



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Consensus in community on Court of Final Appeal	1
Transcript of Governor's media session	1
Investment in social structure	3
Transcript of Chief Secretary's media session	5
One nomination received for LegCo by-election	6
Two nominations for MC elections received today	6
Technical review board set up to advise on slope safety	7
HK provides to US estimate of 301 Action's impact on economy	8
Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee	10
Enhancement of rights accorded priority	10
Investigation of complaints against the Municipal Councils	14

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Contents

Page No.

Airmail will be delayed by Kansai quake	15
Safety first in removal of dangerous signs	15
Correctional Services thanked for hard work	16
New flyover along Tong Mi Road open to traffic	17
Design of reclamation and edge structures of CT 10 & 11 commissioned ...	18
Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in November 1994	19
Payroll and wage statistics for September 1994	21
Construction output statistics for 3rd quarter of 1994	24
New access road in Ma On Shan proposed	25
HIV/AIDS situation in 1994	26
Amendments to Central road works proposed	27
Pre-qualification application for rebuilding of Tai Tam Road invited	27
Laying of effluent discharge pipework for Tsing Lung Tau	28
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	29

Consensus in community on Court of Final Appeal

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There is a consensus in the community that the Court of Final Appeal should be set up as soon as possible so that there can be available after 1997 a court with experience of working and establishing a body of jurisprudence, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Friday).

In reply to questions by reporters on the Court of Final Appeal after officiating at the Correctional Services Department's annual inspection, the Governor said the consensus was that it should be in line with the Joint Declaration, the Basic Law and with the 1991 agreement.

Noting that the Chinese side have had a copy of the Court of Final Appeal Bill since last May, Mr Patten said: "The first thing we're looking for, of course, is a reasonably early response from the Chinese side."

"If the Executive Council agree on Tuesday to make certain amendments to the proposed bill, we'll be sending those to Chinese officials as rapidly as possible," he added.

"We've got to give the Legislative Council the time to give the legislation proper care and proper debate, and, of course, we want to mobilise as much consent in the profession and as much agreement in the community as possible," he said.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after officiating at the Correctional Services Department's annual parade today (Friday):

Governor: I am delighted to have this opportunity today of paying another tribute to the Correctional Services Department who do such an excellent job for Hong Kong. We depend on them both in the camps for Vietnamese migrants and in our prisons, and I want to say how grateful I am for everything they do and pay a, particularly, warm tribute to the Commissioner who has done so much for Hong Kong. Thank you very much.

Question: What's your reaction to Lau Shan Ching's winning of the legal battle?

Governor: Well, the judge has announced his decision. He hasn't yet let us have his full comprehensive written decision and, I think, we'll all be well advised not to comment until we have seen it. Obviously, we'll want to read what the judge has said and study it in detail.

Question: Two things about the VMs. First of all, what suggestion is the Hong Kong Government going to put forward in next month's summit in Jakarta, and secondly, after the Vietnamese have learnt that they are going to be repatriated as soon as possible, what instructions does the CSD have to release the tension in the camps ...?

Governor: Well, on the second point, first, the CSD has a difficult job in carrying through these repatriations. We carry them out in as caring and careful a way as possible. We've seen some of the consequences alas of that. In the last operation, in which some of those concerned took extremely unfortunate advantage of the fore knowledge they had received about their moves, but I think the Correctional Services Department always learning from their experience of these operations, do a great deal to calm the atmosphere and to encourage those who're travelling to do so peacefully. We have just carried out the largest single mandatory repatriation, over a hundred returning to Vietnam this week. And I hope that's a sign of things to come. I got no doubt at all that the mandatory programme is extremely important to the voluntary programme. We haven't had as big figures for the voluntary programme this year, and that I have no doubt is partly because there was a gap of about five months, for we had to hold the mandatory programme for understandable reasons after White Head. On the first point, we do think it is important to give the CPA some additional impetus and momentum. So we were very pleased at the UNHCR's decision to appoint a new regional co-ordinator, Mr de Mello, who has a very distinguished reputation, who knows about some of the problems in the region. And we trust that will enable us all to work more successfully in the region to deal with what is a common problem.

Question: In regard to the Court of Final Appeal dispute, now the two professional groups had different opinion, as you know, how would the government manage ... this scenario?

Governor: Well, I think there is a consensus in the community that we should set up a court in line with the agreements, the Joint Declaration, in line with the Basic Law, in line with the 1991 agreement, that we should set up a court and have a court running as soon as possible, and certainly before 1997, so that there can be available to the SAR Government and the community after 1997 a court with experience of working, with the early experience of establishing a body of jurisprudence. I think there is general agreement about that. What we want to do is to proceed at a reasonable pace. We've got to give the Legislative Council the time to give the legislation proper care and proper debate. And, of course, we want to mobilise as much consent in the profession and as much agreement in the community as possible. The first thing we're looking for, of course, is a reasonably early response from the Chinese side. They've had a copy of our bill since last May. If the Executive Council agree on Tuesday to make certain amendments to the proposed bill, we'll be sending those to Chinese officials as rapidly as possible. I understand that they want to scrutinise the bill carefully, but I hope they'll be able to give us a reply very soon.

