



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of remarks by the Chief Secretary	1
Appointment of statutory Commission of Inquiry recommended	1
Official Secrets Bill gazetted today	3
NT Land Exchange Entitlements (Redemption) Ordinance	4
Some progress on telecommunications accord	5
Efforts to fight against spread of cancer underlined	6
Bill on assessment and collection of Govt rents gazetted	7
Draft Chek Lap Kok OZP published	9
110 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight	11
Monitors' Report submitted to CS	11
New LAB members appointed	12



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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
New guidelines aimed at helping teachers	13
Deadline for deafness compensation applications extended	14
Town Planning Board publishes Annual Report	15
Philatelic collection set for the Year of the Ox	16
Air quality report for November	17
CPCE produces Basic Law calendar	18
Tenders invited for two secondary schools	19
Sale of land by Letter A/B or cash tender	19
Two architectural projects in Kwun Tong	20
Deadline for Christmas mail	21
Flushing water cut in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung	21
Hong Kong Monetary Authority Interbank Liquidity	22

Transcript of remarks by the Chief Secretary

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Following is the transcript of the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan's remarks to the media at Government Secretariat today (Friday):

Question: (on invitation for Mrs Chan to become chief secretary for administration of the Special Administrative Region.)

Chief Secretary: I did have an opportunity today, the first opportunity I've had to speak with Mr Tung and of course to congratulate him on his election. I am also very happy to know that Mr Tung has confidence in me. I very much hope that he will make a decision on the rest of his team as early as possible and certainly in terms of giving confidence and maintaining morale and stability in the civil service, it would be a very good thing if all existing principal officials could carry on with their work after 1997.

End

Appointment of statutory Commission of Inquiry recommended

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The Government will recommend to the Executive Council the appointment of a statutory Commission of Inquiry to look into the fire at Garley Building last month.

Releasing the reports by two Fire Services Investigation Teams on the No. 5 fire today (Friday), a Government spokesman said that an independent inquiry chaired by a judge was appropriate and commensurate with the scale of the disaster and the public concern over the incident.

He said the Government had accepted and would implement immediately where possible the recommendations made by the Investigation Teams.

"In fact, the administration is already pursuing some of the recommendations," he added.

These include the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Bill which is now under scrutiny by a Legislative Council Bills Committee. It requires enhancement to current standards in the provision of fire service installations, means of escape and access, and fire-resisting construction in certain prescribed commercial premises.

"The Government is reviewing what additional measures ought to be taken to enhance fire safety in old commercial/office buildings like Garley Building," the spokesman said.

"We will conduct a sample survey on old commercial/office buildings in order to assess whether it is feasible to extend similar requirements as in the Bill to these buildings.

"We aim to complete the survey by January next year and then come to a view on the appropriate legislative proposals."

In addition, he pointed out that the Government had introduced the Occupational Safety and Health Bill earlier this month.

"If enacted, the Commissioner for Labour may require employers to provide fire safety measures in addition to those required under any other law," he said.

"This will cover workplaces in commercial buildings like Garley Building.

"We will review progress by various Government departments within three months with a view to follow through the implementation of all the recommendations."

The two Fire Services Investigation Teams were set up to look into the cause and rapid spread of the fire as well as the circumstances leading to the multiple casualties.

The main recommendations of the reports by the teams are as follows:

- * Review the feasibility of introducing mandatory requirements for upgrading fire service installations and equipment in old commercial buildings to bring them into line with the prevailing safety standards.
- * Review the feasibility of introducing mandatory requirements for lift contractors to provide proper compartmentation when lift landing doors are required to be removed for re-construction works.
- * Publicity about fire safety should be stepped up, in particular to educate workers on the importance of observing fire safety measures when carrying out any welding works.

- * The Buildings Department and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to review regulations on maintenance of Fire Resisting Period for lift shafts, and on hot work during lift maintenance works.
- * The Labour Department to review fire safety procedures involving industrial activities such as welding process in non-industrial premises.

The spokesman said that the main parts of the two reports were released in full to the public today.

