



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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### Delegation to study Australian welfare subvention system

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The Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mrs Louise Wong, will lead a nine-member delegation to visit Australia today (Saturday) to study the social welfare subvention system in New South Wales.

The delegation, comprising representatives from both the government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), will hold meetings with their counterparts in Australia and visit some selected welfare services.

"The study tour is aimed at enabling members to see for themselves how the system of performance-based contracts operate in New South Wales," Mrs Wong said.

She said the Social Welfare Department had awarded a \$6.4 million contract to a management consultancy firm to review the existing social welfare subvention administration in March this year.

"The review, expected to be completed in 18 months, is conducted with a view to achieving better value for money and to strengthening the department's partnership with NGOs as well as to simplify existing subvention allocation procedures," Mrs Wong said.

In conducting the review, the consultancy firm has teamed up with the New South Wales Department of Community Service which has direct experience as a funding body of welfare services in New South Wales of Australia and in developing performance-based contracts, unit costing and the linking of funding to achievement of standards.

The delegation will return to Hong Kong on July 13 (Thursday).

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

### Consumers' co-operative societies continue to thrive

\* \* \* \* \*

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, has expressed confidence that Hong Kong's consumers' co-operative societies would continue to thrive and serve the needs of their members in the years to come.

Dr Lee was speaking at the dinner reception held at a Sham Shui Po restaurant today (Saturday) to celebrate the 73rd International Co-operative Day.

As registrar of the territory's co-operative societies, Dr Lee said consumers' societies had had a good year with sales totalling \$5.3 million and surplus exceeding \$2.6 million.

Also on the urban co-operatives, he pointed out that civil servants' co-operative building societies had been assisted by the registration authority to transfer titles to flats and land to their individual members.

As at the end of the previous financial year, some 80 co-operative building societies had applied for voluntary dissolution. Of these applications, 48 societies have completed all the necessary formalities and are in the process of transferring titles to 871 members.

Apart from the 203 urban societies on the register, there are 64 farmers' and 68 fishermen's societies with a total membership of 20,227.

On the farmers' societies, Dr Lee was pleased to note that the two agricultural federations had continued to lead their member societies to work closely with the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) in promoting local pig and vegetable production during the past financial year.

"The 27 vegetable marketing co-operative societies handled a total of 106,000 tonnes or \$468 million worth of fresh vegetables, representing 48 per cent of the Vegetable Marketing Organisation's throughput.

"They also undertook a number of infrastructural improvement projects last year, which had benefited 188 farms covering 37 hectares of land.

"Their federation has also played an active role in establishing technical exchanges with its Chinese counterparts, and in encouraging member-farmers to participate in AFD's Accredited Farm Scheme," said Dr Lee.

Launched last November, he said, the scheme had been well received by producers, retailers and consumers.

Dr Lee was pleased to note that the 18 pig raising and agricultural credit co-operative societies had continued to take an active part in promoting local pig production.

The Federation of Pig Raising Co-operative Societies had also been actively reflecting members' views to the Government, thereby contributing to the smooth implementation of the Livestock Farm Licensing Scheme, he added.

Turning to the fishermen's co-operative societies, Dr Lee said they had developed steadily in the previous financial year.

"Savings of their members have continued to contribute to the build-up of the capital of their revolving loan funds, which now stand at \$7.3 million. Loans totalling \$21 million were granted to members during the year, mainly for the building of new fishing vessels and the purchase of fishing equipment," he said.

Dr Lee also took the opportunity to present meritorious and long service awards to 10 staff in recognition of their contribution to Hong Kong's co-operative movement.

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

#### Dental services and reimbursement for welfare recipients

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In response to press enquiries about the average waiting time for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients for receiving dental services and receiving reimbursement, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department today (Saturday) said: "The average waiting time for receiving dental treatment is eight working days from the date of request for a dental appointment.

"The waiting time for receiving reimbursement of charges for dental services is nine working days from the date of submission of the cost estimate to the department.

"In emergencies, dental services and reimbursement of charges can be provided within one or two working days."

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

Lantau taxi fare conversion table for collection

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The Transport Department today (Saturday) announced that the Lantau taxi fare conversion tables showing the existing fare scales as against the new fare scales to be effective from July 14 this year would be available for collection by taxi owners from Monday (July 10).

A spokesman for the department said the fare increase was still subject to the Legislative Council's consent.

