



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Friday, February 21, 1997

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Transcript of the Financial Secretary

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The following is the transcript by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, at the media session at the opening ceremony of the Chinese University of Hong Kong MBA Town Centre at East Ocean Centre today (Friday):

Question: Mr Tsang, how do you feel about retaining in your position in the future Government and what are your thoughts about your future relationship with Mr Tung?

Tsang: Well, I am a very good friend of Mr Tung and to whom have my considerable respect. And I of course feel very honoured that I will be able to continue to serve the SAR Government, that has been my ambition throughout my working career. And I am very happy and honoured that, that aspiration has been realised. And together with my colleagues, we'll continue to work to the full of our ability in the years to come.

Question: What's your response to speculation that your responsibility might be considerably reduced? For example with the head of, speculation of the head of the Monetary Authority having to report to Mr Tung instead of you in the future?

Tsang: Well, there are lots of speculations around. And I am quite sure Mr Tung will take the wise, wisest counsel. And whatever decision he's made, ever ~~made~~ is in the best interest of Hong Kong.

End

Hong Kong to hold textiles consultations with US

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A Hong Kong delegation, led by the Deputy Director-General of Trade, Mrs Rebecca Lai, will leave for consultations on a range of on-going textile issues with the United States (US) to be held on February 24 in Washington, D.C.

The US side will be led by the Deputy Chief Textile Negotiator, Ms Caroyl Miller, from the Office of the US Trade Representative.

The consultations will mainly cover three on-going issues as follows:

- * Matters arising from the US decision in April 1995 to use their import data instead of Hong Kong's export data for quota accounting purposes;

- * The change in the US origin rules for textiles and clothing products which took effect on July 1, 1996; and
- * Notification of administrative arrangements for submission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as required by the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

"On the question of import data for quota accounting purposes, we will focus on making practical arrangements to minimise discrepancies between the data of the two sides," Mrs Lai said.

"We have given the US a number of cases where their data is different from ours, and in some of these cases the US have found their data is wrong and have corrected their records.

"We are pleased with the efforts of the US side in this regard, but the two sides still need to continue to work on a number of cases.

"Such work is important in order to make sure that any differences in the data of the two sides do not lead to inconveniences for the trade," Mrs Lai noted.

So far, there have been no cases where discrepancies between the data of the two sides have led to undue US embargo on Hong Kong's imports.

"We will also brief the US side on the latest development of our Electronic Data Interchange service for restrained textiles export licence," Mrs Lai said.

"Another issue we will discuss is the US origin rules introduced on July 1, 1996 for a range of textiles and clothing products as the new rules could have impact on Hong Kong's trade.

"We will also try to finalise a notification of administrative arrangements with the US for the implementation of the ATC for submission to the WTO," Mrs Lai added.

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Proposals to give effect to judgement on AECS court case

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The Government put forward to the Senior Civil Service Council today (Friday) a package of proposed measures that will give effect to the Court of Appeal judgement on various arrangements to implement the localisation policy.

The Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service, Ms Sandra Lee, met members of the council at a special meeting this afternoon.

The Association of Expatriate Civil Servants (AECS) sought a judicial review in late 1994 of various arrangements introduced by the Government to implement the localisation policy. The case was eventually brought before the Court of Appeal which handed down its judgement on November 22, 1996.

"The package of measures has been drawn up against four basic principles - we need to comply with the Court's judgement, we should balance the interests of different groups of officers; the measures should not create disproportionate management problems or set undesirable precedents; and the resources required should be realistic and reasonable," Ms Lee said.

The proposals cover, amongst others, the lifting of the promotion restriction on overseas agreement officers who transferred to local agreement terms ("the transferees") a few years ago; the granting of personal salaries and increments to transferees who had been demoted upon transfer ("the demotees") until their promotion back to their original rank; allowing the transferees to apply for further transfer to local permanent and pensionable (P&P) terms and introducing modified criteria for transfer to P&P terms that feature, inter alia, a Chinese language requirement and more detailed specification on the existing criteria.

The Government had considered carefully whether it should reinstate demotees to their original rank and re-promote those transferees who had been affected by the promotion restriction, but concluded that these would not be practical as they would give rise to resource and management problems.

"Reinstatement involves the creation of posts in the absence of a functional need. This will be a major departure from existing policy and will complicate the management structure in departments. To promote demotees automatically when the next vacancies arise also creates practical problems and is not entirely consistent with our established principle of promotion through fair competition between eligible contenders," Ms Lee said.

