



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Top officials investments available for public inspection

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Investments declared by the 20 top officials will be available for public inspection from today (Tuesday).

Under the revised Rules on Investments and Declaration of Investments by Civil Servants promulgated in March this year, civil servants appointed to posts with access to market sensitive information are required to declare their private investments in Hong Kong annually.

In addition, the 20 top officials namely, the Chief Secretary, Financial Secretary, Attorney General, Branch Secretaries, Commissioner of Police and Commissioner, and Independent Commission Against Corruption, have to register every year with the government their financial interests in Hong Kong. This register will be made available for public inspection.

The interests they have to declare are:

- (a) land and property including the family home;
- (b) proprietorships, partnerships or directorships of companies; and
- (c) shareholdings of one per cent or more in any listed public or private company.

A government spokesman explained that the purpose of making the declarations of the 20 top officials available for public inspection is to further enhance the concept of public accountability.

Members of the public may call the Civil Service Branch on 2810 2748 to make an appointment to inspect the records during office hours. Inspection is free but copies will be charged at the Government rate. Note to Editors:

A summary of the declarations of interests by the 20 top officials will be faxed.

End/Tuesday, August 1, 1995

61 nominations received for LegCo elections

A total of 61 nominations were received today (Tuesday), the first day of nomination of candidates for the Legislative Council elections. The breakdown of nominations by constituency is as follows:

Geographical Constituency:	31
New Functional Constituency:	13
Old Functional Constituency:	15
Election Committee Constituency:	2

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Final Register of Electors published

The 1995 Final Registers of Electors (FRs), in respect of the geographical constituencies (GCs), functional constituencies (FCs), and election committee constituency, (ECC) are published today.

Following the publication of the 1995 Provisional Registers of Electors (PRs) on June 21, public inspection was made available from June 21 to July 5 for electors to raise objections or claims to the Revising Officer. A total of 184 notices of objections and 69 claims were received and considered by the Revising Officer. All objections and 65 claims were allowed. Four claims were dismissed.

Electors might also report changes of their particulars to the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) before July 5 for inclusion in the FRs. 9,000 reports for changes of particulars were received before the deadline. A total of 254,000 electors were also reallocated to 86 replaced or added polling stations for the September Legislative Council Elections. These are reported in the FRs.

Clerical and computer data input errors in the PRs were also corrected. As a result, about 7,000 entries have been re-instated and included in the FR for GC and 14,000 entries in the FR for FC.

The total GC electorate is now 2.57 million, as compared with 2.45 million in 1994.

For the nine new FCs, more than 1.06 million working persons are registered, some 43 per cent of the potential electorate.

For the old FCs, there are more electors in each of the 10 old FCs representing the professional sectors and the total electorate is up by 14 per cent from 63,000 to 72,141.

There are also 22 per cent more electors in the 10 old FCs where individual electors have replaced corporate electors, the total reads 10,211, as compared with 8,325 in 1994.

283 electors are registered in the ECC which is constituted by district board members.

Electors whose names appear on the 1995 FRs will be eligible to vote at the forthcoming Legislative Council Elections to be held on September 17.

The FRs are available for public inspection during office hours on any working day at the following offices:

- * Registration and Electoral Office (Full set available)
Office Harbour Centre,
10th floor, 25 Harbour Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
- * District Offices (The parts on the GC Register relevant to the district)
- * Registration and Electoral Office (The parts on the nine new FCs)
(Registration Section),
10th floor, Guardian House,
32 Oi Kwan Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
- * Central and Western District Office

- * Yau Tsim Mong District Office
- * Kwun Tong District Office (The parts on the old FCs)
- * Sha Tin District Office
- * Tsuen Wan District Office

For enquiries, please call 2891 1001.

End/Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Minimum employees' compensation insurance required

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Employers are required to purchase a minimum amount of compensation insurance for their employees instead of the unlimited insurance cover previously required.

The Employees' Compensation (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 1995, which comes into effect today, specifies the minimum amount of insurance cover for different employment situations to be purchased by employers under and independently of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.

