



---

## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

---

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

Wednesday, November 6, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of Governor's media session .....	1
Need to safeguard students from biased political information .....	1
19 nominated for LAB election .....	3
First AIDS conference in Hong Kong to open on Friday .....	5
International Water Supply Association to meet in Hong Kong .....	6
EMSD pushes ahead with energy efficiency .....	7
Builders' lift and tower working platforms fees revised .....	8
List of environmental reports released .....	9
Tour of China'96 souvenir sheet and serviced cover on sale .....	12
Three lots of land to let .....	13
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	14

Transcript of Governor's media session

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a transcript of the media session given by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after presiding over the Hong Kong Institute of Education graduation ceremony at the Hong Kong Coliseum, Hung Hom, this (Wednesday) afternoon:

Question: Can you talk about Bill Clinton who has been re-elected. Do you think there will be any impact to Hong Kong ?

Governor: I don't think that the results of the election should make any difference to Hong Kong. As you may remember, I met President Clinton and Senator Dole when I was in the United States in May. They were both very well briefed on Hong Kong and both very supportive of Hong Kong recognising that Hong Kong's future success is important to the region, is important to APEC, and is important to the world. So, I don't think there would have been any difference whatever the outcome. But given that the president's election victory and I'd like to congratulate him very warmly. It is obviously a substantial victory. I very much hope that American policy will continue to be as helpful and supportive of Hong Kong as it has been over the last several years.

Question: Governor, in the morning you said you worried about self-censorship .....before 1997. Why are you worried about that ? Is there any phenomenon so that there is self-censorship of journalists of Hong Kong ?

Governor: I think all of you know it's a point that has been put to me on a number of occasions by a number of people including in the past proprietors and I think the views that I reflected not just this morning, but on a number of occasions, reflect a general view in the society. I think it would be very sad if we gave away some of our freedoms, rather than standing up for them. And obviously, editorial independence and independent commentary is an important part of life in a free society. You may have noticed from time to time that newspapers and the media criticise the Governor and the government. Well, whether or not we like it, that is part of living in a free society, and I think Hong Kong would be much the poorer, both as a society and as an economy if we would lose that editorial independence, that freedom of speech or give it away. And that is the point that I have made on a number of occasions.

Question: Why you avoid on comments on Chinese side have revealed confidential information of PLA advance group. Do you think Hong Kong government has over reacted on this issue ?

Governor: No, certainly not. We've set out our position very plainly. I think these things are best discussed confidentially and I thought the remarks that were made were very unhelpful and that is why we protested in strong terms to Chinese officials. I think the whole community recognises that there should be some, I repeat some advance personnel for the PLA in Hong Kong to learn about sites and to secure military sites before the first of July, 1997. But those numbers don't need to be large, they don't need to arrive until rather later and they must certainly be subject to the laws of Hong Kong and I can see no justification for people carrying weapons.

End

Need to safeguard students from biased political information

\* \* \* \* \*

The Administration sees the need to retain legislative power to make regulations to control the dissemination of information, or expression of opinion, of a clearly biased political nature in schools.

This was stated today (Wednesday) by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong in response to a Member's Bill introduced by the Hon Christine Loh in the Legislative Council to repeal section 84(1)(m) of the Education Ordinance and regulation 98(2) of the Education Regulations.

"The provisions should be retained in some form to safeguard the interests of the students. Therefore we do not support repealing these provisions. However, we are prepared to consider appropriate amendments to the wording of the existing provisions," Mr Wong said.

He pointed out that the Education Department has issued circulars to schools stressing the need to present a balanced view and to educate students to think for themselves. "These have been supplemented by the new guidelines on civic education issued in September 1996 emphasising the importance of developing students' critical thinking," Mr Wong said.

End

19 nominated for LAB election

\*\*\*\*\*

The Labour Department has received 19 nominations from registered employee unions for election as representatives of employees on the Labour Advisory Board (LAB).

"Of the 19 candidates, five will be elected to the board for a two-year term starting next January," a spokesman for the Labour Department said today (Wednesday).

The election will be held at 3 pm on November 30 (Saturday) in the hall of Haking Wong Technical Institute at 702 Lai Chi Kok Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon.

The candidates are:

- \* Mr Cheung Kwok-bui  
Hong Kong Civil Servants General Union
- \* Mr Leung Chau-ting  
Clerical Grades Civil Servants General Union
- \* Mr Leung Yek-chuen  
Hong Kong Customs Officers Union
- \* Mr Lam Him  
Hong Kong Customs Officers Union
- \* Mr Leung Tsz-leung  
Hong Kong and Kowloon Free Clerical Workers' Union
- \* Mr Louie Tin  
Hong Kong and Kowloon Candle, Paper and Paper-work Workers' Union
- \* Mr Leung Ping-fai  
Hong Kong Construction Industry Professional Plant-operators and Mechanics Association
- \* Mr Chan Ngan-yau  
Hong Kong Construction Industry Professional Plant-operators and Mechanics Association

- \* Mr Sam Chiu-fai  
Hong Kong Construction Industry Professional Plant-operators and  
Mechanics Association
- \* Mr Leung Fu-wah  
Hong Kong and Kowloon Rubber and Plastic Workers General Union
- \* Mr Poon Siu-ping  
Hong Kong Storehouses and Transportation Staff Association
- \* Mr Wai Kam-tim  
Government Schools Clerical Staff Association
- \* Mr So Ping-chi  
Hong Kong Marine Department Local Professional Officers' Association
- \* Mr Tse Siu-hung  
Hong Kong Marine Department Local Professional Officers' Association
- \* Mr Cheng Yeung-ming  
Hong Kong Marine Department Local Professional Officers' Association
- \* Mr Lee Kwai-bor  
Kowloon Motor Bus (1933) Co., Ltd. Staff Association
- \* Mr Or Din-man  
Kowloon Motor Bus (1933) Co., Ltd. Staff Association
- \* Mr Mak Kwok-fung  
Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff
- \* Mr Cheng Sei-fung  
Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff

"Meanwhile, about 307 employee unions have so far registered with the Labour Department as electors for the coming LAB election," the spokesman added.

"Each elector may appoint up to two authorised representatives, who must either be paid-up members, officers or paid staff of the union, to attend the election," he said.

The LAB is a tripartite consultative body which advises the Commissioner for Labour on labour matters including legislation and the application of International Labour Convention and Recommendations.

It comprises 12 members, six each on employees' and employers' sides, with the Commissioner for Labour or her deputy as the ex-officio chairman.

One employer and one employee members will be appointed directly by the Government.

End

#### First AIDS conference in Hong Kong to open on Friday

\* \* \* \* \*

A two-day AIDS conference, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, will be held on Friday (November 8) and Saturday (November 9) at the Lam Woo International Conference Centre of the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Hosted by the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) and sponsored by the Department of Health (DH), the conference will comprise a plenary session, symposiums, forums, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events.

Mrs Lavender Patten will officiate at the opening ceremony. Other officiating guests include ACA chairman, Dr Conrad Lam; the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Ms Carlye Tsui; the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok; and the acting Director of Health, Dr Paul Saw.

DH's HIV/AIDS surveillance statistics for the third quarter of this year will be released at the session of Symposium A at 2 pm on Friday.

Highlights of the two-day conference include plenary session on Friday (11 am to 12.30 pm). Professor Zhang Kong Lai of CHINA AIDS NETWORK, Dr Emile Fox of UNAIDS China and Ms Anna Wu will speak at the session.

