



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Tuesday, January 3, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
COMAC to initiate direct investigation	1
Buildings Department supports COMAC investigation	2
DCA updates LegCo panel on Hercules accident	2
Planning Department receives petition	4
Education Conference	5
Revision of fees for entry clearances	5
Stamps for Year of the Pig	7
Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results	9
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	10

COMAC to initiate direct investigation

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The Commissioner for Administrative Complaints (COMAC), Mr Andrew So, announced today (Tuesday) that a direct investigation would be conducted on the Buildings Department's enforcement actions against unauthorised building works (UBW).

Mr So explained at a press conference that under Section 7(1)(b) of the COMAC Ordinance, he was empowered to initiate investigations on his own volition, even though no complaint on the matters had been received.

Mr So said the question of UBW had been a regular subject of complaints over the years, particularly in relation to the selective enforcement by the department in accordance with its current policy adopted since 1988.

He had so far concluded 31 investigations of this nature, in the light of which two complaints were substantiated, while another 12 were partially substantiated.

These conclusions were however based on the fact that the actions or non-action taken by the department were in accordance with its established procedures.

The Commissioner said in the last six months there were already 17 such complaints.

In view of these repeated complaints, he felt that no further piecemeal approach would serve any useful purpose.

Instead he considered that the fundamental question should be addressed, to see if the established procedures themselves might be the underlying reason for complaints.

The direct investigation would focus on the rationale of and procedures on the selective enforcement of UBW.

The Commissioner added that it would not affect the Buildings Department's handling of individual cases of UBW in accordance with its established procedures in the meantime, as provided for under Section 19 of the COMAC Ordinance.

On the question of time frame, the Commissioner said he hoped to complete the investigation in the shortest time possible. However, much would depend on an initial assessment of the situation which his team of investigators was working on.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Buildings Department supports COMAC investigation

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The Director of Buildings, Mrs Helen Yu, today (Tuesday) pledged to cooperate with the Commissioner for Administrative Complaints (COMAC) on his investigation on the Buildings Department's enforcement actions against unauthorised building works.

Commenting on COMAC's announcement to initiate the investigation, Mrs Yu said: "I have nominated my Assistant Director/Control and Enforcement, Mr Edward Lok, to be our contact officer for the COMAC investigation."

Mrs Yu pointed out that her department "regularly reviews procedures for enforcement, including clearance operations to see whether, and how, arrangements could be improved in general".

"This is a matter of good practice. In this spirit, we look forward to any improvement measures COMAC may suggest in due course," Mrs Yu said.

"Over the years, we have taken COMAC's recommendations into account in improving our procedures. For these, we are grateful."

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

DCA updates LegCo panel on Hercules accident

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The Director of Civil Aviation, Mr Peter Lok, today (Tuesday) reiterated that the Hercules planes used to repatriate Vietnamese migrants from Hong Kong were authorised for the carriage of passengers.

He was updating a meeting of members of the Legislative Council Economic Services Panel regarding the aircraft accident which occurred at the Hong Kong International Airport on September 23 last year involving a Hercules L-382 operated by Pelita Air Service on a non-passenger carrying flight.

Mr Lok stated that the Indonesian authorities had authorised the Lockheed type L-382 Hercules to be used to carry passengers since the early 1980s. The 1982/83 issue of the authoritative reference book "Jane's All the World's Aircraft" testified to this.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recommendation in Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, paragraph 2.40 which required certain information to be produced to the authorities granting a charter permit, did not call for the inspection of the Certificate of Airworthiness or the certificate of competency (variously referred to as the Air Operator Certificate and Air Carrier Certificate) or equivalent.

"When Hong Kong considered the chartering of the aircraft from Indonesia, we exceeded the ICAO's recommended requirement.

"In fact, prior to the Hong Kong Government entering into a charter agreement with Pelita, a team of Hong Kong Government officials visited Indonesia in 1991 to discuss the proposed charter with the operator," Mr Lok said.

"The officials were shown the authorisation issued by the Indonesian authorities in 1988 for the Hercules to carry passengers within Indonesia. The team sought extension of this authority to the international carriage of passengers.

"The Indonesian authorities duly issued a letter on October 11, 1991 extending the authority given in the 1988 authorisation to international passenger carriage. These documents covered the four Hercules, of which the crashed aircraft (PKPLV) was one."

Regarding the concern expressed by a member staff of his department that the PKPLV might not have been properly certificated to carry passengers, Mr Lok said though this staff member was not a member of the investigation team, his concerns were drawn to the attention of the investigation team immediately.

Mr Lok said he would have no objection, in principle, to release this staff member's report. However, it would not be proper for him to authorise this until the full accident investigation has been completed and its official report produced.

As regards the official investigation report, Mr Lok said any non-compliances with relevant regulations would be brought to the attention of the authorities concerned, as would any apparent shortfall compared to ICAO standards. ICAO will receive a copy of the report.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Planning Department receives petition

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The Planning Department today (Tuesday) received a petition from villagers of Shan Pui Tsuen, Yuen Long. The petition relates to a change of zoning from "Village Typed Development" ("V") to "Conservation Area" ("CA") of a fish pond to the north of Shan Pui Tsuen on the draft Nam Sang Wai Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

Referring to the background of the case, a spokesman for the department said that the subject was originally zoned "V" on the draft OZP prepared for Nam Sang Wai. The plan was presented to Yuen Long district board and Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee for consultation in September 1993.

At a meeting with the Rural Committee, a Committee member pointed out that the subject site was a "fung shui" pond and could not be developed.

It was suggested and subsequently confirmed by the chairman of Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee that the area to the south of Kam Tin River and east of Shan Pui Tsuen should be zoned "V" instead to cater for the increasing small house demand for villages in Kau Hai area.

