



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 5, 1973

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RECORD ATTENDANCE AT GOV'T PAVILION

More Visitors Expected Before C.M.A. Fair Closes

The Government pavilion at the Chinese Manufacturers' Association Exhibition has proved to be a tremendous success as reflected in the record attendance figures and comments and questions raised about the various models displayed on Government's major plans for the future.

Up to last night (January 4), an estimated 1,300,000 people had been to the pavilion -- the highest number ever -- and an estimated 100,000 more are expected to visit it before the Exhibition closes next Monday.

The pavilion has achieved another distinction -- a silver cup was awarded to it for being one of the cleanest within the exhibition compound.

As in previous years, a big attraction, especially to children, is the permanent cinema in the centre of the pavilion showing films of general interest about Hong Kong.

Visitors are also showing keen interest in the models of future housing projects which illustrate the Government's plans in this field over the next ten years.

In support of the current Fire Prevention Campaign, each visitor to the pavilion is handed a leaflet listing some simple rules to help prevent fires.

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RAPID INCREASE IN PRIVATE CARS

Close To 120,000 Registered At End Of November

The number of private cars has shown a sharp increase in the past few years and now constitutes about two thirds of the total number of cars registered.

According to the Transport Department, there were 119,412 registered private cars at the end of November last year, an increase of more than 14,000 over November, 1971.

Among all types of vehicles, the number of private cars has been increasing at the fastest rate. The year 1969 saw an average monthly net increase of 930 private cars, bringing its total number to about 80,000 at the end of the year.

In 1970 and 1971, the average monthly increase had jumped to about 1,000 private cars.

For the eleven months up to November last year, the monthly increase had again jumped to about 1,200 private cars, and the rate was particularly high in the second half of the year.

To buy a new private car, one has to pay a First Registration Tax which is 10 per cent of the car value and a 15 per cent Commonwealth Preference Tax which is levied on all vehicles originating from outside the Commonwealth.

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However, goods vehicles, taxis, public light buses and omnibuses are exempted from the First Registration Tax.

For the 1971-72 financial year, total revenue collected from licence fees, Commonwealth Preference Tax, First Registration Tax and other fees and charges amounted to about \$118 million.

For the first eight months of the current financial year (April to November), the total revenue collected from these sources totalled about \$88.4 million. This reflects the rapid increase in all types of vehicles.

The increase in motor vehicles has also brought about a corresponding rise in Government expenditure on roads.

For the current financial year, non-recurrent expenditure of the Highways Office, Public Works Department, which covers the building of new roads, is estimated at \$113 million.

This represents an increase of \$28 million over the revised estimates of the previous financial year.

Recurrent expenditure, which includes roads maintenance costs, is estimated at \$31 million, an increase of \$7 million over the approved estimates of the previous financial year.

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POKFULAM ROAD FLYOVER TO BE OPENED TOMORROW

To Improve Traffic Flow In Area

The one-way flyover at the junction of Pokfulam Road and Bonham Road will be opened to vehicular traffic from 10 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday, January 6.)

The Principal Government Highway Engineer, Mr. W.C. Bell, will cut a ribbon and declare open the flyover which serves only eastbound vehicles from Pokfulam Road to Bonham Road.

After the opening ceremony tomorrow, traffic wishing to turn right from Pokfulam Road into Bonham Road must do so via the flyover, which should be approached in the nearside lane.

Eastbound buses on Routes 3, 4 Express, 23 and 103 will use the flyover on all journeys.

Appropriate traffic signs will be erected to guide motorists.

The flyover is part of a scheme to ease the traffic congestion at the junction of Pokfulam, Hill and Bonham Roads.

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Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the opening ceremony which begins at 9.50 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday, January 6) at the entrance to the flyover near the Chiu Sheung Middle School. Members of the press are advised to arrive at the flyover five minutes earlier. A G.I.S. officer, Mr. William Lam, will be present to give assistance.

