



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Governor's statement on schoolbook revision .....	1
Human Rights Watch's allegations groundless .....	1
Health advice as O157:H7 found in food sample .....	3
\$45 billion allocated to improve health and welfare services .....	5
CSD apologises for gas incident at Tin Shui Wai .....	7
Disabled prisoners well looked after by CSD .....	8
Application for BN(O) Passports .....	9
Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities contract awarded .....	10
Weather of February 1997 .....	11
Fire safety seminar invites participation .....	14
1996 Population By-census Graphic Guide on sale .....	14
Chinatrust Commercial Bank granted restricted banking licence .....	15
Tender for 11th issue of 5-year Exchange Fund notes .....	15
Water storage figure .....	17
Fresh water supply to Tsim Sha Tsui affected .....	17
Flushing water cut in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung .....	17

Governor's statement on schoolbook revision

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In response to enquiries about reported remarks by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, about revising Hong Kong schoolbooks that do not conform with China's principles, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said:

"Naturally school children will need to be taught after 1997 about their new sovereign power, about the Joint Declaration, the Basic Law and One Country, Two Systems. This has already begun.

"But if Mr Qian is suggesting more than this, his statement raises some disturbing questions.

"The Joint Declaration and the Basic Law guarantee HK's autonomy in educational matters after 1997. They are clear that educational policies are to be set by the HKSARG, and not to be vetted for political correctness by Chinese officials. The Joint Declaration and the Basic Law certainly say nothing about rewriting history books - and nor do any other agreements between Britain and China.

"In a free society, teachers are not told what facts they can teach and what facts it is politically wrong for them to teach. This is a time when responsible spokesmen should be saying things which increase confidence in the future, not raise questions about it. But since Mr Qian has made these remarks, perhaps he could be clear what he has in mind."

End

Human Rights Watch's allegations groundless

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In response to a report released by Human Rights Watch/Asia yesterday (Sunday), a Government spokesman said today (Monday) that the allegations made were totally groundless.

"Hong Kong has studiously followed the internationally agreed Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) in dealing with the problem of Vietnamese refugees (VRs) and Vietnamese migrants (VMs)," the spokesman said.

"Hong Kong has maintained a policy of first asylum, screening Vietnamese asylum seekers on arrival to determine their status, resettling those found to be refugees, and returning those found not to be refugees home to Vietnam in accordance with the provisions of the CPA.

"Our screening of VMs are in accordance with UNHCR guidelines on procedures and criteria for determining refugee status under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees," he said.

The spokesman said the screening system also provided for an appeal mechanism, and the possibility of a UNHCR mandate should an asylum seeker fail on both initial screening and appeal.

"Those who are aggrieved at screening decisions may also seek judicial review in the courts," he said.

The spokesman said that the allegation that both the Hong Kong Government and the UNHCR, in their attempt to repatriate the screened-out VMs to Vietnam, had made conditions in the camps increasingly intolerable was totally unsubstantiated.

"While the detention camps in Hong Kong are not luxurious they are not inhumane. The conditions there are regularly monitored by the UNHCR, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Justices of the Peace," he said.

"Indeed, with the significant fall in the VM population in detention camps over the past year or so, the general conditions of the camps have improved rather than deteriorated.

"Suggestions of the existence of 'gang lords', or that the 'gang lords' are used by camp management to control the camps, are totally unsubstantiated. The Government will under no circumstances tolerate such situations in detention camps," the spokesman remarked.

"If there is any evidence of the existence of such 'gang lords', this should be brought immediately to the attention of the Correctional Services Department for a thorough investigation," he said.

The spokesman said that accusations of hunger and starvation in detention camps were simply ridiculous.

"All diets adopted in VM camps have been approved by the dietician in accordance with international health standards. Special diets are available to cater for the special needs of certain VMs, for example, pregnant women, elderlies, babies and patients.

"The food distribution system is also closely monitored by the camp management."

As regards education for Vietnamese children, the spokesman said that pre-school and primary education for VMs and VRs are provided by NGOs working under the auspices of UNHCR.

"The Hong Kong Government has since September 1996 also undertaken to fund secondary education in the camps. An NGO has been commissioned to co-ordinate the provision of the service.

