



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Anti-child abuse publicity campaign launched

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The first stage of an anti-child abuse publicity campaign, focusing on educating the general public on early detection and reporting of child abuse cases, was launched by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, today (Friday).

Speaking at a press conference to launch the publicity campaign, Mr Strachan said child abuse was a very complex problem and in the majority of cases, the abusers were usually persons who played an important part in the life of the child, such as the parents, relatives or other care providers.

"Children are close to them and dependent on them for physical care and emotional support. They are people whom children naturally trust and respect.

"Very often, children may not be aware that they are being abused, or even if they are aware of it, will find it difficult to speak up, fearing that they may be further punished or neglected.

"On the other hand, it is also difficult for the abusers, especially parents, to admit that a problem exists and seek professional help," Mr Strachan said.

In order to protect the vulnerable children and to prevent occurrence of child abuse, Mr Strachan said early identification and reporting of suspected and potential cases were essential.

"Awareness among the general public and multi-disciplinary professionals working with children are fundamental to prevent and contact child abuse.

"To achieve this aim, publicity and public education are crucial in disseminating the information, the messages and arousing awareness," he said.

Mr Strachan said a Public Education Sub-committee under the Working Group on Child Abuse was set up in August last year to maximise publicity efforts and available resources.

"Its objective is to formulate an overall effective strategy for enhancing the publicity programmes and to co-ordinate publicity and public education efforts on prevention of child abuse.

"To start off, the Public Education Sub- committee aims at launching publicity by stages targeting at the general public, parents and children," Mr Strachan said.

He said the following publicity materials would be launched in the first stage:

- * a series of five information leaflets to help the public to identify the child abuse problem as well as to develop a positive attitude and skills in child-rearing;

- * a poster arousing public attention to the problem;

- * a television announcement of public interest (API) to make the public aware of child abuse and encourage them to report;

- * a one-month radio programme, starting at RTHK Channel 1 next Monday (March 27), to focus on the care and concern for children.

Mr Strachan said apart from the publicity campaign, the sub-committee would further work out the public education strategy including future publicity campaigns and the integration of child abuse issues into the school curriculum and family life education.

"It is only with the growing awareness of the public on the problem of child abuse, and the readiness to bring the cases to the surface for assistance that we will be able to protect our children and to combat child abuse in our community," Mr Strachan said.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

JLG expert talks on Hong Kong's sewage disposal scheme

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A third round of talks between experts of the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group on matters relating to Hong Kong's sewage disposal scheme will be held in Hong Kong on March 27.

The British team will be led by the Hong Kong Government Secretary for Works, Mr James Blake. The Chinese team will be led by Chinese Representative Mr Chen Zuo'er. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Regulation for bus-only lane

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The Road Traffic (Expressway) (Amendment) Regulation 1995 was gazetted today (Friday) to allow for the introduction of bus only lanes on expressway.

A Government spokesman said the amendment was necessary for implementing a trial scheme in Tuen Mun Road. Starting from tomorrow (Saturday), the nearside lane of Tuen Mun Road would be designated as "bus only".

He explained that the scheme was introduced to improve public transport services for residents of the North West New Territories and was in line with the Government's policy of giving priority to public transport in the use of road space.

"Depending on the outcome of this trial scheme, similar arrangements will be introduced for other expressways in future," he added.

The spokesman said with the amendment, a bus lane would cease to be considered as a lane for the purposes of determining the number of lanes under the Road Traffic (Expressway) Regulations.

"At present, certain class of vehicles, such as medium and heavy goods vehicles, are prohibited from using the offside lane of an expressway where there are three or more traffic lanes open for use in the same direction.

"The amendment regulation seeks to lift this restriction in the situation where the nearside lane of an expressway is designated as a bus lane," the spokesman said.

He said the amendment also called for a new provision to provide that where the nearside lane was designated as a bus lane, a driver other than bus driver would be required to drive in the lane immediately to the right of the bus lane.

"He should also move back, after overtaking other vehicles or merging with one or more traffic lanes or diverging from other traffic lanes, to the lane immediately to the right of the bus lane," he said.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Personal Communications Services Licensing

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The Telecommunications Authority, Mr Alexander Arena, announced today (Friday) that 14 proposals had been received from consortia interested in operating Personal Communications Services (PCS) in Hong Kong. Most of these consortia had local and overseas partners.

"I am glad to see such an enthusiastic response from the telecommunications industry. This shows that both local and overseas investors have great confidence in the development of the telecommunications industry and the future of Hong Kong," Mr Arena said.

"We are looking for proposals which offer the best value-for-money for consumers.