The fare conversion table should be displayed at a prominent position inside a taxi before the taximeter is recalibrated and sealed by the Transport Department during their half-yearly inspections, the spokesman said. Taxi owners can collect the tables at:

- \* Islands District Office,  
Mui Wo Sub-office,  
ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices,  
No 2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road,  
Mui Wo, Lantau Island; and
- \* Public Vehicles Section,  
Transport Department,  
third floor, United Centre,  
95 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Taxi owners should produce their taxi registration documents when collecting the conversion tables.

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

Firing practice in August

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range from 8.30 am to 5 pm on August 14 (Monday).

The public is advised not to enter the area when the red flag is hoisted.

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

Flushing water cut in Kowloon East

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Flushing water supply to most premises in Kowloon East will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (July 11) to 9 am the following day to facilitate maintenance work.

The affected areas will include San Po Kong, Ngau Chi Wan, Choi Hung Estate, Choi Wan Estate, Ping Shek Estate, United Christian Hospital, Shun Lee Estate, Shun Tin Estate, Shun On Estate, Shun Chi Court, Shun Lee Tsuen Temporary Housing Area, Ngau Tau Kok, Lok Wah Estate, Jordan Valley, Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong, Lam Tin, Sau Mau Ping and Cha Kwo Ling.

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,427	09:30	+20
Closing balance in the account	1,572	10:00	+20
Change attributable to:		11:00	+20
Money market activity	+20	11:30	+20
LAF today	-875	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.7 \*+0.2\* 8.7.95

End/Saturday, July 8, 1995

Statement on Court of Final Appeal Agreement

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to media enquiries, a government spokesman today (Sunday) described criticisms of the Court of Final Appeal Agreement made by Mr Martin Lee in his "Letter to Hong Kong" broadcast on RTHK as deliberately misleading and damaging to confidence in Hong Kong's future.

The spokesman said: "Mr Lee once again completely distorts the CFA agreement by claiming that it 'creates a hole in the Common Law' and 'accepts Beijing's meaning of the term acts of state'. This is a red herring and Mr Lee knows it - or, at least as a lawyer, he should know it.

"The agreement does no more than acknowledge the fact that from 1 July, 1997 the Basic Law will be the law of Hong Kong, and that the CFA will be subject to it. That has been the case since the Basic Law was promulgated in 1990, and the CFA agreement does nothing to alter that fact - nor, indeed, could it do so.

"It is also nonsense to suggest that the CFA agreement is a 'rotten deal' for the local and international business community. The agreement has been unanimously welcomed by both the local and international business communities, as indeed it has been welcomed by the governments of the United States, Japan, the European Union, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea.

"Further, it is highly damaging to Hong Kong's reputation abroad and to investor confidence to link the CFA agreement with Hong Kong companies shifting their legal domiciles to other countries when few, if any, such companies would have done so since the agreement was announced a month ago, and set against the unanimous endorsement of agreement by the local and international business communities."

Finally, the spokesman said it was astonishingly eccentric leap of logic for Mr Lee to accuse the government of entering secret negotiations while attacking the Governor and the administration for working over time to 'sell the agreement'.

"The CFA agreement is good for Hong Kong and good for the rule of law. It buttresses the rule of law in Hong Kong by ending the uncertainty about the establishment of the court and by providing continuity beyond 1997," the spokesman said.

"We would be rightly accused of ignoring the interests of the people of Hong Kong if we did not do all we can to explain the agreement to the community in general, and particularly to LegCo which must take the final decision on the acceptability of the agreement."

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

#### Elderly homes invited to apply financial assistance

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Operators of residential care homes for the elderly (RCH) who need to improve the condition of their homes are invited to apply for financial assistance from the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

The Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, which has come into effect on April 1 this year, provides for the control of RCHs through a licensing system administered by the Director of Social Welfare.

"It aims to ensure that residents in these RCHs receive services of acceptable standards that are of benefit to them physically, emotionally and socially," a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

"The Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation specifies among other things, design and structural requirements as well as fire services requirements for RCHs.

"In order to continue operation of the RCHs, most self-financing homes for the elderly (SFHEs) and private homes for the elderly (PHEs) need to carry out improvement works for meeting the legislative standards," the spokesman said.

In this connection, the Working Group on Care for the Elderly has recommended that a one-off Financial Assistance Scheme be introduced with an aim to assisting these SFHEs and PHEs to comply with the safety precaution, design and structural requirements of the legislation.

"An allocation of \$50 million under the Lotteries Fund has been approved by the Subvention and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee for the Financial Assistance Scheme.

"The maximum grant allocated to each RCH can be up to 60 per cent of the approved costs of the improvement works," he added.

