



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after opening the Regional Council 10th Anniversary this (Monday) afternoon:

Governor: I'm going to be answering questions after ExCo tomorrow, but I'll answer a couple of questions.

Question: Is there a deal between Britain and China which would allow those who are permanent Hong Kong residents before 1997 to enjoy the same status?

Governor: No. No. There was a headline in one of the papers today saying there had been a deal. If you like to look at the transcript of what I said, I made it absolutely clear that these were extremely important matters and should be settled on their merits. So the decision by the British Government to allow visa-free access to SAR passport holders was taken on its own terms; there was no question of any linkage. What I did say was that that decision had been taken finally after Mr Rifkind's meeting in Peking with Mr Qian Qichen. And obviously the reassurance that Mr Rifkind was given helped the British Government to make its decision. But there was no linkage and I think if you look at the transcript of what I said, I didn't just say that implicitly, I said it explicitly. One more question.

Question: Should the statement issued by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office to try to clarify the neutrality of the civil service erase those worries that have been made by the unnamed source?

Governor: I didn't throw the rock into the pool. It's for those who caused these concerns to set them at rest. If people say things at tea parties which are unwise, then it's perhaps sensible that they say things on the record after tea parties which are more wise. But I know that the Chief Secretary has said how valuable it would be if next time he visits Hong Kong, Director Lu Ping could meet her and discuss what we should all want, which is a smooth transition for our civil service which is one of the reasons for Hong Kong's success and one of the best civil services in the world.

Question: That means you don't want to join two of them's meeting?

Governor: You know perfectly well that the Governor of Hong Kong would be delighted to meet the Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office. The fact that we haven't met isn't my responsibility; it's for Director Lu to explain why we are not meeting as we are supposed to meet under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Airport. I will meet Director Lu whenever he wants. But it appears that he doesn't want to. Well, I think it's sad for Hong Kong, but he'll have to justify that, he'll have to explain that. We could have a meeting without either of us having to jump in the sea.

Question: Will you let Anson to take ... in charge ...?

Governor: Mrs Chan is Chief Secretary. She's the head of the civil service in Hong Kong and I would be delighted for her to meet Director Lu. It would be very good for Hong Kong. Director Lu, I am sure, knows that the Hong Kong Government speaks with one voice. We are all committed to the implementation of the Joint Declaration and I very much hope that that is an objective which Director Lu shares as well.

End

#### Recommendations made on hill fire fighting operation

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The inter-departmental investigation team looking into the Pat Sin Leng fire has put forward a number of recommendations to improve the Government's hill fire fighting and rescue capability to prevent the recurrence of a similar tragedy.

Releasing the recommendations today (Monday), a government spokesman said the investigation report had been submitted to the Secretary for Security through the Director of Fire Services.

"In view of the pending death inquest, we cannot disclose the full details of the report," he said.

The investigation team was commissioned to look into the cause of the fire which occurred on February 10, the circumstances leading to the large number of casualties; and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of this tragedy.

"Drawing from the experience of this incident, the team considered that something could be done to raise public awareness of safety during the conduct of hiking activities and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency responses," the spokesman said.

A total of 29 recommendations were made in the report, covering seven departments involved in the fire fighting and rescue operation.

"All the departments are beginning to take steps to implement these recommendations and we are confident that the majority of them would be implemented within the next few months," he said.

The more significant recommendations include updating safety guidelines for schools' extra-curricular activities; wider publicity on fire safety in the countryside; provisions of communication means for hikers and school parties on excursion; and more training on hiking safety and outings for hikers and teachers.

For casualty evacuation by helicopters, it is recommended that the Government Flying Service should review the deployment of resources during major emergencies and to acquire additional equipment.

Training for basic mountain rescue techniques should be provided for fire fighters by the Civil Aid Services, according to the report.

For prolonged incidents involving multiple casualties, the report recommends that the Auxiliary Medical Services should also deploy its Emergency Response Task Force to the scene to reinforce the Hospital Authority's Mobile Medical Team and to perform instant triage.

An action checklist has been produced of measures to implement the recommendations. The Security Branch will monitor the follow up actions to ensure that all the recommendations are implemented as quickly as possible.

"Actions to implement all these recommendations have already begun," said the spokesman.

"Of the 29 recommendations, nine have been completed or fully integrated into ongoing programmes. We expect action on 28 of the 29 recommendations to be completed within the coming six months."