"The minimum amount of insurance cover is \$100 million per event in the case of an employer employing not more than 200 employees, and \$200 million per event if the number of employees exceeds 200," Acting Senior Labour Officer (Compensation), Mrs Mary Cheng, said.

Under the Amendment Ordinance, a principal contractor in the construction industry may take out a blanket insurance policy for not less than \$200 million per event in respect of his own liabilities and those of his sub-contractors.

A group of companies may also take out a blanket insurance policy for at least \$200 million per event to cover the liabilities of the holding company as well as those of its subsidiary companies.

Under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, it is an offence for an employer to fail to obtain the minimum insurance cover for his liabilities at law.

On summary conviction, he may be required to pay a fine of \$25,000 and be imprisoned for one year. It is therefore in a company or a contractor's own interest to secure sufficient insurance cover in order to comply with the law and for their own protection.

Mrs Cheng said that if a principal contractor had taken out a blanket insurance policy covering his liabilities and those of his sub-contractors, he and his sub-contractors would be regarded as having complied with the compulsory insurance requirements of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.

"Similarly, if a group of companies have taken out a blanket insurance policy covering their liabilities to their employees, all those in the group insured shall be regarded as having complied with such requirements," she explained.

"Should an employee's claim exceed the insurance cover, he should receive the outstanding balance from his employer as the employer is primarily responsible for the payment of compensation," Mrs Cheng added.

The Amendment Ordinance therefore further provides that where a blanket insurance policy has been taken out by a group of companies and where the amount of insurance cover has been exhausted, the subsidiary company concerned shall be liable for any outstanding claim in respect of any injury to an employee.

"If the employee is unable to recover payment of compensation from the subsidiary company concerned, the holding company insured under the same insurance policy shall be liable to pay the amount to the employee," Mrs Cheng added.

Enquiries on the Amendment Ordinance can be made to the Labour Department hotline 2717 1771.

End/Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Director of Fire Services retires

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The Government announced today (Tuesday) that Mr Lam Chek-yuen, Director of Fire Services, will retire on October 1. Mr Lam will be succeeded by Mr Peter Cheung, the current Deputy Director of Fire Services.

The following are brief biographical notes on Mr Lam and Mr Cheung:

Mr Lam Chek-yuen

Mr Lam joined the civil service in 1956 as a sub-officer in the Fire Services Department in 1958. He was promoted to Deputy Director of Fire Services in 1987 and to Director of Fire Services in 1992. On his retirement at the age of 57, Mr Lam will have completed 39 years of service with the Hong Kong Government.

Mr Peter Cheung

Aged 52, Mr Cheung joined the civil service as an Assistant Station Officer in 1962. He was promoted to Chief Fire Officer in 1989 and to Deputy Director of Fire Services in 1992. Mr Cheung has acted as Director of Fire Services on a number of occasions.

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Measures to prevent sale of illegal rooftop structures

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The Buildings Department has taken a number of measures to prevent the sale of illegal rooftop structures.

This was disclosed by the Assistant Director of Buildings, Mr Cheng Wei-dart, when responding to press enquiries today (Tuesday).

"There has been close liaison between the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Buildings Department regarding illegal rooftop structures. At the request of the department, the Law Society has issued circulars to advise its members to be particularly careful in dealing with space and unauthorised structures on rooftops," Mr Cheng said.

"The Buildings Department has been advising the public against buying illegal rooftop structures. We also issue warning when we find anyone erecting these structures, not just through complaints but also our own discovery in the course of our inspections," he added.

Mr Cheng explained that property title might be rendered defective by the existence of illegal rooftop structures, pointing out that there had been a court ruling to that effect.

"Therefore, those who sell or buy illegal rooftop structures do so at their own risk," he cautioned, pointing out that the Buildings Department had adopted a more rigorous policy of prosecution and demolition of new and dangerous rooftop structures.

