
Home Affairs Bureau

In the past year, we have been working on 43 pledges, of which :

- we have completed 16;
- we are on schedule on 16;
- one is under review;
- we are taking active measures to speed up progress on one which is behind schedule; and
- we are pressing ahead with nine on-going commitments.

The following sets out the detailed report for each main programme area.

Rights of the Individual

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To submit a draft report, by the end of 1997 to the Central People's Government (CPG), on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Hong Kong for onward submission to the United Nations (UN).	The original timetable was to submit the report to the CPG by the end of 1997. Subsequently, following a revised timetable adopted by the CPG, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) report under the Convention was completed in early August 1998 and submitted as part of China's report to the UN on 31 August.
1997	2. To bring the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance into operation within 1997. The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to issue a code of practice in 1998 to help employers comply with the Ordinance.	The Family Status Discrimination Ordinance came into operation in November 1997. The EOC issued the code of practice in March 1998.

- 1997 3. To issue codes of practice against discrimination on grounds of race and sexuality to facilitate self-regulation. Both codes were issued in April 1998.
- 1997 4. To :
- promote understanding of the Basic Law, including the rights guaranteed therein, through an enhanced education and publicity programme; and

We have produced and distributed educational packages on the Basic Law to over 1 700 schools and voluntary agencies. We have also sponsored the production of a 13-part series of five-minute programmes to illustrate how the Basic Law impacts on the daily life of an individual. The series was broadcast on a local TV station. In addition, we have produced two TV-Announcements of Public Interest and sponsored five educational projects on the Basic Law under the Community Participation Scheme. The Basic Law was also featured in a series of roving exhibitions on civic education this year.
 - strengthen our civic education programme to foster a stronger sense of belonging to Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China and encourage the public to vote in the 1998 Legislative Council election.

We organised a Civic Education Day and held 19 roving exhibitions between October 1997 and April 1998 under the “Hong Kong, Our Home” theme. The objective of these exhibitions was to strengthen our civic education programme and to promote the 1998 Legislative Council election. At the district level, many community building projects were organised along these themes.

- 1997 5. To participate in the second biennial Review of the Implementation of the Charter for Youth to be conducted by the Commission on Youth in December 1997. The Commission on Youth to carry out a study on young people taking up a more active role in the building of the SAR, and in voluntary work.
- We participated in the Conference on the Review of the Implementation of the Charter for Youth in December 1997. The Commission on Youth has published the report on the proceedings and recommendations of the Review.
- The Commission on Youth has completed the study and submitted a report to the Chief Executive.
- 1996 6. In 1996-1997, to improve the enforcement of maintenance orders made in matrimonial proceedings by introducing legislative amendments to provide for maintenance payments to be deducted directly from maintenance payers' income and to extend the duration of initial maintenance orders for children until they have completed full-time education.
- The legislation to extend the duration of initial maintenance orders for children was enacted in June 1997 and came into operation in July 1997.
- The Attachment of Income Order Rules were made by the Chief Justice in late February 1998. The Rules, as slightly amended by the Provisional Legislative Council, were brought into operation, together with the relevant provisions of the parent legislation, on 3 April 1998. Where a maintenance payer has defaulted in payment without reasonable excuse, the parent legislation and the Rules enable the court to make an order to deduct maintenance payments from the maintenance payer's income and pay the deductions to the maintenance payee direct.

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| 1995 | 7. | To continue discussions with the Chinese Government on how the obligations to report on Hong Kong to the UN's treaty monitoring bodies will be met after 1 July 1997. | The matter has been resolved. Compilation of the HKSAR's first reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is almost complete. They will soon be forwarded to the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR for onward transmission to the UN. The initial report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was submitted (as part of China's report) in August 1998. The report under the Torture Convention is scheduled for completion in end October 1998. |
| 1994 | 8. | To grant over the three financial years from 1995-1996 to 1997-1998 an extra \$20 million to the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to expand its educational programmes on equal opportunities and human rights. | The enhanced educational programmes have been completed. From 1998-1999, these educational programmes have been subsumed under our on-going civic education programmes. |

Good progress has been made with the following on-going commitments in the past year. We will continue to work on them on an on-going basis.

- | <i>Year</i> | <i>Pledge</i> |
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| 1996 | 9. To enforce and promote compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance through the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data set up in August 1996. |
| 1994 | 10. To implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. |

Information Policy

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To encourage all bureaux and departments to have homepages on the Internet by the end of 1997. To upgrade the quality and user-friendliness of our homepages.	All bureaux and departments had put up homepages on the Internet by the end of 1997. Efforts are made on an on-going basis to upgrade the quality and user-friendliness of these homepages.

