



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 23, 1973

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MORE FLYOVERS PLANNED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW

\$800 Million To Be Spent Over Next Five Years

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A stepped-up programme of flyover construction will give urban areas of Hong Kong an increasingly new look over the next few years and ease the pressure of traffic on many busy road intersections.

Plans are already in hand to build another 20 flyover and interchange complexes over the next five years, at an estimated cost of some \$800 million.

The programme is part of a long-term effort to eliminate the worsening traffic bottlenecks brought about by the rapid increase in the number of vehicles.

Despite the introduction of various special traffic arrangements and the installation of traffic light signal controls, more radical measures are needed to combat congestion at some locations.

"The best method to overcome the problem is to provide flyovers at intersections where the worst congestion occurs," a spokesman for the Public Works Department said.

Over the past 12 years, 26 flyovers have been built at a cost of about \$130 million.

Thirteen more - including one on Hong Kong Island - are under construction.

Before the year ends, two interchanges will be completed. They are the Pillar Island Interchange and the Lion Rock Interchange.

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In the meantime, work on 12 other flyovers and interchanges is expected to begin within the next six months.

These include two grade separated junctions on Hong Kong Island - one at Garden Road/Magazine Gap Road/Robinson Road and the other at Garden Road/Queensway.

In Kowloon, four interchanges will be built at the intersections of Hammer Hill Road, Sha Tin Pass Road, Fung Mo Street and Nam Cheong Street to improve traffic flow in Lung Cheung Road.

The new Lai Chi Kok Hospital Interchange is also in an advanced stage of design and work should begin shortly.

Work is also expected to start within the next few months on the flyovers at Kwun Tong Road/Lai Yip Street; the West Kowloon Corridor from Gascoigne Road to Tong Mi Road; and the elevated road from Prince Edward Road to Lai Chi Kok Road.

The spokesman said: "Despite this volume of work, there is still no place for complacency, and we have further plans in the pipeline. In fact at the present moment 30 flyovers and interchanges - 12 on Hong Kong Island, 15 in Kowloon and three in the New Territories - are at various stages of planning and design."

Another way of improving traffic conditions, he pointed out, could be achieved by segregating pedestrians and motorists.

In this regard, the spokesman said 67 pedestrian footbridges or subways had been opened for public use over the past 12 years and 68 new ones were included in the Public Works Programme.

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Note to Editors: Copies of an aerial photograph showing the Wanchai flyover complex are boxed for collection.

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### KWAI SHING HOUSING PROJECT ENTERS FINAL STAGE

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Construction work on the final stage of Kwai Shing Housing Estate in the New Territories to provide additional accommodation for another 12,000 people is to start early next year.

The housing project - one of the largest being built by the Public Works Department - is part of the government's 10-year housing development programme and will house about 75,000 people when it is fully completed.

Work on the final phase of the project will involve, among others, the construction of five multi-storey domestic blocks -- two 15-storey, two seven-storey and one 24-storey -- providing 2,225 self-contained flats built at a scale of 35 square feet per individual. Each flat will have its own kitchen and toilet facilities.

A six-storey standard estate primary school as well as a kindergarten are to be included. These will be in addition to the four schools currently operating in Stage I of the estate and the two others being built in Stage II.

Parking facilities will be provided in a three-storey car park with just over 230 parking spaces. It is envisaged that covered car parking spaces in the estate will be provided at the ratio of one space to 10 families on a chargeable basis.

To maximise the use of open space, the roof deck of the car park is to be converted into a rest garden. An overall area of 2.6 acres is to be set aside for rest and recreational purposes. Sitting-out areas and recreational grounds will also be provided.

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Also included in the final phase of the project is the construction of a single-storey modular market providing accommodation for some 30 stalls.

Stage I of the estate was completed last year and provides homes for about 38,000 tenants in nine multi-storey blocks.

Work on Stage II is in full swing and it is envisaged to house another 24,000 people. The final stage is due to commence in January next year and should be completed in mid-1976.

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#### NEW PLAYGROUND FOR POKFULAM

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Residents of Pokfulam district on Hong Kong Island will have their own public playground early next year.

The Urban Council has earmarked more than two acres of land to the north-east of the junction of Mount Davis Road and Pokfulam Road for the new playground.

There will be a miniature football pitch, two basketball and two volleyball courts, and a playground with specially designed games equipment for younger children.

A rest garden with a pavilion and the usual public toilet facilities will also be provided.

All the games pitches will be floodlit at night while the garden and the children's playground will have general park lighting.

Construction of the playground is expected to begin early in December and take about five months to complete.

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EXTENSION TO CAROLINE HILL WORKSHOPS

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Two new buildings will be added to the Public Works Department Caroline Hill Workshops to provide extra space for the expansion of services and the training of apprentices.

The buildings will be constructed at the two ends of the existing workshops.

The main extension will be a five-storey building which will be used for holding practical courses to train apprentices on the job and for housing more workshops.

It will accommodate a number of offices, demonstration and instrument rooms, three classrooms, a machine shop, an allied trade shop, a fitting and engraving shop, mechanical plant and steam sections, a changing room with lockers and a canteen.