Meanwhile, a Housing Branch spokesman revealed that a bill which sought to regulate the operation of estate agents by establishing an Estate Agents Authority would be introduced into the Legislative Council later in the year.

Among other things, the Authority will require estate agents to furnish true and accurate information about the property handled by them, including a statement by the owner of the property as to whether the property has any unauthorised alteration works and whether the property is subject to any current orders or plans to carry out repairs.

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Job Matching extends to all employment offices

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Job-seekers wishing to join the Labour Department's Job Matching Programme (JMP) can visit any of the nine Local Employment Service (LES) branch offices from today (Tuesday).

The programme, launched in April in five LES offices to help unemployed persons aged 30 or above to find jobs, is extended to all LES offices today instead of late September as scheduled. The Commissioner for Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, said he was glad the JMP could be extended to all LES offices ahead of schedule.

"The success of the programme has prompted the Government to extend the programme as early as practicable," he said.

For the first four months of operation, 1,377 job-seekers had registered under the programme and 429 were placed in jobs.

"More than 30 per cent of the registrants found jobs. If those who declined employment offers were taken into consideration, the success rate of job placement would be more than 40 per cent," Mr Ip said. Most successful job-seekers are now working as clerks, office assistants, cleaners and labourers, earning between \$4,000 and \$13,000 per month.

Mr Ip reiterated that JMP registrants were offered active placement service.

The Placement Officer will conduct an in-depth interview with the registrant to assess his aptitude and capability, briefed him fully on the job market situation and advised on vacancies that suit him.

He will then be referred to selection interviews with employers. If the registrant needs further training to enhance his employment prospect, the officer will recommend him to a retraining course organised by the Employees Retraining Board. Upon completion of retraining, active placement assistance will be given to him.

Mr Ip urged job-seekers aged 30 or above to register with the JMP without delay.

For enquiries on the programme, please call 2591 1316.

End/Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Employers should observed existing law on retirement scheme

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The Office of the Registrar of Occupational Retirement Schemes today (Tuesday) advised Hong Kong employers that they should strictly observe the existing requirements under the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance (ORSO).

Although the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance (MPFO) was passed by the Legislative Council, details of its requirements and commencement date have yet to be finalised. However, employers operating occupational retirement schemes must register their existing schemes with the Registrar, as required by law, before October 15.

Registrar of Occupational Retirement Schemes, Mrs Pamela Tan, said: "Although the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council, the commencement date of the new ordinance has not been fixed, and further requirements under the rules and regulations have not been finalised yet.

"The Government is now proceeding to establish the rules and regulations for implementation under the new Ordinance. Additionally, rules and regulations will be introduced to facilitate the interface between the new ordinance on the existing retirement schemes while keeping the impact on the latter to the minimum."

She advised employers operating occupational retirement schemes not to delay their registration.

"It is of immediate concern for employers to strictly observe the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance and submit their applications for scheme registration before the deadline on October 15, 1995.

"Employers who fail to register before the deadline and continue to operate unregistered retirement schemes may be prosecuted and face penalty of up to \$500,000 fine and additional daily fine of up to \$10,000 and two years imprisonment," said Mrs Tan.

The application procedure was not complicated, the Registrar stress, urging those employers who have not yet submitted their registration applications to act now, and to co-ordinate with their scheme administrators in the preparation of the required application documents. The Office will not be extending the deadline.

ORSO has come into operation since October 15, 1993. The purpose of the ordinance is to set up a registration system to ensure that all private occupational retirement schemes are properly regulated and that retirement benefits will be paid to scheme members when they fall due.

It stipulates major safeguards to enhance the protection of schemes members' interest, including the separation of scheme assets from employer's assets, adequate funding of the schemes by employers, regular independent audits and actuarial reviews, disclosure of information to scheme members, independent trusteeship and restrictions on certain investments of scheme assets.

The Office so far received more than 7,600 registration applications covering more than 400,000 employees.

For further details, please call the Occupational Retirement Schemes Hotline 2867 4642 or Charles Lankerster or Grace Sek of Shandwick Hong Kong Limited on 2845 1008.