"Secondary level classes are offered to students. The Government provides accommodation, furniture, stationery, textbooks and sports equipment for students," he said.

The spokesman said that at present, there remained about 2,500 VMs awaiting clearance by Vietnam.

"It is incorrect to say that Vietnam has rejected them for return. We shall continue to urge the Vietnamese Government to expedite the clearance process so that these people could return home to Vietnam early.

"As regards VRs, we will continue our efforts, through the British Government and the UNHCR, to seek to persuade the international community to resettle the remaining VRs in Hong Kong", the spokesman said.

End

#### Health advice as O157:H7 found in food sample

\* \* \* \* \*

The Department of Health (DH) called upon the public to cook food thoroughly before consumption to avoid food-borne diseases.

The appeal was made following the recent detection of E.coli O157:H7 bacteria in a raw minced beef sample collected from a retail outlet by the Department of Health in its food surveillance programme.

A spokesman for DH said O157:H7 is a strain of E.coli that is commonly found in intestines of animals and can be associated with undercooked minced beef. Cross contamination of other food can also take place as a result of poor food-handling.

"However, the O157:H7 strain can be killed at a cooking temperature of around 75 degree Celsius for two to three minutes," the spokesman stressed.

"Public are strongly advised to cook food thoroughly before consumption."

The spokesman noted that this was the first time E.coli O157:H7 strain was detected in food sample since the Department incorporated the test into the food surveillance programme in 1994.

Further investigation found that the beef came from a cattle slaughtered in a local abattoir. It was believed that the contamination was an isolated incident.

Nonetheless, the Department had taken a number of measures to prevent cross contamination.

"Upon advice, both the retailer and wholesaler of the beef have agreed to voluntarily surrender the related products and conduct a thorough disinfection and cleansing at their premises before sales resume," the spokesman said.

"Their staff have also been asked to observe strict personal and food hygiene in handling meat products.

"The Department of Health will increase sampling of food items under its food surveillance programme for O157:H7.

"The two municipal services departments will make extra efforts to ensure proper hygiene standards to be adopted in the slaughtering process."

The spokesman added that DH and the two municipal services departments had all along been delivering health education on food hygiene and personal hygiene as well as on how to prevent O157:H7 infection to the public and food-handlers. These efforts will continue.

"The opportunity is also taken to remind the public to cook food thoroughly to prevent food borne disease," he said.

"Cooked and raw food items should be handled separately."

"Hands should be washed before handling food to prevent contamination by gastro-intestinal bacteria."

Public are welcome to use the Department's interactive voice and response system on "Hygiene Information For You", Tel No 2380 2580, for more information and preventive measures on food-borne diseases including E.coli O157:H7.

End

\$45 billion allocated to improve health and welfare services

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government plans to spend \$25.8 billion on health and \$19.5 billion on welfare in recurrent expenditure in 1997/98, an increase in real terms of 6.5 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively compared with 1996/97.

This was stated by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, at a press conference outlining the expenditure in her policy area in the coming financial year today (Monday).

On welfare, Mrs Fok said the Government would spend some \$12 billion, covering health, welfare and social security services, to improve the quality of life for the aged population.

As part of its programme to expand existing services, the Government will provide about 1,600 more residential places for the elderly, five nursing homes, and an additional 30 elderly centres. These will bring the total number of residential places for the elderly to 17,000, nursing home places to 1,200, and elderly centres to 335.

On the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, Mrs Fok expected that the expenditure in this area in 1997/98 would increase by 11 per cent to \$7.8 billion, as compared with \$7 billion in 1996/97. Spending on Social Security Allowance Scheme is also expected to increase by 2.9 per cent, from \$4,033 million in 1996/97 to \$4,150 million in 1997/98.

To meet the community demands and to enable elderly CSSA recipients who wish to take up permanent residence in Guangdong Province to continue to receive payments there, the Government will implement the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance for Elderly Persons Retiring to Guangdong Province (China) from April this year.

"The Scheme is a new arrangement aimed at meeting present needs," Mrs Fok said. "We will do our best to publicise the Scheme and provide prospective applicants with the relevant information to help them make the choice that best suits their needs," she added.

For people with a disability, the Government is set to spend nearly \$1.6 billion of recurrent expenditure in 1997/98 on direct welfare services which represents an increase of 21 per cent over this year.

