



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

1977-78

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Governor's statement on death of David Chan

The following is issued by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday):

"I was saddened to hear of the death of David Chan Yuk-cheung. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and friends.

"Our thoughts are with Mr Fong Yu-yuen, who was also injured in the incident. I am in close contact with the acting Chief Secretary. As he has made clear, we have committed all the resources available to the Government to render every possible assistance that we can in this matter."

End

CS's statement

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Thursday) she was distressed to learn of the death of Mr David Chan Yuk-cheung.

Speaking from Melbourne, Australia, where she is on an official visit, Mrs Chan extended her deepest sympathy to Mr Chan's family and friends and wished Mr Fong Yu-yuen a speedy recovery.

"Michael Suen has detailed the action taken so far by the Government. We will continue to provide every possible assistance to the bereaved family and others involved.

"I would appeal to Hong Kong people to remain calm and to continue to show restraint in dealing with this matter," she said.

End

Acting CS's statement on incident at sea

* * * * *

The following is a statement issued by the acting Chief Secretary, Mr Michael Suen, today (Thursday):

"We were extremely concerned by the news of the incident at sea today in which two Hong Kong citizens were seriously injured. We have activated all the resources available to the Government to mobilised all the assistance we can to those involved.

"The Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre received a call for rescue from the 'Kien Hwa II' at 0957 this morning. The captain of the ship reported that five people jumped overboard and two are now in critical condition.

"We understand that one person has been taken by Japanese helicopter to the nearest medical facilities. The other person is too seriously injured to move by air.

"The 'Kien Hwa' is therefore sailing to a port in Okinawa to deliver him for treatment. (It was later confirmed that the vessel was still at sea off Diaoyu Islands). We understand he is receiving medical attention from Japanese medical personnel on board the ship.

"Immediately upon hearing the news, we contacted the Maritime Rescue authorities in Japan, Taiwan and China. We also immediately established contact with the British Embassy and with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo and with the Japanese authorities in Hong Kong.

"The British Embassy and the Hong Kong Office in Tokyo will provide every possible assistance. The Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre is in constant direct touch with the 'Kien Hwa II' and with the Japanese Rescue Authorities to obtain the latest information and render any assistance it can.

"We are making urgent contact with the families of the injured. We will do all we can to provide assistance to them at this difficult time. We will be making contact with the other Hong Kong citizens on the ship to establish how they wish to return to Hong Kong.

"I want to assure everybody in Hong Kong that the Government is doing and will continue to do everything possible to provide assistance in this situation.

"Our first priority must be to do what we can to help the two men who have been injured, In the meantime, I urge the community to react to this development in the same orderly and responsible manner which has been displayed on this issue in recent times.

"Family members can contact the Immigration Department hotline on 2829 3076 if they require information or assistance."

End

Transcript of the acting CS's media session

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Following is the transcript (English) of the media session given by the acting Chief Secretary, Mr Michael Suen, at the Central Government Offices today (Thursday):

Acting CS: We were extremely concerned by the news of the incident at sea earlier today in which two Hong Kong citizens were injured. We have activated all the resources to enable the Government to provide assistance to those who need assistance. We received a call from the ship at around 0957 this morning and that came to our Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre. Immediately upon the receipt of this request, we have got in contact with the relevant authorities including the Chinese, the Taiwanese and the Japanese to see whether they can provide assistance because Hong Kong is a bit far away from the sea and our aircraft can't reach there. And within half an hour of our request, we understand that a Japanese helicopter landed on the ship and carrying with them two paramedics. We understand that five men from the ship jumped overboard and they were rescued and two were injured. And the two paramedics who were on board having examined the two injured have decided that one was suitable for airlifting to the nearest hospital and so he was transferred onto a helicopter and airlifted. The other one who we understand to be Mr David Chan, his condition we understand is not suitable for airlifting at the moment and those on board have concluded that it is better to await the arrival of a doctor before they decide what to do with Mr Chan and we understand that a doctor is on the way to be on board to examine Mr Chan and will decide how best to provide assistance to him. Immediately following that we have been in touch with other authorities. In Hong Kong we've got in touch with the Hong Kong Japanese Consulate in order to try to get more understanding of the situation. We've also contacted the British Embassy in Tokyo. And above all we have been in touch with our own representative in Tokyo Mr David Lan. And we understand that the ship is now making its way to an island in Okinawa and we have asked Mr Lan to make arrangements to go to Okinawa to receive the ship upon its arrival to see whatever assistance we can provide to those still on board. I think this has distressed us and I think I would want to take this opportunity to appeal for calm from all. It is not something that we'd like see happen. To those who have relatives still on board we have set up a hotline in the Immigration Department to provide information and the number of the hotline is 28293076.

