



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's questions-and-answers with the media after opening the Shaw Campus of the Hong Kong Baptist University this (Saturday) morning:

Governor: Wonderful campus. We all are very grateful to Sir Run Run for his huge generosity.

Question: Sir, some legislators said you have suggested using deficit budgets to create job opportunities. How true is it?

Governor: I don't recall making those remarks. But you've only got to wait till next Wednesday to hear the Policy Address. I'll be talking in particular about three main themes, about competitiveness, about caring here in Hong Kong and about co-operation, co-operation with the Legislative Council and co-operation with the new sovereign, with the Preparatory Committee and the Team Designate. So, those will be the main themes of my speech. But you don't have to wait very long until you hear it.

Question: There was a newspaper report yesterday that China was asking you be replaced. Do you think you now impediment to Sino-British relations?

Governor: No. As we said at the time the story was completely untrue as I think you suspect it all along.

End/Saturday, October 7, 1995

Government policy progress report ready on Monday

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The Government will publish a Progress Report on Monday (October 9) detailing achievements of the undertakings made in the Governor's 1992-1994 Policy Addresses.

The 1992-1994 Policy Addresses set out a total of 471 policy commitments for improving the quality of life for the community and the efficiency and accountability of the Government.

Copies of the Progress Report in English and Chinese will be distributed to members of the public from 4 pm to 7 pm on Monday at seven Mass Transit Railway stations at Admiralty, Tai Koo, Tsim Sha Tsui, Mong Kok, Tsuen Wan, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong.

They will also be available from noon on Monday from the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, the Marketing Office of Government Information Services on the 17th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, and at all District Offices from 4 pm.

Attention News Editors:

Copies of the Progress Report will be available for the media at the Government Information Services, Room 615, Sixth Floor, Beaconsfield House, Queen's Road Central at noon on Monday.

End/Saturday, October 7, 1995

Kowloon City District Office on the move

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The Kowloon City District Office will be moved to a new location on the 17th floor of One Harbourfront at 18-22 Tak Fung Street, Hung Hom, next Monday (October 9).

The District Office's Public Enquiry Service Centre (PESC) and the District Board (DB) Secretariat will also be relocated to the same premises.

"We are confident that the move will allow us to upgrade our services to the public as the new office is more spacious and better equipped," the Kowloon City District Officer, Mr William Yap, said today (Saturday). The telephone numbers of the District Office have also been changed. The new number for PESC is 2621 3401 and for the DB Secretariat is 2621 3407.

End/Saturday, October 7, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	3,074	09:30	+20
Closing balance in the account	1,724	10:00	+20
Change attributable to:		11:00	+20
Money market activity	+20	11:30	+20
LAF today	-1,370	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.9 *+0.0* 7.10.95

End/Saturday, October 7, 1995

Schools reminded on homework and test policy

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The Education Department considers it very important that learning in school should be a pleasant and rewarding experience and that no student should receive undue pressure from excessive homework and tests, a department spokesman said today (Sunday).

The spokesman said the department has been issuing a series of circulars on the teaching of school subjects and on homework and tests in school to obtain teachers' support and co-operation.

Updated guidelines and a circular issued this week by the department reiterated that homework should be properly designed and regulated and that assignments should be reasonably balanced in terms of quantity.

School heads are also reminded of their responsibility in supervising and regulating the type, frequency and amount of homework set for each class.

"In view of the wide variation in pupils' learning needs, abilities and home environment, there are no hard-and-fast rules about the frequency, amount and type of homework which should be set at each class level," the guidelines stated.

"This is a matter on which teachers are expected to exercise professional judgement and common sense.

"However, it is important that each school should have a written homework policy drawn up in consultation with teaching staff."

Education Department area staff will advise and assist schools in drawing up the homework and test policy.

During visits to schools, these officers will note the action taken. The written homework and test policy should be made available to these officers upon request.

The department's subject inspectors during school visits will also offer professional help with the quality and frequency of homework.

Schools are advised that frequency of assignments will be best controlled by a homework time-table which will ensure an even spread of homework over the week or teaching cycle and a balanced coverage of subjects.

The guidelines strongly recommend that, particularly at the primary and junior secondary levels, teachers should be given clear instructions on the frequency, amount to be set and the subjects to be covered for each class each day, and that due recognition should be given at all times to the age and abilities of pupils.

Assessments and tests can also cause anxiety and undue pressure, especially if they are administered too frequently or the learning material to be tested is too wide or too difficult, the guidelines said.

The number of tests administered each week should be strictly controlled.

The spokesman urged parents to step up communication with schools in respect of the appropriateness of the amount of homework through such channels as parent-teacher associations and School Management Initiatives.

The spokesman added that any complaints received from the public concerning homework and tests will be investigated by the department.

End/Sunday, October 8, 1995

Training courses for health workers

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The Social Welfare Department, in conjunction with four professional health care training institutes, is organising a total of seven training courses early next year to meet the demand for health care staff in residential care homes for the elderly.

The training courses are organised with a view to improving the quality of service of personnel in residential care homes for the elderly, a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

The four institutes are the College of Nursing, Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Red Cross, the Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association and the Management Society for Healthcare Professionals. The first course will commence on January 2 next year.

"Under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, all health workers are required, among other things, to complete training approved by the Director of Social Welfare before being qualified for registration.

"The course, covering a total of 140 training hours, is designed to equip trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills for a comprehensive understanding of health care for elderly persons.

"The content of the course includes basic skills in rendering health care to the elderly, with emphasis on the psychological and physical changes of the elderly," the spokesman said.

Hong Kong residents who have completed Form 3 or equivalent and are competent to complete the training course can apply. Priority will be given to those who have two or more years of working experience in services for the elderly.

Copies of invitation have already been sent to elderly home operators, inviting them to recommend suitable candidates for the course. Posters of the training courses will also be put up at all public housing estates and Group Work Units of SWD.

Individuals who are interested to take up a job in elderly homes may also forward their applications to the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

For enquiries, please call the licensing office on 2961 7220 or 2961 7221. The deadline for application is October 27.

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Flushing water cut in Sha Tin

Flushing water supply to some premises in Sha Tin (East) will be temporarily suspended from 6 pm on October 10 (Tuesday) to 6 pm on October 12 (Thursday) to allow for conversion to salt water flushing.

The suspension will affect Jat Ming Chuen, Sha Kok Estate, Pok Hong Estate, Yue Shing Court, Girl Guide Pok Hong Camp Site and Sha Tin Scout Centre.

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