



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONSTRUCTION ROPES REQUIRE TESTS
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WIRE ROPES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES SHOULD BE TESTED BEFORE BEING USED AND THEN EXAMINED EVERY SIX MONTHS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

AND LIFTING APPLIANCES USED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES WERE ALSO SUBJECTED TO THE SAME REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

DETAILS OF THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION, TEST AND EXAMINATION WERE CONTAINED IN A GUIDE TO THE REGULATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN WAS COMMENTING ON A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A BUILDING CONTRACTOR WAS FINED THE MAXIMUM OF \$10 000 FOR USING A WIRE ROPE SLING WITHOUT ENSURING THAT IT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY A COMPETENT EXAMINER WITHIN THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS.

THE OFFENCE WAS DETECTED FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE LAST MARCH IN WHICH A WORKER WAS KILLED INSIDE A CAISSON.

THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN THE WIRE ROPE SLING OF AN ELECTRIC WINCH USED FOR RAISING AND LOWERING SPOIL IN A METAL BUCKET FROM THE CAISSON SNAPPED, RESULTING IN THE BUCKET, THE PULLEY AND THE WINCH FALLING INTO THE CAISSON AND HITTING THE WORKER.

INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THE STRENGTH OF THE SLING HAD BEEN WEAKENED DUE TO PROLONGED USE.

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FORMER SEYCHELLES CHIEF JUSTICE APPOINTED DISTRICT JUDGE
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FORMER SEYCHELLES CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR LOUIS GEORGES SOUYAVE, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG LAST WEEK TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT JUDGE.

SIR GEORGES (54) WAS A BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY IN THE SEYCHELLES AFTER BEING CALLED TO THE ENGLISH BAR IN 1949.

IN 1956 HE BECAME ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND WAS APPOINTED PUISNE JUDGE IN 1964.

FOR SIX YEARS HE WAS CHIEF JUSTICE UNTIL 1976 WHEN HE BECAME RESIDENT JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT AND BRITISH JUDGE OF THE JOINT COURT OF THE CONDOMINIUM OF THE NEW HEBRIDES. HE OCCUPIED THESE POSTS UNTIL EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SIR GEORGES, MARRIED AND WITH THREE DAUGHTERS, WAS MADE A KNIGHT BACHELOR IN 1971.

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TRANSPORT CHAIRMAN SEES TRAFFIC CONGESTION

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MR T.S. LO, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, MADE AN AERIAL SURVEY OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION BLACKSPOTS DURING THE EARLY MORNING RUSH HOUR TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN A ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE HELICOPTER THEY FLEW FROM HMS TAMAR ALONG THE EASTERN ISLAND CORRIDOR, THEN TO TSIM SHA TSUI AND ALONG THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO TUEN MUN WHERE THEY LANDED TO INSPECT KOWLOON MOTOR BUS'S (KMB) BUS ASSEMBLY PLANT.

THE PLANT PRODUCES 30 NEW BUSES A MONTH.

DURING JULY AND AUGUST, 60 BUSES WILL BE ASSEMBLED AT KMB ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD., A KMB WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY WHICH OPENED IN APRIL LAST YEAR. FROM SEPTEMBER, THE DEPOT EXPECTS TO INCREASE ITS OUTPUT TO 36 BUSES A MONTH.

THE ADDITIONAL BUSES WILL BE USED TO BRING ABOUT WIDESPREAD IMPROVEMENTS TO BUS SERVICES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND TO REPLACE THE OLDER BUSES IN THE KMB FLEET.

THE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED AS PART OF AN ANNUALLY UPDATED ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, AND NEGOTIATED WITH KMB.

THE PROGRAMME PLANS TWO YEARS AHEAD AND TAKES ACCOUNT OF FUTURE CHANGES IN DEMAND, POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, AND AREAS WHERE SERVICES ARE INADEQUATE.

MOST OF THE EXTRA BUSES WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THEIR NEW POPULATION.