"But our proposals will ensure that demotees will be given a fair chance to compete for promotion on their own merits. We also propose to mitigate their financial loss by granting them personal salaries, increments and other conditions of service as if they had not been demoted," she explained.

"And we propose to reconvene promotion boards where the results have not yet been announced to re-consider the claims of transferees who have previously been excluded because of the promotion restriction. But promotion results which have already been announced will remain intact. Indeed, the Court of Appeal has stated that those promotions are lawful."

The Government also took the opportunity to propose modified arrangements for the transfer of agreement officers serving on local terms to local P&P terms. According to the proposals, applications from all agreement officers on local terms, including transferees, will in future be considered against criteria which include Chinese language proficiency, long-term service need, performance and conduct as assessed by a formal board, and physical fitness.

"Transfer to P&P terms means committing oneself to a long-term career in the civil service. Accordingly, an applicant must convince us that he/she will be able to meet the needs of the service not only within the span of a few years, as in the case of agreement officers, but in the many years ahead.

"And that is why we need to specify a Chinese language requirement for transfer to the permanent establishment. This is in line with our policy commitment to develop a biliterate, trilingual civil service and to meet our operational need in the long term. Exactly what the level of proficiency should be will be determined by the individual Heads of Departments/Grades and Civil Service Branch will provide guidelines to them," Ms Lee said.

The new arrangements for transfer to P&P terms will not apply to applications received from local agreement officers before October 31, 1995 when transfer to local P&P terms was temporarily suspended. Transferees who transferred to local terms before October 31, 1995 can also apply to transfer to P&P terms under the criteria prevailing before the suspension.

For agreement officers who wish to renew their agreement on local terms, the existing policy will remain unchanged. Heads of Departments/Grades will continue to be given the discretion to decide whether or not a Chinese language requirement should be specified having regard to job requirements over the period of the agreement.

"The Government remains firmly committed to the localisation policy of the civil service. What we need to do now is to put in place administrative arrangements to implement the policy in a manner compatible with the Court's judgement," Ms Lee said.

"We hope the package of proposed measures will be accepted by the Staff Side as practical and constructive measures. The Court Case went on long enough. We look forward to having constructive discussions with the Staff Side with a view to resolving the outstanding matters as soon as possible," she added.

End

110 convicted pollution cases recorded in January

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A total of 110 convictions were recorded in the courts in January for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 37 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), 36 under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO), 18 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO), 14 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO), three under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (OLPO), and two under the Dumping At Sea Ordinance (DASO).

The fines ranged from \$200 to \$125,000. Wan Siu-yi was fined \$125,000 for discharging polluting matter into the Deep Bay Water Control Zone.

Four offenders were fined for the first time for offences under the new noise controls which came into effect on November last year in respect of prescribed construction work. The prescribed works include loading, unloading or handling of rubble and steel bars; erection or dismantling of formwork or scaffolding; and hammering.

End

Government lawyers to be trained on China Law

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Eight government lawyers will attend a short course on Chinese law tailor-made for them at Fudan University Law School in Shanghai next week.

The lawyers include six counsel from the Legal Department and two legal aid counsel from the Legal Aid Department.

Joining the course from the Legal Department are Miss Vivian Fung and Mr Danny Yuen, senior crown counsel of the Civil Division, Mr Frank Poon, senior crown counsel of the International Law Division, Mr Llewellyn Mui, senior crown counsel of the Legal Policy Division, Mr John Wong, senior crown counsel of the Law Drafting Division and Mr David Leung, crown counsel of the Prosecutions Division.

Lawyers from the Legal Aid Department are Ms Nina Lee and Miss Jenie Wong, senior legal aid counsel.

The seven-day course, which is the second of its kind to be held and organised by the China Law Unit of the Legal Department, will commence on Monday (February 24).

A spokesman for the Legal Department noted that in accordance with the Basic Law, from July 1, 1997, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will continue to adopt a common law system in contrast to the civil law system in the rest of China.

"It is essential that in order to ensure the two different systems coexist smoothly and interact efficiently, there must be mutual understanding of each other's legal system," he said.

He pointed out that the China Law Unit of the department has been taking steps, through briefings and visits, to enhance understanding of the Hong Kong Legal system in China. Steps have also been taken by the Unit to promote knowledge of PRC law in the Hong Kong government through organising seminars on PRC law for counsel in the department as well as other government lawyers.

For the Fudan University course, the spokesman said there would be a balance of classroom teaching and visits.

The course contents cover Chinese constitutional law, nationality law, administrative law, as well as the Basic Law of Hong Kong, lawyers' law, civil law and criminal law.

