

**Holidays (Amendment) Bill 1998**

The Government announced today (Friday) that the Holidays (Amendment) Bill 1998 would be introduced into the Legislative Council on 8 July 1998. The Bill was gazetted today (Friday).

“The main purpose of the Bill is to replace two of the general holidays observed in 1997 and 1998, that is Sino-Japanese War Victory Day (the third Monday in August) and October 2 (the day after National Day) by Labour Day (May 1) and the Buddha’s Birthday (eighth day of the fourth lunar month) from 1999 onwards,” a Government spokesman said today.

“In addition, the Bill will designate as an additional general holiday the day following two general holidays that fall on the same day unless the Chief Executive in Council appoints another day in substitution,” the spokesman added.

In order to maintain the total number of general holidays (other than Sundays) at the present level of 17 days a year, a consultation exercise was held earlier this year, when employers’ and employees’ organisations, the financial services sector and religious bodies were asked to advise which existing general but not statutory holidays should be used to offset the new general holidays for Labour Day and the Buddha’s Birthday. The general holidays which could be offset in this way are:

- Good Friday
- The day after Good Friday

- Easter Monday
- Sino-Japanese War Victory Day (the third Monday in August)
- 2 October
- The First weekday after Christmas Day (Boxing Day)

The majority of the respondents preferred to replace Sino-Japanese War Victory Day and 2 October to make way for the two new general holidays.

“It is in the interest of the community at large for the details of the general holidays for 1999 onwards to be confirmed as early as possible. We hope therefore that it will be possible for the Bill to pass through the Legislative Council at an early date,” the spokesman said.

“Although the third Monday of August will no longer be a general holiday as from 1999, it will remain to be the Sino-Japanese War Victory Day to commemorate those who took part in the resistance movement,” the spokesman added.

A list of the general holidays for 1999 is as follows:

## A list of the General Holidays for 1999

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|  |           |              |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| *The first day of January  | Friday    | 1 January    |
| *Lunar New Year's Day  | Tuesday   | 16 February  |
| *The second day of the Lunar New Year                                  | Wednesday | 17 February  |
| *The third day of the Lunar New Year                                   | Thursday  | 18 February  |
| Good Friday  | Friday    | 2 April      |
| The day following Good Friday  | Saturday  | 3 April      |
| Easter Monday  | Monday    | 5 April      |
| *The day following Ching Ming Festival                                 | Tuesday   | 6 April      |
| *Labour Day  | Saturday  | 1 May        |
| The Buddha's Birthday (being the eighth day of the fourth lunar month) | Saturday  | 22 May       |
| *Tuen Ng Festival  | Friday    | 18 June      |
| *Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day             | Thursday  | 1 July       |
| *The day following Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival                         | Saturday  | 25 September |
| *National Day  | Friday    | 1 October    |
| *The day following Chung Yeung Festival                                | Monday    | 18 October   |
| *Christmas Day   | Saturday  | 25 December  |
| The first weekday after Christmas Day                                  | Monday    | 27 December  |

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\* Also a statutory holiday

End/Friday, June 26, 1998/6/26  
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