



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1976

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BUILDING INDUSTRY URGED TO GO METRIC WITHOUT DELAY
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HONG KONG'S BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WERE TODAY URGED NOT TO DELAY IN ADAPTING THEMSELVES TO METRICATION AS THE TIME FOR A CHANGEOVER TO METRIC UNITS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY WAS RAPIDLY DRAWING NEAR.

MR. MARK LUXTON, GOVERNMENT QUANTITY SURVEYOR OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, REMINDED THE INDUSTRY TODAY THAT THERE WERE ONLY FIVE MONTHS LEFT BEFORE IT WAS EXPECTED TO BECOME COMPULSORY FOR BUILDING PLANS TO BE SUBMITTED EXCLUSIVELY IN METRIC UNITS.

+ONCE THE DATE FOR METRIC SUBMISSIONS IS FORMALLY GAZETTED, EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN,+ HE WARNED.

+THOSE WHO ARE AUTHORISED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR APPROVAL WOULD THEREFORE BE WELL ADVISED TO TAKE EVERY ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME LEFT TO TRAIN THEIR STAFF IN THE USE OF METRIC TERMS, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO,+ HE SAID.

MR. LUXTON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NOT YET FORMALLY GAZETTED LOCAL ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS HAD BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO REQUIRE SUBMISSION FOR NEW WORKS MADE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1977 TO BE EXCLUSIVELY IN METRIC.

HE RECALLED THAT LAST NOVEMBER THE P.W.D.'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE HAD, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, ISSUED A SPECIAL SCHEDULE SHOWING EXACT METRIC EQUIVALENTS FOR IMPERIAL MEASUREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE SO AS TO ASSIST APPLICANTS IN PREPARING METRIC BUILDING PLANS.

THE B.O.O., WHICH IS THE CONTROLLING AGENCY FOR BUILDING LEGISLATION, IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSLATING ALL EXISTING BUILDING ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS INTO METRIC TERMS.

IN ANOTHER EFFORT TO HELP AUTHORISED APPLICANTS IN ADAPTING THEMSELVES TO METRICATION, THE B.O.O. HAD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR GIVEN APPLICANTS THE OPTION OF SUBMITTING BUILDING PLANS FOR APPROVAL IN EITHER IMPERIAL OR METRIC UNITS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE OPTIONAL PERIOD WAS NOW COMING TO AN END AND HE STRONGLY ADVISED AUTHORISED APPLICANTS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE CHANGEOVER. THE P.W.D., HE SAID, WAS READY TO OFFER ADVICE, INFORMATION AND DATA ON REQUEST.

MR. LUXTON SAID A WORKING PARTY OF THE P.W.D.'S STEERING COMMITTEE ON METRICATION, OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, HAD ALSO PREPARED A GLOSSARY OF S.I. TERMINOLOGY IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TOGETHER WITH A COMPREHENSIVE BUT SIMPLY STATED BOOKLET WHICH WOULD BE PUBLISHED SOON FOR USE BY BUILDING AND ENGINEERING TRADESMEN.

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THE WORKING PARTY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING A DEFINITIVE TRANSLATION OF ALL INFORMATION AND DATA ISSUED WITHIN THE P.W.D.

OVERALL, HE SAID, MUCH PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TOWARDS METRICATION IN HONG KONG, BUT IT WOULD BE SOME YEARS BEFORE HONG KONG WOULD BE TRULY METRIC.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WAS ON THE BRINK OF FULL METRICATION, HE SAID, AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO VIRTUALLY +GONE METRIC+ WHILE OTHERS HAD MADE POSITIVE PROGRESS.

SINCE JULY 1974, HE SAID, ALL DESIGN WORK ON NEW CONTRACTS WITHIN THE P.W.D. AS WELL AS BY CONSULTANTS ENGAGED ON P.W.D. PROJECTS WERE REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED IN METRIC, AND THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE HAD ALREADY BEGUN CONDUCTING SALES OF CROWN LAND AND LEASES IN METRIC UNITS.

CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN, HE SAID, TO SETTING UP A METRICATION ADVISORY BOARD WHICH WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND GIVE ADVICE TO A GOVERNMENT METRICATION SECRETARIAT ON THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE CHANGEOVER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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CLOSURE OF MAN WAH LANE
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THE NORTHERN SECTION OF MAN WAH LANE BETWEEN DES VOUEX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC SINCE JULY 2, 1975, WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 2, 1977, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STATION ENTRANCE AND A VENTILATION SHAFT FOR THE FUTURE WESTERN MARKET STATION WHICH WILL FORM PART OF THE FULL SYSTEM OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

CONSTRUCTION OF THIS ENTRANCE AND THE VENTILATION SHAFT MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO FOUNDATION WORKS FOR THE RE-DEVELOPED WING ON CENTRE TO PREVENT SERIOUS DISRUPTION AFTER THE CENTRE IS COMPLETED.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS IN THE AREA.

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TANNERIES GIVE UNDERTAKINGS ON REMOVAL
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MEMBERS OF FIVE CONSORTIA OPERATING 55 TANNERIES IN SHEUNG SHUI HAVE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING THAT THEY WILL HAVE CEASED OPERATING BY NEXT SATURDAY (JULY 31).

