



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Labour Department performance pledge for 1996

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The Labour Department's 1996 performance pledge covers three new service areas, namely the promotion of industrial safety and labour relations as well as the administration of the importation of labour schemes.

Services already covered in the 1995 pledge are also included in the 1996 performance pledge.

These include employment services for able-bodied and disabled job-seekers, conciliation of labour disputes, employees' compensation, pressure equipment safety, registration of trade unions, General Enquiry Telephone Service, licensing of employment agencies, careers guidance for young people, attestation of contracts for employment outside Hong Kong and protection of wages on insolvency.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday) that the new pledge would continue to improve the quality of services offered by the department.

"Our aim is always to provide efficient, courteous and professional services to the public in a tidy and friendly environment," he said.

Reviewing the department's performance in 1995, he noted that on average, over 99 per cent of all the cases handled met the pledged standards.

"No complaint on non-fulfilment of pledges has been received. Nevertheless, we welcome any comments or suggestions on the services we provide," he added.

Copies of a bilingual booklet on the 1996 performance pledge and achievements in 1995 are available at all Labour Department offices and district offices of the Home Affairs Department.

End

\$207m from Lotteries Fund approved in fourth quarter 1995

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A total of \$207,948,800 has been approved from the Lotteries Fund to finance various social welfare service programmes during the fourth quarter of 1995, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"Of the amount, \$18,383,600 are earmarked for family and child welfare services, \$31,751,400 for elderly and medical social services, \$150,755,600 for rehabilitation services, \$6,306,300 for youth services, \$300,900 for community development services and \$451,000 for 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.

The fund had approved a total of \$828,618,047 to finance various social welfare projects for the whole of 1995, the spokesman added.

End

Medical Licentiate Examination results announced

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The Licentiate Committee of the Medical Council of Hong Kong announced today (Saturday) that 13 candidates have passed Part I of the Licentiate Examination for unregistrable doctors.

A total of 260 candidates sat the examination held on January 3, 1996. Part I is a multiple-choice-question paper on professional subjects.

Part II of the examination, designed to test the candidates' English for professional purposes, will take place on March 5 and May 2, 1996.

Candidates may choose to take the Part II Licentiate Examination on either date.

End

Family of traffic accident victim awarded \$56,250

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The Social Welfare Department has approved \$56,250 from the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Fund to the family members of a tram driver who was killed during an accident earlier this month.

The 38-year-old driver was knocked down by another tram while on duty on January 1. He was survived by his wife and a son, aged 15.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday) that the TAVA scheme provided quick financial assistance to traffic accident victims or their dependants, regardless of the means of a family or the fault element in the accident.

"Beneficiaries under the scheme will retain the right to make claims for legal damages or compensation from other sources in the usual way.

"However, those who receive other damages or compensation relating to the same accident are required to repay the amount of assistance already received from the scheme.

"But in any case, the amount repaid will not exceed the amount of damages or compensation awarded," the spokesman said.

Enquiries about the scheme may be directed to the department's TAVA Section, Room 942, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, or on 2834 7472.

End

Student drawing competition well supported

* * * * *

A student drawing competition on historical monuments in Hong Kong was given enthusiastic support with nearly 850 entries.

Announcing the results today (Saturday), a spokesman for the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Recreation and Culture Branch said all the entries were of a very high standard.

"This has made the adjudication difficult," he added.

Adjudicators were the Chairman of the Historical Buildings and Structures Committee of the Antiquities Advisory Board and member of the Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, Dr Elizabeth Sinn; the Curator of the University Museum and Art Galley of the University of Hong Kong, Mr Yeung Chun-tong; Principal Inspector (Cultural Crafts) of the Education Department, Mr Yeung Wai-fung; Assistant Professor of the Division of Humanities of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr Lee Hui-shu; and an artist, Ms Leung Kwok Yuk-mei.

Sponsored by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, the event aimed to arouse the interest of students in Hong Kong's heritage and their preservation.

The competition was jointly organised by AMO and the Education Department as a prelude to the School Heritage Festival to be held in March.

End

Fight-crime and anti-drug campaigns in Northeast NT

A series of publicity drives will be launched to disseminate anti-drug and fight crime messages to residents in Tai Po, Sha Tin and North Districts tomorrow (Sunday).

A specially-designed double-deck bus will tour Tai Po to drive home the fight crime messages. A fight crime carnival organised by the Tai Po District Fight Crime Committee (TPDFCC) will feature game stalls, magic shows and popular singing performances.

Tai Po District Officer, Mr Danny Tsui; Fight Crime member, Ms Miriam Lau; TPDFCC chairman, Mr Man Mo-leung and Tai Po District Commander, Mr P C Burbidge-King will officiate at the opening of the carnival at 2 pm at Tai Po Playground, Tai Po Heung Sze Hui Street, Tai Po Market, Tai Po.