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE IN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS WHERE, DESPITE THE OPENING OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, CONTINUING INCREASES IN DEMAND FOR BUS SERVICES ARE PREDICTED.

BY DECEMBER 1981, THE COMPANY WILL HAVE 688 NEW BUSES TO ADD TO ITS PRESENT FLEET OF 1875.

IT TAKES JUST FIVE WEEKS FROM DELIVERY OF THE BUS PARTS TO THE DEPOT UNTIL THE COMPLETED VEHICLE IS ON THE ROAD.

THE DEPOT, WHICH EMPLOYS 200 PEOPLE, OPERATES A PRODUCTION FLOW-LINE WHICH ENABLES 24 BUSES TO BE ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE AT ONE TIME. THIS SPEEDS UP THE PROCESS AND IT USUALLY TAKES ONLY 25 TO 30 DAYS TO ASSEMBLE EACH BUS.

A COMPLETED BUS HAS TO PASS A GOVERNMENT INSPECTION BEFORE IT CAN BE LICENSED AND PUT INTO SERVICE.

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ROAD CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NEW TOWN
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A MAJOR CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACT UNDER A ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR FANLING/SHEK WU HUI NEW TOWN HAS BEEN LET BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH MORE THAN \$49.5 MILLION, WAS AWARDED TO SANG LEE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED AND WAS SIGNED BY MR GEORGE CHIEN, ACTING PROJECT MANAGER OF THE PWD'S TAI PO AND FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND MR TSANG HING-WAH OF THE COMPANY.

MR CHIEN SAID THAT THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FORMED PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO TURN FANLING AND SHEK WU HUI INTO A NEW TOWN FOR 170 000 PEOPLE.

+THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BRIDGE OVER THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND LINK ROADS TOTALLING ABOUT 1.5 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH,+ HE SAID.

+UPON COMPLETION, THE NEW BRIDGE WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING LEVEL CROSSING AT SAN FUNG AVENUE, AND WITH THE LINK ROADS, WILL FORM PART OF THE PLANNED ROAD NETWORK FOR THE FANLING/SHEK WU HUI NEW TOWN.+

THE CONTRACT, HE SAID, WOULD ALSO COVER IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO RIVER SUTLEJ WITH 350 METRES OF NEW BOX CULVERT AND 900 METRES OF NEW RIVER CHANNEL.

THE WORK, WHICH WILL START THIS WEEK AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 21 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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RISE IN PRIVATE CAR REGISTRATIONS
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THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED CARS TOPPED 179 000 AT THE END OF JULY, A RISE OF ALMOST 26 000 OR 16.7 PER CENT OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

THIS COMPARES WITH A RISE OF 20 000 LAST YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF NEW CARS REGISTERED DURING JULY WAS 3 510, AND THE NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS WHICH LAPSED WAS 965. THIS REPRESENTED A NET INCREASE OF 2 545 AND BROUGHT THE OVERALL TOTAL TO 179 204.

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SIR JACK TO ATTEND AMS ANNIVERSARY

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER WILL JOIN THE 120 OFFICERS OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE (AMS) TOMORROW (FRIDAY) NIGHT IN THEIR ANNUAL MESS DINNER AT THE FURAMA HOTEL TO CELEBRATE ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY.

THE AMS WAS FORMED IN 1950 AS PART OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICE CORPS TO AUGMENT THE MEDICAL, AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES.

TODAY, IT HAS GROWN TO A STRENGTH OF NEARLY 6 000 MEMBERS- ABOUT 1 600 OF WHOM ARE FROM THE MEDICAL FIELDS AND THE BALANCE FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE AMS HAS EXTENDED ITS SERVICE FROM THE URBAN DISTRICTS TO THE RURAL TOWNS AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS.

THE AMS MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN MANY SPHERES OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THEY ATTEND TO THE BEACHES AS LIFEGUARDS, MAN AND DRIVE AMBULANCES, AND RENDER RELIEF SERVICES IN FIRST AID, NURSING, AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF CASUALTIES.

MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS ARE DEPLOYED DAILY IN MANNING THE 20 METHADONE CENTRES, WHILE MANY OTHERS HELP RUN THE MEDICAL CENTRES IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS.

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ARTS ASSOCIATION FORMED IN NORTH NT

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AN ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN FORMED IN NORTH DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO STIMULATE CULTURAL INTEREST AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG, SAID IT WAS A NON-PROFIT MAKING BODY PROVIDING VARIOUS TRAINING COURSES AND FREE ARTS PERFORMANCES.

+WE HOPE THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BRING A RICH CULTURAL LIFE TO THE COMMUNITY AND HELP FOSTER A SENSE OF LOCAL IDENTITY,+ HE SAID.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION THE NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WILL PROVIDE \$100 000 TO FINANCE ITS PROJECTS.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS FORMED MUSIC, DRAMA, DANCE, CULTURAL AND GARDEN ARTS SUB-COMMITTEES, WILL RAISE ANOTHER \$80 000 FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS.

TRAINING COURSES BEING ORGANISED INCLUDE CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PLAYING, SINGING, DANCE, DRAMA, CHINESE PAINTING, PENMANSHIP AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

EXHIBITIONS ARE ALSO BEING ORGANISED FOR TRAINEES TO SHOW THEIR WORK.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRAINING COURSES WILL MAKE THEIR DEBUT AT A VARIETY SHOW IN OCTOBER TO MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTH DISTRICT WHICH COVERS SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING, SHEK WU HUI, TA KWU LING AND SHA TAU KOK AND INCLUDES A LARGE PART OF THE BORDER AREA.

IT BECAME A SEPARATE DISTRICT LAST OCTOBER FOLLOWING THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE FORMER TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE.

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WEATHERMAN RETIRES

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CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR LIU PING-PUI, CAN RECALL STORMY 1964 WHEN 10 TYPHOONS SWEEP THROUGH HONG KONG.

+IT WAS THE BUSIEST TYPHOON SEASON THE OFFICE EVER HAD,+ HE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) AT HIS RETIREMENT PARTY AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

FOR 33 YEARS, MR LIU HAS KEPT A VIGILANT WEATHER-EYE ON HONG KONG'S CLIMATIC CHANGES.

BESIDES ADVISING HOUSEWIVES ON WHEN TO CLOSE THEIR WINDOWS AND STOCK-UP THEIR KITCHENS, MR LIU HAS BEEN THE UNSEEN FRIEND OF FISHERMEN, YACHTSMAN, INTERNATIONAL MARINERS AND AIRLINE CREW THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER INFORMATION.

UNDER MR LIU, STAFF OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S CENTRAL FORECASTING OFFICE ISSUE REGULAR WEATHER FORECASTS THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AND THE PRESS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

WHEN MR LIU JOINED THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN 1947, THERE WERE ONLY 15 MEMBERS ON ITS STAFF.

+IN THOSE DAYS, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY OBTAINED WEATHER INFORMATION FROM SHIPS AND RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OUTSIDE HONG KONG,+ HE RECALLED.

AND SINCE THEN, HE HAS SEEN RAPID EXPANSION INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF MODERN METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIX METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN THE LAST DECADE.

+WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT SUCH AS RADAR, COMPUTER AND DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEMS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE JAPANESE GEOSTATIONARY METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE, WEATHER INFORMATION TODAY IS MORE ACCURATE WHICH, IN TURN, ENHANCES THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

MR LIU WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT GRADE IN 1962 AND IN 1965 WAS AWARDED AN MBE FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT +GREATLY IN EXCESS OF NORMAL DUTIES.+

AT HIS RETIREMENT PARTY TODAY, TRIBUTE WAS PAID TO MR LIU BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR GORDON BELL.

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR LANTAU CROSSING INVESTIGATION

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AWARDED A \$5.2 MILLION CONTRACT FOR FURTHER SITE INVESTIGATION ON THE PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING TO THE BACHY SOLETANCHE GROUP, OF FRANCE.