"The proposals received will be evaluated carefully against a set of criteria, namely, customer services and charges, technical quality, investment and finance, corporate structure, implementation schedule, level of performance bond, management and technical expertise, other benefits to the local telecommunications industry and economy, and research and quality of proposal. All the information supplied to us will be kept in strict confidence," Mr Arena said.

An inter-departmental working group has been formed to evaluate proposals and make recommendations to the Telecommunications Authority on which applicants to license.

Membership of the working group comprises representatives from the Office of the Telecommunications Authority, the Economic Services Branch, the Attorney General's Chambers and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

A formal announcement of the successful applications for PCS is expected to be made around August this year.

In November last year, the Telecommunications Authority announced that up to six licences would be issued for the provision of PCS.

The decision was the outcome of an industry consultation process which indicated strong support for the granting of additional licences to enable the introduction of new services based on new and advanced mobile communication technologies and the allocation of more spectrum for such services.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Provisional statistics of retail sales January 1995

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The value of total retail sales in January 1995, estimated at \$20.7 billion, increased by 14% when compared with January 1994. After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales rose by 7% in volume in January 1995 over a year earlier.

The above provisional statistics of retail sales are released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The increase in total retail sales in January 1995 was mainly attributable to the notable growth in sales of clothing and footwear, and sales in supermarkets as the Lunar New Year approached. Sales of these two items increased by 29% and 21% respectively in value and their respective increases in volume terms were 16% and 12%.

It should be noted that these year-on-year growth rates were also affected by a relatively low comparison base in January 1994, as the Lunar New Year took place in February and not January in that year.

Sales of jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts, and sales in department stores also increased considerably, both by 16% in value. In volume terms, they increased by 16% and 7% respectively.

Moderate increases were recorded for sales of consumer durable goods (other than motor vehicles) (by 12% in value and 8% in volume); and fuels (by 11% in value and 3% in volume).

Meanwhile, sales of food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco increased by 8% in value, but dropped by 3% in volume.

Sales of motor vehicles decreased by 16% in value and 25% in volume.

Compared with December 1994, but bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, total retail sales in January 1995 increased by 5% in value and 7% in volume.

The volume of retail sales is derived from the value of retail sales after adjusting for price changes. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used as deflators.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for December 1994 and the provisional figure for January 1995.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in December 1994 and January 1995 for all retail outlets and by type of retail outlet, with average retail sales from October 1989 to September 1990 taken as 100. Comparisons of the January 1995 results with those for December 1994 and those for January 1994 are also given.

The report containing the analysis of the January 1995 results is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be directed to the Wholesale and Retail Trade Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department (Telephone 2802 1258).

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for January 1995 (Provisional Figure)= HK\$20,670.8 million
for December 1994 (Revised Figure) = HK\$19,607.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1994 AND JANUARY 1995

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of Outlet	Type of Index	Index number		January 1995 compared with December 1994		January 1995 compared with January 1994	
		December 1994 (Revised figures)	January 1995 (Provisional figures)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS		(Point)	(Point)	(Points)	(%)	(Points)	(%)
	Value	208.8	220.1	+11.3	+5.4	+27.1	+14.0
	Volume	159.1	169.4	+10.3	+6.5	+11.0	+6.9
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET							
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	142.6	150.5	+7.9	+5.6	+11.5	+8.3
	Volume	104.3	108.2	+3.9	+3.7	-3.3	-3.0
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	171.5	197.2	+25.7	+15.0	+34.2	+21.0
	Volume	119.3	137.4	+18.2	+15.2	+14.7	+12.0
Fuels	Value	158.1	145.8	-12.3	-7.8	+14.2	+10.8
	Volume	108.8	100.4	-8.4	-7.8	+3.2	+3.3
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	321.2	385.7	+64.5	+20.1	+85.9	+28.6
	Volume	210.3	266.7	+56.4	+26.8	+37.1	+16.2
Consumer durable goods	Value	202.7	191.5	-11.1	-5.5	-2.0	-1.0
	Volume	165.6	156.0	-9.7	-5.8	-9.0	-5.4
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	190.6	175.1	-15.5	-8.1	-33.8	-16.2
	Volume	132.7	119.1	-13.6	-10.3	-38.9	-24.6
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	211.4	203.4	-8.0	-3.8	+21.1	+11.6
	Volume	189.4	182.6	-6.8	-3.6	+12.7	+7.5
Department stores	Value	210.2	219.4	+9.2	+4.4	+30.4	+16.1
	Volume	145.3	158.9	+13.6	+9.4	+9.8	+6.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	206.0	222.4	+16.5	+8.0	+30.0	+15.6
	Volume	196.5	212.0	+15.5	+7.9	+29.3	+16.0
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	235.7	231.2	-4.5	-1.9	+25.7	+12.5
	Volume	182.1	179.2	-2.9	-1.6	+11.3	+6.7

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

Survey of Employment and Vacancies March 1995

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The Census and Statistics Department has just started the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies to collect data on employment and vacancies in major sectors of the economy in respect of March 1995.