End

### Official Languages Agency established

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The Official Languages Agency which has taken on an enhanced role to promote the greater use of Chinese in the Civil Service is formally established today (Monday).

The setting up of the new independent agency to replace the former Chinese Language Division under the Chief Secretary's Office is one of the recommendations of the Working Group on the Use of Chinese which released its report last September.

The Commissioner for Official Languages, Ms Choi Ying-pik, pointed out that the reorganisation would give the agency a clear identity and a more authoritative status to take the lead on the language front and effect a change in the culture and attitude of the Civil Service.

She said a proper institutional framework would facilitate the goal of achieving a biliterate (English and Chinese) and trilingual (in English, Cantonese and Putonghua) Civil Service.

"The work ahead will include producing more guidelines and reference materials to assist officers to draft documents in Chinese; to keep closer contacts with policy branches and departments about the progress on this issue.

"In addition, more departments will implement pilot schemes to try out the use of Chinese on a systematic basis when communicating with the public.

"The Agency will also oversee a three-year project to provide Chinese word processing facilities and training for secretarial, clerical and executive grades staff within the Civil Service," she said.

Ms Choi stressed that the move to improve Chinese capability of civil servants should not in any way minimise the importance of maintaining a good standard of English in the civil service.

"Proficiency in English and Chinese are equally important. However, in view that the use of Chinese has lagged far behind in the past, it is now a priority task of the government to introduce a package of proactive measures to implement the recommendations of the Working Group," Ms Choi said.

End

Governor's duty visit to UK

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will leave Hong Kong for London tomorrow (Tuesday) evening to spend the Easter break with his family prior to beginning one of his regular duty visits to the UK.

Mr Patten's duty visit will begin in London on April 10. He will return to Hong Kong on April 14.

During his stay in the UK, the Governor will hold discussions with Ministers and FCO officials on developments in Hong Kong. He will give two lectures in London - the Bank of England's Roy Bridge Memorial Lecture and at the Pacific Asia Programme Seminar organised by the Economic and Social Research Council - and will deliver a speech to the Institute of Directors in Belfast.

End

Squatters under threat of landslides urged to move out

\* \* \* \* \*

Residents staying in structures in the Lei Yue Mun Squatter Area that have been declared to be at immediate risk from landslides have to move out before April 25, a government spokesman announced today (Monday).

The spokesman stressed that prompt removal action has to be taken to ensure the safety of the residents before the arrival of the rainy season.

The Housing Department (HD), together with staff of the Kwun Tong District Office and the Geotechnical Engineering Office, will post notices tomorrow (Tuesday) on about 60 structures to notify the affected occupants of the decision. These structures have been assessed to be under the immediate threat of landslips in August last year.

A majority of the families involved have already accepted alternative housing offered by HD and have moved out.

The spokesman called on those who had repeatedly rejected HD's rehousing arrangements to reconsider the offers for their own safety.

"We shall continue to visit them in these three weeks to see if they need any help," he said.

As to the residents living in structures vulnerable to landslides, they are advised to move to Home Affairs Department's temporary shelters during heavy rain and typhoon, and to accept HD's rehousing offers on a voluntary basis as a long term solution.

End

### Hong Kong Note Printing Ltd

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) today (Monday) announced the completion of the acquisition of De La Rue's banknote printing plant in Tai Po. The name of the new company operating the banknote printing business is Hong Kong Note Printing Limited (HKNPL).

The transfer of ownership of the company took place smoothly in accordance with the Agreement signed between the Hong Kong Government and De La Rue in January.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of HKNPL was also held today under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive of HKMA, Mr Joseph Yam. The four other Directors are: three senior executives from HKMA, Deputy Chief Executive (Monetary), Mr Andrew Sheng, Executive Director (Monetary Policy and Markets), Mr Norman Chan, Executive Director (Reserves Management), Mr John Nugee, and the newly appointed General Manager, Mr Peter So Lai-yin.

"We are very pleased that the transfer of ownership of the note printing operation has taken place smoothly. We are also very glad that Mr Peter So has been appointed as General Manager of the company.

"Mr So has had a distinguished career in the Police Force and his experience in the area of management and security will, I am sure, contribute to the efficient operation of the company," said Mr Yam.

"Although we have taken over the ownership and management of the note printing operation, De La Rue will continue to provide technical support and assistance to HKNPL through a Technical Agreement.