Acting upon legal advice, some appendices to the reports which contain witness statements are withheld. They will be produced to the Coroner or to a Commission of Inquiry if one is established.

"The conclusions of the reports represent the preliminary views of the reporting teams. They are based upon the information available at the date of completion of each report and may require modification to take account of a reassessment of that information or of further information that comes to light either before or during a coroner's inquest or a Commission of Inquiry," he said.

Copies of the reports will be made available to the families of the fire victims at a briefing session held by officers from the Security Branch, Fire Services Department, Home Affairs Department and Legal Aid Department.

Copies will also be deposited at all district offices for inspection by other interested parties.

End

Official Secrets Bill gazetted today

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The Official Secrets Bill, which will localise the provisions of the UK Official Secrets Acts currently applied to Hong Kong, was gazetted today (Friday).

A Government spokesman said, "We have consulted the Chinese side, through the Joint Liaison Group, on the Bill. Both sides have agreed that the Bill should proceed.

"The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council next Wednesday (December 18)."

"At present, official secrets in Hong Kong are governed by the UK Official Secrets Acts as applied to Hong Kong. These Acts will lapse after June 30, 1997.

"Hong Kong, as with any territory, will continue to need legislation to protect official information from July 1. We need local laws to replace the UK Acts," the spokesman explained.

"The Bill modifies some aspects of the Acts to reflect local circumstances. For example, it removes a number of provisions in the Acts which are duplicated in other Hong Kong legislation," he said.

"The Bill includes a safeguard in the provision requiring a person to give information to the Police to ensure that the information cannot be used against the person in criminal proceedings," he added.

End

NT Land Exchange Entitlements (Redemption) Ordinance

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The Government intends to make land exchange entitlements, commonly known as Letters A/B, redeemable for cash only rather than land from a date to be announced in the near future.

A government spokesman said the New Territories Land Exchange Entitlements (Redemption) Ordinance gazetted today (Friday) sought to extinguish all other rights against the Government in respect of a land exchange entitlement.

The rates for redemption money payable to holders of the entitlements under the Ordinance are also gazetted.

After the Ordinance comes into operation, an owner of a land exchange entitlement may lodge his/her claim for payment of redemption money with the Director of Lands.

The spokesman said that the entitlements would not become valueless after the enactment of the Ordinance.

"They can be redeemed for cash which will bear interest from the commencement date of the ordinance to the date of payment.

"We estimate that the amount of existing outstanding entitlements stands at about 6.75 hectares of equivalent building land. Out of them, 4.68 hectares are held by property developers.

"Sufficient land has been made available in 1996-97 to redeem all the 6.75 hectares of outstanding commitments."

The spokesman noted that about 2.07 hectares of entitlements would likely remain untraceable and would not surface.

"It is hoped that holders of these entitlements would note the implications of this Ordinance and exchange the entitlements for land before the Ordinance comes into operation."

NT land exchange entitlements were issued between 1960 and 1983 to landowners in the NT whose land was required for development. Holders of these entitlements are entitled to exchange the entitlements for land or cash. The issue of entitlements was stopped in 1983 because of increasing difficulties in meeting the exchange commitment.

End

Some progress on telecommunications accord

* * * * *

The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, said today (Friday) that in parallel discussions at this week's Singapore Ministerial Conference (SMC), there had been some progress registered on the negotiations on basic telecommunications.

"I welcome the significant number of new or improved offers announced over recent weeks or in the course of this week. New offers are forthcoming from four World Trade Organization (WTO) members. Another has advised that it is seriously studying and considering making an offer. Seven WTO members have advised that they will also improve their offers."

Miss Yue said that this increased participation was a demonstration of some political will to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion on February 15, 1997 and that if more new and improved offers come forward, these would be welcome so as to ensure the success of the telecommunications negotiations.

Also during the week, Director-General of Telecommunications, Mr Alex Arena, chaired a series of discussions on a variety of outstanding technical issues.

Mr Arena said that a common view was emerging that the outstanding horizontal issues relating to technical matters, for example, regarding satellite based services and possible distortions to international services have been further clarified and that solutions are clearly emerging.

