



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Saturday, September 2, 1995

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Modified temporary traffic arrangements for Tuen Mun Road

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The Transport Department announces today (Saturday) that following a review of the temporary traffic arrangements on the first day on the closure of Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound between Tuen Mun Town Centre and Sham Tseng, the Siu Lam Interchange and Sham Tseng Interchange have already been opened for all vehicles on Tuen Mun Road NT-bound proceeding to Castle Peak Road from yesterday evening.

Motorists on Castle Peak Road can also use Sham Tseng interchange to proceed to Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound for Tsuen Wan.

Prohibited zones for all vehicles except buses (franchised and non-franchised) and public light buses from 6.30 am to 9 am and from 5 pm to 7.30 pm daily except Sundays and public holidays are in force. They are:

- (1) Castle Peak Road between Hoi Wing Road, Sam Shing Hui and Hoi On Road, Tsuen Wan.
- (2) Hoi On Road from Castle Peak Road to Hoi Hing Road.

Motorists living along Castle Peak Road are allowed to use the road to leave the prohibited zones at any time, but they are banned from entering the zones from Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun during prohibited period, except via the Siu Lam and Sham Tseng Interchanges. Therefore, they are strongly advised to use public transport and to travel early.

The following special public transport services will also be arranged:

Ferry services:

- (1) Tuen Mun - Central service will be strengthened with first departure from Tuen Mun at 6.30 am.
- (2) A special Tuen Mun - Tsuen Wan ferry service will be provided at 10-15- minute headway with first departure from Tuen Mun at 6.30 am.
- (3) Ferry services below are suspended :
 - (a) Tsuen Wan - Central via Tsing Yi (because of the low passenger demand, the service between Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan will be withdrawn)

(b) Tsim Sha Tsui - Mui Wo

(c) Tsim Sha Tsui - Cheung Chau Special bus routes below are provided:

(i) Special bus services:

* Route 60P between Tuen Mun Town Centre and Sheung Shui KCR Station with first departure from Tuen Mun at 6.30 am.

* Route 39S between Tsuen Wan Ferry and Tsuen Wan MTR Station with first departure from Tsuen Wan Ferry at 7.15 am.

(ii) Existing routes are strengthened :

* Route 276 between Tin Shui Wai and Sheung Shui

* Route 64K between Yuen Long and Tai Po

* Other routes between Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing as necessary.

MTR, KCR and LRT services will be enhanced as necessary.

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

The Regiment deserves honours: the Governor

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) has earned honours to its dedication of service to Hong Kong, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said.

Speaking at the Disbandment Parade of the Regiment today (Saturday), the Governor said the Regiment had given people the opportunity to show thanks through service for what Hong Kong had given them and had rewarded them with friendships.

He said it had also provided many people training in co-operation and leadership as well as resilience and comradeship.

While praising those who demonstrated most openly their dedication to Hong Kong by defending the territory in 1941, Mr Patten said the Volunteers who had served in the years of peace had not been content to live on the reputation of their forebears.

Throughout the years, the Regiment had devoted its service to handling the arrival of the Vietnamese, serving at the border and providing assistance in times of emergency, he added.

"You have earned honours worthy to stand beside the honours won in battle," the Governor said.

"The Royal Hong Kong Regiment, the Volunteers, passes away, but the memory will live with each of you who have served and the memory will live for as long as there are men and women who take pride in the history of this city."

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

ED appeals to schools for co-operation

A letter will be issued to all school heads on Monday (September 4) to appeal for their co-operation in applying the school rules flexibly on punctuality in case their students are late during the closure of the Kowloon-bound lanes of Tuen Mun Road, an Education Department spokesman said today (Saturday).

District education officers will repeat this appeal to school management during their school visits starting next week.

The spokesman assures parents that their children would not be penalised if they are late for school because of such exceptional circumstances.

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

Election forums to promote LegCo elections

District offices of the Home Affairs Department will organise eight election forums tomorrow (Sunday) to promote the forthcoming Legislative Council Elections.

To enable voters to have a better understanding of the candidates running in their respective geographical constituencies, the forums will consist of three parts which are the self-introduction by candidates, question-and-answer sessions and floor discussions involving the audience.

Members of the public are welcome to attend these forums.

