

**HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**

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**DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN**

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Friday, July 7, 1972

**MORE POWERS FOR CLEARING CROWN LAND**

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Strong powers to discourage dumping and to clear Crown land have been included in a Bill to be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly.

A Government spokesman said today that dumping on Crown land and its illegal use for storage are a major problem. Chai Wan and Kowloon Bay reclamations are examples of places where serious problems have arisen.

However, under the Crown Land Bill 1972, the authorities will be empowered to serve notices requiring unlawful occupation of Crown land to cease within a specified period.

If the notice is not complied with, the authority may remove trespassers from the land and take possession of any property on it. Failure to comply with such a notice will be an offence.

The spokesman said: "This simple procedure is considered to be fair to the owners of goods, who will be given an opportunity of removing them before the Government clears the land and ownership of the goods reverts to the Crown.

He said an important change from the existing law was that unlawful occupation of Crown land would no longer in itself be a criminal offence.

/The remedy .....

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The remedy would be either civil proceedings for trespass or action under the new Bill, he added.

Similarly, the offence of encroaching on Crown land is abolished and encroachments will be treated as a form of unlawful occupation of Crown land. However, it is necessary to retain as an offence the practice of extracting or removing earth, turf or stone except under a permit.

The Bill also deals with the control of excavations in unleased Crown land and the revesting of certain private streets in the Crown.

Thus a simple procedure is introduced in the bill for vesting in the Crown a private street which the owners are bound by agreement to surrender to the Crown free of cost when called upon to do so.

"At present, some practical difficulties are encountered in taking a surrender," the spokesman said, "if the ownership of any such street has been sub-divided."

The spokesman said these provisions would help towards solving the problems posed by a number of private streets, which need to be taken over by the Government in the public interest.

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REVISED TERMS FOR INQUIRY COMMISSION

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The Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into the recent rainstorm disasters has decided to confine its investigations principally to the landslides which resulted in loss of life, with particular reference to Sau Mau Ping and Po Shan Road.

Originally it was intended that the Commission should look into all landslides which had resulted in death and or loss of property. But because this would include many of the recent landslides and considerably extend the length and scope of the inquiry, the changes have been introduced.

In a statement today the Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Mo Yiu-chor, said that although the emphasis would be on the two major disasters, the Commission would still consider other landslides only so far as they would enable it to make recommendations on how such disasters may be avoided in the circumstances of Hong Kong and its climate.

Meanwhile the public hearing on the Sau Mau Ping landslides is expected to finish next week and any person who would like to supply information in this connection is asked to immediately contact Mr. Mo Yiu-chor on H-95312.

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MR. ANTHONY ROYLE SPEAKS ABOUT HONG KONG

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Hong Kong's external situation has been described as "good" by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Anthony Royle.

Mr. Royle, who was speaking at a meeting of the Anglo-Hong Kong Parliamentary Group in London on Wednesday said that internally, Hong Kong was prosperous, although there were anxieties about the possible erection of barriers to its export trade.

However, he assured the Group that the British Government was doing its best to protect Hong Kong's interests.

Members attending the meeting welcomed the fact that the Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, and the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, were to visit Hong Kong soon. They believed the visits confirmed the interest of the British Government in Hong Kong's well being.

Mr. Royle may also be making a return visit to Hong Kong in November.

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GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS BILL

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The Government is to introduce a bill consolidating the law relating to the custody and guardianship of minors.

Known as the Guardianship of Minors Bill 1972, it is intended to replace the Infants Custody Ordinance.

It sets out the main principle which is to govern a court dealing with any guardianship matter, namely that the welfare of the minor is the paramount consideration in deciding any question of the child's custody, upbringing or the administration of his property.

Under the bill, the mother of a child shall have the same rights as the father when applying to the court in a dispute over the custody of the child.

Another clause provides that a parent may, by deed or will, appoint any person to be a guardian. Where a child has no parents, the court is empowered to appoint a guardian for him.

The Supreme Court would also have the power to remove guardians as well as to determine disputes between them.

Orders for the custody and maintenance of an illegitimate child may also be made on the application of a natural parent, who has the same rights as a surviving parent as to guardianship and the power of appointing guardians.

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PRISONERS DONATE MONEY

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Four hundred and nineteen prisoners at Stanley Prison have spontaneously joined forces with the community in contributing money for the relief of rainstorm victims.

The prisoners - 414 Chinese, two Italians, two Filipinos and one Indian - have donated a total of \$4,254.38, with individual donations ranging from 50 cents to \$149.

The money, mostly in loose amounts including Singapore \$7 and US\$2, will be presented to the Community Relief Trust Fund next week, together with donations totalling over \$1,000 by the Prisons Department staff.

The Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T.G. Garner, today commended the generous gesture by the prisoners as well as his staff.

He said the contributions made by the prisoners were money they held when they were admitted to prison at the start of their sentence.

"This action was spontaneous. It all started on June 23 when the Senior Superintendent at Stanley Prison made his daily inspection tour around the prison.

"During his tour, two prisoners working in the laundry approached him and said they wanted to donate some money to aid the rainstorm victims.

