



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Monitors' report on ORP operation submitted to CS

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The Government announced today (Saturday) that the independent monitors who observed the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP) operation in the High Island Detention Centre yesterday (January 13) had submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The monitors were Professor Nelson Chow Wing-sun, JP; Mr Chiu Chun-bong, JP; Mr Philippe Gerard from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Mr Stephen Tsui from Oxfam.

The Chief Secretary is grateful to the monitors for observing the operation and producing the report particularly bearing in mind that they were called in at short notice after a decision was made to bring forward the transfer operation by 24 hours.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

Lucozade Light under recall

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The Department of Health today (Saturday) confirmed that the Smithkline Beecham Limited had recalled a batch of Lucozade Light 250 millilitres as a precautionary measure for consumer safety.

The stock involved was sold in green bottles with green caps with the expiry date December 22, 1995 printed on the side of the bottle caps.

A spokesman for the department urged retailers to co-operate in the recall exercise and follow the steps advised by the company.

Food inspectors of the department had already visited some retail outlets and taken samples of the product for testing.

The spokesman also urged the public not to consume the products under recall. Any person feeling unwell after consumption of the products should consult doctors immediately.

So far, no complaints concerning Lucozade Light 250 ml have been received by the Department of Health.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

Task force geared up to tackle environmental black spots

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New Territories residents as well as land owners and operators are urged to give full co-operation to the Lands Department's Black Spots Task Force in cleaning up the environment in the New Territories.

The plea was made today (Saturday) by Dr Samuel Wong, chairman of the special committee set up to advise the Government on matters relating to environmental black spots, and to oversee the work of the task force.

After making his first official site inspection of black spots in northwest New Territories, Dr Wong said: "Cleaning up the black spots in the New Territories is not just an environmental conservation issue. It also has an important bearing on improving the environment in general and the quality of life in particular."

Dr Wong said enforcement actions under the current legislation must be stepped up with a view to terminating the unauthorised developments on crown land, followed by appropriate reinstatement work, such as landscaping.

"Lease enforcement actions should also be taken against those operations that have illegal structures on site, while dialogue with the relevant land owners and operators on ways to improve the environmental impact of their operations should be established.

"However, permission given for operation on land under government control should be terminated if the operation cannot be improved," Dr Wong added.

He acknowledged that it would require time and sufficient manpower to carry out clearance operations, but action must be taken now to tackle the problem.

Head of the task force, Mr Allan Hay, said because of limited resources, it was now concentrating its actions in Pat Heung and Ha Tsuen, where the black spots were inspected today by members of the special committee.

Describing the extent of the problem his staff of about 100 would have to deal with, Mr Hay said: "Over the past 10 years, there has been a proliferation of conversion of agricultural land into open storage yards and other similar unauthorised uses in the rural New Territories, such as car wrecking operations.

"Although this haphazard development is largely a response to legitimate economic pressures, it has led to widespread degradation of the countryside.

"In 1991, the Town Planning (Amendment) Ordinance was enacted as a means to contain the problem. Under this ordinance, those conversions that had already taken place when various plans under the ordinance were published were recognised as 'existing uses', and therefore legal.

"While those established after publication of the plans were treated as 'unauthorised development' and are subject to enforcement action," Mr Hay said.

Mr Hay said the task force, supported by a multi-disciplinary team of land, planning, landscape and technical/field staff, will adopt a concentrated approach of land administration measures, including:

clearance of operations that occupy government land illegally, followed by reinstatement work, for example, landscaping;

- * lease enforcement action against those operations that have illegal structures on site;
- * liaising with owners/operators with a view to improving the operations on site and reducing the impact of environmental degradation;
- * improving the operations on land held under short-term tenancy & short-term waiver to reduce environmental degradation;
- * possible termination of offensive short-term tenancies and short-term waivers;
- * possible termination by negotiation of some very offensive operations;
- * possible relocation of some operations to more suitable sites; and
- * liaison with other government departments and outside consultants on the overall problems and to consider alternative approaches to deal with them, for example, legislative amendments.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

New cross harbour bus route No.115 and re-numbering of route No.119

The Transport Department announces today (Saturday) that a new air-conditioned cross harbour bus route No.115 will start operation from Monday (January 16).

The new cross harbour bus route No.115, plying between Kowloon City Ferry Pier to Macau Ferry Pier in Central, will travel via To Kwa Wan Road, Ma Tau Wai Road, Whampoa Garden Bus Terminus, Cross Harbour Tunnel, Gloucester Road, Connaught Road Central, Des Vouex Road Central, Hennessy Road and Wan Chai Road.

The route will operate between 7.15 am and 7.45 pm in 15 minutes intervals from Mondays to Saturdays. No service will be provided on Sundays and Public Holidays.

The fare for each trip is \$7.5 and the fare for the journey after the Cross Harbour Tunnel is \$4.5.

Meanwhile, starting from the same day (January 16), the existing cross harbour bus route No.119 will be re-routed via Eastern Harbour Crossing and it will be re-numbered to No. 619.