Question: Mr Suen, would you appeal to end the demonstrations at sea? They seem to be very dangerous.

Acting CS: I think those on board would be best to judge the situation at sea. And certainly from our point of view we have constantly urged people not to put their own life at risk. I think we all understand why they have chosen to demonstrate their feelings in this way, but we've got to appeal to all that above all personal safety is very important. They shouldn't do anything that would put their life at risk.

Question: Are you saying that it is the Hong Kong Government ... sparked off the rescue operation?

Acting CS: That's right. We received the first call from the captain at around 9.57 and we responded straightaway by contacting the Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centres in Taiwan, in China and also in Japan. As I said within half an hour help was available in the form of a helicopter from Japan.

Question: Some people were saying that the outcome is almost predictable given the ...?

Acting CS: As I've said people at the scene would be best placed to judge whether their own personal safety is at risk. It is difficult for us a few hundred miles away to speculate what might be safe or what might not be safe for them. But certainly I think we would appeal to all that they should keep calm and in Hong Kong you know that there are many ways to demonstrate their feelings. There are peaceful ways in Hong Kong and we are all accustomed to the peaceful way of doing things.

End

FS's transcript

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Following is a transcript of remarks (English) made by the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, at the airport before his department today (Thursday):

Question: Mr Tsang...can you say something on Mr David Chan?

Financial Secretary: Well, I just have got a report and the Chief Secretary will be making a full briefing to the media on what has been done by the Hong Kong Government in this respect. We all know this is a matter of foreign affairs and as a Hong Kong Chinese, of course, we attach great importance to what is happening in Diaoyu Islands. But it is important to realise that it is not a matter which we should get over passionate, it is a matter which we should get over passionate, it is a matter we should express our own feeling in our own, in Hong Kong typical, civilised manner. Thank you.

End

More cause for optimism than pessimism over HK's future

* * * * *

One of the greatest challenge for Hong Kong post 1997 is to manager its relationship with its new sovereign, to convince China that the territory can be trusted to exercise its autonomy responsibly in ways that will keep faith with the "one country, two systems" concept.

Speaking at a business luncheon in Melbourne - the last leg of her week-long visit in Australia - the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said today (Thursday) that with only some 280 days to go before the handover, much still remained to be done to resolve a number of transitional issues.

However, on the future of the territory, she said there was more cause for optimism than pessimism.

She noted that since 1984 a lot had been done to give effect to the promises in the Joint Declaration in institutionalising Hong Kong's autonomy in place of what was before a more informal arrangement whereby Britain simply left Hong Kong to run its own affairs.

"Last year we had very important agreements between Britain and China over the establishment of a Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong in 1997 and financing of the new airport.

"Major issues agreed this year include the setting up of new personal communications services and further expansion of our container port," she said.

On a recent development, the Chief Secretary also welcomed the offer from the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, to open a dialogue with those people in Hong Kong who had different views about the pace of democratisation in the territory.

"Both sovereign powers are working hard to resolve the outstanding issues," she said.

"Agreements between China and Britain are important guarantees for our future. But the really vital factor is the resolve of Hong Kong people themselves."

Mrs Chan said the overwhelming majority of Hong Kong people were determined to make the "one country, two systems" concept work.

"We realise that our future lies with China. We are proud to be Chinese and we want to contribute to China's modernisation.

"But above all we are proud of Hong Kong and of our unique blend of the best of traditional Chinese and Western values," she said.

She explained to the audience that under the Joint Declaration, Hong Kong would not become a part of China just like any other province, but instead as evidenced across the border in Guangdong Province, the Hong Kong influence was spreading northwards.

She said Hong Kong would become a Special Administrative Region with a high degree of autonomy.

Hong Kong, Mrs Chan stressed, would continue with its capitalist way of life, without interference from China, which would be responsible for foreign affairs and defence only.

"It would have its own government, composed of Hong Kong people.

"No Chinese officials would be posted to Hong Kong to work in the government. Hong Kong would have an elected legislature and pass its own law.

