



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government statement on Bar Council's comments on draft CFA Bill

A Government spokesman today (Wednesday) made the following statement on the Bar Council's comments on the draft Court of Final Appeal (CFA) Bill:

"The Government is disappointed that the Bar Council is proposing to its members that the CFA Bill be rejected, and hopes that members of the Bar will take the opportunity of their extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to take a different view.

"We are surprised and disappointed that the Bar Council gives so little consideration to the wider implications of its stance. The only result of rejecting the CFA Bill would be to ensure that Hong Kong has a judicial vacuum at the highest level, for possibly two to three years, until the Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government is able to set up the CFA. We cannot believe that members of the council really consider this to be in Hong Kong's best interests, nor that they believe that the CFA eventually set up by the SAR Government will provide greater flexibility than the 1991 agreement.

"We are also surprised that the Bar Council should argue that the judicial vacuum that will occur if the CFA Bill is rejected is acceptable because the Privy Council hears only a relatively small number of Hong Kong cases. We cannot understand why any potential litigant should be deprived of the right of final appeal. And the Bar Council's emphasis on numbers overlooks completely the significance of these limited number of cases to the development of jurisprudence on matters of great public importance, and the detrimental effect that a judicial vacuum would have on international confidence in our judicial system.

"We welcome the Bar Council's recognition that it would be desirable to set up the CFA before 1997, and its statement that it would support a Bill establishing a CFA that conforms with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. We have drafted the CFA Bill on the basis of the agreement reached at the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) in September 1991, which the British and Hong Kong Government are satisfied that it is consistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. We have given the Chairman of the Bar Association a copy of an authoritative statement explaining HMG's view that the agreement on the composition of the CFA reached in the JLG in September 1991 is compatible with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. The British Government draws legal advice from a variety of sources and is satisfied that its advice on the CFA issue is drawn from the best available sources, inside or outside the Government. We cannot agree that the provisions in the draft Bill on composition, which are based on the JLG agreement, are inconsistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.

"We also fail to see the basis on which the Bar Council concludes that the CFA Bill does not provide for the preservation after 1997 of any CFA set up before that date. The whole purpose of the 1991 JLG agreement was to establish a CFA before 1997 that would continue in being beyond 1997. Article 93 of the Basic Law clearly provides that members of the Judiciary serving before July 1, 1997 may remain in employment after that date. There may be a need for some validation or appointment procedures, e.g. new Oaths in 1997, but there is no reason to believe that these would affect the continued employment of any judges.

"We are pleased to note that the Bar Council and some members of the Bar have made comments on the technical aspects of the Bill. But we are extremely surprised that the Bar Council should give as one of its reasons for advising members of the Bar to reject the Bill the fact that they consider technical amendments need to be made to it. The whole purpose of our consulting the legal profession was to seek their views on the technical and practical aspects of the draft Bill. We will give the comments careful consideration once the Bar Association sends them to us.

"At the EGM tomorrow (December 8), members of the Bar Association will have a clear choice: to support the establishment of a CFA before 1997 on the basis of the 1991 JLG agreement or to vote for a policy that would ensure a judicial vacuum at the highest level, with no guarantee about the nature of the CFA eventually set up by the SAR. The Government has no doubt that the former is in the best interests of the people of Hong Kong. Indeed a recent opinion poll shows that the majority of the people of Hong Kong would like the CFA to be established before 1997 and accept the 1991 agreement. We therefore hope that members of the Bar will give careful consideration to the wider implications of the motion put forward by the Bar Council when they discuss it at the EGM."

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Seizure of medical reports

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Commenting on an article in the South China Morning Post edition today (Wednesday), Mr Anthony Au-Yeung, Commissioner of Inland Revenue, confirmed that it had been necessary for his staff to seize the patient records in order to establish details of Dr Shiu's income.

"Experience has shown us that many Hong Kong doctors do not issue receipts but record details of charges on individual patient cards," he explained.