This survey is conducted quarterly and the survey results are useful in serving as short-term economic indicators and providing information on the latest changes in the labour market.

This round of the survey covers about 68,000 establishments which are drawn from various sectors including the industrial sector (mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity and gas), the distributive trades sector (wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels) and the services sector (transport, storage and communication; financing, insurance, real estate and business services; community, social and personal services).

Information on the number of persons engaged and vacancies as at 31 March 1995 will be sought from each sampled establishment and questionnaires are being mailed to them.

In accordance with the Census and Statistics (Quarterly Survey of Employment & Vacancies) Order, these establishments are required to complete and return the questionnaires to the Census and Statistics Department within the specified period. If they have difficulties in completing the questionnaires, they are welcome to contact the department for assistance at 2582 5076.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

North-East Lantau Port Outline Zoning Plan published

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced the publication of the draft North-East Lantau Port Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The OZP covers an area of about 1,650 hectares including the proposed reclamation in North-East Lantau.

"The main purpose of the plan is to provide a land use planning framework to develop the area for major port facilities including container terminals and back-up areas, river trade cargo terminals, boatyards and port support industrial uses," a spokesman for the Board said.

"About 692 hectares of land within the area are planned for four new container terminals (CT), that is CT10 to CT13 and their back-up areas.

"There will be a total of 17 container berths, each with a terminal area of about 20 hectares.

"Adequate back-up land for parking of container vehicles and storage of containers, at a level of about 10 hectares per berth, has also been reserved," he added.

Detailed environmental impact assessments have been undertaken for the proposed CT10 and CT11, and the proposed development has been found to be environmentally acceptable subject to the implementation of certain mitigation measures including two 25-metre high earth bunds, one at the west end of CT10 and CT11.

To support the operation of the new container port, 85 hectares of land within the future reclamation are proposed for industrial and business park uses to provide high quality environment for mainly port-related offices and industrial enterprises.

In addition, about 50 hectares of land are earmarked for river trade cargo terminal and related uses; and 64 hectares of land for boatyards and marine-oriented industrial uses.

Most of the land is yet to be reclaimed and detailed planning for these facilities will be undertaken by the Government.

The main access to the area will be via Tsing Ma Bridge, Kap Shui Mun Bridge and the North Lantau Expressway which are under construction.

In the longer term, two additional transport links, namely, the Sham Tseng Link and the Green Island Link are preliminary proposed on the OZP for further study by the Government.

The Airport Railway will run along the northern part of the area with a station and public transport interchange facilities at Yam O to provide public transport services for future workers of the port.

The draft OZP (No. S/I-NELP/1) is now available for public inspection until May 24 during normal office hours at:-

- * Planning Department,
16th Floor, Murray Building,
Garden Road,
Hong Kong;
- * Lantau & Islands District Planning Office,
10th Floor, Leighton Centre,
77 Leighton Road,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong;
- * Tsuen Wan District Office,
First Floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-Storey
Carparking Building,
174-208 Castle Peak Road,
Tsuen Wan,
New Territories; and
- * Islands District Office,
20th Floor, Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the draft plan may submit written objection on or before May 24 to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th Floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

Copies of the draft plan are available for sale at the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department, 14th Floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, and Kowloon Map Sales Section, Ground Floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Reclamation in North Point proposed

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The Government has proposed reclaiming land for construction of the proposed North Point Government Offices at Java Road, North Point.

The reclamation will be carried out within an area of about 840 square metres of foreshore and seabed at North Point.

The work will begin in October this year for completion around January next year.

The extent of the area affected is notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road; and the Eastern District Office, ground floor, Eastern Law Courts Building, 29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that he has an interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected, may submit a written objection to the Director of Lands on or before May 24.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

New roads proposed for Yuen Long and Tuen Mun

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The Territory Development Department has proposed to construct new roads to cope with planned developments in Yuen Long and Tuen Mun.

One of the new roads will be built in Kam Tin along a proposed drainage channel from Wang Toi Shan to Kam Tin San Tsuen to facilitate channel maintenance works.

The works for this project also include reconstruction of existing roads and footpaths, and construction of associated earth, drainage and slope works.

The new roads for Tuen Mun will be built in Area 35 and 52 - one in Area 35 and two in Area 52 - to serve the proposed development there.

