



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
EIA report on Tuen Mun Foothill Bypass published	1
Prisoner to benefit from Jockey Club's \$3 million donation	2
Deadline for chop design competition drawing near	3

Saturday, March 29, 1997

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of Mr Tung Chee Hwa and Mrs Anson Chan	5
Transcript of the Chief Secretary's media session	6
Public welcome to sit in on BA's meeting	6
Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok	7

EIA report on Tuen Mun Foothill Bypass published

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The Territory Development Department (TDD) has published an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study report on the proposed Tuen Mun Foothills Bypass and associated road works.

The study was commissioned in 1996 to assess the potential environmental impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the road project.

The Foothills Bypass project, which forms part of the Tuen Mun Area 38 development, includes a two-lane dual carriageway along the foothills of the Castle Peak range.

"The bypass will be a major road in the area to meet anticipated additional traffic demand upon completion of the River Trade Terminal and the Special Industries Area in 1999 and 2002 respectively," a spokesman for the department said today (Friday).

"The bypass, expected to complete at the end of 2001, will divert traffic away from various residential areas in Tuen Mun," the spokesman said.

"In particular, it will reduce nuisance caused by traffic noise to people living along Lung Mun Road," he added.

According to the EIA report, which has been endorsed by the Tuen Mun District Board and the Advisory Council on the Environment, the road project will not generate unacceptable impact on the environment provided that the recommended mitigating measures are undertaken.

"These measures include three-metre high noise barriers and five-metre cantilever roadside noise barriers along some sections of the road," said the spokesman.

"Additionally, friction course will be provided for the entire foothills bypass," he said.

Copies of the executive summary of the EIA report are available free on a first-come-first-served basis at the New Territories West Development Office of TDD, 25th floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan.

The executive summary, together with the full report, can also be read at the reference libraries of the district central libraries of the two municipal councils at the City Hall, Kowloon Central, Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin and Tuen Mun.

Interested persons may also purchase the full EIA report from the TDD's Tsuen Wan office at \$460 per copy.

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Prisoner to benefit from Jockey Club's \$3 million donation

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Hundreds of prisoners who want to further improve their language skills which give them an edge to being successfully integrated into society upon release, will benefit from a generous donation of nearly \$3 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to provide two educational projects.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club, which has been very supportive of various educational programmes run by the Correctional Services Department, has donated the money to build two language laboratories at Stanley Prison and a multi-media language laboratory at Lai King Training Centre.

Two language laboratories at Stanley Prison will be built at a cost of about \$1.6 million. At present, some 800 of the nearly 2,000 prisoners in the maximum security prison are pursuing various educational courses, and the establishment of the laboratories will enhance their language training including Putonghua, English and Japanese.

The laboratories, scheduled to be completed within the next six months, would enable 20 prisoners at a time to learn various languages through audio-visual equipment.

"Though not compulsory, adult prisoners are encouraged to participate in educational programmes offered to them in prisons. Inmates who have obtained better education and language skills stand a better prospect of obtaining decent employment, and thus their chances of successful reintegration into society upon release will be much better," said a spokesman for the Correctional Services Department.

The multi-media language laboratory at Lai King Training Centre that will accommodate 24 inmates per session is expected to be completed in five months at a cost of about \$1.3 million.

"Most inmates admitted to Lai King Training Centre, which has a population of about 300, are characterised by their low educational level, especially in both Chinese and English language ability because of their early drop out from school.

"The inadequacy in language ability is a major hindrance for them to attain better chances of employment or further schooling, which in turn makes it difficult for them to lead a decent and industrious life after their discharge from the centre," the spokesman said.

"A properly equipped language laboratory with modern teaching equipment is considered essential in providing inmates with proper language training," he added.

Since its first donation of \$130,000 in 1979, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has donated more than \$31 million to CSD for projects.

In addition to the language laboratories, recent Trust-fund projects included the establishment of a Prisoners' Education Trust Fund in 1992, the setting up of computer training rooms at CSD institutions at Cape Collinson and Pik Uk in 1996, and the provision of an Inmates-Parents Centre at Tai Tam Correctional Institution by early next year.

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Deadline for chop design competition drawing near

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Entries for a chop design competition jointly organised by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service should be submitted before April 7.

An HAD spokesman said the deadline was extended from March 31 to April 7 to enable more people to join the competition.

The competition is aimed at enhancing public understanding of the social services available in Hong Kong and arousing interest in volunteer work.

The spokesman said that it is a prelude to the Volunteer Trail - a territory-wide community-building and caring project to be organised from May to August to encourage visits to various welfare service units grouped under nine districts.

"Under this project, hundreds of social welfare units will be open to the public. Members of the three tiers of assemblies, prominent community figures and Government officials will also be invited to visit some units. It is hoped that the visitors will develop a better understanding of the services provided by the units and the channels through which they may enrol as volunteers.