Themes of the six symposiums are: Symposium A - Public Health Aspects of HIV/AIDS (Friday, 2 - 3.30 pm); Symposium B - Clinical Management of HIV Infection (Friday, 4 - 5.30 pm); Symposium C - Social Impacts and Responses (Friday, 4 - 6.30 pm); Symposium D - Prevention and Education (Saturday, 9.30 am - 12 noon); Symposium E - Psychosocial Aspects of HIV Care (Saturday, 2 - 3.30 pm); and Symposium F - Role of NGO in HIV Prevention and Care (Saturday, 4 - 5.30 pm).

End

## International Water Supply Association to meet in Hong Kong

\*\*\*\*\*

Hong Kong is having this week the largest gathering of water supply experts from all over the world.

The International Water Supply Association (IWSA) will hold a series of meetings including Executive Board Meeting from November 7 to 9 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) in Wan Chai.

The IWSA, of which Hong Kong is a corporate member, is the world's renowned international organisation on water supply, a spokesman for the Water Supplies Department (WSD) said today (Wednesday).

"With interests and influence spanning the whole world, the association's membership covers more than 70 countries with responsibilities for 95 per cent of the world's water supply.

"IWSA is holding its meetings in Hong Kong for the first time because the territory has long been recognised as a centre for the international interflow of knowledge and technology," he said.

Following the IWSA meetings, the biennial highlight and showcase of the Association's activities - IWSA-Asia Pacific Group Regional Conference and Exhibition - Water Hong Kong '96, will be held at the same venue between November 11 and 15.

"Hosted by the WSD, the regional conference will be attended by over 450 delegates from all over the world. Some 90 technical papers will be presented in the sessions," the spokesman said.

The programme of the five-day conference comprises technical meetings, a plenary session, technical visits and post conference tours.

Meanwhile, an exhibition by consultants, contractors, suppliers and manufacturers related to the water supplies industry will be held between November 12 and 15 at the HKCEC. Admission is free.

End

### EMSD pushes ahead with energy efficiency

\* \* \* \* \*

The Energy Efficiency Office of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is implementing several initiatives on energy efficiency and conservation.

This was stated by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Hugh Phillipson, today (Wednesday) at the opening of a symposium on electrical services in buildings.

"We are working on building energy codes and an energy end-use data base, energy efficiency labelling for household electrical appliances, and energy and environmental management of government and public buildings.

"We are in dialogue and have been working with the two power companies on several pilot studies for energy efficiency lighting.

"Also, there have been several innovations in tariffs to encourage off-peak use of power, including a pilot ice storage air-conditioning tariff," Mr Phillipson said.

He noted that over the world, there was a common view amongst responsible organisations, whether government, professional institutions or companies, about the serious potential problems relating to energy - in particular the limited future of fossil fuels and the adverse environmental impacts of increasing energy production and use.

"In Hong Kong a high-level body called the Energy Advisory Committee has been set up to advise the Government on energy policy, including energy supply and demand and energy conservation and efficiency.

"Chaired by Professor Charles Kao and with distinguished membership representing academic institutions, professional bodies, industry and the Government, the committee will have a major impact in advising the Government on the way in which energy issues should be dealt with in Hong Kong in the critical period ahead," he said.

Turning to electrical safety, Mr Phillipson said the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulations which aimed at enhancing the safety of domestic electrical appliances would be enacted and enforced in the current Legislative Council session.

"A recent regulation of plugs and adaptors has been very successful in eliminating some dangerous adaptors and plugs that used to be on sale.

"Under the Electricity Ordinance and several sets of associated regulations, we ensure adequate standards of safety are adopted and maintained in new and existing buildings.

"It is our top priority that electricity should be used safely and efficiently in buildings," he added.

End

Builders' lift and tower working platforms fees revised

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government is to revise specific fees charged under the Builders' Lifts and Tower Working Platforms (Safety) (Fees) Regulation.

"This is in line with government policy that fees should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full costs of providing the services," a government spokesman said today (Wednesday).

"The fees, which were introduced in July 1995, will go up by nine per cent with effect from December 20 this year to reflect the cost of services at 1996/97 prices. The proposed increase is based on the movement of the Government Consumption Expenditure Deflator from 1995/96 to 1996/97."

Details of the revision are as follows:

<u>Description of Fee Items</u>	<u>Existing Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Proposed Fee (\$)</u>
* For inclusion in the register of examiners of a person who qualified under Section 3(2) of the Builders' Lifts and Tower Working Platforms (Safety) Ordinance	725	790
* For inclusion in the register of examiners of a person who does not qualify under Section 3(2) and whose qualifications are being considered under Section 3(3) of the ordinance	3,210	3,500

*	For the renewal of registration of a registered examiner	480	525
*	For inclusion in register of contractors	2,990	3,260
*	For the renewal of registration of a registered contractor	480	525
*	For the examination of a report and certificate of test and examination issued by a registered examiner after installation or re-erection of a builder's lift or tower working platform in accordance with Section 18(1)(a) or (b) of the ordinance	1,720	1,870
*	For the examination of a report and certificate of test and examination issued by a registered examiner after the carrying out of major alteration work to a builder's lift or tower working platform in accordance with Section 18(1)(c) of the ordinance	1,230	1,340
*	For the examination of a certificate of test and examination issued by a registered examiner after the carrying out of periodic and examination of safety equipment	330	360

End

#### List of environmental reports released

\* \* \* \* \*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Wednesday), released a list of environmental impact assessment(EIA) reports of major development projects completed between July and September this year as well as those which will be completed in the coming 12 months.

A complete list of all ongoing EIAs is available for public inspection at the Environmental Resource Centre at 221, Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Following is a list of major EIA reports completed between July and September 1996:

1. Additional Treatment and Water Transfer Facilities for Metropolitan Area and NENT (Tai Po Treatment Works)  
(Water Supplies Department)
2. Tai Po Development - Formation and Servicing of Area 12 (Part) and 39 Pak Shek Kok  
(Territory Development Department)
3. Proposed 2nd 132 KV Submarine Cable Link to Shekou China  
(China Light & Power Co Ltd)
4. Main Drainage Channels for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin  
(Territory Development Department)
5. Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I, Principal Collection and Treatment System  
(Drainage Services Department)
6. Proposed Reclamation and Relocation of United Floating Dock, Tsing Yi  
(Hong Kong United Dockyards Ltd)
7. Three Potential Housing Development Sites - Sham Tseng, Canton Road, and Hollywood Road.  
(Housing Branch)
8. EIA for Site Formation for Packages 1 and 2 in Reserve Zone, Tin Shui Wai  
(Territory Development Department)
9. River Trade Terminal at Tuen Mun Area 38 Environmental Impact Assessment Study  
(River Trade Terminal Co Ltd)

Major EIA's that are likely to be completed in the next 12 months from September onwards include:

1. Main Drainage Channel for Fanling, Sheung Shui and Hinterland  
(Civil Engineering Department)
2. Route 16: From West Kowloon to Sha Tin  
(Highways Department)

3. Sham Tseng Link Feasibility Study  
(Highways Department)
4. Sand Extraction and Backfilling of Eastern Waters Marine Borrow Areas  
(Civil Engineering Department)
5. Central Reclamation, Phase III  
(Territory Development Department)
6. MTR Tseung Kwan O and Quarry Extensions  
(Mass Transit Railway Corporation)
7. KCR Hung Hom Extension cum Ma On Sha Rail Link  
(Highways Department)
8. Aviation Fuel Pipeline  
(Airport Authority)
9. Central/Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link  
(Highways Department)
10. Backfilling of Marine Borrow Area at East Tung Lung Chau  
(Civil Engineering Department)
11. Wan Chai East and North Point Sewerage  
(Drainage Services Department)
12. Tsuen Wan Bay Further Reclamation  
(Territory Development Department)
13. Feasibility Study for Castle Peak Road Improvement between Ka Loon Tsuen and Tsuen Wan  
(Highways Department)
14. Road D15 Linking Lok Shun Path and Tai Po Road  
(Territory Development Department)
15. Kowloon Point Development Feasibility Study  
(Territory Development Department)