Additional services to be provided include 240 places in pre-school centres and 24 residential places for children with a disability; and 1,640 residential places and 1,150 day service places for adults with a disability. The Government will subvent two new types of rehabilitation services - Community Rehabilitation Network centres for chronically ill persons and their carers, and domiciliary occupational therapy service to clients awaiting institutional services or being discharged from institutions.

In addition, with the opening of the Pokfulam Skills Centre in September this year, 233 full-time training places and 150 boarding places will be available to all categories of people with a disability.

Another \$1.6 billion will also be spent on improving family and child welfare services. These will include the provision of 3,511 places in child care centres; recruitment of overseas experts to strengthen specialised training for social workers, clinical psychologists and police officers in handling child abuse cases; and the implementation of a witness support programme to reduce the trauma of children serving as witnesses in child abuse cases.

Turning to health, the Secretary noted that of the \$25.8 billion allocated, \$2,131 million would go to the Department of Health and \$22 billion to the Hospital Authority, an increase of 12.3 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively compared with 1996/97.

She said that to cope with the community development and population in Tung Chung, the Department of Health planned to open a clinic there in 1997/98 and had allocated \$10.8 million for its recurrent expenditure.

The Student Health Service, established in 1995 and proved to be very popular, will receive \$7.63 million to cater for the higher than expected demand.

In addition, the District Health System aimed to promote health education and disease prevention through mobilisation of community resources and collaboration with other service providers at the local level, will be expanded to cover Hong Kong Island as well.

As regards the Hospital Authority, Mrs Fok said three new hospitals - the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital at Tai Po, the North District Hospital and the Tai Po Infirmary/Convalescent Hospital - would start operation in 1997/98.

"The phased commissioning of these hospitals will help meet the demand arising from the population growth in the New Territories," she said. "Together with additional facilities to be opened in existing hospitals, we will be able to provide a total of 669 new hospital beds in 1997/98."

The Hospital Authority has also earmarked another \$2,060 million for a few major capital projects, including the redevelopment of the Kowloon Hospital, the relocation of the Tuen Mun Polyclinic, the construction of a public health laboratory centre, and the improvement works in eight public hospitals.

"All these capital works will improve our infrastructural facilities for the provision of quality care services," the Secretary added.

End

#### CSD apologises for gas incident at Tin Shui Wai

\* \* \* \* \*

The Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, today (Monday) offered his sincere apology to all who were affected by the gas incident at Tin Shui Wai on February 26, following analysis results by the Environmental Protection Department which indicate that the "odd smell" reported that day was linked to CS gas being fired within the Pak Nai firing range.

The Commissioner said as a Government department, the Correctional Services Department should be accountable for its actions in incidents that directly or indirectly affect the public.

Mr Lai has personally written to the eight schools whose pupils were affected by the gas, expressing deep regret for the incident.

The Commissioner also pointed out that although the Police Force shared the firing range, it was within the time frame of the CSD exercise that inadvertently caused the incident.

"We will actively review existing range procedures to avoid the recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

"Residents nearby can rest assured that all precautionary measures will be taken before the next exercise takes place," said Mr Lai.

"It is most unfortunate that this incident has caused distress and discomfort to members of the public, particularly the pupils of the schools.

"The Department had no wish to create such a situation, unfortunately, as it is now known, the wind changed direction during the course of our exercise.

"We regret the anguish and distress inadvertently caused as a result of our action at the firing range," said the Commissioner.

End

#### Disabled prisoners well looked after by CSD

\* \* \* \* \*

The following statement has been issued by the Correctional Services Department in response to numerous press queries on the sentencing today (Monday) of Yip Kai-foon:-

Whilst the media may look upon Yip Kai-foon as an infamous celebrity, the Correctional Services Department regards him, after having been sentenced by the court, to be just another prisoner who will be treated accordingly.

The only difference is that Yip, being crippled and wheel-chair bound, will not be able to function as a normal prisoner, but that is not to say he will be given privileges that a normal prisoner would not be entitled to.

Unless excused on medical grounds, Yip will be obligated, like all healthy prisoners, to work although the type of job he may be required to do will not involve physical mobility.