Current expectations are that none of these issues should constitute an impediment to the successful conclusion of an agreement in February 1997.

On the importance of the telecommunications negotiations, Miss Yue noted the increasing reliance that the Hong Kong economy now places on a reliable and world-class telecommunications industry to support our services industries.

"Our economy is now heavily services based and our telecommunications industry will help to maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness in all the services sectors."

Miss Yue said, "During the course of the SMC, many speakers commented to the effect that telecommunications is a generator of economic growth and employment and that, if we are successful in the WTO, basic telecommunications liberalisation will spur investment and the use of new technologies across the globe.

"As the Director-General of the WTO, Mr Renato Ruggiero, said in his plenary address in Singapore, the importance of this agreement cannot be over-estimated. Information, know-how, ideas he said are the new forces that are driving the global economy forward and telecommunications are the global aqueducts."

End

Efforts to fight against spread of cancer underlined

* * * * *

Cancer remains the number one killer disease in Hong Kong claiming victims of different ages, sex and ethnic groups.

Last year alone, more than 76,000 cancer patients were admitted into public hospitals while some 9,600 people died from the disease. These represented an increase of over 150 per cent and 50 per cent respectively over the figures in 1980.

"There is a great need to enhance our preventive, curative and palliative care to cope with this rising trend," the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, stressed at the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society this (Friday) evening.

Mrs Fok told the meeting that the Hospital Authority had designated cancer as a priority disease group for focused and co-ordinated action in the context of its annual planning exercise.

"Some new initiatives include a pilot radiosurgery programme using X knife, improved drugs for chemotherapy, and the addition of three new high dependency unit beds for paediatric patients requiring bone marrow transplants. The Authority has also undertaken to provide 40,000 additional cytology tests to enable more timely medial intervention," the Secretary said.

"In addition, the breast and cervical cancer screening programmes offered by the Department of Health's two women's health centres have been met with positive response and a third centre will be set up next year."

The Anti-Cancer Society also complements these efforts by reaching out to the community through its own screening programmes, hotline enquiry service and media promotion campaigns to strengthen public awareness of the common causes and prevention of cancer.

Mrs Fok paid tribute to the Society for playing a leading role through its professional expertise and international linkage in identifying risk factors, vulnerable groups and prognosis associated with different types of cancer.

On hospice care, Mrs Fok expressed hopes that with the completion of the Nam Long Hospital extension next year, the Society would continue to serve a major resource centre for the specialised training of healthcare personnel, and the promotion of mutual support among cancer patients.

End

Bill on assessment and collection of Govt rents gazetted

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A Bill which seeks to provide for the payment arrangements for Government rents payable under Annex III to the Joint Declaration (JD), without imposing any new liability in addition to the JD requirements, is gazetted today (Friday).

A Government spokesman said that the Government Rent (Assessment and Collection) Bill merely sought to codify and standardise the method of assessment, collection and payment of these rents.

"Government rent is not a new Government policy. The requirement to pay Government rents under Annex III to the JD was publicised when the JD was signed in 1984, and subsequently made known to property owners when their non-renewable leases were renewed, or when they were granted a new lease.

"About 1 million properties will be affected," the spokesman said.

Of the 1 million properties, approximately 60% are small residential flats (up to 70 square metre saleable area) for which the rents payable should generally be less than \$200 per month, 6% are medium sized residential flats (70 square metre - 100 square metre) for which the average rent will be around \$500 per month and 4% are large residential flats (100 square metre and over) for which the rent should average around \$1,200 per month.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on December 18, 1996.

Government rents are already being collected in respect of a few leases that have been extended. Most of the leases for which Government rents will be payable are in the New Territories including New Kowloon. These rents will be payable from 28 June 1997, the day following that when the leases would have expired, had they not been extended until 30 June 2047 under the New Territories Leases (Extension) Ordinance.

"No premium is charged for the extension of non-renewable leases nor for those leases in the New Territories including New Kowloon. Instead, Government rents at 3% of the rateable value of the land leased will be charged. This amounts to about half of the rates being paid by property owners," he added.

