



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ACTION GROUP STUDIES ISLAND CORRIDOR
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A SPECIAL TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP -- COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH AND THE POLICE -- IS STUDYING SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE ISLAND CORRIDOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME TO FURTHER RELIEVE CONGESTION IN THE AREA.

A RECENT SURVEY COMPLETED BY THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SURVEY DIVISION OF THE PWD HAS SHOWN THAT THE EXISTING SCHEME IS NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND NORTH POINT. CONGESTION ALONG THIS STRETCH OF THE ROAD HAS HAD THE OVERALL EFFECT OF SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE CAPACITY AND SPEED OF ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT OTHER THAN TRAMS.

HOWEVER, DESPITE A LARGER NUMBER OF TRAMS OPERATING FROM SHAU KEI WAN THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT THE INCREASED TRAM CAPACITY DURING PEAK HOURS HAS BEEN MORE THAN OFF-SET BY THE REDUCTION IN THE CAPACITY OF OTHER TRANSPORT MODES. THIS CALLS INTO QUESTION THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESERVING THE TRAM RESERVE IN KING'S ROAD FROM TAI ON STREET TO JAVA ROAD.

AS A FIRST STEP, THEREFORE, THE TRAM RESERVE ALONG THIS STRETCH OF ROAD -- EXCEPT FOR A SECTION AT WESTLANDS ROAD -- WILL BE CANCELLED. THE CANCELLATION WILL ALLOW OTHER VEHICLES TO USE THE TRAM-ONLY LANE IN QUARRY BAY, IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW ALONG THE CORRIDOR.

WORK TO EFFECT THIS CHANGE WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 11) AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 22).

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ENTIRE STRETCH OF THIS TRAM-ONLY LANE SHOULD BE COMPLETELY OPENED TO OTHER VEHICLES FROM MONDAY (FEBRUARY 23), ALTHOUGH SECTIONS OF IT CAN BE USED BY OTHER VEHICLES AS SOON AS THE DOUBLE WHITE LINES ARE REPLACED BY ORDINARY INTERMITTENT WHITE LANE MARKINGS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DRIVERS SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR CARE WHEN USING THE TRAM-TRACK AS SOME PEDESTRIANS MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN THE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

+THE ADDITIONAL ROAD CAPACITY MADE AVAILABLE BY CANCELLING PART OF THE TRAM RESERVE WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF TO THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN QUARRY BAY,+ HE SAID.

+THIS SHOULD ALSO RELIEVE CONGESTION IN SHAU KEI WAN= BUT THE NARROW ROADS IN THE AREA WILL MEAN THAT CONGESTION WILL REMAIN UNTIL FURTHER MEASURES ARE INTRODUCED, AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO HAMPER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BUS OPERATIONS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER COMPREHENSIVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE SCHEME WERE BEING CONSIDERED TO ENSURE THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIME OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE ISLAND CORRIDOR TO BENEFIT THE MAJORITY OF TRAVELLERS.

THIS INCLUDES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE WEST-BOUND BUS-ONLY LANE ALL THE WAY FROM CHAI WAN THROUGH SHAU KEI WAN TO CAUSEWAY BAY DURING A SHORTER MORNING PEAK PERIOD. BUT IT WAS LIKELY THAT SUCH A STEP COULD BE TAKEN ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT IN THE AREA.

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SIR MURRAY VISITS FIRE VICTIMS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY (TUESDAY) EXPRESSED SYMPATHY TO LAST NIGHT'S PING YEUNG SUN TSUEN FIRE VICTIMS DURING A VISIT TO THEIR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

IT WAS PARTICULARLY SAD, HE SAID, THAT IT OCCURRED IN THE NEW YEAR WHEN MOST OF THE RESIDENTS WERE AWAY IN CHINA FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

AND HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SQUATTER SITUATION WHICH HAD BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE ARRIVAL OF NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

EARLIER IN THE DAY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE VISITED THE SITE TO CHECK ON EMERGENCY RELIEF WORK.

HE WAS TOLD THAT MORE THAN 2 430 PEOPLE FROM 757 FAMILIES HAD REGISTERED FOR RELIEF. THE VICTIMS COMPRISED 1 232 MEN, 757 WOMEN AND 446 CHILDREN.

