



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE DECK CONSTRUCTION BEGINS	1
66 VIETNAMESE TO GO ON TWO FLIGHTS	2
SFS VISITS CHINA	2
SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE FOR NEEDY	3
KENNEDY TOWN LOT TO LET	4
TRAINING COURSES FOR SAFE USE OF GONDOLAS	4
SALT WATER CUT ON TSING YI	5

- 1 -

KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE DECK CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

* * * * *

CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, IS MOVING AHEAD RAPIDLY.

IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS SINCE WORK STARTED ON SITE IN DECEMBER 1992, WORKERS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO CONSTRUCT THE 820-METRE-LONG BRIDGE DECK.

PROJECT DIRECTOR OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S LANTAU FIXED CROSSING PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE, MR K C YEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT TWO OF THE 20 CONCRETE SEGMENTS WHICH WOULD FORM THE DECK FOR THE SIDE SPANS OF THE BRIDGE HAD ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFULLY POSITIONED.

"THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE PROJECT AS IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF SUPERSTRUCTURE WORK FOR THE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID ALMOST 30 PER CENT OF THE WORK ON THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE HAD BEEN FINISHED SO FAR AND THE BRIDGE WAS ON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1997.

"CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO MAIN BRIDGE TOWERS ON LANTAU AND MA WAN HAS BEEN PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY, AND BOTH TOWERS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH THEIR FULL HEIGHT OF 150 METRES IN SPRING NEXT YEAR.

"DETAILED DESIGNS OF THE BRIDGE AND THE VIADUCT, WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN PARALLEL WITH PHYSICAL WORKS ON SITE, ARE NOW SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE.

"THE 20 CONCRETE SEGMENTS, ALL PRECAST ON SITE, ARE BEING POSITIONED FROM BOTH MA WAN AND LANTAU ENDS. THEY WILL FORM THE TWO SIDE SPANS OF THE BRIDGE DECK AND TWO SHORT SECTIONS OF THE MAIN SPAN NEAR THE TWIN TOWERS," HE SAID.

THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, AND A VIADUCT ACROSS THE MA WAN ISLAND, ARE BEING BUILT BY KUMAGAI-MAEDA-YOKOGAWA-HITACHI JOINT VENTURE UNDER A \$1.6 BILLION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER 1992.

THE CABLE-STAYED BRIDGE, CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC, WILL SPAN THE CHANNEL BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF MA WAN AND LANTAU.

TOGETHER WITH THE 2.2-KILOMETRE-LONG TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE, IT WILL FORM PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING ON THE 34-KILOMETRE-LONG HIGHWAYS NETWORK OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME LINKING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN TO URBAN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG.

A MAJOR PART OF THE 430-METRE-LONG MAIN SPAN OF THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE WILL BE FORMED BY PRECASTED SEGMENTS MADE OF STEEL AND CONCRETE.

/"THE STEEL

- 2 -

"THE STEEL FRAMES OF THESE MAIN SPAN SEGMENTS ARE BEING FABRICATED IN SHEKOU, CHINA, AND THE FIRST BATCH IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

"THEY WILL THEN BE ASSEMBLED AND CONCRETED AT THE WORKS SITE ON LANTAU, BEFORE BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE KAP SHUI MUN CHANNEL BY BARGES, LIFTED UP BY SPECIALLY DESIGNED CRANES AND THEN CONNECTED AT BRIDGE DECK LEVEL," MR YEUNG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

66 VIETNAMESE TO GO ON TWO FLIGHTS

* * * * *

IN REPLY TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT 16 OF THE 82 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME (ORP) ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY WOULD NOT NOW DO SO.

"WE LEARNED THAT ONE 21-YEAR-OLD FEMALE ON THE LIST HAD OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS IN HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE (HIDC), WHO WERE NOT ON THE ORP FLIGHT. IN ORDER NOT TO SPLIT THE FAMILY, WE TOOK HER OFF THE LIST AND SHE WAS NOT REMOVED FROM HIDC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONE OTHER FEMALE CLAIMED ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) AFTERNOON THAT SHE WAS A LEGAL AID CASE. "BECAUSE THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INFORM US OF THOSE WHOM THEY HAVE ACCEPTED, WE HAD TO CHECK ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 19). WHEN WE CONFIRMED THAT SHE WAS A LEGAL AID CASE, SHE TOO WAS NOT REMOVED FROM HIDC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES INFORMED US YESTERDAY THAT TWO FAMILIES, COMPRISING 14 PEOPLE, WHOM THEY HAD ALREADY CLEARED FOR THE ORP FLIGHTS, COULD NOT GO BACK TO VIETNAM. THESE TWO FAMILIES HAD ALREADY LEFT HIDC ON SATURDAY.

"WE SHALL HAVE TO SEEK FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED, LAST-MINUTE CHANGE BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES," HE SAID. "BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, THEY WILL NOT BE ON THE ORP FLIGHTS."

THIS MEANS THAT 66 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WILL LEAVE ON THE TWO ORP FLIGHTS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW AND FRIDAY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SFS VISITS CHINA

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, AND STAFF OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE LEFT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) FOR BEIJING AND SHANGHAI TO VISIT THE FINANCIAL AND SECURITIES INSTITUTIONS THERE.

THE VISIT IS EXPECTED TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OFFICIALS WORKING IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR IN HONG KONG AND CHINA AND TO FOSTER ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS.

THE 10-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG NEXT THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 29).