"Hong Kong people would keep their existing rights and freedoms - rights of property, assembly, free speech, worship, etc. The international human rights covenants would continue to apply," said Mrs Chan.

The Chief Secretary said Hong Kong had given its people freedom, opportunity and choice.

She said: "They're the hallmark of a great country and, in Hong Kong's case, the bedrock on which we will strive to reach new heights.

"We are determined to continue the Hong Kong success story - Hong Kong people running Hong Kong.

"That's how it has been under Britain and it will continue after 1997 under the Chinese umbrella. There will be bumps along the road but we will overcome them as we have overcome past adversities," Mrs Chan concluded.

End

The success of 'one country two systems' concept

* * * * *

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, said she believed in the commitment of Hong Kong people and the enormous self interest of the incoming sovereign power in making a resounding success of the 'one country two systems' concept.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Asialink Centre, Melbourne University today (Thursday), Mrs Chan said she believed 'one country two systems' was an idea whose time had come, an idea fit to crown Hong Kong's long era of uncertainty, of borrowed time, with a new age of even greater dynamism.

Elaborating on the principles embodied in the Joint Declaration to an audience of more than 250 Australian academics, diplomats and businessmen, Mrs Chan said what was important was the spirit of Hong Kong's people which animated these principles.

"The spirit of the people of Hong Kong, and of the way of life which they have created, has made Hong Kong one of the most remarkable, dynamic and free cities in the world," she said.

Mrs Anson Chan arrived in Melbourne from Canberra today for the third and final leg of her week-long promotional tour in Australia.

At a luncheon organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Mrs Chan once again brought home the theme of the promotion - Hong Kong/Australia - A New Pacific Partnership.

Earlier in the day, Mrs Chan called on Governor of Victoria, Mr Richard Elgin McGarvie and Premier of Victoria, Mr Jeff Kennett. Between appointments with political leaders, she had an editorial board meeting with The Melbourne Age.

Mrs Chan will conclude her visit with yet another hectic day in Melbourne tomorrow (Friday). She will call on the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard and Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Ivan Deveson.

End

Governor to meet public on Policy Address

* * * * *

Members of the public are being invited to put questions to the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, on his 1996 Legislative Council Policy Address at a meeting, a government spokesman announced today (Thursday).

The meeting will be open to everyone. Free admission tickets will be distributed through the URBTIX system from (Friday). Because seats are limited, each person can only obtain two tickets at the maximum.

This public meeting will be held from 6 pm to 7.15 pm on October 4 (Friday) at the Theatre I of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Simultaneous interpretation facilities will be available.

URBTIX outlets where admission tickets can be obtained are:

- * Hong Kong Cultural Centre
- * Hong Kong Coliseum
- * Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre
- * Queen Elizabeth Stadium
- * City Hall
- * Sheung Wan Civic Centre
- * Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre
- * Ko Shan Theatre
- * Sha Tin Town Hall
- * Tsuen Wan Town Hall
- * Tuen Mun Town Hall
- * Tai Po Civic Centre
- * Lut Sau Hall
- * North District Town Hall
- * Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- * Hong Kong Arts Centre
- * Tom Lee Music Company Ltd
 - Cameron Lane Branch
 - Kornhill Plaza Branch
 - Causeway Bay Branch
 - City Centre Branch
 - Sha Tin Branch
 - Tsuen Wan Branch
 - Sheung Shui Branch
 - Ma On Shan Branch

End

UN committee members to visit Hong Kong

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Members of two United Nations (UN) committees are to visit Hong Kong next week at the invitation of the United Kingdom and Hong Kong governments.

The visitors are the Rapporteur of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Professor Virginia Bonoan-Dandan and a member of the Committee, Professor Bruno Simma; as well as the Chairman of the UN Human Rights Committee, Mr Francisco J Aguilar-Urbina and a member of the Committee, Mr Justice Bhagwati.

"The visitors will be here to familiarise themselves with the circumstances of Hong Kong before Britain's latest reports on Hong Kong under the two international covenants are examined at UN this autumn," a government spokesman said today (Thursday).

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will examine the third report on Hong Kong under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on November 26 and 27.

The UN Human Rights Committee will examine the supplementary report on Hong Kong under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on October 23.

This is a follow-up to the fourth report examined by the Committee in October 1995. Mr Aguilar-Urbina also visited Hong Kong last year prior to the examination of the fourth report.