The above Government rents are not payable in respect of rented Housing Authority flats constructed on land vested in the Housing Authority; most properties on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon south of Boundary Street; certain rural properties owned by indigenous villagers and by tsos or tongs; and very low value properties such as small agricultural lots and ruined houses.

There will be about 1.2 million properties under these categories which are not affected.

The Government spokesman explained, "Paragraph 2 of Annex III to the JD and section 9 of the New Territories Leases (Extension) Ordinance make specific provisions for exempting certain rural holdings held by indigenous villagers and by tsos or tongs from the liability to pay Government rents.

"The lessees of these rural holdings are still required to pay the rent as provided in the lease documents. Exemptions from liability to pay Government rents are not a perpetual right and will cease if the eligibility criteria are not met."

The Rating and Valuation Department will be responsible for collecting these rents. For the convenience of the public, Government rents will be included in the quarterly rates demands from July 1997 onwards, thus enabling the public to pay both Government rents and rates at the same time.

The rateable value of the land leased will be assessed and updated in the same manner as provided for under the Rating Ordinance. Provisions for proposals, objections, alterations and appeals to the rateable values in the Government Rent Roll are similar to those under the Rating Ordinance.

The leases for which Government rents are payable are as follows -

- (a) those leases in the New Territories (including New Kowloon) which would expire on 27 June 1997, had they not been extended until 30 June 2047 under the New Territories Leases (Extension) Ordinance;
- (b) those non-renewable leases in the urban area which have been extended;
- (c) leases granted since the entry into force of the JD; and
- (d) those special purpose leases, which contain a provision requiring payment of ground rent equivalent to 3% of the rateable value from time to time of the land leased.

Those who wish to know whether they will be liable to pay Government rents can phone the Rating and Valuation Department at 2805 7704 during office hours.

End

Draft Chek Lap Kok OZP published

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The Town Planning Board today (Friday) announced the publication of the new draft Chek Lap Kok Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

The main purpose of the plan was to provide a broad landuse zoning and transport framework for the development of the new airport and associated facilities, a spokesman for the Board said.

"The plan covers a total area of about 1,266 hectares including land produced by levelling of hill slopes and by reclamation from the sea around the then Chek Lap Kok and Lam Chau Islands," he said.

About 1,017 hectares of land has been designated for the accommodation of airport operational and supporting facilities including two runways, air traffic control towers, air passenger terminal and concourses, air cargo handling, aircraft fuelling and aircraft maintenance facilities.

In support of the airport operation and development, some 45 hectares and 116 hectares of land have been earmarked respectively for business park and commercial development.

The business park is intended to provide accommodation for airport related business including freight forwarding, airline headquarters and related offices. The commercial area will provide land for a wide range of commercial activities including hotel, ground transportation centre and retail facilities.

Access to the airport will be mainly via the North Lantau Expressway and the Airport Railway. An area on the north-eastern coast of the airport island has been reserved for pier development to facilitate sea transport.

The draft Chek Lap Kok OZP (No. S/I-CLK/1) is available for public inspection until February 13, 1997 during normal office hours at :

- * Planning Department
16th floor, Murray Building
Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong;
- * Sai Kung and Islands District Planning
Office(Islands Office)
10th floor, Leighton Centre
77 Leighton Road
Causeway Bay
Hong Kong; and
- * Islands District Office
20th floor, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road
Central
Hong Kong.

Any person affected by the draft plan may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Town Planning Board, c/o Planning Department, 13th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong before February 13, 1997.

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 the Kowloon Map Sales Office, ground floor, 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

End

110 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 110 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Friday) on the 86th flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

Most of the returnees, comprising 59 men, 23 women, 12 boys and 16 girls, are from South and Central Vietnam. Twenty-four are from North Vietnam.

The majority of the returnees arrived in Hong Kong in 1990, with the remaining in 1989, 1991, 1995 and 1996.

The two groups brought to 8,525 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Friday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mrs Chong Wong Chor-sar ; and representative from a non-government organisation, Mr Edward Chan from Oxfam, Hong Kong.

