

HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES

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DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN

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Wednesday, June 21, 1972

PRAISE FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE TO RAINSTORM DISASTER

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today paid tribute to the response of the regular and emergency services, the Army as well as members of the public to the "natural disaster that has struck us."

Speaking in the Legislative Council, he expressed sympathy to all those who had lost relatives or homes or livelihood.

Sir Yuet-keung Kan, speaking on behalf of the Unofficials, paid a warm tribute to "all those who took part in the arduous and dangerous rescue operations."

The Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. M.D.A. Clinton, speaking on behalf of Official Members, expressed their "deepest sympathy to those who have suffered from these disasters."

In his speech, the Governor said:

"Uppermost in all our minds is the natural disaster that has struck us, and I think it would be the wish of Honourable Members that I open this session by offering the sympathy of this Council to all those who have lost relatives or homes or livelihood. Our very sincere condolences go out to them in what they are suffering.

"Secondly, this Council's high tribute is due to the response of the regular and emergency services and the Army. In terms of speed and determination, and physical endurance and, where it is called for, sheer courage, it is a proud story. And let us not forget it's one that is continuing while we meet. I am sure we can count on them to finish the job as they have started it.

/"Thirdly, .....

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"Thirdly, there is the response of the public. Most have helped in whatever way was practicable. Some have given money, some food, some clothing, and others have done what they could to refresh those engaged in the work of rescue, or to shelter families or friends who have lost their homes. And much of this practical help in kind has come from the resettlement and low-cost housing estates in the disaster area.

"To this, too, I am sure that the Council would like to pay its tribute. It is such actions which make a community.

"To do what is right to alleviate suffering and hardship money will be needed. That concerns the Finance Committee of this Council, and as usual I am sure Honourable Members will do whatever needs to be done.

"The cause of all this was a major natural disaster. A lethal and practically unprecedented combination of up to 40" of rain in four days, following 35" in the previous six weeks. But we must find out exactly what it was that produced the catastrophe in these specific areas and what the circumstances were that resulted in loss of life, in each case, and whether there is not something that we can do to make sure that it does not happen again. I hope therefore that the decision to set up a commission of enquiry quickly, will commend itself to this Council.

"One word in conclusion. These days have shown again what we in this community can do in time of emergency, in terms of action and in terms of solidarity. Can we tackle with the same vigour and solidarity the long term problems which are so great? I believe that with vigorous government and the support of this Council and community we can.

"I believe this is what every one hopes we will do."

/Sir Yuet-keung Kan, .....

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Sir Yuet-keung Kan, said:

"Your Excellency, may I on behalf of the Unofficial Members of this council also express the deepest and most sincere sympathy for all those who have been so tragically affected by the disaster that had occurred last week-end. I will also like to tender a warm tribute to the Fire Services, the armed forces, the Public Works Department and government contractors, the Police, the emergency services and indeed all those who took part in the arduous and dangerous rescue operations.

"So, once again we may with good cause be proud of the selfless spirit and untiring efforts of so many members of this community in time of crisis. I feel sure that those who have suffered had gained comfort from the help and sympathy generously extended to them and in particular from the message of sympathy from Her Majesty the Queen, the deep concern you yourself, Sir, have shown and your assurance that no effort or resources will be spared by Government in tackling the tremendous problem involved.

"In so doing, Sir, I think I can speak on behalf of my Unofficial colleagues that you can rely on the full support of this Council and its Finance Committee.

"Finally, I would say that we welcome the decision to have a commission of inquiry investigate the circumstances in which the disasters occurred and make recommendations as to how such disasters may be avoided in the future. A thorough-going full-scale effort must be made to prevent the recurrence of tragedies of this kind and a commission of inquiry is an excellent starting point."

Mr. Clinton said:

"Sir, on behalf of my Official colleagues on this Council, I would also like to express our deepest sympathy to those who have suffered from these disasters.

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THUNDERSTORM RELIEF CONTINUES

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Victims of the thunderstorm so far registered with the Social Welfare Department are to receive immediately \$200 cash each as an ex gratia payment from the Community Relief Trust Fund.

The payment is to those living in Kwun Tong and other areas, including Hong Kong Island, whose homes have been destroyed.

The Director of Social Welfare, as Trustee of the Community Relief Trust Fund said today the payments recognised the particularly severe suffering caused in these areas by the series of landslides.

