



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, December 15, 1972

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Heavier penalties are proposed to fight sea pollution	1
Regulations governing furnaces, ovens or chimneys, designed to reduce air pollution, have been published	5
An elevated road is to be built in Yau Ma Tei to ease traffic congestion	7
The final of the Miniature Soccer Competition, sponsored by ACAN, is to be played tomorrow	8
A Christmas party for the blind is to be held at the Lutheran Kwun Tong Primary School	10
There will be two mail deliveries on Christmas Eve	11
Box junctions have been painted on the eastbound carriageway of Connaught Road Central near the Cleverly Street bus terminus to ease congestion	12
A roof is to be built for the Tsing Yi Public Pier	12
A Labour Officer stresses importance of harmonious labour-management relationship	13
A dispute over severance pay in Kwun Tong has been settled with the help of the Labour Department	15

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 1 -

HEAVIER PENALTIES TO COMBAT SEA POLLUTION

Higher Fines And Jail Sentences Proposed

Amending legislation to combat pollution of Hong Kong waters and to improve the disciplinary measures and recruiting operation of seamen will soon be introduced into the Legislative Council.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill 1972 mainly provides for heavier penalties for offences connected with sea pollution; while the Merchant Shipping (Recruiting of Seamen) (Amendment) Bill 1972 deals with recruiting of seamen and discipline as well.

Both amending bills are published in today's Government Gazette for general information.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill 1972 makes it an offence to discharge oil, whether from land or ships, or to deposit without the permission of the Director of Marine substances other than oil, into Hong Kong waters.

Any person found guilty of the offence is liable on conviction to a fine of \$20,000 and to imprisonment of six months.

Where oil is discharged from a vessel, the owner, master, agent or charterer will be liable; and where it is discharged from a place on land, the occupier or the owner will be liable.

/The bill

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 2 -

The bill also requires these persons to report to the Director of Marine the discharge or escape of oil from the vessel or land into Hong Kong waters, failing which will be an offence punishable by a \$4,000 maximum fine.

Another major provision empowers an authorized public officer to remove from a ship a seaman who has been lawfully discharged from the ship but refuses to leave it.

A Government spokesman said the provision of such powers has been proposed in the interest of operational efficiency in the port as there is a tendency for Hong Kong seamen to attempt to coerce the master of their ship into accepting demands by striking en masse or by refusing to leave ship when they have been lawfully discharged.

Stringent Measures

The other amending bill provides for more adequate and stringent measures to deal with the problem of desertion of Hong Kong registered seamen.

It proposes that the Superintendent of the Seamen's Recruiting Office may summarily suspend a seaman's registration where he has reasonable grounds for believing that the seaman has deserted or refused without cause to join his ship.

Alternatively, the Superintendent may either suspend the seaman's registration and immediately refer the case to the Seamen's Recruiting Authority or caution the seaman in writing to be of good behaviour.

The seaman may appeal to a Board of Reference against the grounds for his suspension or the duration of the suspension, which can be as long as 24 months.

/The Government

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 3 -

The Government spokesman said the incidence of desertion of Hong Kong registered seamen has become a serious problem affecting Hong Kong, the shipping industry, and the country in which the seaman deserts.

"The reputation of Hong Kong as a recruiting centre and the livelihood of Hong Kong seamen will suffer if the number of desertion is not reduced," he added.

The second bill also amends the definition of seaman to include all persons comprising the complement of a foreign-going ship other than master, certificated mate, certificated engineer, doctor or persons serving in capacities excluded by the Seamen's Recruiting Authority.

Exclusion

"The exclusion of this miscellaneous category of employees has in practice enabled men to join ships through intermediaries, at exorbitant fees, ostensibly as tallymen and compradors while they actively work as deckhand, cook or engine-room donkeyman," the spokesman said.

Another proposed amendment empowers the Superintendent to order any seaman to undergo a medical examination and to suspend the seaman from the register if he fails to pass it. If, subsequently, the seaman is certified to be medically fit, his name will be re-entered into the register.

The spokesman said the second bill has been drafted to eliminate some of the deficiencies which have come to light with experience of the working of the Seamen's Recruiting Office which was opened in June, 1966.

/He recalled

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 4 -

He recalled that it was envisaged in the Seamen's Recruitment Committee's Final Report 1963/64 that sometime after the Seamen's Recruiting Office had been in operation and had acquired the necessary experience, the legislation would be re-examined.

