



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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The Governor's "Letter to Hong Kong"

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Following is the full text of Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's broadcast on RTHK's "Letter to Hong Kong":

The memory of one of my very first visits as Governor is still clearly with me.

It was a blisteringly hot afternoon. We were all boiling damp, as my grandmother would have put it. As part of the trip I went to see a sheltered workshop for youngsters with a mental disability. Waiting patiently outside, grilling in the sunshine, were a group of parents and their disabled children, petitioning for better training and day care facilities for themselves. They had posters and banners and T-shirts and hats - and petitions, lots of petitions. They were courteous and kind, and very, very, long-suffering.

A short while later, I went to see one of the parents in her own home. In a small flat, she was bringing up a large family, one of whom was suffered from a severe mental disability. She really did have her work cut out every day looking after this much loved son, preventing him coming to any harm and trying to keep him alert and occupied. She was pretty well on her own, except for the help she got from the rest of the family. No respite. No relief. Day after day of hard work, grinding hard work, day after day of loving care with not many "thank yous" except, I guess, those that families mean but usually forget to say.

Not long after this, I was answering questions at one of my first public meetings. A young man, with a physical disability and wheel-chair bound, asked me a thoughtful question about the government's commitment to providing services for people like him. People who had to cope and make their way in the world against the odds and often against the prejudices of their fellow men and women.

I took a number of lessons from those various encounters. I was impressed by the qualities of the disabled and their families - those with a disability of the mind as well as of body. I was impressed by their dignity, their determination, their commitment, their courage, their intelligent restraint. How many people with a less good cause, with less strong or important arguments, put their point more aggressively, less thoughtfully.

Well, I don't think that noise is the best argument. Hong Kong's citizens with a disability and their families deserve a hearing, and I believe they are starting to get a hearing.

In some ways, the least demanding thing for the community to do is to provide better facilities - residential places, training, day care. We set ourselves 2 and a half years ago to meet the targets for better services that had already been agreed. We can easily afford to do this. We live in a prosperous community. Most of us are much better off these days. Without any threat that we might be about to break the bank, we can give our fellow citizens with a disability a much better deal.

It's not entirely straightforward, and we're not going as quickly as I would like, because we've often had trouble in getting the homes, the hostels, the work-shops, bought, built and up and running as fast as we wanted. But we are keeping up the pressure. Because every missed target is days, weeks, months of more disappointment, more patience, more hard work, for all those brave families and all those determined individuals who have a disability.

One reason - not a very wholesome reason - for delay has been the hostility in some areas to building facilities for people with a disability in their midst. "Not in my neighbourhood", is sometimes the cry. That's a prejudice that we've got, quite simply, to bury in the goodwill and understanding of the overwhelming majority of the people of Hong Kong. We're going to pass a Bill to make discrimination against those with a disability unlawful. That's an important mark of society's views on behaviour which all should know is totally unacceptable. But you can't really win hearts and minds with laws. Greater understanding, a broader sense of responsibility, and a sense, too, of everyone's worth, are the best ways of overwhelming narrow-minded and short-sighted prejudices.

We need those qualities elsewhere too as well, if we are going to tackle successfully the most difficult areas of all - giving people with a disability the chance to live their lives to the full, to contribute, to excel.

Just think what that means.

There's an excellent coffee bar in Central near the law courts. It's run by a group of people with a disability. Ask yourself - how did they get the job? And then ask - having got it, how do they get to work to do it?

Those are two areas that we've been looking at - jobs and transport. And with transport, we're really starting to make some progress. The MTRC, the KCR and the LRT are making it easier for people with a disability to use their rail services. And we're starting to get somewhere too with our ferries, ships and even - though it's tougher - with our buses.

It's a start, the result of a sensible, civilised dialogue between the transport operators and concern groups.

