



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CMB's proposed development of Wong Chuk Hang bus depot

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A Government spokesman noted that the China Motor Bus Company, Limited's (CMB) shareholders approved at an extraordinary meeting today (Tuesday) the disposal of CMB's depot site at Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen and a joint venture with Swire Properties for its redevelopment after August 31 this year.

The spokesman said CMB's bus depot site at Wong Chuk Hang Road cannot be disposed of under the company's current franchise conditions without the approval of the Commissioner for Transport.

However, legal advice is that the proposal to pre-sell the Wong Chuk Hang site does not infringe the terms of CMB's current franchise or the terms of the Public Bus Services Ordinance as long as the bus depot is maintained during the tenure of the current franchise, that is until August 31 this year.

CMB's franchise will expire on August 31 this year and the Government is considering offering a new franchise to the company commencing September this year subject to new terms and conditions.

Discussion on the new franchise terms is still in progress, and it is not appropriate at this stage for CMB to assume that the Wong Chuk Hang depot will not be required to support CMB's bus operations in future.

In the meantime, there is no question of the Government providing CMB with a replacement depot site to enable the company to dispose of its Wong Chuk Hang site.

It is Government's intention to amend the Public Bus Services Ordinance to strengthen Government's power to acquire the assets used or kept by franchised bus companies in order to maintain bus services to the public.

In the event that CMB's franchise is not renewed, the proposed new legislation will enable the Administration to use CMB's depots, including the Wong Chuk Hang site for a period of up to four years for the purposes of operating a public bus service.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

Use fewer plastic bags in markets

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An eight-week campaign to encourage the public to reduce the use of plastic bags will be launched in nine markets starting February 10 (Friday).

The markets are: Shek Tong Tsui Market, Kowloon City Market, Yeung Uk Road Market, North Kwai Chung Market, Yiu Tung Estate Market, Yiu On Estate Market, Jat Min Chuen Market, Lai Tak Chuen Market and Cho Yiu Chuen Market.

The campaign is organised by the Working Group on Plastic Bags (Wet Market), with representatives from the Environmental Protection Department, the two municipal councils, Housing Authority, Hong Kong Housing Society and the Consumer Council.

A spokesman for the working group said: "During the campaign period, reusable shopping bags will be distributed to market-goers while wrapping papers will be given to stall-operators to pack goods wherever possible.

"We aim to assess the practicality of and public's receptiveness to the use of such alternatives to plastic bags in markets. And in this way, we hope the public will be helped to drop habits of using plastic bags indiscriminately."

"To drive home the campaign message, posters bearing the slogan 'Protect the Environment, Use Fewer Plastic Bags' will be put up at prominent places. Stickers bearing the same message will be displayed at participating stalls to signify their support to the campaign," the spokesman said.

Over 1,000 market stalls, including vegetable and fruit stalls, grocery stores, seafood stalls as well as meat stalls, will take part in the campaign.

With technical guidance and advice provided by the Environmental Protection Department, the management staff of the markets will draw up their own plastic bag reduction plans and activities, such as exhibitions, competitions and lucky draws, to encourage stall-operators and market-goers to support the campaign.

To mark the opening of the "Plastic Bag Reduction in Markets" campaign and to help spread the "use fewer plastic bags" message, a television show will be broadcast on Friday (February 10) at 10.30 pm on TVB Jade.

To assess the effectiveness of the campaign, the Consumer Council will conduct a survey of the nine participating markets to measure the attitudinal and behavioural change of consumers and stall-operators towards the use of plastic bags in markets before and after the campaign. Survey results will be available later this year.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

DHA urges people to vote in Municipal Councils elections

This year will mark an important milestone in Hong Kong's political development, the Director of Home Affairs, Mr Joseph Wong, said this (Tuesday) afternoon.

Speaking at two spring receptions hosted by the Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan District Offices, Mr Wong pointed out that the Municipal Councils elections and the Legislative Council elections will be held on March 5 and September 17 respectively.

He appealed to members of the public to elect their representatives so as to ensure a better future for the territory.

Turning to the work of the Home Affairs Department and its District Offices, Mr Wong pledged that he would further enhance communication with district bodies and local personalities.

"I believe we can solve district problems through the sincere co-operation between the Administration and the public," he said.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

Reception for TV advisers hosted

The Broadcasting Authority (BA) and the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority today (Tuesday) hosted a reception in the honour of the BA's Television Viewing Groups and Advisory Panels.