The works include construction of a footbridge system, footways and cycle tracks, as well as associated drainage and earthworks.

Notices about the proposed works in Yuen Long and Tuen Mun has been gazetted today (Friday).

The plan and scheme for the Yuen Long works can be seen at the Central and Western District Office; Yuen Long District Office; and Yuen Long District Lands Office.

The plan and scheme of the Tuen Mun works may be seen at the Central and Western District Office; Tuen Mun District Lands Office; and Tuen Mun District Office.

Anyone wishing to object to the proposals should write to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, no later than May 23, 1995, describing his interest and how he will be affected.

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Land to be resumed for public golf centre

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The Government will resume eight private agricultural lots with a total area of 4,451.5 square metres for development of a public golf centre at Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung.

Resumption work is expected to start in June this year and will take six months to complete.

Details were notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The land will be reverted to the Government three months from the date of the Gazette Notice.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Sewer improvement works for Yuen Long

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The Government will build a sewage rising main in Yuen Long to improve the existing sewer network in Yuen Long.

The works will be carried out within an area of about 600 square metres of foreshore and seabed.

The project will start in July this year for completion around December 1996.

The extent of the area affected was notified in the Gazette today (Friday).

The notice and its related plan can be seen at the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road and the Yuen Long District Office, ground floor, Yuen Long District Branch Offices Building, 269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long.

The plan can also be purchased at the Survey and Mapping Office.

Any person who considers that his interest, right or easement in or over the foreshore and seabed involved will be affected, may submit a written claim for compensation to the Director of Lands on or before March 24, 1996.

He should state in his submission the sum of money that he is willing to accept in full and final settlement of his claim and submit particulars to substantiate the claim.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Tenders invited for cleansing and inspecting sewers

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The Drainage Services Department is inviting tenders for sewer cleansing and inspection works in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin.

The works include the cleansing of sediment by high pressure water jet and internal inspection by television of large foul sewers under the main traffic routes.

The purpose of the works is to record the structural and service condition of the sewers to formulate a sewer maintenance programme. The removal of sediment before inspection will restore the hydraulic capacity of the sewers and reduce the risk of flooding.

The works are scheduled to begin in June this year and will take about 12 months to complete.

A notice inviting tenders was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the office of Consulting Engineers Rust Asia Pacific, third floor, Devon House, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay.

The tender closing date is noon on April 21.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Pre-qualification invited for seawall project at Tseung Kwan O

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting approved contractors to participate in a pre-qualification exercise for the construction of seawall and reclamation for the Tseung Kwan O Port Development Stage I at Area 137, Tsueng Kwan O.

The works comprise mainly the construction of 3,500 metres of seawalls and associated drainage outfalls, and reclamation of about 57 hectares of land.

Construction is expected to commence in October for completion in about 27 months.

The works have been designed and construction will be supervised by Development and Airport Division, Civil Engineering Office, Civil Engineering Department.

Only contractors on the Approved Contractors for Public Works List I Group C for port works (confirmed) or on the List II for port works (confirmed) can apply for pre-qualification.

Interested parties may apply for pre-qualification documents from Chief Engineer, Development and Airport, Civil Engineering Department, second floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

The deadline for submission of application is noon on April 18, and tenders will be invited from the pre-qualified contractors in July.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Minibuses to take on new colour scheme

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A new colour scheme will be implemented for red and green minibuses from April 1 to extend the advertising space on the vehicles, a spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Friday).

The roof panel and all parts above the window will be painted green for green minibuses, and red for red minibuses.

The bodies of all minibuses will be painted yellow, the spokesman said.

The vehicles may carry advertisements with prior approval from the Transport Department, he added.

"The new colour scheme will have a one-year transition period to enable minibus owners to meet the new requirement.

"Within the transition period, vehicles that do not comply with the new scheme will be tolerated until they are brought to the Transport Department for annual examination."

The spokesman reminded the owners whose minibuses are scheduled for annual examination in early April to make urgent arrangements to have their vehicles painted in accordance with the new colour scheme before they are presented to the department.

End/Friday, March 24, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,632	0930	-21
Closing balance in the account	2,111	1000	-21
Change attributable to :		1100	+5
Money market activity	-4	1200	+6
LAF today	-517	1500	+6
		1600	-4

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.0 *+0.1* 24.3.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.92	14 months	2605	6.35	100.18	6.27
1 month	5.12	23 months	2702	7.50	101.50	6.76
3 months	5.51	28 months	3707	6.95	100.31	6.91
6 months	5.76	34 months	3801	8.00	102.45	7.15
12 months	6.17	60 months	5003	7.75	100.85	7.68

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$10,055 million

Closed March 24, 1995

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