programme for quality service.

She said: "To further improve service, the GOP clinic has put on trial in February the sales of afternoon consultation discs in the morning."

Dr Chan said the Health Centre would make special efforts to promote health education among patients as health education was an essential part of primary health care.

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#### Ching Ming Festival clinic service

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The Department of Health today (Saturday) announced that there will be no public holiday out-patient clinic service on April 5 (Wednesday), which is the Ching Ming Festival.

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#### Fresh water cut in Central

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Central will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (April 3) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include 1-3, 4-8, 26 and 33-37 Garden Road, 18-20 Lower Albert Road, 2 Queen's Road Central, 1 and 2 Tramway Path, Upper Albert Road, 65-73 Macdonnell Road, 1-7, 2-8 and 20-40 Kennedy Road, 22 and 23 Cotton Tree Drive, 11 Ice House Street, 1 Battery Path and Hong Kong Park.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,576	09:30	-20
Closing balance in the account	2,146	10:00	-20
Change attributable to:		11:00	-20
Money market activity	-20	11:30	-20
LAF today	-410	15:00	
		16:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.5 \*+1.6\* 1.495

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