End

New LAB members appointed

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The Government today (Friday) announced the appointment of 12 employer and employee representatives to the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) for a two-year term starting from January 1, 1997.

A list of new LAB members was published in today's Gazette. They are :

Employee representatives elected by registered employees unions on November 30 this year :

- * Mr Felix Cheung Kwok-bui
- * Mr Leung Chau-ting
- * Mr Leung Fu-wah
- * Mr Leung Tsz-leung
- * Mr Poon Siu-ping

Employer representatives nominated by employers associations :

- * Mr Martin Hayton of the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong
- * Mr Ho Sai-chu of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce
- * Mr Stephen Lau Kwong-chuen of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
- * Mr Joseph Lau Man-wai of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
- * Mr Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries

Appointed members :

- * Mr Cheung Wood-lun, representing employees
- * Dr Harry Lee Nai-shee, representing employers

Mr Leung Chau-ting and Mr Stephen Lau Kwong-chuen are newly appointed to the board, while the rest are all incumbent members.

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

The new Board will hold its first meeting in January 1997.

End

New guidelines aimed at helping teachers

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In response to media enquiries on whether additional resources will be provided to schools in connection with the teaching guidelines entitled "English Language for Children Arriving in Hong Kong from Various Parts of China", which was recently issued by the Education Department, a department spokesman explained that the guidelines are designed to help teachers rather than give them additional commitments which require extra resources.

The spokesman said: "The guidelines are not meant to require teachers to provide these children with tutorial classes after school, as many have already understood. Rather, the guidelines draw the attention of teachers and tutors to the specific needs of these children in learning English and provide a framework of language areas essential to them and strategies to help them.

"The guidelines point out that except for those coming from major cities and those given special preparation by the family, most children from the mainland have had minimal exposure to the English language before arrival in Hong Kong. The guidelines then recommend strategies, teaching contents and modes of delivery best suited to these children. Sample plans and tasks as well as specific learning contents are suggested.

"Like some of their local counterparts, children from the mainland may benefit from additional or withdrawal lessons. Such additional lessons are in fact being provided by some schools to local pupils, drawing on existing resources. The guidelines suggest what can be done for these children if the same opportunities are given to them.

"The guidelines also suggest that a self-learning corner can be set up if it has not been done yet for all children. Such an arrangement will also help increase English exposure for children from China by making available to them a range of self-learning materials. These may include audio materials, junior class books, worksheets, for example, those accumulated from the implementation of the Activity Approach, and a self-learning package to be released by the Education Department soon."

The spokesman added that the guidelines are also good reference for those voluntary agencies which have been commissioned by the Education Department to run the free-of-charge English Extension Programme for these children.

End

Deadline for deafness compensation applications extended

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Eligible employees who have missed the deadline to apply for compensation under the Occupation Deafness Compensation Scheme may submit their applications from today (Friday) until June 30, 1997.

The extension of the deadline was contained in the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) (Amendment) Ordinance 1996 published in the gazette today. The original deadline for applications was June 30, 1996.

A spokesman for the Labour Department said the amending Ordinance was aimed at extending the deadline for application to June 30 next year enabling employees who had inadvertently missed the deadline especially those who were away from Hong Kong to submit their applications.

The spokesman said: "The Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme, which came into operation on July 1, 1995, provides compensation to employees suffering from noise-induced deafness by reason of their employment.

"To be eligible for applying compensation, employees who suffer occupational deafness should have at least 10 years of employment in aggregate in any of the 17 specified noisy occupations in Hong Kong.

"Those who have been employed under a continuous contract in the occupations within 72 months before the commencement of the Scheme but have left their employment for more than 12 months could, with effect from today, submit their applications for compensation not later than June 30, 1997," he said.

The spokesman advised eligible employees who had missed the deadline for applications for compensation to submit their applications on or before June 30, 1997 at the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board, 15th floor, Grand Centre, 8 Humphreys Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui

End

Town Planning Board publishes Annual Report

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The Town Planning Board has published its 1995 annual report.