16. Hiram's Highway - Improvement between Nam Wai and Ho Chung and Upgrading Local Access Road  
(Highways Department)
17. Engineering Works (Roads & Drains) - Aldrich Bay Reclamation  
(Highways Department)
18. Kennedy Road Improvement and Queen's Lines Link  
(Highways Department)
19. South East Kowloon Development Feasibility Study  
(Territory Development Department)
20. Disposal of Contaminated Mud in the East Sha Chau Marine Borrow Pits  
(Civil Engineering Department)

End

Tour of China'96 souvenir sheet and serviced cover on sale

\*\*\*\*\*

The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, announced today (Wednesday) that a souvenir sheet and a serviced cover issued by the United States Postal Service to commemorate the US professional cycling team's participation in the Tour of China 96' will be placed on sale at 19 philatelic offices from Friday (November 8).

The selling prices of the souvenir sheets and serviced covers are \$8 and \$20 respectively.

The Tour of China 96' is an international cycling event which commenced on November 1 and will end on November 11. The tour began at Stonecutters Island of Hong Kong and ends at Xinzhuang of Jiangsu in China. Eleven professional and five amateur teams, representing 18 countries, are participating.

The souvenir sheet contains two US50c stamps depicting cycling. The serviced cover is affixed with the souvenir sheet and cancelled by the postmark of November 1, 1996.

On the first day of sale, a restriction of 10 souvenir sheets and 10 serviced covers per customer queuing will be imposed. The 19 philatelic offices are:

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

End

Three lots of land to let

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancies of three pieces of government land in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long.

Two of the lots are located at Yick Yuen Tsuen in Tuen Mun and have an area of about 13,500 and 7,670 square metres respectively.

Both are designated for open storage, excluding storage of motor vehicles, containers, container tractors and trailers, scrapped metals, cement/sand or chemical products. The tenancy is for one year only.

Covering an area of about 8,020 square metres, the third lot is located in Tin Shui Wai Area 3, Yuen Long. It is intended for use as a fee-paying public car park and the tenancy is for one year, renewable quarterly.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on November 22 (Friday).

Tender forms, tender notices and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road and the District Lands Offices of Kowloon, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun.

Tender plans can also be inspected at these offices.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,349	0930	+548
Closing balance in the account	2,655	1000	+548
Change attributable to:		1100	+548
Money market activity	+546	1200	+546
LAF today	-240	1500	+546
		1600	+546

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 125.0 \*+0.3\* 6.11.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/MTRC

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.96	2 years	2808	6.00	100.68	5.66
1 month	4.93	3 years	3910	6.28	100.67	6.12
3 months	4.94	5 years	5109	7.32	103.08	6.67
6 months	4.99	7 years	7308	7.24	101.88	7.00
12 months	5.25	10 years	1610	7.37	101.43	7.30
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.78	7.02

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$19,954 million

Closed November 6, 1996

End



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

## SUPPLEMENT

Wednesday, November 6, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
<u>Legislative Council meeting :</u>	
Rabies (Amendment) Regulation 1996 .....	1
Fugitive Offenders Bill .....	2
Securities and Futures Commission Amendment Bill .....	4
Street lighting in rural areas .....	5
Measures to enhance safety of crane operation .....	6
Dispute over private land ownership .....	8
Updated list of property assets by Government .....	9
Police to enforce inviolability of consular premises .....	11
UGC's recommendations on hostel policy being considered .....	12
Treatment of HIV infection .....	13
Salary scales for academic staff of UGC-funded institutions .....	14

/Survey on .....

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Survey on cost impact of labour legislation being conducted .....	16
Wife battering and child abuse cases .....	19
Work on Broadcasting Bill .....	21
Sandwich Class Housing Scheme .....	22
Measures to combat crimes related to stolen ID cards .....	23
HOS flat owners responsible for slope maintenance .....	25
Water quality monitoring incorporated in works contracts .....	26
Public housing for elderly people .....	28
Taxi licencing systems differ from cities to cities .....	31
Certificate of Compliance for PSPS flats .....	32
Transaction clearance of the HK Futures Exchange .....	33

Rabies (Amendment) Regulation 1996

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Stephen Ip, in moving the motion to amend the Rabies (Amendment) Regulation 1996 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

As I mentioned in the last sitting, the Economic Services Branch and the Attorney General Chambers have decided, in response to the request of the Legal Service Division of the Legislative Council, to move this Resolution to amend the Rabies (Amendment) Regulation 1996 tabled in the Council on 2 October 1996, so as to clarify the relationship between the policy intention and the wording of several sections of the Regulation.

In order to ensure the proposed Resolution is presented in its best form, the manner in which the Rabies (Amendment) Regulation should be amended, has been agreed with the Legal Service Division.

The proposed Resolution introduces provisions to clarify the particulars to be specified in a dog licence, the purpose of the microchip that is to be implanted into a dog and the transitional arrangements in respect of licensing and microchip implantation.

Specifically, part (a) of the resolution adds a new section 19A to set out the particulars to be specified in a dog licence, these being antecedent to the requirement in section 20A to report changes to important particulars supplied in the licence application.

Part (b) amends section 20A(1) to clarify that it is the person to whom a dog licence has been granted, rather than the keeper of the dog at any particular time, who must report such changes.

Part (c) substitutes for a proposed amendment to section 27(1)(c) a clearer provision, in a new section 27A, empowering an authorised officer to implant a microchip into a dog. It also creates a consequential offence of unauthorised implantation. Finally, it clarifies that the microchip serves not only as evidence of vaccination against rabies, but also as a means of identification of the dog.

Parts (d) and (f) provide for minor consequential amendments.

The intention of proposed section 28(2) is to provide that the keeper of a dog that has been vaccinated against rabies shall ensure that his dog is implanted with a microchip. Part (e) of the resolution adds a new section 28A to provide for transitional arrangements in this respect. It clarifies that the keeper of a licensed dog that has already been vaccinated against rabies before commencement of section 28(2) is required to comply with that section only as and when the licence is renewed.

Mr President, I beg to move.

End

### Fugitive Offenders Bill

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in moving the second reading of the Fugitive Offenders Bill in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move that the Fugitive Offenders Bill be read a second time.

Surrender of fugitive offenders is an important area of international co-operation in law enforcement. This co-operation is based on the principle that an offender should not be able to avoid trial or serving a sentence by moving from one jurisdiction to another. The need to be able to return and seek the return of fugitive offenders is a key element of the administration of justice in criminal matters. This need has to be balanced by sufficient safeguards to protect the fundamental rights of the individuals involved.

Hong Kong's arrangements for the surrender of fugitive offenders are at present contained in UK extradition agreements and reciprocal arrangements with Commonwealth jurisdiction. These UK agreements and Commonwealth arrangements have been extended to Hong Kong by the relevant UK Orders in Council, but they cannot continue to apply to Hong Kong after 30 June 1997. With the agreement of the Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group, we are therefore establishing a network of Hong Kong's own bilateral agreements with other jurisdiction for the surrender of fugitive offenders which will remain in force beyond 1997. However, we cannot bring any of our new agreements into operation until the Bill is passed into law.

