



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Promotions to secretary level announced

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The Government announced today (Tuesday) the following promotions to the rank of Secretary, Government Secretariat with effect from June 1, 1996:

Dominic Wong	Secretary for Housing
Katherine Fok	Secretary for Health and Welfare
Rafael Hui	Secretary for Financial Services
Joseph Wong	Secretary for Education and Manpower
Peter Lai	Secretary for Security
Bowen Leung	Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands
Kwong Ki-chi	Secretary for the Treasury

The following overseas officer will be superseded for promotion to Secretary, Government Secretariat, with effect from June 1, 1996:

Tony Miller	Director-General of Trade / Director of Housing (Designate)
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Following are their biographical notes:

Dominic Wong Shing-wah, OBE, JP

Aged 54, Mr Wong joined the Government in 1962 and was appointed to the Administrative Service in 1973. He rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1991.

During the early years of his career, Mr Wong held appointments in the Economic Services Branch, Security Branch, the former Social Services Branch, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and the Civil Service Branch.

He was Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service from 1984 to 1988 and Deputy Secretary for Education and Manpower from 1988 to 1989. He was appointed Postmaster General from 1989 to 1992 and Director of Education from 1992 to 1994.

Mr Wong took up his present post of Secretary for Housing in December 1994. He was awarded an OBE in 1993.

Katherine Fok Lo Shiu-ching, OBE, JP

Aged 54, Mrs Fok joined the Government as an Administrative Officer in 1962 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1993.

During the early years of her career, she served in the Labour Department, Social Welfare Department, Finance Branch, the former General Branch, Home Affairs Department, Housing Department and Urban Services Department.

Following a four-year secondment to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, she became Secretary-General of the former Office of the Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils from 1988 to 1992.

She was Commissioner for Labour from 1992 to 1994 and took up her present appointment as Secretary for Health and Welfare in September 1994. Mrs Fok was awarded an OBE in 1993.

Rafael Hui Si-yan, JP

Aged 48, Mr Hui joined the Government in 1970 as an Assistant Education Officer and was appointed to the Administrative Service in 1971. He rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1994.

Mr Hui spent the early years of his career in the Home Affairs Department, Security Branch, Economic Services Branch and the Independent Commission Against Corruption where he was on secondment.

On return from overseas training at Harvard University, he served in the Transport Branch and the former Office of the Unofficial Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils (UMELCO).

He was Deputy Secretary-General of UMELCO from 1985 to 1986, Deputy Secretary for Economic Services from 1986 to 1990 and Deputy Secretary for Works from 1990 to 1991.

Mr Hui was appointed Director of the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office from 1991 to 1992 and Commissioner for Transport from 1992 to 1995.

He took up his present post of Secretary for Financial Services in September 1995.

Joseph Wong Wing-ping, JP

Aged 48, Mr Wong joined the Government as an Administrative Officer in 1973 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1994.

During the early years of his career in the Administrative Service, he served in the former Economics Branch, Finance Branch, the former New Territories Administration, the former Office of UMELCO and Trade Department.

Over the years, he held a number of senior positions, including Deputy Director-General of Trade from 1987 to 1988, Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service from 1988 to 1989 and Deputy Secretary for Trade and Industry from 1989 to 1991.

Mr Wong headed the Government's Economic and Trade Office in Geneva as Principal Representative from 1991 to 1994. He was Director of Home Affairs from 1994 to 1995 and took up his present post of Secretary for Education and Manpower in September 1995.

Peter Lai Hing-ling, JP

Aged 45, Mr Lai joined the Government in 1973 as an Administrative Officer and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1994.

During the early years of his career, he served in a number of branches and departments including the former New Territories Administration, Security Branch, Urban Services Department, Civil Service Branch and the former General Duties Branch.

He was Deputy Secretary in the former Lands and Works Branch from 1988 to 1989, Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service from 1989 to 1991 and Deputy Secretary for Constitutional Affairs from 1991 to 1994. He took up his present post of Secretary for Security in February 1995.

Bowen Leung Po-wing, JP

Aged 46, Mr Leung joined the Government as an Administrative Officer in 1973 and rose to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1995.

During the early years of his career he served in a number of branches and departments including Social Welfare Department, Security Branch, the former New Territories Services Department and the former City and New Territories Administration.

Mr Leung was Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (formerly titled Deputy Secretary for District Administration) from 1987 to 1990, Deputy Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands from 1990 to 1992 and Private Secretary, Government House from late 1992 to 1995.