Question: Also about the VMs, after the meeting in Hanoi, they decided that measures will be introduced so that the migrants will get more accurate data on themselves. What are those measures?

Governor: Well, they're principally ensuring that the biodata which is given by VMs is accurate. It's a way of ensuring that accurate information and not just what the VMs are saying, which may or may not be accurate, is in the hands of the Vietnamese authorities because there is some experience of VMs making up biodata in order to try to ensure that the Vietnamese authorities decline to have them back. OK. Thank you very much indeed.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Investment in social structure

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Friday) that more investments had been put in Hong Kong's social structure to improve the quality of life, which would in a way enhance the territory's economic success.

Speaking at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce luncheon, the Chief Secretary added that the Government was committed to tailoring increases in public expenditure to the increase in GDP growth so that taxes could be kept low to attract businessmen.

"It is the combination of strong economic growth, high rewards and low taxation taken together with the stability provided by a healthy, well-educated and contented workforce which creates the magnet that Hong Kong represents for businessmen the world over," she said.

"I believe that it is our job to provide good government, a sound legal system, comprehensive physical and social infrastructure, and a business friendly environment.

"As Hong Kong becomes more affluent, it is only natural that our people should ask for more to be spent to improve the quality of life here.

"And it is only right that the Government should respond by putting more money into health, welfare and education," she said.

The investment in social structure serves to demonstrate that Hong Kong is a caring community, she added.

On investment on the health side, Mrs Chan said funding for health in 1994/95 had increased by about seven per cent to \$17 billion over the year before; land had been given for a Hong Kong-Canadian joint venture to build a hospital; four more new public hospitals would be built in the New Territories at \$4.8 billion which would provide an extra 2,700 beds by 1999 and a new Student Health Service at \$18 million would be introduced by the end of this year.

On welfare services, to quote some examples, the Government will put in \$37 million in 1995/96 rising to \$108 million in 1999-2000 on providing care for the elderly; an additional \$190 million in 1995/96, on top of the \$909 million this year, will be spent on strengthening support for families; and \$100 million extra in 1995/96 will be put in to improve the social security safety net for those who cannot look after themselves.

As for education, a total of \$14.7 billion is being spent in 1994/95 to improve the quality of education.

The Chief Secretary added that a working group to look into the direction of international schools would provide more information when it completed its work by the end of May.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Transcript of Chief Secretary's media session

Following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, after attending the Canadian Chamber of Commerce luncheon today (Friday):

Question: Mrs Chan, can you comment on the high public cost of keeping an empty holiday home?

CS: I am not sure there is any public cost because there is no security. The quarter is just locked up. I accept that we can probably make better use of the facility. I haven't actually found time since I took up the Chief Secretary job to call on the new facility and I don't, in the foreseeable future, intend to use it. So I've asked for an examination to be made as to whether the bungalow might be made available for other civil servants as a holiday home. And if not, there might be other uses, but I certainly intend to make better use of the facility.

Question: But people like rooftop dwellers are obviously feeling very angry when they read about these things, when they took up their things.

CS: Well, bearing in mind that this is, I believe, originally I haven't looked at the background of this bungalow. The bungalow actually was used by Sir David Ford. And, as I said, since I took up the Chief Secretary post, I haven't used it. But it was previously actually a store room.

Question: Sorry, you read a statement in Cantonese. I didn't catch that. What was that involved when you came out and you spoke in Cantonese?

CS: Oh, it was about the burglary. I was saying, first of all, thank you for your concern, that I haven't had time to go out to use the facility, that I don't intend, in the foreseeable future, to use the facility. And I'm asking for ... to see whether there are better uses for the facility, for example, as a holiday home for other civil servants.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

One nomination received for LegCo by-election

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Trade unionist Mr Lee Cheuk-yan, aged 37, today (Friday) submitted his nomination for the Legislative Council's Kowloon Central constituency by-election scheduled on March 5.

Two nominations were received for the Kwun Tong District Board's Lower Ngau Tau Kok constituency by-election. They were transportation company owner Mr Ben Chan Kok-wah, aged 37, and graduate master Mr Wong Kin-man, aged 40.

The nomination period of the two by-elections started today and will last until February 3.

Meanwhile, two nominations were received today for the district board by-election for Yau Ma Tei constituency of Yau Tsim Mong district.

The nominations were submitted by community organiser Ms Lai Yuen-ching, aged 35, and certified public accountant Mr Liu Kwong-sang, aged 32.

So far, four nominations had been received for this constituency since the nomination period started on January 9. The nomination period will end next Monday (January 23).

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Two nominations for MC elections received today

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A total of two nominations of candidates were received today (Friday) for the Municipal Council elections on March 5.

The total number of nominations received so far is 120.

The nomination period will last until next Monday (January 23).