The main purpose of the Bill is to provide the appropriate legal framework to enable Hong Kong to implement these new agreements. It is necessary to ensure our continued co-operation with other jurisdictions after the handover and the successful implementation of the programme for the surrender of fugitive offenders.

The Bill contains provisions to ensure that fugitive offenders are only surrendered for specified, serious offences. The Bill also contains provisions to safeguard an individual's rights. For example, the Bill provides for-

- \* a requirement that the evidence against the fugitive would be sufficient to justify his committal for trial if the offence had been committed in Hong Kong (i.e. the prima facie rule);
- \* specialty protection (i.e. offenders will not be tried for offences other than those for which they were originally surrendered);
- \* a requirement that there be no surrender unless the conduct constituting the offence is contrary to the law of both jurisdictions (i.e. double criminality);
- \* the normal exclusions in relation to political offences and political prejudice; and
- \* protection against resurrender to a third jurisdiction.

The Bill is similar to the existing UK legislation applied to Hong Kong and follows existing procedures for handling requests for surrender. These procedures involve decisions by the courts and by the Governor who has the final say as to whether a person should be surrendered. The Bill also provides for a channel of appeal for fugitive offenders.

We cannot afford to have Hong Kong become a haven for fugitives or to allow criminals to avoid justice and the rule of law by seeking refuge in other places. It is well recognised that if Hong Kong is to continue its success, to maintain its reputation as a law-abiding community, and to strengthen its status as an international commercial and financial centre, it is important that we should not allow any gap in the relations with our law enforcement partners on surrender of fugitive offenders after 30 June 1997. The Chinese side in the Joint Liaison Group have confirmed their agreement to this localisation of laws item at JLG XXXVII in September 1996. Our immediate task ahead is to ensure that this localised legislation can take effect as soon as possible and well before the handover. I therefore urge Members' urgent consideration and support for the Bill. The early enactment of the Bill would enhance the international community's confidence in the future of the rule of law in Hong Kong and our criminal justice system.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

#### Securities and Futures Commission Amendment Bill

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is the speech by the Acting Secretary for Financial Services, Mrs Lessie Wei in moving the Second reading of the Securities and Futures Commission (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1996 in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Mr President,

I move the second reading of the Securities and Futures Commission (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1996.

The Bill seeks to amend the Securities and Futures Commission Ordinance to provide more flexibility for specifying the levy on any transaction on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and the Hong Kong Futures Exchange Limited.

Under section 52 of the Ordinance, the Governor-in-Council may specify different levy rates in respect of different classes of securities traded on the Stock Exchange, and different amounts in respect of different leviable transactions in futures contracts traded on the Futures Exchange. However, there is no provision for a fixed amount to be specified as the levy on the sale and purchase of securities. There is also no provision for a percentage of the consideration to be specified as the levy on the leviable transactions in futures contracts. These provisions are not sufficiently flexible, given the proliferation of products with entirely different characteristics and modes of operation in the market. Section 52 of the Ordinance therefore needs amending.

The proposed amendments are technical. They seek to provide maximum flexibility for specifying the levy on any transaction in the securities and futures market, such that a levy can be specified as a percentage of the consideration, a fixed amount, nil rate or nil amount for each transaction, or a rate as otherwise calculated under the order of the Governor-in-Council. We hope the change will enable the law to keep pace with market developments.

Thank you, Mr President.

End

#### Street lighting in rural areas

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Albert Ho Chun-yan and a reply by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the resources allocated for improving street lighting in rural areas as well as the number of applications for installing street lights in the Tuen Mun district and the number of street lights installed in each of the past three years;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the demand for street lighting in rural areas; and
- (c) whether the Government will consider making any performance pledge regarding the improvement of street lighting in rural areas?

Reply:

The Highways Department and Home Affairs Department work together to provide street lighting in rural areas. Under the existing arrangements, around 1,000 lights are installed every year in villages in the NT. For 1996/97, the resources allocated for improving street lighting in rural areas amount to \$10.9 million. We plan to increase the annual quota from 1,000 to 1,200 starting in 1997/98 subject to the availability of funds.

District Officers process applications for the installation of lights from local villagers. The actual number of street lights to be installed in Tuen Mun is recommended by District Officer (Tuen Mun) following consultation with the villagers. In the past three financial years, funds were approved for installation of 85, 20 and 35 village lights respectively in Tuen Mun District. The number of village lights actually installed was 77 in 1994/95, 8 in 1995/96 and 14 as at todate in the 96/97 programme. The progress of the construction works is affected by a number of factors such as land availability, technical problems, power supply, etc.

The Administration regularly assesses the demand for village lighting through the District Offices which consult and hold joint site visits with villagers to ascertain the detailed requirements for village lighting improvements in their districts.

It is not easy to introduce a performance pledge for providing village lighting because the successful implementation of any application for village lighting depends on factors which are often beyond the control of the Administration such as technical problems, power supply, land availability, etc. Where the proposed village light encroaches on private land, the consent of the land owner needs to be sought before works can commence. The lead time required to install village lights therefore varies greatly and depends very much on local situation. Nonetheless, under normal circumstances we aim to have the lights installed within 12 months from the approval of funds.

End

#### Measures to enhance safety of crane operation

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Albert Chan Wai-yip and an oral reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It was reported that on the morning of 2 October this year, the crane of a heavy duty crane truck collapsed while carrying out lifting work in Chatham Road in Tsim Sha Tsui. The fallen crane blocked the entire road, causing serious traffic congestion. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the number of accidents that have occurred since January 1993 in which the cranes of heavy duty crane trucks collapsed while carrying out lifting work, and the number of persons who have been injured or killed in these accidents; and
- (b) whether the existing regulatory measures over the operation of such vehicles will be improved so as to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents?

Reply:

Mr President,

Regarding part (a) of the question, since January 1993, there were 13 accidents in which the cranes of heavy duty crane trucks collapsed while carrying out lifting work. Three workers were injured in three accidents.

Regarding part (b) of the question, the requirements for the safe operation of cranes are clearly set out in the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear) Regulations. Under the Regulations, crane owners must ensure that -

- (i) the cranes are safe to operate, including that the cranes are structurally sound and stable, and are installed with an automatic safe load indicator, and that the loading is within a safe working load capacity;
- (ii) the cranes are not used unless they have been thoroughly examined and tested by registered professional engineers (RPEs) in the preceding 12 months and certified to be in safe working conditions. Cranes which have been substantially repaired or re-erected, or which have failed, overturned or collapsed, cannot be used unless they have passed another certification process by RPEs; and
- (iii) the cranes are operated only by competent persons holding a valid certificate issued by an organisation authorised by the Commissioner for Labour.

During their routine inspections to construction sites where cranes are being used, factory inspectors will check all the certification required by the law regarding the safe operation of a crane. The owner of a crane which has not been properly examined and tested but is found to be in use is liable to prosecution. In the first six months of 1996, 70 summonses were taken out relating to the unsafe use of lifting equipment.

The regulatory measure has been further improved following an amendment to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance in July 1996, which empowers the Commissioner for Labour to issue improvement notices and suspension notices. So far, 27 improvement notices on the safety standards of lifting equipment have been issued. These new powers have been found to be useful in preventing accidents.

End

#### Dispute over private land ownership

\*\*\*\*\*

Following is a question by the Hon Zachary Wong and an oral reply by the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is reported that recently some villagers in the New Territories have been harassed and threatened by developers because of disputes over land ownership rights. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the number of complaints, concerning villagers being harassed and threatened by developers because of disputes over land ownership rights, received by the department concerned in each of the past three years; and
- (b) how the departments concerned handled such complaints so as to safeguard the safety of the villagers?

