



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

PRIVATE BUILDING PLANS NEED APPROVAL BY PWD .....	1
ROYAL HK REGIMENT AND CAS HELPED FIGHT HILL FIRES .....	2
OBJECTIONS TO PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE LODGED WITHIN TIME LIMIT .....	3
POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 4.3 MILLION AT END OF LAST YEAR .....	4
ORAL EXAMINERS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION .....	4
HONG KONG BANK TO DONATE \$300,000 IN AID OF FIRE VICTIMS ...	5
MORE DONATIONS FOR FIRE VICTIMS .....	6
TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING IN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD .....	6
BUSY HOLIDAYS FOR CIVIL AID SERVICES .....	7

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 1 -

BUILDING LAWS MUST BE COMPLIED WITH  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT PLANS OF ALL NEW PRIVATE BUILDING WORKS MUST BY LAW BE APPROVED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY BEFORE WORK COMMENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC PURPOSE OF BUILDING LAWS WAS TO ENSURE THAT BUILDINGS WERE STRUCTURALLY SAFE AND CONFORMED TO MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STANDARDS.

+THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE,+ HE STRESSED. +ALL NEW PRIVATE BUILDING PLANS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AND CONSENT MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.+

AS ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS, HE SAID, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE REGULARLY INSPECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE BEING PROPERLY CARRIED OUT, AND OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ONLY ISSUED AFTER THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WAS SATISFIED THAT THE WORKS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT PERSONS UNDERTAKING UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS WERE NOT ONLY LIABLE TO A FINE OF UP TO \$2,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS, BUT WOULD LOSE WHAT COULD BE A CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT SINCE THE ENTIRE UNAUTHORISED WORK WOULD HAVE TO BE DEMOLISHED.

THE WARNING FOLLOWS A CASE HEARD BEFORE MR. PAUL CORFE IN CENTRAL MAGISTRACY THIS MORNING IN WHICH THE TWO OWNERS OF NO. 5 DORSET CRESCENT, KOWLOON TONG, WERE EACH FINED \$1,500 FOR CARRYING OUT BUILDING WORKS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL AND CONSENT OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

THE OFFENCE WAS DISCOVERED BY B.O.O. OFFICERS IN JULY LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS FOUND THAT EXTENSIVE ALTERATIONS WERE BEING MADE TO THE ORIGINAL TWO-STOREY HOUSE AT NO. 5 DORSET CRESCENT.

THESE INCLUDED AN ADDITIONAL STOREY TO THE ORIGINAL HOUSE, A THREE-STOREY EXTENSION AT THE REAR AND THE FRONT, A SINGLE-STOREY ROW OF GARAGES, A TWO-STOREY BLOCK OF GARAGES WITH LIVING ACCOMMODATION OVER EACH GARAGE, AND A SWIMMING POOL.

THE OWNERS WERE SERVED WITH A CEASE WORK ORDER AND SUBSEQUENTLY A DEMOLITION ORDER WHICH HAS NOW BEEN VIRTUALLY COMPLIED WITH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 2 -

CONCERTED EFFORT TO PREVENT HILL FIRES OVER HOLIDAYS  
\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT AND THE CIVIL AID SERVICES HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS TO HELP THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S FIRE FIGHTING PATROLS IN COMBATTING HILL FIRES.

THEY TOOK ACTIVE PART IN FIGHTING TWO FIRES, ONE ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR (FEBRUARY 1) AT TAI MEI TUK IN TAI PO AND THE OTHER THE FOLLOWING DAY IN SHING MUN.

TWENTY-ONE RHKR VOLUNTEERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE FIRE-FIGHTING IN TAI MEI TUK AND 40 CAS MEN WERE MOBILISED TO TACKLE THE SHING MUN FIRE.

THROUGHOUT THE FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD, OTHER CONTINGENTS OF THE TWO FORCES WERE POSTED TO AREAS OF HIGH FIRE RISK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO HELP LOOK OUT FOR FIRES AND LEND SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED.

+THE PUBLIC IS GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR THEIR COMMENDABLE COMMUNITY SPIRIT. THIS SHOULD BE A LESSON TO THOSE PICNICKERS WHO ARE CARELESS WITH FIRE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID.

ALTOGETHER 13 HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND 9,000 TREES WERE DESTROYED.

THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE BROKE OUT IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR (JANUARY 31) NEAR TIN FU TSAI IN THE TAI LAM CHUNG AREA. SIXTEEN ACRES OF WOODLAND WITH 7,300 TREES WERE GUTTED BY THE BLAZE.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF FIRES HAD NOT BEEN ALARMING, THE DAMAGE TO OUR COUNTRYSIDE WAS DEPLORABLE.