SIR MURRAY WAS MET AT THE FIRE SCENE BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR BERNARD WILLIAMS AND THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WONG TAI SIN), MR STEPHEN SELBY, WHILE MR ALLEYNE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR ALEXANDER FUNG.

THE VICTIMS ARE BEING TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATED AT THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE TSZ WAN SHAN EAST AND SOUTH COMMUNITY CENTRES AND AT THE EAST KAI TAK INDOOR STADIUM.

MEANWHILE, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (CLEARANCE) MR GREGORY CHAN SAID SITE IDENTIFICATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AND GENUINE VICTIMS WOULD BE REHOUSED ACCORDING TO THEIR ELIGIBILITY WITH THE PAYMENT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS.

+ELIGIBILITY OF SOME COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL UNDERTAKINGS WILL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT.

+WE ARE ALSO WORKING OUT A 'BATTLE PLAN' TO ACCELERATE THE HOUSING PROCESS IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT IMPOSTERS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

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DRIEST JANUARY IN 15 YEARS

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JANUARY WAS THE FIFTH JANUARY SINCE 1884 DURING WHICH NO MEASURABLE RAINFALL WAS RECORDED.

THE MONTH'S RAINFALL WAS 26.9 MILLIMETRES BELOW NORMAL, MAKING IT THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH WITH RAINFALL BELOW NORMAL.

THE OTHER DRY JANUARIES WERE IN 1884, 1914, 1932 AND 1966.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL DURING DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND JANUARY WAS ONLY 0.7 MILLIMETRES WHICH WAS THE LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE TWO-MONTH PERIOD.

THERE WERE NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC OR THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH WHICH WAS SUNNIER AND WARMER THAN USUAL WITH A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 16.3 DEGREES CELSIUS.

SOME 176.2 HOURS OF SUNSHINE WERE RECORDED WHICH WAS 22.7 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL.

THE FIRST SIX DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE FINE AND DRY. ON JANUARY 7 A COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG CAUSING STRONG EASTERLY WINDS AND A TRACE OF RAIN. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED.

IT WAS AGAIN HOISTED ON JANUARY 10 WHEN FRESH NORTHERLY WINDS, STARTED ON THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, STRENGTHENED IN THE EVENING BRINGING COLD, DRY AIR.

THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 9.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 11.

THE WEATHER WAS STILL COLD ON THE FOLLOWING TWO MORNINGS BUT GRADUALLY BECAME WARMER.

CONDITIONS WERE VERY DRY FROM JANUARY 11 TO 14 AND THERE WERE NUMEROUS REPORTS OF FIRE.

IT WAS CLOUDY FROM JANUARY 21 TO 23. THE MONTH'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 23.2 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 24 WHEN THE WEATHER WAS SUNNY.

IT BECAME CLOUDY AGAIN WHEN A COLD FRONT ARRIVED IN THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 25 AND COOLER WEATHER WAS EXPERIENCED ON JANUARY 27 AND 28.

THE WEATHER REMAINED DULL UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH WITH TRACES OF RAIN ON THE LAST TWO DAYS.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON SIX DAYS WHILE THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS EFFECTIVE ON 16 DAYS. DURING THE MONTH NO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG.

NEIGHBOURHOOD EFFORT NEEDED IN TSUEN WAN

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TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, DR JAMES HAYES, TODAY (TUESDAY) CALLED FOR MORE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD EFFORT TO MAKE THE TOWN A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

DR HAYES SAID HE FELT WHAT HAD BEEN DONE SO FAR AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL WAS NOT ENOUGH.

SPEAKING AT A LUNAR NEW YEAR GATHERING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, HE SAID COMBINED ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN TSUEN WAN BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS MIGHT LOOK VERY IMPRESSIVE.

+BUT WHAT WE MUST REALISE IS THAT THE TOWN HAS A HUGE POPULATION AND MANY NEIGHBOURHOODS.

+WHEN OUR JOINT EFFORTS ARE ASSESSED AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL, THEY FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT IS REQUIRED.+

DR HAYES SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE NEIGHBOUR EFFORT, RATHER THAN AN INCREASED EFFORT FROM THE CENTRE OR AN AUGMENTED GOVERNMENT PROVISION.