During their stay in Hong Kong, the visitors will meet with Government officials, politicians and non-government organisations.

"We hope that the visitors will be able to obtain a full and complete picture of Hong Kong," the spokesman said.

End

Small and Medium Enterprises Committee holds second meeting

* * * * *

The areas of support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Hong Kong were discussed at the second meeting held by the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee today (Thursday).

The Committee, one of a package of measures proposed by the Financial Secretary in his 1996-97 Budget to promote the services sector, was established in July to identify issues and trends affecting the development of SMEs in Hong Kong and suggest measures to support and facilitate their development.

"The meeting today has had useful exchange of views and discussions on a wide range of subjects, including two priority areas of support for SMEs, namely financing and human resources development," the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Denis Lee said.

On Human Resources Development (HRD) for SMEs, the Committee considered the manpower needs of SMEs and the ways to improve HRD support to SMEs, and exchanged views with government representatives on education and training policies.

The Committee also considered the Strategic and Organisational Review on the Vocational Training Council. A number of suggestions made by the Committee will be further considered by the Government.

On financing SMEs, it is decided that a task group should be formed to follow up on suggestions prioritised by the committee.

"We will continue to discuss other priority areas of support for SMEs in the coming meetings," Mr Li said.

"The SMEs Committee serves as a useful forum for Government to gather views and suggestions from the small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong.

"We will carefully consider views expressed by members of the Committee and consider how best to provide support for the further development of the SMEs," the Director-General of Industry, Mr Francis Ho, who is the Vice-chairman of the Committee, said.

The Committee also decided to establish a task group to further study issues relating to HRD.

End

Siu Sai Wan sports ground to complete soon

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Works on the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground are progressing smoothly and will be completed by the end of next month.

Designed by the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD), it will provide a pool of qualified world standard sport facilities.

It is the first sports ground designed and built by Arch SD with a horse-shoe shape covered spectator stand which can accommodate 12,000 audience, Chief Architect, Mr Tse Shun-kai, said today (Thursday).

"The horse-shoe shape design of the spectator stand, as compared with the linear type, will benefit spectators sitting at the far end of the pitch to have a better view of the centre of the sports ground," he said.

"The spectator stand also serves as a wind-breaker which will minimise the effects of strong breeze on track and field activities."

Mr Tse added that ample exits would be provided throughout the fence wall to enable spectators to enter and leave the sports ground within a short period of time.

On completion, the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground will have a grass infield soccer pitch measuring 105 metres long and 68 metres wide; a 400-metre, eight-lane all weather synthetic running track; a horse-shoe shape spectator stand; a weather-proof electronic scoreboard and standard field event facilities.

Other ancillary facilities will include changing rooms, commentator booths, fast food kiosks, a VIP room and function rooms.

The Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground occupies a total site area of about 47,000 square metres at the seafront of the Siu Sai Wan reclamation area.

On completion, the 12,000 seat complex will provide a venue for international soccer matches, athletic meetings and community functions.

The construction cost of the project is about \$200 million.

End

Government to mount publicity campaign for elderly

* * * * *

A massive publicity campaign to educate the public, in particular the elderly on pedestrian safety, will be launched by the Government.

A commercial advertising agency has been commissioned to produce the publicity package for the Road Safety Council.

At yesterday's (Wednesday) meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Wong Tsan-kwong, the Council endorsed the package planned and executed.

Targeted mainly at the elderly, the package comprises Television Announcements in Public Interest (TV API), Radio APIs, leaflet, posters, tram body advertising and bus body advertising. The TV and radio APIs will be launched in October and the rest, later this year.

The TV API features an elderly crossing a busy road, heedless of traffic while the road safety messages are being conveyed by the lyrics of a jingle sang by children. Filmed in black and white, the TV API creates a realistic and documentary mood which enhance the tragic consequence of a road accident.

The radio APIs give out road safety messages through dialogues in a dramatic and light-hearted manner. Set against the background of Chinese opera, taichi and Chinese temple, the three radio APIs capture the interests of the elderly by employing languages and scenarios which they can identify with.

"The elderly have proved to be vulnerable victims in traffic accidents. They take little heed of their own weakening physical conditions and reflexes when the road environment in Hong Kong has become increasingly dangerous and complicated.

"Among mounting concern on the recent cases of road accidents involving the elderly, the publicity campaign is essential and timely," said a Council spokesman.