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NAPCO brings ACP message to Seattle

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Great progress is being made on the construction of the Airport Core Programme in Hong Kong, the Director of the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office, Mr Billy Lam, said in Seattle, USA, yesterday (Monday).

Mr Lam is on a three-day visit to Seattle to attend the Pacific Rim TransTech Conference and to deliver a keynote speech on the Airport Core Programme at the opening session.

"We are making excellent progress on the construction of the new airport and the other nine associated infrastructural projects," he told the audience of about 1,000 transport experts from the United States and other countries. This was a remarkable achievement given that the ACP is one of the world's largest infrastructure programmes.

"The recent agreement with the Chinese Government on the financial support agreements for the airport and the airport railway will give the programme further impetus," he added.

Upon completion, the infrastructure provided by the 10 projects will strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international business, financial and aviation centre and the gateway to China.

"The ACP is a major investment which will support Hong Kong's economic growth well beyond 1997 and into the 21st century," Mr Lam said.

He said there has been active international participation in the ACP with about 77 per cent, by value, of the contracts going to overseas firms.

"We operate a fair and open tender system with a level playing field for all contractors, and contracts are awarded strictly on the basis of value for money," he added.

Mr Lam will return to Hong Kong on Thursday (August 3).

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Secondary five students invited to English programme

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Secondary five students who have taken half of the subjects in the 1995 Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) in Chinese are reminded to apply in time for the Pre-S6 course of the Intensive English Programme (IEP) due to start later this month.

The Pre-S6 course is the first stage of the IEP. It is a two-week whole-day course conducted by the British Council on behalf of the Education Department from August 21 to 31. A spokesman for the Education Department said the course was designed to help students achieve the English standard required to enter local tertiary institutions.

To be eligible for the Pre-S6 course, students must:

- * have been admitted to secondary six grades in the 1995-96 school year;
- * have satisfied the requirements for sitting the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination in 1997; and
- * have taken in at least 50 per cent of the subjects in the HKCEE in Chinese in 1995 apart from Chinese Language, Chinese Literature, Chinese History, English Language, English Literature, Buddhist Studies, Shorthand and Typewriting.

The spokesman stressed that failure to enrol in the Pre-S6 course would result in being not eligible for the Post-S6 (second stage) and Post-S7 (third stage) courses of the IEP to be held in the summers of 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Application forms are available in schools where students have been admitted to secondary six. Private candidates may obtain forms in all District Education Offices.

Applicants getting secondary 6 places from August 8 to 11 under the secondary 6 admission procedure must return the completed application forms to the Education Department through school principals on or before August 11.

However, applicants getting secondary six places through central allocation as well as those in non-bought place private schools, may return the application forms to the Schools Division of the Education Department at 14th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, through the principals of their secondary six schools on or before August 18.

Applicants taking the 1995 HKCEE as private candidates are required to complete separate application forms and forward it to the Education Department through principals offering them secondary six places, with a copy of HKCEE admission slip and a copy of the HKCEE result notice.

There is a quota for the number of students admitted to the course. If the number exceeds, a selection process will be conducted.

The list of successful applicants will be posted at the following three places at 11 am on August 19 (Saturday):

- * Lui Kee Educational Services Centre, 269 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai;
- * British Council Head Office, 255 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai;
- * Education Department Kowloon Sub-Office, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei.

Enquiries may be directed to the Education Research Section, Education Department at 2892 6608 or 2892 6616.

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Land Registry announces enhanced Performance Pledges

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The Land Registry announced today (Tuesday) the results of its second year's performance against service targets and new Performance Pledges for the current year.

The Land Registrar, Mr Kenneth Pang Tsan-wing said that the Registry has done well in meeting the second year's Performance Pledges based on customer expectations, both in terms of delivery time and quality of service.

"For the two major services, registration of land documents and search of land registers, our actual performance was 95.6 per cent and 100 per cent meeting targets respectively."

