



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, May 18, 1973

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ELEVATED ROAD TO EASE CONGESTION IN YAU MA TEI

Work on a 2,200-foot long elevated road running from Gascoigne Road to the Yau Ma Tei typhoon anchorage is expected to start later this year.

The project represents the first stage of the massive West Kowloon Corridor scheme which will provide a major road route, to distribute traffic in the urban areas of western Kowloon and connecting these areas with Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung to the north.

The elevated road will start from Gascoigne Road near its junction with Wylie Road, then continue along Gascoigne Road and Kansu Street to the reclamation in Yau Ma Tei typhoon anchorage near Tung Kun Street.

A novel feature of the road is that it will run right through the Yau Ma Tei Multi-storey car park extension.

It is believed that it will be the first major roadway in Hong Kong to pass through a car park.

When completed by 1976, it will form a direct link for the cross-harbour tunnel with the proposed Tong Mi Road extension through the typhoon anchorage.

Sufficient reclamation for the road works at the typhoon anchorage is likely to be completed in about six weeks.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that tenders for the elevated road project would be called next month.

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The government, he said, had prepared its own design for this work but would allow contractors to submit tenders based on their own methods of construction and availability of plant and equipment for the substructure.

A preliminary notice to this effect is published in today's gazette.

Meanwhile, a report on the feasibility study for the second stage of the West Kowloon Corridor scheme is being prepared by consultant engineers.

This stage primarily deals with the construction of a distributor road linking Yau Ma Tei with Lai Chi Kok.

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SECURITIES CHAIRMAN TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

Mr. Y.H. Kan, Chairman of the Securities Advisory Council, and Mr. D.E. Berry of the Attorney General's Chambers, will leave Hong Kong tomorrow (Saturday) night for a short visit to Australia.

Mr. Berry is responsible for drafting the Securities Bill, now in its final stages, and other bills concerned with investments.

During their stay in Australia, they will discuss with government officials, stock exchange representatives and businessmen various aspects of the Australian legislation on trading in securities. This will include matters of drafting and problems arising from the operation of the legislation since it was enacted about three years ago.

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KOTEWALL ROAD FLATS RE-OPEN

More flats in the Kotewall Road landslip area have been declared safe for re-occupation - almost one year after their closure.

The Building Authority announced today that a closure order imposed on the B Flats of Block 1 Emerald Gardens, No. 36 Kotewall Road had now been lifted.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that the reconstruction work on this building, which was damaged in the landslide last June, has progressed to the stage where it is now possible to safely re-occupy the flats on the eastern side of the building.

Repair work on the remaining portion is continuing and it is anticipated that the entire building will be re-opened in about one month when closure orders on the A Flats are raised.

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NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS INCREASES

There are now 21,759 registered and recorded industrial undertakings in Hong Kong.

The latest survey carried out in March by the Labour Department showed an increase of 409 over the number of industrial undertakings recorded at the previous survey last December.

The four largest industries in terms of employment still are the manufacture of textile and textile made-up goods (265,861 or 43 per cent of total employment); plastic products (72,009 or 12 per cent); electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances and supplies (60,838 or 10 per cent); and fabricated metal products other than machinery (49,117 or 8 per cent).

In releasing the results of the survey today, the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Paul Tsui, said that industrial employment stood at 616,609. This was a slight decrease of 3,075 (0.5 per cent) over the December figures, a pattern similar to that of the corresponding quarter last year (January-March, 1972).

"However, there was a three per cent increase compared with the figures for March last year - somewhat larger than the 0.9 per cent increase of the March 1972 figures over the March 1971 figures," he said.

Mr. Tsui said the survey recorded a total of 21,832 vacancies over a wide range of industries - an increase of 2,000 places over the December figures.

The main vacancies fell within the following industries:- electronics (5,664) (26 per cent), garments (5,108) (23 per cent), plastics (2,099) (10 per cent), metal products (1,240) (6 per cent) and cotton spinning and weaving (1,147) (5 per cent).

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MORE ARCHITECTS FOR HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The new Housing Department is substantially expanding its architectural division to tackle the 10-year housing programme.