"They in no way affect other payments allowed victims of the disaster, such as the \$500 burial grants and the \$6,000 grants for families on the death of the chief bread-winner," he said.

Thirty-two families received burial grants from the Fund beginning today. Other burial grants will be made as soon as possible. Several families are being considered for the \$6,000 grants and payment will begin immediately after investigation.

The Director said contributions from members of the public were being received, and there would be daily statements after 4 p.m. on the total collected, as well as the allocations made from the Fund.

He urged various organisations collecting donations for the thunderstorm victims to send the money to the Fund so that it could be put to the best use on a co-ordinated basis.

So far, the chief allocation from the Fund has been \$1 million to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department for the relief of farmers suffering severe losses in livestock, crops, pond fish, dwellings and equipment.

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EXAMINATION OF BUILDING SITES BY ARCHITECTS

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The Building Authority today (Wednesday) again requested authorised architects to carefully examine all sites under their control and ensure that all safety measures necessary are taken.

A spokesman for the authority said they should immediately report any serious situation to the Buildings Ordinance Office.

In the meantime, the whole staff of the Office is committed to emergency duties. The spokesman said that there is bound to be some delay in dealing with applications currently lodged with the Office.

He appealed to all authorised architects to refrain from enquiring about the progress of these applications and from submitting further applications at this time. They would resume dealing with these applications as soon as possible.

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LEGAL AID AVAILABLE TO DISASTER VICTIMS

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Victims and their dependents who have suffered from the disasters caused by the recent rainstorms are already receiving assistance from the Government and charitable organisations to tide them over their immediate problems. More assistance will be forthcoming.

In addition, a Government spokesman today (Wednesday) reminded members of the public that victims and their dependents can apply for Legal Aid at the Legal Aid Department situated in Victoria District Court Building, Battery Path, Hong Kong, at any time during office hours - and outside office hours, by appointment by telephoning H-253862.

Any person who thinks he has a claim against any person or persons (including the Government) should make application to the Legal Aid Department. All applicants will be given advice, and where any valid legal claims appear to exist they will be given further advice and help to obtain compensation.

The Legal Aid Department was established by the Government five years ago to provide the machinery to help all needy litigants who have not sufficient assets to pay the costs and fees of Legal Practitioners to obtain justice in their claims.

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EXCHANGE FUND BORROWING POWERS INCREASED

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The Legislative Council today adopted a motion which increases the borrowing powers of the Exchange Fund to \$7,000 million. The previous increase to \$6,000 million was made in November last year.

The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, told the Council that the increased borrowing powers had been needed to bring the sterling assets of the Hong Kong banks under the umbrella of the United Kingdom sterling guarantee arrangement.

He said that during the seven months since the limit of the Fund's borrowing powers was fixed, the amount of bank controlled sterling assets covered by the guarantee arrangement had increased from £325.7 million (\$4,737.45 million) to £402.2 million (\$5,850.2 million). It therefore followed that the Exchange Fund could only borrow the equivalent of £10.3 million before the present limit on its borrowing powers was reached.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said that this balance would not last more than about three weeks at the rate of increase experienced so far this month.

He said the extent to which the additional borrowing powers would have to be used and over what period would depend on a number of fairly unpredictable factors, the main one being the buoyancy of Hong Kong's current balance of payments position.

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FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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The Director of Education, the Hon. J. Canning said today that detailed plans are being made to provide free primary education for handicapped children.

He told the Legislative Council that these would cover necessary increases in the present level of subsidies, to take effect from September 1, 1971.

Proposals should soon be submitted to the Finance Committee of Legislative Council.

Mr. Canning was replying to the Hon. H.J.C. Browne who had asked whether Government had made any decision on the introduction of free primary education for handicapped children and, if so, from what date would it become effective.

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MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

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The Government is considering a proposal to set up a semi-automatic vehicle inspection centre to cope with the regular inspection of all motor vehicles.

The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, who was replying to a question raised by the Hon. Szeto Wai in the Legislative Council, said at present there was no statutory requirement that motor vehicles should be inspected on a regular basis. But in the interest of road safety, powers should be sought to enforce such regular inspections.

Mr. Szeto had asked whether the Government would consider the installation of automatic testing equipment in its existing vehicle inspection centres to speed up testing and enable compulsory periodic inspection of all motor vehicles.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said that as it was physically impossible to expand the existing centres, consideration was being given to the setting up of a new centre, possibly a semi-automatic inspection centre.