HE CALLED ON VILLAGERS AND VISITORS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES TO KEEP UP THEIR VIGILANCE WHEN HANDLING MATCHES AND CIGARETTE BUTTS AND TO HAVE BARBECUE PARTIES ONLY AT DESIGNATED PLACES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

PICNICKERS CAN HELP THE DEPARTMENT AND HELP PRESERVE HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE BY ALERTING THE NEAREST FORESTRY OFFICE OR POLICE OR FIRE SERVICES POST IMMEDIATELY THEY SPOT A HILL FIRE.

IF THE FIRE IS SMALL, THEY CAN HELP BY STAMPING OR BEATING IT OUT BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF CONTROL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 3 -

TIME LIMIT FOR OBJECTIONS TO PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR. R.V. GIDDY, TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC ABOUT TIME LIMITS FOR OBJECTIONS TO PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS AND FOR REFUND OF PROPERTY TAX IN CONNECTION WITH OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY AND UNOCCUPIED PREMISES.

HE ALSO DREW THEIR ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO SUPPLY SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF CERTAIN VACANT OR UNOCCUPIED PREMISES.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT A PROPERTY OWNER AGGRIEVED BY A PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT SHOULD GIVE A NOTICE OF OBJECTION IN WRITING WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT NOTICE.

IN THE CASE OF OWNER-OCCUPATION CLAIMS AND VACANCY CLAIMS WHERE PROPERTY TAX HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID, CLAIMS FOR REFUND OF PROPERTY TAX SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE RELEVANT YEAR OF ASSESSMENT OR WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE TO PROPERTY TAX IS GIVEN, WHICHEVER IS THE LATER.

FOR LATE OBJECTIONS OR LATE REFUND CLAIMS, THE COMMISSIONER WOULD EXTEND THE TIME LIMITS IF HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THEY WERE DUE TO ABSENCE FROM HONG KONG, SICKNESS OR OTHER REASONABLE CAUSE.

HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT PROPERTY OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPIERS OF DOMESTIC PREMISES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FORWARD EVIDENCE OF UNOCCUPANCY TO SUPPORT THEIR VACANCY CLAIMS. THEY SHOULD RETAIN ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER BILLS AS EVIDENCE OF UNOCCUPIED DOMESTIC PROPERTY.

FOR NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION WILL ISSUE VACANCY CERTIFICATES IN ALL APPROPRIATE CASES. THESE CERTIFICATES ARE STILL REQUIRED TO BE PRODUCED TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT CLAIMS FOR REFUND OF PROPERTY TAX IN RESPECT OF VACANCY CLAIMS ON NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REQUIRE FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING THESE CLAIMS ARE INVITED TO TELEPHONE THE ASSESSOR, PROPERTY TAX AT 5-222151 EXTENSIONS 69 AND 84, OR WRITE TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, G.P.O. BOX 132, HONG KONG.

ADVICE, IN PERSON, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM INLAND REVENUE OFFICES AT WEST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, THIRD FLOOR, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG- AT 664 NATHAN ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, REAR PORTION, KOWLOON AND AT ON YUE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 132 TSUEN WAN MARKET STREET, NEW TERRITORIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 4 -

POPULATION ESTIMATED AT 4.3 MILLION AT END OF 1975  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1975 WAS 4,379,900, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 50,900 OVER THE END-YEAR 1974 ESTIMATE. THIS WAS MADE UP A +PLUS+ OF 58,200 THROUGH BALANCE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS AND A +MINUS+ OF 7,300 THROUGH BALANCE OF MIGRATION.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS FOR THE YEAR 1975 WAS 79,790- THIS WAS 3,791 FEWER THAN IN 1974.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR 1975 WAS 21,560, COMPARED WITH 21,879 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE FIGURES ON BIRTHS AND DEATHS ARE BASED UPON EVENTS OCCURRING RATHER THAN UPON REGISTRATION MADE AND THEREFORE DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE RELEASED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THE DECLINE IN THE OVERALL NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND IN THE BIRTH RATE, WHICH WAS 18.3 PER 1,000 POPULATION COMPARED WITH 19.7 IN 1974. SEVERAL FACTORS WERE NO DOUBT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS, AMONGST WHICH WERE THE FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ORAL ENGLISH EXAMINERS REQUIRED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD IS INVITING SERVING TEACHERS AND OTHERS SUITABLY QUALIFIED TO APPLY TO SERVE AS ORAL ENGLISH EXAMINERS FOR THE 1976 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

APPLICATION FORMS AND DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE EXAMINATIONS DIVISION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 11/F., 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON (TEL. NOS. 3-688796 OR 3-688694).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 16, 1976. THOSE WHO HAVE SENT IN THEIR APPLICATIONS LAST MONTH NEED NOT RE-APPLY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 5 -

HK BANK DONATES \$300,000 IN AID OF FIRE VICTIMS  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK WILL PRESENT A CHEQUE OF \$300,000 TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TO BE PAID INTO THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND IN AID OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS.