THEY HAVE ALSO ASSURED THE GOVERNMENT THAT ALL THE HEAVY MACHINERY USED IN THE FACTORIES WILL HAVE BEEN REMOVED NOT LATER THAN 8 A.M. ON AUGUST 3 — THE FIRST WORKING DAY AFTER THE CLEARANCE DEADLINE SET BY GOVERNMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED THE OPERATORS THAT ON AUGUST 3 IT WILL FORCIBLY CLEAR ANY TANNERY WHICH DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE AGREEMENT.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE DISTRICT OFFICER TAI PO, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, SAID THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY THE OPERATORS WERE SENSIBLE AND REALISTIC CLIMAX TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MOVE THE TANNERIES TO THE OFFENSIVE TRADES ZONE AT KWAI CHUNG AFTER JULY 31.

+MANY OF THE TANNERS HAVE ALREADY PACKED UP MUCH OF THEIR HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND HAVE TAKEN IT TO KWAI CHUNG WHERE THEY ARE STORING IT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WITH OUR PERMISSION,+ HE SAID.

+MANY OF THE STRUCTURES AT SHEUNG SHUI ARE ALSO BEING DEMOLISHED BY THE OPERATORS THEMSELVES.

+THOSE WHO HAVE NOT STARTED DOING THIS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WILL BE GETTING ON WITH IT IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO MEET THE DEADLINE.

+THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE THAT THE TANNERIES WILL HAVE CEASED OPERATING BY THE DEADLINE DAY AND WILL HAVE REMOVED THEIR HEAVY MACHINERY BY THE FIRST WORKING DAY AFTER THAT, WHICH HAPPENS TO FALL ON AUGUST 3 BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY NEXT MONDAY.

+BUILT INTO THE AGREEMENT IS THE CONDITIONAL CLAUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL FORCIBLY CLEAR ANY INDIVIDUAL TANNERY ON THAT DAY WHICH HAS NOT MET WITH THE AGREEMENT CONDITIONS.

+AFTER THE REMOVAL OF THE MACHNIERY ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE IS FOR THE OPERATORS TO REMOVE THEIR STOCK, SMALLER EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND TO FINISH DEMOLISHING THEIR STRUCTURES.

+AT THEIR REQUEST WE WILL ALLOW THEM TO DO THIS BUT WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THE SITES MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO OUR SATISFACTION BY AUGUST 20, OTHERWISE THE GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE IN AND DO IT AND CHARGE THE COST TO THE OFFENDING OPERATOR.

+BUT OBVIOUSLY IT IS MUCH BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED IF THE TANNERY OPERATORS COMPLETE THE CLEARANCE THEMSELVES.

+FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, THIS SAVES A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME , MONEY AND MANPOWER.+

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NEW LICENSING ARRANGEMENT FOR GARMENT EXPORTS TO U.S.A.
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THE CURRENT LICENSING PROCEDURE FOR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF GARMENTS UNDER RESTRAINT, AS WELL AS A FEW GARMENT ITEMS NOT UNDER RESTRAINT, IS TO BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THE PROCEDURES OPERATING FOR EXPORTS OF TEXTILES TO OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAS RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT AN EXPORTER WOULD IN FUTURE BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ADDITIONAL COPY OF HIS LICENCE APPLICATION - A FOURTH COPY - FOR ENDORSEMENT.

THIS FOURTH COPY WILL BE STAMPED +APPROVED FOR EXPORT TO THE USA+ AND MUST BE SENT BY THE LOCAL EXPORTER TO HIS U.S. IMPORTER SO THAT THE LATTER MAY SECURE ENTRY OF THE GOODS.

THE NEW ARRANGEMENT GOES INTO EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1976.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR BOTH THE HONG KONG AND U.S. AUTHORITIES TO RELY ON ONE COMMON DOCUMENT AS THE BASIS FOR MONITORING HONG KONG'S GARMENT EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID: +ALTHOUGH THE ARRANGEMENT TAKES EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 6, APPLICATIONS AFTER AUGUST 4 SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN QUADRUPPLICATE SINCE A LICENCE IS VALID FOR 28 DAYS.+

A NOTICE CONTAINING DETAILS FOR THE NEW ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED.

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EGRETRY IN SHA TAU KOK

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A FULL-COLOUR POSTER, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, HAS BEEN PUT UP BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AT THE EGRETRY IN YIM TSO HA, SHA TAU KOK, TO GIVE VISITORS SOME BASIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE EGRETS IN THE AREA AND TO AROUSE MORE INTEREST IN NATURE CONSERVATION.

THE POSTER DEPICTS THE FOUR COMMONEST SPECIES IN THE EGRETRY — THE CHINESE POND HERON, THE NIGHT HERON, THE CATTLE EGRET AND THE LITTLE EGRET. IT IS DESIGNED TO GIVE AN AMATEUR VISITOR A BASIC IDEA OF THE BIRDS' GENERAL APPEARANCE, THEIR FEEDING HABITS AND WORLD DISTRIBUTION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT AN AVERAGE OF SOME 1,000 EGRETS CAN BE FOUND IN THE EGRETRY DURING THE NESTING SEASON WHICH IS BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER EVERY YEAR.