"Consequently, attendance records may not provide sufficient information to establish accurately the amount of income earned by a doctor. Often, individual patient cards are the only reliable source of information about income earned.

"My department would be quite happy to go through a doctor's patient cards without removing them from his office. But that requires the co-operation of the doctor.

"Whilst we accept that the relationship between a doctor and patient is confidential, this does not mean that a doctor can prevent the department from obtaining details of his income simply because the information is recorded on patient records.

"We recognise that seizure of records is a serious matter. A search warrant is required and to obtain this a magistrate must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has made an incorrect return," Mr Au-Yeung said.

He added that his staff had also taken urgent steps to minimise any inconvenience to Dr Shiu's patients. "We have agreed to provide Dr Shiu with copies of his records, by fax if necessary."

The Commissioner also confirmed that the seizure of the medical records was lawful and was not in breach of the provisions of the Bill of Rights.

"Our legal advice is that no conflict is involved. Article 14 of the Bill of Rights prohibits the "arbitrary" or "unlawful" interference with privacy. Our legal advisers have confirmed that seizures carried out under a search warrant are neither "arbitrary" nor "unlawful". There is nothing arbitrary about this exercise as the information sought is required for a specific purpose and the seizure cannot be unlawful as it is made pursuant to specific provisions of the Inland Revenue Ordinance."

Finally, Mr Au-Yeung emphasised that the Inland Revenue Ordinance contained important safeguards against the unauthorised disclosure of confidential information.

"My staff are required under the Ordinance to preserve the secrecy of information about the affairs of any person which may come to their knowledge in the performance of their duties."

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Govt to set up \$7 billion Civil Service Pension Reserve Fund

The Administration today (Wednesday) briefed the staff sides of the Central Consultative Councils on the Governor-in-Council's decision to set up a \$7 billion Civil Service Pension Reserve Fund as soon as possible with the future balance of the Fund being maintained at a minimum of one year's estimated pension expenditure.

The proposal is subject to a resolution of the Legislative Council and the voting of funds by the Finance Committee.

Staff sides noted the Government's position and asked for a few days to consider their response to be conveyed to the Administration at a further meeting of the Joint Working Group on Pension Reserve Fund.

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Joint Liaison Group 31st meeting

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The following is issued on behalf of the Office of the British Senior Representative of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group:

The 31st meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group will take place in London from December 14 to 16. The British team will be led by the Senior Representative, Mr Hugh Davies. The other members of the British team will be Mr Alan Paul (Counsellor, Office of the British Senior Representative, Sino-British Joint Liaison Group), Mr Nicholas Ng (Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Hong Kong Government), Mr Robert Peirce (Political Adviser, Hong Kong), and Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles (Head of Hong Kong Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after opening the West Island School this (Wednesday) morning:

Question: There've been talks about ESF being part of the statute infrastructure. I think that it's rather slow in meeting places and it is potentially damaging...?

Governor: I think that all of us are acutely aware of the importance of providing enough places at international schools in Hong Kong because it is after all an international city. There are two phenomena that we have to deal with. The first is Hong Kongers returning to Hong Kong, having been educating their children in Canada or United States or Europe, all wanting a similar sort of education to continue. Secondly, with a growing international business community, increasingly, managers or bankers who are posted here want to bring their families, all want to be able to educate their children in a Korean or a Japanese or a French or an English school. I've been involved in a number of international schools as well as the local ones. German, Swiss, the Korean which I opened. I've been discussing recently with the Canadians. Then, the American Chamber of Commerce has talked to me about it. For I think everyone recognises the need and I think the ESF is responding to it like others and they are helping out parents like me. I think that it is probably the case that all of us've under-estimated, in particular, the need for places at primary level. That is where the biggest problems so far have been. But they are obviously going to move on into the secondary level as their children get older. We've just got to make sure that we cope adequately. I was talking to the Chief Secretary and the Secretary for Education and Manpower about this problem this morning. We are doing a study at the moment of the requirement for places and we have to meet it as well as we can. This is a wonderful school and I think all the children who are here, are very lucky.