As an on-going commitment to improving services, the Land Registry has set higher performance standards for this year. For example, the service time for registration of land documents has been shortened from 22 to 20 working days and that for search of land registers from 30 to 25 minutes.

"To ensure that our performance is effectively monitored and our services meeting customer needs, we have regular meetings with three customers liaison groups, they have provided very useful feedback and constructive suggestions," Mr Pang added.

"We also have a dedicated Customer Service Manager and a periodic newsletter, the 'Land Registry News', to update our clients on the Registry's current activities and new services," Mr Pang said.

The announcement of the Registry's enhanced Performance Pledges for 1995 coincides with the Second Anniversary of the Land Registry Trading Fund which started operation on August 1, 1993.

At the second anniversary reception, Mr Pang said: "the Land Registry has successfully achieved its performance targets and financial objectives for the second year. It has also made significant progress in delivering new and improved services through the implementation of various development projects."

Two major development projects, namely the computerisation of the New Territories land registers and the on-line land search direct access services, are proceeding well.

The first phase of computerising the town lot land registers in the New Territories, which began in May 1994, will be completed this month. In fact, computer-assisted land registration and search services in respect of the computerised town lot land registers in a number of NT Land Registries are available since February this year.

As regards the Direct Access Services (DAS) which enables customers to make on-line land search of the urban land registers through computer terminals at their own offices, over 270 subscribers are enjoying this fast and convenient service since its introduction in September last year. The DAS facility has been progressively extended to the computerised land registers in the New Territories since March this year.

The Registry's new Performance Pledges are set out in a pamphlet published today. Another information pamphlet on 'How to conduct searches of land records' has also been produced. Copies of these pamphlets are available to the public at any of the Land Registry Offices and district offices of the Home Affairs Department.

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Energy statistics annual report on sale

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The Census and Statistics Department has published the Hong Kong Energy Statistics Annual Report 1994, which describes the situation of energy supply and demand in Hong Kong.

The report contains comprehensive statistical information relating to different forms of energy, including oil products, coal products, electricity and gas.

It also includes an overall energy balance which summarises the sources and uses of different forms of energy, and depicts their relationships in the energy transformation processes.

Regarding various oil products, statistics on list prices, storage capacity, tank stock, imports, re-exports, retained imports, average unit values of imports, and quantity of sales by type of user are presented in the report. Figures on imports, re-exports, retained imports and average unit values of imports of selected coal products are given.

For electricity and gas, the report shows figures on tariff charges, generating capacity, production and consumption by type of user.

Annual figures for the years 1984 to 1994 are provided with respect to most of these statistics. In addition, quarterly figures for 1993 and 1994 are presented for selected items.

The report is already on sale at \$25 per copy. Purchase of this report can be made at the Government Publication Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. It is also available at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan-Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries about the energy statistics published in the report can be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2839 3246.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	1 Aug 1995	1 Aug 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q531	H570
Amount applied	HK\$8,630 MN	HK\$5,838 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.45 PCT	5.53 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.45 PCT	5.54 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 56 PCT	About 82 PCT
Average tender yield	5.46 PCT	5.56 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 7 Aug, 1995

Tender date	8 Aug 1995	8 Aug 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q532	Y592
Issue date	9 Aug 1995	9 Aug 1995
Maturity date	8 Nov 1995	7 Aug 1996
Tenor	91 days	364 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$500+150 MN

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,164	0930	+142
Closing balance in the account	2,097	1000	+140
Change attributable to :		1100	+143
Money market activity	+143	1200	+143
LAF today	-210	1500	+143
		1600	+143

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.0 *+0.0* 1.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.31	2 years	2705	6.40	100.70	6.06
1 month	5.36	3 years	3807	6.16	99.33	6.51
3 months	5.46	5 years	5006	6.60	98.17	7.17
6 months	5.55	5 years	M501	7.90	101.60	7.63
12 months	5.65					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$11,234 million

Closed August 1, 1995

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