THEY MIGRATE SOUTH DURING THE WINTER, HE ADDED.

+DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND BIRDWATCHERS USUALLY GO NEAR THE EGRETRY TO GET A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THESE RARE AND BEAUTIFUL BIRDS IN THEIR HABITAT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.
+THE AREA IS ALSO FREQUENTLY VISITED BY PICNICKERS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT EGRETS ARE A FULLY PROTECTED SPECIES UNDER THE WILD BIRDS AND WILD MAMMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE AND THAT THE EGRETRY IN YIM TSO HA IS A RESTRICTED AREA UNDER THE SAME ORDINANCE.

+PICNICKERS CAN WALK AROUND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EGRETRY AND WATCH THE BIRDS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREAS, BUT ONLY PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL PERMITS ISSUED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE THE RESTRICTED AREA,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO GAME WARDENS PATROLLING THE AREA, THE NEW POSTER IS ALREADY AROUSING A LOT OF INTEREST IN EGRETS AMONG PICNICKERS.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT SIMILAR POSTERS, GIVING DETAILS OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE BLACK-EARED KITE, HAD BEEN DISPLAYED AT THE KOWLOON HILLS AND THE ABERDEEN RESERVOIR, AND HAD PROVED POPULAR.

+THESE POSTERS, TOGETHER WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATURE TRAILS ALONG PINEAPPLE DAM, SHING MUN RESERVOIR AND THE DRAGON'S BACK, ARE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO AROUSE MORE INTEREST IN NATURE CONSERVANCY AMONG THE PUBLIC,+ HE ADDED.

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PRIMARY CLASSES SONG BOOK NOW ON SALE

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A REVISED EDITION OF SONGS FOR PRIMARY CLASSES VOLUME 1 HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED AND IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE (STAR FERRY CONCOURSE) AT \$1.40 EACH.

THIS WIDE RANGING COLLECTION FEATURES TRADITIONAL AND FOLK SONGS FROM MANY LANDS TOGETHER WITH ACTION SONGS.

THE SONGS HAVE BEEN SCORED TO ENCOURAGE PUPIL PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE USE OF CLASS-MADE AND MANUFACTURED INSTRUMENTS.

SPECIAL CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE MELODY RANGE IS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN'S VOICES AND THAT THE TEXT OF THE SONGS IS APPROPRIATE FOR LOWER PRIMARY CLASSES.

CREATIVITY IS ENCOURAGED IN A VARIETY OF INTEGRATED MUSICAL ACTIVITIES AND THE WHOLE COLLECTION PROVIDES AMPLE MATERIAL TO DEVELOP MUSICAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH SINGING AND PLAYING.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JULY 30) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, CHING TAK STREET, MING TAK STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD AND SHATIN PASS ROAD, INCLUDING BLOCKS NO. 6 TO 10 AND 19 IN LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE AND BLOCKS NO. 1 TO 12 IN UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

ALSO ON FRIDAY, WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR EIGHT HOURS STARTING FROM 10 P.M. TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CONNECT WATER PIPES IN THE AREA.

PREMISES AFFECTED WILL BE THOSE ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN 28-1/2 MILESTONE AND 31-1/2 MILESTONE, INCLUDING LONG HA, TAI SANG WAI, FUK HING LANE, HA SAN WAI, SHEUNG CHUK YUEN, HA CHUK YUEN, NGAU TAM MEI, WO SANG WAI, KO HANG, MAI PO, TAM KON CHAU, SHEK WU WAI AND SAN TIN.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Wednesday, 28, July 1976.

CLEARANCE OF OLD LICENSED AREAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY

The Authority's decision to clear all old licensed areas which have no proper electricity and house water supplies is now in progress and by early next year nearly 9,000 people will be accommodated in public housing estates.

Lei Muk Shue and part of Sam Ka Chuen licensed areas had already been cleared. Now in process of being cleared are the Ex-Rifle Range, Hong Ning Road, Kowloon Bay (East) and Ma Chai Hang licensed areas.

The others, including Chai Wan Hill, Fu Tau Wat, Pak Fuk Road, Nam Hang, balance of Sam Ka Chuen, will also be cleared between now and early next year and tenants housed in public housing estates.

A spokesman for the Housing Department today (Wednesday) categorically denied that insufficient notice of removal had been given to tenants.

"It is the normal practice to give three months' notice so that tenants are well aware of their impending removal. This also gives our staff time to look into their particular needs," the spokesman said.

The department, he added, was quite aware of the many problems involved and would do its utmost to assist tenants.

However, demands from single person families for their own flat definitely cannot be entertained. They shall need to share accommodation with others. For couples and two-member families, the department will make every effort to house them in small flats in older estates.

Other families, depending on their circumstances, may also be offered low-rent flats. In the current clearance of the Ex-Rifle Range, Hong Ning Road, Kowloon Bay (East) and Ma Chai Hang licensed areas, 95 families have been offered low rent flats in various estates

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