Answer:

Mr President,

- (a) Neither the Police nor the Lands Department has any readily available statistics on the sort of complaints mentioned in the question. Police cases are classified according to the criminal offence indicated by the reported facts, not according to the causes of, or parties to, an incident. We understand that the Police received report on one case during the recent months on disputes believed to be related to land ownership.
- (b) The general practice of the Lands Department is that the parties concerned are advised to seek independent legal and professional advice in cases of disputes of private land ownership. If allegations of harassment and threats are made, they are also advised to make a report to the Police.

The Police respond to every report and request for assistance. The response is flexible and will depend on the reported facts. If the reported facts indicate that an incident is in progress, the Police will despatch uniformed officers to the scene. Where the initial indications are that a criminal offence has been committed, the case will be fully investigated and every effort will be made to apprehend the perpetrators.

End

Updated list of property assets by Government

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Ambrose Lau and a reply by the Secretary for the Treasury, Mr K C Kwong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is mentioned in the Policy Commitments of this year's Policy Address that in January this year the Administration handed over to the Chinese Government an updated list of property assets owned by the Hong Kong Government, but no mention is made of when the Hong Kong Government will give the Chinese Government an updated list of other assets owned by the Hong Kong Government. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (a) of the reasons for not mentioning whether the Administration will hand over to the Chinese Government before July 1997 an updated list of assets other than property assets owned by the Hong Kong Government; and
- (b) whether the debt amounting to \$1 billion owed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Hong Kong Government in connection with the expenses on the care and maintenance of Vietnamese migrants will be included in the list of assets of the Hong Kong Government; if not, why not, and whether the non-inclusion of the debt in the list of assets of the Hong Kong Government will prejudice the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in recovering the debt from the UNHCR?

Reply:

Mr President,

The list of property assets owned by the Hong Kong Government which we handed over to the Chinese side in January this year is an updated version of an earlier list which we had agreed to compile and passed to the Chinese side in November 1994. We will update this list regularly to reflect changes over time to the Hong Kong Government's property portfolio. We are not, at present, committed to compiling similar lists in respect of non-property assets owned by the Hong Kong Government; hence, the absence of any reference to non-property assets in my Policy Commitments.

I now turn to the second part of the question relating to the advances made by the Hong Kong Government to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in connection with the care and maintenance of Vietnamese migrants in Hong Kong. As Members will see from the Annual Report of the Director of Accounting Services for the year ended 31 March 1996, which I have tabled in this Council today, the outstanding balance of expenditure incurred on Vietnamese migrants on behalf of the UNHCR forms part of the Hong Kong Government's assets and is so reflected in the statement of assets and liabilities of the General Revenue Account. Like all other assets of the Hong Kong Government, this sum will become the asset of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on 1 July 1997. In a letter dated 24 April 1996 to the UK Ambassador in Geneva, the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees has reiterated the UNHCR's commitment to the 1988 Statement of Understanding regarding reimbursement to the Hong Kong Government and confirmed that this commitment is "not bound by a timeframe".

End

Police to enforce inviolability of consular premises

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Lee Wing-tat and a reply by the Acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the police's recent action to prohibit petitioners from gaining access to the Japanese Consulate, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the detailed legal basis for prohibiting petitioners from gaining access to the Japanese Consulate;
- (b) what factors have been taken into account by the police in deciding on the restrictions imposed on the time, venue and target group of such prohibition; and
- (c) whether the prohibition has been imposed at the request of the Japanese Consulate or other organizations?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The Hong Kong Government has an obligation to enforce the inviolability of consular premises in Hong Kong in accordance with Article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Accordingly, the Police are under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the consular premises against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the consular post or impairment of its dignity and to take such steps as they judge may be necessary for that purpose under the Police Force Ordinance.
- (b) In carrying out their duties, the Police would consider what appropriate action should be taken having regard to the circumstances of each case. In the light of an intrusion into the Japanese Consulate on 9 October 1996, the Police considered it necessary to take pre-emptive action to prevent any recurrence. Such action included the exclusion of those persons who had participated in the earlier incident from entering the lift lobby of the consular premises. In so acting the Police were taking lawful measures to preserve the public peace and to prevent injury to life and property.

- (c) The Police are charged with the responsibility for maintaining public order and enforcing the inviolability of consular premises. Of course, the Police are in touch with the Consulate General about the security arrangement in the vicinity of the Japanese Consulate but decisions as to what operational measures are necessary for the security and to keep the peace are entirely a matter for the Police.

End

UGC's recommendations on hostel policy being considered

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Anthony Cheung Bing-leung and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In view of the serious shortage of hostel places for university students, will the Government inform this Council whether resources will be allocated to publicly-funded tertiary institutions which do not at present have student hostels, so as to enable such institutions to provide hostel accommodation for their students in order that they may enjoy a full campus life; if so, what the details are?

Reply:

Mr President,

Publicly-funded student hostels are not provided for three of the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions at present, i.e. the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). The UGC has submitted recommendations for a review of the existing student hostel policy to the Government. The Administration is now considering whether, in the light of our UGC's recommendations, the existing policy should be revised.

End

Treatment of HIV infection

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Law Chi-kwong and a written reply by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In view of the medical advancement in the treatment of HIV infection reported last year, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority provides new drugs (notably protease inhibitors) and viral load measurement to patients infected with HIV;
- (b) whether there is any policy on making protease inhibitors, drug combinations and viral load measurement available to patients infected with HIV; and
- (c) of the policy on the funding of new HIV treatment methods and research?

Reply:

- (a) Protease inhibitors and viral load measurements are recent advances in the management of patients infected with HIV. Currently two protease inhibitors have been registered in Hong Kong. Since both protease inhibitors and viral load measurement are new to Hong Kong, they have been introduced by the Department of Health and Hospital Authority on a pilot basis. In the case of protease inhibitors, these are made available to selected and indicated AIDS patients at higher progression risk, in line with the current consensus of experts that they should best be reserved as a second line drug rather than to be used as part of the initial drug regimen for HIV patients.

- (b) The use of protease inhibitors, drug combinations and viral load measurement for patients is decided by the attending doctor based on clinical indications and established treatment protocols. The introduction of any new drug within the public hospitals and Department of Health's clinics is governed by established mechanisms whereby assessment has to be made to the risks and benefits, supporting scientific evidence of clinical efficacy and cost effectiveness before approval can be given for the procurement of the new drug. New investigative procedures follow a similar approach.
- (c) Both the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority follow similar procedures to subject requests for new drugs or new treatment methods to medical technology assessment which include cost benefit analysis and evidence based medical practice considerations to optimise healthcare benefits within the resources available. Funding for research in HIV/AIDS is available in tertiary institutions and funds such as AIDS Trust Fund.

End

Salary scales for academic staff of UGC-funded institutions

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Eric Li Ka-cheung and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

It is learnt that in many overseas universities different salary levels are set for teaching staff of different departments. In this connection, does the Government know whether:

- (a) the current salary levels of teaching staff of different departments holding similar positions in the territory's universities are the same; and
- (b) the authorities will consider conducting a study on the feasibility of setting the salary levels of university teaching staff according to the supply and demand in the market, if not, why not?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The salary scales for academic staff of the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions are linked to civil service salary scales, as approved by the Government. The current salary levels of academic staff in different departments of the institutions holding similar positions are broadly the same because these salary levels are based on salary scales common to all the UGC-funded institutions.

