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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Monday, April 28, 1997

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Statement by Lady Thatcher

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Lady Thatcher held an hour-long meeting with Mr Martin Lee at Government House this (Monday) morning. Lady Thatcher commented after the meeting :

"I was delighted to see Mr Lee. I assured him that my close interest in Hong Kong's affairs will continue beyond the handover of sovereignty in June. I will continue to speak up for Hong Kong's freedoms, its rule of law and its elected legislature. Deng Xiaoping and I agreed in the Joint Declaration that Hong Kong's free way of life should endure for 50 years beyond 1997. The world will be watching closely to see that the Treaty is implemented in full."

End

Modification of resale restrictions on HOS and PSPS flats

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The Government proposes to introduce a secondary market in Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) and Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS) flats to benefit existing and prospective public rental housing tenants.

A Government spokesman today (Monday) said the new arrangements were recommended in a review of the Home Ownership Scheme conducted by the Housing Authority in 1996.

From the fourth year from first assignment, the owner of a HOS or PSPS will be allowed to resell the flat to an existing or prospective public rental housing tenant at a negotiated price.

The spokesman explained that this would create a form of secondary market in HOS and PSPS flats.

"It will free public rental housing flats for reallocation to people in genuine need because the new owner will be required to surrender his existing public rental flat (if he is a public rental housing tenant), or to forego the right to be allocated a public rental housing flat (if he is a prospective public rental housing tenant)," he said.

He said that existing resale restrictions would also be modified. Under the new arrangements, the purchaser of a HOS or PSPS flat will be able to resell the flat to the Housing Authority at the original purchase price in the first three years from first assignment.

He will be able to resell the flat to the Housing Authority at prevailing HOS or PSPS prices after the first three year period.

The requirement for an owner to pay a premium for resale on the open market will remain unchanged.

"The creation of the secondary market and the modification of resale restriction will increase the turnover of HOS and PSPS flats and enable a more rational use of housing resources by freeing more public rental housing flats for reallocation to people in genuine need," he said.

The proposed revisions are set out in the Housing Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule) Order 1997 to be gazetted on Friday (May 2).

End

#### Works contract for defaulted orders awarded

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The Buildings Department today (Monday) awarded a two-year term contract for investigation, repair and demolition works arising from defaulted orders.

Beginning early next month, the contract also covers emergency works to remove immediate dangers from buildings.

Speaking after signing the contract, the Director of Buildings, Dr Choi Yu-leuk, said the department would serve orders on property owners once potential dangers were identified to require them to carry out investigation, repair or demolition works.

"Potential dangers may arise from dilapidated canopies or defective external renderings, dangerous or abandoned advertisement signs, defective or inadequate drains and water carrying services buried in or in the vicinity of slopes," Dr Choi said.

"These potential dangers pose threat to the safety of the occupants as well as the public, and we are determined that they must be rectified the soonest possible," he said.

"If an owner fails to comply with the order, the contractor will carry out the works on his behalf and all the costs will be recovered from him.

"Owners who do not comply with the orders without a reasonable excuse are liable to prosecution under the Buildings Ordinance," Dr Choi said.

The \$17 million contract was awarded to Cheung Kee Fung Cheung Construction Co. Ltd.

End

#### Revised Declaration Charges become effective on May 8

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Revised declaration charges payable to the Government upon lodgements of Trade Declarations (TDEC) will become effective on May 8, 1997, a Government spokesman said today (Monday).

The relevant commencement notice was published in the Gazette last week.

The revised declaration charges are set out under the Import and Export (Registration) (Amendment) Regulation 1997, which was approved by the Legislative Council on April 16.

"Declaration charges payable to Government for each TDEC lodged through the Community Electronic Trading Service (CETS) will go down while those payable for paper lodgements will increase slightly," the spokesman said.

"This is to encourage the use of the CETS and to dissuade the continuation of paper lodgements. All existing methods of paper lodgements will be withdrawn by March 2000 and TDEC can only be lodged through the CETS then."

The CETS is provided by Tradelink, the company which was granted the exclusive right to launch electronic services for handling a range of Government trade-related transactions. Tradelink entered into commercial operation in January 1997 and has already signed up about 1,000 subscribers so far.

"The use of electronic trading methods will enable business to be conducted more efficiently. To remain competitive in today's trading environment, Hong Kong should keep pace with the world by adopting such methods," he said.