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BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN NOVEMBER

A golf and gymnasium building in Caroline Hill Road for the South China Athletic Association is among a total of 45 building plans approved by the Building Authority during November last year.

Also on the list is a 29-storey commercial building in Hennessy Road and another commercial building of 27 storeys in Leighton Road.

Twenty-one of the plans approved are on Hong Kong Island, nine in Kowloon, seven in New Kowloon and eight in the New Territories.

These figures represent a drop of 34 plans compared to the previous month when 79 plans were approved. They also represent a drop of more than 50 per cent compared to the same month in 1971 when 107 plans were approved.

In the same month of November last year, 65 buildings were certified for occupation. The declared total cost for these buildings is about \$140 million which almost doubles October's total of \$78.2 million.

In addition, the Building Authority had also approved the demolition of 35 blocks of building -- 19 on Hong Kong Island, eight in Kowloon and eight in New Kowloon.

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LAND TO BE RECLAIMED FOR BOATYARDS
Part Of Aberdeen Reclamation Scheme

The Government plans to reclaim an area of more than nine acres in Po Chong Wan at the Aberdeen Channel to provide a number of sites for boatyards, timber storage as well as a seamen's training centre.

On completion, this area will form part of the Aberdeen Reclamation Stage II Scheme.

It has been so planned that interference in the present activities of the existing boat building and repairing industry will be kept to a minimum.

The extent of the proposed reclamation is described in detail in a Notification published in the Government Gazette today.

People having objection to the proposal or any claim of private right should submit such objections and/or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months from the date of the Notification.

The Notice (both in English and Chinese) can be seen on notice boards posted near the site.

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LAND IN CHAI WAN TO BE SOLD FOR INDUSTRIAL USE

The Government proposes to sell a plot of land of about 8,000 sq. ft. in Chai Wan which can be used for industrial, godown or bulk oil storage purposes.

The land, the Chai Wan Marine Lot No. 1, will be sold by public tender for a term of 75 years, renewable for a further term of 75 years.

The purchaser will be permitted to construct a pier along the sea frontage.

A Notice published in the Government Gazette today under the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance calls upon people having objections to the granting of such a lease or any claims of private right in the matter, to submit them in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months of the date of the Notice.

The Notification, both in English and Chinese, can also be seen on Notice Boards posted near the site.

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ANTI-DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS CAMPAIGN

Figures For Final Week Announced

During the week ending on December 30, 1972, a total of 7,939 doses of the combined anti-diphtheria and tetanus vaccine was administered, according to statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department.

Of these, 945 doses were administered on the Island, 6,062 in Kowloon, and 932 in the New Territories.

In the 12 weeks since this routine campaign began on October 9, 1972, a grand total of 211,021 doses has been administered. The campaign ended on December 30, 1972.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON TONG AND MONG KOK

A series of new traffic arrangements will be imposed in Kowloon Tong and Mong Kok to facilitate road and drainage works, the Transport Department announced today.

Beginning at 8 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday), Hereford Road at its junction with Waterloo Road will be closed to traffic for a period of six weeks. It will be re-opened at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 16.

Traffic flow between these two roads will be diverted through Durham Road and Cambridge Road.

With effect from 10 a.m. on Tuesday (January 8), Fife Street between Reclamation Street and Shanghai Street will be temporarily closed to through traffic for about two months.

At the same time Fife Street between Portland Street and Shanghai Street will be re-opened to through traffic.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUNCHESES AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The Italian Foreign Minister, Mr. Guiseppe Medici, who is passing through Hong Kong en route to China, today (Friday) lunched at Government House as the guest of the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose.

The lunch lasted about an hour and was attended by senior Italian officials accompanying Mr. Medici on his trip.

Mr. Medici and his party arrived in Hong Kong last night and is due to leave for China tomorrow (Saturday).

Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the Governor and Mr. Medici together in front of Government House are distributed separately in the press boxes at G.I.S. this evening.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.