He took up his present post of Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands in May 1995.

Kwong Ki-chi, JP

Aged 45, Mr Kwong joined the Government in 1972 as an Assistant Trade Officer and was appointed to the Administrative Service in 1978.

He served in a number of branches and departments including the former Environment Branch, Home Affairs Department (which was once re-organised to become the City and New Territories Administration), the Finance Branch and Monetary Affairs Branch.

Mr Kwong received overseas training at the Cambridge University from 1984 to 1985. From 1989 to 1992, he was Deputy Commissioner for London.

On return to Hong Kong in 1992, he became the senior Deputy Secretary for the Treasury. Mr Kwong was promoted to the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in April 1995 when he took up his present appointment as Secretary for the Treasury.

John Anthony Miller, JP

Aged 46, Mr Miller joined the Government in 1972 as an Administrative Officer and rose to his present rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade A in 1993.

During the early years of his career with the Administrative Service, he served in a number of branches and departments including Urban Services Department, Home Affairs Department, Housing Branch, Housing Department, Government House, the former Administrative Services and Information Branch and Trade Department.

He was Deputy Director-General of Trade from 1986 to 1989 and Information Co-ordinator from 1989 to 1991. Mr Miller became Director of Marine in 1991 and took up his present appointment as Director-General of Trade in March 1993. He will assume the post of Director of Housing in July.

End

Trade chief comments on promotion supersession

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In response to press enquiries concerning the announcement that he would be superseded for promotion to Secretary with effect from June 1, the Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, said this (Tuesday) afternoon he was pleased with the announcement which reflected Government's recognition of his performance.

"I recognise the constraints imposed by transitional arrangements. Nevertheless, I am pleased to have this recognition of my abilities. And I look forward to continue serving the community in my new capacity as the Director of Housing," Mr Miller said.

End

Further amendments to Buildings Ordinance proposed

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The Governor-in-Council has approved further amendments to the Buildings (Amendment) (No 3) Bill 1995 to better ensure safety at construction and demolition sites.

A government spokesman said today (Tuesday) the most significant change to the Bill would be the introduction of the specific requirements of a supervision plan before building works might commence.

The two main objectives of the Bill are to strengthen safety measures at construction sites and to promote self-regulation by building professionals and contractors.

Following extensive discussion at the Bills Committee and separate further consultation with professional bodies, the Administration recognised the need for a supervision plan as the safety of buildings and demolition works depended very much on the adequacy of site supervision provided during the construction stages, the spokesman said.

"The supervision plan proposed will set out the level of supervision requirement for each type of building works.

"The responsibilities of the parties concerned in the supervision system, including that of contractors, site agents, work supervisors, building professionals and any persons carrying out building works, will be defined in a way reflecting their actual roles on sites," the spokesman said.

The supervision plan will also set out the management structure required to ensure site safety.

To facilitate the design of the detailed supervision requirements, the Building Authority will issue technical guidelines and code of practice.

There will be three levels of sanctions for deviations from a supervision plan:

- i) for minor deviations, the Building Authority will give administrative warnings;
- ii) for material deviations or repeated minor deviations, the relevant parties may be subject to an investigation by a disciplinary board;
- iii) for material deviations, which directly results in injury or damage or a risk of injury or damage, the responsible persons will be subject to criminal prosecution and a maximum fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for three years on conviction.

The spokesman said the Administration was of the view that in order to ensure safety at construction sites, there was a genuine need to administer criminal sanction against the relevant parties who failed their legal responsibilities resulting in or risking injury and damage.

"Nevertheless, the Government will adopt a pragmatic approach," the spokesman said.

"Provisions relating to criminal offences and penalties will come into effect one year after the commencement date of the Bill to allow time for the industry to familiarise them with the requirements of the supervision plan system."

End

Civil service pay rise decision made

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Following discussion by the Governor-in-Council today (Tuesday), the Administration has decided that the original pay offer of 7.67 per cent for the lower and middle salary bands and 7.68 per cent for the upper band and the directorate should be maintained.

"We have followed established practice in determining the pay adjustment figures this year. The pay increase is fair and reasonable," the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr W K Lam, said.

"Despite some suggestions that the pay adjustment should be brought up to inflation, the Government remains of the view that there are no overriding reasons for doing so."

The cost of the pay adjustment for the civil service and subvented organisations is estimated to be \$6.4 billion in 1996-97.

Subject to the provision of funds by Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, civil servants will receive the revised salaries at the end of July.