Creating more job opportunities is a bigger challenge. We're trying to give a lead in government. Some have done particularly well. The Hospital Authority and the Housing Department, for example. We've challenged the private sector to join hands with us in this. Some firms are doing so. And doing so with conviction and success. Some - but not enough. I hope we can persuade more employers to do more themselves, to do everyone a favour.

Why do I say that?

We often say that Hong Kong doesn't have any resources to speak of except its people. And employers often grumble that there just aren't enough people, not enough good people, to go round. So what sort of sense does it make to turn our backs on so many of those who, because of a disability, sometimes need a bit of assistance in order to get the opportunity of contributing? Contributing their skills, their loyalty, their hard work.

Hong Kong has an obligation to help those who face life with a disability, and when we do that, when we hold out a hand, we help Hong Kong to be more prosperous as well as more decent.

Think of the way that standards have soared in the last few years. Not for all, but for most. Standards in housing, and health care. Standards in education - with more young people than we could have ever dreamed possible a decade ago going to our universities today. Standards in our daily living - more food, more shopping, more travel, more money in the bank. Wider horizons and fuller days.

I think it's time to give our friends with a disability in Hong Kong a better and fairer deal too. Time to give them a happier today and a brighter tomorrow. It's their turn. So let's move over a bit and give them the chance they deserve.

End/Sunday, May 7, 1995

Transcript of Financial Secretary's remarks

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Following are the remarks made by the Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, after opening the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics today (Sunday):

Good morning,

A nice ceremony; I think a good demonstration of the way the community is now uniting to help the mentally-handicapped. In this case, of course, the disciplined forces are all represented here raising funds for the Special Olympics in July, so that was a quite heartening morning, I think. Any questions?

Question: Concerning the Airport Authority Bill, what is the progress now? Is it a fact that the Hong Kong Government must get the support from the Chinese side before gazetting the Bill?

FS: We have, of course, always said that we would discuss the Bill with the Chinese side before we put it to LegCo and that is what we've been doing. I am hopeful that those discussions will be finished pretty soon. Clearly, we want to give LegCo as much time as we can to consider it and hopefully get it through before the end of the session - end of July. So, we will try and get it gazetted and to LegCo as soon as possible. At the moment we are still talking to the Chinese side. I don't expect any serious problem.

Question: But have you got any deadline?

FS: I don't have any deadline, no.

Question: About a month ago, we heard Director Lu Ping has said there is hope that the Financial Support Agreement will come out within weeks but so far we've seen nothing; are there any new difficulties that have arisen?

FS: It is very difficult to give an analysis of why it is taking so long. As you say, there were some hopeful statements - actually, quite a number of hopeful statements. I think we're very nearly there. But we've thought that in the past. But I am optimistic that we will get it fairly soon. It is very important that we do get the Financial Support Agreements fairly soon because - particularly for the airport - we need to enter into some new commitments quite soon, actually, within the next month or so. So, unless we get the agreements - and then of course we have to go to Finance Committee as well for one or two aspects - then we do risk some delay.

Question: So have any new problems arisen so that the information may be (inaudible)?

FS: No, I don't think there are any new problems. I think the subject has been extremely well discussed; we just need, now, to get the will to actually sign up.

Question: Concerning the Budget and the transfer of sovereignty, is there any progress on fixing a date for a new round of JLG expert meetings?

FS: No, as far as I know, up until today we are still waiting for the Chinese side to fix a date. But we are ready; we've set out what we would like to discuss with them, brief them on, and we are at their disposal. Thank you very much.

Question: Sir Hamish, is there any new target date for the opening of the new airport?

FS: No, there is no new target date yet. As we've said many times, until at least we've got the FSAs signed up, it's a bit difficult to start recalculating the likely date. Thank you very much.

End/Sunday, May 7, 1995

#### Demolition of illegal rooftop structures begins

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The Buildings Department has commenced demolition of the illegal rooftop structures at Kingland Apartments today (Sunday).

Preparation work for the demolition had started on April 24 following the execution of a Closure Order earlier the same day.