As to persistent queries on which institution Yip would be placed, it is not our policy to divulge details of the whereabouts of prisoners, and it is especially important to note that Yip is a high risk prisoner who has escaped from our custody in the past.

As for services and facilities to care for disabled prisoners, in all our institutions, we have trained nurses to look after prisoners with special needs. We do have specific programmes and facilities designed for disabled inmates in our institutions, particularly at Stanley Prison and Pik Uk Correctional Institution. We also have qualified doctors who ensure that all prisoners receive proper and adequate medical treatment as and when the need arise.

From time to time we seek professional medical advice on specific facilities and if need be, we will provide special equipment on advice of the experts, and our programmes for disabled prisoners are reviewed to consider all aspects in the provision of services and facilities to disabled prisoners, such as occupational therapy, psychological counselling and vocational exercises.

End

Application for BN(O) Passports

\* \* \* \* \*

With effect from April 1, 1997 (Tuesday), the British Trade Commission will take over from Hong Kong Immigration Department responsibility for issuing and renewing:

BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS.

All applications and enquiries on or after April 1, 1997 (Tuesday) should be made at:

THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION  
PASSPORT SECTION  
4th FLOOR, 1 SUPREME COURT ROAD  
HONG KONG.

Tel: 2901 3222

Fax: 2901 3195

Opening Hours: 0845 - 1500 (Monday to Friday)

Hong Kong Immigration Department will cease taking the above applications from April 1, 1997 (Tuesday). The Immigration Department, however, will continue to issue BN(O) passports which have been prepared until April 26, 1997 (Saturday). Thereafter, all uncollected passports will be passed to the British Trade Commission.

But Hong Kong permanent identity cards prepared for children under 11 years of age in connection with their BN(O) passports will continue to be issued at the original immigration offices.

For their convenience, applicants are reminded to pick up their passports in time at the immigration offices which have been chosen by them upon application. They will be required to collect their passports at the British Trade Commission if they do not do so before the transfer of the uncollected passports. For BN(O) passports issued to children under 11 years of age, applicants will also be required to collect their children's Hong Kong permanent identity cards at the original immigration offices after they have collected their passports.

End

### Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities contract awarded

\* \* \* \* \*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Monday) signed a contract for the development of the Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities (OITF) to improve waste transfer arrangements for the communities on the islands.

The contract was awarded to Swire BFI Waste Services Limited, a company jointly owned by Swire Pacific Ltd and the American waste management company Browning Ferris Industries Inc.

Under the contract, the company is required to design, construct and operate the facilities for fifteen years.

Speaking at today's contract signing ceremony, the Assistant Director ( Waste Facilities) of Environmental Protection, Mr Benny Wong, said that the OITF would be the seventh transfer facility under the Waste Disposal Strategy aiming to provide a cost-effective and environmentally sound system for the transportation and disposal of waste in Hong Kong.

"Under our present strategy, the whole territory will be served by three large strategic landfills and a network of nine refuse transfer facilities," he said.

"At present, three transfer stations are already in operation at Kowloon Bay, Chai Wan and Sha Tin, whilst three stations are being built at Kennedy Town, West Kowloon Reclamation and Siu Ho Wan," he added.

Mr Wong noted that the capital cost for the whole OITF project would be about HK\$324 million and the annual operation cost would be in the order of HK\$45 million.

He pointed out that the OITF would comprise a network of seven mini-stations located at different islands to serve the scattered island communities.

"It is most important that proper waste disposal arrangements are put in place for these islands as they attract thousands of holiday-makers and tourists," he said.

Capable of handling up to 610 tonnes of waste a day, the OITF will, in addition to municipal refuse, handle waterworks and sewage sludge and small quantities of construction waste.

He explained that construction work of the OITF would be carried out in phases.

"The stations at Mui Wo, Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau will be constructed first and are expected to commence operation in mid 1998," he said.

"The remaining three stations at Yung Shu Wan, Sok Kwu Wan and Ma Wan will be developed in later phases," he added.

The OITF will be built to very high environmental standards, with air quality, noise, odour and effluent discharge closely monitored to ensure that there is no nuisance to residents nearby.

"Waste will be compacted into covered containers and transported by specially designed container vessels to the West New Territories Landfill for disposal," Mr Wong said.