End

General holidays for 1997 published

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The following list of General Holidays for 1997 is published for public information:

Every Sunday

The first week-day in January	Wednesday	January 1
The day preceding Lunar New Year's Day	Thursday	February 6
Lunar New Year's Day	Friday	February 7

The second day of Lunar New Year	Saturday	February 8
Good Friday	Friday	March 28
The day following Good Friday	Saturday	March 29
Easter Monday	Monday	March 31
Ching Ming Festival	Saturday	April 5
Tuen Ng Festival	Monday	June 9
The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen	Saturday	June 28
The Monday following the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen	Monday	June 30
HK Returning to China, SAR Establishment Day	Tuesday	July 1
The day following SAR Establishment Day	Wednesday	July 2
Sino-Japanese War Victory Day	Monday	August 18
The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival	Wednesday	September 17
National Day	Wednesday	October 1
The day following National Day	Thursday	October 2
Chung Yeung Festival	Friday	October 10
Christmas Day	Thursday	December 25
The first week-day after Christmas Day	Friday	December 26

"The Government has decided to move the holidays to celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen from the second Saturday and the following Monday to the fourth Saturday and the following Monday in June to facilitate community participation in the events surrounding the transition," a government spokesman said today (Tuesday).

An order announcing the change of date will be published in the Gazette.

End

Fewer transport complaints in first quarter of 1996

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The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The number of complaints and suggestions received by the Transport Complaints Unit (TCU) of the Transport Advisory Committee for the period between January 1 and March 31 dropped by 6.1 per cent to 3,338 as compared with 3,556 in the previous quarter.

During the period, the major areas of complaint were related to public transport (74 per cent), road traffic conditions (12 per cent) and enforcement (10 per cent).

The number of complaints about public transport decreased by 5.9 per cent from 2,629 in the previous quarter to 2,474.

This was mainly due to decreases in complaints against taxi driver malpractices (down from 1,378 to 1,285), China Motor Bus (down from 255 to 171) and Citybus (down from 135 to 95).

However, complaints about Kowloon Motor Bus increased by 15.9 per cent from 277 to 321. There were also more complaints against rail services (up from 40 to 72), ferry services (up from 41 to 62) and green minibuses (up from 222 to 239).

Complaints about traffic congestion dropped by 25.2 per cent to 178 from 238. Complaints about road conditions also dropped by 2.8 per cent to 69 from 71.

During the same period, there were also fewer complaints about malfunctioning of traffic signs and aids (down from 50 to 31) and enforcement action (down from 350 to 338).

All suggestions and complaints received by TCU had been referred to the relevant authorities and government departments for investigation.

Members of the public may complain direct by dialling the Transport Complaints Unit hotline 2577 6866 or the new hotline 2889 9999 24 hours a day throughout the year.

End

Proposals to tidy up law on juvenile insurance policy

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The following is issued on behalf of the Insurance Advisory Committee:

The Insurance Advisory Committee has endorsed proposals to tidy up the present legislation regarding requirement for insurable interest (that is pecuniary interest) for insurance policies, including the recognition of a parent's insurable interest in the life of his/her child.

A spokesman for the Committee said at present, a person effecting a contract of insurance must have an insurable interest in the life or event insured.

"Under the common law, a parent has no insurable interest in the life of his/her child. A juvenile policy, whereby a parent takes out insurance on the life of his/her child and naming the parent as a beneficiary, is hence illegal and void," he said.

"The illegality of juvenile policies was identified in January 1995 and was then rectified by the insurance industry through the issue of a replacement policy to the effect that the parent acts as a trustee for the child who is named as the beneficiary.

"However this is cumbersome and is also inconsistent with practices in China, Singapore and Malaysia where insurable interest is legally recognised for the parent-child relationship.

"To rectify this anomaly, it is proposed that the Insurance Companies Ordinance be amended to recognise that a parent has an insurable interest in the life of his/her child."

The Committee has also discussed the revised Authorisation Guidelines of Insurance Companies as well as the Guidance Note for the Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation) Regulation.

The Insurance Authority will proceed to consult the industry and the professional bodies concerned before finalising them for issue to the public.

End

Taxi fare receipts format confirmed

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The implementation of the proposal to require taxi drivers to issue taxi fare receipts on demand is moving a step forward with the confirmation on the receipt's format and printing time.

Transport Department is taking action to amend the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulation and Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Regulation to include such requirement.

A spokesman for the department said the legislative amendments would, hopefully, be completed within 1996-97.