The breakdown of nominations by district is as follows:

Central & Western	4
Wan Chai	5
Eastern	13
Southern	5
Yau Tsim Mong	7
Sham Shui Po	3
Kowloon City	9
Wong Tai Sin	9
Kwun Tong	13
Tsuen Wan	5
Tuen Mun	8
Yuen Long	7
North	5
Tai Po	5
Sai Kung	2
Sha Tin	13
Kwai Tsing	6
Islands	1
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Total:	120

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Technical review board set up to advise on slope safety

The Governor-in-Council has decided to set up an external Technical Review Board (TRB) as recommended by the independent geotechnical expert, Professor Norbert Morgenstern, in his report on the Kwun Lung Lau landslide, and at the same time decided that any need for a Commission of Inquiry has been obviated by the report.

Announcing this today (Friday), a Government spokesman explained that the Governor-in-Council had decided in August last year that pending the conclusion of investigations by Professor Morgenstern into the landslide, the question of whether or not to appoint a Commission of Inquiry should be left open.

Supported by the technical investigation of the Geotechnical Engineering Office, Professor Morgenstern completed his investigation report which was submitted to the Governor and made public on November 30 last year.

The spokesman said: "The Governor-in-Council has taken account of the fact that Professor Morgenstern's review was conducted in an impartial and transparent manner, and furthermore that the report is comprehensive in its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

"Further inquiry will not elicit additional information or provide a more thorough and reliable analysis of the technical factors surrounding the landslide."

The Governor-in-Council was informed that the programme of verifying the thickness of previously studied masonry walls, another recommendation by Professor Morgenstern, would be complete before the oncoming rainy season. Implementation of the remaining recommendations has also begun, and will be carried forward as quickly as possible.

The TRB will be made up of non-official eminent practitioners. They will advise on the technical aspects of the work of both the public and private sectors in enhancing slope safety, including keeping abreast of international standards of risk management as applied to slopes. The names of these experts and further details will be announced as soon as they have been confirmed.

The spokesman said the Government had almost completed a parallel review of the overall policies and legislation on slope safety. The results and recommendations will be made public shortly.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

HK provides to US estimate of 301 Action's impact on economy

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In a formal communication to the US Consul-General in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Government today (Friday) provided the United States Administration with a broad estimate of the potential adverse impact on Hong Kong's economy, if the US imposed punitive tariffs on Chinese products on the proposed retaliation list which the US Government had published earlier under its Special 301 provisions.

A Trade and Industry Branch spokesman said: "Given that the US and China are our two largest trading partners, Hong Kong is naturally concerned about the adverse effects on Hong Kong of any retaliation action which the US Government might take if the two sides failed to reach a mutually acceptable solution over intellectual property rights (IPR) protection."

"We are therefore passing our assessment to the US Government, together with a request that the US takes into account Hong Kong's interests in any decision it may take," he said.

The proposed list of products, which the US published on December 31, 1994 for public comment until January 30, 1995, includes such articles as electrical products, plastic articles, furniture items, ceramic household ware and footwear, with a total value of about US\$2.8 billion.

As the US Trade Representative Ambassador Mickey Kantor has publicly stated that he would narrow down the list to products valued at about US\$1 billion, the assessment of the impact on Hong Kong's economy has been made on the basis of US retaliatory action affecting about US\$1 billion worth of Chinese exports to the US.

"Because of the punitive tariff, it is possible that up to 1.9 per cent or HK\$3.7 billion (US\$0.47 billion) of Hong Kong's re-exports from China to the US may be affected," the spokesman said.

"Taking into account the likely spill-over effects on other trading and economic activities, this could affect up to 3,800 jobs in Hong Kong and up to 0.1 of a percentage point of the GDP growth in the year of incidence."

He recognised nevertheless that the impact on specific sectors would vary depending on the rate of the punitive tariff and the amount of trade involved which goes through Hong Kong.

When asked about the Government's further action, the spokesman reiterated that the IPR negotiations between China and the US was a bilateral trade issue that should be resolved by the two sides through bilateral discussions.

"The Hong Kong Government does not have a direct role. Hong Kong traders could respond to the US Government's invitation for public comments. We have therefore been providing the trade with information and analyses for their reference. "Representatives of the Hong Kong Government would attend the public hearings in the US as observers and we will provide further assistance to the trade as may be appropriate."

Noting that China and the US have resumed talks on the issue, he remains hopeful that a satisfactory solution would be found and no retaliatory action would be taken.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee

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A Government spokesman announced today (Friday) that a team of Hong Kong Government officials will be leaving for Guangzhou on Sunday (January 22) to attend the first meeting of the Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee on Monday (January 23).

The team will comprise the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason; the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Gordon Siu; the Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma; the Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun; the Deputy Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Stephen Lam; the Principal Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Miss Margaret Fong; the Chief Engineer of the Highways Department, Mr C K Mak; and Assistant Political Adviser Miss Shirley Yung.