Details of the arrangements are:

<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
Kowloon North-east	2 pm	Assembly Hall, Fung Tak Estate Community Centre, Wong Tai Sin	Chan Yuen-han Mak Hoi-wah
Kowloon South	2 pm	6/F, Auxiliary Medical Services Headquarters, 81 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin	Wong Siu-yee Lau Chin-shek
New Territories Central	2 pm	Princess Alexandra Community Centre, Tai Wo Ho Road, Tsuen Wan	Chan Wai-yip, Albert Tam Tai-on Ng Wai-kwong
New Territories North-west	3 pm	Atrium, Yuen Long Plaza, Yuen Long	Tang Siu-tong Wong Wai-yin, Zachary
Kowloon South-east	3 pm	Podium, Tak Tin Estate, Lam Tin, Kwun Tong	Li Wah-ming Tam Yiu-chung

New Territories South-east	3 pm	Heng On Community Hall, Ma On Shan, Sha Tin	Wan Hon-cheung, William Wong Wang-fat, Andrew Ko Ping-chung, Harold
Hong Kong Island East	8 pm	Theatre, Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre, 111 Shau Kei Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan	Choy So-yuk Lee Chu-ming, Martin
New Territories North	8 pm	Atrium, Wah Ming Estate, Fanling	Cheung Hon-chung Wong Sing-chi

Attention News Editors:

Media representatives are invited to cover the election forums.

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

Mid-Autumn Festival holiday reminder

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded employers that the Mid-Autumn Festival day (September 9) is one of the 11 statutory holidays for employees.

Under the Employment Ordinance, the statutory holiday for Mid-Autumn Festival should be the day following the festival. However, if the day following the festival was a Sunday, then the statutory holiday should fall on the Mid-Autumn Festival day.

According to the Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, are entitled to statutory holidays and must be paid for the day off if they have worked continuously for the same employer for three months or longer before the statutory holiday.

Holiday pay should be equivalent to an employee's earnings on a full working day and should include basic wages as well as allowances that can be expressed in money terms such as meals and cost of living allowances.

Where the earnings vary from day to day, holiday pay should be the average daily earnings during every complete wage period, which could be between 28 and 31 days, preceding the holiday.

If an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday, he must be given an alternative day off within 60 days before or after that day.

Enquiries about statutory holidays may be made at the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1771.

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,186	09:30	-125
Closing Balance in the account	1,561	10:00	-125
Change Attributable to:		11:00	-125
Money Market Activity	-125	11:30	-125
LAF Today	+500		

LAF Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 122.1 *-0.1* 2.95

End/Saturday, September 2, 1995

The Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the full text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on Radio Television Hong Kong's "Letter to Hong Kong" today (Sunday):

Last week was an important one for Hong Kong. Important. Historic. Moving.

We commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Hong Kong.

Was that an event to mark? To remember?

Some people say not. Forget the past, they say. Don't look back. Get on with building the future.

I don't agree.

Those who made our past, made our present and our future, too. They deserve to be remembered. And thanked.

We can learn from them, as well. Remember what they did. Why they did it. That can give us a greater sense of direction - and a greater sense of our duties and responsibilities - today.

We shouldn't seek to dwell in the past, in the twilight world of memories. But we certainly shouldn't forget.

And what were we remembering?

Well, the heroism - for a start - of those who died in the defence and liberation of Hong Kong. Young. Old. Servicemen and women. Civilians.

We were remembering those from all over the world - Britain, Canada, India, Australia - as well as those from home who died for freedom.

We remembered the miseries the whole community suffered during the War. Those interned and those outside the camps. The internees at Argyle Street and Stanley, North Point and Sham Shui Po. Those who died of starvation. Those who were deported. Those whose villages in the New Territories were flattened. Those who had to burn school books and furniture to cook and stay warm in winter.

And last we remembered those who sailed to Hong Kong to liberate us, and stayed to help begin the job of rebuilding Hong Kong.

Rebuilding a community which was over the coming years to open its arms to wave after wave of refugees from dark events in China.

So we celebrated a remarkable story of human heroism and tenacity. A story which should inspire. Does it inspire us? It certainly inspired those who had come back to Hong Kong - some for the first time in 50 years - to take part in the services, the ceremonies and the receptions.