- - - - 0 - - - -

SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE FOR NEEDY

* * * * *

SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS MAY APPLY TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL GRANTS ON TOP OF THE MONTHLY STANDARD RATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SPECIAL GRANTS, LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT AND FREE MEDICAL SERVICE WERE OFFERED TO THE RECIPIENTS IN NEED UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME.

THE SCHEME, WHICH IS ONE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, PROVIDES CASH ALLOWANCE TO BRING THE INCOME OF NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES UP TO A PRESCRIBED LEVEL SO THAT THEIR BASIC AND SPECIAL NEEDS CAN BE MET.

"A GENERAL MISCONCEPTION IS THAT A SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENT ONLY RECEIVES A MONTHLY STANDARD RATE RANGING FROM \$965 FOR AN ADULT IN A FAMILY TO \$3,400 FOR A SINGLE DISABLED CHILD IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE.

"IN FACT, SPECIAL GRANTS, SUCH AS RENT ALLOWANCE AND SCHOOL RELATED EXPENSES, WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO A SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENT IN NEED OF SUCH ASSISTANCE.

"IN ADDITION, ALL SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS ARE ENTITLED TO FREE MEDICAL SERVICE AT ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND CLINICS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WHILE THE STANDARD RATE COVERS BASIC NEEDS, SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING, AND FUEL AND LIGHT, THE RENT ALLOWANCE IS PAYABLE TO COVER ACTUAL RENT UP TO A PRESCRIBED CEILING, CURRENTLY AT \$1,118 FOR A SINGLE PERSON AND \$3,420 FOR A FAMILY OF SIX, HE SAID.

SPECIAL GRANTS ARE GIVEN ON A MONTHLY OR ONE-OFF BASIS TO COVER THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, SUCH AS TRAVELLING TO SCHOOLS OR PLACES OF WORK, SCHOOL-RELATED EXPENSES, TELEPHONE CHARGES, NURSERY FEES, AND EVEN DENTAL FILLINGS.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE CSSA CONTINUOUSLY FOR 12 MONTHS, AN ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT IS GIVEN TO MEET THE EXTRA COSTS INCURRED IN THE REPLACEMENT OF ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. AT PRESENT THE RATES ARE \$1,235 FOR A SINGLE PERSON, \$2,470 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO TO FOUR, AND \$3,705 FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A VIDEO ON VARIOUS SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WAS BROADCAST REGULARLY AT ALL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS TO GIVE THE PUBLIC BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FURTHERMORE, A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS OF CSSA CUSTOMERS IS PLACED AT ALL FIELD UNITS FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE. WITH DETAILS OF THE CSSA SCHEME, INCLUDING THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, APPLICATION PROCEDURES, TYPES OF PAYMENT, ASSISTANCE RATES AND ABSENCE RULE, THE HANDBOOK IS A USEFUL GUIDE FOR POTENTIAL AND EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PEOPLE WITH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES MIGHT APPLY FOR THE CSSA. APPLICATIONS COULD BE MADE TO A SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT BY PHONE, BY POST, IN PERSON OR THROUGH REFERRAL.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE APPLICANTS MUST HAVE LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR AND HAVE TO GO THROUGH A MEANS TEST. ABLE-BODIED ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE ON THE DEPARTMENTAL HOTLINE 343 2255 OR AT THE LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

KENNEDY TOWN LOT TO LET

* * * * *

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT SAI SEE STREET IN KENNEDY TOWN.

THE 7,450-SQUARE-METRE LOT IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR GOODS VEHICLES ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS, RENEWABLE HALF YEARLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 7.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG WEST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAINING COURSES FOR SAFE USE OF GONDOLAS

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF TRAINING COURSES BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER ON THE SAFE USE OF SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS GONDOLAS.

THESE COURSES AIM TO ENABLE WORKERS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEWLY PASSED GONDOLA SAFETY REGULATION BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT NEXT YEAR.

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS) REGULATIONS, WHICH AIMED TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION TO WORKERS, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE THIS YEAR AND WOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN JULY 1995.

- 5 -

"UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, THE OWNER OF A SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORM IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THE GONDOLA IS OF GOOD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, AND PROPERLY OPERATED," THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FACTORY INSPECTORS (TRAINING), MR MA SHI-HANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORM MUST BE TESTED AND EXAMINED BY A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER BEFORE USE AND AFTER ANY ALTERATION OR REPAIR, AND INSPECTED WEEKLY BY A COMPETENT PERSON.

"IN ADDITION, SAFETY ROPES FITTED WITH AUTOMATIC FALL-ARRESTING DEVICE MUST BE PROVIDED," HE SAID.

"EVERY WORKER WORKING ON THE GONDOLA MUST WEAR A SAFETY BELT AND KEEP IT ATTACHED TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFELINE," HE ADDED.

MR MA POINTED OUT THAT THE LAW ALSO PROHIBITS THE OPERATION OF A GONDOLA IN BAD WEATHER TO ENSURE WORKERS' SAFETY AND HEALTH.

HE URGED OWNERS OF GONDOLAS AND WORKERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH GONDOLAS TO ATTEND THE TRAINING COURSES TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 10 AND 12; NOVEMBER 18 AND 24, AND DECEMBER 22 AND 29, TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

THE TRAINING COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND ENROLMENT IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

ENROLMENT AND ENQUIRIES ON THE TRAINING COURSES CAN BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE 13TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, OR ON TEL 852 3563.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SALT WATER CUT ON TSING YI

* * * * *

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES ON TSING YI ISLAND WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) TO 7 AM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) OWING TO MAINTENANCE WORK.

- - - - 0 - - - -