Attention News Editors:

The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason, will speak to the media before the departure of the delegation. Media representatives covering the event please assemble at 1.15 pm on Sunday (January 22) outside the KCRC VIP room, Ground Floor, Kowloon Railway Station, Hung Hom.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Enhancement of rights accorded priority

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Vigorous efforts to fulfil commitments to enhance protection for the rights of the individual and to eliminate discrimination have turned 1994 into a busy and fruitful year for the Home Affairs Branch (HAB).

Reviewing today (Friday) the work of HAB, the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen, pointed out that a lot had been done during the past year to put in place the package of measures to strengthen the rights of the individual.

"In response to widespread community support, we announced in June 1994 the decision to seek the extension of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Hong Kong.

"Within a matter of four months, we completed the drafting of legislation against sex discrimination and introduced the Sex Discrimination Bill into the Legislative Council in October 1994," he said.

The bill, designed to prevent injustice to an individual's prospects on account of his or her gender, is now under the scrutiny of a Bills Committee.

"We hope to see the enactment of the Sex Discrimination Bill in 1995 and to set up the Equal Opportunities Commission as soon as possible after the enactment of the bill," Mr Suen said.

In keeping with community aspirations expressed during the Green Paper public consultation exercise, the bill takes forward the principle of outlawing sex discrimination and sexual harassment in areas of activity including employment, education, provision of goods and services, and the disposal and management of premises, Mr Suen said.

Furthermore, discrimination on the ground of marital status or pregnancy in the employment field will also be made unlawful.

Under the bill, an independent statutory body known as the Equal Opportunities Commission (comprising not fewer than four and not more than 16 members) will be established.

The commission will be tasked with the responsibility of eliminating sex discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity between women and men. It will also provide assistance to persons who have been subject to unlawful discriminatory practices or sexual harassment.

Another important function of the commission will be the development of codes of practice in the areas of activity regulated under the bill. These codes will provide practical guidance for parties concerned to comply with the legislation.

"We are convinced that the Equal Opportunities Commission will be effective in eliminating sex discrimination and sexual harassment. The enactment of the Sex Discrimination Bill will guarantee members of the community the opportunity to make the most of their potentials to participate fully in all aspects of life.

"While individual attitudes and organisational culture cannot be changed overnight, the institution of the bill is a major step forward in securing a fairer environment for free competition in Hong Kong by setting acceptable standards of behaviour and focusing public attention on the importance of upholding gender equality.

"Moreover, it will ensure that the people of Hong Kong enjoy a similar level of legal protection, in respect of equal opportunities between the sexes, as their counterparts in other developed countries," he added.

Another initiative taken in the year was the formal extension of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to Hong Kong.

To promote public awareness of the convention, booklets to publicise the provisions are being prepared and these are expected to be available around April 1995.

On the wider subject of promotion programmes to enhance community awareness towards human rights issues, a total of \$20 million will be allocated to the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education over the next three years. An education unit will be set up under the committee to devise and implement human rights education programmes.

Mr Suen noted that during the past year, the major work theme of the committee was "Rights to Participate in Representative Government", but other topics such as the rule of law and human rights were also promoted through a variety of programmes.

In 1995/96, the committee will focus its work on issues under the general theme of human rights education, with particular emphasis on civic rights and representative government; equal opportunities and elimination of discrimination, and the rule of law. This work will be done through the sponsorship of Community Participation Scheme, media publicity, research projects and the production of education materials such as teaching kits, booklets and videos.

Another important initiative announced in June 1994 was the go-ahead for the development of a Code of Practice on Access to Information covering the whole Government, Mr Suen recalled.

"We firmly believe that more open Government and more accountable Government is better Government, and it is with this goal in mind that we decide to take a further step forward in our commitment to greater transparency."

Mr Suen pointed out that preparation for the pilot scheme to be launched among nine branches and departments early this year was well advanced.

In broad terms, the code will state clearly Government's commitment to greater openness. It will set out the types of information to which the public may have access, the means by which the public can gain access to such information, and the time-frame within which the Government should respond to requests for information.

"The aim is to provide information as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Procedures will be kept as simple as possible," he stressed.

He added that the code would be applied throughout the Government by the end of 1996, and consideration would be given thereafter to its application to non-Government public bodies.

Another subject that the Home Affairs Branch was actively engaged in was the co-ordination of the implementation of a licensing scheme to regulate the fire and building safety of bedspace apartments following the enactment of legislation in April 1994.

Upon full implementation of the licensing scheme in 1996, bedspace apartment lodgers will live in apartments that meet the safety and sanitation standards and are less crowded.

So far, 144 apartments have taken out certificates of exemption and upon expiry of the exemption period in December 1996, the Licensing Authority will ensure that all the licensing requirements have been complied with before a licence is issued.

"In addition to statutory control, the Government, concerned about the living conditions in these apartments, has been adopting administrative measures to assist the bedspace apartment lodgers in rehousing.