End

Tsuen Wan residents to be given double treat

* * * * *

More than 5,500 residents in Tsuen Wan will be given a double treat at Sha Tsui Road Playground where a rich programme of cultural and recreational events will be staged for them tomorrow (Friday).

With the dual purpose of marking the 15th anniversary of the Tsuen Wan District Board and celebrating the Chinese Mid-autumn Festival, the organisers also hoped that participation in the various activities would help cultivate a sense of pride and belonging among residents in the district.

As one of the earliest district boards to be established on April 1, 1981, the Tsuen Wan District Board has played an influential advisory role on district matters over the years.

It has initiated, organised and sponsored numerous community involvement projects and activities to promote a stronger community spirit, social cohesion and the general well-being of the people in the district.

Highlights of the programme include performances by pop singers Hacken Lee, Amanda Li, Joyce Lee, and Leo Ku, the Yao Ling-sun College philharmonic orchestra, traditional dragon and lion dances and dramas.

Other anniversary celebration activities will be held in the coming months, including environmental improvement projects exhibition, commerce and industry exhibitions, road safety campaigns and conducted with a Chinese opera dramatising the contributions of the elderly to the community.

The 15th Tsuen Wan District Board Anniversary cum Mid-autumn Festival celebration was jointly organised by the Tsuen Wan District Board 15th Anniversary Organising Committee and the Radio Television Hong Kong, with the assistance of the Tsuen Wan District Office.

It will cost \$400,000, of which \$280,000 was funded by the district board and the rest covered by local donations.

The acting Director of Home Affairs, Mr Lee Lap-sun; the Tsuen Wan District Officer, Mr Gavin Ure; the Tsuen Wan District Board Chairman, Mr Chan Lau-fong, and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr Chan Wai-ming, will officiate at the opening ceremony.

End

Student Discipline Section has been set up

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A student discipline section to provide professional support, guidance and training to schools on matters relating to student discipline has been set up by the Education Department this month.

Established in accordance with a pledge in the Governor's 1995 Policy Address, the section comprises 10 professionals including educational psychologists, discipline masters and guidance teachers, and four administrative and supporting staff.

There are two function units in this section: the administrative support unit and the operation support unit with three affiliated squads providing general off-site professional support and school-based intensive support services.

A department spokesman said in the first year, support services will be delivered to about 100 secondary schools in a general or intensive mode.

The specific duties of the student discipline section are:

- * to co-ordinate and monitor student discipline work in schools;
- * to formulate strategies and programmes to meet the needs of individual schools;
- * to provide professional support and enable exchange of ideas among schools on a regional basis;
- * to organise seminars and workshops on student discipline.

The section is inviting schools to participate in one of the two identical seminars - Positive Student Discipline in Schools - on October 15 and 17 at the City University of Hong Kong, 83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, during which participants will share concepts and experience in student discipline.

The two seminars will accommodate 600 school heads and discipline masters/mistresses. A circular letter on the seminars has been sent to schools.

End

Mid-autumn Festival fire safety advice

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Members of the public are reminded to take extra care in handling fire when visiting the countryside during the Mid-autumn Festival period.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department's Country Parks Protection Officer, Mr Edmond Lam, said today (Thursday) that visitors should refrain from releasing any Hung Ming Lantern and be extremely careful with barbecue fire and hand-held candle-lit lanterns.

According to Mr Lam, the annual Mid-autumn Festival is one of the high fire risk periods in the year and he called on members of the public to be alert to such risk when visiting country parks during this period.

It is an offence under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance and the Country Parks Ordinance to light fire illegally or to release a Hung Ming lantern in a country park or area of open countryside.

Any person found guilty of illegal lighting fire inside country parks could face a maximum fine of \$5,000 and one year's imprisonment.

End

Advanced welfare payment

* * * * *

Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) under the bank payment system will receive their payments tomorrow (Friday) if their pay-day fall on the following day (Saturday), which is a public holiday.

"Special payment arrangements will also be made for recipients of Social Security Allowance whose pay-day fall on that day," a Social Welfare Department spokesman said today (Thursday).

"Those who have bank accounts in Hongkong Bank or Hang Seng Bank will receive their payments tomorrow (September 27) whereas those with accounts in other banks will get their payments next Monday (September 30)," he added.

In case of doubt, recipients are advised to contact their respective social security field units.