"It is hope that the requirement can come into effect one year after the enactment of the legislation," the spokesman said.

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) members were informed at their meeting today (Tuesday) of the progress in the implementation of this requirement which was recommended in the 1994 Taxi Policy Review.

A series of consultation and a product demonstration were conducted earlier this year to solicit the views of taxi operators and drivers concerning the requirement for taxi drivers to issue a fare receipt on demand.

The receipt requirement was well received by operators, drivers, and members of the public.

This will require taxi operators/drivers to install a printer which is capable of producing receipts containing the following information:

- * registration number of the taxi;
- * date and time when the journey starts;
- * date and time when the journey ends;
- * total distance travelled;
- * distance over which a distance rate is charged;
- * waiting time over which a time rate is charged;
- * surcharges, if any, and
- * total taxi fare.

The spokesman said these information should be printed in simplified Chinese characters in full or in a simplified form with each item of the above information being denoted by a number.

An explanatory note for the fare receipt items in Chinese and English will be required to display inside a taxi to avoid confusion.

The receipt must be printed within 12 seconds so as not to cause traffic delay and inconvenience to the passengers.

The spokesman said: "This duration is considered appropriate because it is roughly the time being taken by a passenger to settle the fare."

The spokesman noted that a receipt printer could be an integral part of a taxi-meter or be added onto some existing taxi-meters now being used in taxis.

Depending on the type of printer chosen, the capital cost of a printer will be ranged from \$1,000 to \$6,000, which forms only a small proportion for the operating cost of a taxi.

On the related recurrent expenses, the cost of consumable, including paper and ribbon, is estimated to be about \$15 per month.

The spokesman said a hand-written receipt using a pre-printed form could be used to replace the receipt in times when the receipt printer was malfunction.

The pre-printed form will show similar information as a receipt with the addition of the name of the driver and transport complaint hotline number.

End

Site safety urged after inclement weather

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The Labour Department today (Tuesday) urged contractors and construction site management staff to take all necessary safety measures to ensure that work sites are safe for workers.

"Following the inclement weather in the past few days, it would be of paramount importance to check site conditions thoroughly and carry out any necessary repairs or rectifications to render the site safe before resuming normal operation," acting Chief Factory Inspector, Mr Tse Ming-sing, said.

Common hazards found on sites after inclement weather include:

- (a) flooding in excavations or caissons;
- (b) damaged bamboo scaffolds or damaged working platforms on these scaffolds;
- (c) caving in of the sides of excavations and damage to the shoring;
- (d) loosened anchorage of lifting appliances;
- (e) leakage of electric current from electrical installations; and
- (f) missing safety fencing.

Mr Tse said the general duties provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance required employers to provide a safe plant and a safe system of work for employees. Employees should co-operate by using safety equipment provided by their employers.

He also reminded contractors and workers who had any site safety problems that they were welcomed to contact the factory inspectors through the 24-hour industrial safety hotline 2815 0678.

End

Provisional retail sales statistics for April released

* * * * *

The value of total retail sales in April 1996, estimated at \$16.7 billion, increased by 5% when compared with April 1995, according to the provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Tuesday).

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total retail sales showed a small increase of 0.3% in volume.

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

In parallel with CPI, both the series of value indices and volume indices of retail sales have been rebased, taking the twelve months from October 1994 to September 1995 as the new base period.

Starting from the data release for the reference month of April 1996, the published value and volume indices of retail sales and their year-on-year rates of change will be based on the new rebased series.

Compared with a year ago, sales of motor vehicles increased by 13% in value and 14% in volume. This is consecutively the second month where year-on-year growth in volume terms has been registered since July 1994.

Concurrently, sales of some other commodities also recorded increases in both value and volume terms. These included consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles (6% in value and 5% in volume); miscellaneous consumer goods (9% in value and 4% in volume); and clothing and footwear (8% in value and 1% in volume).

Meanwhile, sales of food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco went up by 9% in value, albeit virtually no change in volume.

On the other hand, sales in supermarkets rose by 6% in value but dropped by 1% in volume. Sales of valuable goods (jewellery, watches and clocks and valuable gifts) and fuels both registered virtually no change in value but declined by 3% and 7% in volume respectively. Sales in department stores also went down by 5% in value and 9% in volume.

Compared with March 1996 (but bearing in mind that this comparison is affected by seasonal factors), total retail sales in April 1996 decreased by 6% in value and 8% in volume.

Comparing the period from January to April 1996 with the same period in 1995, total retail sales rose by 5% in value and 0.2% in volume.

Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for March 1996 and the provisional figure for April 1996.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of retail sales in April 1995, March 1996 and April 1996 for all retail outlets and by type of retail outlets, with average retail sales from October 1994 to September 1995 taken as 100.

Comparisons of the April 1996 results with those for March 1996 and those for April 1995, as well as comparison of retail sales in the period from January to April of 1996 with the same period in 1995 are also given.

The report containing the analysis of the April 1996 results and the rebased series of retail sales indices from October 1994 to April 1996 is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, ground floor, Low Block, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

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

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for April 1996 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$16,704.4 million
for March 1996 (Revised Figure) = HK\$17,690.9 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR APRIL 1995, MARCH AND APRIL 1996

(Monthly average of Oct 94 - Sept 95 = 100)

Type of Outlet	Type of Index	Index Number			% Change		
		April 1995 (Revised figures)	March 1996 (Revised figures)	April 1996 (Provisional figures)	Apr 1996 compared with Mar 1996	Apr 1996 compared with Apr 1995	Jan - Apr 1996 compared with Jan - Apr 1995
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS		(Point)	(Point)	(Point)	(%)	(%)	(%)
	Value	91.5	101.9	96.2	-5.6	+5.2	+5.3
	Volume	90.5	98.4	90.8	-7.7	+0.3	+0.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLETS							
Food, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	100.8	104.4	109.5	+4.8	+8.7	+8.1
	Volume	101.2	98.8	101.6	+2.9	+0.4	+3.3
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	92.8	102.8	98.5	-4.2	+6.1	+8.5
	Volume	92.4	95.8	91.9	-4.1	-0.5	+1.3
Fuels	Value	98.2	92.5	97.9	+5.8	-0.3	+5.3
	Volume	96.6	85.6	90.0	+5.2	-6.8	-1.8
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	93.8	98.6	101.6	+3.1	+8.3	+14.4
	Volume	91.0	97.3	92.1	-5.4	+1.2	+6.1
Consumer durable goods	Value	89.8	96.4	96.9	+0.5	+8.0	-5.9
	Volume	89.4	95.3	96.1	+0.8	+7.4	-6.6
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	69.9	86.9	79.2	-8.8	+13.4	-25.3
	Volume	69.2	86.2	78.6	-8.9	+13.5	-25.1
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	101.8	102.1	107.6	+5.3	+5.7	+6.1
	Volume	101.7	100.8	106.6	+5.8	+4.9	+4.7
Department stores	Value	90.2	97.4	86.1	-11.6	-4.5	+3.6
	Volume	88.3	95.5	80.3	-15.9	-9.1	-1.8
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	83.9	115.1	84.3	-26.8	+0.5	+1.2
	Volume	83.3	110.0	80.6	-26.7	-3.2	-4.6
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	90.7	103.2	98.7	-4.3	+8.8	+10.5
	Volume	90.5	99.0	94.3	-4.8	+4.2	+5.8

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.
The underlined figures were rounded up to 5.

Music and Dance Fund applications invited

* * * * *

Applications are now invited for grants from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund for the year 1996-97.

Grants are primarily for education and/or training in the fields of music and dance and associated activities.

In previous years, grants were made to schools and music/dance organisations for purchasing or repairing musical instruments and dance equipment; purchasing music scores and parts; and organising music/dance camps and workshops.

Applications can also be made for other purposes which conform with the overall educational aims of the Fund.

All registered non-profit-making organisations are eligible to apply. The closing date is July 26.

Application forms and information pamphlets are now available at:

- * Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund Secretariat 40th floor, Revenue Tower 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
- * Mong Kok and Sha Tin music centres of the Music Office

Further details can be obtained on 2594 5628.

End

By-election for conduct council to be held in October

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The Assistant Director of Education (Services), Mr David Pun, said today (Tuesday) that a by-election for the five vacant seats on the Council on Professional Council in Education (CPCE) would be held on October 3.

In the second CPCE election held this April, one seat each in five categories remained unfilled.

These five categories are government secondary school, government primary school, private primary school, kindergarten and teachers' union.

Mr Pun said the Education Department had consulted 22 members of the Council on the date of the by-election.

"So far, 20 returns had been received," he said.

Among them, 15 members are in favour of holding the by-election on October 3 while five members prefer to have it on July 11, he noted.

Mr Pun said details of the by-election would be sent to concerned parties in due course.

"Meanwhile, they can consider to nominate suitable candidates to stand for the election," he added.