"Facilities such as compassionate rehousing by the Housing Department, institutional care arranged by the Social Welfare Department and places in Home Affairs Department singleton hostels are available to all bedspace apartment lodgers displaced owing to the implementation of the licensing scheme, including those displaced by closure of bedspace apartments," Mr Suen said.

Meanwhile, Mr Suen noted that the numbers of bedspace apartments and lodgers had fallen over the years. "This is indicative of a general improvement in the overall situation."

Concluding the review of the branch's work, Mr Suen said one significant development during the year was the re-organisation of the City and New Territories Administration into a policy branch and an executive department. This has helped to establish clear lines of responsibility for policy and executive functions and also resulted in more efficient deployment of staff resources.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Investigation of complaints against the Municipal Councils

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Commenting on the discussion at yesterday's (Thursday) Regional Council meeting attended by the Commissioner for Administrative Complaints (COMAC), Mr Andrew So, a spokesman for COMAC Office said that generalisation on what acts of the Council would be investigable by COMAC, and what would not, would neither be practicable nor possible.

He reiterated the point made by Mr So at the Regional Council meeting that COMAC would not, and could not, comment on hypothetical problems and situations.

The spokesman said what constituted "maladministration" was clearly defined in the COMAC Ordinance. It included, among other things, acts of unreasonable conduct, delay, discourtesy, lack of consideration and abuse of power.

The Ordinance did not define and distinguish the difference between "policy" and "administrative act". Instead, it gave COMAC wide discretion, under Section 9 of the Ordinance, to determine questions relating to COMAC's authority and whether to conduct an investigation.

COMAC would therefore approach problems from the point of view of whether they constituted "maladministration" as defined in the Ordinance, and not whether they are policy issues, or administrative acts, as claimed or seen by the organisation.

It would not be possible to distinguish where an administrative act ended, and where policy began.

This was the whole purpose of extending COMAC's jurisdiction to the Municipal Councils, in addition to their executive arms - the Regional Services Department and the Urban Services Department.

The spokesman said COMAC would be glad to work together with the Municipal Councils to draw up some guidelines for each other's reference.

He stressed that such would be no more than guidelines, and that COMAC must reserve his judgment, as required by the law, and determine each complaint on its individual merits.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Airmail will be delayed by Kansai quake

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Owing to the substantial damage caused by the devastating earthquake in the Kansai area of Japan on January 17, airmail and Speedpost items destined to areas with postal codes starting with 52 to 79 and 91 in Japan will be subject to delay, the Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Friday).

These areas cover Osaka, Kyoto, Shiga, Nara, Wakayama, Hyogo (including Kobe), Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kagawa, Tokushima, Kochi, Ehime and Fukui Prefectures.

A further announcement will be made when the situation returns to normal, he said.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Safety first in removal of dangerous signs

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Signs should be attached to buildings only with professional help and they should be properly maintained by their owners to prevent them from becoming a potential danger or a nuisance to residents and the public.

The advice came today (Friday) from a Buildings Department spokesman during an operation to remove a number of abandoned signs in Sham Shui Po.

The operation followed inspections of about 7,850 signs in the district where Buildings Department staff found 390 signs to be potentially dangerous.

Two hundred and ten of them have since been rectified by the owners before being served Removal Notices by the Building Authority.

The rest will be removed by the Buildings Department and the cost of removal will be recovered from the owners.

The spokesman said similar inspections would be carried out in other districts later.

"But we need the assistance and co-operation of District Boards and the local residents. In Sham Shui Po, for example, the District Board has give us a list of the signs suspected or reported to be abandoned or dangerous.

"Local residents and District Boards are more familiar with the status and state of the signs in their neighbourhood. They can therefore help in earlier identification," he added.

The spokesman stressed that the Buildings Department's overriding concern regarding overhanging signs was public safety.

"Our policy is to ensure that signs which could pose a threat to public safety are removed either by the owners themselves or, if necessary, by our contractor."

Under Section 105 of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, the Director of Buildings has the power to remove, or to render safe, advertising signs considered dangerous or likely to become dangerous.

"We estimate that there are some 170,000 advertising signs in the territory. Each Year, this increases by about six per cent and about three per cent of the existing signs are replaced," the spokesman added.

"People wishing to put up overhanging signs should seek professional advice for safe design and installation. They must then ensure regular maintenance. This will safeguard public safety," the spokesman said.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Correctional Services thanked for hard work

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Hong Kong's record of taking in and caring for Vietnamese migrants for so long is second to none, the Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten told the gathering at the Correctional Services Department (CSD) annual parade today (Friday).

Great credit is due to the CSD staff for caring for them with dedication and tolerance, even at times of provocation and when under intense pressure and scrutiny, he noted.

Mr Patten said though there were critics and things that with hindsight could be done better, the majority of the public appreciated their difficult task and their capable way in dealing with it.

Turning to over-crowding in prisons, he said for the long term, the Government was committed to building a new medium-security institution as part of the Stanley Prison Area Redevelopment Programme.

This will modernise Hong Kong's largest maximum security prison, provide much-needed new facilities and some relief from the over-crowding.

