

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Monday, August 14, 1972

TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER SPEAKS ABOUT TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Talks are to be held soon between the Transport Department and the Kowloon Motor Bus Company on ways of expanding bus services in the New Territories.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. B.D. Wilson, said this evening that the rapid pace of development in the area had led to greater demands on public transport and on its improvement.

He said the discussions would pay particular attention to the possibility of introducing smaller vehicles to serve villages off the main roads.

"The New Territories Administration and the police share my concern at the number of lorries, vans and private cars which ply for hire illegally in the New Territories, and it is high time that public transport there is expanded to keep pace with what people need", Mr. Wilson said.

He hoped that some useful results would be produced in the near future, including the possible licensing of New Territories taxis.

Mr. Wilson, who was speaking at a meeting of the Rotary Club of New Territories, said that with the opening of the cross-harbour tunnel there was likely to be an increase in traffic in the New Territories, and this would become even more pronounced when a second Lion Rock tunnel was opened.

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Work is due to start on the tunnel towards the end of this year and when it is completed each two-lane tube will carry traffic in one direction, the same system as in the cross-harbour tunnel.

He added that as far as is known, the tolls for the Lion Rock tunnel will remain the same.

On the question of traffic congestion, Mr. Wilson said that the time was now ripe for taking steps to cut down the number of vehicles on the roads.

He pointed out that the number of vehicles being registered each year was increasing faster than roads could be built, and if there were no restrictions on new registrations, it would only be a matter of time before the vehicles filled up the new roads.

Capacity Reduced

"Double-decking roads has been suggested, but this would mean loss of air and light for occupants of adjacent buildings, and the capacity of the ground floor road would be appreciably reduced by the amount of space needed for footings for the upper deck.

"The problem boils down to this. If you can't make the roads big enough to fit all the vehicles, then the number of vehicles will have to be cut down to fit the roads," he added.

The Transport Commissioner said it made no sense for a civilised community to allow itself to become dependent on motor vehicles and then to fail to exercise the self-discipline needed to prevent its roads jamming solid because of too many vehicles, selfish kerbside parking and a failure to ration road space according to an agreed priority.

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FIRST AUCTION FOR "LUCKY" NUMBER PLATES

The first auction of "lucky" car number plates will be held shortly, possibly in September, in the City Hall.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. B.D. Wilson, said today that about 50 numbers would be auctioned, but details of the number and conditions of sale would be publicised nearer to the date.

The auction will be held at the same time as a draw for the Government Lottery.

The sale of "lucky" car numbers was made possible only recently following the passage of a bill through Legislative Council. However, the regulations have still to be made by the Governor in Council.

The proceeds from the auctions will be paid into the Lotteries Fund and used for charitable purposes.

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HONG KONG ATTENDS REHABILITATION CONGRESS IN SYDNEY

Hong Kong will be represented at the 12th World Congress of Rehabilitation International in Sydney later this month by a delegation of 64.

It will be led by Dr. Harry Fang, Chairman of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

Membership of the Hong Kong team is made up of an official Social Welfare Department delegation of four, headed by Miss Annie Chan, Assistant Director (Social Work), 16 other representatives of government departments, such as Prisons, Education, and Medical and Health Services, and rehabilitation specialists in the private sector.

The latter include the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts.

The Congress will begin on August 27 and continue until September 1, but there are a number of pre-Congress activities in which Hong Kong is participating.

Four Social Welfare Department officers will attend a seminar on social planning in Brisbane, and three others at another seminar on vocational rehabilitation in Adelaide.

The theme this year is "Planning Rehabilitation," and discussions will centre on three main aspects -- environment, incentives, and self-help.

The 12th World Rehabilitation Congress will be the first time such a meeting has been held in the Southern Hemisphere. It will also be a special occasion, marking the Golden Anniversary of Rehabilitation International, set up in 1922.

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In connection with the Congress, Hong Kong will be mounting a panel display in the hall of the Chevron Hotel, Macleay Street. This will consist of a series of photographs, produced by Government Information Services, illustrating education and medical rehabilitation in Hong Kong, as well as after-care and social environment.

One group of pictures makes clear that integration is the ultimate goal of rehabilitation in Hong Kong.

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Note to editors : Copies of a brochure prepared by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service for the Sydney Congress, and based on the panel exhibition, are distributed separately in the press boxes, Government Information Services, later this evening.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Mr. R.H. Lobo, has been appointed temporarily to the Executive Council with effect from August 12, during the absence of Sir Sidney Gordon.

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DEMAND CONTINUES FOR BRITISH (HONG KONG) PASSPORTS

The demand for British (Hong Kong) Passports has continued unabated and in June alone, a total of 3,677 was issued by the Immigration Department.