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CIVILIAN PARKING METER ATTENDANTS

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A Working Party set up last year to examine the question of utilising civilian personnel in the Traffic Branch, and other branches of the police force, is expected to make its report later this year.

The Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. M.D.A. Clinton, said the Commissioner of Police had not yet received the findings of the Working Party but when he did, he would submit recommendations. At present it was conducting a thorough post by post examination.

He pointed out that some two years ago when the idea of traffic wardens, or more specifically parking meter attendants, was examined at official level, the proposal did not find much favour.

He said: "The position may now be rather different, and we all share the concern that suitable ways of overcoming the Force's present shortage of men be quickly found; and this is very much in mind."

Mr. Clinton was replying in Legislative Council to a question by Mr. P.C. Woo concerning the implementation of a scheme of traffic wardens who could undertake some of the duties performed by the traffic police.

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MEDICAL GRADUATES TO FILL VACANCIES

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Medical graduates from the University of Hong Kong are expected to fill most of the posts for new hospital projects and other vacancies occurring in the Medical and Health Department due to retirement and resignation over the next few years.

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. the Hon. G.H. Choa, told the Legislative Council today that 78 new medical graduates were expected to join his department as Medical and Health Officers on July 1.

Replying to a question by the Hon. Wilfred Wong, he said that at June 17 there were 181 vacancies for doctors in the department, including 50 for the new Lai Chi Kok Hospital and another 50 as leave reserves.

Dr. Choa added: "I would like to emphasise once more that our figure includes an element for the future and leave reserve purposes and does not represent the actual number of existing operational posts unfilled."

Earlier Mr. Wong had asked how many vacancies existed for doctors in the civil service and whether the number was likely to increase when the two new hospitals at Lai Chi Kok were fully operational. He also asked what steps were being taken to counteract the shortage.

The Director said the new Lai Chi Kok Hospital would now be planned and administered as one large complex consisting of a general wing and a psychiatric wing, instead of two separate hospitals.

The general wing would have an establishment of 121 posts and these would start being filled from about the middle of 1974. Fifty of these posts had been added to the present total establishment so that the department could train medical officers as they became available.

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TRIBUTE TO ASIAN BANK LEADER

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The Financial Secretary, the Hon. Philip Haddon-Cave, this afternoon paid tribute to the President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Takeshi Watanabe of Japan who has just resigned his post because of ill health.

He told the Legislative Council that the devotion with which Mr. Watanabe had discharged his onerous task of guiding the bank through its formative years and establishing for it a sound reputation -- and the success which he had achieved -- could hardly be over emphasised.

Mr. Haddon-Cave added: "If his health permits, it is the Hong Kong Government's wish to welcome Mr. Watanabe here to perform the signing ceremony for our first loan agreement before his retirement takes effect."

Moving the second reading of the Loans (Asian Development Bank) Bill, the Financial Secretary said that although the immediate purpose of the legislation was to authorise the loan for the desalting plant, it had been drafted in such a way that any further loans, which might be negotiated with the bank, would not require the enactment of further ordinances. Instead they could be authorised by resolutions of the Legislative Council.

The loan for the desalting plant is to be made available in various currencies equivalent to a total of US\$21.5 million, and will be used to finance a substantial proportion of the foreign exchange cost of the 40-million-gallon-a-day desalter.

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MORE STAFF FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT

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Arrangements are being made to settle immediately a request by the Commissioner of Registration of Persons for more staff to deal with applications for certificates of registered particulars.

This was stated today by the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. M.D.A. Clinton, in the Legislative Council in reply to the Hon. P.C. Woo, who had asked whether the Government would take steps to expedite dealing with the backlog of such applications.

Mr. Clinton said the Commissioner asked for additional staff in November last year. In the meantime, he added, there had been over-long argument as to the number of reinforcements.

"I am arranging for his request to be settled at once," he said.

At present, Mr. Clinton said, the backlog of applications for certificates of registered particulars stands at 1,792.

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SUBVENTIONS FOR NON-PROFIT DAY NURSERIES?

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The Social Welfare Advisory Committee will consider the question of financial assistance for non-profit making day nurseries run by voluntary agencies at its meeting early next month.