----- 0 -----

/5

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 5 -

CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS WILL HELP REDUCE POLLUTION

And Economise Use Of Fuel

Regulations laying down statutory requirements for the design of furnaces, ovens, or chimneys so as to reduce the risk of air pollution are published in today's Gazette.

The Clean Air (Furnaces, Ovens, and Chimneys) (Installation and Alteration) Regulations 1972, made by the Governor in Council under the Clean Air Ordinance, become effective immediately.

Commenting on these regulations, the Smoke Abatement Adviser, Mr. K. Higginson of the Labour Department, said that they would apply to all premises, with certain exemptions, in which it was proposed to install, alter, or modify a furnace, oven or chimney.

Premises which use less than five gallons of conventional liquid fuel, 70 pounds of conventional solid fuel or 10 therms of gas fuel each hour are exempted from the application of the regulations.

The Smoke Abatement Adviser said: "The occupier may be required to submit a block plan showing buildings surrounding the premises, and must submit plans and specifications of such installation to the Commissioner of Labour who is the competent authority in these regulations for approval."

He added that a block plan must be prepared by an authorised architect and that a plan showing elevations or plan views must be prepared by either an authorised architect or a qualified engineer as defined in the regulations.

/Specifications

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 6 -

Specifications required to be submitted include details of the grade, type, and quantity of fuel to be used, the expected working hours of the appliances, details of any automatic controls, and information or any method of controlling the consumption of fuel and the admission of air.

Also required are structural details of any chimney, and details of any stoking device to be used with solid fuel of any burner appliance to be fitted to a furnace using liquid or gaseous fuel.

Contraventions of these regulations constitute an offence, punishable by fines of up to \$5,000 and an additional fine of \$50 for each day on which the offence continues.

The court may also order the occupier to cease operating or to dismantle the appliance.

Free Advice

The Smoke Abatement Adviser said: "Trained officers of the smoke inspectorate of the Labour Department will give free advice to members of the public on the thermal efficiency of any design for furnace, oven, chimney or flue."

He said: "Tests carried out in the United Kingdom by the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service show that the installation of badly-designed plant can result in a 20% - 25% wastage of fuel. This percentage of wastage is probably higher in Hong Kong."

He believed that enforcement of the regulations by the smoke inspectorate would lead to an appreciable saving in fuel costs to operators, and would provide a cleaner atmosphere for the general public.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 7 -

ELEVATED ROAD TO EASE CONGESTION IN YAU MA TEI

Go-Ahead Authorised

The present traffic congestion in Yau Ma Tei will be eased considerably with the building of an elevated road running from Gascoigne Road to the typhoon anchorage.

Authority has now been given to go ahead with the construction of the elevated road which forms the first stage of the Western Kowloon Corridor scheme.

When completed, the scheme will provide a new major road route, serving to distribute traffic in the urban areas of Western Kowloon and connecting these areas with Tsuen Wan/Kwai Chung to the north.

The elevated road will start from Gascoigne Road near its junction with Wylie Road, along Gascoigne Road and Kansu Street to the reclamation in Yau Ma Tei typhoon anchorage near Tung Kun Street.

It will form a direct connection for the vehicular cross harbour tunnel with the proposed Tong Mi Road extension through the typhoon anchorage.

The project will entail widening of certain sections of Gascoigne Road and Kansu Street, and necessitate temporary traffic diversion and re-routing during construction.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 8 -

ACAN SOCCER FINAL TOMORROW

Narcotics Commissioner To Give Trophies

The final match in the Miniature Soccer Competition Championship, sponsored by the Action Committee Against Narcotics, will take place at the Southorn Playground in Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island at 6 p.m. tomorrow, (Saturday).

Two teams, Tam Luen from Hong Kong, and Wing Kit from Kowloon will be meeting to decide the winner.

The match will start at 6 p.m. and Golden Harvest Studios' Mandarin film actress, Miss Hsu Feng, whose films include "Dragon Inn" and "A Touch of Zen" will "kick off". Music will be provided by the band of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

At the end of the match, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr. Norman Rolph, will present prizes and trophies to the winning team and runner-up.

The Excelsior Hotel has donated a trophy in the form of a miniature football to be known as the "Excelsior Trophy". This is to be retained by the winner of this match and passed on to the winning teams of subsequent competitions.

A set of medallions minted to commemorate the opening of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel has been donated by Mr. Dennis Lyth to be retained by the runner-up and passed on annually. Many other organisations have also donated prizes for the teams and players too.