THE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF LEE GARDENS AT 10 A.M.

COMMENTING ON THE DONATION, MR. LEE SAID THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, WHICH WAS SET UP IN 1962, WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE HELP FOR THE VICTIMS OF FIRES AND OTHER DISASTERS.

THIS FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY A COMMITTEE OF WHICH MR. LEE IS CHAIRMAN AND INCLUDES AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP: DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THREE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS - MR. CHEUNG WING-IN, MR. NG CHAN-LAM, AND MR. WONG PING-HON.

IN REGARD TO RELIEF, THE COMMITTEE HAVE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT THE WAY IN WHICH PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS SHOULD BE MADE TO HELP TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

FOR EXAMPLE CASH ASSISTANCE TO COVER LOSS OF FAMILY EARNINGS DUE TO DEATH OR INJURIES, THE COSTS OF REMOVAL, AND THE EXPENSES OF SETTING UP A NEW HOME.

+THE AIM OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO REQUIRE HELP,+ MR. LEE SAID.

THE FUND IS OPEN TO PUBLIC DONATIONS AND, SHOULD EXTRA MONEY BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE FUND THE COMMITTEE CAN APPROACH GOVERNMENT.

IN REGARD TO THE TRAGIC LUNAR NEW YEAR FIRE AT ALDRICH BAY, MR. LEE SAID ALMOST \$1 MILLION WOULD BE PAID OUT TO HELP THE 3,000 OR MORE VICTIMS. +I AM THEREFORE APPEALING TO YOU ALL TO MAKE AS GENEROUS A DONATION TO THE FUND AS YOU FEEL ABLE TO AFFORD.

+SUCH DONATIONS WILL ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO HAVE JUST SUFFERED SO GRIEVOUSLY,+ HE ADDED.

HE CONTINUED: +OF COURSE YOU MAY FEEL THAT YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DONATION TO THE FUND TO BE USED TO BRING HELP DIRECTLY TO THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED AS A RESULT OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE. IF THIS IS YOUR WISH I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ANY DONATION WITH THIS IN MIND WILL FIRST BE USED FOR THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS SO LONG AS THEY SHOULD REQUIRE HELP FROM THE FUND, AND SHOULD THERE BE ANY BALANCE REMAINING, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE USED TO HELP ANY FUTURE VICTIMS OF SIMILAR DISASTERS.+

DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, C/O SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION TOMORROW.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 6 -

**MORE DONATIONS FOR FIRE VICTIMS**

**\* \* \* \* \***

THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS TODAY DONATED \$100,000 IN AID OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE.

AT A CEREMONY IN THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROUP, MR. KONG WING-ON, PRESENTED THE CHEQUE TO THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WAS THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR. CHARM HOI-SANG.

THE LATEST DONATION BRINGS TO OVER \$300,000 THE TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED SO FAR.

THE OTHER DONATIONS INCLUDED THOSE FROM THE WING LUNG BANK (\$100,000), SING CHUN SIN TONG (\$33,000) AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PO LEUNG KUK (\$25,000).

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. GUS CHUI, THANKED ALL ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS.

----- 0 -----

**NO RIGHT TURN**

**\* \* \***

TRAFFIC FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO SHA TIN PASS ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 6).

THIS IS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE WONG TAI SIN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP IN THE AREA TO GUIDE DRIVERS.

----- 0 -----

/7 .....

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1976

- 7 -

NO REST FOR CIVIL AID SERVICES  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WERE FULLY ENGAGED IN HELPING OUT OTHER PEOPLE DURING THE FOUR-DAY LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THE VOLUNTEERS WERE MOBILISED ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 1) NIGHT TO TAKE PART IN THE EMERGENCY OPERATION TO HELP THE ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS.

THEY ARE STILL THERE TODAY KEEPING ORDER AND GIVING ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT STAFF.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THEY WERE POSTED TO VARIOUS HILL FIRE BLACK SPOTS OVER THE WEEKEND TO SUPPORT THE FIRE FIGHTING PATROLS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE SERVICES' MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT WAS CALLED OUT EARLY ON TUESDAY MORNING TO SEARCH FOR ELEVEN HIKERS WHO WERE LOST IN THE HILLS ABOVE TAI PO. THE MISSING PICNICKERS LATER RETURNED HOME SAFELY.

A MORE PLEASANT TASK FOR THE C.A.S. WAS CROWD CONTROL AND USHERING DUTIES DURING THE GALA OPENING OF THE FOURTH ARTS FESTIVAL ON TUESDAY EVENING.

- - - - 0 - - - -