The spokesman said grants could be used to carry out improvement works such as fire services installation, electrical installation, gas installation, rectification of unauthorised building works, improvement to fire exits and exit routes, installation of non-slippery tiles and railings and protective barriers as well as other works considered necessary by the Director of Social Welfare.

RCHs should meet the following eligibility criteria before their applications will be considered:

- \* The SFHEs and PHEs should have come into existence and commenced operation at the existing premises before April 1, 1995;

- \* operators of SFHEs and PHEs should have intention to improve their RCHs for meeting the licensing standards and should continue operation for at least two more years;

- \* the premises where the SFHEs and PHEs are situated must be self-owned properties or have a valid tenancy agreement of not less than two years at the time of application;

- \* Operators of SFHEs and PHEs should submit evidence to show that the existence of the RCHs has obtained the endorsement of the Ownership Corporation of the building concerned or it is in compliance with the lease conditions and Deed of Mutual Covenant;

- \* the fee charged by the RCHs should be at a rate not more than the current cost recognised by the Bought Place Scheme for Private Homes for the Elderly; and

- \* the services provided by the RCHs should be to the satisfaction of the Director of Social Welfare.

Applications for grant from the scheme should be forwarded to SWD's Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

"Although there is no deadline for applying, applications will be closed once allocation of the \$50 million set aside for this purpose is fully committed," the spokesman said.

Enquiries can be made on tel 2961 7211 or 2834 7414.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

### Exhibition to promote employment of the disabled

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The Labour Department's Selective Placement Division (SPD) will hold a three-day exhibition from Friday (July 14) in Tsim Sha Tsui to enhance public understanding of the working abilities of the disabled.

"The exhibition forms part of the department's continuous efforts to promote employment opportunities for the disabled and clarify public misconceptions towards them," Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement), Mrs Jennie Chor, said today (Sunday).

It will include video shows and the display of 18 boards introducing the work disabled employees are performing, the free placement service to the disabled and free recruitment service to employers being offered by the SPD.

Experienced officers will man an enquiry counter to be set up at the venue for answering public enquiries and distributing pamphlets introducing the work of the SPD.

In addition, a quiz game aiming at enhancing public understanding of the disabled will be held during the exhibition. Souvenirs will be given to participants.

"During the exhibition, employers who wish to recruit disabled workers can give details of their vacancies to our staff on-the-spot. Disabled job-seekers can also register at the counter and our staff will arrange interviews for both parties afterwards," Mrs Chor said.

The exhibition to be held at the Western Galley B, New World Centre, 20 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, will be open from 10 am to 6 pm from July 14 to 16.

Mrs Chor also disclosed that the SPD, together with Radio Television Hong Kong, are producing a series of television programmes introducing the working abilities of the disabled.

"The television programmes are expected to be broadcast in August. We hope that the programmes can help increase acceptance of the disabled in the community and thus increase their employment opportunities," Mrs Chor added.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

### Grants for children of farming and fishing families

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Children or dependants of farming and fishing families in need of financial assistance for tertiary education are reminded to apply early for the Agricultural Products and Marine Fish Scholarship funds.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said applications for the scholarship and grants will close on July 18.

Application forms are obtainable from the department's headquarters on the 12th floor of Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon, and from various district agricultural and fisheries liaison offices.

"Applicants should be Hong Kong residents under 30 years of age," the spokesman said.

"The awards will be tenable at any university in Hong Kong and any acceptable overseas institution."

Approved courses for tertiary education include those on agriculture, veterinary science, marine science and biology or any applied science directly relevant to the local agriculture or fisheries and related trades.

Enquiries about application procedures may be directed to the Secretary of the Agricultural Products and Marine Fish Scholarship Funds Advisory Committee on 2733 2244.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

### PD achieves performance targets

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The Director of Planning, Dr Peter Pun, today (Sunday) said his department had achieved most of its performance targets announced last year.

"The department has achieved the service standard set for 1994 in 90 per cent or higher of the cases in such areas as replying to straightforward oral enquiries and complicated written enquiries as well as processing of development proposals," he said.

Dr Pun pointed out that only the work on carrying out site inspection and providing replies on alleged unauthorised developments fell short of the target in the first and second quarters of 1994.

"After the setting up of the Central Enforcement and Prosecution Section in July 1994, the target was achieved in the latter half of the year," he added.

Dr Pun pledged to continue providing efficient, courteous and professional services to the public.