Considering the fact that the affected rooftop occupants would require time to remove their belongings, the department had decided on that day to defer demolition of the structures until today.

"Our prime concern is building safety," Assistant Director of Building, Mr Lok Che-leung, said. "The Building Authority has a duty to safeguard public interest. These illegal structures pose a threat to safety and therefore they have to be demolished."

"All the affected rooftop occupants have been offered rehousing. Staff from the Housing Department, Social Welfare Department, the Yau Tsim Mong District Office and Buildings Department are on site to offer whatever further assistance to the occupants as may be necessary," Mr Lok added.

End/Sunday, May 7, 1995

### New ferry piers in Central

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The Marine Department announced today (Sunday) that ferry services will be relocated to new piers at the reclamation in Central in May and advised all vessel masters navigating in the vicinity to note the changes of the traffic pattern.

The new reclamation in Central is in the form of two bunds.

The west bund is immediately eastward of Macau Ferry Terminal and the new pier at this bund is called Pier 1.

The Central-Lamma Island ferry service will be relocated to operate at the east wing of Pier 1 on May 9.

Also, the Central-Cheung Chau and Central-Mui Wo ferry services will be relocated to operate at Pier 7.

Immediately westward of the Star Ferry Piers is the east bund where there are three new piers: Piers 5, 6 and 7, from west to east.

On May 16, a landing pontoon will be moored to the northern end of Pier 6 and the Central-Tsuen Wan ferry service will be relocated to operate at this pier.

Also, the Central-Tsuen Mun ferry service will be relocated to operate at the landing pontoon.

A spokesman for the Marine Department urged masters of all vessels navigating in the vicinity to note the changes of traffic pattern in this heavy marine traffic area.

The spokesman said masters should pay particular attention to the need of maintaining a safe distance from the piers.

"Due regard must be taken of the manoeuvring of ferries approaching and departing from the new piers," he said.

Small craft owners and masters are advised to obtain and take note Marine Department Notice No. 33 of 1995 which promulgates the details of the arrangements and are available at the Port Formalities Office, third floor, Harbour Building Government Offices, 38 Pier Road, Central and at District Marine Offices.

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### 47 new building plans approved in February

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The Buildings Department had approved 47 building plans in February this year.

Among them, 26 are for Hong Kong Island, five for Kowloon and 16 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 20 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 14 for commercial development and two for factory and industrial developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 33 building projects, which involve 71,984.3 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 95,506.3 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$861 million.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 61,642.2 square metres and 35,855.5 square metres respectively.

Also in February, the department had issued 18 Occupation Permits - Seven for Hong Kong Island, four for Kowloon and seven for the New Territories.

In addition, 13 demolition consents involving 24 buildings were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division had received 575 complaints of unauthorised building works, carried out 1,568 inspections and issued 345 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

The department's Dangerous Buildings Section had also inspected 788 buildings and obtained an Emergency Closure Order from the court.

End/Sunday, May 7, 1995

### Beat drugs course for teachers

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Sixty secondary school teachers are being invited to participate in a three-day course on drug education for them to exchange views on how to help students with drug abuse problem.

The regular course, organised by the Education Department and the Narcotics Division, will be held between August 23 and 25.

A spokesman for the Education Department reminded teachers wishing to attend the course to return completed application form to the Department on or before June 23 as seats would be reserved on a first come, first-served basis.

The course is aimed at enhancing teachers' understanding of the drug problem and equipping them with the skills required to tackle the problem.

It will feature the harmful effects of drug and treatment process; preventive drug education in schools; identifying and handling students with drug problems; an overview of drug problems in Hong Kong and the work of the Narcotics Division and the use of a drug education teaching kit.

At the course teachers will have the chance to participate in talks, seminars, workshops and small group activities to share ideas.

Among the speakers will be inspectors from the Education Department, staff of the Narcotics Division, social workers, police officers and school principals.