"Moreover, we will continue to have the expert advice and services of three senior expatriate staff from De La Rue who are thoroughly familiar with the technical aspects of the plant," he added.

End

Informal get-together

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Following consultation with the Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch), we are pleased to announce that the ninth and tenth informal get-together between senior Hong Kong civil servants and officials of the Chinese side will take place respectively on April 11 and 12, at the Voting Members' Box, Happy Valley Racecourse starting at 10.30 am. It will end after lunch.

Participating officers will be :

April 11

Mr Peter Lai  
Secretary for Security

Mr Hui Ki-on  
Commissioner of Police

Mr Leung Ming-yin  
Director of Immigration

Mr Raymond Lai  
Commissioner of Correctional Services

Mr Peter Cheung  
Director of Fire Services

Mr Li Shu-fai  
Commissioner of Customs and Excise (designate)

Mr Peter Wong  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations)

Mr Tsang Yam-pui  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Management)(designate)

They will be accompanied by Mr Patrick Lau, Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service and Mrs Philomena Leung, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service.

April 12

Mr Michael Leung  
Commissioner,  
Independent Commission Against Corruption

Mr Kwok Man-wai  
Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations

Ms Janet Wong  
Director of Community Relations

Mr Chan Chi-sun  
Director of Corruption Prevention (acting)

They will be accompanied by Mrs Philomena Leung, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service.

End

Concession on business registration fee exemption

\* \* \* \* \*

Pursuant to the Public Revenue Protection (Business Registration Fees) Order 1996, the concession on business registration fee exemption proposed in the 1996 Budget has come into effect today (Monday).

"For the sale of goods, the average monthly turnover level below which businesses are exempt from payment of business registration fees and levies has been increased from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

"For businesses which derive profits mainly from the sale of services, the exemption level has been increased from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per month," a government spokesman said.

An explanatory leaflet on the exemption conditions and application procedures is available from the Inland Revenue Department and the district offices.

Similar information may also be obtained through the 24 hours telephone enquiry system of the Inland Revenue Department at 187 8088, then press "2" and "6".

The addresses of the Inland Revenue Department are:

- Hong Kong: ground floor, Revenue Tower,  
5 Gloucester Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
- Kowloon: first floor,  
Mong Kok Government Offices  
(adjacent to the Mong Kok KCR Station),  
30 Luen Wan Street,  
Mong Kok, Kowloon
- Tsuen Wan: first floor, Tsuen Wan Station  
Multi-storey Car Park Building,  
174-208 Castle Peak Road,  
Tsuen Wan, New Territories

Any further enquiries relating to business registration matters can be made on 187 8088.

End

Technical support to manufacturers on environmental matters

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The Industry Department has commissioned the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to run an environmental hotline and a technical outreach programme, in a bid to give support to manufacturers on environmental matters.

HKPC will design, set up and operate the Environmental Hotline and to carry out the technical outreach programme consisting of a series of industry seminars, workshops, factory visits and analysis of effluent samples.

Speaking at a contract-signing ceremony today (Monday), Assistant Director-General of Industry, Mr Wong Hon-ho, said the project combined a previous hotline service by the Centre of Environmental Technology Limited (CET) and the technical outreach programme by the HKPC in 1994-95.

"HKPC, teamed up with CET, will now continue the services to support industries in their compliance with environmental legislation and in upgrading their industrial processes for another year," Mr Wong said.

"The hotline is a telephone advisory service, providing information and advice on environmental legislation and standards," he said.

"Focusing on environmental issues affecting individual industrial sectors, the seminars and workshops will be organised in co-operation with industry associations," he added.

Mr Wong said factory visits will be conducted to assess factories' environmental performance and effluent samples will be taken. Problem areas and opportunities for improvement will be identified to assist manufacturers to introduce improved environmental practices into their operations.

Mr Wong also announced the publication of the 1996 edition of "A Guide to Pollution Control Legislation Affecting Manufacturing Industries".

"The fifth consecutive issue published every year by the Industry Department, the Guide assists manufacturers by providing basic information on environmental measures which may affect them, and where technical advice may be obtained", Mr Wong said.

The Guide will be distributed free of charge to over 5,000 manufacturers likely to be affected by environmental measures and to major industrial and trade associations.

End

#### Allegation of ambiguity in employment guide refuted

\* \* \* \* \*

A Labour Department spokesman said today (Monday) that contents of the Practical Guide for Employment of Foreign Domestic Helpers (FDHs) are not ambiguous.