Meanwhile, a wide range of activities will be held at Sun Shine City Plaza in Ma On Shan, Sha Tin as part of an anti-drug programme.

Beginning at 2 pm, the event will include magic shows, acrobatics and singing performances by local pop singers.

It is jointly organised by the Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee and Sha Tin Jaycees.

Officiating guests will include Assistant Sha Tin District Officer, Mr Byron Lam; Sha Tin District Commander, Mr Lee Chi-yuen and the Chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Prof Chen Char-nie.

In North District, a karaoke singing contest which aims to drive home the fight crime and anti-drug messages will be held at 8 pm at Tin Ping Shopping Arcade, Tin Ping Estate, Sheung Shui.

Attending the singing contest will be North District Board Chairman, Mr Tang Kwok-yung and Legislative Councillor, Mr Cheung Hon-chung.

Organised by the North District Fight Crime Committee, the contest is co-organised by the North District Office with the sponsorship of North District Board.

End

Sha Tin to be lit up for Lunar New Year

* * * * *

Festive illuminations will be switched on in Sha Tin tomorrow (Sunday) to mark the advent of the Lunar New Year.

The lighting along Lek Yuen Bridge, Sand Martin Bridge and Bunyan Bridge, Sha Tin Town Centre, Ma On Shan as well as Tai Wai Town Centre, is organised by the Planning Committee on Festive Lighting in Sha Tin with the assistance of the Sha Tin District Office and sponsored by the Regional Services Department and the Sha Tin District Board.

The switching-on ceremony will be enriched by a variety show featuring Chinese opera, lion dance and dancing.

Officiating the ceremony will be Sha Tin District Officer, Miss Wong Mei-lin; Deputy Director of Regional Services, Mr Fred Ting Fok-cheung; Sha Tin District Board Chairman, Mr Choy Kan-pui; and Regional Council's Sha Tin District Chairman, Mr Pang Cheung-wai.

End

Salt water cut in Mong Kok

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (January 30) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermain works.

The suspension will affect all premises bounded by Dundas Street, Waterloo Road, Kowloon Canton Railway, Embankment Road, Boundary Street and the Sea Front.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	2,545	09:30	Nil
Closing Balance in the account	1,500	10:00	Nil
Change Attributable to:		11:00	Nil
Money Market Activity	Nil	11:30	Nil
Laf Today	-1,045		

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 124.1 *+0.0* 27.1.96

End

Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of remarks made by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten after participating in the Walk for Millions this (Sunday) morning:

Question: Would you confirm that ... Mr John Major ... Mr Qian ...

Governor: No. There's a long-standing invitation to him to come to Hong Kong and obviously I hope he will be able to do so before June 30, 1997, but there's no definite plan at the moment.

Question: Do you think the credibility of the preparatory committee ...

Governor: That's not for me. I hope that it will demonstrate its credibility by the extent to which it speaks up for Hong Kong and represents the opinions of Hong Kong and clearly one reason why we were a little disappointed that it wasn't more representative was that there is a lot of opinion in Hong Kong, for example, the Democratic Party, the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong which isn't represented on it. But I very much hope that through its own work and through its efforts and through the extent to which it reflects opinion in Hong Kong, it will show its credibility. We obviously all want it to do a good job. The Government, we are keen to co-operate with it wherever possible.

Question: Since the Liaison office has been established, how do you co-operate with the PC?

Governor: We've made it clear that the liaison office will be the point of contact with the preparatory committee. I am sure that we'll work out sensible arrangements for co-operation. My own guess is that we'll obviously want to be co-operating on a more extensive range of issue once there is a Chief Executive Designate and a Team Designate because there will be far more practical business of government to get on with. But if in the meantime the preparatory committee wants information or assistance, we'll be providing that in the most transparent way possible.

End

Statement on Long Term Housing Strategy Review

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Commenting on a newspaper report, the Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, said: "It is entirely untrue that the Government in the current review of the long term housing strategy has already formulated a policy preference to stop building public rental housing from 2001 onwards.

The review is still in the early stage. It will cover all important aspects of housing supply and demand in the next 10 years, including the types of housing to be produced. We have not yet formulated any view on the public housing programmes or other housing issues.

We hope to complete the Long Term Housing Strategy Review this summer and to produce a document for consultation with the public.

The Government will not take a view on the result before public views on the documents are received. It is far too early at this stage to suggest that there is a policy preference towards the future direction of the public housing programme."

End

Helen Yu takes up office as Director of Education

* * * * *

Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu will take up the office of Director of Education tomorrow (Monday).

Mrs Yu succeeds Mr W K Lam who will become the Secretary for the Civil Service.

