



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Friday, August 2, 1996

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/Water treatment



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Survey on telephone need of elderly

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The Social Welfare Department will launch a four-month survey next Monday (August 5) on telephone requirement by single elderly people who are receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA).

Announcing this today (Friday), the Assistant Director of Social Welfare, Mrs Rachel Cartland, said the purpose of the survey was to reach out to some 40,000 single elderly CSSA recipients who had not applied for grant to meet telephone charges.

She pointed out that under the CSSA Scheme, elderly recipients who need a telephone are eligible to receive a special grant to cover the installation and recurrent costs.

"However, many eligible recipients have not in fact applied for this grant and the experience of the cold spell earlier this year suggested that elderly people living alone are not always aware of the importance of effective communication in an emergency," she said.

"So before the cold weather begins we will aim to contact all our single elderly recipients who are not already receiving the grant to encourage and assist them to apply for it," she added.

During the next few months, staff of the Social Security Field Units will contact the elderly people either by visits or telephone to assess their need.

The visits, she said, would be carried out on weekdays, mostly during day time.

"The staff will also take the opportunity to introduce to them the networking service for the elderly and the grant available for an emergency alarm system for those in special need," Mrs Cartland said.

The whole exercise is expected to be completed by the end of November.

To avoid imposters, Mrs Cartland called on elderly people to take heed of the following advice:

- (a) Do not allow a caller into your home until he has proved his identity;

- (b) SWD staff will prove their identity by showing a Hong Kong Government Identity Card with the holder's name, photograph and identifying his or her office in the Social Welfare Department;
- (c) Check this Identity Card but if you still have any doubts about the caller contact the Social Security Field Unit concerned or the SWD hotline on 2343 2255;
- (d) Never give anyone claiming to be SWD staff money or valuables. Do not go with the caller to draw money from your bank account. Genuine SWD staff will never make such a request. If a caller claiming to be SWD staff makes such a request you should contact the Police, any Social Security Field Unit or the SWD hotline.

End

Land resumption in Sheung Wan

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The Lands Department announced today (Friday) plans to resume 797.5 square metres of land at Queen's Road West and Queen Street in Sheung Wan.

The land will be resumed under the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance for the implementation of a development scheme by the Land Development Corporation (LDC).

Details of the land lots affected are contained in the Government Gazette published today.

A Government spokesman said that the Government was satisfied that the LDC had taken all reasonable steps to acquire these interests on terms that were fair and reasonable, as required by the LDC Ordinance.

"A total of 28 interests in Heung Hing Lane, Ko Shing Street, Pan Kwai Lane, Queen's Road West, Tsung Sau Lane East and Tsung Sau Lane West will revert to the Government when the Resumption Notice expires in three months' time.

"Owners and tenants affected may make statutory claims under the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance and, if the claim cannot be settled by agreement, may apply to the Lands Tribunal for adjudication.

"Eligible domestic occupiers will be offered rehousing or ex-gratia cash allowance in lieu of rehousing by LDC," he said.

The spokesman added that upon completion of the resumption and clearance, a total of about 8,010 square metres of land would be granted by land exchange to the LDC for redevelopment.

The site will be developed as multi-storey residential and commercial buildings with Government/Institution/Community facilities including a hostel for single persons, a care and attention home, a day nursery, a multi-service centre for the elderly and a hostel for the moderately mentally handicapped persons.

"A public open space with an area of about 1,200 square metres will also be provided for environmental improvement," he said.

End

Consultation on proposed regulation of Internet materials

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Comments and views on the Government's proposed measures to control materials transmitted on the Internet should be sent to the Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Branch before the consultation period ends next Saturday (August 10).

"The proposals are contained in a paper which was published on July 10 for consultation with Internet Services Providers (ISPs)," a spokesman for the Branch said today (Friday). These include:

- * the introduction of a self-regulatory scheme, which encompasses the promulgation of a code of practice and the institution of a complaints handling mechanism by a self-regulatory body with members drawn from the industry;
- * the amendment to the law to establish beyond doubt that obscene and indecent materials transmitted on the Internet should be brought within the ambit of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance; and
- * the setting up of an industry body to represent the interests of ISPs and to liaise with the Government on industry-wide issues; such a body can also help to develop, maintain and enforce any code of practice adopted by industry members.