End/Sunday, May 7, 1995

### Clean and Green Scheme closes with joy

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Hundreds of young people were today (Sunday) treated to hours of music entertainment and outdoor activities in a game-packed fun day to mark the finale of this year's Clean and Green Scheme.

The youngsters were invited to the fun day and the closing ceremony at the scenic Sai Kung East Country Park as an acknowledgement to their efforts and support of the scheme's many activities in the past few months.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Chairman of the Country Parks Board Dr I J Hodgkiss said this year's scheme was again a success, with record number of participants taking part in the meaningful activities.

Taking the litter collection exercise as an example, Dr Hodgkiss said it had attracted more than 15,000 participants since the launching of the scheme last November.

"Apart from physical involvement in keeping our country parks clean, youngsters also helped promote a cleaner and greener countryside through the participation in slogan and jingle design competitions," he said.

An inter-secondary school quiz contest on endangered species and local wildlife was also organised to arouse students' awareness of protecting them, he added.

The scheme is an annual educational and publicity programme organised by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) to promote the message of keeping our country parks clean and green.

At the closing ceremony, cash prizes and trophies were presented to winners of the scheme's slogan and jingle design competitions.

The champions of the children and youth sections of the slogan competition went to Mr Wong Moon-wah and Miss Lam Siu-fong respectively. They had each created a very good slogan promoting the message of clean and green country parks. This competition attracted 117 entrants.

In the jingle design competition, three students of a Tung Wah Group of Hospitals school emerged as the overall winner, while the first and second runners-up went to students of the Tai Kok Tsui Catholic Primary School.

At today's fun day, participants also enjoyed music and folk song performed by the Music Office and Lions Club members.

Dr Hodgkiss thanked the local Lions Clubs for their contribution to this year's scheme by providing financial sponsorship and involving in Clean and Green activities.

Also present at the closing ceremony were AFD assistant director Mr Frank Lau, assistant music administrator of the Music Office Mr K C Yeung and District Governor of Hong Kong and Macau Lions Clubs Mr William Leung.

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**"Most Improved Students" awarded**

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The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, will officiate at the presentation ceremony of the Sing Tao Most Improved Students Award 1994-95 on Tuesday (May 9).

The annual event, which is open to all secondary schools, including government, aided, private and special schools, is aimed at encouraging junior secondary students to fully develop their individual potential.

This year, a total of 754 students from 391 secondary schools who had attained the best all-round improvement in performance over the last school year, will each receive an award of \$600 at the prize presentation ceremony.

The scheme, which has been held for six years, is organised by the Education Department and sponsored by the Sing Tao Foundation.

Attention News Editors:

Your representatives are invited to cover the prize presentation ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, at 2.45 pm on Tuesday (May 9).

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**Special stamps on "Hong Kong Rural Heritage"**

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The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Sunday) that a set of special stamps on the theme of "Hong Kong Rural Heritage" will be issued on May 24. There will be four denominations : \$1, \$1.90, \$2.40 and \$5. The stamps were designed by Mr Ian Leung Yim-yam and printed by Joh Enschede of the Netherlands.

This set of stamps features four of the old traditional buildings in the New Territories: Tsui Shing Lau (\$1); Sam Tung Uk (\$1.90); Lo Wai (\$2.40) and Man Shek Tong (\$5).

Miss Law said: "This set of special stamps has two main features which make them a prestigious collection. Firstly for the first time, Hong Kong postage stamps are printed by both Lithography and Intaglio. Lithography is commonly known as off-set lithography printing and is ideal for full colour printing. Intaglio is a traditional printing process seldom used nowadays on Hong Kong stamps.

"It is also known as line-engraving or recess-printing. The ink lies in the recesses and the paper is forced into them to take up the ink, hence the characteristic grooves and ridges on stamps printed by Intaglio.

"The combination of the two techniques, which is unique in postage stamp printing, results in an optimum rendering of colours and fine line drawings, and is particularly suitable for the present stamp design characterised by full colour features and heavy linework.