Question: But, do you think that the drug abuse problem is more serious in international schools? Are you worried about your daughter?

Governor: No, I think that drug abuse is a problem which is faced right across the community. As I was saying the other day, one of the things we have to face up to in Hong Kong is even though we don't have some of the social problems which are commonly associated with drug abuse by young people, for example, high youth unemployment. We don't have that in Hong Kong. Even though we don't have those problems, we've still got increasing figures for drug abuse. And that is why we've got to do much more in every school and to get across education about the perils of taking drug but it is a problem which every school faces.

Question: So, would you like to say a word about your Vietnamese trip?

Governor: I'll be, as I said before, I am prepared to answer questions about ESF schools and international schools. But I am answering questions in the Legislative Council tomorrow and I dare say Vietnam will come up.

Governor opens the West Island School

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The English Schools Foundation has responded to the rapidly growing demand for international school places by setting up the West Island School, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Wednesday).

"We have a tremendous challenge ahead of us to meet the needs for this kind of school," Mr Patten said.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony of the school, Mr Patten said the extraordinary development of Hong Kong as one of the world's great centres for international business and services was bringing people and their children in the region from all over the world.

"Hong Kong families are returning from abroad and want their children to carry on in the education systems that they have started overseas," he added.

He noted that the West Island School had been operating in the old British Military Hospital on Borrett Road since September 1991.

Since then, all the teachers, parents and the English School Foundation administrators had been working together in setting up the new school building.

Note to Editors:

A photo taken at the ceremony will be boxed.

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Report proposes a new strategy for quality assurance in education

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The following is issued on behalf of the Education Commission:

A better framework is needed to enable professional educators to account for the quality of their services, so that they can respond positively to the public's concerns about education quality.

This is the message in a report, published today (Wednesday) by the Education Commission's Working Group on Educational Standards for three months of public consultation. The report, *Quality in School Education*, makes 13 recommendations for a new strategy to promote quality.

The report calls for the creation of an independent Quality Assurance Unit; school development planning in all schools; and the wider extension of the School Management Initiative (SMI) to promote effective decision-making in schools.

"Now we have enough places at all levels of education, people are more interested in quality issues," the working group chairman, Dr Cheng Kai-ming, said.

"Educators are coming under increasing pressure to demonstrate to the public and the Government that they are doing a good job, and are making effective use of the huge public resources we provide for education.

"Unless educators develop their own professional accountability arrangements, they will be vulnerable to uninformed criticism from the media and politicians. The main aim of the report is to define a framework in which professional accountability can develop.

"At this stage it is the school sector which requires most attention as far as quality is concerned," Dr Cheng said, "but the working group would like the Education Commission to keep in view the need for similar studies of other sectors -- technical education, teacher education, and tertiary education."

The Chairman of the Education Commission, Professor Rosie Young, noted that this is the second working group report to be published.

"The Language Proficiency report attracted a lot of public attention and useful comments," she said.

"I hope this report will be debated seriously by educators and interested members of the public, so that the Commission can submit final recommendations to the Government in the full knowledge of public views."

Present quality monitoring activities

In describing current activities and procedures relating to quality, the report notes that the large financial and human resources now expended on monitoring schools could be targeted more effectively, to meet the needs of an education system which has changed greatly in recent years. For example:

Information gathered from inspections and other evaluation activities should feed back more systematically into policy-making, resource decisions and support services;

There should be more openness in the school system; and

Not just schools, but all parts of the school education service -- teacher education, in-service development, curriculum development, teacher resource centres, school social work and other support services -- should be subject to regular evaluations.

"The present system is designed to ensure that schools operate at least to the minimum standard acceptable to the Director of Education," Dr Cheng said.

"But quality is about striving for the best possible standard. We believe that a new approach to school quality assurance at the system level can establish 'benchmarks' of quality and encourage all schools and teachers to strive for the best possible quality."