"Visitors will each be provided with a 'passport', which will be stamped with the chop of the respective district after each visit. Anyone whose 'passport' contains three or more chops may be eligible for a souvenir pin.

"To add colour to the project, chop design entries for the nine districts are now being invited. Each district will select the best chop design for use in the Volunteer Trail project. The winners will be awarded. The one who produces the best overall design will receive an additional prize.

"The chop designs should encourage mutual care in the community and highlight the characteristics of the respective district. They should measure 1.5 inches by 1.5 inches.

"Each participant can submit a maximum of three entries for each district. All entries should reach the organising committee of the Volunteer Trail by April 7," the spokesman said.

The nine districts are: Central, Western, Southern and Islands; Wan Chai and Eastern; Kwun Tong and Sai Kung; Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin; Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong; Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing; Tuen Mun and Yuen Long; Sha Tin; as well as North District and Tai Po.

Entry forms are available at various District Offices. Completed forms should be sent to the organising committee of the Volunteer Trail at 13th floor, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Enquiries can be made on 2864 2929.

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Transcript of Mr Tung Chee Hwa and Mrs Anson Chan

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Following is the transcript of a media session given by Mr Tung Chee Hwa and Mrs Anson Chan at the airport this (Saturday) morning after visiting Beijing:

Question: Last Saturday a member of the provisional legislature expressed concerns that if ... not putting in the law by July 1 that would be a legal vacuum, now are you going to introduce any sort of legislation before the handover and was this discussed in Beijing with the Chinese authorities? Is there any concern about a legal vacuum being created in certain areas where a lot of bills are passed into law?

Mr Tung: Well, this was not discussed in Beijing. But certainly we are concerned that there should not be a legal vacuum. We will be working very hard to make sure that whatever law is needed to be passed before July 1 will be done in order to avoid the legal vacuum.

Question: Is there enough time?

Mr Tung: There will be enough time.

Question: ... must be watching on ... human rights law ...?

Mr Tung: Always enough because these are issues for the HKSAR government to deal with and we will be dealing with them.

Question: Is there any plan to send more policy secretaries to meet Li Peng?

Mr Tung: You ask two questions and he only asked one.

Question: Mrs Chan, this is your first time to meet Premier Li Peng, what message or what ... you get from Mr Li Peng and how did they ensure you to ...?

Mrs Chan: I was delighted to have this opportunity to meet with Premier Li. He and other leaders clearly have confidence in the HK civil service and as I said in an answer to an earlier question; are they expressed the entire civil service appreciation of the trust that leaders have in the civil service here in Hong Kong. I also ensured Premier that we will do our utmost to support Mr Tung in faithfully implementing the "one country, two systems" and high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong after 1997.

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Transcript of the Chief Secretary's media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, after a dinner hosted by the Trade Development Council in Beijing last (Friday) night:

Chief Secretary: I was very glad to have the opportunity this morning to meet with Premier Li Peng and with the Vice-Premier Li Lanqing. The Premier spoke about Hong Kong's position and his view that Hong Kong will continue to prosper. He also mentioned that Vice President Gore when he visited China spoke to him about Hong Kong, and in particular stressed the importance of the rule of law in order to maintain Hong Kong's stability and prosperity. And the Premier said he entirely agreed with this view. I took the opportunity to express to the Premier the appreciation of the entire Hong Kong civil service in the faith and trust that Chinese leaders had put in Hong Kong civil servants, particularly the fact that Mr Tung, in this nomination of principal officials, was able to obtain the complete acceptance of Chinese leaders and all serving principal officials would continue to serve the SAR Government after 1997. I said that this had considerably boosted the morale within the civil service. On our part, all principal officials are determined to help Mr Tung in any way we can in order to assist him in preparing for the assumption of duties on July 1st, and in order that we can implement the one country two systems and a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong. The Premier also mentioned that Hong Kong will continue to play a very important bridging role in so far as its position as very important financial and service centre is concerned. He did not think that this role would be replaced by Shanghai.

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Public welcome to sit in on BA's meeting

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The Codes of Practice Committee of the Broadcasting Authority will hold its fourth meeting on Wednesday (April 2).

The Committee has been set up to review the codes of practice relating to programme, advertising and technical standards for broadcasting services and to make recommendations to the Broadcasting Authority regarding amendments to the codes.

The meeting, to be chaired by Mr Clement Tao Kwok-lau, will discuss the codes of practice on programme and advertising standards for programme services which are expected to be licensed later this year.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the proceedings of the meeting which will start at 9.30 am in the Conference Room of the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority, 39th Floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai. Please call 2594 5707 to reserve a seat as seating capacity is limited.

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Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok will be suspended from 11 pm on April 1 (Tuesday) to 6 am the following day for alteration work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the area bounded by Tonkin Street, Un Chau Street, Yen Chow Street and Lai Chi Kok Road. Meanwhile, all premises in Mong Kok will experience a weaker water pressure.

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