It will be advertising locally tomorrow (Saturday) for architects, structural engineers and building servicing engineers to join its team.

At present, most public housing projects which are beyond the planning stage are being tackled by the Public Works Department.

Future projects will be planned and built by the Housing Department, the executive arm of the new Housing Authority.

The 10-year housing plan involves building homes for 1,800,000 people.

Mr. Donald Liao, Deputy Head of the Housing Department and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Authority said today: "This is a very challenging job for energetic architects and engineers.

"They will be directly involved in helping to solve the housing problem in Hong Kong. At the same time, it will give them a rare opportunity to exercise their professional skill and knowledge in the planning, design, construction and building of a large number of estates.

"They will, in fact, be helping to build new towns and creating a new and improved environment for the future of Hong Kong," Mr. Liao said.

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IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

The Director of Social Welfare today stressed the importance of the community's support and understanding, particularly by young people, in the field of social welfare services.

Mr. Li Fook-kow, who was opening an exhibition of the youth project competition in the Ocean Terminal, said the competition was a joint effort of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, his Department, the Education Department and many teachers and youth workers.

"It is, in fact, a project for youth and by youth with wide community involvement."

Mr. Li said that youth today are more conscious of the environment and social conditions and are more willing to contribute towards the community.

The exhibition, he said, was an illustration of their co-operative efforts and the interest developed in the field of social welfare services.

He would like to see more projects of this kind with direct participation by Hong Kong's youth.

Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Li's speech in English and Chinese are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER ANOTHER FERRY PIER

The existing ferry pier at Wu Kwai Sha on the shores of Tolo Harbour will be taken over by the government and converted into a permanent public pier.

The pier was formerly held on a Crown Land permit by the Chinese Y.M.C.A. but this was cancelled in 1972 by the District Office Tai Po.

In view of its increasing use by holiday-makers, particularly at weekends and on public holidays, the government intends to improve it and to bring it up to the standard of other government public piers.

Earlier this month the government announced that it was taking over the Ma Liu Shui pier near the Chinese University and it will also be improved.

After renovations, both piers will be used as landing places for the existing ferry services between Ma On Shan and Ho Tung Lau.

In a notice in the gazette today, the Director of Public Works draws the attention of the public to the proposed conversion and stipulates that any person having any objection or any claims of private right in the matter should submit such objections or claims in writing to him within two months.

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FINES FOR BLOCKING ABERDEEN HARBOUR

The Marine Department today warned masters of fishing vessels in Aberdeen Harbour that they were liable to be prosecuted if their boats obstructed the fairways there.

Aside from the inconvenience caused to pleasure craft and commercial vessels proceeding through the harbour, the blockage of fairways constituted a grave danger in the event of fire or other emergency.

A spokesman for the department said that repeated advice and warnings had been given on the importance of keeping the fairways clear, and some masters of fishing vessels had been fined up to \$300 for causing obstruction.

The spokesman noted that there had been some improvement in the situation recently, but stressed that control officers would not relax their efforts to keep the harbour clear and safe.

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DRAGON BOAT'S EYES DOTTED

Note to Editors: An eye-dotting ceremony for a new dragon boat which will participate in this year's dragon boat races at Yuen Chau Chai on June 5, will be held at the Island House compound, Yuen Chau Chai, Tai Po, on Monday (May 21) at 11 a.m.

Mr. I.F.C. Macpherson, District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. A.N. Savage, District Officer, Tai Po and Mr. J. Thompson, Assistant Director (Fisheries) will jointly officiate at the traditional ceremony.

You are welcome to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the ceremony. A government van AM2132 will be at the Tsim Sha Tsui sub-pool at 10.00 a.m. sharp to take representatives to Yuen Chau Chai and return at about noon.

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR ATTENDS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, will leave Hong Kong on Sunday (May 20) to attend the 58th International Labour Conference in Geneva as an adviser to the U.K. Government delegation.

He will travel to Geneva via London, where he will attend a preliminary briefing.

The agenda of the conference includes items of interest to Hong Kong such as the minimum age for employment and social repercussions of new methods of cargo handling on the waterfront.

Mr. Price will return to Hong Kong on June 29.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.