Commenting on today's press reports which quoted the Hong Kong Employers of Overseas Domestic Helpers Association as saying that it found the publication "ambiguous" and could lead to more arguments between employers and FDHs, the spokesman noted that many guidelines published in the booklet are directly related to various provisions in the Employment Ordinance.

"As stated in the preface of the booklet, the Practical Guide intends to provide answers to some common questions received by the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department during conciliation of disputes between FDHs and their employers.

"We have also reminded readers that they should refer to the relevant booklets published by our department if they require further information on the legal provisions," the spokesman said.

He added that guidelines contained in the booklet, if fully adopted by both employers and FDHs, would be practical in reducing many misunderstandings which might develop into undue labour disputes.

The spokesman disclosed that the Hong Kong Employers of Overseas Domestic Helpers Association had earlier expressed their views on the booklet and on the employment of FDHs through contacts with the Labour Department.

"We will consider their suggestions to see whether they are feasible in improving the labour relations between employers and FDHs.

"We advise employers and FDHs to call our enquiries hotline 2717 1771 or approach any branch offices of the Labour Relations Service if they encounter complicated problems relating to employment conditions," the spokesman added.

End

Vast majority satisfied with present situation: HAB poll

\* \* \* \* \*

A public opinion survey conducted in March by the Home Affairs Branch (HAB) has shown that 73 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the present situation in Hong Kong.

Releasing the latest findings of the bimonthly survey, an HAB spokesman said today (Monday) that the figure represented an 11 percentage points increase from 62 per cent in January.

Sixty per cent of the respondents expressed confidence that the territory would continue to be prosperous and stable, up from 55 per cent.

As to the overall performance of the Government, the number of people who expressed satisfaction rose sharply from 39 per cent to 52 per cent.

The survey also revealed that the number of respondents who believed the Government had taken public opinion into account when formulating policies and making decisions, and who considered that the Government had made satisfactory efforts in disseminating information on its policies and decisions to the general public, had both gone up to 63 per cent.

The corresponding figures in the last survey were 58 per cent and 56 per cent.

Of the three most often mentioned problems facing the territory, labour-related issues, although still topping the list, had dropped substantially to 40 per cent from 65 per cent in January.

"Social welfare-related problems" came second at 31 per cent while "housing-related problems" was third at 28 per cent, compared to 12 per cent and 24 per cent in the previous findings respectively.

The survey was the 63rd in the series to gauge the trend of public opinion on perceived problems in Hong Kong and the community's views of the general situation.

Through a random sampling of residential telephone numbers, 1,520 persons aged between 15 and 64 were interviewed.

End

#### AIDS ambassadors to promote AIDS awareness campaign

\* \* \* \* \*

Five famous radio programme hosts and hostesses - Mr Hung Chiu-fung, Ms Li Pik-sum, Mr Gary Ngan, Ms Pamela Pak and Mr Paul Tse - have been appointed AIDS awareness ambassadors by the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS) at a ceremony held today (Monday).

The ceremony also marks the official opening of the "10 Years of AIDS in Posters Exhibition" at the Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of CEPAIDS, Ms Carlye Tsui said: "The AIDS awareness ambassadors would exercise their charms and appeals to convey AIDS awareness messages.

"They include encouraging women to take initiatives to protect themselves from being infected, to remind people to practice safe sex and avoid sexual promiscuity, and to treat AIDS patients and HIV carriers fairly," she said.

The five AIDS awareness ambassadors will appear in a series of television announcements of public interests (TVAPI), posters and postcards to promote the prevention of AIDS.

"They will also disseminate messages on AIDS to their supporters and people from all walks of life in their own radio programmes and newspaper columns," said Ms Tsui.

Apart from involving the five programme hosts and hostesses in a variety of publicity activities to promote AIDS prevention, CEPAIDS, formed by the Government to advise on and co-ordinate publicity and educational campaigns on AIDS, will also organise a large scale two-day conference on AIDS in November.

Professionals from different fields of work, including medical experts, social workers, researchers, government officials, educators and students will participate in the conference to give their expert opinions on AIDS prevention, one of the most pressing issues of mankind.

The "10 Years of AIDS in Posters Exhibition", which will be until April 7 at the Pao Siu Loong Galleries, Hong Kong Arts Centre, is a showcase of publicity posters produced by the Government and voluntary agencies in the past decade.