The Television Viewing Advisory Scheme was introduced in 1982, and keeps the BA in touch with the community's perception of television programme standards and other broadcasting matters.

A total of 19 district viewing groups and five advisory panels have been set up with membership of about 650 people from all walks of life.

At the reception, the BA Chairman, Sir Roger Lobo, presented Outstanding Representative Awards to those district group representatives who have played an active role in the advisory scheme and have attained the highest attendance rate of meetings and activities.

Members of the Broadcasting Authority, Dr Stan Cheung, Mr Clement Tao and Mr Stephen Lau and the Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing, Mrs Rita Lau, presented Long Service Awards to members who have served in the scheme for five and 10 years.

Representatives from ATV, TVB, STAR TV, Wharf Cable, Commercial Radio, Metro Broadcast, Radio Television Hong Kong and members of the Legislative Council Panel on Recreation and Culture were also present at the reception held at Omni the Hong Kong Hotel in Kowloon.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

Factory owner fined \$160,000 for failing to pay wages

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The Labour Department today (Tuesday) reminded employers to pay wages to their employees within the time limit allowed by law or they will face a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months.

A Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Grace Shek, gave the advice after the owner of the Rightway Knitters Limited in San Po Kong was recently fined by a Kwun Tong magistrate a total of \$160,000 for failing to pay wages within seven days to four workers after the completion of four consecutive wage periods.

Mrs Shek pointed out that under Section 23 of the Employment Ordinance, wages were due at the end of the wage period and must be paid as soon as practicable but in any case not later than seven days.

She also reminded employers that Section 25 of the ordinance stipulated that where a contract of employment was terminated, wages and any other sums due to the employee must be paid as soon as practicable but in any case not later than seven days after the day of termination.

An employer who fails to comply with his statutory obligations will commit an offence and liable to heavy penalties.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

Trade and industry directory published

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The Industry Department today (Tuesday) announced the publication of the latest edition of its annual directory "Hong Kong Trade and Industrial Organisations".

A spokesman for the department said: "The publication, covering some 250 trade and industrial bodies in Hong Kong, aims to provide a quick source of reference for manufacturers, traders and members of the public who wish to get in touch with these bodies.

"They include government-funded industrial support bodies such as the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Industrial Technology Centre Corporation and the Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation, chambers of commerce, district trade and industrial organisations and representative bodies of various industries and trades.

"Key information on each organisation including the address, telephone and fax numbers, names of principal office-bearers, size of membership and annual election dates, have been included," he said.

Enquiries or requests for free copies of the directory can be addressed to the Data and Services Division, Industry Department, 14th floor, Ocean Centre, 5 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui or on telephone 2736 2306.

End/Tuesday, February 7, 1995

Flushing water cut in Kowloon East

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Flushing water supply to most premises in Kowloon East will be suspended from 10 pm on Thursday (February 9) to 9 am the next day to facilitate maintenance work.

The affected areas will include San Po Kong, Ngau Chi Wan, Choi Hung Estate, Choi Wan Estate, Ping Shek Estate, United Christian Hospital, Shun Lee Estate, Shun Tin Estate, Shun On Estate, Shun Chi Court, Shun Lee Tsuen Temporary Housing Area, Ngau Tau Kok, Lok Wah Estate, Jordan Valley, Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong, Lam Tin, Sau Mau Ping and Cha Kwo Ling.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	7 Feb 95
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q506
Amount applied	HK\$5,320 million
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 million
Average yield accepted	6.21 PCT
Highest yield accepted	6.21 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 100 PCT
Average tender yield	6.27 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning February 13, 1995

Tender date	14 Feb 95	14 Feb 95
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q507	H558
Issue date	15 Feb 95	15 Feb 95
Maturity date	17 May 95	16 Aug 95
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$800+160 MN

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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	1,803	0930	-186
Closing balance in the account	2,292	1000	+634
Change attributable to :		1100	+546
Money market activity	+509	1200	+510
LAF today	-20	1500	+510
		1600	+509

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.3 *-0.1* 7.2.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.85	16 months	2605	6.35	99.39	6.96
1 month	5.91	22 months	2611	6.90	99.55	7.29
3 months	6.21	30 months	3707	6.95	98.92	7.57
6 months	6.49	36 months	3801	8.00	101.11	7.72
12 months	6.79	59 months	5912	8.15	100.62	8.15

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$38,632 million

Closed February 7, 1995

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