/The Miniature

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 9 -

The Miniature Soccer Competition is the first ever to be held in Hong Kong and almost 300 teams have taken part from the start leading up to the final match tomorrow.

The competition was organised by the Action Committee Against Narcotics as part of its general publicity campaign this year. It was also intended as an anti-drug message to attract young people and demonstrate to them that there are ways in which they can usefully occupy their spare-time.

Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to have the match and the presentation of prizes covered on Saturday, December 16, 1972. "Kick-off" is at 6 p.m.

Copies of a photograph showing the "Excelsior Trophy" are distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 10 -

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR BLIND

Members of the Kin Ching Club of the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre will host a Christmas party for 200 blind people at the Lutheran Kwun Tong Primary School on Sunday, December 17.

The Club is a group of young people organised with the support and advice of the social workers of the Centre to serve underprivileged people.

It was formed last summer by a group of young people who took part in the summer programme organised by the Social Welfare Department.

Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event. It will be held on December 17 (Sunday), from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Lutheran Kwun Tong Primary School, No. 285, Kwun Tong Road, ground floor, Kowloon.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 11 -

TWO LETTER DELIVERIES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Postmen will make two deliveries of letters on Christmas Eve before they take a day off on Christmas Day.

There will be only one delivery on the coming Sunday (December 17), Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Post Office said all post offices would be closed on Christmas Day.

But for Boxing Day and New Year's Day, counter facilities will be available from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at 31 post offices, including the General Post Office in Central and the Kowloon Central Post Office.

The spokesman appealed to the public to mail their cards early to avoid disappointment of non-delivery before Christmas.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 12 -

BOX JUNCTIONS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL

Box junctions have been painted on the eastbound carriageway of Connaught Road Central outside the entrance and exit to the Cleverly Street bus terminus to ease traffic congestion in the area.

These cross-hatched boxes serve as a visual warning to motorists to avoid blocking traffic entering or coming out of the terminus, a Transport Department spokesman said.

Motorists, especially drivers of goods vehicles, are requested to keep clear of these boxes when waiting in a line of eastbound traffic.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ROOF FOR TSING YI PUBLIC PIER

Work will soon begin for the construction of an asbestos roof cover for the Tsing Yi Public Pier.

When completed, this roof will provide a shelter from the sun and rain for passengers and goods passing through the pier.

The estimated cost of the work is \$80,000.

Work is expected to take three months to complete.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 13 -

HARMONIOUS LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIP

Importance Stressed By Labour Officer

Labour and management relationships in Hong Kong are more cordial compared to those in many other Asian countries.

This was the impression of Mr. T.F. Tsui, Senior Labour Officer in charge of the Labour Relations Service when he recently attended a seminar in Bangkok.

Mr. Tsui was a guest speaker at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West today.

He stressed the importance of maintaining the present atmosphere of harmonious relationship between employers and employees.

Referring to the work of the Labour Relations Service in the past eleven months, Mr. Tsui said: "The Service dealt with a total of 4,221 labour problems of all types and 73% of them were amicably settled.

"17,553 enquiries were received and this number reflects the willingness of both parties to confide in and seek the advice of the Service.

"Officers of the Service also paid 318 visits to industrial employers and these include visits to promote joint consultation, to encourage employers to prepare an employee handbook and to introduce a grievance procedure."

/On the

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 14 -

On the average, Mr. Tsui noted that the Service successfully assisted in the settlement of over 70% of all disputes.

He said: "The Service welcomes all employers and employees who wish to seek assistance, make enquiries or lodge complaints concerning labour and management problems."

In connection with the Labour Tribunal which will come into operation early next year, Mr. Tsui said that it is aimed at providing a quick, inexpensive and informal method of settling certain types of disputes involving claims of right between employers and employees.

"A number of information booklets on labour and management relations are obtainable free of charge from the branch offices of the Labour Department," he added.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15

Friday, December 15, 1972

- 15 -

DISPUTE OVER SEVERANCE PAY SETTLED

With the help of the Labour Department, an amicable settlement was reached in a labour dispute in the H.W. Turning & Co., Ltd., in Kwun Tong over the retrenchment of 131 workers.

The two parties signed an agreement in the presence of an officer of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department yesterday (December 14).

Under the agreement, the workers will each receive, where applicable, one month's wages in lieu of notice, payment from the Staff Saving Fund, annual bonus, severance pay and payment in lieu of annual leave due.

Officers of Labour Relations Service visited the establishment on December 2 and conducted a total of four joint meetings for the parties concerned.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release Time: 7.00 p.m.