HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT LOOKS INTO STAGGERED WORKING HOURS
FOR CIVIL SERVANTS
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IN A BID TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION DURING PEAK HOURS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF STAGGERING WORKING HOURS AT GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

NORMAL WORKING HOURS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS ARE FROM 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. AND STAGGERED HOURS WOULD REQUIRE STAFF TO ARRIVE EARLIER AND LEAVE EARLIER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MANY DEPARTMENTS HAD ALREADY STAGGERED THEIR WORKING HOURS TO SOME EXTENT.

HE NOTED THAT HEADS OF ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WERE ASKED LAST NOVEMBER TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF WIDENING THE USE OF STAGGERED WORKING HOURS, BEARING IN MIND THE CONVENIENCE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THEY WERE ASKED ALSO TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THEIR STAFF.

THE FINDINGS SHOW THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND THE RATING AND VALUATION WOULD BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE USE OF STAGGERED HOURS IN MOST OF THEIR OFFICES.

SOME OTHER DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE GREATER USE OF STAGGERED HOURS TO A LIMITED EXTENT ONLY, WHILE OTHERS ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE MORE USE OF STAGGERED HOURS FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS.

IN THE DEPARTMENTS WHICH CAN EXTEND STAGGERED HOURS, PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH IMPLEMENTATION WILL NOW BE EXAMINED IN GREATER DETAIL AND FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND STAFF BE HELD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAKE MORE USE OF STAGGERED HOURS WHENEVER THIS WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THE QUALITY OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

+FOR THE LONGER TERM, GOVERNMENT IS STILL CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS WHICH ARE BEING INTRODUCED ON A LIMITED SCALE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE ADDED.

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HUGE ROOF OF INDOOR STADIUM COMPLETED
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WORK ON THE HUGE ROOF OF THE MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR STADIUM AT HUNG HOM HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

THE ROOF, WEIGHING ABOUT 1,300 TONNES AND MEASURING 10,000 SQUARE METRES, IS BEING LIFTED FROM GROUND LEVEL TO A HEIGHT OF 23 METRES TO REST ON TEMPORARY STEEL TOWERS.

MR. EDWIN WONG, GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT THE JACKING PROCESS WOULD TAKE ABOUT 20 DAYS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THAT AFTER THE ROOF WAS RAISED TO THE DESIGNED HEIGHT, THE SPECTATOR STAND AND INTERIOR OF THE STADIUM WOULD BE BUILT BENEATH IT.

+ONCE THIS WORK IS COMPLETED,+ HE SAID, +THE ROOF WILL THEN BE LOWERED ONTO THE CONCRETE RIM OF THE SPECTATOR STAND, AND THE TEMPORARY STEEL TOWERS SUPPORTS CUT AWAY.+

CONSTRUCTION OF THE 12,500-SEAT SPECTATOR STAND WILL TAKE ABOUT 19 MONTHS AND THE WHOLE STADIUM SHOULD BE READY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1980 WHEN IT WILL BE HANDED OVER TO URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT.

MR. WONG DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS AN UNUSUAL ENGINEERING FEAT AS THE STADIUM WAS BUILT OVER THE NETWORK OF RAIL TRACKS.

+IN VIEW OF THE SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED SITE, ONLY FOUR MAJOR SUPPORTS FOR THE STADIUM ARE PERMITTED,+ HE SAID.

MR. WONG ADDED THAT THIS PRODUCED COMPLEX BUT INTERESTING ENGINEERING PROBLEMS REQUIRING COMPUTER AIDED STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS WITH TESTS BEING CARRIED OUT ON A MODEL UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS.

THE DESIGN OF THE $88 MILLION STADIUM, WHICH WILL BE IN THE SHAPE OF AN INVERTED PYRAMID, WILL NOT ONLY GIVE HONG KONG ANOTHER AMBITIOUS AND IMPOSING BUILDING ON ITS WATERFRONT BUT WILL ALSO GIVE THE STADIUM AS MUCH OPEN SPACE AS POSSIBLE.

ON COMPLETION, THE STADIUM WILL HAVE FACILITIES FOR EVERYTHING FROM GYMNASTICS AND BASKETBALL MATCHES TO THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES AND MAJOR EXHIBITIONS.

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MORE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED LAST YEAR

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MORE BIRTHS AND DEATHS WERE REGISTERED LAST YEAR THAN IN 1976, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 1977 WAS 78,807 - 2,465 MORE THAN THE 1976 FIGURE, AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS INCREASED BY 264 TO 23,459.

