



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK-Guangdong talks on boundaries of administration

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Further discussions on matters relating to the boundaries of administration between Hong Kong and Guangdong will take place in Guangdong from Tuesday to Thursday (May 7 to 9) between the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial authorities, a government spokesman said today (Saturday).

The Deputy Political Adviser, Mr John Ashton, will lead the Hong Kong team.

Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangdong Provincial Government, Mr Xiao Jinzhe, will lead the Guangdong team.

End

CAS commended for excellent service

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Please note that the following press release is embargoed until 8 pm this (Saturday) evening:

The Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, today (Saturday) commended the Civil Aid Service (CAS) for having consistently offered excellent service to the community since its establishment in 1952.

Speaking at the CAS 52nd Passing Out Parade this evening, Mr Lai said the work members of the service had done, as volunteers, would be a challenge to a full-time, professional service.

"None of us can fail to be impressed by the fact that you have done all these as volunteers in your spare time to the highest standards. So much so that in future you will play an important role in the Government's upgraded emergency response management system," he said.

Mr Lai pointed out that through hard work, sometimes under difficult and dangerous circumstances, CAS had over the years earned the respect and gratitude of the people of Hong Kong.

He noted that last year CAS had devoted a total of over 8,000 man-days in crowd control duties alone.

"You have assisted in evacuating flood victims; you have played an active part in our countryside fire protection efforts; you conducted rural area patrol duties; you have managed Vietnamese migrants detention centres; and you have continued to provide Hong Kong's principal mountain rescue service," he said.

On mountain rescue service, Mr Lai said CAS' response to the recent tragic hill fire at Pat Sin Leng clearly showed the professionalism and perseverance of its members.

"Your outstanding mountain rescue work, particularly in locating the last casualty, was clearly demonstrated and, I am sure, will be remembered by the people of Hong Kong with gratitude for many years to come," he said.

"As an extension of your excellent service, you will in the months and years ahead pass on your knowledge and expertise in mountaineering to other colleagues in the civil service, as well as teachers and students in schools, so as to enhance the safety and protection of hikers.

"This is yet another example of your public spiritedness and your professionalism."

On those passing out today, Mr Lai noted that they had completed 180 hours of basic training.

"You will now be attached to units where you will receive further advanced training on specialised subjects.

"Very soon you will be working in the front line with your more experienced colleagues, and learn to aspire to the very high standards that they have set. I have no doubt you will be determined to show them that you are every bit as good as they are," he said.

Mr Lai said he believed strongly that one of the secrets of Hong Kong's success was the strength of commitment shown by individuals who wished to offer whatever form of public service they could and pointed out that CAS' new members were a perfect example of this.

"You have chosen not only to participate in public life, but to volunteer your time and effort in a challenging, potentially dangerous, but always rewarding service.

"Your work will remain a vital element of the unique fabric of Hong Kong. I have no doubt that, under the direction of your Commissioner, the CAS will continue to grow from strength to strength," said Mr Lai.

End

Injured employees should be protected

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Employers are reminded today (Saturday) to observe the provisions of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (ECO) or they will face prosecution.

In a recent court case at Tsuen Wan Magistracy, Viking Restaurant in Kwai Chung was fined \$10,000 for dismissing an employee injured at work before a certificate of assessment in respect of permanent incapacity (Form 5) had been issued by the Commissioner for Labour to the employer and the employee.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said under ECO, an employer had to compensate an injured employee according to what was stated in Form 5 within 21 days after the certificate was issued.

"No employer should dismiss, or give notice to dismiss, an injured employee who is entitled to compensation under the ECO until a medical practitioner or registered dentist has certified that the period of temporary incapacity has ceased or until the relevant Form 5 has been issued," she said.

An employer who contravenes this provision commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,050	09:30	+320
Closing balance in the account	1,970	10:00	+320
Change attributable to:		11:00	+320
Money market activity	+320	11:30	+320
LAF today			-400

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.6 *+0.0* 4.5.96

End

Application for flag days in 1997 invited

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Organisations wishing to hold flag days next year to raise funds to finance services which they provide are invited to apply to the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

About 50 flag days will be allocated next year.

"Applicants must be bona-fide non-profit-making charitable organisations registered under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance," a department spokesman said today (Sunday).

"All applicants will be considered by the Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee (SLFAC) on the merits of the service or special projects for which fund-raising through a flag day is proposed, the applicant organisation's financial needs, and the organisation's ability to execute such fund-raising activities," the spokesman said.

Explaining the allocation criteria, the spokesman said each application would be considered basically in the following aspects:

- * an assessment of the management capability of the applicant organisation. This is important since public collection of money are involved;
- * the nature of the services provided by the organisation, and the demand for such from the community;
- * the financial need of the organisation based on its annual budget, operating surplus/deficits, availability of other funding resources, and planned projects; and
- * the organisation's ability to organise fund-raising activities and to maximise the benefits of a flag day.

The spokesman emphasised that expenses in connection with a flag day should not exceed 10 per cent of the gross receipts, and that successful applicants need to observe the conditions for holding flag days as laid down on a public subscription permit issued under the Summary Offences Ordinance.

Application forms can now be obtained from SWD Headquarters, Room 920, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, in person or in writing.

The completed application form, together with a copy of the organisation's latest annual report and statement of audited accounts, must reach the department on or before May 31. Late applications will not be entertained.

Successful applicants will be informed by October.

The list of successful applicants being allocated with flag days in 1997 will also be announced in the media, so that the public will be aware of who these welfare organisations are.

Enquiries on flag day activities can be made at 2892 5315.

Members of the public who suspect that they have been approached by bogus persons or charitable agencies for funds are advised to report to the Police, so that due enquiries can be conducted.

End