Proposals will be made to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. M.D.A. Clinton, told the Legislative Council this afternoon that the government was aware of the need to provide additional social welfare subventions to these nurseries to meet increases in operational costs, to improve standards and to extend facilities.

He said the Social Welfare Department, in consultation with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service had been reviewing the level of assistance considered appropriate.

Mr. Clinton was replying to a question by Mr. P.C. Woo who had asked whether the government would consider increased subventions to these organisations in view of the rapid rise in operational costs.

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DELAY IN INTRODUCING ACCOUNTANTS BILL

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The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, today attributed the delay in introducing the Accountants Bill into the Legislative Council to "technical difficulties over the translation and use of the terms 'accountant' and 'practising accountant' in Chinese."

The Hon. H.J.C. Browne had asked when legislation would be introduced for the Hong Kong Society of Accountants.

The Financial Secretary said: "We are at present trying to sort out these difficulties, in conjunction with the working party of practising accountants."

He hoped that it would be possible to find "a reasonable solution acceptable to all" and that the Bill could be referred to the Executive Council for advice as to whether it should be introduced into the Legislative Council in the very near future.

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FIRST CENSUS REPORT PUBLISHED

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The first detailed report of the 1971 population and housing census has been published and is now on sale.

The publication entitled 'Census Basic Tables' was prepared by computer from the questionnaires completed by census enumerators and gives detailed information on the persons and households recorded during the census.

In an introduction, the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr. K.W.J. Topley, says the aim is to make it possible for important attributes of the population measured by the census to be seen and compared within 20 tables. These include its size and distribution by age and sex, educational attainments, languages spoken and the fertility of women.

The methods by which the census was carried out and more detailed analysis of the results will be discussed in further reports to be published later in the year.

A booklet in English and Chinese showing the main results of the census in coloured diagrams and charts will also be published soon.

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BOGUS LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

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The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. David Lin Hou-fu, today warned the proprietors of factories to be on their guard against people claiming to be Labour Department officers.

In the past few weeks several proprietors had complained that a man who said he was a Labour Department official had sought money for advertisements in a departmental publication.

Mr. Lin said: "No Labour Department officer is authorized to solicit money for any purpose whatsoever and no publication issued by the Department carries any advertisement."

He urged any proprietor who is asked for money by anyone purporting to be a member of the Labour Department to report the matter immediately, either to the nearest police station or to the Senior Labour Officer (Industry), telephone number K-688842.

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LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

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One-hundred-and-thirty workers of the Elling Engineering Company Limited have received \$170,000 in outstanding wages with the help of the Labour Relations Service.

The dispute was effectively resolved because the workers made an early report to the Labour Department when the management of the shipyard company was unable to pay wages for the month of May.

A joint meeting was held in the Labour Relations Service (Hong Kong) and a visit was made by an officer to the shipyard resulting in the settlement.

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RE-ROUTING OF THOMSON ROAD

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The Transport Department announced today that with effect from 10 a.m. on Friday (June 23), the section of Thomson Road between Fleming Road and Johnston Road, Wan Chai will be re-routed one-way from west to east.

The re-routing has been made in connection with the installation of a new set of traffic lights in the vicinity.

Appropriate traffic signs will be set up to guide motorists.

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LEGISLATION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

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The Attorney General, the Hon. D.T.E. Roberts, said today that it would be wise to study how legislation empowering the Courts in England to make Community Service Orders worked before deciding whether it was desirable to make similar provision in Hong Kong.

The Attorney General was replying in the Legislative Council to the Hon. Wilson Wang, who asked: "Will Government introduce legislation to enable the Courts of the Colony to make Community Service Orders whenever such an order is considered to be a penalty appropriate to an offence or the offender?"

Mr. Roberts said the English bill was introduced into Parliament last year, but he had not been able to find out if it had been enacted.

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PASSING OUT PARADE

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A member of the Legislative Council, Mr. Oswald Cheung, will take the salute at the passing out parade of 15 Assistant Immigration Officers and nine Immigration Assistants on Friday (June 23).

The parade will be held at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment parade ground in Sports Road, Happy Valley, starting at 9.30 a.m.

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Note to editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to have the event covered.

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WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Celebrations To Mark 12th Anniversary

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The Social Welfare Department's Wong Tai Sin Community Centre will mark its 12th anniversary tomorrow (Thursday) with a programme designed to please all ages. The centre looks after the cultural and recreational needs of thousands of residents in the area, both young and old.