The cross harbour bus route No. 619, plying between Shun Lee and Macau Ferry Pier in Central, will travel via Kung Tong Road, Hong Ning Road, Lei Yue Mun Road, Eastern Harbour Crossing, Island Eastern Corridor, Man Hong Street, King's Road, Tsing Fung Street, Victoria Park Road and Wing Hing Street.

The route will operate between 6.43 am and 7.43 pm in 10 minutes intervals from Mondays to Saturdays. No service will be provided on Sundays and Public Holidays.

The fare for the non air-conditioned bus service for each trip is \$6.2 and the section fare of the journey after the Eastern Harbour Crossing is \$3.1.

The fare for the air-conditioned bus service for each trip is \$8. The section fares for the journey after the Eastern Labour Crossing and between Hennessy Road to Shun Lee are \$4.5 and \$7.5 respectively.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

Quality service acknowledged

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The high quality of services provided by staff of the Licensing Division of the Transport Department was acknowledged by more and more customers.

Their acknowledgement was expressed in the form of enthusiastically casting their nominations in the Best Licensing Service Award 1994, the second of its kind since June 1993.

A total of 7,577 nomination forms have been received by the department during the month-long nomination period in December last year. This represented an increase of 123 per cent over that of 3,413 forms received in 1993.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr Rafael Hui, said at the prize-presentation ceremony today (Saturday) that the result was most encouraging and was a clear indication that both the customers and licensing staff were keen in promoting the idea of quality service.

"The best 10 counter staff received a total of 4,223 nominations. Of these 59 per cent praised our staff as polite and sincere, 52 per cent considered their service efficient, 50 per cent recognised our prize-winning staff pleasant and 47 per cent considered them full of smiles while at service," Mr Hui said.

"I wish to pay my personal tribute to the winners who are with us today. I also wish to thank other members of our devoted team who have helped to make this exercise a success," he said.

While acknowledging that the licensing staff had to face an ever-increasing workload, Mr Hui said both the department and the Government did recognise their difficult tasks and were actively taking action to improve their working environment.

"For example, the relocation of the Hong Kong Licensing Office from its old premises at Murray Road Carpark to United Centre last August provided a more spacious and convenient environment to both our customers and staff.

"In addition, we plan to spend \$1 million to improve the design of our Kowloon Licensing Office to better serve the public. Above all, we will continue with our effort to fulfil our performance pledges on licensing services to the community of Hong Kong," he added.

The 10 awardees who were presented with trophies and prizes by Mr Hui were: Mr Ho Hau-yuen from the Driving Test Section; Mr Leung Yiu-wah from the Sha Tin Licensing Office; Miss Wong Kam-mai from the Kwun Tong Licensing Office; Mr Yip Tin-kwai, Miss Law Pun-lan and Miss Lee Mei-hing from the Kowloon Licensing Office; and Miss Lo Wai-hing, Miss To Wai-yee, Miss Lai Ching-ying and Mr Yick Yiu-bing from the Hong Kong Licensing Office.

Mr Hui thanked the Shell Hong Kong Ltd, and the Hong Kong and Macau Director of the Company, Mr Robert Young, for their full support and generous sponsorship for the award scheme.

He also thanked the department's Customer Liaison Group (CLG) members who have devoted their valuable time and effort in giving sound advice to the department to improve various licensing services.

In recognition of the support of those nominators, Mr Young and two CLG members drew 20 nominators, each of them will be awarded an oil coupon worth of \$500.

Mr Young also presented a souvenir to representatives of the Sha Tin Licensing Office, the Best Licensing Office 1994 selected by licensing customers.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

Cookie campaign funds elderly work

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Mrs Patten today (Saturday) called upon residents to support a Cookie Campaign, which raises funds for Helping Hand to continue its work in running residential care homes, sheltered housing units and a holiday centre for the elderly.

This year Helping Hand chooses "Successful Ageing" as its theme to help more of the elderly take a positive look at life and give them a sense of achievement.

In addition to their regular programmes, elderly people are encouraged to take part in community service projects.

"I was struck by how many of our elderly people are still making their own contributions to our community," she said.

Last autumn, she entertained many of the elderly volunteers to tea in Government House.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

Fresh water cuts in Causeway Bay, Tai Po and Tai Hang

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Causeway Bay will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (January 16) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at 7-19 Great George Street, 27-65 and 42-72 Paterson Street, Cleveland Street, Kingston Street and Houston Street.

Meanwhile, fresh water supply to Hong Lok Yuen, Tai Po and some premises in Tai Hang will also be cut off from 11 pm on Tuesday (January 17) to 6 am the next day for water mains leakage detection and connection respectively.

In Tai Hang, the affected areas will include Mount Butler Road, Mount Butler Drive, Moorsom Road, Price Road, Wilson Road, Cooper Road, Goldsmith Road, Purves Road, Henderson Road, Boyce Road, Creasy Road, Perkins Road and 9 Chun Fai Road.

End/Saturday, January 14, 1995

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	2,735	09:30	+441
Closing Balance in the account	2,086	10:00	+441
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+441
Money Market Activity	+441	11:30	+441
Laf Today	-1,090	15:00	

Laf Rate 3.75% Bid/ 5.75% Offer TWI 120.8 *+0.0* 14.1.95

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