Speaking at today's ceremony, the Chairman of Swire BFI Waste Services Limited, Mr Jim Conybeare, said that the award of contract demonstrated the benefits to the public of EPD's policy of contracting out the turnkey responsibility for an essential service.

"It results in both effectiveness and value-for-money," he said.

End

#### Weather of February 1997

\* \* \* \* \*

February was wetter and less sunny than normal. The monthly total rainfall of 111.7 millimetres was 63.7 millimetres higher than the normal figure of 48.0 millimetres. The accumulated rainfall since January 1 amounted to 156.3 millimetres which was 84.9 millimetres above the normal. The total sunshine duration in the month of 85.5 hours was 12.2 hours lower than normal.

The month started with strong easterly winds and increasing cloud amount under the influence of an intense winter monsoon. Winds gradually subsided during the day on February 1 and there were light rain patches.

On the next day, rain became heavy with squally thunderstorms. Easterly winds strengthened again after the passage of a cold front on February 3 and rainy conditions continued.

The weather improved temporarily on February 4 but there were patches of rain again the next day. Easterly winds strengthened late on February 6 but were soon replaced by moderate northerlies. The weather remained generally cloudy with periods of light rain easing off gradually on February 8.

Northerly winds and cloudy conditions then continued. On February 12, winds freshened from the east bringing periods of rain. Strong easterly winds affected offshore areas early on February 14. Remaining overcast, winds moderated and turned northerly the next day.

A drier airstream reached the south China coastal areas on February 18 with the lowest temperature in the month, 10.9 degrees, recorded that morning. As dry air continued to come from the northeast, clouds cleared and the weather became fine and sunny on February 19. Fine weather prevailed till February 24.

A maritime airstream set in bringing warm weather to the territory on February 24. Apart from a few light rain patches early the next day, the weather remained fine until the end of the month. Temperatures rose to 24.6 degrees, the highest in the month, on February 26.

The western North Pacific and the South China Sea was void of tropical cyclone activity in the month of February.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of February are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and Signals in February 1997

Type of Warnings/Signals	Beginning Time		Ending Time	
	day/month	hour	day/month	hour
Strong Monsoon Signals	1/2	0245	1/2	0750
	3/2	0250	3/2	1800
	7/2	0015	7/2	0630
	14/2	0010	14/2	1015
Thunderstorm Warnings	2/2	2110	3/2	0800
Fire Danger Warnings				
Yellow	19/2	0600	20/2	0600
Red	20/2	0600	21/2	0600
Yellow	21/2	0600	22/2	0600
Red	22/2	0600	22/2	1800
Yellow	22/2	1800	23/2	1800
Gas Water Heater Safety Alerts	6/2	1630	7/2	1630
	8/2	0400	8/2	1630
	12/2	1630	13/2	1630
	14/2	1630	14/2	2300
	15/2	1630	19/2	0630

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - Feb 1997

Meteorological Element	Figure of the month	Departure from normal	
		above normal	below normal
Total Bright Sunshine (hours)	85.5	---	12.2
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation (megajoule/square metre)	9.75	---	0.94
Total Rainfall (millimetres)	111.7	63.7	---
Mean Cloud Amount (%)	76	3	---
Mean Relative Humidity (%)	79	1	---
Mean Daily Maximum Air Temperature (Degree Celsius)	18.0	---	0.6
Mean Air Temperature (Degree Celsius)	16.1	0.2	---
Mean Daily Minimum Air Temperature (Degree Celsius)	14.6	0.7	---
Mean Dew Point (Degree Celsius)	12.3	0.5	---
Total Evaporation (millimetres)	54.8	---	24.2

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park Meteorological Station.

End

### Fire safety seminar invites participation

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To arouse public awareness on fire safety and to promote proper maintenance of fire services installations in private buildings, the Building Management Co-ordination Team of the Kwun Tong District Office will organise a seminar for owners' corporations and mutual aid committees in the district on March 24 (Monday).

A representative from the Fire Protection Bureau of the Fire Services Department will give a talk and answer questions concerning fire safety in private residential and industrial buildings.