The main celebration ceremony will be at the centre tomorrow. A highlight will be a variety show which will throw the spotlight on the talents of members of the community centre. The show will feature a Chinese folk song, an Oriental dance, a harmonica solo, Chinese music and an excerpt from a well-known Cantonese opera.

There will also be a presentation of volunteer awards by elected Urban Councillor, Mr. Peter C.K. Chan, and other awards to different members for their enthusiasm in community service by the centre's Warden, Mr. Basil Leung.

A second variety show is planned for Friday (June 23) to include drama, boxing, karate, judo and guitar music. The celebrations will end on Sunday (June 25) with a beach party at Cafeteria Bay, New Territories.

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Note to editors: You are invited to have all these anniversary celebrations covered. The variety shows begin at 8 p.m., the barbecue 1.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Seven bills passed their committee stage and third readings in Legislative Council this afternoon and became law.

They were the Evidence (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Judicial Proceedings (Adjournment During Gale Warnings) (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Pensions (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Bill 1972; the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972, and the Tramway (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972.

Debate resumed on the second reading of the Tramway (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972.

Two other Bills had their first and second readings. They were the Loans (Asian Development Bank) Bill 1972, and the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) Bill 1972.

The Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill 1972 had its first reading and debate on the second reading was adjourned.

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LEGCO MEETING PROCEEDINGS

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Note to Editors: Proceedings of this afternoon's Legislative Council meeting have been recorded. You are welcome to listen to the tapes at the Press Room, G.I.S.

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EMERGENCY RESCUE OPERATIONS EXPLAINED

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A pre-determined emergency plan for carrying out rescue operations is put into immediate action whenever a natural disaster or major fire occurs in Hong Kong.

Explaining this today, a Fire Services spokesman said that the plan had enabled prompt action to be taken to initiate rescue measures at the scene of the landslide disasters at Kotewall Road and the Sau Mau Ping resite area Kwun Tong.

Under the emergency plan, the most senior fire officer to arrive at the scene, whatever his rank, takes command of operations, and assesses the seriousness of the situation.

When a disaster alarm is necessary, the Director of Fire Services or his deputy take over control of rescue operations, and obtains whatever assistance is necessary from other organisations, such as Police, military, various government departments and auxiliary services.

All rescue units come under Fire Services control, which maintains a mobile command unit at the scene.

The Fire Services spokesman said that, at the scene of a disaster, it was quite natural for onlookers to form the opinion that not enough was being done to carry out rescue operations.

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"This is because people are looking at the situation with inexperienced eyes, and they do not appreciate that any rescue work must proceed with care to prevent further injury being caused to any potential survivors," he added.

Conditions at the scene dictated the number of rescue workers who could be in action at any one time, and others had to be kept standing by to relieve them, or to operate any special equipment that may be needed.

"Our aim is always to save as many lives as possible, and this has been the main consideration throughout the present rescue operations," the spokesman said.

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POLLUTION PROBLEMS OF OIL REFINERY

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The Hon. K.S. Lo said today that Lamma Island should ideally be reserved for residential and recreational use, as it was close to Hong Kong and could be reached by ferry in less than 15 minutes.

He was speaking in an adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on the matter of a proposed oil refinery at Lamma Island.

Mr. Lo said:

"Apart from its scenic views and abundance of beaches it has provided a valuable ground for local archaeologists.

"It is probably the only island of any size where the future overflow of population from Hong Kong Island itself can be contained."

For this reason Mr. Lo urged that Government should examine all the implications very carefully before deciding whether to allow an oil refinery to be set up on Lamma Island. It was a well-known fact that the nuisance of an oil refinery is far greater than that of any other industry.

Government should therefore pass all the necessary legislation for the control of air and water pollution before it grants the licence, he said. It should also make certain that it has the practical means of enforcing those regulations.

Mr. Lo said that the main pollution problems were caused by smell, smoke, sulphur dioxide and liquid waste discharge.

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"All crude oil smells," he said. The smell from oil refineries was the biggest air pollution problem. If set up on Lamma, the south side of Hong Kong from the Peak down to Pokfulam and Deep Water Bay would be affected by this obnoxious odour. This would cause complaints from the residents and would also downgrade the property values.