The new Quality Assurance Strategy

The report notes that educational quality depends on the commitment and capabilities of individual educators and schools. To encourage and develop good ideas from schools and teachers, the report says, Hong Kong needs a quality assurance framework which gives maximum encouragement and minimum hindrance to the exercise of professional judgment and skills, while providing the public with clear evidence of achievements in individual schools and across the whole system.

"Our strategy is based on four goals, four principles, and three components," said Dr Cheng. The four goals are to:

Foster the commitment and competence of all school educators in striving for the highest possible quality;

Monitor quality in schools and their support services independently of other organisations;

Provide policy-makers and educators with information on which to base decisions; and

Provide accurate and impartial assessments of current achievements, and what is being done to improve on those achievements.

The four principles are:

Transparency - to meet the growing public demand for more information about education quality;

Respect for professionalism - to encourage initiatives arising from schools themselves;

Enhancement of existing strengths - to build on best practice already found in our schools;

Efficiency - to achieve the maximum impact with an economical use of professional manpower and the least disruption to existing services.

The three components of the strategy are:

- School development planning;
- School management reform on SMI lines; and
- A new approach to external quality assessments.

School development planning

Dr Cheng explained: "School development planning helps a school to clarify and make known its goals; understand better its current stage of development; evaluate its strengths and weaknesses; formulate improvement plans; and motivate its staff to contribute to quality improvement.

"Some schools already do school development planning in some form," Dr Cheng explained.

"We would now like all schools to begin drawing up a development plan. What is important is not so much the contents or format, but the learning process the school's staff and management go through as they tackle quality issues."

School management reform

"The goals of SMI are generally supported by educators," Dr Cheng said, "but some are reluctant to join SMI for various reasons.

"The report proposes a four-stage approach, rather than the all-or-nothing approach in place at present. We hope this will encourage all schools to proceed down the SMI path."

External quality assessments

The focus of the report is on a new framework for assessing the quality of school education.

"We set out the arguments for a new agency to perform this task," Dr Cheng said.

"The proposed Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) will be a small professional body, independent of other agencies, and accountable to the Secretary for Education and Manpower.

"It will visit a number of schools each year, either by selection or by invitation, study each school as a whole, or a certain highlighted aspect of work across different schools, and produce detailed written reports for the attention of the school and those most closely connected with it.

"The QAU will be able to define benchmarks of best practice in schools catering for students of all kinds and levels of ability," Dr Cheng said.

"Another key feature of the new approach will be a better flow of information. Detailed reports by the QAU will be seen by those most closely connected with the school, and summaries will be made available more widely.

"Based on its visits, the QAU will compile reports on the overall quality of school education. It will also publish reports on specific aspects, such as the quality of school library services, or the ability of schools to make meaningful staff development plans given their current resources and the constraints of employment contracts.

"In this way, wider issues of quality in schools and their support services can be brought to the attention of policy-makers and the public."

Consequential changes

Dr Cheng noted three areas where the report's proposals will have an impact on existing bodies and their functions.

"Firstly, we propose a review of the Board of Education's role, so that it can advise on all aspects of school education, not just those which come under the Education Department," Dr Cheng said.

"Secondly, we propose a review of curriculum development activities, to see whether the compromise arrangement arising from ECR4 (the creation of the Curriculum Development Institute within the Education Department) is working well. In principle, the working group feels that curriculum activities, like teacher education, are an academic function best performed outside the civil service environment.

"Thirdly, we note that the creation of the QAU will have implications for the work of the Advisory Inspectorate. We see a continuing need for the Inspectorate to conduct compliance inspections, provide advice and support to schools, and feed information back to the Director of Education and the QAU. But we envisage that advisory functions will become a more important part of the Inspectorate's role once the new strategy is in place," Dr Cheng said.

"This is a very comprehensive report," Dr Cheng concluded.