"The paper can be obtained from our office on 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong, or from the Government Home Page on the Internet (<http://www.info.gov.hk/>)," the spokesman added.

Submissions should be sent to the Branch by fax 2511 1458 or by e-mail, rcbase2@hkstar.com.

End

Registration of new rice stockholders invited

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The Trade Department is inviting applications for the registration of new rice stockholders.

Announcing this today (Friday), the Director-General of Trade, Mr Alan Lai, said that the Department intended to register no less than four additional rice stockholders and allocate each with about eight to ten units.

Rice in Hong Kong is subject to control under a Rice Control Scheme. Under the Scheme, the quantity of rice to be imported into Hong Kong per quarter for local consumption is subject to a quota which is divided into 1,000 units, each representing 90 tonnes of rice. Out of the 1000 units, 960 units have already been allocated to 45 rice stockholders with the remaining 40 units are available for allocation.

"As part of Government's plan to open up the rice trade in Hong Kong, more new rice stockholders, initially no less than four, will be introduced. This is to enhance competition in the rice trade, and we believe that addition of newcomers should be beneficial to consumers in the long run," Mr Lai said.

Those who wish to apply for registration may obtain the application form from the Trade Department's Reserved Commodities Section, Room 401, 4th floor, Trade Department Tower, Mong Kok, Kowloon.

No application will be considered unless each of the application criteria, as briefly listed below, is satisfied:

- * the applicant is registered with the Business Registration Office;
- * it must have capital of not less than HK\$4 million;

- * it must have an annual turnover of business of not less than HK\$15 million in the past three years;
- * it must have bank credits of not less than HK\$6 million for trading in rice; and
- * it has made contact with an overseas supplier capable of supplying rice on a continuous basis.

Mr Lai reminded that applications must be lodged with the Trade Department on or before September 20, 1996.

End

Commissioner of Insurance appointed

* * * * *

The Government today (Friday) announced the appointment of Mr Alan Wong Chi-kong as the Commissioner of Insurance with effect from tomorrow. Following is the biographic note of Mr Wong:

Mr Alan Wong Chi-kong, JP

Aged 41. Mr Wong joined the Government in 1979 as an Administrative Officer and was promoted to his present rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in January 1995.

Since joining the Administrative Service, Mr Wong had served in various policy branches and departments, including the Home Affairs Branch, Civil Service Branch, the then New Territories Services Department, City and New Territories Administration and Recreation and Culture Branch. He had also served as District Officer (Yuen Long), Commissioner for Rehabilitation and Deputy Secretary-General of the former University and Polytechnic Grants Committee. He had been a Deputy Secretary for Trade & Industry since October 1994.

End

Land Registry announces new performance pledges

* * * * *

The Land Registry, stepping into its fourth year of operation as a trading fund, announced its new performance pledges for 1996/97.

Speaking at the Land Registry Trading Fund's third anniversary reception yesterday (Thursday), the Land Registrar, Mr Kenneth Pang, said that the Land Registry had had another successful year in meeting its performance targets and delivering quality service to customers.

Mr Pang attributed the success to staff dedication and teamwork as well as the Registry's commitment to automate its services by utilising modern technology .

"With the introduction of on-line land search Direct Access Services in September 1994, and the optical-based Document Imaging System in July this year, the Land Registry has made significant progress in automating its land registration and search services," he said.

In addition to enhancing the performance targets of existing pledges to 97 per cent, new performance pledges had been drawn up for the Direct Access Services and the Registry's telephone enquiry services, said Mr Pang.

Copies of a pamphlet listing the Registry's new performance pledges are now available at all offices of the Land Registry and the District Offices.