Mr. Lo said liquid waste discharge contained various minerals which would poison marine life in the waters surrounding the plant. Poisoned fish could poison the people who ate them. It was therefore necessary to insist upon controls for the disposal of the effluent.

It had been stated that an oil refinery will bring economic benefits to Hong Kong. Mr. Lo wanted Government to state how much labour would be employed and how much revenue would be received. "How would this revenue weigh against the potential revenue which would be gained from selling the land for private residential development?" he asked.

Although an oil refinery might be of benefit to Hong Kong in the event of the disruption of oil supplies from overseas it could also invite outside trouble.

Finally Mr. Lo queried whether the oil refinery could not more suitably be located on Tsing Yi Island where permission had already been given for one oil refinery. The water at Tsing Yi Island was deeper although the site formation work would be more expensive. "Should we sacrifice public interest for the sake of saving some capital expenditure for a private oil company?" Mr. Lo asked.

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"Since a decision of this nature will have grave consequences and wide impact for the life of the future generation I request Government to give it its most careful consideration," he said.

"Every citizen has the right to enjoy his home without being subjected to nuisance," Mr. Lo concluded. Government should therefore exercise the utmost care and legislate in advance to protect the citizen's basic rights under the common law.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON RECENT RAINSTORM DISASTERS

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Note to editors: The Director of Fire Services, Mr. A.E.H. Wood will hold a press conference tomorrow on the subject of the recent rainstorm disasters.

The press conference will take place at 3 p.m. in the G.I.S. 16 mm Theatre, Beaconsfield House, 5th floor.

Mr. Yeap Kwok-hung, Principal Staff Officer of the Fire Services Department, will be present to answer questions in Chinese.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to attend the press conference.

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BENEFITS FROM OIL REFINERY

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The District Commissioner, New Territories, the Hon. D.C. Bray, said today that an oil refinery would represent "a very large capital investment - and a corresponding demonstration of confidence - in Hong Kong by a major international company."

Mr. Bray was speaking in an adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on the matter of a proposed oil refinery at Lamma Island raised by the Hon. K.S. Lo.

He said an oil refinery could bring benefits to Hong Kong, both in the form of direct revenue, if it was decided to make a levy on aspects of the refinery operation, and indirect spin-off benefits such as the repair of tankers serving the refinery.

There was also the question of the reserve supply of fuel which would become available, he said.

There was a need, he said, for Hong Kong to safeguard against any interruption in normal supplies and "an oil refinery would be of very real assistance in enabling us to keep such stocks."

Mr. Bray said that pollution, provided certain things were done, did not prohibit the construction of an oil refinery.

The District Commissioner said it was possible to build a modern oil refinery to environmental standards which were better than the overall Colony standards in respect of air pollution and water pollution caused by effluent from the refinery itself.

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However, he said, to ensure this depended first on setting design standards for the construction of the refinery which reduced air and water pollution to negligible levels.

To do this would be expensive, he said, "but oil companies these days are extremely sensitive to environmental considerations and it is of course also in their interests to ensure that as little crude oil or vapour as possible escapes from the refinery."

Secondly, he said, it was of the greatest importance that the management of the refinery, once it was built, was at all times pollution conscious so that the highest standards were maintained, both by the refinery operators and tanker captains.

"What is more difficult to guard against is an accidental spillage of oil at the wharf when tankers are off-loading crude oil or the product carriers are loading product," Mr. Bray said.

This could happen however carefully designed and operated the refinery was, he said.

"It is essential," he said, "to have the latest and most effective large-scale ready-use equipment constantly available to contain any such spillage."

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TUNG WAH MEDICAL STAFF TO GET SAME SALARY SCALES  
AS GOVERNMENT DOCTORS, NURSES

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Doctors, nurses and other medical staff of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals are to get the same pay as their counterparts in Government service.

The Government announced tonight that it has accepted, in principle, the application of equal salary scales for the staff of the Medical Section of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council had earlier this afternoon accepted the financial implications of the increased salaries, which will be back-dated to April 1 this year.

The financial commitment is expected to be in the order of \$8½ million a year.

The Government decision on equal salary scales for the medical staff of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals follows a comprehensive study of comparative qualifications and responsibilities of staff in the Group's hospitals with those of similar staff in Government service.

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Release Time: 9.00 p.m.