"As an on-going commitment to improving services, the public enquiry counter at the department's headquarters has been enlarged and installed new signage to provide a clean and friendly environment to our users", Dr Pun said.

"To ensure that our performance is effectively monitored and our services are meeting users' needs, a User Liaison Group has been established to provide the department with useful feedback and constructive suggestions.

"We shall continue monitoring our performance against targets and publish our achievements annually," he added.

Copies of a leaflet on the performance pledge for 1995 are available from the department's Planning Information and Technical Administration Unit on the 16th floor of Murray Building in Garden Road, District Planning Offices and District Offices.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

83,500 pupils allocated Secondary One places

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More than 83,500 pupils have been allocated Secondary One places in this year's secondary school places allocation exercise, results of which will be released on Wednesday (July 12).

An Education Department spokesman said: "All 83,626 pupils participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation exercise, irrespective of their ages, have been allocated Secondary One places in government, aided or private secondary schools.

"The number includes 4,296 pupils (5.14 per cent) who have successfully obtained the discretionary places they applied for earlier this year.

"A total of 42,145 pupils (50.40 per cent) have been allocated places according to their first choice and 60,323 pupils (72.13 per cent) according to their first three choices."

All places allocated are three-year places for which no tuition fees will be charged.

"In addition to the 83,626 pupils, a total of six pupils participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation exercise have been admitted to private secondary schools which joined the Direct Subsidy Scheme," the spokesman said.

Allocation results will be available from pupils' primary schools on Wednesday (July 12). Pupils should follow the arrangements set down by their schools and return to collect the admission slip and allocation slip (attached to their Primary Six identification form) from their schools.

There is only one registration period this year, which is from July 17 (Monday) to 18, 1995. All pupils must report during the registration period to the secondary schools to which they have been allocated. Failure to do so will mean that they have chosen not to take up the places allocated.

In case both the pupil and the parent/guardian are away from Hong Kong during the registration period, they should authorise in writing representatives to comply with the registration procedures on their behalf. Copies of letters of authorisation can be obtained from their primary school heads.

In case of genuine difficulties, the parents or pupils concerned should inform the Education Department's Secondary School Places Allocation Section before the end of the registration period so that alternative arrangements can be made.

"After the registration period, vacancies arising from failure to turn up for registration will be filled at the discretion of individual schools," he added.

When reporting to the secondary schools for registration, pupils are expected to put on their school uniform. They must bring the following:

- \* Primary Six identification forms, to which their individual allocation slips have been attached;

- \* the admission slips;

\* Birth Certificates, Hong Kong Juvenile Identity Cards or other documentary evidence of their date of birth and their status as permanent residents of Hong Kong; (Note: pupils should also bring along their travelling documents if the symbol "C" (for conditional stay) is found at line 7 of the Hong Kong Identity Card)

\* latest school reports, if any; and

\* two recent passport-sized photographs.

Parents seeking transfers for their children should directly apply to the schools they prefer. Acceptance is at the sole discretion of the schools concerned. Successful applicants have to retrieve the admission slips from the secondary schools at which they have registered during the registration period and hand them to the schools they wish to transfer to. Parents and pupils are reminded that by retrieving their admission slips, their registration with the schools will be cancelled.

"In case of tropical cyclones, persistent heavy rain or thunderstorms during the registration period, heads of schools and parents should pay attention to announcements in the media for any necessary special arrangements," the spokesman said.

Enquiries concerning the allocation results should be directed to the Secondary School Places Allocation Section of the Education Department on tel 2891 2200 during office hours.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995

#### Water cuts in Mong Kok and Fo Tan

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (July 12) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at Kadoorie Avenue and Braga Circuit.

Meanwhile, flushing water supply to some premises in Fo Tan will also be cut off from 3 am to 8 pm on Wednesday to allow for checking of the supply system.

The affected areas will include Fo Tan KCRC Station, KCRC Workshop, Au Pui Wan Street, Wo Heung Street, Wo Shing Street, Wo Shui Street, Wo Liu Hang Road, Min Fong Street, Shek Lau Tung Street, Tsung Tau Ha Road, Kwei Tei Street, Tat Yip Lane, Fo Tan Road, Fo Tan Village, Cheung Lek Mei Street, Shan Mei Street, Ho Lek Pui Street, Sui Fung Lane, Sui Wo Road, Ngau Wu Tok Street, Wong Chuk Yeung Street, Yuen Kong Au Street, Man Hang Street, Sui Wo Court, Sha Tin 33 and Scenery Garden.

End/Sunday, July 9, 1995