



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1978

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SPECIAL FUND FOR N.T. VILLAGE PROJECTS
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A SPECIAL FUND TO HELP FINANCE A VARIETY OF BASIC FACILITIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE OF REMOTE VILLAGERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS INCREASED BY 40 FOLDS OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

THE FUND, KNOWN AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE, HAS RISEN TO \$5 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR FROM \$2.4 MILLION IN 1967-68 AND \$120,000 TWO DECADES AGO.

IT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION THROUGH ITS VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES AND IS AIMED AT HELPING VILLAGERS TO HELP THEMSELVES.

IT HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE PROVISION OF MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD NORMALLY FALL OUTSIDE OTHER DEPARTMENT'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

ALTHOUGH PROJECTS ARE USUALLY PUT OUT TO TENDER BY LOCAL CONTRACTORS, THE FUND SOMETIMES WORKS AS A MUTUAL AID SCHEME UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT GIVES CASH OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PARTICULAR PROJECT WHILE THE VILLAGERS CONCERNED TAKE CARE OF LABOUR AND TRANSPORT.

PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OVER THE PAST YEARS OR ARE BEING CARRIED OUT INCLUDE REPAIRS TO ACCESS ROADS, FOOTPATHS, VAN TRACKS AND BRIDGES, CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUNDS, WATER PUMPS, WELLS AND RESITE MARKET.

+THIS YEAR, WE MAKE USE OF THE FUND TO PROVIDE YET ANOTHER ITEM OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO REMOTE VILLAGERS -- VILLAGE STREET LIGHTING,+ SAID MR. ROBERT FOOTMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE FUND IN THE N.T.A. HEADQUARTERS.

MR. FOOTMAN SAID WORK WAS DUE TO START ON THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF STREET LIGHTING INSTALLATION ON LANTAU ISLAND AND TENDERS WERE ABOUT TO BE INVITED FOR FURTHER INSTALLATIONS IN SHA TIN, YUEN LONG, TAI PO AND SAI KUNG.

THE INSTALLATION PROGRAMME AIMS AT PROVIDING ADEQUATE STREET LIGHTING IN VILLAGES WHERE THERE ARE NO STREET LIGHTS AT PRESENT, HE SAID.

DESCRIBING HOW THE FUND OPERATES, MR. FOOTMAN SAID THAT EACH YEAR, THE DISTRICT OFFICES INVITED RURAL COMMITTEES AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES TO SUBMIT LISTS OF PROJECTS THAT SHOULD BE FINANCED BY THE FUND.

+AFTER THE LISTS ARE STUDIED AND THE PRIORITIES SORTED OUT, THE DISTRICT OFFICES SEND OUT WORKS STAFF TO EXAMINE DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS ALONG WITH THE RURAL COMMITTEES OR VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES.

/+RECOMMENDATIONS

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+RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE MADE BEFORE CERTAIN PROJECTS ARE APPROVED, IN WHICH CASE THEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF STAFF FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICES,+ HE SAID.

MR. FOOTMAN SAID THAT WITH THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, THE FUND WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE BOARDS' TERMS OF REFERENCE.

+BOARD MEMBERS WILL ADVISE ON THE USE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE DISTRICTS UNDER THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE,+ HE SAID.

THROUGH THE YEARS, MR. FOOTMAN SAID, THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE HAS PROVED TO BE VERY USEFUL IN PROVIDING BASIC FACILITIES FOR REMOTE VILLAGERS.

+IT CREATES A WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE AND HAS PROVED ITSELF RESPONSIVE TO THE NEED OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

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TRADE STATISTICS GO METRIC TODAY
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HONG KONG ADOPTS METRIC UNITS IN ITS TRADE STATISTICS WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY UNDER A RECLASSIFICATION OF TRADE FIGURES TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH THOSE OF OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE CHANGE, METRIC UNITS OF QUANTITY MUST BE USED IN COMPLETING TRADE DECLARATIONS FOR ALL SHIPMENTS MADE ON AND AFTER TODAY.

THE CHANGES WHICH ALSO INVOLVE SOME COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION ARE CONTAINED IN THE NEW EDITION OF THE HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST PUBLISHED IN MID-DECEMBER. IT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$11 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN NEW GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW LIST WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC BEFORE ITS EFFECTIVE DATE IN ORDER TO GIVE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE TO COMPLETE TRADE DECLARATIONS, TIME TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THESE CHANGES.

THE NEW LIST REPLACES THE JANUARY 1974 EDITION WHICH IS BASED ON THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION, REVISED 1.

THE NEW EDITION INVOLVES A CHANGEOVER TO THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION, REVISED 2, IN LINE WITH A UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATION THAT IT BE ADOPTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY COUNTRIES COMPILING EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID : +THE CHANGE WILL ENHANCE THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S PUBLISHED TRADE STATISTICS BECAUSE FINER COMMODITY BREAKDOWNS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE REVISED COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION LIST OF THE NEW HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST.+

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ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD TO BE WIDENED
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A SECTION OF ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD IS TO BE WIDENED TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. K.Y. HO, ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (H.K.) DIVISION, SAID THE WORK WOULD BEGIN IN MARCH THIS YEAR AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE WORK WOULD INCLUDE THE WIDENING OF A BEND EAST OF THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET FROM 6.8 METRES TO 11 METRES.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT WOULD BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 130 METRES OF STORMWATER DRAIN AND SEWER.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER
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THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED FOR NINE DAYS BETWEEN 9 P.M. AND 6 A.M. DAILY FROM NEXT TUESDAY (JANUARY 3) EVENING TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS ON THE FLYOVER, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

DURING THE CLOSURE, NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC FROM PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD TO WATERLOO ROAD SHOULD TURN LEFT INTO ARGYLE STREET, U-TURN IN FRONT OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND ENTER WATERLOO ROAD.

FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC, MOTORISTS SHOULD DRIVE ALONG WATERLOO ROAD, CROSS ARGYLE STREET AND ENTER PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

THE KMB BUS ROUTE NO. 7B WILL ALSO BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE AT GROUND LEVEL DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED IN THE AREA TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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