Mr Pang also announced that, as a continuing commitment to improving services to customers, a new Central Search Office on the 19th floor of the Registry's Queensway Government Offices would be opened this month.

"This office will centralise, by phases, all land search services at the Urban Land Registry on a single floor and will provide a convenient 'one-stop' search service to customers," he added.

End

Performance pledge targets met with good results

* * * * *

The Lands Department had met its performance targets introduced in November last year successfully, the Director of Lands, Mr Bob Pope, said today (Friday).

Speaking at the department's prize presentation ceremony for sports and staff motivation competitions, Mr Pope said 1995 was a challenging and fruitful year for the department.

"The various sports and staff motivation competitions were organised to encourage staff's involvement in the department's Vision and Mission Statement and to instil a greater sense of belonging," he said.

Mr Pope later presented prizes to winners of the badminton competition, table-tennis competition, best results in processing building plans competition, best work aids design competition, best achievement in performance pledges competition and best customer service slogan competition.

End

Employment agencies must be licensed

* * * * *

The Employment Agencies Administration of the Labour Department had conducted investigation into recent reports of tuition centres charging students a registration fee of \$20 to \$30 for introducing them to work as private tutors.

Tuition centres would be regarded as employment agencies if their work involves arranging job-seekers to be employed by the students' parents, or in recruiting tutors for the parents. They should therefore apply for an employment agency licence and must comply with Part XII of Employment Ordinance.

"Operators have to apply for employment agency licence from the Labour Department at least one month before starting the recruitment business. Employment agencies with branch office are also required to apply for a duplicate licence for each branch office. The licence fee is \$1,400 for a main office and \$280 for a branch office," Labour Officer (Employment Agencies Administration), Miss Corrina Cheng, said today (Friday).

"Under the Employment Agency Regulations, an employment agency can only charge a successful job-seeker a commission of not more than 10 per cent of his first month's salary. Charging any other fees, such as processing fee or registration fee, is strictly prohibited," she said.

Operating an unlicensed employment agency or overcharging a job-seeker is an offence under the Employment Ordinance. The maximum penalty for each offence is \$50,000.

An updated list of employment agencies in Hong Kong is available for public reference at the Employment Agencies Administration on 12th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central.

Enquiries and complaints on the operation of employment agencies can be made to the Employment Agencies Administration in person or by telephone on 2852 3535.

End

Record fine for employing Two-Way Permit visitor

* * * * *

A restaurant operator was fined \$50,000 for employing a Chinese Two-Way Permit visitor, an Immigration Department spokesman said today (Friday).

The defendant was convicted of being the employer of a person not lawfully employable and was sentenced at Western Magistracy today.

The sentence marked a record high penalty for offence in relation to being the employer of a person not lawfully employable, the spokesman added.

Immigration officers took over the case after the police raided the restaurant located at Wan Chai on September 26, 1995 where a Two-Way Permit visitor was found working at the restaurant.

The arrested person admitted that he had been working at the said restaurant as a waiter since July 23, 1995 earning daily wage of HK\$300. He was charged for breaching his condition of stay and was sentenced to two months imprisonment suspended for two years on September 29, 1995.

The Immigration Department spokesman warned that it is an offence in law for anyone to employ someone who is not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$350,000 and three years' imprisonment.

"Visitors are not allowed to take up employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration," said the spokesman.

"Those who breach the conditions of stay are liable to prosecution and upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for two years," the spokesman added.

End

Tender for rural improvement works

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The Home Affairs Department is inviting tenders for a package of minor rural improvement works to be carried out under the Rural Planning & Improvement Strategy.

The package comprises the following eight projects:-

- (i) Widening of a footpath at Sai Wan, Cheung Chau,
- (ii) Paving and Surface Drains for Sheung Shui Village Expansion Area Phase I, Po Sheung Tsuen, Sheung Shui,
- (iii) Reconstruction of a footbridge at Ho Sheung Heung, Sheung Shui,
- (iv) Reconstruction of a footbridge at Ho Chung, Sai Kung,
- (v) Reconstruction of two footbridges adjacent to Pak Tam Road at Tsak Yue Wu, Sai Kung,
- (vi) Reconstruction of a footbridge at Pak Ah, Sai Kung,
- (vii) Reconstruction of Existing Vehicular Bridge at Sung Shan San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long,

- (viii) Reconstruction of Existing Vehicular Bridge and Van Track at Cheung Ngau Shan, Yuen Long.