End

Town Planning Board amends Tai Po OZP

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The Town Planning Board announced today (Friday) several amendments to the draft Tai Po Outline Zoning Plan.

The existing Regional Council temporary market site at Po Heung Street in Planning Area 1 has been rezoned from "Government/Institution/Community" to "Commercial/Residential" for commercial/residential development upon the relocation of the market to a permanent site at Heung Sze Wui Street. The site has an area of about 0.32 hectare.

To meet the longer-term demand for small houses at Ha Hang Village, an area of about 3.5 hectares to the east of the village and north of Tai Po Industrial Estate in Planning Area 31 has been rezoned from "Green Belt" to "Village Type Development".

An area of about 0.09 hectare to the north of Tai Po Kau Lo Wai in Planning Area 12 has been rezoned from "Residential (Group C)" to "Residential (Group C)2" to increase the development intensity to a plot ratio of 1.5.

Two developed residential sites to the south of Tolo Highway in Planning Area 10, with a total area of about 0.7 hectare, have been rezoned from "Residential (Group C)" to "Residential (Group C)3" to reflect their development intensity.

Meanwhile, the Notes of the plan have been amended to include the schedules of uses for the new "Residential (Group C)2" and "Residential (Group C)3" zones.

The amendment plan (No. S/TP/8) is available for public inspection until March 14 during office hours at:

- * Planning Department
16th floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road, Central,
Hong Kong;

- * Sha Tin, Tai Po and North District Planning Office
Ground floor,
Sha Tin Government Offices,
6 Tung Lo Wan Hill Road, Sha Tin,
New Territories; and

- * Tai Po District Office
Tai Po Government Offices Building,
Ting Kok Road, Tai Po,
New Territories.

Any person affected by the amendments may submit a written objection to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong, before March 14.

Copies of the draft plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

School works in new towns

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The Architectural Services Department will begin work in May to build a practical school and two skills opportunity schools in three new towns.

The projects, scheduled for completion in July 1998, is part of the Government's plan to provide respectively 1,800 and 2,100 practical and skills opportunity school places in the territory.

The practical school in Ma On Shan will make available 450 places while the two skills opportunity schools in Tuen Mun and Tsing Yi will each provide 300 places.

All three contracts for these projects will include construction of classrooms, special rooms, assembly hall, covered playground, car park, basketball court and facilities for the disabled.

Works on the Ma On Shan practical school will also comprise boarding facilities for 120 students.

The Architectural Services Department is inviting separate tenders for these projects.

Meanwhile, tenders are being invited for the extension and conversion works, including associated drainage works, for four aided schools.

Details of the tender invitations are published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

End

HAD urges early enrolment in building management seminar

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Members of the public who would like to participate in a building management seminar to be held on March 15 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre are reminded today (Friday) to send in their enrolment forms before February 26.

The "Building Management Seminar '97", jointly organised by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Housing Department, is aimed at promoting effective building management among residents to help them achieve a better living environment.

"The seminar will give participants an opportunity to acquire a good working knowledge and proper concepts of effective building management, and to share their experience with other participants," a spokesman for HAD said.

"Flat owners, office-bearers of owners' corporations and mutual aid committees, building management professionals, as well as other interested people who want to join in the seminar should submit their enrolment forms to HAD before next Wednesday."

Topics to be covered include the formation of owners' corporations in Home Ownership estates, building electricity maintenance, building repair and maintenance, the Building Safety Inspection Scheme, and legal aspects of building management.

The spokesman said that there would be an open discussion following each session to give participants an opportunity to raise questions and exchange views on various issues relating to building management with the speakers.

"A booth on fire prevention in buildings will be set up by the Fire Services Department at the venue to disseminate fire prevention concepts to the participants. Staff from the department will also be on hand to provide professional advice and answer participants' enquiries on fire prevention," he said.

Admission to the seminar, on a first-come-first-served basis, is free. Enrolment forms are now available at district offices.

Completed forms should be returned to the HAD headquarters, 30/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries can be made at 2835 1496.

End

Public invited to join Fire Services monitoring body

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Members of the public who wish to monitor and improve the delivery of fire and ambulance emergency services are urged not to miss the chance to join the Fire Services Department's Public Liaison Group (PLG).

A spokesman for the department said the deadline for application is 5 pm on February 28 (next Friday).

He said the PLG was formed to foster better understanding between the public and the department with a view to improving the quality of emergency services.

Members of the public aged 18 and above are invited to apply.