End

## Donormobile to promote organ donation education

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Donormobile, a new mobile health education centre featuring interactive computer games and audio-visual displays, was launched today (Monday) to promote the general awareness of organ donation.

Introduced by the Department of Health's Central Health Education Unit (CHEU) with a donation of HK\$4.6 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Donormobile will bring its message of organ donation to various locations in Hong Kong.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan expressed hope that the coach would help raise public awareness and clarify myths surrounding organ donation.

She pointed out that organ transplantation could save lives of leukaemia patients, those at end stages of organ failure and those suffering from severe burns.

"It is very encouraging to hear reports that a number of persons we are familiar with have committed to donating their cornea," she said. "However, human organs like the heart, liver and kidney, bone marrow as well as skin are also needed for transplantation."

The Department of Health has been working hard over the past years to promote organ donation by organising different kinds of promotional activities. Dr Chan appealed to the public to support organ donation and expressed gratitude to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for their generous donation.

Also speaking at the function, Chairperson of the Human Organ Transplant Board, Mrs Sophie Leung, pointed out that there are currently more than 2,000 patients waiting for organ transplantation.

"In 1995, about 140 organs were donated. This figure increased to 350 last year -- a two-and-a-half-fold increase," Mrs Leung noted, adding that "more than 170,000 registrations had been recorded by the Hong Kong Medical Association for organ donation as at the end of 1996."

In addition to interactive computer games and audio-visual booths, the Donormobile is equipped with human models and a mini library. The mobile coach will visit housing estates, schools, and major shopping centres in its quest to educate the people of Hong Kong on the benefits of organ donation.

More information on the newly introduced service is available by calling the CHEU at 2527 1476.

End

Parents to receive school choice information

\* \* \* \* \*

Parents of primary six pupils participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation 1997 will receive information on the choice of secondary schools and the results of Medium of Instruction Grouping Assessment of their children through the schools tomorrow (Tuesday).

This year a total of around 78,000 pupils have participated in the system.

The Secondary One Choice of Schools Form is for parents to indicate their school choices of secondary schools, based on the particulars of the secondary schools listed in the Secondary School List of their respective school nets.

Parents can make a maximum of 30 school choices should the number of schools in their school nets reach this number.

In any case, parents should include as many school choices as possible since this will increase the chance of their children being allocated to a school of their choice.

Parents are reminded that prevocational schools, like other schools, participate in the central allocation.

They can therefore choose prevocational schools supplying school places in their school nets along with other schools on the school list.

Information on Medium of Instruction Grouping will enable parents to choose a secondary school which offers a suitable language of instruction for their children.

The grouping is based on the schools' internal assessments on pupils at the end of primary five and during the mid-year of primary six, both of which are scaled by the results of the Academic Aptitude Test.

Pupils in the Medium of Instruction Grouping I should be able to learn effectively in either English or Chinese.

Those in the Grouping II should learn more effectively through the Chinese medium while those in the Grouping III should learn better through the Chinese medium but probably also be able to learn effectively in English.

This year, among the 78,000 primary six pupils participating in the Secondary School Places Allocation System for allocation of a secondary one place this September, a total of 25,575 pupils (32.9 per cent) are in Group I, while 46,002 pupils (59.18 per cent) are in Group II and 5,836 pupils (7.51 per cent) in Group III.

Medium of Instruction Grouping is not applicable to the non-Chinese speaking pupils and the pupils with incomplete assessments.

A total of 320 pupils (0.41 per cent) belong to this group.

Meanwhile, a spokesman from the Education Department pointed out that the consultation document of the Guidance on the Medium of Instruction had indicated that if secondary schools considered their teachers and students have the ability to meet the specified requirements, they could apply in December this year to the Education Department to adopt English as the Medium of Instruction with effect from the school year September 1998.

The department stressed that the government at present does not possess a list of secondary schools using English as the medium of instruction according to the requirements laid down in the consultation document.

End

#### Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 78.5 per cent of capacity or 460.256 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 472.294 million cubic metres of water, representing 80.6 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	:	28 April 1997
Paper on offer	:	EF Notes
Issue number	:	1704
Issue date	:	29 April 1997
Maturity date	:	30 April 2007
Coupon	:	7.45%
Amount applied	:	HK\$2,650 MN
Amount allotted	:	HK\$500 MN
Average price accepted (yield)	:	99.35 (7.69 PCT)
Lowest price accepted (yield)	:	99.35 (7.69 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	:	About 25 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	:	99.32 (7.69 PCT)

End