Construction is expected to commence in October 1996 and will take 12 months to complete. Upon completion of the works, it will improve the roads in these areas.

The works have been designed and construction will be supervised by the Consulting Engineer, Mouchel Asia Limited.

The tender notice was gazetted today (Friday).

End

Construction of treatment and disposal facilities

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of sludge treatment and disposal facilities at the Aberdeen, Eastern and Redhill Water Treatment Works.

The project will include construction of six sludge thickening tanks, three sludge holding tanks and ancilliary works.

Construction will commence in November this year for completion in about 12 months.

On completion of the project, the disposal of waterworks sludge from the water treatment works will comply with the requirements of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance especially regarding the suspended solids content.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the office of Montgomery Watson Hong Kong Limited, 1911 Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

The deadline for tender offers is noon on September 13.

End

Water treatment plant planned for north-west NT

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The Government plans to build water treatment and water transfer facilities in Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long to ensure the supply of treated water for developments in north-west New Territories particularly the 20 hectares reserved land bank in Tin Shui Wai.

The project, estimated to cost about \$2.5 billion, will include the construction of a water treatment plant and other associated facilities, a primary service reservoir, a raw water pumping station, a treated water pumping station, a service road, a 500-metre long raw water tunnel and the laying of 3,600-metre long pumping and delivery mains to join the trunk mains in Castle Peak Road.

Construction work will commence in November this year for completion in about 30 months.

To enable the works to be carried out, the Government will need to resume 58 private agricultural lots with a total area of over 41,320 square metres in Ngau Tam Mei.

Details of the land lots affected are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Plans of the affected area can be inspected at the Yuen Long District Lands Office, ninth floor, Yuen Long Government Offices and Tai Kiu Market, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories.

End

Tenders invited for slope upgrading work

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for upgrading 30 slopes and retaining walls throughout the territory under its Accelerated Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) programme.

The works are expected to start in early November for completion in 24 months.

Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the department's Geotechnical Engineering Office, Mr Allan Watkins, said the contract would be the tenth to be offered under the five-year Accelerated LPM Programme which commenced in April last year.

"A total of six contracts which involve the upgrading of about 140 slopes and retaining walls will be let this year," he said.

"Under the Accelerated LPM Programme, upgrading works to government-owned man-made slopes in the 1977 Slope Catalogue will be speeded up.

"Studies of private slopes and retaining walls have also been accelerated considerably and over 300 slopes will be studied in the current fiscal year.

"A statutory notice will be served by the Buildings Department requiring owners to carry out upgrading works if a slope or a retaining wall is identified by the studies as not meeting the required standards."

Tender forms for the slope upgrading works contract and further particulars can be obtained from the office of Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Works, Geotechnical Engineering Office, LG1 floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101, Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 30.

End

Proposed works for infrastructure in Tung Chung

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The Territory Development Department has proposed a series of road and drainage works in Tung Chung on Lantau Island to support proposed private housing development and community facilities there.

Works will involve construction of about four kilometres of roads including a vehicular bridge, a pedestrian and cycle bridge, footpaths and cycle tracks, amenity areas, drainage system and other ancillary works.

Construction will start in March next year for completion in 30 months.

Appropriate traffic and pedestrian accesses will be maintained during the construction to minimise inconvenience to the public.

Details of the proposed works are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Plans can be inspected at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of Central and Western District Office, the Islands District Office and the Islands District Lands Office at Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; and at the Mui Wo Sub-office of the Islands District Lands Office, ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices, 2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road, Lantau Island.

Any person who wishes to object to the works should submit a written objection to the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong not later than Tuesday, October 1, 1996.