The UGC-funded institutions adopt a common set of salary scales for academic staff primarily engaged in degree-level work. For staff not engaged primarily in degree level work and employed by those institutions which run sub-degree courses, namely the City University of Hong Kong (CityU), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), their pay levels are lower, but the pay scales are broadly the same across institutions.

There are also separate salary scales for clinical academic staff. Clinical staff at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) are remunerated on a different salary scale, which has been set by reference to the remuneration package of Government medical consultants, senior medical officers and medical officers under the current civil service Directorate and Master pay scale.

- (b) To the extent that the salary scales of academic staff of the UGC-funded institutions are linked to civil service pay under the present policy, the Government has no plan to commission a feasibility study to review the setting of pay scales for academic and equivalent administrative staff of tertiary institutions to follow market supply and demand. We will keep this policy under periodic review.

End

Survey on cost impact of labour legislation being conducted

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon James Tien Pei-chun and a written reply by the Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Joseph W P Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

As some employers claim that changes to the labour legislation over the past two years have resulted in their payroll expenses being inflated by 15%, will the Government provide this Council with a breakdown of the increases in payroll expenses arising from each amendment to labour legislation in the past two years, taking into account the median wage, average age and average years of service of the work force, the ratio between male and female staff and other relevant factors?

Reply:

Mr President,

The Government's assessment of the cost impact of labour legislation is based on its estimate of the difference in overall labour cost in the economy before and after each amendment to labour legislation has come into effect. The increase in labour cost is expressed as a percentage of the total wage bill, covering both the private and the public sectors. This estimate of cost impact has been compiled on the basis of the wage and other characteristics of the labour force obtained from the latest survey on the impact of labour legislation on the economy conducted by the Census and Statistics Department in collaboration with the Labour Department in 1992.

Using this methodology, the estimated increase in labour cost as a result of the amendments to labour legislation enacted in the past two years which have a cost impact amounts to around 0.25% of the total wage bill. Of the 0.25%, 0.06% was attributable to amendments to the Employment Ordinance while 0.17% and 0.02% were due to the amendments to the Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance respectively. The itemised breakdown of this estimate is at Annex.

We are conducting another survey on the cost impact of labour legislation to update the information collected during the last survey in 1992 in the light of the changes in the labour market. The survey is expected to be completed early next year; and we will inform Members of the results as soon as they are available.

-----

**Annex**

**Estimated cost impact due to  
labour legislation enacted during 1992-1995**

<b><u>Legislative Items</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated cost impact as a % of total wage bill</u></b>
<b>(A) Under the Employment Ordinance</b>	<b>0.06%</b>
(i) Improving the provisions of severance payment (SP) and long service payment (LSP) (effective on 20.1.95)	0.03%
(ii) Revising the monthly wage limit for the purpose of calculating of SP and LSP from \$15,000 to \$22,500 (effective on 23.6.95)	0.01%
(iii) Lowering the qualifying years of service from 10 years to 5 years for eligibility for LSP on retirement on ground of old age (effective on 14.7.95)	0.01%
(iv) Increasing the rate of maternity leave pay from two-thirds to four-fifths of wages of employees (effective on 14.7.95)	0.01%
<b>(B) Under the Employees Compensation Ordinance (ECO)</b>	<b>0.17%</b>
(i) Revising the prescribed percentage of loss of earning capacity of specified injuries for the purpose of calculating compensation (effective on 1.1.94)	
(ii) Revising the levels of compensation (effective on 1.1.94)	
(iii) Setting a limit on the coverage of compulsory employees compensation insurance (effective on 1.8.95)	

- (C) Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance 0.02%**
- (i) Setting up a compensation scheme for workers suffering from occupational deafness (effective on 1.6.95)
- (D) Protection of wages on Insolvency Ordinance Negligible\***
- (i) Increasing the amount of ex-gratia payment payable in respect of severance payment from \$8,000 plus 50% of excess entitlement to \$24,000 plus 50% of excess entitlement (effective on 21.7.95)
- (ii) Increasing maximum limit of ex-gratia payments on arrears of wage, for wages in lieu of notice and SP (effective on 2.2.96)
- Total : 0.25%**

Note : (\*) No additional cost implications involved as the changes did not result in a need to raise the annual levy of \$250 on each business registration certificate.

End

Wife battering and child abuse cases

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Choy Kan-pui and a written reply by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding wife battering and child abuse cases in the territory involving new arrivals from China, will the Government inform this Council :

- (a) of the number of these two kinds of cases in the past three years;
- (b) whether it has examined the causes of such incidents; and
- (c) what measures are in place to prevent the number of such incidents increasing in the face of a continuing rise in the number of new arrivals from China?

Reply:

- (a) The Social Welfare Department (SWD) does not have readily available statistics on child abuse cases before July 1994. During the two-year period from July 1994 to July 1996, 23 cases (or 2 % of all reported child abuse cases) involved new arrivals from China - 15 cases involved new arrivals who had been in Hong Kong for around one year, and 8 cases involved new arrivals who had resided in Hong Kong for between two and three years. Of these 23 cases, there were four in which both the abuser and the abused child were new arrivals, 18 in which only the abused child was a new arrival and one in which only the abuser was a new arrival.

Social Welfare Department has no statistics indicating the number of wife battering cases involving new arrivals from China. According to the Department's reporting system, there were 196 new battered spouse cases in 1993; 220 in 1994; and 250 in 1995. 99% of these cases involved victims who were women. The Department is aware of the need for more detailed statistics for these cases and has started a pilot scheme to improve information systems in this respect.

- (b) The Director of Social Welfare chairs two Working Groups - one on Child Abuse and the other on Battered Spouses. These Working Groups comprise representatives from all relevant professional disciplines as well as representatives of relevant non-governmental organisations. They have recommended the establishment of better information systems in order to be better placed to assess the most likely causes of these crimes and how their causes may be addressed.

The most common causes of child abuse include a lack of parenting skills and an inadequate family support to help parents resolve their family problems. The causes of wife battering are often multi-faceted and complex. Relevant factors usually include personality clashes, adjustment problems, and the pressure caused by financial, housing and child care problems.

- (c) We see providing support to the family as crucial in the prevention of family problems and have in place a comprehensive network of services which are available to all members of the community including new arrivals from China:
- family life education programmes which focus on marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, management of marital conflicts and development of proper child-rearing skills;
  - services to strengthen local family support networks and to assist families in trouble;
  - child care services to help working parents with child care problems; and
  - family aide services to provide home-based training for parents in general household management.

We are aware of the importance of public education as a prevention strategy. To promote public awareness of child abuse, we conducted a territory-wide publicity campaign in 1995 to educate the public on the early identification and reporting of such cases, and launched the first phase of the campaign on prevention of child sexual abuse in April this year which will be followed by a second phase towards the end of the year. At the district level, District Committees on Child Abuse have now been set up in all Districts to co-ordinate multi-disciplinary efforts in tackling the problem and organising public education activities.

With regard to spouse battering, we held a seminar in March this year to help foster a better understanding of the problem by professionals of various disciplines and their co-operation in handling such cases. Publicity leaflets to encourage victims to seek assistance and to publicize services available for them will be introduced early next year.

End

#### Work on Broadcasting Bill

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Samuel Wong and a written reply by the Secretary for Broadcasting, Culture and Sport, Mr Chau Tak-hay, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

In the Policy Commitments of last year's Policy Address, it was stated that the Government was conducting a thorough review of the existing broadcasting legislation with the aim of bringing all forms of broadcasting within the purview of a comprehensive piece of legislation, so as to make the regulatory framework more user-friendly and adaptable to the rapid changes in technology in the broadcasting industry. However, it was mentioned in the Progress Report of the 1996 Policy Address that work on the proposed Broadcasting Bill has been suspended in order to take forward other higher priority tasks. In view of this, will the Government inform this Council whether it remains committed to implementing the proposed Broadcasting Bill; if so, when the drafting work on the proposed Broadcasting Bill is expected to complete; if not, why not?