"The second special feature of the stamps is that the stamps are printed in mini-sheets of ten instead of 50 as is the normal practice. Each mini-sheet has a control serial number. It has a selvage featuring traditional Chinese roof ridges (on the top) and supporting joint brackets (at the bottom). These embellishments are also printed in Intaglio," Miss Law added.

The stamps will be displayed for advance information of the public at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tsuen Wan Post Office as from May 10.

Official first day covers will be placed on sale at all post offices as from May 10 at \$1 each. Advance orders for serviced first day covers will be accepted from May 10 to 17. The minimum number of covers per order is five.

A restriction of 15 sheets (150 pieces) of stamps of each denomination per customer queuing will be imposed on the first day.

Hand-back service will be provided at all post offices to all official and privately-made covers bearing the first day of issue indication on May 24.

Serviced first day covers pre-affixed with the set of stamps and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark will be placed on sale on May 24 at the following seven philatelic offices at \$13.80 each:

- \* Beaconsfield House Post Office
- \* General Post Office
- \* Granville Road Post Office
- \* Peak Post Office
- \* Sha Tin Central Post Office
- \* Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
- \* Tsuen Wan Post Office

Presentation packs containing the four stamps will also be made available for sale at \$18 each at all post offices as from May 24.

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Seminar to promote effective building management

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Building management professionals will share their experience with other participants at a seminar next month to promote effective building management.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Department (HAD) said today (Sunday) flat owners, officer-bearers of owners' corporations, owners' committees and Mutual Aid Committees are all welcome to join the "Building Management Seminar '95" to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Jointly organised by the HAD and the Housing Department, the seminar on June 24 will discuss the management contract scheme of the Housing Department, the Lands Tribunal's jurisdiction over building management, maintenance of electrical installations in buildings, the importance of professional building management and other related issues.

Speakers will include representatives of the Housing Department, the China Light and Power Co Ltd and the Association of Property Management Co Ltd, and the Registrar of Lands Tribunal.

There will be an open forum at which participants and speakers can exchange views on various issues relating to building management.

Admission is free and is on a first come, first served basis. Application forms are now available at District Offices.

Completed forms should be returned to the HAD headquarters, 29th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai before May 25.

Enquiries can be made on tel 2835 1496.

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\$184 million Lotteries Fund approved

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A total of \$184,009,000 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the first quarter of 1995, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

"Of the amount, \$24,754,800 are earmarked to family and child welfare services, \$25,082,000 to elderly and medical social services, \$119,488,400 to rehabilitation services, \$10,216,800 to youth services, \$171,000 to community development services and \$4,296,000 to social welfare support programmes," the spokesman said.

The Lotteries Fund was established for the purpose of financing, by way of a grant, loan or an advance, the operation or development of social welfare services and medical or educational projects with a welfare content.

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Customs enquiry hotline widely used by the public

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The 24-hour automated telephone enquiry service of the Customs and Excise Department has been widely used by the public since its operation, a spokesman of the Customs and Excise Department said today (Sunday).

"In the month of April, a total of 900 calls was received together with 113 requests for facsimile copies of information leaflet," the spokesman said.

"These figures of enquiries are encouraging in our continued effort to better serve the community," he added.

The enquiry hotline is 2815 7711 which operates through a computerised interactive voice response system and provides information on the following topics - dutiable commodities licences, permit and code; motor vehicle first registration tax; import and export trade declaration; ad valorem charges, clothing levy and penalty charges; consumer protection; and procedures of lodging complaint against the department.

Members of the public making enquiry would only need to dial the number and follow the instructions given through the phone.

The system also enables callers to speak to designated staff of the department during office hours for specific enquiries to which the hotline service cannot provide adequate answers.

In addition, it provides a built-in fax-on-demand facility which allows callers to obtain a facsimile copy of information leaflets on the topic requested.

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