CPCE is a non-statutory body to advise the Government on measures to promote professional conduct in education, including the drafting of operational criteria defining the conduct expected of an educator, and to advise the Director of Education on disputes or alleged professional misconduct.

End

Household expenditure survey report published

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A detailed report entitled "1994/95 Household Expenditure Survey and the Rebasing of the Consumer Price Indices" was recently published by the Census and Statistics Department.

The 1994-95 household expenditure survey (HES) was conducted from October 1994 to September 1995 to collect up-to-date information on expenditure patterns of households in Hong Kong.

The information collected is used in updating the expenditure weights which are essential inputs to the compilation of the Consumer Price Indices (CPIs).

Over the five-year period, from 1989-90 to 1994-95, the most significant changes in the expenditure weights of CPIs have been a decline in the expenditure share of food (by four to six percentage points) and an increase in that of housing (by four to five percentage points).

The new expenditure patterns derived from the results of the 1994-95 HES has been used in compiling the new 1994-95-based CPIs.

More details on the results of the 1994-95 HES and the new CPI series are given in the report. The report also contains concepts and methodologies of the 1994-95 HES and the CPIs.

The report can be purchased at \$30 per copy from the Government Publication Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. It is on sale at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End

Health manpower survey to be conducted

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The Department of Health will conduct a health manpower survey next month to update information on the size and characteristics of the various types of medical and health staff in Hong Kong.

Announcing the impending survey today (Tuesday), a spokesman for the department said the results would be useful for health manpower planning purposes.

Questionnaires will be sent early next month to about 10,000 institutions with medical and health staff in both the public and private sectors requesting them to supply the relevant information.

These institutions include hospitals, clinics, maternity homes, private practitioners' offices, dental surgeries, medical, X-ray and dental laboratories, dispensaries, elderly homes and optical shops.

It is hoped that these institutions will give the survey full support and return the completed questionnaires to the Statistics Unit of the Department of Health on or before July 26.

"Their participation and co-operation are extremely important to make the survey a success," the spokesman stressed.

He said the information supplied by individuals and institutions would be kept confidential and only used for compilation of aggregate statistics.

A similar health manpower survey was conducted in 1992 by the Department of Health.

End

Post offices to open early for special stamp issue

* * * * *

The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, today (Tuesday) announced that the opening time of 20 district post offices in the territory will be advanced to 8 am tomorrow (Wednesday), the first day of issue of the "Archaeological Finds of Hong Kong" special stamps.

Mr Footman said: "This is one of our initiatives to improve our services to the public. Depending on the results of this trial, we shall consider the need for extending the arrangement to other post offices on the first day of issue of special stamps in future."

There will be a total of 23 post offices which will be open at 8 am to provide full range of counter services tomorrow under this arrangement, including three which are already open at 8 am on normal weekdays. The 23 post offices are:

Hong Kong

General Post Office
Aberdeen
Shau Kei Wan
Sai Ying Pun
Tsat Tse Mui
Wan Chai
Wah Fu

Outlying Islands

Cheung Chau

Kowloon

Tsim Sha Tsui

Cheung Sha Wan

Kowloon Central

Kowloon City

Kwun Tong

Rennis's Mill Village

Tseung Kwan O

To Kwa Wan

New Territories

Yuen Long

Sha Tin

Sai Kung

Shek Wu Hui

Tuen Mun Central

Tai Po

Tsuen Wan

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

* * * * *

Tender date	25 Jun 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q626
Issue date	26 Jun 1996
Maturity date	25 Sept 1996

Amount applied	HK\$6,736 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.19 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.20 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 34 PCT
Average tender yield	5.21 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 1 Jul 1996

Tender date	2 Jul 1996	2 Jul 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q627	H668
Issue date	3 Jul 1996	3 Jul 1996
Maturity date	2 Oct 1996	2 Jan 1997
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300MN	HK\$800+160MN
Coupon		

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	2,089	0930	-131
Closing balance in the account	1,667	1000	-131
Change attributable to :		1100	-131
Money market activity	-132	1200	-132
LAF today	-290	1500	-132
		1600	-132

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 *+0.0* 25.6.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.94	2 years	2805	6.30	99.99	6.40
1 month	5.02	3 years	3904	6.30	98.98	6.81
3 months	5.20	5 years	5106	7.23	99.54	7.48
6 months	5.43	7 years	7305	7.60	99.64	7.81
12 months	5.82	5 years	M502	7.30	99.26	7.64

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$11,803 million

Closed June 25, 1996

End