**Reply:**

It remains the intention to resume work on the Broadcasting Bill when more pressing business has been completed. We hope that it will be possible to do so in the short term, rather than the long term. But as it is not yet possible to say when work will resume, we cannot say when the work will be concluded.

End

**Sandwich Class Housing Scheme**

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Cheung Hon-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

**Question:**

It is mentioned in the Policy Commitments of this year's Policy Address that the Government will consider permitting public housing tenants who meet the relevant eligibility criteria to purchase Sandwich Class Housing Scheme (SCHS) flats. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the effectiveness of the SCHS since its introduction; and
- (b) whether it has taken into account the fact that the above proposal might diminish the prospects of the sandwich class acquiring their own homes, given that the SCHS is the only scheme through which the sandwich class can purchase their own homes, whereas public housing tenants are already given priority in the purchase of Home Ownership Scheme flats and are also eligible for applying for interest-free loans to purchase their homes?

Answer:

Mr President,

The Sandwich Class Housing (SCH) Scheme, introduced in 1993, has been effective in helping middle-income families to buy their own homes. It comprises a construction scheme and a loan scheme. Under the construction scheme, we have pledged to build 30,000 subsidised flats by 2003 for sale to eligible families. Flat production is on schedule. The first four projects were well received and over-subscribed. Under the loan scheme, financial assistance has been provided so far to over 4,000 families to buy flats in the open market. A further phase will be launched in the near future.

In the 1996 Policy Commitments, we have indicated the intention to promote home ownership and to complement efforts to release public rental housing flats for those in genuine need by considering to permit the sale of SCH flats to public rental housing tenants who meet the normal eligibility criteria. While these tenants may have a wider choice of subsidised housing schemes, they can exercise only one option and there is no question of double benefits. While the proposal may, in theory, diminish the prospects of sandwich class tenants living in private housing, the impact is not expected to be great.

End

Measures to combat crimes related to stolen ID cards

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by Dr Hon Law Cheung-kwok and a written reply by the Acting Secretary for Security, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of:

- (a) the number of reported cases of loss of identity cards in each of the past three years, as well as the circumstances under which the majority of such cases occurred;

- (b) the major types of crimes committed by criminals using stolen identity cards; and
- (c) the measures in place to combat criminals using stolen identity cards to commit crimes?

Reply:

Mr President,

- (a) The number of reported cases of loss of identity cards are as follows:

1993	166 750
1994	163 441
1995	154 043
1996 (January - September)	102 940

No official information has been kept on the reasons for loss of identity cards. Based on the experience of Immigration Department in issuing replacement identity cards, most people attribute the losses of their cards to thefts, burglaries or misplacements.

- (b) Based on the operational experience of law enforcement agencies, some of the stolen identity cards are used for -
  - i) seeking illegal entry into Hong Kong;
  - ii) facilitating illegal employment or residence in Hong Kong;
  - iii) committing fraud and deception offences;
  - iv) covering up one's genuine identity; and
  - v) lawful registration of personal identity for purposes such as admission into hospitals for delivery of baby and birth registration.
- (c) The Police and the Immigration Department have taken the following measures to combat crimes relating to use of stolen identity cards:
  - i) Employers are encouraged to make use of the telephone and fax 'hotline' service provided by the Immigration Department if they have doubts on the authenticity of identity cards produced by job applicants. The public can also use the 'hotline' to report immigration-related offences which may involve the use of stolen identity cards for illegal purposes.

- ii) The Immigration Department will immediately update its computer system once a loss of identity card is reported. This ensures that only genuine cardholders can use their identity cards for arrival and departure clearance. With information being updated, the Police will also be able to authenticate identity cards on streets with their beat radio.
- iii) Both the Police and the Immigration Department cultivate intelligence on and conduct operations against syndicates using altered identity cards.
- iv) The Commercial Crime Bureau monitor closely altered identity cards which may come to light and inform police officers of flaws and features of these falsified cards.
- v) The Police liaise closely with commercial organisations to advise them to report immediately any cases involving identity cards which are suspected to be counterfeit or in false possession.

End

HOS flat owners responsible for slope maintenance

\* \* \* \* \*

Following are a question by the Hon Sin Chung-kai and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- (a) who is responsible for monitoring the safety of slopes within the boundaries of Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) estates; and
- (b) having regard to the statement set out in the "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance" issued by the Geotechnical Engineering Office that slope maintenance work should be carried out by the owner or the party assigned with such maintenance responsibility, whether the Government or owners of HOS flats should be responsible for maintaining the slopes within the boundaries of HOS estates?

Answer:

Mr President,

The "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance" states that the responsibility for maintaining slopes rests with the owner of a flat or the party assigned with such responsibility, who can be identified from records kept at the Land Registry.

Maintenance responsibility for slopes in Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) estates rests with owners, as stipulated in land grants. On behalf of HOS flat owners, the Housing Authority carries out inspection and maintenance to ensure slope safety. The cost for such work is charged to management funds contributed by flat owners.

End

#### Water quality monitoring incorporated in works contracts

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Lee Wing-tat and a written reply by the Secretary for Works, Mr Kwong Hon-sang, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the large number of dead fish found in the fish culture zones at Lantau Island, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether the above phenomenon is due to the pollution of the waters in the proximity of the fish culture zones caused by the construction works on the Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter project;
- (b) whether it monitors the water quality in the waters near the site of the above project; if so, of the recent changes in the water quality in the area concerned; and
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether it will consider compensating the fish farmers?

Answer:

Mr President,

- (a) According to investigation carried out by Government, there is no evidence that the high fish mortality in the Cheung Sha Wan Fish Culture Zone at Lantau Island had been due to water pollution caused by the construction works under the Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter Project. Results of water quality monitoring carried out regularly in conjunction with the typhoon shelter works since construction and dredging work started have indicated that water quality in the vicinity of the works site as well as the Fish Culture Zone has been maintained within the acceptable standards set by the Environmental Protection Department.
- (b) A comprehensive water quality monitoring programme has been incorporated in the works contract. The programme is closely supervised by the Civil Engineering Department and includes regular monitoring at 10 monitoring and control stations around the works site, of which two are close to the concerned Fish Culture Zone. Monitoring parameters include dissolved oxygen, suspended solids and turbidity. The monitoring results are checked against baseline water quality results obtained over the period from December 1995 to January 1996 prior to the commencement of dredging works in February 1996.

During the period from February to June 1996 immediately after commencement of the dredging works, water quality monitoring was carried out daily. The results were satisfactory and the frequency of monitoring has subsequently been reduced to 3 days per week since July 1996. The monitoring has been independently audited by Environmental Protection Department regularly since February 1996. The Agriculture and Fisheries Department also conducted regular water quality monitoring at the Fish Culture Zone and findings have so far agreed well with Civil Engineering Department's results.

Monitoring results to date have remained satisfactory and do not indicate any significant change in water quality since construction work started.

In response to recent reports on high mortality of fish in the Fish Culture Zone, the Environmental Protection Department had independently monitored water quality adjacent to the Fish Culture Zone on October 11 at approximately 2 hour intervals between 12 noon to 7 p.m. The prevailing wind was north-easterly, towards the Fish Culture Zone, on that day. Turbidity and dissolved oxygen were found to be normal.

