



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HOUSING BOOM WILL EASE FLATS PRICES

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PEOPLE WISHING TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES, PARTICULARLY SMALL FLATS, WILL SOON FIND IT EASIER TO DO SO, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THERE IS A VERY LARGE BUILDING PROGRAMME GOING ON AT PRESENT IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS WHICH WILL GO A GREAT DEAL OF THE WAY TO REDUCING CURRENT SHORTAGES.+

HE SAID NEARLY 110,000 RESIDENTIAL FLATS WILL BE COMPLETED DURING 1978 AND 1979, OVER 60,000 OF WHICH WILL BE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+THE NUMBER OF FLATS COMPLETED IN 1978 WILL BE THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED, EVEN EXCEEDING THE NUMBER ACHIEVED DURING THE BOOM YEAR OF 1973,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+AND THE TOTAL TO BE COMPLETED IN 1979 WOULD BE EVEN HIGHER AT 59,300. AVERAGE YEARLY PRODUCTION OF HOUSING UNITS OVER THE FIVE YEARS 1973 TO 1977 HAD BEEN ONLY 32,000,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SPECULATORS CAN THRIVE ONLY WHEN PROPERTY IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. HE SAID THAT HOME BUYERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE BUILDING PROGRAMME WILL SOON EASE THE SHORTAGE AND THAT THIS WOULD MEAN AN END TO RAPIDLY INCREASING PRICES.

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SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS CAMPAIGN

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A +SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS+ CAMPAIGN AIMED AT EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN BOTH AQUATIC AND LAND SPORTS, WAS LAUNCHED TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE CAMPAIGN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS, MR. CHAM SIU-LEUN SAID A SPECIAL BOOKLET ENTITLED +STEPPING OUT - A GUIDE TO OUTDOOR RECREATION IN HONG KONG+ HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES OF NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOLS.

THE BOOKLET PROVIDES USEFUL INFORMATION ON VARIOUS OUTDOOR SPORTS LIKE SWIMMING, DIVING, BOATING, CANOEING, CYCLING AND MOUNTAINEERING, AS WELL AS THE SAFETY HINTS TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO ENJOY THE SPORTS.

IN ORDER TO PUBLICISE THE +PLAY SAFE+ MESSAGE, SPECIAL COLOURFUL POSTERS HIGHLIGHTING THE SAFETY HINTS OF THESE POPULAR SPORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN PRINTED. IN ADDITION RADIO MESSAGES WILL BE BROADCAST AND SHORT TELEVISION FILMS WILL BE SHOWN.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE WORKING PARTIES ON THE VARIOUS SPORTS WILL BE VISITING THE OUTDOOR CENTRES OF THESE POPULAR SPORTS TO SEE THAT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.

MR. CHAM ALSO STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN TAKING THE LEAD IN PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES, HAS NOT OVERLOOKED THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THESE ACTIVITIES.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE ACCIDENT STATISTICS DO NOT SUGGEST ANY IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR ALARM, THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORTS FEELS THAT IN FOLLOWING THE MAXIM, +PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE+, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE OF +PLAY SAFE+ TO THE PUBLIC NOW, AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING START OF THE SUMMER VACATION.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE CHAIRMEN OF THE VARIOUS WORKING PARTIES INCLUDING MR. ALAN PYRKE, SENIOR SURVEYOR OF SHIPS, MARINE DEPARTMENT, ON CANOEING AND ROWING= MR. JOHN FORTUNE, CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, CIVIL AID SERVICES, ON UNDER-WATER DIVING= MR. JACK TUCKER, PRINCIPAL, OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL, ON MOUNTAINEERING= MR. WONG HING-WAH, PRESIDENT, ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, ON CYCLING= MR. NIGEL FRENCH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION BRANCH, ON SKATEBOARDING= AND MR. HOWARD YOUNG, URBAN COUNCILLOR, ON CAMPING.

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RECLAMATION AT SHAM SHUI PO

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD A 170-METRE SEA WALL FOR THE SECOND STAGE OF THE RECLAMATION AT SHAM SHUI PO.

THE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A PORTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, AN OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATIONAL USES.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE P.W.D.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE P.W.D.'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE.

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JOBS FOUND FOR 34 DISABLED LAST MONTH

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S JOB PLACEMENT UNIT LAST MONTH SUCCESSFULLY FOUND JOBS FOR 34 DISABLED PERSONS -- TWO OF THEM IN THE GOVERNMENT.

ONE OF THE TWO NEW GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IS A CRIPPLED GIRL WHO NOW WORKS AS A TYPIST IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICE, EARNING \$830 A MONTH.

THE OTHER, A 26-YEAR-OLD BLIND MAN, IS EMPLOYED AS A TELEPHONE OPERATOR AT THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT EARNING A MONTHLY WAGE OF \$990 -- THE HIGHEST PAID AMONG THE 34 DISABLED WHO SECURED JOB LAST MONTH.

THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNIT, MR. CHAN SIU-WING, SAID TODAY THE TWO SUCCESSFUL JOB PLACEMENTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE REFLECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUAL SUPPORT FOR BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

+WE HOPE MORE DISABLED PERSONS WOULD BE PLACED IN JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS WELL AS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

THE OTHER DISABLED PERSONS WHO FOUND JOB LAST MONTH INCLUDE THREE BLIND, 11 PHYSICALLY-DISABLED, FIVE DEAF, ONE EX-LEPROSY PATIENT, SEVEN MENTAL RETARDATES AND FIVE EX-MENTAL PATIENTS.

THEY ARE ENGAGED IN THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FIELDS AS MICROFILM MACHINE OPERATOR, IRONING WORKER, LIFT OPERATOR, WATCHMAN, ASSEMBLER, PACKER, CAR-CLEANER AND GENERAL FACTORY WORKER.

THEY ARE PAID EITHER AT A MONTHLY RATE OF \$700 ON AVERAGE OR AT DAILY RATES RANGING FROM \$20 TO \$26.

THE FIGURE OF 34 FOR LAST MONTH BRINGS TO 186 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS FOUND JOBS WITH THE HELP OF THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

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RESIDENTIAL SITES ON LANTAU FOR SALE

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THREE PRIME RESIDENTIAL LOTS ON SOUTH LANTAU FOR TWO-STOREY PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE IN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING.

THE SITES LOCATED AT CHEUNG SHA, NEAR THE SOUTH LANTAU HOSPITAL AND CLOSE TO THEIR STRETCH OF SOUTH LANTAU BEACHES, COMMAND A PANORAMIC SEA VIEW AND ARE AT A VERY SCENIC SETTING ADJACENT TO THE COASTAL PROTECTION AREA WHICH COVERS THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND.

THE THREE LOTS -- MEASURING 3,317, 1,068 AND 1,113 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY -- ARE AMONG THE LAST OF 14 IN THE LAYOUT NEAR THE HOSPITAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PUBLIC AUCTION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 5TH FLOOR, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, HONG KONG AT 10.30 A.M. TOMORROW. OFFICERS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

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PWD BUILDING SURVEYOR RETIRES

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MR. D.H. PARSONS, GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR, WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON JULY 1 AFTER NEARLY 18 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

AT A CEREMONY HELD TODAY (MONDAY) AT MURRAY BUILDING, THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, MR. JACK STEAN, PRESENTED MR. PARSONS WITH A FAREWELL GIFT ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

MR. STEAN RECALLED THAT MR. PARSONS, KNOWN TO HIS COLLEAGUES AS +DUGGIE+, FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS A BUILDING SURVEYOR IN 1960 AND WAS ONE OF THE SURVEYORS WHO SERVED IN THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS DIVISION IN ITS EARLY YEARS.

IN MAY, 1966, HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR BUILDING SURVEYOR.

+HE WAS GIVEN SPECIAL DUTIES IN MARCH, 1971, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHONG HING INQUIRY WHICH LATER DEVELOPED INTO THE POST OF TECHNICAL SECRETARY,+ MR. STEAN SAID.

MR. PARSONS WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF BUILDING SURVEYOR IN SEPTEMBER 1972 AND TO THE PRESENT RANK IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

+THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER,+ MR. STEAN SAID, +HE HAS PUT HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO HIS WORK AND IN DOING SO HAS KEPT UP A CONSUMING INTEREST IN HIS WORK.+

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION EXTENDED IN HUNG HOM

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 28) THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON HONG CHONG ROAD IN HUNG HOM WILL BE EXTENDED TO SECTIONS OF ROADS ADJACENT TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS ON THESE ROADS.

THE 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS:

- * SALISBURY ROAD, NEXT TO THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS BUILDING, BETWEEN HONG CHONG ROAD AND THE SLIP ROAD ABOVE THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE=
- * HONG CHONG ROAD, NEXT TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA, FROM SALISBURY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 175 FEET NORTH OF THE FOOTBRIDGE CONNECTING THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINAL BUILDING=
- * HONG TAI PATH BETWEEN HONG CHONG ROAD AND THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC= AND
- * HONG TAT PATH FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HONG CHONG ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 425 FEET WESTWARD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN KOWLOON TONG AND TO KWA WAN

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN CONNECTION WORKS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE 147-163 WATERLOO ROAD, 1-17 AND 4-10 CORNWALL STREET, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE QUARTERS.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 28) TO FACILITATE A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LOK SHAN ROAD, CHI KIANG STREET, TO KWA WAN ROAD AND KOWLOON CITY ROAD, INCLUDING MEI KING STREET AND PART OF YUK YAT STREET.

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