"Previous reports on education have generally focused on what the Government should do, or how much money should be spent. This report is different: it sets out a framework which will encourage and help educators themselves to fulfil their professional responsibilities more effectively.

"I hope all teachers, principals, school managers and those working in school support services will discuss the report and give us their comments before March 15 next year, when the consultation period ends. Comments from the general public will also be welcomed."

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Improvements made after election review

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The following is issued on behalf of the Boundary and Election Commission:

Following a review of the District Board Elections in September, the Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) has introduced a number of electoral procedures for implementation in the Municipal Council Elections in March next year.

Improvements that require amendments to the legislation are contained in the Boundary and Election Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Geographical Constituencies) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 1994 to be gazetted on Friday (December 9).

A BEC spokesman said today (Wednesday) that the amendment regulation would be brought into operation on Friday so that preparation for the coming Municipal Council elections could proceed on the basis of the revised arrangement before the nomination period starts in January next year.

The spokesman said there were other more involved issues requiring detailed consideration which would be included in the BEC report on the District Board Elections to be submitted to the Governor in mid-December.

He added that the amendments were drawn up after taking into account the views and comments of the candidates, election staff and the public.

The main changes are as follows:

- * to standardise the appointment and revocation of four types of candidates' agents, namely election expense agents, canvassing agents, polling agents and counting agents;
- * to allow the need for the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) not to send poll cards to those electors who have died and those whose addresses in the Final Register do not exist;
- * to allow the CEO to determine the form and contents of the copies of the register sent to candidates;
- * to provide for the endorsement of questionable ballot papers the acceptance of which by the Returning Officer is objected to by a candidate or agent of the constituency concerned;
- * to make clear that communication of information as to whether or not a person has voted is permitted for the purpose of investigating an election-related offence; and
- * to provide for public inspection of candidates' declarations of election advertisements and to lengthen the inspection period.

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Aberdeen Tunnel industrial action

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Owing to industrial action by some staff of Aberdeen Tunnel, traffic at the tunnel was disrupted between 5.36 pm and 6.06 pm today (Wednesday). However, the four autotoll lanes remained open during the period.

The Police and staff of the Transport Department were at the scene to monitor the situation.

"The Government's concern is the maintenance of smooth and safe traffic circulation within the tunnel," a spokesman for the Transport Department said.

A meeting with the tunnel management contractor was immediately held in the evening to review the situation.

The Labour Department is assisting in settling the dispute between the staff and management.

The tunnel management contractor was requested to submit a written report on the incident tomorrow and to revise its contingency plan so as to improve its capability to handle such incidents to reduce any inconvenience to motorists to the minimum.

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Bus lanes on approach roads to Aberdeen Tunnel

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Two bus lanes along the approach roads to Aberdeen Tunnel will be put into effect at 7 am on Saturday (December 10).

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today (Wednesday) that the two bus lanes, each of 450 metres long, were designated along the slip roads off Wong Chuk Hang Road up to the toll plaza for buses coming from the west and the east.

"The bus lanes will operate daily between 7 am and 10 am and from 4 pm to 7 pm. Except for buses and those with permits, vehicles are prohibited to enter the bus lanes during the above operating hours," he said.

This scheme is to make more efficient use of the limited road space by giving priority to the most efficient passenger carriers on the road.

"It is expected that bus journey times will be reduced, improving service reliability including shorter and more predictable waiting times by commuters," the spokesman said.

"On the other hand, vehicles other than buses are expected to experience a marginal delay during the bus lane operating hours," he added.

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CAD organises aircraft search and rescue exercise

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A scenario simulating a plane crash incident over the hills was held today (Wednesday) at the Sek Kong Airfield as part of the annual search and rescue exercise to provide training and familiarisation in search and rescue techniques for staff of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) and other rescue units.

The new exercise plan being tested included water bombing by helicopters to fire-fight the "crashed plane" and a tandem jump of paramedic personnel from a Hercules aircraft to the "hill area not accessible to helicopters" where the "victims" had to be evacuated.