Staff from Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Civil Engineering Department and Environmental Protection Department also had a joint site visit with the fishermen on October 16, 1996. The gills of a dying fish and the netcapes and floats showed no sign of any mud accumulation. Sampling undertaken on that day by Government indicated that water quality was satisfactory.

Since October 17, 1996, Civil Engineering Department has arranged to step up water quality monitoring frequency to daily at mid-ebb, mid-flood and in the evening. Monitoring will also be conducted at any time upon request from mariculturists. Agriculture and Fisheries Department has also stepped up patrols to the Fish Culture Zone in order to monitor the fish mortality situation. The numbers of dead fish actually observed in the fish cages during patrol inspections were relatively low despite mariculturists' claim that large quantity of fish had died since September.

- (c) The Administration have not seen any evidence to support the conclusion that the construction works at Hei Ling Chau Typhoon Shelter have had an adverse effect on water quality at the Fish Culture Zone, the matter of compensation is therefore not relevant. However, under the existing arrangement, mariculturists will be eligible for an ex-gratia allowance when the concentration of suspended solids in the water reaches either 100% more than the highest pre-construction baseline level recorded at the Fish Culture Zone or 50mg/l (above which fish may exhibit inferior growth or be more susceptible to disease infection).

End

#### Public housing for elderly people

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Zachary Wong and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to build 11,413 public rental units and refurbish 20,305 such units for elderly people between 1995/96 and 2000/01, will the Government inform this Council whether it is aware of:

- (a) of the estimated annual number of elderly people in need of public housing, and the estimated number of public rental units provided to elderly people annually, in the period between 1996/97 to 2000/01;
- (b) whether, given that the Progress Report published by the Government this year points out that there are 27,000 elderly people living in sub-standard accommodation who are not registered on the Housing Authority's waiting list, the Housing Department will take the initiative to register such elderly people for public housing;
- (c) whether the Housing Department has estimated the waiting time for the 27,000 elderly people mentioned in (b) above to be allocated housing units after they have been registered as waiting list applicants; if so, what the average waiting time is;
- (d) of the number of elderly singletons who have been on the waiting list for two years or more and have no particular preference for the location of the housing unit but who have not been allocated housing units for the elderly, in each of the past three years, despite the pledge made by the Government in the Policy Commitments of the 1994 Policy Address that all elderly singletons would be allocated public housing within two years; and;
- (e) of the average waiting time for an elderly singleton who opts for a single-person public housing unit to be allocated a unit?

Answer:

Mr President,

We plan to provide sufficient public rental flats to meet the projected demand of 34,500 elderly people during the period from 1996-97 to 2000-01, as follows:

	Elderly people
1996-97	7,100
1997-98	6,200
1998-99	4,800
1999-00	7,400
2000-01	9,000

About 22,000 elderly people will be accommodated in one-person flats or flats under the Housing for Senior Citizens Scheme, and the remaining 12,500 will share public housing flats with other elderly people.

We have taken the following initiatives to encourage elderly people living in sub-standard private accommodation, who are not registered on the Waiting List, to apply for public housing-

- (a) publicity campaigns were launched to solicit registration, and roving exhibitions in community centres and shopping centres were mounted to encourage applications under various priority schemes for the elderly;
- (b) elderly people were invited to join guided tours to visit Housing for Senior Citizens flats;
- (c) Housing Information Centres were set up in target districts to enable elderly people to gain easy access to information on public housing; and
- (d) home visits were made to elderly people living in private tenements and bedspace apartments to encourage them to apply for public rental housing.

These initiatives will be repeated regularly.

In the 1994 Policy Commitments, we pledged to give priority to elderly people who apply for public rental housing, and to allocate accommodation within two years to elderly couples and singletons who apply in groups of two or three. In the past three years, all eligible elderly applicants, who opted for this scheme at the time of registration, were offered rehousing within the time mentioned.

There are 10,100 elderly persons on the Single Person Waiting List, and less than 2,400 of them have waited for more than two years. The average waiting time for an elderly singleton applying for a single-person public housing unit is about four years.

End

Taxi licencing systems differ from cities to cities

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by Dr the Hon Law Cheung-kwok and a written reply by the Secretary for Transport, Mr Gordon Siu, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) of the respective numbers of urban, New Territories and Lantau Island taxi licences issued, as well as their respective tender premiums, in each of the past three years; and
- (b) whether the urban taxi licence premium in the territory is higher than that in other cities?

Reply:

Mr President,

The last taxi licence tender exercise was conducted in September 1994. On that occasion, 300 urban taxi licences were issued at an average premium of \$1.7 million and 100 NT taxi licences at an average premium of \$1.1 million.

Different cities have different taxi licensing systems. For instance, taxi licences in London, Singapore and Shanghai are not transferable and hence do not have any transfer value.

Taxi licences in New York City are issued through public auction and are transferable. The current market price for a licence permitting an owner-driver to operate on a single shift is about HK\$1.6 million (US\$200,000), and that for a licence permitting a company to operate a service on more than one shift is about HK\$3.6 million (US\$460,000).

In Brisbane, taxi licences are also transferable. A licence allowing a taxi to operate in the metropolitan district has a current transfer value of about HK\$1.2 million (A\$200,000). On the other hand, a licence for a taxi to operate in the Gold Coast area has a transfer value of about HK\$1.8 million (A\$300,000).

It should be noted, however, that taxis in different cities operate under different social, economic and operational environment. It is therefore not entirely relevant to simply compare the transfer value or the premium for taxi licences.

End

#### Certificate of Compliance for PSPS flats

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Sin Chung-kai and a written reply by the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council whether the Certificate of Compliance in respect of Home Ownership Scheme estates is issued by the Housing Department itself, and what the purpose of issuing such a Certificate is?

Answer:

Mr President,

In the case of Home Ownership Scheme flats built and sold by the Housing Authority, issue of Certificates of Compliance (CC) is not required. In the case of Private Sector Participation Scheme flats built by private developers and sold by the Housing Authority, the Lands Department issues CCs when it is satisfied that all the obligations stipulated in the Conditions of Sale in land grants have been complied with.

End

Transaction clearance of the HK Futures Exchange

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a question by the Hon Chim Pui-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Rafael Hui, in the Legislative Council today (Wednesday):

Question:

During the "stock market crash" in October 1987, a company named International Commodities Clearing House (HK) Limited was responsible for the transaction clearance of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange at the time. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows if the company has completed the transaction clearance work and whether the authorities concerned will make known to the public the problems encountered by the company in handling such work as well as the work during the past nine years?

Reply:

At the time of the "stock market crash" in October 1987, the clearing and guarantee functions of the Hong Kong futures market were handled by two separate bodies, namely International Commodities Clearing House (Hong Kong) Limited (ICCH(HK)) and the Hong Kong Futures Guarantee Corporation Limited (HKFGC) respectively. ICCH(HK) operated the clearing house of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange under contract and at the same time managed the HKFGC under another contract.

Following the events of October 1987, Lifeboat loans were provided to the HKFGC to enable it to finance the settlement of contracts in Hang Seng Index futures that were delayed or not met. To provide for the repayment of principal and payment of interest on these Lifeboat loans, the Special Levy Fund was established in October 1987 under the Exchanges (Special Levy) Ordinance (Cap. 351). The collection of the Special Levy was suspended in August 1993 and the Lifeboat loans were fully repaid, with interest, in June 1995. ICCH(HK) ceased to manage HKFGC in May 1994. We have been informed that neither ICCH(HK) nor HKFGC encountered any problems in handling the related work.

End