



HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

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DAILY INFORMATION
 Wednesday, June 16, 1971
BULLETIN
CABLE-CAR FOR LION ROCK PROPOSED

Tenders To Be Invited For Installation

Kowloon may have a cable car leading to Lion Rock.

A proposal for the construction and operation of a cable-car system from Sha Tin Pass Road to the peak east of Lion Rock has been approved in principle by the Governor in Council.

The 1,630-foot high Lion Rock (Lion Peak) or "Fung Wong Shan" (Phoenix Peak) is so called because its prominent feature has a strong similarity to a crouching lion.

The unusual rock formation of the peak is very much a part of the Kowloon skyline and is an attraction not only to visitors to Hong Kong but also to local residents.

The installation of a cable-car to take visitors to the top of Lion Rock is expected to be a boon to tourism.

A Government spokesman said today that the right to build and operate the cable-car for which legislation will be required will be put to tender. Details of the terms will be announced when they have been finalised.

Any scheme must provide safeguards for public safety, meet the requirements of air navigation in the area and have adequate facilities to receive large numbers of people, including the provision of parking spaces.

It is proposed that the lower terminal be sited on an area of land adjoining Sha Tin Pass Road and the upper terminal on the eastern end of the Lion Rock feature. The terminals would include a restaurant and general facilities for visitors.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

On Hong Kong Island And In Kowloon

The Building Authority today, Wednesday, declared Nos. 1 and 5 Gough Street on Hong Kong Island to be in dangerous condition and No. 3 Gough Street liable to become dangerous.

At the same time, the Authority declared Nos. 36-42 Tai Nan Street in Kowloon also to be in dangerous condition.

In separate statements this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that the three three-storey pre-war buildings in Gough Street had been under observation for several years.

The brickwork to all the walls of No. 1 Gough Street had deteriorated progressively and some of the roof and floor timbers and the shoring erected to give additional support were now decayed.

The walls and timbers in No. 5 were similarly deteriorated and there was pronounced movement of the front wall.

The defects in these two buildings could result in a collapse which would also involve No. 3 which shows signs of similar defects.

Accordingly notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders were posted on the buildings today. Hearings have been set for 9.30 a.m. at the Victoria District Court on July 14.

In the case of Nos. 36-42 Tai Nan Street, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that in the course of routine inspection the reinforced concrete to the structural framing floors and roof of these four-storey pre-war buildings was found to be in an advanced state of deterioration, which could cause a collapse.

/As a result

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URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Health And Hawker Liaison Offices New Premises

The Hawker Liaison Office (Yau Ma Tei) and the Tsim Sha Tsui Health Office of the Urban Services Department are now operating from the Canton Road Government Offices Building, 7th floor, Kowloon.

The new telephones numbers are as follow:-

Hawker Liaison Office (Yau Ma Tei)

Hawker Liaison Office
(Yau Ma Tei) K-686620

General Office K-686630

Tsim Sha Tsui Health Office

Senior Health Inspector
(Tsim Sha Tsui) K-686730

General Office K-686536
K-686812

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IMPROVEMENTS TO BOUNDARY STREET SPORTS GROUND FENCING

To Prevent Crowd Obstruction Outside Playground

Two concrete walls, both eight feet high, will be built on the Boundary Street side of the Boundary Street Playground in Kowloon as part of improvement work for the playground which is now intended to be used for major league football games and other sports events.

The walls, one totalling about 200 feet in length and the other 280 feet, will form part of the existing perimeter fencing.

They will be positioned to the rear of the open gap between the spectator stands so as to give the effect of preventing crowds gathering outside the playground during football games or other sporting events, thus causing obstructions to pedestrians.

On completion of the walls, the existing wire fencing between them will also be raised to eight feet.

Other improvement and additional work such as increasing the seating capacity to 10,000 had already been completed.

Work on the improvement to the perimeter fencing and building of the concrete walls is expected to start next month and be completed by September this year.

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PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tenth Anniversary Celebrations On Friday

The Princess Alexandra Community Centre in Tsuen Wan will mark its tenth anniversary at a celebration in the Assembly Hall on Friday, June 18.

Presiding will be senior Social Welfare Department officers and leading residents of the industrial township, including Chamber of Commerce and Rural Committee members, bankers, magistrates, and New Territories Administration representatives.

The Centre was built with money donated by Commonwealth countries during the World Refugee Year in 1959. It was completed in 1961 and formally opened by the then Governor, Sir Robert Black.

It was visited in the same year by Princess Alexandra, and Her Royal Highness agreed to a request that the Centre be named after her to commemorate the occasion. She unveiled a plaque on November 18, 1961.

But the Centre's history actually goes back to 1955 when the Social Welfare Department began to pay special attention to the needs of young people in the growing township. A club for boys and girls, with a small library, provided a modest start.

The Centre today offers a convenient meeting place and opportunities and facilities for thousands of young people and other residents in the district. It organises cultural, social and recreational activities, and looks after individual and family welfare. It also houses a number of voluntary agencies.

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In 1970, local organisations used the Assembly Hall Conference Room extensively. In the same year, membership of different units reached 10,429.

Mr. Lam Kwok-wan, Warden, says many former members now grown up and scattered throughout Hong Kong will return to Tsuen Wan on Friday for the Centre's tenth anniversary celebrations.

They will join with new settlers to help promote the Centre's aim "to bring service to the people," particularly in the area's three densely-populated resettlement estates, a low-cost housing estate, and numerous factories.

Co-operation Essential

"In fast-developing Tsuen Wan," Mr. Lam explains, "no organisation can effectively cope by itself with all that needs to be done. Co-operation is essential. We are fortunate to be able to work with welfare agencies, schools, and dozens of committees. Our joint aim is to make Tsuen Wan a better place in which to live."