THE WORK, WHICH WILL PROVIDE DESIGN DATA FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT, WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON BY MR LEE SHING-SEE, ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, AND MR HENRY F. MARCHINI OF THE COMPANY.

+IF EVENTUALLY APPROVED, THE FIXED CROSSING PROJECT WILL COMPRISE TWO BRIDGES, BETWEEN TSING YI ISLAND AND MA WAN, AND OVER KAP SHUI MUN CHANNEL,+ SAID MR LEE.

+THERE WILL ALSO BE ASSOCIATED ROAD WORKS FROM TSING YI ISLAND TO THE NORTH-EASTERN PART OF LANTAU.+

HE SAID THAT THE CONSULTANTS WERE ASKED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO PROCEED WITH DETAILED DESIGN FOR THE PROJECT, AND THIS WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1982.

+THE SITE INVESTIGATION WORK UNDER TODAY'S CONTRACT WILL GIVE THE NECESSARY GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR THE DESIGN OF THE FOUNDATION STRUCTURES, THE HIGHWAY, AS WELL AS CUT AND FILL SLOPES ON THE BANKS,+ HE SAID.

+IT WILL INVOLVE THE SINKING OF A NUMBER OF DRILL HOLES BOTH VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE PROPOSED FIXED CROSSING, A LIMITED LAND BASED GEOPHYSICAL SEISMIC REFRACTION SURVEY, AND TESTING OF SOIL PROPERTIES.+

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, THE ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS GROUP, OF HONG KONG, ON BEHALF OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE PROMOTE 45 JUNIOR OFFICERS

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THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS EVER TO BE MADE AT ONCE WITHIN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TOOK PLACE TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR WALTER NEIL, PRESENTED PROMOTION LETTERS TO 45 CUSTOMS OFFICERS BEING PROMOTED TO SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

EXPRESSING HIS CONGRATULATIONS, MR NEIL TOLD THEM HE WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO PROMOTE SO MANY JUNIOR OFFICERS AT THE SAME TIME.

+THIS IS A FURTHER STEP IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE IMPROVED CAREER PROSPECTS FOR OUR CUSTOMS OFFICER GRADE, IN KEEPING WITH THE UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY OUR COMMISSIONER, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN,+ MR NEIL SAID.

MR NEIL SAID MOST OF THE PROMOTION POSTS WERE CREATED FOLLOWING AN IN-SERVICE REVIEW OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AT KAI TAK AIRPORT.

DURING AN EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD, A NUMBER OF SUPERNUMERARY SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS WERE EMPLOYED ON BAGGAGE EXAMINATION DUTIES IN PLACE OF INSPECTORS.

+THE EXPERIMENT PROVED AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS,+ SAID MR NEIL.

+NOT ONLY DID WE FIND OUR JUNIOR OFFICERS TO BE EQUAL TO THE TASK BUT, BECAUSE OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND ENTHUSIASM, THE SYSTEM PROVED EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THAT WHICH WE WERE OPERATING PREVIOUSLY.

+WE ARE ALSO NOW ABLE TO USE THE INSPECTORS IN A MORE MEANINGFUL SUPERVISORY ROLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR NEIL TOLD THE OFFICERS HE HOPED MANY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROGRESS EVEN FURTHER, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSALS FOR AN UP-TO-DATE REORGANISED SERVICE, MANNED AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH MODERN-DAY PROBLEMS AND COMMITMENTS.

+WE ARE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF CUSTOMS OFFICER RANK+, HE SAID, +AND I HAVE HIGH HOPES OF OUR BEING ABLE TO CREATE MORE POSTS AT THIS LEVEL, AND TO FURTHER INCREASE THE PROMOTION PROSPECTS OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICER GRADE.

+PLANS ARE ALSO IN HAND TO REVISE THE ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS FOR IN-SERVICE APPOINTMENT TO THE INSPECTORATE TO PROVIDE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS TO REACH HIGHER RANKS OF THE SERVICE,+ MR NEIL CONCLUDED.

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