Mrs Yu, aged 54, joined the civil service in 1965. She became an Administrative Officer in 1968 and rose to her present rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in February 1995.

She spent the early part of her career in the Administrative Service in the former Social Services Branch and Home Affairs Department.

She left the Administrative Service in 1975 to join the Independent Commission Against Corruption where she later became head of the Community Relations Department in charge of its programme of public education. She re-joined the Government in 1980 and was posted to the London Office until 1984.

On return, she held a number of positions including Deputy Director of Urban Services from 1984 to 1989, Deputy Director of the former Hospital Services Department from 1989 to 1990, Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare from 1990 to late-1992 and Secretary-General of the Office of the Members of the Legislative Council from 1993 to 1994.

She took up her last post as Director of Buildings in January 1994.

End

Taxi fare conversion tables for collection

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Taxi fare conversion tables showing the existing fares scales as against the new fare scales to be effective from February 4 this year will be available for collection by taxi owners from tomorrow (Monday).

Urban taxi owners can collect the tables at all Licensing Offices of the Transport Department; the department's Public Vehicles Section on third floor, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong; and Public Enquiry Service Centres of all urban District Offices and the Sha Tin, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan District Offices.

New Territories taxi owners can collect the tables at the department's Licensing Offices, the Public Vehicles Section and Public Enquiry Centres of the North, Sai Kung, Tai Po, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun District Offices.

For taxi associations, they can collect fare conversion tables in lots from the Public Vehicles Section for distribution to their members.

Taxi owners should show their taxi registration documents when collecting the conversion tables.

The conversion table must be displayed at a prominent position inside the taxi until its meter had been recalibrated, tested and sealed by the Transport Department, a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

A special meter sealing exercise for urban and New Territories taxis in connection with the taxi fare increase will be conducted from February 5.

Taxi owners who have made appointments for this special exercise earlier through taxi associations should attend the designated vehicle examination centres on time. Those who have not yet submitted their applications should make appointments through their respective taxi associations as soon as possible.

Taxi owners who are not members of a taxi association may make telephone appointments for testing and resealing of taxi meters for this special sealing exercise. Telephone bookings will be accepted after February 5 between 2 pm and 4 pm on weekdays. The telephone numbers are -

- * for urban taxis : 2759 7573
- * for New Territories taxis : 2426 9085.

Those who had already made appointments through their respective taxi associations should not make any telephone appointment, the spokesman said.

Taxi owners are reminded that this special arrangement is for meter testing and sealing only. Those who have made appointments for annual inspections and bi-annual meter checking from February 5 to April 30 should stick to their original bookings and should not make any appointment under this special exercise.

The spokesman said taxi meters should be recalibrated before they were tested and sealed by staff of the Transport Department.

"Wherever possible, the existing gearbox seal underneath the taxi should be left intact when the taxi is presented for the special sealing arrangement," he said.

"Taxi owners are requested to arrange for early recalibration of taxi meters so as to reduce unnecessary complaints arising from any possible misunderstanding of the passengers on the use of fare conversion tables," the spokesman added.

End

Record placements for disabled job-seekers

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The Labour Department's Selective Placement Division (SPD) has set a new record in job placement for people with a disability in 1995 with 1,422 successful cases.

Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement), Mr Cheung Tak-tsai, said the figure was encouraging in view of the unemployment situation in Hong Kong last year.

"The Government's escalating efforts in promoting job opportunities for the disabled and the changing attitude of the public, especially employers, towards the disabled, also played a part in achieving this," he said.

During the year, SPD had organised many activities to enhance public understanding of the working abilities of the disabled.

A good example was the Seminar on Open Employment for People with a Disability' 95 which attracted 350 participants including employers, human resource managers and rehabilitation professionals.

"Through direct contact with the disabled at the seminar, employers gained a better understanding of their potentials and became more receptive to them," Mr Cheung said.

A series of four 30-minute TV programmes - Under the Same Sky Part II - were jointly produced with RTHK to promote acceptance of the disabled at the workplace. The programmes were popular and had attracted more than 910,000 viewers.

Articles with quizzes were published in the Easy Finder magazine in August to dispel misconceptions about disabilities. The articles were well received and the quizzes had attracted 2,463 entries.

During the year, SPD had staged four exhibitions and delivered about 40 talks for personnel managers' clubs and employers' associations to promote public understanding of disabled employees. In addition, newsletters were distributed to about 20,000 employers.

Awards were presented to 10 outstanding employers and 12 outstanding disabled employees. Visits were also paid to government departments and employers to promote open employment of people with a disability.

On future plans, Mr Cheung said two guidebooks on the employment of the chronically ill and supportive services for employers would be published.