Short-term measures to alleviate the problem are also being looked at with great urgency, he added.

With regard to the department's penal programmes, Mr Patten said the programmes sought to restore self-discipline and instil a sense of self-respect in offenders, so as to help them rejoin society as law-abiding citizens.

Pointing out that last year was eventful and difficult for the CSD staff, he expressed gratitude for their commitment.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

New flyover along Tong Mi Road open to traffic

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A new flyover along Tong Mi Road and Ferry Street between Bute Street and Soy Street will be open to traffic from 4 pm tomorrow (Saturday).

"It will alleviate traffic congestion along Tong Mi Road, especially at its junctions with Mong Kok Road and Argyle Street," a spokesman for the Highways Department said.

The new flyover is part of the first phase of Yau Ma Tei Section of West Kowloon Corridor, and will provide a by-pass for through traffic at these road junctions.

With a width of 8.93 metres, the flyover contains two southbound traffic lanes.

As the construction of the second phase of Yau Ma Tei Section is still in progress, part of the existing ground level road to the south of the flyover is being occupied.

"For this reason, the two southbound traffic lanes along the new flyover will, initially, need to be reduced to one at the downramp near Soy Street," the spokesman said.

The other traffic lane at the downramp will be opened on completion of the whole West Kowloon Corridor Yau Ma Tei Section project at the end of 1996.

The \$99 million contract for the construction of the flyover was awarded to Sun Fook Kong (Civil) Limited in June 1992. All the works except landscaping were completed in 31 months.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Design of reclamation and edge structures of CT 10 & 11 commissioned

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The Civil Engineering Department (CED) today (Friday) signed a \$20 million consultancy agreement for the detailed design of reclamation and edge structures for Container Terminals 10 and 11 (CT 10 & 11) and their back-up areas on Lantau Island.

"The main objective of the consultancy is to design and prepare the contract documents for reclamation designs for CT 10 & 11, their back-up areas and approach channels," a spokesman for the department said.

Under the consultancy agreement, a detailed assessment of the environmental impact during the construction phase will be carried out.

"Marine ecology surveys on white dolphin, fishing activity and fish fry will also be carried out in the Lantau Port area," the spokesman said.

The CT 10 & 11 will be built on reclamation extending south-east from Penny's Bay on Lantau Island.

Each terminal consists of four berths with an operating area of 80 hectares and a quay frontage of 1,280 metres, and will be capable of handling a minimum yearly throughput of 1.6 million TEUs of containers. Back-up areas and other infrastructures necessary for operation of the terminals will also be provided.

The design work is expected to be completed in nine months.

The consultancy will be managed by the Civil Engineering Office of CED.

The contract was signed by the department's Principal Government Civil Engineer, Dr Choi Yu-leuk, and Mr Francis Bong of Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in November 1994

The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in November 1994 increased by 13% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing November 1994 with November 1993, significant increases in the value of outstanding orders were recorded in the textiles industry (+43%), plastic products industry (+26%), electronic products industry (+25%) and fabricated metal products industry (+17%).

On the other hand, decreases in orders were registered in the printing and publishing industry (-21%), wearing apparel industry (-9%) and electrical products industry (-3%).

Compared with October 1994, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in November 1994 increased by 3%. The monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month. Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally.

However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

Beginning from January last year, a new series of statistics on manufacturers' orders-on-hand in value terms compiled in the form of an index is produced, to replace the old series which was expressed in terms of number of months to complete the outstanding orders.

The new statistical series provides a more direct measure of the overall value of orders in the local manufacturing sector that lead to the generation of local manufacturing output.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month.

Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for November 1994, at \$4.5 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Section, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made of the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries:

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	October 1994 <u>over October 1993</u> (Revised)	November 1994 <u>over November 1993</u> (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+13	+13
* Wearing apparel	-7	-9
* Textiles	+33	+43
* Electronic products	+26	+25
* Electrical products	+21	-3
* Fabricated metal products	+32	+17
* Plastic products	+49	+26
* Printing and publishing	-14	-21

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Payroll and wage statistics for September 1994

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Average labour earnings in all major sectors of the economy, as measured by payroll per person engaged, recorded a notable increase of 12.4% in September 1994 compared with September 1993, statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department showed.

After discounting for changes in consumer prices, the increase was 3.6% in real terms.

In September 1994, the overall wage index covering all major industry sectors increased by 9.4% in nominal terms compared with September 1993. After discounting for changes in consumer prices, the increase in real terms was 0.8%.

Analysed by industry sectors, average payroll per person engaged in the manufacturing sector increased by 11.9% in nominal terms or 3.1% in real terms.

Wages showed a smaller increase of 8.1% in nominal terms, equivalent to a marginal decline of 0.4% in real terms. The larger increase in average payroll was due to more overtime work and the issue of irregular payments in some manufacturing industries in September 1994.

For the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector, average payroll per person engaged recorded an increase of 5.4% in nominal terms, or a decline of 3.0% in real terms.