End

Out-patient clinic service close on holiday

* * * * *

There would be no evening out-patient clinic service tomorrow (Friday), which is Mid-autumn Festival, the Department of Health announced today (Thursday). All holiday out-patient clinics will also be closed on Saturday (September 28).

However, eight will serve the public from 9 am to 1 pm on Sunday (September 29).

They are the Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; the Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, Robert Black Health Centre and Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; the Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

Information on which private clinics and out-patient departments of private hospitals are open on the holiday can be obtain by calling the Hong Kong Medical Association hotline 90000-22-2322.

End

Grading of beach water quality

* * * * *

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced the latest gradings of Hong Kong's beaches, based on the bacteriological water quality, for the 1996 swimming season.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent E coli data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

As with last year, the grading also includes an estimate of the risk of suffering some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which has some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large body of statistical information gathered in Hong Kong in recent bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches may vary during the summer. This represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters in most cases, as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

However, the grades give a good general picture of the water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

"Bathers should avoid such beaches for two or three days after a storm, longer if the weather remains overcast or less if there is strong sunshine," Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Patrick Lei, said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present five gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Approach, Castle Peak, Rocky Bay and Ting Kau, are closed to swimmers, while Old Cafeteria is re-opened.

The decision to open or close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1995. The public are advised not to swim at the closed beaches.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below :

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 12.9.96)	Present Grading (as at 26.9.96)
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay (S)	2	2
Chung Hom Kok (S)	1	1
Deep Water Bay (S)	2	2
Hairpin (S)	2	2
Middle Bay (S)	2	2
Repulse Bay (S)	2	2
Shek O (S)	2	3
South Bay (S)	1	1
St Stephen's (S)	2	1
Turtle Cove (S)	2	2
Stanley Main (S)	2	2
<u>Tuen Mun District</u>		
Golden Beach	3	3
Old Cafeteria	3	3
New Cafeteria	3	4
Kadoorie (S)	3	3
Butterfly (S)	3	3

Sai Kung District

Clear Water Bay 1st Beach (S)	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach (S)	2	2
Hap Mun Bay (S)	1	1
Kiu Tsui (S)	1	1
Silverstrand (S)	2	2
Trio (Hebe Haven) (S)	1	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	3	2
Discovery Bay*	1	1
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	2	2
Tong Fuk	2	2
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	2	1
Silvermine Bay	3	4
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau (S)	2	2

Tsuen Wan District

Casam (S)	3	4
Gemini	3	3
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido (S)	4	4
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note: * Non-gazetted beaches.

(S) The beach has a shark-prevention net installed.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

St Stephen's and Pui O from "2" to "1"; Cheung Sha Lower from "3" to "2"; Trio (Hebe Haven) from "1" to "2"; Shek O from "2" to "3"; Silvermine, Casam and New Cafeteria from "3" to "4".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

End

Provisional statistics of restaurant receipts and purchases

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The value of total receipts for the restaurants sector in the second quarter of 1996, estimated at \$13 billion, increased by 3% compared with the same quarter in 1995, according to the provisional statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The value of total purchases of restaurants, estimated at \$4.7 billion, increased by 4%.

After discounting the effect of price changes over the period, total restaurant receipts went down slightly by 1% in volume terms. The relevant components of the Consumer Price Index are used for this deflating purpose.

Similar to the Consumer Price Index, both series of value and volume indices of restaurant receipts are rebased with October 1994 to September 1995 as the new base period. As from the reference period of the second quarter of 1996, the value and volume indices of restaurant receipts and their year-on-year rates of change will be published based on the new series.

Compared with a year ago, the total receipts of non-Chinese restaurants and fast food shops rose by 12% and 10% in value respectively. In volume terms, they increased by 7% and 3% respectively.

Meanwhile, the total receipts of miscellaneous eating and drinking places also recorded an increase of 5% in value, but showed virtually no change in volume.

On the other hand, the total receipts of Chinese restaurants recorded a decrease of 2% in value and 5% in volume. Those of bars also went down by 4% in value and 10% in volume.

Comparing with the preceding quarter, and bearing in mind that the comparison is affected by seasonal factors, total receipts for the restaurants sector in the second quarter of 1996 decreased by 5% in value and 6% in volume.

Comparing the first half of 1996 with the same period of 1995, total restaurant receipts rose by 3% in value, but decreased by 1% in volume.