THE INCREASE IN REGISTERED BIRTHS WAS ABOUT 3.2 PER CENT, AND IT HAD REVERSED THE TREND OF DECREASES IN TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF 1975 AND 1976.

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN ANY ONE YEAR WAS IN 1963, WITH 115,263 BIRTHS.

THEREAFTER, THE NUMBER DECLINED EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE DOWNWARD TREND WAS REVERSED IN 1972. AFTER SLIGHT INCREASES IN THREE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER FELL AGAIN IN 1975 AND 1976.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED LAST YEAR, 76,868 WERE CHINESE (39,845 MALES AND 37,023 FEMALES) AND 1,939 NON-CHINESE (948 MALES AND 991 FEMALES).

OF THESE 20,321 WERE REGISTERED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 49,766 IN KOWLOON AND 8,720 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, REPRESENTING PERCENTAGE INCREASES OF 1.9, 4.4 AND 0.02 RESPECTIVELY AS COMPARED WITH THE 1976 FIGURES.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THE FIGURES WERE IN RESPECT OF REGISTERED BIRTHS ONLY.

HE SAID, +THERE ARE ALWAYS A NUMBER OF BIRTHS EVERY YEAR WHICH ARE NOT REGISTERED BY THE PARENTS AT THE TIME, WITH THE RESULT THAT WHILE THE FIGURES SHOW TRENDS, THEY DO NOT GIVE A COMPLETELY ACCURATE PICTURE.+

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS LAST YEAR COMPRISED 23,160 CHINESE (12,624 MALES AND 10,536 FEMALES) AND 299 NON-CHINESE (200 MALES AND 99 FEMALES).

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OLD WAS 1,093 AS AGAINST 1,092 IN 1976, WHILE THAT OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OLD WAS 565 COMPARED WITH 564 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

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AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE PRAISED

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, SPOKE OF THE REMARKABLE RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE (AMS) IN RENDERING A WIDE RANGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

+WHENEVER A DISASTER OCCURS OR WHERE THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES ARISES, AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE MEMBERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT IN HELPING VICTIMS OF FIRE AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

DR. THONG, WHO IS ALSO UNIT CONTROLLER OF AMS, WAS SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SERVICE THIS EVENING TO MARK ITS 27TH ANNIVERSARY.

OVER THE YEARS, HE SAID, AMS HAD GROWN BOTH IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY WITH A PROUD RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

THE STRENGTH OF AMS HAS GROWN TO NEARLY 6,000, AND MORE THAN 1,400 MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED THE CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE MEDAL FOR EFFICIENT AND LOYAL SERVICE AND ANOTHER 20 AWARDED THE FIRST CLASP TO THE LONG SERVICE MEDAL.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT TO OLD AND YOUNG MEMBERS ALIKE, I COULD LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND LOYAL SERVICE FOR MANY MORE YEARS TO COME AND THAT AMS WILL NO DOUBT PROGRESS FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH,+ HE SAID.

DR. THONG SAID THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS FAR AS DEDICATED SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY BY AMS MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED.

THE MEMBERS HAD RENDERED A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, FROM THE MANNING OF METHADONE CENTRES TO LIFE GUARD DUTIES AT VARIOUS PUBLIC BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS, HE SAID.

THEY HAD MANNED AMBULANCES ATTACHED TO THE AMBULANCE DEPOTS OF THE FIRE SERVICES AND PROVIDED FIRST AID COVERAGE AS AND WHEN THE OCCASION AROSE.

THE AMS HAD SPENT A TOTAL OF 18,000 MAN-HOURS IN PROVIDING ALL THESE SERVICES LAST YEAR.

DR. THONG LATER PRESENTED THE CIVIL DEFENCE LONG SERVICE MEDALS TO 73 AMS MEMBERS AND THE FIRST CLASP TO THE LONG SERVICE MEDAL TO THREE OTHER MEMBERS WHO WERE RECENTLY QUALIFIED FOR THESE AWARDS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT VEHICLES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TURN RIGHT FROM SHU KUK STREET INTO KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. NEXT TUESDAY (JANUARY 17).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CURRENT BAN ON VEHICLES TURNING LEFT FROM SHU KUK STREET INTO KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE LIFTED.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE PART OF A +LINKED SIGNAL SCHEME+ ON KING'S ROAD.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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