The small increase in average payroll in nominal terms in September 1994 was related to the weak retail sales in recent quarters. The wage index for the sector as a whole however still rose by 9.9% in nominal terms or 1.3% in real terms.

Average payroll per person engaged in the transport, storage and communication sector recorded an increase of 12.5% in nominal terms, or 3.7% in real terms.

The corresponding increases in the wage index for the transport services sector were 10.6% in nominal terms or 1.9% in real terms.

For the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, average payroll per person engaged increased by 8.7% in nominal terms, or 0.1% in real terms. Wages showed similar increases. The relatively smaller increases were mainly affected by the consolidation in the real estate and securities markets in recent quarters.

For the community, social and personal services sector, average payroll per person engaged increased by 16.6% in nominal terms, or 7.4% in real terms.

The wage index for the personal services sector rose by 11.5% in nominal terms or 2.7% in real terms. The large increase in average payroll was mainly due to salary revision and issue of irregular payments by some schools and universities in September 1994.

Changes in the average payroll per person engaged between September 1993 and September 1994 for selected sectors, in both nominal and real terms, are shown in Table 1. Corresponding changes in the wage indices are shown in Table 2.

Statistics on average payroll per person engaged are compiled at quarterly intervals based on the results of the Labour Earnings Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

The wage indices are compiled from the same survey at half-yearly intervals for March and September of the year. The wage indices cover both manual and non-manual workers up to the supervisory level.

Average payroll includes wages as well as all other irregular receipts such as bonuses and overtime payment.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that statistics on average payroll tend to show larger quarter-to-quarter changes, affected by the number of hours actually worked and the timing of payment of bonuses and back-pay.

Detailed breakdowns of the above statistics are published in the "Quarterly Report of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll Statistics, September 1994" and the "Half-yearly Report of Wage Statistics, September 1994".

They will be available shortly at \$24 and \$32 per copy respectively at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong and at the Publications Section of Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor., Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about statistics on average payroll per person engaged, please contact the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2582 5076. As for enquiries on wage statistics, please call the Department at 2582 4744.

Table 1 : Year-on-Year Change in Payroll Per Person Engaged by Selected Major Industry Sector

Selected Major Industry Sector	% change for September 1994 over September 1993	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Manufacturing	+11.9	+3.1
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	+5.4	-3.0
Transport, Storage and Communication	+12.5	+3.7
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	+8.7	+0.1
Community, Social and Personal Services	+16.6	+7.4
All Industry Sectors	+12.4	+3.6

Table 2 : Year-on-Year Change in Wage Indices by Selected Major Industry Sector

Selected Major Industry Sector	% change for September 1994 over September 1993	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Manufacturing	+8.1	-0.4
Wholesale, Retail and Import/Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	+9.9	+1.3
Transport Services*	+10.6	+1.9
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	+8.8	+0.3
Personal Services#	+11.5	+2.7
All Industry Sectors	+9.4	+0.8

*Excluding industries related to storage and communication

#Excluding industries related to community and social services

Construction output statistics for 3rd quarter of 1994

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The gross value of construction work performed by main contractors, including general and special trade contractors, amounted to \$21.9 billion in the third quarter of 1994, and was 14.1% higher than a year earlier, according to the results of a Quarterly Survey of Construction Output released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Compared with the second quarter of 1994, the gross value of construction work performed by main contractors in the third quarter of 1994 decreased by 1.0%.

The gross value of construction work performed on private sector sites totalled \$9.0 billion, representing an increase of 25.8% from the third quarter of 1993 but a marginal decrease of 0.4% from the second quarter of 1994.

The gross value of construction work performed on public sector sites was \$6.5 billion, and was 2.1% and 0.5% higher than those in the third quarter of 1993 and the second quarter of 1994 respectively.

The gross value of construction work performed by general contractors at locations other than construction sites was \$4.2 billion, which was 6.2% higher than that in the third quarter of 1993 but 3.2% lower than that in the second quarter of 1994. This included minor new construction activities and renovation work at erected buildings and structures.

The gross value of construction activities performed by special trade contractors at locations other than construction sites, comprising mainly electrical and mechanical fitting work, totalled \$2.1 billion, and was 28.1% higher than that in the third quarter of 1993 but 3.2% lower than that in the second quarter of 1994.

Analysed by end-use, residential building projects (including commercial / residential (composite) buildings) continued to account for the greatest portion of the gross value of construction work performed at construction sites.

The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$5.2 billion, which was 11.9% and 7.3% higher than those in the third quarter of 1993 and the second quarter of 1994 respectively.

Transport projects remained the second largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects was \$3.8 billion. This was 5.6% higher than that in the third quarter of 1993 but 13.1% lower than that in the second quarter of 1994.

Commercial building projects constituted the third largest category of construction site work. The gross value of construction work performed for these projects totalled \$2.1 billion, which was 23.5% higher than that in the third quarter of 1993 but 5.8% lower than that in the second quarter of 1994.