"The posters mark the continuous effort of the Government and voluntary agencies on promoting the prevention of AIDS in the past 10 years.

"They also show how publicity strategies on AIDS prevention in Hong Kong have evolved in the past 10 years," Ms Carlye Tsui said.

People attending the exhibition are welcome to participate in a contest to select the best posters.

Admission is free.

End

### Royal Navy searches for "old shipmates"

\* \* \* \* \*

A Royal Naval presence in Hong Kong, lasting more than 150 years, will come to an end when HMS Tamar decommissions in March 1997.

To mark this final chapter in a long and illustrious association between the Royal Navy and the territory, a series of events has been organised for later this year to which "old shipmates" still living in Hong Kong will be invited.

The search is now on for these shipmates and the Chief of Staff and Senior Naval office in Hong Kong, Captain Peter Melson, will attend a press call tomorrow (Tuesday) at Prince of Wales Barracks during which he will invite former LEPs (Locally Engaged Personnel) and members of the Royal Navy to contact HMS Tamar so they may be included in any future guest list.

He will also be giving brief details of some of the events taking place to mark the Royal Navy's departure next year.

There has been a Royal Navy presence in Hong Kong since January 25, 1841, when Sir Edward Belcher, Captain of HMS Sulphur, landed at what is now known as Possession Point.

Towards the latter part of the 19th century, the original small invasion group of naval vessels began to grow both in number and capability, forming the East Indian Fleet. Royal Navy warships continued to be based in Hong Kong until the colony was invaded by Japan in 1941.

Liberation was later affected by Rear Admiral Harcourt's naval task force on August 30, 1945, after which the Royal Navy returned to establish a base in the territory.

Today the operational elements of the Royal Navy are based at HMS Tamar, on Stonecutters Island, where they moved in May 1993 from their former base in Central.

HMS Tamar, commanded by Commander Ross Thoburn, controls and supports the operation of the Peacock class patrol craft, HM Ships Peacock, Plover and Starling, the three ships of the Hong Kong Squadron. Attention News Editors:

You are invited to attend the press call which will take place at 11.45 am tomorrow at Prince of Wales Barracks, Central.

Media representatives should arrive at the main gate no later than 11.30 am where they will be met by JSPRS officers.

End

#### Applications for cross-border coach services

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The Transport Department is inviting applications from suitable operators to provide cross-border coach services between Hong Kong and China through the Lok Ma Chau Border Control Point.

A spokesman for the department said today (Monday) that to facilitate the processing of applications, applications should be submitted simultaneously to the Public Vehicles Section, Licensing Division of the Transport Department, Hong Kong, at third floor, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong and the Country Port of People's Government of Shenzhen Port Office.

Applications should be made in writing giving the following information :

- \* Applicants' personal particulars, including name, identity document, address and contact telephone number. In the case of a company, the name of the person(s) to be contacted and information on company registration;
- \* Description of the nature of the service, the number and type of vehicles used, and seating capacity;
- \* The proposed daily number of crossings between Hong Kong and China, crossing time at the Control Point (the new coach services will not be permitted to cross the Border Control Point earlier than 10 am, this time will be subject to review as necessary), detailed routing and terminal facilities on Hong Kong side;
- \* Relevant experience in operating similar transport services;
- \* Details of partnership arrangements i.e. names and addresses of Hong Kong partners in China; and

- \* Approval-in-principle documents issued by acceptable Chinese authorities for providing cross-border coach services.

Unsuccessful applicants in response to the Transport Department Notice of October 16 need not reapply. Their applications previously submitted will automatically be reconsidered in this invitation exercise.

The closing date for applications on the Hong Kong side is April 30, 1996. Applications may be lodged in person or by post.

All applications are free of charge, and will be valid for one year with effect from the closing date of applications.

Applications are subject to approval at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Sub-Working Group Meeting on Cross Border Transport Services. Further enquiries can be made to Mr Tsoi Muk-fai on 2804 2578.

End

#### School dance performances in April

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Members of the public can expect a treat when dancers from the School Dance Exchange and winners of the 32nd Schools Dance Festival give their performances in April.

Tickets at \$20 (student ticket), \$30 and \$40 are on sale at the URB TIX outlets and there will be a 10 per cent discount for any purchase of 10 or more tickets.

Student tickets are available for full-time students on a first-come-first-served basis.