+THIS YEAR, THEN, TSUEN WAN WILL BE THE SCENE OF GREATER EFFORTS AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL,+ DR HAYES SAID.

+FOR OUR PART WE WILL FIND EXTRA NEW AND AVAILABLE FACILITIES WHICH ARE SUITABLY LOCATED FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD USE AND IMPROVE THEIR PROVISION WHERE NECESSARY.

+WE WILL BRING INTERESTED ASSOCIATIONS TOGETHER TO FORM LOCAL COMMITTEES WHICH CAN ORGANISE ON-GOING PROGRAMMES AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT TO SECURE THE PROPER USE OF THE PRIVATE FACILITIES THAT WILL BE INVOLVED.

+WE WILL BRING TOGETHER THE OWNERS OR MANAGERS OF THESE FACILITIES TO WORK OUT THE NECESSARY SET OF RULES TO GOVERN INCREASED PUBLIC USE. WE WILL ASSIST WITH LOCAL INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY. WE WILL HELP WITH THE NECESSARY EXPENSES, EITHER FROM DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS FUNDS OR THROUGH A NEW FUND WHICH WE PROPOSE TO LAUNCH SHORTLY TO BE CALLED THE +TSUEN WAN FUND+.

+IN THIS WAY, WE HOPE THAT WE CAN USE OUR POSITION AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS TO COME TOGETHER TO ORGANISE MORE PROGRAMMES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

+THROUGH THESE COMBINED EFFORTS WE HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS THAT IT IS BOTH SAFE AND USEFUL FOR THEM TO ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

DR HAYES PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF THE 550 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS IN TSUEN WAN, AS WELL AS THE 100 OTHER ASSOCIATIONS OF ALL TYPES, WHICH HE SAID WERE TRULY THE FOUNDATION OF COMBINED EFFORTS TO MAKE TSUEN WAN A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND A MORE STABLE COMMUNITY.

ABOUT 500 COMMUNITY LEADERS ATTENDED THE RECEPTION WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES.

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TUEN MUN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

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COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT HELD A LUNAR NEW YEAR PARTY, ATTENDED BY 300 GUESTS, INCLUDING DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, WERE GUESTS OF HONOUR.

TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, SAID COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS HAD BEEN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BUILDING THE NEW TOWN, IN PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, AND IN PROVIDING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE.

THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE WOULD BE NEEDED EVEN MORE IN THE NEW YEAR WHEN TUEN MUN WAS ENTERING A NEW STAGE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

THE HOST ORGANISATIONS INCLUDED RURAL COMMITTEES, CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS, TRADE AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND RESIDENTS' WELFARE ORGANISATIONS.

TUEN MUN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD PROVIDED \$10 000 TO MEET PART OF THE COSTS OF THE PARTY.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 13) AND SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 15).

FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY, THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE AT CHEUNG WING ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE RESCINDED.

FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY, THE SECTION OF ROAD P1 BETWEEN LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND ROAD D3 IN SHA TIN WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING CLEARWAY RESTRICTION AT ROAD P1 IN SHA TIN WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARD FROM THE JUNCTION WITH LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROAD D3.

WITHIN THE CLEARWAY, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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MANUAL FOR KNITTING JOBS
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THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL HAS PUBLISHED A MANUAL OF JOB STANDARDS AND TRADE TESTS FOR THE PRINCIPAL JOBS IN THE KNITTING BRANCH OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

PUBLISHED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, THE MANUAL IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CENTRAL, AT \$15 A COPY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE MANUAL WAS THE FOURTH PREPARED BY THE BOARD. THE FIRST THREE VOLUMES WERE FOR THE PRINCIPAL JOBS IN THE SPINNING, TEXTURISING AND THE WEAVING BRANCHES.

THE LATEST MANUAL CONSISTS OF JOB STANDARDS AND TRADE TESTS FOR 39 PRINCIPAL JOBS AT TECHNOLOGIST, TECHNICIAN, CRAFT AND OPERATIVE LEVELS.

APART FROM INTRODUCING A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF SKILL FOR THE PRINCIPAL JOBS, THE MANUAL WILL ASSIST TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PLANNING COURSES AND EMPLOYERS IN DRAWING UP PROPER TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR APPRENTICES OR TRAINEES AND IN ASSESSING THE COMPETENCE OF THEIR WORKERS.

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