Owing to the widespread sub-contracting practices in the construction industry, a construction establishment can be a main contractor for one contract and a sub-contractor for another contract at the same time.

The gross value of construction work performed by main contractors, including both general and special trade contractors, covers only those projects in which the construction establishment takes the role of a main contractor, but not projects in which it takes only the role of a sub-contractor.

However, sub-contractors' contribution to projects should have been included in the gross value of construction work performed by main contractors for whom they worked.

More detailed statistics on construction output are given in the "Report on the Quarterly Survey of Construction Output, 3rd Quarter 1994".

The report is now on sale at \$8 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, or at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Section, Wanchai Tower, 19th floor, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai. Regular subscription may also be arranged.

Enquiries about the survey may be directed to the Building, Construction and Real Estate Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on telephone 2805 6426.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

New access road in Ma On Shan proposed

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The prospective grantee of two lots of land in Tai Po is planning to construct an access road from Sai Sha Road to his proposed residential developments at the lots, and to widen a section of Sai Sha Road at Cheung Muk Tau.

During the construction, necessary access will be maintained so as to minimise inconvenience to the public.

Notices concerning the proposed works were published in the Gazette today (Friday).

The plans showing the proposed works can be seen at the central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, the District Lands Office/Tai Po and Tai Po District Office, both in Tai Po Government Offices Building, 1 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories.

Any person who wishes to object to the proposal may write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong not later than March 21, 1995.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

HIV/AIDS situation in 1994

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A total of 104 persons were found to be positive for the HIV antibody test in 1994, the Department of Health announced today (Friday).

This brings the number of HIV-infected persons in Hong Kong to 520.

Thirty-eight new AIDS cases were reported last year.

The total number of confirmed AIDS cases is 130 with 74 deaths reported.

Of the 520 HIV-infected, 190 acquired the infection through homosexual or bisexual sex and 212 through heterosexual sex; 11 were injecting drug users; one was a mother-to-child transmission around the time of birth; and 66 acquired the infection through contaminated blood or blood products before 1985 when HIV antibody test and safe heat treated clotting concentrates were not available.

As for the remaining 40, the information available was inadequate for classification.

Under the HIV surveillance programme which started in 1985, a total of 354,746 blood specimens have been tested for the HIV antibody.

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service has also screened all blood donors for the antibody.

Up to last month, 1,522,448 units of blood had been tested and 36 donors were found positive.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Amendments to Central road works proposed

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The Secretary for Transport has proposed amending the originally proposed road works and associated works that form part of Central Reclamation project.

The original road works and associated works were outlined in a notice published in the Government Gazette on August 28, 1992.

The amended works are required to tie in with the detailed design of the Hong Kong Terminus of the Airport Railway, involving amendments to the alignment of the footbridges and roads; additional laybys along several roads; demolition of existing staircase and escalator at junction of Gilman Street and Connaught Road Central.

A notice of the proposed amendments was gazetted today (Friday).

The plan and scheme can be seen at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; and the District Lands Office, Hong Kong West, 19th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai.

Any person who wishes to object to the works should send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Central, no later than March 21, describing his interest and the manner in which he will be affected.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Pre-qualification application for rebuilding of Tai Tam Road invited

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The Highways Department is inviting applications from approved contractors to pre-qualify to tender for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Tai Tam Road.

The works mainly comprise road surface rehabilitation and associated drainage improvement works along Tai Tam Road from Stanley Village Road to Chai Wan Road and water main laying works between Stanley Village road and Red Hill Road junctions.

A notice on the application for pre-qualification was gazetted today (Friday).

Application documents are available from the Project Manager, Halcrow Asia Partnership Ltd., Room 3201, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Completed pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to the Highways Department, eighth floor, Hennessy Centre, 500 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong not later than noon on February 10.

End/Friday, January 20, 1995

Laying of effluent discharge pipework for Tsing Lung Tau

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The Governor-in-Council has given authorisation for the Government to allow a firm to use 94.5 square metres of foreshore and sea-bed at Tsing Lung Tau as works area for laying of effluent discharge pipework.

The works will start soon for completion in six months.

The extent of the area affected by the works is described in a notice of authorisation in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plans can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and at the Tsuen Wan District Office, first floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and sea-bed involved will be affected may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before January 20, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final statement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate the claim.

End/Friday, January 20, 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	1,767	0930	-540
Closing balance in the account	4,778	1000	-370
Change attributable to :		1100	-402
Money market activity	-336	1200	-336
LAF today	+3,347	1500	-336
		1600	-336

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 120.9 *-0.4* 20.1.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	6.47	16 months	2605	6.35	98.33	7.84
1 month	6.54	22 months	2611	6.90	98.27	8.09
3 months	6.66	27 months	3704	6.15	95.79	8.38
6 months	6.96	33 months	3710	7.25	97.31	8.53
12 months	7.58	59 months	5912	8.15	97.40	9.00

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$24,624 million

Closed January 20, 1995

End/Friday, January 20, 1995