Table 1 presents the revised figures for the total receipts and total purchases of the restaurants sector for the first quarter of 1996 and the provisional figures for the second quarter of 1996.

Table 2 shows the value and volume indices of total receipts by type of restaurants for the second quarter of 1995, the first quarter of 1996 and the second quarter of 1996, with the quarterly average from October 1994 to September 1995 taken as 100. Also tabulated are comparisons of the results of the second quarter of 1996 with those of the first quarter of 1996 and the second quarter of 1995; comparisons of total receipts for the first half of 1996 with the same period of 1995 are also given.

The Report on the Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases for the second quarter of 1996 is now on sale at \$4 per copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor., Wanchai Tower, Wan Chai.

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

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		1st Qtr 1996 (Revised figures)	2nd Qtr 1996 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(HK\$ million)	13,639.2	12,968.0
Total purchases by restaurants	(HK\$ million)	4,899.6	4,747.0

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 2ND QUARTER 1995, 1ST QUARTER AND 2ND QUARTER 1996

(Quarterly average of October 1994 - September 1995 = 100)

Type of Restaurants	Type of Index	Index Number			% Change			
		2nd Quarter 1995 (Revised figures)	1st Quarter 1996 (Revised figures)	2nd Quarter 1996 (Provisional figures)	2nd Qtr 1996 compared with 1st Qtr 1996	2nd Qtr 1996 compared with 2nd Qtr 1995	1st-2nd Qtr 1996 compared with 1st-2nd Qtr 1995	
		(Point)	(Point)	(Point)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
(A) <u>FOR ALL RESTAURANTS TYPES</u>	Value	97.5	105.5	100.3	-4.9	+2.9	+3.1	
	Volume	96.4	101.5	95.4	-6.0	-1.1	-1.1	
(B) <u>BY TYPE OF RESTAURANTS</u>	Chinese restaurants	Value	98.1	104.1	96.5	-7.2	-1.6	-1.7
		Volume	97.3	100.7	92.8	-7.9	-4.6	-5.0
	Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	93.5	110.2	104.5	-5.2	+11.7	+12.1
		Volume	92.1	105.7	98.7	-6.7	+7.2	+7.4
	Fast food shops	Value	99.5	104.8	109.3	+4.3	+9.8	+10.8
		Volume	97.9	99.1	101.1	+2.0	+3.3	+4.2
	Bars	Value	104.9	104.9	100.9	-3.7	-3.8	-1.4
		Volume	104.8	99.9	94.6	-5.3	-9.7	-6.8
	Other eating and drinking places	Value	95.7	101.3	100.3	-0.9	+4.9	+5.0
		Volume	95.0	97.7	95.4	-2.3	+0.4	+0.7

End

General household survey quarterly report published

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The report on the General Household Survey for April to June 1996, containing statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment for the second quarter of 1996 in bilingual form is now available for sale.

It also carries detailed analyses of the characteristics of members of the labour force, including their age, sex, educational attainment, activity status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week and monthly employment earnings. Data on reasons for unemployment and duration of unemployment for the unemployed are presented as well.

Copies of the report at \$53 each can be obtained from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the Census and Statistics Department will continue to conduct the General Household Survey during the quarter from October to December 1996.

The Survey, conducted on a continuous basis, aims to collect information on the labour force, unemployment and underemployment. In addition, special enquiries on various selected social topics are also included in its supplementary part.

An official letter will be sent to the sampled households prior to each survey month to explain the purpose of the Survey and to seek their voluntary co-operation.

Officers of the department will visit the households concerned to collect the required information. They will carry with a Government Identity Card and a certificate for conducting the Survey and will make such documents available for inspection.

To make it more convenient for both the households and the department, the sampled households could telephone the department to make prior appointment for visit by the interviewers.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,253	0930	-94
Closing balance in the account	2,359	1000	-94
Change attributable to:		1100	-94
Money market activity	-94	1200	-94
LAF today	+200	1500	-94
		1600	-94

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 *+0.2* 26.9.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/MTRC

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.09	2 years	2808	6.00	99.88	6.16
1 month	5.07	3 years	3907	6.80	100.91	6.54
3 months	5.17	5 years	5109	7.32	101.02	7.19
6 months	5.29	7 years	7308	7.24	98.18	7.53
12 months	5.57	5 years	M503	7.35	100.13	7.45

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$10,947 million

Closed September 26, 1996

End