It was interesting talking to them. The retired nurse who had tried to save another woman's baby - and who met that mother, now well on in years, by astonishing accident across the drinks and the nuts of a British Legion reception. The widows visiting, 50 years on, the graves of young husbands in the typhoon season's driving rain. The old soldiers who recalled where they'd tried to hold the line. The retired education officer, now wheel-chair bound, who talked about the work of the civil service in getting Hong Kong back on its feet after all that bloody horror.

But what interested me most was what those brave survivors had to say about the present, not the past.

Some were back for the first time, literally agog. Others had made a return trip from time to time but were still amazed by the progress since their last visit. The buildings. The cars. The reclamation. The bustle. The way people dressed. The hospitals. The housing. The MTR. The universities. The smell of the harbour, true - but also the smell of success.

Would you, could you, have believed it 50 years ago? Of course not. 10 years ago? Well, hardly then either.

Given the chance by all those heroes, given the freedom, given the opportunity to work and excel in an open society under the rule of law, just look at what's been achieved.

Not easily. Every so often there's been some new volcanic event on our doorstep to survive. Every so often some new so-called crisis of confidence to live through.

But Hong Kong has coped. Hong Kong people have built this city - believing in themselves, believing that men and women can make things better, can create a decent society, given half a chance. That's the sort of self-confidence we need for the future.

There are problems, uncertainties on the horizon. Worries about 1997. About the transition. Worries about the continuing rise in unemployment. About the slow-down in our growth, a slow-down of half a per cent to what I heard someone the other day - he can't have been in Europe or America recently - call only five per cent.

But we can keep our economy pounding away - creating jobs, creating opportunities, creating real wealth for everyone - if we hold on to the economic fundamentals that have made Hong Kong one of the wonders of the world. Open markets. Sound public finances. Low taxes. Clean government.

I'm determined that the economy that I hand on to my successor in 1997 will be as strongly placed as possible to take continuing advantage of the economic revolution which is sweeping through Asia.

We need to be self-confident about our more fundamental values as well.

Do people admire us just because of the skyscrapers, the classy shops, the export figures? No - they admire us because of all the signs and attributes of a decent, civilised society.

Impartial justice. Professions. Churches. Voluntary organisations. Free speech. A government that has to account for itself. And, yes, open, public, political debate - conducted, let it be said, in a remarkably moderate way.

We're seeing that, just now, in the election campaign for the new Legislative Council. Those elections will be the most democratic - just as Hong Kong was promised would happen in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law - the most democratic in our history.

And will they be, as some suggest, the last free elections in Hong Kong? Of course, they won't. Just look around you at the people of Hong Kong. And look around other countries too. That idea is absurd.

When I was talking to one old veteran last week -he'd lost friends here, and in camps elsewhere - I asked him what thoughts he would take away from here. He paused for a moment, and then looked out of the plate glass window of the hotel reception room where we were talking, looked out towards Happy Valley and the high rises and the hills beyond.

"Well", he said, "it speaks for itself really. I'm glad it was all worth it."

Awful, dreadful, as it was, fighting and sacrificing for freedom was worth it.

Freedom, as the memorial says, is never free, but make the most of it and you repay the sacrifice.

So I guess that the best memory of last week, the one that should last, is the knowledge that saluting the past is the best way of giving a thumbs-up to the future. Especially, perhaps, here in Hong Kong.

End/Sunday, September 3, 1995

Modified temporary traffic arrangements for Tuen Mun Road

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The Transport Department announces today (Sunday) that modified temporary traffic and public transport arrangements for Tuen Mun and Yuen Long will be in place tomorrow (Monday).

Some changes in traffic management will be introduced tomorrow following a decision to re-open one traffic lane in the Kowloon-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road between Tuen Mun and Siu Lam.

One lane along Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound will be open to buses, light buses and nanny vans only up to the Sham Tseng Interchange. To make this arrangement possible, the New Territories-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road between Siu Lam and Sham Tseng will be used for two-way traffic. Castle Peak Road will be re-opened to two-way traffic.

Details of the revised arrangements are as follows:

- (1) Castle Peak Road will be re-opened to all traffic in both directions.
- (2) Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound between Wong Chu Road and Sham Tseng Interchange, including the Kowloon-bound slip road from Wong Chu Road will be designated as a prohibited zone for all vehicles except buses, nanny vans and light buses from 6 am to 9 pm daily except Sundays and public holidays.
- (3) The off-side lane of Tuen Mun Road between Pui To Road slip road and Tuen Hing Road slip road will be designated as a bus and light buses only lane from 6 am to 9 pm daily except Sundays and public holidays.
- (4) The Siu Lam and Sham Tseng Interchanges will remain open to all vehicles on Tuen Mun Road NT-bound.

