



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INCREASING ROLE FOR POST OFFICE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS: ACTING GOVERNOR

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID THE POST OFFICE HAS IN RECENT YEARS PLAYED AN INCREASING IMPORTANT ROLE IN OVERSEEING THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

OFFICIATING AT THE POST OFFICE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION, SIR DAVID SAID THE ROLE OF THE POST OFFICE WOULD GAIN PROMINENCE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

SIR DAVID SAID EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG INTO A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CITY.

THE POST OFFICE COULD JUSTLY BE PROUD OF THE ROLE IT HAD PLAYED OVER THE LAST 150 YEARS IN TRANSFORMING HONG KONG INTO A VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY, HE ADDED.

"THE POSTMAN BRINGS TO US MANY MESSAGES WHICH PLUCK AT OUR HEART-STRINGS BUT ON A MORE PRACTICAL LEVEL ALSO PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN HELPING BUSINESS AND COMMERCE TO KEEP IN TOUCH," HE SAID.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR PAID TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

SIR DAVID ALSO PRAISED THE POST OFFICE WHICH HAD WON AWARDS FOR SUCCESSIVE YEARS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATIONS FOR BEING THE MOST COURTEOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

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HEAVIER FINES FOR LABOUR OFFENCES

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THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS FOR LABOUR OFFENCES AND THE LEVEL OF FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS CONTINUED TO GO UP IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

DURING THE PERIOD, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT 1,917 CASES TO COURT, RESULTING IN FINES AMOUNTING TO \$8.21 MILLION. THESE COMPARED WITH 1,758 CONVICTIONS AND \$7.19 MILLION IN FINES IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

"THE COMPARISON ALSO SHOWS A NINE PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS WHILE THE AVERAGE FINE HAS GONE UP FROM \$4,091 TO \$4,288," THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MR TSANG KIN-WOO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR TSANG EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE MARKED INCREASES IN THE NUMBERS OF SOME OFFENCES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THE NON-GRANTING OF HOLIDAYS, UNDERPAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF HOLIDAYS.

"A TOTAL OF 33 CONVICTIONS WERE RECORDED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE THIS YEAR, COMPARED TO ONLY TWO IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THE NUMBER OF CHILD EMPLOYMENT CONVICTIONS HAS INCREASED BY 61 PER CENT TO 71 CASES DURING THE PERIOD," HE SAID.

MR TSANG NOTED THAT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFENCES CONTINUED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF LABOUR-RELATED PROSECUTIONS, REPRESENTING OVER 53 PER CENT OF ALL CONVICTED CASES.

"THEY INCLUDED 475 CASES OF BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, WHILE 554 CASES RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, WITH FINES AMOUNTING TO \$1.88 MILLION AND \$4.63 MILLION RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

OF THE REMAINING CASES, 760 INVOLVED VIOLATION OF WELFARE PROVISIONS UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS, AND EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ORDINANCES.

THE FINES TOTALLED \$1.37 MILLION.

OTHER CASES INCLUDED 111 PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE AND 17 CASES OF FAILURE TO KEEP OR PRODUCE FOR INSPECTION EMPLOYEES RECORDS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

FINES TOTTALLING \$342,950 WERE IMPOSED.

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29 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JUNE
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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 29 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN JUNE.

OF THESE, SEVEN WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, FIVE FOR KOWLOON AND 17 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 12 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, THREE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FIVE FOR FACTORY PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 38 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 73,218.7 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 106,781.7 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$1,416 MILLION. USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 82,100.9 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 206,746 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

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ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 35 OCCUPATION PERMITS; 12 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, EIGHT FOR KOWLOON AND 15 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 26 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 132 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 549 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,207 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 283 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 638 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED 12 EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS
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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD IS INVITING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR CARRYING OUT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES BETWEEN OCTOBER THIS YEAR AND MARCH NEXT YEAR.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 30 LUEN WAN STREET, KOWLOON, ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16.

THESE ACTIVITIES CAN BE RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL OR SPORTING WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SOCIAL COHESION; TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DEVELOP GOOD HOBBIES, INTEREST AND CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS; AND TO BE EDUCATIONAL.

THE COMMITTEE HAS SENT LETTERS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT INVITING THEM TO APPLY FOR FUNDS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 399 2121.

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POLICE REMINDER ON HAZARDS OF OVERLOADING
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POLICE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED LORRY DRIVERS NOT TO OVERLOAD THEIR VEHICLES AS IT POSES A SERIOUS HAZARD TO ROAD SAFETY AND CAUSES DAMAGE TO THE ROADS.

THE REMINDER CAME AFTER POLICE REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OVERLOADING OFFENCES.

"IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 16,964 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED AS COMPARED WITH 13,085 PEOPLE PROSECUTED DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR," ACCORDING TO A POLICE SPOKESMAN.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN IN THE INCREASED NUMBER OF DRIVERS SUMMONSED AND ARRESTED FOR SUCH OFFENCES.

"THERE WERE 724 SUMMONS ISSUED AND 85 ARRESTS MADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 351 SUMMONS AND 28 ARRESTS DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF HEAVY LORRIES THAT OVERLOADING IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE. ANY PERSON FOUND COMMITTING SUCH OFFENCE IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE, AND FOR THE SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION IS LIABLE TO \$10,000 IN FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"DEPENDING ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OVERLOADING, THE OFFENDER MAY EITHER BE ISSUED A FIXED PENALTY TICKET, A SUMMONS OR EVEN BE ARRESTED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FOR SERIOUS CASES, THE VEHICLE WILL ALSO BE DETAINED FOR EXAMINATION AND THE DRIVER WILL BE CHARGED WITH RECKLESS DRIVING IF THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION REPORT INDICATES THAT THE OVERLOADING HAS LOWERED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE BRAKING SYSTEM OF THE VEHICLE TO AN UNSAFE LEVEL.

"VEHICULAR OVERLOADING DOES NOT ONLY POSE A SERIOUS HAZARD TO ROAD SAFETY BUT ALSO CAUSES DAMAGE TO THE ROADS," HE SAID.

"THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AGAINST OVERLOADING OFFENDERS," HE ADDED.

TO AID ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, THE POLICE ARE AT PRESENT OPERATING FOUR WEIGHBRIDGES AT LOK MA CHAU, MAN KAM TO, MA LIU SHUI AND HO MAN TIN. ANOTHER WEIGHBRIDGE SITED AT JAVA ROAD WILL COME INTO OPERATION SOON.

IN ADDITION, THE POLICE ARE EQUIPPED WITH 13 SETS OF WEIGHPADS WHICH ARE PORTABLE. WITH THESE WEIGHPADS, CHECKS AGAINST OVERLOADING OFFENDERS ARE BEING FREQUENTLY TAKEN AT VARIOUS ROADS WHICH ARE TRAVELLED REGULARLY BY HEAVY VEHICLES.

THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO MAKING OVERLOADING A DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS OFFENCE WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THE REPEATED OFFENDERS DISQUALIFIED FROM DRIVING.

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