A spokesman for the Department responsible for co-ordinating the exercise said the search and rescue exercises held in the previous years mainly involved incidents simulating plane crashed into the sea.

This year, the Department had been able to draw up a different scenario which was welcomed by the participating organisations.

The spokesman said besides the Sek Kong short-range drill, there would be a long-range exercise and a static display of search and rescue aircraft and equipment.

The long-range exercise is aimed to test the alerting, co-ordination and communication procedures and facilities of various participants.

In addition to CAD, other participants included the United States Air Force, Marine Department, Government Flying Service, Royal Air Force, United States Coast Guard, United States Navy, Japanese Maritime Safety Agency, Guangdong Marine Emergency Search and Rescue Centre, Royal Navy, Royal Hong Kong Police Force, Civil Aid Services and Government Information Services.

A number of personnel from the Asia-Pacific Region including Guangdong Marine Emergency Search and Rescue Centre, Zhuhai and Shenzhen Airport Authorities, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, New Zealand, Cambodia and Vietnam had also attended as observers.

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Applications for entry of nationals from China for employment in HK

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The Immigration Department announced today (Wednesday) the results of the third ballot exercise of applications for entry of professionals and managers from China for employment in Hong Kong.

"Up to the end of last month, a total of 2,984 applications was received," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said.

"More than half of the applications are from the trading, construction and finance sectors and the most popular jobs are engineers, administrators and marketing executives," the spokesman added.

In a ballot exercise held today, 250 applications were randomly selected by computer from the applications received.

"Successful employers will be notified in writing individually," the spokesman said.

"Unsuccessful applications in the ballot exercise will continue to remain eligible for the fourth exercise to be held in March next year. Employers should not submit double applications for the same vacancy. Overbidding will result in refusal of the applications," the spokesman added.

For enquiries, employers may telephone 824 6111.

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Note to Editors:

The results will be faxed.

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Hotline set up for local workers seeking airport- related jobs

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The Labour Department announced today (Wednesday) that a "jobs hotline" 417 6201 had been introduced to help local construction workers seek airport-related vacancies.

Senior Labour Officer in charge of the Employment Services Division Mr Raymond Chan said the Local Employment Service (LES) of the Department has been actively providing employment assistance to local construction workers looking for jobs in the new airport and related projects.

"To protect the interests of local construction workers, contractors applying for imported workers under the Special Labour Importation Scheme are required to register their vacancies with the LES," he said.

As a standing practice, information on job vacancies will be displayed in a special section in all nine LES offices throughout the territory. The LES will also send the information to 20 construction workers' unions and two seamen's unions, inviting their members to make use of the placement service.

"To ensure that local workers have priority in filling the vacancies, contractors who have set restrictive recruitment requirements will be advised to relax the requirements.

"Failure to do so may result in the refusal of application for imported workers," Mr Chan stressed.

He noted that applications from employers found to have no sincerity in employing local workers would also be rejected.

Local construction workers who are interested in airport-related vacancies are urged to call the "jobs hotline" or visit any of the LES offices for placement service.

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Open employment for the disabled

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The disabled were given a good chance today (Wednesday) to show off their working abilities.

At the Seminar on Open Employment for the Disabled organised by the Selective Placement Division of the Labour Department, they showed employers how they had overcome their handicaps and were capable of doing various kinds of work.

Speaking at the opening, the Commissioner for Labour, Mr Yiu Yan-nang, said the seminar was a new attempt to enhance employers' understanding of the working abilities of the disabled.

The seminar featured panel discussions among employers, chief executives, personnel managers, departmental managers and representatives of disabled groups, work demonstrations by the disabled, a video show and an exhibition.

Mr Yiu said the Selective Placement Division had all along been promoting open employment for the disabled. In the past nine months, TV and radio programmes were produced and a series of pamphlets were published to educate the public on the working abilities of the disabled.

He urged employers and the public to support open employment for the disabled by exploring more job opportunities for them.