- (5) The NT-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road between Siu Lam and Sham Tseng will revert to two-way operation with the middle lane serving as a buffer. The speed limit in this section will be reduced to 50 km per hour.
- (6) The Sha Po roundabout has been widened to facilitate vehicle passage.
- (7) Special traffic arrangements will be carried out at Au Tau roundabout on the New Territories Circular Road. Turning movements at this roundabout are prohibited except:
 - * right turn on southbound and left turn on westbound at Au Tau Roundabout;
 - * left turn on southbound for NT Circular Road to Kam Tin Road at Au Tau Roundabout;
 - * straight ahead on eastbound for Kam Tin Road to Yuen Long at Au Tau Roundabout.

The above revised traffic arrangements are made after taking into account the views of both the Yuen Long and Tuen Mun District Boards.

Despite these arrangements, the Kowloon-bound traffic is expected to be very congested.

Members of the public are strongly advised to make good use of public transport instead of using their vehicles to help ease the load on congested roads in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long areas.

If needed, private vehicles should use Tolo Highway and Route TWSK. (two-lane two-way traffic is now in place) to travel between Tsuen Wan-urban Kowloon and Tuen Mun-Yuen Long. They should also start their journey early to avoid heavy traffic. Highways Department has made special effort to fill up all road openings in the area.

The Transport Department and the Police will closely monitor the situation and make necessary modifications. The Police will step up enforcement and provide traffic directions on the ground.

Meanwhile, the Education Department has issued a letter to all school heads to appeal for their co-operation in applying the school rules flexibly on punctuality in case their students are late during the closure of the Kowloon-bound lanes of Tuen Mun Road.

To further assist residents in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long, the following special public transport services will be in place:

Ferry services:

- (1) The Tuen Mun-Central catamaran service, currently with three vessels, will be strengthened by the addition of seven vessels, making a total of 10. Service will be provided from 6.30 am to 11.30 am at 12 minute frequency.
- (2) The Tuen Mun-Central hoverferry service will be strengthened to provide five-minute frequency during the morning peak. Service hours are from 6.30 am to 8.30 pm. To improve the queuing situation at Tuen Mun pier, the hoverferry service will operate from a new pontoon outside Miami Gardens near the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier.
- (3) The special Tuen Mun-Tsuen Wan ferry service will continue to be provided at 10-15 minutes frequency between 6.15 am and 9 pm.
- (4) The Tuen Mun-Wan Chai hoverferry service and Tsuen Wan-Tsing Yi-Central ferry services will continue to be suspended.

With the above special arrangements, the total capacity of the Tuen Mun ferry services will be increased to over 30,000 passengers during the morning peak period.

Bus services:

- (1) The following special bus routes will be provided:
 - * Route 60P between Tuen Mun Town Centre and Sheung Shui KCR Station with first departure from Tuen Mun at 6.15 am.
 - * Route 39S between Tsuen Wan Ferry and Tsuen Wan MTR Station with first departure from Tsuen Wan Ferry at 6.45 am.
- (2) Existing routes are strengthened.
 - * Route 276 between Tin Shui Wai and Sheung Shui Railway Station at a frequency of four minutes.
 - * Route 64K between Yuen Long and Tai Po Railway Station at a frequency of five minutes.

- * Other routes between Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing as necessary.

(3) KMB Routes diversion in Tuen Mun:

- * On leaving Tuen Mun : KMB Routes 60M, 60X, 61X, 62X, 260B, 261B and 261M will travel via Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road, Hoi Chu Road, Hoi Wong Road, Wong Chu Road and Tuen Mun Road.
- * On reaching Tuen Mun: KMB Routes 60M, 60X, 61X, and 62X will travel via Tuen Mun Road, Tuen Hi Road and Tuen Wui Street in lieu of Tuen Mun Road, Wong Chu Road, Hoi Wong Road, Hoi Chu Road, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road, Tuen Hing Road, Tuen Hi Road and Tuen Wui Street.