A video on the same topic will also be screened during the seminar which will be held at the Kwun Tong District Office conference room on third floor, Kwun Tong District Branch Offices Building, 6 Tung Yan Street, from 8 pm to 9.30 pm.

Participation in the forum is free. Application forms are now available at Room 115, first floor, Kwun Tong District Branch Offices Building, 6 Tung Yan Street, Kwun Tong. Enquiries can be made at 2341 6315 ext 39 or 40.

End

### 1996 Population By-census Graphic Guide on sale

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The report "Hong Kong 1996 Population By-census - Graphic Guide", to be published by the Census and Statistics Department tomorrow (Tuesday), presents the results of the 1996 Population By-census in graphical form.

The "Graphic Guide", which is bilingual, contains 31 colour charts and one district map to show the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of population in broad groupings.

Purchase of the report can now be made at the Government Publications Centre, G/F, Lower Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway Hong Kong. It is also available at the Publications Unit, Census and Statistics Department, 19/F, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. The price is HK\$35 per copy.

The publication follows the reports on "Basic Tables" of the 1996 Population By-census, just released in January this year, as part of the publication programme of the By-census results. More reports are forthcoming in stages.

End

Chinatrust Commercial Bank granted restricted banking licence

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said today (Monday) that Chinatrust Commercial Bank, Limited (CCB) had been granted a restricted banking licence by the Monetary Authority under the Banking Ordinance on March 4, 1997.

CCB is a commercial bank under the Commercial Banking Law of Taiwan. CCB's business activities include retail banking, commercial lending, trust funds, stock transfer agency, securities trading and underwriting and international and offshore banking.

CCB has been operating a representative office in Hong Kong since November 1993. It now wishes to establish a restricted licence bank (RLB) to better serve the financial needs of its customers in Hong Kong and Taiwan and to participate in the growing trade finance business as a result of increased economic activities between Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

After the grant of a restricted banking licence to CCB, the number of restricted licence banks in Hong Kong has increased to 63.

End

Tender for 11th issue of 5-year Exchange Fund notes

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announces that the tender for the eleventh issue of 5-year Exchange Fund Notes will be held on Monday, 17 March 1997 for settlement on Tuesday, 18 March 1997.

Similar to the previous issue, an amount of HK\$500 million 5-year Notes will be on offer. In addition to that, another HK\$100 million will be held as reserve by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for supply to Market Makers in the secondary market. The Notes will mature on 18 March 2002 and will carry interest at the rate of 6.55% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the Notes may do so through any of the Market Makers or Recognized Dealers on the published list which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority at 30/F, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong (or telephone 2878 8150). Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY EXCHANGE FUND NOTE  
PROGRAMME TENDER INFORMATION

Tender information for the eleventh issue of 5-Year Exchange Fund Notes :-

Issue Number	: 5203
Tender Date and Time	: Monday 17 March 1997, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Issue and Settlement Date	: Tuesday 18 March 1997
Amount on Offer	: HK\$500 million plus an additional HK\$100 million as reserve stock for the Monetary Authority
Maturity	: Five years
Maturity Date	: 18 March 2002
Interest Rate	: 6.55% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears
Interest Payment Dates	: 18 Sept 1997, 18 Mar 1998, 18 Sept 1998, 18 Mar 1999, 20 Sept 1999, 20 Mar 2000, 18 Sept 2000, 19 Mar 2001, 18 Sept 2001, 18 Mar 2002
Tender Amount	: Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Members of the public who wish to tender for the Notes may approach Market Makers or Recognised Dealers on the published list
Other details	: Please see Information Memorandum published or approach Market Makers or Recognised Dealers

End

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 78.5 per cent of capacity or 459.975 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 462.865 million cubic metres of water, representing 79.0 per cent of capacity.

End

Fresh water supply to Tsim Sha Tsui affected

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Fresh water supply to all premises to the south of Austin Road in Tsim Sha Tsui will be weakened from 11 pm on Thursday (March 13) to 6 am the following day for alteration work on watermains.

End

Flushing water cut in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung

\* \* \* \* \*

Flushing water supply to all premises in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung will be suspended from 10 pm on March 13 (Thursday) to 9 am the following day for alteration work on watermains.

Affected areas include Upper Kwai Chung, Lower Kwai Chung and the Kwai Chung container terminal.

End