Application forms and information sheets are available at all fire stations, ambulance depots and District Offices.

The spokesman said the PLG would have 30 members, comprising 10 residents from each of the territory's three regions - Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

"If the number of applications for each region exceeds 10, a random draw will be held," he said.

"Applicants will be informed of the results before the end of March," he added.

Selected members will serve for one year and the Group will hold at least two meetings annually.

For further enquiries, please telephone 2733 7772.

End

Trial scheme for cycling in country parks

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) will start a six-month trial scheme from next Monday (February 24) to allow cycling in some country park areas under a permit system.

Making the announcement today (Friday), AFD's Senior Country Parks Officer, Mr Lai Ching-wai said two areas would be covered under the scheme. These two areas are Sai Kung West Country Park (Wan Tsai Extension) and the catchment area from Tung Chung Road to Kau Ling Chung in Lantau South Country Park.

Mr Lai pointed out that cycling by people with valid permits would be allowed for a period of six months in these two areas.

Any person interested in cycling in these areas is required to apply for a permit from the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. The application, in the form of a letter, should be addressed to the Director at Canton Road Government Offices, 14/F, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon or by fax 2311 3731.

"The department will not accept any group applications nor applicants under the age of 12," he said, adding that applicants aged between 12 and 18 should seek endorsement from their parents or guardians on their application letters. No permit fee will be charged.

Furthermore, permittees should observe the code of practice for cyclists and comply with the safety equipment requirement including ANSI or similar standard helmet, colourful jerseys, suitable shoes, sturdily built bike with effective braking system, horn or bell and tyre of not less than 4.5 cm in width.

After all, these practices and measures are to ensure the safety of both cyclists and hikers in permitted areas, he said.

Mr Lai was pleased to note that there are many locations in country parks where no permit is required for bicycle riding. Among the areas are Plover Cove Main Dam and its access roads, Hok Tau Road, Kam Shan Road, Lau Shui Heung Road, Shing Mun Road, Tai Mong Tsai Road, Pak Tam Road, Hoi Ha Road and the cycling track at Tai Mong Tsai.

Other than areas mentioned above, cycling is strictly prohibited in country parks or special areas.

"Except with the consent of the Country and Marine Parks Authority, any person who brings into a country park or special area any vehicle or bicycle, or who drives, uses or be in possession of any vehicle or bicycle within a country park or special area is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and to imprisonment for three months," he added.

End

Hong Kong's re-export trade statistics in 1996

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Re-exports accounted for 85% of the value of total exports and 40% of the total value of external trade of Hong Kong in 1996. In 1995, the corresponding shares were 83% and 39% respectively.

These figures, affirming the importance of re-export trade, are amongst the detailed re-export statistics released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Friday).

China remained the largest partner for Hong Kong's re-export trade. As a source, re-exports originating in China accounted for 58% of Hong Kong's re-export value in 1996. As a destination, China's share was 35%. Taking the two directions of trade flow as a whole but counting only once the value of merchandises of China origin re-exported to China, 90% or \$1,062.3 billion of the total \$1,185.8 billion of re-exports going through Hong Kong in 1996 involved China.

It is noted that much of the re-export trade involving China is related to outward processing, as a large proportion of raw materials and semi-manufactured goods are exported to China for processing, with the final products subsequently returned to Hong Kong, and re-exported to overseas markets.

Other main origins of Hong Kong's re-exports in 1996 included Japan (accounting for 11%), Taiwan (6.9%), the United States (5.2%) and South Korea (3.2%).

The main destinations in 1996, besides China, included the United States (accounting for 20%), Japan (6.8%), Germany (4.0%) and the United Kingdom (3.0%).

Table 1 shows the changes in the value of re-exports from the ten main origins in 1996 compared with 1995.

Comparing 1996 with 1995, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports from most main origins: Malaysia (+27%), Singapore (+17%), the United Kingdom (+16%), Italy (+16%), the United States (+12%), Germany (+10%) and China (+7.4%). A slight increase of 1.2% in the value of re-exports originating in South Korea was also recorded. However, slight decreases of 1.4% and 0.9% were recorded in the value of re-exports originating in Taiwan and Japan respectively.

Of the value of re-exports originating in China in 1996, 33% went to the United States, 10% to Japan and 6.5% to Germany.

For goods of Japan origin, 73% of the value of re-exports through Hong Kong in 1996 went to China, 4.1% to the United States and 3.2% to South Korea.

For re-exports originating in Taiwan, an overwhelming proportion (92% of the value in 1996) went to China.