District and Community Relations

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To register as many eligible permanent residents as voters for the Legislative Council election in 1998 as possible and to encourage all registered voters to turn out at the election.	With the joint efforts of all sectors, we have made history with a record number of registered voters, voter turnout and voter turnout rate. There are now about 2.8 million registered voters; about 1.49 million of them cast their votes on 24 May 1998, representing a turnout rate of 53.3 per cent.
1997	2. To set up on a pilot basis in 1998 one Building Management Resource Centre (BMRC) to provide information, services and professional advice to building owners, residents and management bodies so as to assist them in improving the standards of management, safety and maintenance of their buildings. The Centre will also advise on the formation and operation of Owners' Corporations (OCs).	The first BMRC was opened on 26 June 1998. It is proposed to establish a network of BMRCs which seek to harness all community resources in offering advice and information to building owners and residents on building management. A second BMRC at the Land Development Corporation's Jubilee Street Scheme in Central District is being planned.

- 1995 3. To employ private contractors to design and construct minor works under the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) programme to ensure that projects are completed on time.
- Private contractors have been employed and employment of more contractors is in hand to expedite completion of the RPIS programme.

Action in Progress : On Schedule

- 1997 4. To provide resources for and promote recreational and cultural exchange programmes to involve the community fully in the process of getting to know Chinese history and culture, so as to achieve a sense of belonging.
- We have allocated funds to sponsor study tours for youths to visit the Mainland with a view to enhancing their understanding of the history and culture of China. Overall, we have provided subsidies for 82 study tours, involving about 4 000 young people.

- 1997 5. To continue to identify suitable sites and redevelop them into singleton hostels with a view to offering accommodation for some 2 000 bedspace apartment lodgers by phases. To make available accommodation for 800 bedspace apartment lodgers before the end of 1998.
- The first purpose-built singleton hostel at Shun Ning Road commenced operation in September 1998 to house 310 displaced bedspace apartment lodgers. Together with the Home Affairs Department's other existing hostels, accommodation can be provided for more than 800 bedspace apartment lodgers.

Construction of another singleton hostel at High Street, Western District is scheduled for completion by 2001 and will provide accommodation for about 270 lodgers. In addition, we have identified sites at Bailey Street and Smithfield Road respectively for redevelopment into singleton hostels with a view to providing accommodation for about 570 bedspace apartment lodgers.

Good progress has been made with the following commitments in the past year. We will continue to work on them on an on-going basis.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>
1997	6. The Home Affairs Bureau to co-ordinate the delivery of services by government departments and non-governmental organisations, to ensure that all new arrivals know the services that are available and are helped to find work or support.
1996	7. In 1997, to recommend improvements in services for new arrivals from the Mainland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – by reviewing the existing provision of services by making use of the results of quarterly surveys of new arrivals conducted by the Home Affairs Department and relevant surveys done by other bodies; and – by monitoring the situation at the district level through our network of District Offices.
1995	8. To take steps to accelerate spending over the next four years in order to meet our target to complete minor works under the RPIS programme (estimated expenditure \$1.6 billion) up to 1999-2000.
1995	9. To continue to encourage the formation of Mutual Aid Committees and OCs as part of our effort to promote public participation in community affairs and to improve building management.

Films and other Public Entertainment Services

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
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Action in Progress : On Schedule

1997	1. To rationalise in 1998 the regulatory framework for various entertainment licences with a view to making them more user and business-friendly and reducing bureaucratic red tape.	<p>Agreed recommendations relating to the four entertainment licences have been implemented. Some recommendations require legislative amendments.</p> <p>The Administration is conducting a review of the remaining four entertainment licences. The review will be completed by the end of 1998.</p>
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Action in Progress : Behind Schedule

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| 1996 | 2. | To facilitate the development of high-quality family entertainment by reviewing the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance and developing a licensing framework for family entertainment centres (FECs). | In view of the need to develop a user-friendly licensing framework, the Administration is exploring a new approach for the licensing of FECs and other entertainment centres. The new approach will require public consultation and new legislation. |
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Arts and Culture

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
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Action Completed

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| 1997 | 1. | To develop a set of guidelines and procedures for compliance with the requirement concerning heritage preservation in major development projects, in anticipation of the enforcement of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance in early 1998. | The Guidance Note was discussed by the Antiquities Advisory Board at its meeting in September 1998. The final version is under preparation. |
| 1996 | 2. | In 1996-1997, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) to provide places for some 720 full-time students in music, dance, drama, film and television and the technical arts at a cost of \$180 million. To assist the HKAPA in setting the course for the next stage of its development, we will take into account the recommendations of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation on degree courses provided by the HKAPA. | In 1996-1997, a subvention of \$184 million was granted to HKAPA to provide places for its students. We will monitor the funding needs of the HKAPA and help it seek necessary resources for training students. |