"After that, the news quickly spread. Subsequently, 417 other prisoners subscribed to the idea and made their donations," he said.

/Mr. Garner .....

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Mr. Garner said it was an example that rehabilitation does pay and prisoners are not forgetting people outside who are suffering from hardship caused by disasters.

The donations will be presented at Stanley Prison next week to the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, by two prisoner representatives and a prison warden on behalf of the prisoners and the Prisons Department staff respectively.

Mr. Garner and the Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T. Ecob, will be present at the presentation ceremony.

Recently the Chi Ma Wan prison staff donated \$2,137.50 in aid of the rainstorm victims.

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FIREMEN AWARDED LONG SERVICE MEDALS

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Thirty-six Hong Kong fire officers have been awarded the Colonial Fire Brigades Long Service Medal.

Among the recipients are the Director of Fire Services Mr. A.E.H. Wood and the Deputy Director Mr. F.M. Watson.

The others include two Chief Fire Officers, four Assistant Chief Fire Officers, six Senior Divisional Officers, sixteen Divisional Officers, four Assistant Divisional Officers, and two Station Officers.

Mr. Wood and five other officers were also awarded the First Clasp to the Colonial Fire Brigades Long Service Medal.

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UNDERGROUND WATER TANK AT VICTORIA PARK

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Work will start shortly on the construction of an underground water storage tank at the south-east corner of Victoria Park for watering the lawns and plants in the park.

The tank will have a storage capacity of 50,000 gallons and will intake stream water from a nearby nullah.

The work is expected to begin early next month and should take three months to complete.

A similar storage tank is already under construction in the Botanic Gardens.

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### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS NEAR AIRPORT

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Plans to relieve traffic congestion in the sections of Prince Edward Road near the airport and Kwung Tong Road near the Ngau Tau Kok Resettlement Estate are being realised.

A four-lane vehicular tunnel under the airport runway, which will link Kowloon City Road to a new road network on Kowloon Bay reclamation, is expected to be completed early in 1975.

The western entrance to the tunnel is situated near the junction of Kowloon City and Sung Wong Toi Roads and calls for the construction of a down ramp in Kowloon City Road from the Mok Cheong Street crossing.

Access to and from existing properties will be maintained, or alternative access will be provided, by a system of roads. Pedestrian needs will be safeguarded by the provision of pavements on both sides of Kowloon City Road and a footbridge across the tunnel entrance ramp.

The proposed works will also involve alterations to the alignment and levels of the existing Kowloon City Road, Sung Wong Toi Road and Mok Cheong Street.

An announcement in the Government Gazette giving notice of an order to be made under the Streets (Alteration) Ordinance for this project is made today.

The closing date for objections will be August 7, 1972 and any claims for compensation should be made by September 7, 1972.

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LIST OF PLANS PUBLISHED

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A list of outline zoning, development and layout plans prepared by the Town Planning Board and covering a wide area of Hong Kong have been published in today's Government Gazette.

The plans, in three categories, include approved plans, approved plans referred back to the Town Planning Board for amendment or replacement, and draft plans exhibited by the Board for public inspection.

Certified copies of the approved plans are available for public inspection free of charge at the Land Office, Central Government Offices (West Wing).

Printed copies of these plans can also be purchased from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, Garden Road, or from the Government Publication Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hongkong.

Dye-line prints are available at \$3 each while hand-coloured ones at \$25 each. Some of the plans, available in booklet form, cost between \$8 and \$12 each.

A list of plans prepared by the Board under the provisions of the Town Planning Ordinance is published twice a year a year for general information.

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ROAD REPAIRS IN FULL SWING

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The Public Works Department expects to take between one and six months to completely repair all roads affected by the recent rainstorms.

A number of contractors have been engaged and the men have been working 12 hours, and in some cases 24 hours a day, to try to get the roads passable.

Altogether 11 roads are still affected, 10 of these are either blocked or closed because of the dangerous state of buildings or rocks nearby, and the other, Conduit Road, although still damaged, has been opened to residents only.

The closed roads are: Po Shan Road, Kotewall Road, Honiton Road, Barker Road, Severn Road, Plantation Road, Gough Hill Road, Plunkett's Road, Robinson Road, and Tai Tam Road, which is blocked in two places.

In some cases alternative routes are available and passes to residents have been issued where this is possible.

Tai Tam Road, which forms part of the round the Island link, is expected to be opened to limited traffic before the end of August.

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CLOSURE OF EMERGENCY ENQUIRY CENTRE

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The temporary Enquiry Centre, set up to co-ordinate answers to enquiries concerning the recent landslide disasters, will close at midday tomorrow (Saturday, July 8).

Thereafter, members of the public seeking information concerning victims of the Mid-levels disaster, are advised to contact the Disaster Investigation Unit at Western Police Station, telephone H-489860.

Enquiries regarding private premises in the Mid-levels area should be made to the Buildings Ordinance Office, telephone H-251111 extension 2311 or 2324. Enquiries may also be made at any Public Enquiry Centre.

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Release time : 6.30 p.m.