As regards re-exports originating in the United States, 73% of the value in 1996 were shipped to China, 3.9% to Taiwan and 2.7% to South Korea.

Table 2 shows the changes in the value of re-exports to the ten main destinations.

Comparing 1996 with 1995, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports to most main destinations : Japan (+14%), the United Kingdom (+12%), the Netherlands (+9.3%), Singapore (+9.1%), China (+8.8%), France (+7.9%), the United States (+4.9%), South Korea (+4.1%) and Germany (+3.2%). However, a decrease of 4.0% was recorded in the value of re-exports to Taiwan.

Analysed by commodity, increases in the value of re-exports to China were recorded for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$5.9 billion or 19%); textiles (by \$4.9 billion or 7.6%) and iron and steel (by \$3.3 billion or 21%).

However, decreases in the value of re-exports to China were recorded for plastics in primary forms (by \$1.7 billion or 5.7%) and road vehicles (by \$1.2 billion or 12%).

As regards re-exports to the United States, increases in value were recorded for miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$3.3 billion or 5.5%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$2.4 billion or 20%) and clothing (by \$2.2 billion or 10%).

However, decreases in the value of re-exports to the United States were recorded for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$418 million or 1.8%) and general industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts (by \$363 million or 11%).

Detailed statistics of Hong Kong's re-export trade are published in the December 1996 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" report which is now available for sale at \$129.00 per copy.

The report can be purchased at either (i) the Government Publications Sales Centre on the Ground Floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; or (ii) the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong (Tel. No. 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel. No. 2582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS FROM THE TEN MAIN ORIGINS

ORIGIN	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1996 (HKD Mn.)	1995 (HKD Mn.)	(HKD Mn.)	(% CHANGE)
CHINA	683,514	636,392	+ 47,122	+ 7.4
JAPAN	129,292	130,511	- 1,219	- 0.9
TAIWAN	82,177	83,307	- 1,130	- 1.4
UNITED STATES	62,192	55,636	+ 6,556	+ 11.8
SOUTH KOREA	38,049	37,615	+ 434	+ 1.2
SINGAPORE	25,464	21,678	+ 3,786	+ 17.5
MALAYSIA	16,951	13,334	+ 3,617	+ 27.1
GERMANY	16,448	14,886	+ 1,562	+ 10.5
ITALY	12,619	10,899	+ 1,720	+ 15.8
UNITED KINGDOM	12,392	10,661	+ 1,731	+ 16.2

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JAN-DEC	JAN-DEC	YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE	
	1996 (HKD Mn.)	1995 (HKD Mn.)	(HKD Mn.)	(% CHANGE)
CHINA	417,752	384,043	+ 33,709	+ 8.8
UNITED STATES	242,342	230,997	+ 11,345	+ 4.9
JAPAN	80,154	70,081	+ 10,073	+ 14.4
GERMANY	47,216	45,770	+ 1,446	+ 3.2
UNITED KINGDOM	35,991	32,257	+ 3,734	+ 11.6
SINGAPORE	28,388	26,011	+ 2,377	+ 9.1
TAIWAN	26,638	27,758	- 1,120	- 4.0
SOUTH KOREA	20,091	19,292	+ 799	+ 4.1
FRANCE	18,823	17,452	+ 1,371	+ 7.9
NETHERLANDS	18,261	16,702	+ 1,558	+ 9.3

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in December 1996

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in December 1996 decreased by 7% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing December 1996 with December 1995, increases in the value of orders were recorded in the fabricated metal products industry (+17%) and the electrical products industry (+3%). The value of orders for the textiles industry was virtually unchanged.

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the printing & publishing industry (-16%), the electronic products industry (-15%), the plastic products industry (-12%) and the wearing apparel industry (-1%).

Compared with November 1996, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in December 1996 decreased 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.

A spokesman of 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 December 1996, at \$7.0 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 Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 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	
	November 1996 over November 1995 (Revised)	December 1996 over December 1995 (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	- 5	- 7
- Wearing apparel	+ 2	- 1
- Textiles	+ 1	*
- Electronic products	-11	- 15
- Electrical products	*	+ 3
- Fabricated metal products	+ 9	+17
- Plastic products	-11	- 12
- Printing and publishing	-15	- 16

* Changes within +/-0.5%

End

Electors reminded to vote in by-election tomorrow

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The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) today (Saturday) reminded the 4,857 electors of Shuen Wan constituency to vote in the Tai Po District Board by-election in respect of their constituency tomorrow (Sunday).