Since the publication of its first annual report in 1990, the Board has been taking an active and systematic approach in informing the public of its work in the year under review and the statutory planning and application procedures.

Apart from a description and statistics of work, the 1995 annual report also outlines the statutory planning process in terms of plan-making and implementation as well as the planning permission system.

In the foreward of the report, the Chairman of the Board, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Bowen Leung, said that the Board last year devoted its efforts to assist the supply of suitable land for the development of housing.

"In 1995, the Board has published five new Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs), made amendments to 23 OZPs, given preliminary consideration to 1,584 objections and further consideration (hearing) to 158 objections. It has also considered a total of 747 planning applications under section 16 and reviewed 130 applications under section 17 of the Town Planning Ordinance," he said.

Looking ahead, Mr Leung said the Board would publish amended and new plans to meet changing circumstances and community requirements. It would continue to publish guidelines on development in various land use zones as when the need arises.

The Town Planning Board 1995 Annual Report is divided into three parts. The first part covers the establishment and functions of the Board; the second gives an account of the work of the Board in 1995; and the third explains its work involved in housing supply and elaborates the selected cases of the Board's involvement in housing supply.

The English version of the report is available at \$22 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

The Chinese version is being prepared and will be put on sale once it is available.

End

Philatelic collection set for the Year of the Ox

* * * * *

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) and World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF HK) today (Friday) announced the launching of a philatelic collection set to celebrate the "Year of the Ox".

The set comprises one Normal Cover, two editions of Special Covers, one set of Postcards and one set of Souvenir Pack for limited distribution.

The special first day covers and postcards feature four different oxen with information about each ox, making them educational as well as collectable.

The production of the items is timed to tie in with the new special stamps of ox to be issued by the Post Office on January 17.

WWF HK's Executive Director Mr David Melville said that Water Buffalo, African Buffalo, Yak and Banteng were chosen for the design this year.

"Ox is a symbol of spring and agriculture. Buffalo plays an important role in rice cultivation, being used to either trample or plough paddy fields before planting. Uncontrolled hunting has had a major impact on Yaks and Banteng and some other species," he said.

Mr Melville pointed out that there are 12 species of wild cattle, of which nine are currently regarded as endangered or threatened and four have been domesticated.

The loss of habitat and the spread of disease from domestic to wild animals resulted in the extinction of the African Buffalo in southern Africa.

AFD's Assistant Director (Conservation), Mr Frank Lau, paid tribute to WWF HK for producing these items.

"Like WWF HK, we are concerned about the environment. Oxen are important in ecological balance and in agriculture," he said.

"It is essential to protect the environment for all forms of wildlife."

Purchasing these philatelic products is a valuable way to support WWF HK's conservation and education work.

The quantity for distribution includes 10,000 Normal Covers, 10,000 sets of Postcards, 1,000 pairs of Special Covers and sets of Souvenir Packs.

Anyone interested can either place in advance order while stock last or through shop sale.

The Normal Covers and Postcards will be on sale from December 28 (Saturday) and the Special Covers and Souvenir Packs will be available from January 25 (Saturday) at the WWF HK Office, No. 1, Tramway Path, Central.

Enquiries on the collection set can be directed to Ms Maxine Chu or Mr Tony Tam of WWF HK on telephone 2526 1011 or fax 2845 2734.

End

Air quality report for November

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The Environmental Protection Department today (Friday) released air quality information for November 1996.

Air quality levels in November were within the 24-hour air quality objectives of Hong Kong though the background levels of particulates and nitrogen dioxide were relatively high.

The report includes the monitoring results from Mong Kok, Central/Western and Kwai Chung, which represent three important land use types in the territory :

- * locations close to road traffic in built-up
- * urban areas, combined commercial and residential districts, and
- * districts close to industrial areas.

Air pollutants reported include sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, total suspended particulates, and respirable suspended particulates. All these pollutants can affect respiratory health in sufficient concentration.

Air pollution originated from various sources, including combustion, industrial and construction processes. In terms of impact on local air quality, motor vehicle exhaust is the most important source of nitrogen dioxide and airborne particulate matter, especially the smaller respirable particles.