In view of the request to preserve the "fung shui" pond and the fact that additional land has been identified for designating as "V" zone to meet small house demand, the zoning of the pond was changed from "V" to "CA" on the draft Nam Sang Wai OZP which was gazetted for public inspection on June 3 last year.

"The planning intention of 'CA' is to retain the existing natural characteristics of an area. New development will normally not be allowed unless it is required to support the conservation of the area's natural features and scenic qualities," the spokesman explained.

The village representatives have already submitted an objection to the draft OZP to the Town Planning Board. The objection will be processed under the provisions of the Town Planning Ordinance and it is expected that the objection would be considered by the Board early this year.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Education Conference

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The Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung, is in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands to attend a four-day international education conference opening today (Tuesday).

The International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference 1995 brings together high calibre participants from all over the world in a series of keynote presentations, symposia, case study and paper sessions on school themes.

The focus is on research, practice and policy making relating to school effectiveness and improvement.

The conference provides a good opportunity for experience sharing among participants with a view to finding solutions to individual educational problems.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Revision of fees for entry clearances

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The United Kingdom Government has announced that fees for entry clearances for the United Kingdom, Commonwealth Countries and Dependent Territories represented by the Immigration Department are to be revised from tomorrow (Wednesday).

The new fees will be:

(A) Entry to the UK

	Fees (Pounds Sterling)
(a) Single Entry Clearance	
(i) For applicants aged 25 or over	33
(ii) For applicants aged under 25	16.5

(b)	Direct Airside Transit Visa	
(i)	For applicants aged 25 or over	25
(ii)	For applicants aged under 25	12.5
(c)	Multiple Entry Clearance	
(i)	with validity up to six months	45
(ii)	with validity up to two years	65
(iii)	with validity up to five years	130
(d)	Application for settlement, marriage, certificate of entitlement to the right of abode or confirmation of the right of abode	145
(e)	Long-term non-settlement entry clearances	50
(B)	<u>Entry to the Commonwealth Countries and Dependent Territories</u>	
	All types of visa application	20

No handling fees will be charged on visas issued on behalf of Commonwealth Countries.

No referral fees will be charged on visas issued on behalf of Dependent Territories.

The fees for multiple entry clearances will be increased. The increase ranges from 15 pounds to 45 pounds.

Entry clearances for the purpose of settlement or marriage will be increased from 80 pounds to 145 pounds but other long-term non-settlement entry clearances will be reduced from 60 pounds to 50 pounds.

All fees are to be charged on a per capita basis and collected in Hong Kong dollars converted from the pound sterling at a current official exchange rate.

"The fees are to be collected on application and are normally non-refundable," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said.

"The fees are uniformly imposed world-wide. It is the United Kingdom Government's policy that fees charged should, wherever possible, cover the costs of providing these services," he added.

Members of the public who wish to make enquiries may telephone 2824 6111 or use the enquiry faxline 2877 7711.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Stamps for Year of the Pig

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The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Tuesday) that a set of special stamps will be issued on January 17, 1995 on the theme of "Year of the Pig".

This is the ninth in the current series of Lunar New Year special stamp issues released by the Post Office commencing with the Year of the Rabbit in 1987.

There will be four denominations: \$1, \$1.90, \$2.40 and \$5. A souvenir sheet incorporating the four stamps will also be issued. A stamp booklet containing six each of the \$1 and \$2.40 stamps will be available at \$20.40 each.

The stamps were designed by Mr Kan Tai-keung and printed by Leigh-Mardon Pty. Ltd. of Australia.

The stamps are now on display at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office and Sha Tin Central Post Office.

Official first day covers are now available on sale at all post offices, except the Airport Post Office, at \$1 each.

Advance orders for serviced first day covers will be accepted until January 10. The minimum number of serviced first day covers per order is five.

A restriction of two stamp booklets, 10 souvenir sheets and five sheets of stamps of each denomination (viz, 250 sets of stamps) per customer queuing will be imposed on the first day of issue.

A beautifully designed presentation pack containing the four stamps will also be available for sale at \$18 each at all post offices, except the Airport Post Office, as from January 17, 1995.

Serviced first day covers affixed with the set of stamps and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark will be placed on sale on January 17, 1995 at the following seven philatelic offices at \$13.80 each:

Beaconsfield House Post Office
General Post Office
Granville Road Post Office
Peak Post Office
Sha Tin Central Post Office
Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Tsuen Wan Post Office

On the first day of issue, hand-back service will be provided at all post offices, except the Airport Post Office, to official and privately made covers bearing the first day of issue indication on January 17, 1995.

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	3 Jan 95	3 Jan 95
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q501	H555
Amount applied	HK\$4,600 MN	HK\$2,650 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.60 PCT	6.26 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.60 PCT	6.27 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 91 PCT	About 40 PCT
Average tender yield	5.64 PCT	6.29 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning January 9, 1995

Tender date	10 Jan 95
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q502
Issue date	11 Jan 95
Maturity date	12 Apr 95
Tenor	91 Days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
Opening balance in the account	2,207	0930	-254
Closing balance in the account	1,591	1000	-254
Change attributable to :		1100	-196
Money market activity	-293	1200	-194
LAF today	-323	1500	-293
		1600	-293

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.5 *+0.1* 3.1.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.14	17 months	2605	6.35	98.76	7.44
1 month	5.20	23 months	2611	6.90	98.74	7.78
3 months	5.61	28 months	3704	6.15	96.49	7.98
6 months	6.23	34 months	3710	7.25	98.27	8.10
12 months	7.02	60 months	5912	8.15	99.51	8.44

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 18,138 MN

Closed January 3, 1995

End/Tuesday, January 3, 1995