In addition, three videos on interviewing skills for the hearing impaired, work ethics for disabled workers and supportive services for employers are being produced.

SPD will be participating in the Education and Careers Expo' 96 in February to promote peer group acceptance of disabled people by young persons.

An exhibition, a quiz and trade tests will be conducted to publicise the working abilities of people with a disability.

"Our Division will continue to play an active role in the promotion of employment for people with a disability.

"We will be working closely with various government departments, rehabilitation organisations and committees to increase their job opportunities and to better equip them for open market jobs," Mr Cheung said.

End

Induction programmes for new immigrant children from China

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The Education Department is inviting applications from non-profit-making voluntary agencies to operate induction and extension programmes to help new immigrant children from China to adapt to local environment.

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday) that the subvention would be in the form of a block grant covering expenses for teaching staff, centre administration and basic teaching equipment in operating these two programmes.

The spokesman said: "The induction programme is designed for new immigrant children between six and 15 years of age and having arrived in Hong Kong from China for less than six months.

"Participants will learn about the rules and regulations in school and the community and the use of public amenities and public transport and will be equipped with skills in learning Chinese, English and self-study," he said.

The spokesman said the extension programme was aimed at providing new immigrants aged between nine and 15 with remedial teaching on English so as to improve their English standard.

Each class with 60 teaching hours will last four to six weeks.

Non-profit-making voluntary agencies can now obtain application forms from the Adult Education Section, Education Department, Wu Chung House, 11th floor, Room 1106, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. Application forms can also be obtained by post by sending a self-addressed envelope to the section.

All completed applications should reach the Adult Education Section not later than February 16. Enquiries can be made on 2892 6670 during office hours.

End

Fund-raising schedule for February

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Twelve organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
February 3	Yan Oi Tong
February 10	Kely Support Group
February 17	Pok Oi Hospital
February 24	Project Orbis

Public Subscription

<u>Event Day</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
February 1 - 29	Hong Kong PHAB Association
February 1 - 11	Oxfam Hong Kong
February 3 & 4	Sowers Action
February 3	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
February 4, 11, 18 & 25	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
February 4	Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association
February 11	Society for Community Organisation
February 25	Methodist Church, Hong Kong

End

Drug education roving exhibitions

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Four three-day drug education roving exhibitions will be held in the next two weeks to deliver more effectively the anti-drug messages to students and their parents.

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan; the Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu; and the Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Tik Chi-yuen will officiate at the exhibition launching ceremony at New World Plaza, Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui at 4.30 pm on Tuesday (January 30).

The exhibition is organised by the Committee on Home-School Co-operation in response to the recommendations made at the Governor's Summit Meeting held last March to curb drug abuse.

The aim of the exhibition, which targets not only young students but also parents, is to inculcate in young people a healthy and positive attitude to life and to encourage them to resist the temptation to take drugs.

The drug education roving exhibition will be held between January 30 and February 10 at the following venues:

- * January 30 - February 1 New World Plaza, Salisbury Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
- * February 2 - 4 Marina Square West Wing,
South Horizons, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong
- * February 5 - 7 Lok Fu Shopping Centre Exhibition Hall,
Lok Fu Estate Phase 1, Kowloon
- * February 8 - 10 Tin Yiu Shopping Centre, Tin Yiu Estate,
Tin Shui Wai, New Territories

A total of 15 schools will participate in the roving exhibition and 87 panels will be on display.

End

Pre-sale consent approved in the last quarter of 1995

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The Lands Department had approved a total of 14 applications for consent to pre-sale of residential and non-residential units in uncompleted developments during the last quarter of 1995.

Of the 14 applications, eight are for the pre-sale of a total of 6,914 residential units. These units, located in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, North, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan and Yuen Long districts, are estimated by the developers to be completed between February and December 1996.

The other six are for the pre-sale of non-residential units located in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, North, Sha Tin and Tai Po districts.

In addition, four consents to assign residential units were approved where occupation permits had been issued involving 2,800 units in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, Sha Tin and Yuen Long districts.

A total of 13 Deeds of Mutual Covenant, two Sub-deeds of Mutual Covenant and one Management Agreement for residential or non-residential developments were also approved during the quarter.

At the end of December 1995, a total of 11 applications for pre-sale consent involving 3,744 residential units and four applications in respect of non-residential developments are pending for approval.

These developments are located in a variety of districts throughout the territory and the majority are estimated to be completed in early to mid 1996.

Since the measures for pre-sale were introduced by the Government in June 1994, consent has been given to 23,399 residential units including four Private Sector Participation Scheme projects (involving a total of 5,810 units), one Sandwich Class Housing development (involving 1,024 units) and one Flat-for-sale Scheme (involving 400 units), which are not subject to the measures.

End