End

Tenders for mainlaying in Kowloon South

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The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the mainlaying works to improve the fresh water distribution system in Kowloon South and the salt water flushing system in Kowloon Central area.

The contract will include the laying of about 4.4 kilometres of fresh water mains and 0.6 kilometre of salt water mains in Kowloon South.

Works will commence in November this year for completion in about 22 months.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, 44th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 23.

End

Reprovisioning of fire services installation at Stonecutters

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The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for the reprovisioning of fire service installations at the Stonecutters Island Explosives Depot.

The project comprises the replacement of the existing sea water street hydrant system and the installation of fire alarms to existing buildings at the depot.

Works will start in October this year for completion in April 1997.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the TBV Consult Asia Ltd, 20th floor, East Asia Aetna Tower, 308 Des Voeux Road Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.

Tender offers will close at noon on August 23.

End

Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund for overseas studies

* * * * *

The Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund Council today (Friday) hosted a sending-off party at the China Club to congratulate and bid farewell to an outstanding group of Hong Kong students who under the Fund have been awarded either fellowships or scholarships to pursue their overseas studies.

The Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund (SEYMF) was established in April 1987 with public donation to commemorate the late Hong Kong Governor Sir Edward Youde. The purpose of the Fund is to provide for and encourage the education or learning of, or research by, the people of Hong Kong.

Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowships & Scholarships for Overseas Studies and Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowship/Scholarship for Disabled Students are two of the seven major existing award schemes instituted and administered by the SEYMF Council.

Appropriate traffic and pedestrian accesses will be maintained during the construction to minimise inconvenience to the public.

Details of the proposed works are contained in the Government Gazette published today (Friday).

Plans can be inspected at the Public Enquiry Service Centre of Central and Western District Office, the Islands District Office and the Islands District Lands Office at Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; and at the Mui Wo Sub-office of the Islands District Lands Office, ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices, 2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road, Lantau Island.

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Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowships & Scholarships for Overseas Studies and Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowship/Scholarship for Disabled Students are two of the seven major existing award schemes instituted and administered by the SEYMF Council.

The schemes aim at encouraging the achievement of scholastic excellence by Hong Kong students in overseas studies leading to a postgraduate degree or undergraduate studies leading to a first degree and financing an outstanding disabled Hong Kong student for overseas postgraduate/undergraduate studies. For 1996-97, thirteen awards including one to a disabled student are offered for overseas postgraduate and undergraduate studies.

During the period 1988/89 to 1995/96, a total of 39 fellowships and 45 scholarships including two for disabled students have been granted. Many of the fellows and scholars who have studied overseas have now returned to contribute towards the betterment of Hong Kong. They have formed the Sir Edward Youde Scholars Association with the objectives to promote solidarity, scholarship and social awareness among its members.

End

21-Gun Salute to mark birthday of Queen Mother

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The Royal Navy patrol craft, HMS Plover, will fire a 21-Gun Salute on Monday (August 5) to mark the birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Mother. The Salute, the last one scheduled to be fired in 1996, will begin at precisely 12 noon. It will be fired as HMS Plover steams through Victoria Harbour between Central and Tsim Sha Tsui.

The Gun Salute can be best viewed from the shore from the waterfront at Queen's Pier, or from the approach road to the Outlying Islands ferry piers. Alternative sites include the waterfront road, east of Fenwick Pier, Wan Chai North.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,918	0930	+41
Closing balance in the account	2,352	1000	+41
Change attributable to :		1100	+41
Money market activity	+34	1200	+38
LAF today	+400	1500	+43
		1600	+34

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.7 *-0.1* 2.8.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.04	2 years	2805	6.30	100.35	6.18
1 month	5.07	3 years	3907	6.80	100.74	6.63
3 months	5.23	5 years	5106	7.23	100.62	7.20
6 months	5.40	7 years	7305	7.60	101.14	7.52
12 months	5.72	5 years	M502	7.30	100.27	7.35

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,896 million

Closed August 2, 1996

End