There will also be facilities for formal trade tests for apprentices and other craftsmen.

The other new building to be constructed will cover an area of 6,500 square feet in one storey.

The additional space in this building will provide more working area for the existing vehicle workshop.

The sites of the new buildings were previously occupied by temporary structures which have been demolished.

Construction of the superstructure of the buildings is expected to begin in January next year and be completed in mid-1975.

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KAIFONGS URGED TO HELP PROMOTE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES

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The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. Jack Cater, this evening appealed to Kaifong members to help form more mutual aid committees to further promote mutual help and good neighbourliness among residents of multi-storey buildings.

Kaifongs, he said, were in a good position to spread the gospel of mutual aid committees because of their experience in bringing people together to discuss their problems, their wide contacts with people from all walks of life, and their association facilities which could serve as meeting places.

Addressing a gathering of Kaifong leaders on the occasion of the 24th Kaifong Day, Mr. Cater felt sure that the new concept of mutual aid committees could greatly improve the quality of life in Hong Kong.

Some 900 such committees had either been formed or were in the process of formation since June this year, he said.

"This is a very useful start but we must not forget that there are altogether some 10,000 buildings, all of which would benefit from organisations of this kind."

He said the Home Affairs Department had recruited 80 part-time community organisers to visit these buildings and encourage the residents to form mutual aid committees.

"Clearly this small number of officers cannot hope to cover even a modest proportion of the buildings which still lack any form of organisation, and this is where we need your help," he stressed.

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Mr. Cater went on to thank Kaifong members for their enthusiastic and active support of the Clean Hong Kong and Fight Violent Crime campaigns -- particularly for the leading role they had played in arousing "community involvement" through the establishment of a network of City District and Area Committees.

The work of these Area Committees, he said, was very much in the spirit of good neighbourliness that had inspired the birth of the Kaifong movement, and "without the vital contribution of many of your leaders and members, the campaigns would not have succeeded as they have done."

He referred to the Kaifong movement as an excellent example of how a traditional form of social organisation could be reorganised and revitalised to meet the needs of a very different society, and felt sure that their close links with the government would continue and strengthen in future.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Cater's speech are distributed separately in the GIS press boxes.

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INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WITH SHOP TENANTS CLARIFIED

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A Housing Department spokesman today pointed out that there were certain inaccuracies in a newspaper report concerning a meeting held yesterday between officers of the department and shop representatives.

"The shop tenants asked for a review of the present policy and in order to facilitate the commencement of further discussion on the tenancy agreement, the Housing Department agreed at the meeting to interim arrangements for outstanding assignment cases to be dealt with", a spokesman said.

"It was agreed that until the terms of the new agreement had been worked out, such shop tenants are permitted to assign their shops by signing an agreement based on the previous conditions, but with the understanding that they would undertake to sign the new agreement when its terms have been agreed upon by both parties concerned."

It is understood that comparatively only a small number of shop tenants are affected by the temporary arrangements.

"It was also agreed at the meeting that further discussions should be held between shop representatives and the Housing Department on the terms of the shop tenancy agreement", the spokesman said.

No date has yet been fixed for the next meeting but it was agreed that it should be held in a week or two.

The spokesman added that he hoped the temporary arrangement would help solve the present dispute and that a new shop agreement acceptable to both parties could be worked out in due course.

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### NEW PIER PLANNED AT SAI KUNG TOWN

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A new public pier is to be built at Sai Kung Town to meet the increasing need for landing facilities in the area.

The new pier will serve villagers from remote areas travelling by sea to market and fishermen bringing in their catches, as well as holiday makers from urban areas going out to scenic spots and beaches at Sai Kung.

It will be built on the eastern reclamation in front of the town and will be able to accommodate police launches and motorboat ferries.

The new pier will provide better landing facilities than the existing piers at Sai Kung Town which are small ones of simple design and situated in shallow waters.

Anyone who has objections to the proposed project or claims of private right may write to the Director of Public Works within two months.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO SWEDEN

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An export authorisation scheme has been introduced to make available certain free quotas for export of restrained textiles to Sweden for the period ending June 30, 1974, the Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. D.H. Jordan; announced today.

At the same time, the department has also introduced a special Swing Scheme for the export of Group III (knitted briefs) to Sweden.

Applications for export authorisations and Group III swing applications are now accepted by the department with immediate effect.

Details of these arrangements will be sent to exporters tomorrow.

Anyone wishing to have advance information can get copies of the notices from the receptionist on the ground floor of the department at 46, Connaught Road Central, or can contact Mr. C.L. Li (Industry Assistant) at telephone No. 5-247315.

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RESUMPTION OF POSTAL SERVICES TO MIDDLE EAST

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The suspension on the posting of surface mail to Egypt, Israel and Syria has been lifted and all classes of mail for these countries will now be accepted again, the Postmaster General announced today.

However, he warned that the mail might be subject to delay since shipping schedules had been interrupted by the Middle East war.

Airmail services to the affected countries resumed last Saturday (October 20).

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.