This was the highest figure ever recorded for any one month.

The Immigration Department issued 9,484 British (Hong Kong) passports during the months of April, May and June this year, compared with 6,204 in the previous three months, and 7,288 in the same period last year.

A spokesman for the department said today that one reason for the demand was the large number of people travelling these days.

Entry Certificates issued by the department during the quarter totalled 2,466, compared with 1,601 in the previous quarter and 2,363 in the same period in 1971.

Applications for Certificates of Identity also increased.

During the three-month period, the Chinese Section of the Immigration Department dealt with 48,186 applications, including those for Certificates of Identity, U.K. visas, re-entry visas, extensions of stay and visit visa applications.

This figure represents an increase of 29 per cent compared with 37,470 in the previous quarter and an increase of 65 per cent compared with 29,273 in the corresponding period last year.

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SPORTS FOR WHEELCHAIR CASES

Ten members of New Zealand's Para-Olympic team who are confined to wheelchairs will compete with a number of wheelchair-bound young Hong Kong sportsmen in the Kowloon Hospital tomorrow.

The New Zealand team is on its way home after attending the International Para-Olympic Games in Heidelberg, and is stopping over in Hong Kong for a brief demonstration.

The team will take part in basketball and table tennis matches with Hong Kong players, and will give instructions on archery.

The event will last from 5 to 7 p.m., and will be held within the Hospital in case of rain.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover this event.

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C.D.O. SUB-OFFICE TO BE OPENED IN CHEUNG SHA WAN

A sub-office of the City District Office (Sham Shui Po) will be opened in Cheung Sha Wan on August 21 (Monday).

Announcing this today, the City District Officer, Sham Shui Po, Mr. C.W.B. Oxley, said that a sub-office was necessary because the population of the district was now well over 250,000.

The new office will be located on the ground floor of Block 3, Cheung Sha Wan Government Low Cost Housing Estate.

Officiating at the opening ceremony will be Mr. J.M. Rowlands, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs; Mrs. C.J. Symons, unofficial member of the Legislative Council; Mr. Henry Wong, member of the Urban Council and representatives from Kaifong Associations, the Red Cross Youth Corps and the Hong Kong Boy Scouts Association.

Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the opening ceremony which will take place at 4 p.m. on August 21.

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POLYTECHNIC ENROLLING PART-TIME DAY RELEASE STUDENTS

The Hong Kong Polytechnic is inviting applications for the 1972-73 part-time day release courses on mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering, and on laboratory, dental and textiles technical training.

Applicants should be employed in work appropriate to the course for which they apply.

They must obtain approval of their employers for them to attend classes at the Polytechnic each week for one full day of six hours and two evenings of two hours each.

Applications should be made by the employers or by the applicants themselves with written consent from their employers.

The forms can be obtained from the respective departments of the Polytechnic at Hung Hom and should be completed and returned on or before September 4.

Classes will begin on September 18.

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PEOPLE URGED TO SUPPORT SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

Members of the public were today urged to support social welfare projects by buying tickets for the special lottery to be drawn on September 23 to mark the 10th anniversary of Government Lotteries.

At a press conference today, Mrs. K. Fok, a member of the Government Lotteries Management Committee, said that the prizes for the lottery would be quite considerable.

There will be seven prizes. The first will amount to 40 per cent of the total proceeds and the second prize 10 per cent. The other five prizes will each amount to 2 per cent.

The anniversary lottery was organised to boost the lotteries fund for welfare purposes.

Mrs. Fok also announced that four Commercial Radio artists would rotate the drums to draw the winning numbers of the 53rd Government Lottery on August 26.

They are Miss Yan Wai-ye, Miss Leung Siu-yung, Miss Cheng Kit-man and Mr. Fung Chin-ping.

They will help sell tickets at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club both at the Star Ferry Concourse, next Monday, from 12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.

Tickets for both lotteries are selling at \$2 each.

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WEEKLY MEDICAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

Statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department for the week ending on July 29, 1972 are as follows:-

* Notifications of infectious cases (previous week's figures in brackets) -- total 196 (259); amoebiasis -- 1 (1); bacillary dysentery -- 8 (14); cerebrospinal meningitis and meningococcal infections -- 1 (nil); chickenpox -- 1 (2); tuberculosis -- 174 (225); enteric fever (typhoid) -- 6 (9); enteric fever (paratyphoid) -- nil (1); leprosy -- 3 (5) and measles -- 2 (2).

* Births -- total registered 1,408; 374 on Hong Kong Island, 853 in Kowloon, and 181 in the New Territories.

* Deaths -- 400 from all causes; 107 on the Island, 281 in Kowloon and 12 in the New Territories.

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