End

CPCE produces Basic Law calendar

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The Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) has produced a calendar for 1997 adopting the Basic Law as its theme to promote public awareness of this constitutional document.

The calendar, highlighting articles which are closely related to the daily life, is a follow-on from another promotional publication - "An ABC Guide to the Basic Law" - which has been well received by the community.

Members of the public can obtain the calendar at the Civic Education Resource Centre on the second floor, Tung Sun Commercial Centre, 194-200 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Copies of the calendar will be distributed directly to schools and other educational bodies, voluntary agencies and community organisations.

End

Tenders invited for two secondary schools

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of two secondary schools in the territory.

The two schools, to be located in Siu Sai Wan, Hong Kong and Area 25, Tseung Kwan O, will be built under two separate contracts.

On completion, each school will comprise 26 classrooms, 14 special rooms, three remedial teaching rooms, an assembly hall and ancillary facilities, two basketball courts, covered playground and car park.

In addition, there will be a guidance activity room, two interview rooms, a staff common room, a student activity centre, playground area and facilities for the disabled.

Both projects will start in March next year for completion in July 1998.

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for both projects will close at noon on Friday, January 10, 1997.

End

Sale of land by Letter A/B or cash tender

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders by Letter A/B or by cash for a piece of land in Sha Tin.

Covering an area of about 6,500 square metres, the lot is located at Area 11, junction of On Lai Street and On Ping Street.

It is intended for use as non-industrial purposes excluding godown, residential, hotel, service apartment and petrol filling station.

Details of the tender notice are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Application forms, notices and conditions of grant can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong; the District Lands offices/Kowloon, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 10th floor, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon; and the District Lands Offices of Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, North, Sai Kung and Islands. Sale Plans are also available in these offices for inspection.

Completed application forms, addressed to the Director of Lands, should be placed in the Public Works Tender Box at the lift lobby, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, before noon on January 10, 1997 (Friday).

End

Two architectural projects in Kwun Tong

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The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for the construction of Hang On Street Market in Kwun Tong.

The works will include the construction of a two-storey market building including associated building services and drainage installations.

The project will begin in March next year for completion in August 1998.

Tenders are also invited for the construction of Hong Ning Road Park Phase I in Kwun Tong.

The project will comprise the construction of an open car park, a single storey building and recreational facilities including four tennis courts, a jogging path, garden areas and children's play area.

Site formation, associated roadworks, drainage and building services installations will also be included in the contract.

Works will start in March next year for completion in April 1998.

Tender forms and further particulars of both projects can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for both projects will close at noon on Friday, January 10, 1997.

End

Deadline for Christmas mail

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, today (Friday) reminded the public that the deadline for posting Christmas mail for local delivery before Christmas is December 20 (Friday).

He advised members of the public to post as early as possible to avoid a last minute rush.

End

Flushing water cut in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (December 16) to 8 am the following day for alteration work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in Tsuen Wan and those in Upper Kwai Chung, Lower Kwai Chung and Kwai Chung container terminus.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority Interbank Liquidity

Aggregate balance of settlement time accounts

Opening aggregate balance	1,243 mn	0930 hr	17,075 mn
Closing aggregate balance	730 mn	1000 hr	23,659 mn
Change attributable to :		1100 hr	29,235 mn
Money market activity	-6,441 mn	1200 hr	33,899 mn
LAF reversal	+12,983 mn	1500 hr	37,069 mn
LAF today	-7,055 mn	1600 hr	40,168 mn

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.9 *+0.1* 13.12.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC notes				
Terms	Yield	Terms	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.11	2 years	2811	5.72	100.10	5.74
1 month	4.30	3 years	3910	6.28	100.57	6.15
3 months	4.63	5 years	5109	7.32	102.63	6.77
6 months	4.88	7 years	7311	6.80	98.85	7.13
12 months	5.17	10 years	1610	7.37	100.90	7.37
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.42	7.11

Total turnover of ef bills and notes - \$13,623 mn

Closed December 13, 1996

End