A highlight of the celebrations on Friday will be speeches by Mr. J.S. Warren, District Officer, Tsuen Wan; Mr. Deacon T.K. Chiu, Chairman, Tsuen Wan Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Stephen Lam Chi-kin, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer (Group and Community Division).

Note to editors: You are invited to have the anniversary celebrations covered on Friday. They begin at 4 p.m.

Transport will be provided. A station wagon, AM2097, will take members of the Press, radio and TV to Tsuen Wan and back. It will leave the Kowloon sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 3.15 p.m. and will return to town after the ceremony.

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LEPROSY UNDER CONTROL IN HONG KONG

Government Plans To Phase Out Leprosarium

Plans for phasing out and eventually closing the leprosarium on Hay Ling Chau are now being considered by Government.

Leprosy has now been brought under control in Hong Kong, thanks to well-planned leprosy care and control programmes conducted by the Leprosy Mission, Hong Kong Auxiliary and the Medical and Health Department.

The general pattern throughout the world is to integrate leprosy treatment into normal medical services, as it is thought that the admission of patients into a leprosarium, as distinct from a general hospital, makes subsequent rehabilitation and integration into the community more difficult.

For many years, the Social Hygiene Services of the Medical and Health Department have been providing out-patient treatment for leprosy patients through their special "skin" clinics, and leprosy patients suffering from other diseases are already being treated in the public wards of Government hospitals.

The number of patients on Hay Ling Chau has been decreasing each year. Once there were 540 patients, today there are only 215, including 118 non-contagious patients who are admitted only for follow-up, observation, convalescence, etc.

By 1974, when the change is contemplated, it is estimated that there will be less than 80 patients needing continued institutional care while others can be treated on an out-patient basis.

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For these 80 patients, Government plans to make available a special unit in the infectious disease block of the new Lai Chi Kok Hospital now under construction on a promontory to the west of Lai Chi Kok Bay. In this block there will be ample facilities for separating patients with different infectious diseases.

So far, more than 1,000 people have been treated and discharged from Hay Ling Chau and referred back to Government out-patient clinics for follow-up. They are now leading ordinary lives in the community, many of them employed by Government.

No Danger

"There is no danger for people who visit or live near a leprosy patient as the disease is spread only by direct and continuous contact between one person and another over a long period of time and modern and effective treatment renders the patient non-infectious within a short period of time," a spokesman for the Medical and Health Department reiterated today.

Natural resistance

"The vast majority of people have a natural resistance to the disease and are able to destroy the invading germs.

"The interest and concern shown by members of the community towards leprosy patients has been most encouraging," he said.

Since the opening of the leprosarium in 1951, about 40,000 local and overseas people, an average of 2,000 a year, have visited Hay Ling Chau to meet and talk to patients. Students from a well-known local co-educational secondary school go to Hay Ling Chau each Saturday to help the younger patients with their lessons or join them in an afternoon of entertainment.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Returns To "Late Call" Programme By Popular Demand

A recent "Late Call" programme on public assistance over the Chinese channel of Radio Hong Kong provoked so many questions after the event that the scheme is to be given another hour of close public scrutiny on Friday.

This repeat appearance of Social Welfare Department officers will provide a second opportunity for members of the public to telephone in asking for information on aspects of the scheme that are not clear to them.

These could be, for example, on the eligibility criteria, on where to apply and how to apply, how much in cash is granted, for how many months, and where it is paid out.

Residents with vague notions of the scheme's flexibility who seek precise information, could learn that public assistance was never intended solely for the aged, or the unemployed.

The sick qualify, even the employed with a large family and an income below a certain minimum.

Cash grants cover school fees, rent, travelling expenses, and occasionally even a special diet when a doctor so recommends.

The scheme's spokesmen will be Mr. Bill Liang, Supervisor of the Yau Ma Tei Field Unit, and Mr. Kam Ying-tong, Supervisor of the Lam Tin Field Unit.

The programme can be heard on Friday, June 18, at 10.30 p.m. It will last an hour.

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RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT

No Need To Recruit Qualified Officers From Abroad

The Commissioner of Rating and Valuation, Mr. N. Cooke, says the successes of Valuation Assistants at overseas professional examinations in recent years mean that the department will no longer have to look abroad for qualified officers to fill the professional ranks of the department.

Mr. Cooke revealed that in March this year nine more Valuation Assistants passed the final professional examinations leading to qualified membership of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

This brings to 38 the number of Valuation Assistants who have successfully completed their examinations.

Mr. Cooke said there are a further 40 officers in the grade of Valuation Assistant at varying stages of qualification and results of the first and intermediate examinations are expected shortly.

All these officers are trained in the department and study by means of day-release courses and evening classes at the Hong Kong Technical College, while others take correspondence courses arranged by the College of Estate Management, London.

Following qualification the department usually arranges for officers to spend six months in England attached to a well-known firm of Rating Surveyors in London, Mr. Cooke said.

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IMMIGRATION SUB-INSPECTORS PASSING OUT PARADE

Director Of Immigration To Take Salute

Mr. W.E. Collard, Director of Immigration, will take the salute at a passing out parade of 38 newly recruited Immigration Sub-Inspectors at the parade ground of the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force (The Volunteers), in Sports Road, Happy Valley, on Saturday, June 19.

These officers will make up the largest number of Immigration Sub-Inspectors to have completed the three-month induction course at one time.

Note to editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the parade which will take place at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, June 19.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS REMOVED

Quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Cebu (port), Philippines on account of cholera have been removed, the Port Health authorities announced today.

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Release time 7.30 p.m.