

**HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**

**DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN**

Thursday, June 8, 1972

**MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY**

Statement By D.P.W. At Press Conference

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At yesterday's meeting of the Legislative Council, the Financial Secretary announced that Government had decided that the surface public transport system must be augmented, if at all possible, by a Mass Transit Railway and that investigations be carried out and the design of the railway be prepared as a matter of urgency.

Speaking at a press conference today (Thursday), the Director of Public Works, the Hon. J.J. Robson, said that the railway system to be adopted was similar to the Preferred System recommended in the Hong Kong Mass Transit Further Studies Financial Report prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

The following is the full text of Mr. Robson's statement:

"The final report and the abstract, both of which are on sale to the public as from today, contain the estimated costs and revenues of the System based on prices prevailing in mid-1970 but exclude all engineering fees and expenditures and administration and financing costs.

"Since this report was completed, the alignment of all routes has been studied, amended and accurately defined by the Public Works Department and an additional station to serve the extensive new development in the Taikoo area has been added to the system.

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"The Consulting Engineers are to be re-engaged as soon as possible to commence the final design of all aspects of the railway so that, in the event of Government taking a decision at the end of the year to proceed with the construction of the railway, no time will have been lost.

"Their work, which will concentrate on the first two stages of the system, will include a re-examination of the rolling stock design and the train control system to be used and, in particular, a re-evaluation of coach materials and design, air-conditioning, thyristor control and regenerative braking systems.

#### Ground Investigations

"Also, the method and design of construction of the underground tunnels, stations and other structures will be reconsidered in the light of the information gained from the ground investigations and with a view to creating the minimum social disturbance during construction.

"Until now, the alignment of all routes has been expressed in British Imperial units on Imperial scale plans. The Mass Transit Railway routes have now to be accurately surveyed and the plans will be prepared to a metric scale in order that the whole system can be designed in metric units.

"To provide the necessary information to enable the design of the civil engineering structures to proceed, extensive ground investigations will be carried out. This work comprises a large number of bore-holes, trial pits etc. together with the comprehensive testing and analysis of soil samples.

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"The Public Works Department with an appropriately increased staff will continue to administer the Mass Transit Railway project through this stage in its development and will also co-ordinate all other works, both public and private, which are affected by or associated with the project.

"In particular and wherever possible, it is intended to make relief road capacity available on alternative routes before construction of the railway is due to commence in a given section of road and, to this end, various P.W.D. road and other projects such as the move of the K.C.R. Tsim Sha Tsui station to Hung Hom will be accelerated. A close check is being maintained on all private developments to ensure that they will have minimal effect on the railway when the latter is constructed."

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CONSIDER EMPLOYEES' SAFETY IN TYPHOONS

Labour Department's Advice To Employers

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Although owners of factories and commercial firms are not bound by law to follow any particular procedures during a typhoon, they are advised to act in a common-sense way in the interests of the safety of their employees.

This was stated by a Labour Department spokesman today who said that during typhoon seasons in past years, many factory owners and employees had phoned asking for information and advice.

He said: "They were told to consider the factor of safety both in the factories and while travelling to and from work. Many ferry and public transport systems stop running before an approaching storm reaches its peak."

"Many firms send their workers home when signal number five or a higher number is hoisted. Others do not insist on workers returning to work when such a signal is hoisted or when interruption of ferry services and public road transport services is imminent."

He added: "It would avoid confusion if firms published their own regulations so that employees clearly know what they are expected to do when storm warnings are issued. In a few cases, firms which have special emergency responsibilities may want their employees to report for duty during a typhoon."

As a final advice, he said: "It is important for both management and employees to reach an agreement on the payment of wages under various circumstances during a typhoon."

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WATER STOPPAGE IN HUNG HOM AND NORTH POINT

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Water supply to a number of premises at Hung Hom in Kowloon will be turned off for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Saturday, June 10.

The temporary stoppage is to enable Waterworks Office staff to carry out a leakage test.

Buildings within the area bounded by Pau Chung Street, the Seafront, Ma Hang Chung, To Kwa Wan, Ma Tau Kok and Lok Shan Roads will be affected.

On Hong Kong Island, a number of buildings at North Point will also have their water supply turned off for five hours starting from 1 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

This will allow Waterworks Office staff to carry out a leakage test for waste detection.

The affected area is bounded by nos. 170-218 Electric Road, Boat Street, south side of King's Road from Mercury Street to Shu Kuk Street, including Kam Ping Street, Peacock Road, Ming Yuen Western Street, Fort Street, Kin Wah Street, Ching Wah Street, North View Street, Cheung Hong Street, Fortress Hill Road, Chung On Terrace, Comfort Terrace and the north side of Tin Hau Temple Road.

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SPECIAL TRAINS FOR DRAGON BOAT RACES

To Run Between Kowloon And Tai Po

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The Kowloon-Canton Railway will lay on special trains on Thursday, June 15, for people going to the Dragon Boat races in Tai Po, New Territories.

These trains will run only between Kowloon and Tai Po and will pick up passengers en route.

There will be eight special trains from Kowloon to Tai Po on that day - at 7.59 a.m., 8.58 a.m., 9.49 a.m., 10.57 a.m., 12.05 p.m., 1.11 p.m., 2.07 p.m. and 2.35 p.m.

From Tai Po Market, ten special trains will leave at 8.51 a.m., 9.59 a.m., 10.46 a.m., 11.54 a.m., 1.06 p.m., 1.56 p.m., 3.05 p.m., 3.24 p.m., 4.31 p.m. and 5.27 p.m.

A spokesman for the Kowloon-Canton Railway said today (Thursday) that additional special trains would also run in the late evening if traffic warranted.

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STUDY ROOM PROVES POPULAR

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The popularity of the Students' Study Room in Kowloon Park, run by the Urban Council, has clearly demonstrated that there is a genuine need for such facilities, especially during and around examination periods, a spokesman for the Urban Services Department said today.

The Study Room was opened in November 1970 as a pilot scheme to assess the extent of the need for such facilities in Hong Kong.

Experience gained in the operation of this Study Room and other Students' Reading Rooms in the Urban Council Public Libraries, has convinced the Urban Council's Culture Affairs Select Committee that its provision in this direction falls short of the total provision which is ideally required.

The Select Committee is fully aware that a large number of organisations are providing similar service and believes that many more would wish to do the same when given suitable advice in respect of the day-to-day operation of such a service.

"In view of this," the spokesman said, "the Select Committee is prepared to share its experience with any organisations or institutions who feel that such advice would be of benefit to them."

"Interested parties are welcome to contact the Senior Librarian, Urban Council Public Libraries, City Hall," he added.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

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Note to Editors: Dr. A.C. Copisarow, Vice President of Messrs. McKinsey & Company, the firm of management consultants engaged by Government, will hold a press conference in the G.I.S. theatre on the fifth floor of Beaconsfield House at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow (Friday).

Dr. Copisarow will also be available for interviews by representatives of radio and television stations.

You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the conference.

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Release time: 6.00 p.m.