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 3. | To plan to convert the former Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) at Tsim Sha Tsui into a heritage resource centre in 1998 to promote public awareness of Hong Kong's heritage. | The former AMO has been converted into a heritage resource centre with an exhibition gallery and audio-visual showrooms. Further conversion works will be undertaken to provide additional facilities. |
| 1997 | 4. | To publish in 1998, on a quarterly basis, a bulletin to promulgate the latest heritage news and activities in Hong Kong. | Two issues were published to promulgate the news and activities on heritage conservation work in Hong Kong. The third issue will be published in October 1998. |
| 1997 | 5. | To expand the web page of the former Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Bureau in 1998 to offer an additional source of information on Hong Kong's 6 000 years of heritage and to disseminate heritage activities with a view to meeting growing demand and interest. | Information on the work of AMO, declared monuments, selected archaeological finds and membership of the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust has been put on the web page of the Home Affairs Bureau. |
| 1997 | 6. | To distribute an educational and promotional CD-ROM on Hong Kong's Heritage to schools and interested organisations in 1998 to publicise Hong Kong's rich heritage and provide data on all declared monuments and buildings. | Negotiations with suitable contractors to design and produce the CD-ROM have been conducted. Formal commissioning of a contractor will be arranged in October 1998. The CD-ROM will become available to schools and interested organisations by end 1998. |
| 1997 | 7. | To commence a review of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in 1998 to assess its effectiveness in preserving, protecting and promoting our cultural heritage. | A review of the Ordinance has commenced. |

- 1996 8. In 1997-1998, to establish Hong Kong's first urban heritage trail by linking up some 50 monuments in Central and Western Districts. This will make the public more aware of and promote interest in the preservation of our cultural heritage.
- The first phase of the trail covering the Central District was launched in October 1997. The second phase covering the Sheung Wan District will be opened in late 1998.
- 1996 9. In 1997-1998, to establish and provide support for a group to be named the "Friends of Heritage" to cultivate public interest in Hong Kong's cultural heritage. The group will provide a channel for people interested in preserving Hong Kong's heritage to participate in the work of the AMO.
- Following a series of induction activities including lectures, heritage tours and archaeological workshops in connection with the Year of Heritage project and other educational programmes for schools, 32 members have qualified as the first batch of the "Friends of Heritage". They will be offered further training in heritage conservation work. Recruitment of the second batch will commence by end 1998.
- 1995 10. To promote Hong Kong's heritage through publicity and education programmes funded by the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust.
- The Year of Heritage project jointly organised by the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust and the Home Affairs Bureau was successfully completed in end 1997. To complement the introduction of "local history" into the secondary school curriculum by the Education Department in September 1998, more information pamphlets on local heritage have been produced.
- 1995 11. To conduct a territory-wide survey of historical buildings and structures over the next two years with a grant of \$4 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.
- Eight survey teams have started the territory-wide research and field work for the survey will complete by end 1998. Survey reports will be submitted by the project teams in early 1999.

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| 1995 | 12. | To conduct a territory-wide archaeological survey over the next two years to update existing records. | 11 survey teams have been commissioned for the territory-wide survey exercise and ten teams have completed the field work. Survey reports are expected by end 1998. |
| 1995 | 13. | To establish a two-kilometre heritage trail in Kam Tin at a cost of \$28 million. | Negotiations with village representatives are in progress. The restoration of the Tang Ching Lok Ancestral Hall has been completed. |

Good progress has been made with the following commitments in the past year. We will continue to work on them on an on-going basis.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>
1997	14. To work closely with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and other major public bodies in Hong Kong to encourage the display of works of art by local artists in Government buildings and other public premises.
1995	15. To continue to declare more buildings as monuments and to restore more historical buildings.

Sport and Physical Recreation

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
<i>Action Completed</i>		
1997	1. In 1998, to provide financial support for the elite training programme at the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) for 12 focus sports and a minimum of 13 athletes.	The annual subvention to the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (HKSDDB) has been increased by \$88 million in the 1998-1999 financial year. The additional provision is mainly for funding the elite training programme at the HKSI.
1996	2. In 1997-1998, to develop a financial strategy to ensure that HKSI can continue to train local athletes to international standards.	HKSDDB has been provided with an additional recurrent subvention of \$88 million in the 1998-1999 financial year. The increase is mainly to enable the HKSI to continue to train local athletes to international standards.

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 3. | In 1998, to study, in consultation with other government and non-government agencies, the feasibility of building a major new sports and recreational venue for Hong Kong. | We will conduct a study with a view to drawing up a strategy for the future provision of central sports facilities. On the basis of the strategy, we will consider the need and feasibility of a new sports and recreational venue. |
| 1996 | 4. | In 1997-1998, to co-ordinate the development of major new sporting and recreational facilities, including six new grass pitches, on four former landfill sites in East Kowloon, Tseung Kwan O and Tai Po. | A core consultant has been appointed to develop a framework for preparing and awarding contracts for the detailed design, construction and maintenance of the new sporting and recreational facilities on the four former landfill sites. We will work out the implementation timetable for these projects as soon as funding for the facilities has been approved. |

Action in Progress : Under Review

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| 1995 | 5. | To work closely with the management of the Hong Kong Stadium to find an acceptable solution to the problem of noise for the benefit of the whole community. | Due to a lack of public support and opposition from the former Urban Council and Legislative Council, further action to seek approval to hold a limited number of concerts at the Hong Kong Stadium is in abeyance. |
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Good progress has been made with the following commitment in the past year. We will continue to work on it on an on-going basis.

- | <i>Year</i> | | <i>Pledge</i> |
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| 1996 | 6. | To encourage local water sports by maximising the use of existing facilities and developing new ones. |