The School Dance Exchange Performance, jointly organised by the Education Department and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Council, will be held at 7.30 pm on April 7 and 8 at the Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall.

A selection of Chinese, Oriental, modern, Western folk/national and children dances will be performed.

The School Dance Exchange between Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong and Fuzhou, is an annual event hosted by the four regions in turn. This is the second time Hong Kong hosts this function.

Apart from the performances, a dance workshop for promoting friendship and sharing the experience in choreography will be organised for all participating teams and local teachers on April 8 at Jockey Club Ti-I College, Sha Tin.

Meanwhile, the Schools Dance Festival Winners Performances cum Prize Presentation, jointly presented by the Education Department, the Urban Council, the Regional Council and the Hong Kong Schools Sports Council, will be held at the Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, from April 6 to April 8 and at the Concert Hall, City Hall from April 17 to April 19, respectively, commencing at 7.30 pm each evening.

Over 4,000 students from 226 participating schools, including secondary, primary and special schools, took part in the dance festival in January.

Fifty-four teams were awarded honours, 125 high commendation, 136 commendation and 19 choreography.

Results of the Overall Challenge Award are:

Secondary School Section

Champion : SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School  
1st Runner-up : Bishop Hall Jubilee School  
2nd runner-up : Sacred Heart Canossian College  
3rd runner-up : St Paul's Convent School

Primary School Section

Champion : Sam Shui Natives' Association School (AM)  
1st runner-up : Yaumati Catholic Primary School (AM)  
2nd runner-up : Dr Catherine F Woo Memorial School (AM)  
3rd runner-up : Hong Kong Taoist Association Ng Lai Wo Memorial School (AM)

Most Progressive School Award

Secondary School Section: Sacred Heart Canossian College  
Primary School Section : Sam Shui Natives' Association School (AM)

End

BN(O) passport application

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The final date for Hong Kong British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs) born between 1982 and 1986 to apply for British National (Overseas) (BN(O) passports will be June 29, a Hong Kong government spokesperson reminded the public today (Monday).

Hong Kong BDTCs (such as persons born, naturalised or registered in Hong Kong) must obtain a BN(O) passport if they wish to continue to travel on British passports beyond 1997. As specified in the Second Schedule to the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986, applications for BN(O) passports must be submitted on or before the final dates relevant to their age groups.

Parents or legal guardians of eligible children born between 1982 and 1986 must submit their applications on or before June 29. To avoid a last minute rush, they are advised to apply early.

Hong Kong BDTCs living, working or studying abroad, are also required to observe the cut-off dates if they want to apply for a BN(O) passport. However, they are not required to return to Hong Kong for their applications.

They should submit their applications to the nearest British passport issuing office either by post or in person. The required overseas application forms can be obtained at those offices or the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

Persons who do not comply with the relevant cut-off dates will not be able to travel on British passports beyond 1997. An application made after the final date will only be accepted if the applicant can show that there are special circumstances which justify his late application.

A BN(O) Late Registration Appeals Advisory Committee has been established to advise the Governor on those late applications which have been rejected by the Immigration Department.

The spokesperson emphasised that those who already had a BN(O) passport, either the conventional hard-cover type or the burgundy red machine readable type, need not apply again.

To save time in queuing up at Immigration Offices, eligible applicants should send in their applications by post or make use of the drop-in box service. Drop-in boxes are installed at the Immigration Headquarters and branch offices throughout the territory.

Only persons who are not holding Permanent Identity Cards (including children under the age of 11), who have lost their previous passports, or who need the passport for urgent travel should apply in person.

For more information, members of the public may telephone 2824 1177 (English) or 2824 1717 (Chinese).

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 79.4 per cent of capacity or 465.526 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 391.861 million cubic metres of water, representing 68.9 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,456	0930	+345
Closing balance in the account	2,551	1000	+345
Change attributable to :		1100	+345
Money market activity	+345	1200	+345
LAF today	-250	1500	+345
		1600	+345

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.7 \*+0.0\* 1.4.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.99	2 years	2802	5.16	98.70	5.99
1 month	4.98	3 years	3901	5.57	98.55	6.23
3 months	5.08	5 years	5103	6.75	100.38	6.77
6 months	5.16	7 years	7302	6.02	95.01	7.06
12 months	5.50	5 years	M502	7.30	101.55	7.02

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$19,300 million

Closed April 1, 1996

End