Three polling stations will be set up, the first in Kai Chi School, Tai Po Tau, the second in Tai Wo Neighbourhood Community Centre, Tai Wo Estate, and the last one in a temporary office at the open space outside 2B, San Tau Kok Village, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po. They will be opened from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm.

An REO spokesman said an elector must bring along his identity card to the polling station as specified in the poll card sent to him earlier. But it would facilitate polling proceeding if he could also bring along the poll card.

For enquiries, please call 2827 1122.

End

Deadlines for applications of AIDS Trust Fund

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The Council for the AIDS Trust Fund announced today (Friday) that four rounds of applications for funding support would take place in 1997/98.

The deadlines for the submission of applications are March 14, May 30, August 29, and November 28 respectively. Completed application forms should be sent to the Secretary for the Council, c/o Health and Welfare Branch, 19-20/F, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

Applicants are advised to adhere to the appropriate deadlines as it will normally take two to three months for processing.

A new application form has been devised to facilitate the planning and processing of applications. They are available from the Secretary for the Council as well as the Red Ribbon Centre, 2/F, Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road East, Kowloon.

Further enquiries can be made at telephone 2973 8136 and 2973 8117, or by fax to 2840 0467 and 2869 4376.

The AIDS Trust Fund was set up in March 1994 to provide assistance to HIV-infected haemophiliacs and generally to strengthen medical and support services and public education on AIDS.

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Application for part-time teachers invited

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The Education Department is now inviting qualified teachers to fill the evening part-time teaching vacancies in various courses in 1997/98 school year.

The department's Adult Education Section organises a number of courses, including English course, government evening secondary school course and adult education course (general background) in centres throughout the territory.

Applicants should be qualified teachers with a genuine interest in teaching adults in the evening.

Experience in teaching arts, science, social or commercial subjects at senior secondary levels and/or possession of a Diploma/Certificate in Education or Advanced Certificate in Teacher Training would be an advantage.

The pay scale for part-time teaching is as follows:

- * \$395 per hour for G.C.E. 'O' Level or Secondary 6 level subjects;
- * \$325 per hour for senior secondary level subjects;
- * \$260 per hour for junior secondary level subjects; and
- * \$235 per hour for primary level subjects.

Application forms can be obtained from the Adult Education Section at Wu Chung House, 11th floor, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai and completed forms should be returned on or before March 22.

If applicants are not called for interview by May 1, they should assume that their applications are unsuccessful.

For further information, please contact the section at 2892 6669.

End

Electronic postage label changed to Ox design

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Friday) that the label paper and machine die plate impression of the electronic postage label (Frama label) vending machine at the General Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office will be changed from the Rat design to the Ox design on March 12, 1997.

No official first day covers will be issued in connection with this change. However, for the convenience of customers, an advance order service for pre-packaged sets of Frama labels bearing machine codes '01' (General Post Office) and '02' (Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office) will be available as follows:

- (a) from 10¢ to \$2.30;
- (b) from \$2.40 to \$5; and
- (c) the most common postage denominations of 10¢, \$1.30, \$1.60, \$2.50, \$2.60, \$3.10 and \$5.

Advance orders will be accepted at all offices in the territory from February 24 to February 26, 1997. Customers may collect the labels on March 12 from the post office where they placed their orders.

A limited quantity of pre-packaged Frama labels bearing the most common postage denominations will be made available for sale on March 12 at the following 19 philatelic offices:

Airport Post Office	Mong Kok Post Office
Aberdeen Post Office	Peak Post Office
Cheung Chau Post Office	Sha Tin Central Post Office
Cheung Sha Wan Post Office	Shau Kei Wan Post Office
General Post Office	Tai Po Post Office
Granville Road Post Office	Tuen Mun Central Post Office
Harcourt Road Post Office	Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
Hennessy Road Post Office	Tsuen Wan Post Office
Kowloon Central Post Office	Yuen Long Post Office
Kowloon City Post Office	

Hand-back service will be provided at all post offices on March 12 for privately-made covers bearing the 'First Day' indication.

End

Water cut in Yuen Long and Fanling

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Yuen Long and Fanling will be suspended from 11 pm on Monday (February 24) to 6 am the following day for waste detection work on watermains.

In Yuen Long, the suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Tai Tong Road, Kau Yuk Road, Shan Pui River and Castle Peak Road.

In Fanling, the suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Lung Yeuk Tau section of Sha Tau Kok Road, Luen On Street, Wo Tai Street and Luen Fat Street, including Luen Wo Market and Union Plaza.

End