KMB will operate an additional 60 or more departures for Tuen Mun and Yuen Long routes subject to traffic conditions. LRT will run a feeder bus service between Tuen Mun Town Centre and Tuen Mun Ferry Pier while MTR and KCR services will be enhanced as necessary.

End/Sunday, September 3, 1995

School heads urged to observe guidelines on LegCo election

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School heads are reminded to observe guidelines issued by the Education Department on participation of school pupils in the election activities of candidates in the September 17 Legislative Council election.

An Education Department spokesman said: "In no circumstances should primary or pre-primary pupils be asked to take part in election activities on behalf of individual candidates.

"For secondary schools, supervisors and principals are advised to consider carefully the appropriateness of such involvement of their pupils before giving consent.

"They are also advised that prior approval of the school management committee should be obtained."

In cases where approval is given to participation by pupils in such activities, school heads and teachers will be expected to observe the following guidelines:

- * participation by secondary school students in election activities on behalf of a candidate must be entirely voluntary;
- * for students below the age of 18, the written consent of parents or guardians must be obtained beforehand;
- * there should be no disruption of the pupils' education, and in no circumstances should normal lessons be interrupted to enable pupils to take part in such activities; and
- * in no circumstances should pupils be asked to take part in activities in areas where they may be subject to various elements of danger, including that arising from traffic.

The above points were highlighted in a school circular issued recently.

"Although pupils should be given every encouragement to take an interest in community affairs and current issues and to form their own opinions on such issues, the Education Department has reservations as to the desirability of pupils of a school being collectively and directly involved in election activities on behalf of any individual candidates, whether or not the candidate is connected with the school as a manager, as a head, or as a teacher," the spokesman said.

"These reservations reflect the basic concern that the education of pupils should not be subject to interference or interruption and that pupils' welfare should be safeguarded."

End/Sunday, September 3, 1995

New hotline on candidates' information

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Members of the public can now make use of a new election hotline (2891 1400) to obtain information on Legislative Council Election candidates' personal particulars and their platforms.

Introduced for the first time, the telephone service is operated on an interactive voice response system whereby callers can select to listen to information of candidates of their choice by taking a few simple steps.

Callers can choose the recorded message in either Cantonese or English.

The hotline service will be operated round-the-clock until the elections end on September 17.

End/Sunday, September 3, 1995

DSD sets higher targets for performance pledge

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The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has set higher targets for its performance pledge for 1995-96.

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday) good results had been achieved for the performance standards set for 1994-95.

"We have achieved an 87 per cent success rate in achieving the performance standards set for dealing with complaints of blocked sewers or drains, and a 96 per cent rate for processing applications for drainage connections for private developments," he said.

The spokesman pointed out that the DSD had now set a 90 per cent success rate for dealing with blocked sewers or drains, and a 97 per cent rate for processing applications for drainage connection.

"For written enquiries on sewage charging scheme accounts, we have set two working days as the initial response time," he said.

"It is hoped that we would be able to achieve an 80 per cent success rate for this standard."

Elaborating on the performance standards for complaints of blocked sewers or drains, the spokesman said if a complaint was received between 8 am and noon, an on-site investigation would be carried out on the same day.

For complaints received after noon, investigations would be carried out before noon the following day.

However, the spokesman stressed that urgent cases would be handled as soon as possible.

"The public should note that because of the remoteness of some locations, for instance rural New Territories and outlying islands, a longer response time is to be expected." he added.

"In general, rectifying action will be carried out immediately following investigation work, except where heavy plant has to be mobilised or where site constraints render it impossible to proceed immediately."

The department has published a new pamphlet on its enhanced performance pledges for 1995-96. Copies of the bilingual pamphlet are now available at all District Offices of the Home Affairs Department and DSD headquarters on 43rd floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

End/Sunday, September 3, 1995

Land Registry opens new sub-office in Sai Wan Ho

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The Land Registry will open a sub-office in Sai Wan Ho tomorrow (Monday).

Located on third floor, Marina House, 68 Hing Man Street, the new office will accommodate the Land Registry's Owners Incorporation Section which was housed at the Queensway Government Offices.

Services provided at the sub-office include receipt and processing of applications for registration of owners corporations in the urban area; search of registers of owners corporations of the urban area; and search of original plans attached to registered instruments relating to land in the urban area.

Enquiries can be made on tel 2967 1278.

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