Also officiating at the opening ceremony was the Chairman of Rehabilitation Development Co-ordinating Committee (RDCC), Employment Sub-committee, Mr Vincent Cheng.

The seminar is co-organised with the American Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong Institute of Personnel Management, Hong Kong Industrial Relations Association and RDCC Employment Subcommittee.

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Note to Editors :

Copies of a photograph taken at the seminar will be boxed.

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Five sites to let

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancies of five pieces of Government land on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon and the New Territories.

The first lot, located in Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay, has an area of 1,420 square metres, for use as a fee-paying public car park for motor vehicles, excluding dangerous goods vehicles and container tractors and trailers. The tenancy is for three years, renewable quarterly.

The second lot, located off Chiu Yuen Cemetery, Pokfulam, has an area of 810 square metres, for use as a commercial garden and ancillary uses to be approved by the District Lands Office.

The tenancy is also for three years, renewable quarterly.

Located at Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan, the third lot has an area of 470 square metres for use as a fee-paying public car park for motor vehicles, excluding goods vehicles, container tractors and trailers.

The tenancy is for one year, renewable quarterly.

The fourth lot in area 25, Wing Shun Street, Tsuen Wan, has an area of 2.40 hectares. It is divided into sites A1 and A2, both to be used as a fee-paying public car park for motor vehicles, excluding container tractors and trailers. The tenancy for site A1 is for one year, renewable quarterly, while that for site A2 is for six months, renewable monthly.

Closing dates for submission of tenders for these four lots are noon on December 23 this year.

With an area of 1.74 hectares, the fifth lot is located in reclamation area, North Stonecutters Island, Kowloon. It is earmarked for use as a public fee-paying carpark for container tractors and trailers only.

The tenancy is for three years, renewable quarterly.

Closing date for submission of tender is noon on December 16 this year.

Tender forms, tender notice and conditions are available from the following respective District Lands Offices:

- * District Lands Office, Hong Kong East, 19th floor, Southorn centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong;

- * District Lands Office, Hong Kong West, 19th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong;

- * District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan, 10th floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan;

* District Lands Office, Kwai Tsing, 10th floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan;

* The Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road;
and

* The District Lands Offices Kowloon, 10th floor, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Tender plans are also available at these offices.

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New hostel and day centre open for mentally handicapped

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It is a happy day for the mentally handicapped people with the opening of two new facilities at the heart of a busy community where they can live and learn.

The Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped's Fung Tak Day Activity Centre in Fung Tak Estate and Tung Tau Hostel in Tung Tau Estate were officially opened today (Wednesday) by Mrs Patten. "Tung Tau Hostel and Fung Tak Centre will change the lives of many people," she said.

Mrs Patten thanked the residents of Tung Tau and Fung Tak Estates for welcoming the staff and residents into their communities.

"We all know there were misunderstandings at the start, but they are behind us now. Both the hostel and the day activity centre are working smoothly.

"Your presence here shows the warm relations that now exist between the Association and the residents of the two estates, and we look forward to many years as good neighbours," she told the gathering at the opening ceremony.

She commended the Hongkong Bank Foundation for donating \$9.7 million towards the two projects.

Note to editors:

Full text of Mrs Patten's speech has been faxed and a photograph taken at the ceremony will be boxed.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,424	0930	+112
Closing balance in the account	1,569	1000	+11
Change attributable to :		1100	-4
Money market activity	-20	1200	-3
LAF today	+165	1500	-3
		1600	-20

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 121.8 *-0.1* 7.12.94

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.51	18 months	2605	6.35	99.32	6.97
1 month	5.06	24 months	2611	6.90	99.55	7.28
3 months	5.57	29 months	3704	6.15	97.36	7.51
6 months	6.02	35 months	3710	7.25	99.24	7.69
12 months	6.63	58 months	5909	7.45	97.73	8.19

Total turnover of bills and bonds - 31,537 million

Closed December 7, 1994

end/Wednesday, December 7, 1994