



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1980

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RECORD NUMBER OF MARRIAGES LAST YEAR
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THE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES REGISTERED LAST YEAR REACHED A RECORD TOTAL OF 45 222, SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 12 PER CENT OVER 1978, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY TODAY (SATURDAY).

OF THESE, 4 998 WERE MARRIAGES BETWEEN PARTIES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED OTHERWISE THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE, GENERALLY BY CHINESE CUSTOMARY CEREMONIES, AS COMPARED WITH 4 304 IN 1978. EXCLUDING THESE 'REMARRIAGES' THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED MARRIAGES INCREASED BY 4 228 FROM 36 096 TO 40 224.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY ATTRIBUTED THE INCREASE TO THE FACT THAT LAST YEAR HAPPENED TO HAVE TWO FIRST DAYS OF SPRING (LAP CHUN) IN THE LUNAR CALENDAR, AND WAS TRADITIONALLY REGARDED BY THE CHINESE AS AN AUSPICIOUS YEAR FOR MARRIAGES.

ANOTHER FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCREASE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE POPULATION STRUCTURE WHICH NOW HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE AGE GROUP FOR MARRIAGES, THAT IS FROM 18 TO 35 FOR WOMEN AND 21 TO 39 FOR MEN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING THE YEAR 42 341 MARRIAGES WERE PERFORMED IN VARIOUS MARRIAGE REGISTRIES WHILE 2 881 RELIGIOUS MARRIAGES WERE CELEBRATED IN 158 LICENSED PLACES OF WORSHIP.

THE PEAK PERIOD OF THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY AGAIN OCCURRED IN THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WHEN 4 462 AND 4 334 MARRIAGES RESPECTIVELY WERE REGISTERED AS COMPARED WITH THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 3 768.

+MANY PEOPLE WANT TO GET MARRIED BEFORE THE YEAR ENDS TO CATCH UP THE FESTIVE HOLIDAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND LUNAR NEW YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AMONG THE 12 MARRIAGE REGISTRIES, CITY HALL REMAINS THE MOST POPULAR ONE AND IS ALSO THE ONLY REGISTRY WHERE MARRIAGES ARE PERFORMED ON SUNDAYS. A TOTAL OF 6 478 MARRIAGES WERE REGISTERED THERE LAST YEAR.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SERVICE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED LAST YEAR WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW TAI PO MARRIAGE REGISTRY. THE NEW REGISTRY NOT ONLY HELPS TO EASE MUCH THE PRESSURE ON MARRIAGE REGISTRIES IN URBAN AREAS BUT IS ALSO VERY CONVENIENT FOR THE RURAL RESIDENTS.

LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, THE NEW REGISTRY IS PROVIDED WITH A RANGE OF NEW FACILITIES INCLUDING A PARKING SPACE FOR THE WEDDING CAR, A BRIDAL CHAMBER AND A GARDEN OUTSIDE THE MARRIAGE CEREMONIAL HALL.

THE NEW REGISTRY BECAME OPERATIONAL IN JULY LAST YEAR. IT HAS PROVED ITS POPULARITY BY BOOSTING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN TAI PO DURING THE YEAR TO 2 600, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF 1 129 IN 1978.

/APART FROM

APART FROM THE SUB-OFFICES IN TAI PO, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN AND SHEUNG SHUI, FOUR PART-TIME REGISTRIES IN SHA TIN, SAI KUNG, CHEUNG CHAU AND TAI O ON LANTAU ISLAND ALSO RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE LAST YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SINCE ALL REGISTRIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL AND URBAN DISTRICTS, THE SPOKESMAN STRONGLY ADVISED THOSE WHO INTEND TO CUT SHORT THEIR WAITING TIME FOR MARRIAGES TO MAKE FULL USE OF THESE RURAL FACILITIES WHICH ARE LESS USED BY URBAN RESIDENTS.

IN ADDITION THERE ARE MOBILE PART-TIME REGISTRIES AND INFORMATION ON THEIR TIME SCHEDULES COULD BE OBTAINED AT ALL MARRIAGE REGISTRIES AND IMMIGRATION OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

AS A RESULT OF THE CENTRALISATION OF PERSONAL REGISTRATION SERVICES, THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY FORMERLY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SINCE JULY LAST YEAR.

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SPACE MUSEUM NEARS COMPLETION

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WORK ON THE HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM IN TSIM SHA TSUI IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED AND THE BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN APRIL.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT STRUCTURAL WORK HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND THE ONLY THING LEFT TO BE DONE WAS DECORATION.

DESPITE THIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE WORK HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT URBAN COUNCIL CONTRACTORS COULD PROCEED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF PROJECTION EQUIPMENT, SCREEN AS WELL AS SOUND AND LIGHTING SYSTEM DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

THE INSTALLATION WORK IS NOW IN AN ADVANCED STAGE AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SPACE MUSEUM, ONE OF THE MOST MODERN PROJECTS OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD, WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

THE DOMINANT FEATURE OF THE SPACE MUSEUM IS THE LARGE EGG-SHAPED DOME STRUCTURE WHICH HOUSES THE 320-SEAT SKY THEATRE.

THE SPACE MUSEUM, SITUATED AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI WATERFRONT, ALSO HOUSES AN EXHIBITION HALL AND A LECTURE HALL CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING 200 PEOPLE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SOLAR HALL IN WHICH EXHIBITS WILL BE ON DISPLAY TO GIVE THE PUBLIC A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUN.

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REMOTE ISLANDERS TO GET NEW PIER

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COME TO THE AID OF A REMOTE VILLAGE COMMUNITY AT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF CHI MA WAN PENINSULA ON LANTAU ISLAND WHICH HAS A TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

THE VILLAGERS AT MONG TUNG WAN WILL HAVE A NEW PIER FOR +KAIDOS+ BY WHICH THEY TRANSPORT THEIR FARM PRODUCE AND GOODS DAILY TO AND FROM CHEUNG CHAU. IT WILL BE BUILT WITH A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

THE NEW PIER WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING JETTY WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED DANGEROUS.

A THREE-FOOT PATH ACROSS HILLY TERRAIN THROUGH THE SOUTH LANTAU COUNTRY PARK TO HAM TIN IS THE VILLAGERS' ONLY ROUTE TO OTHER PARTS OF LANTAU. HOWEVER, THE NARROWNESS OF THE PATH MAKES TRANSPORTATION VERY DIFFICULT.

LOCAL VILLAGERS APPLIED IN 1976 FOR ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE FOOTPATH BUT THE APPLICATION WAS TURNED DOWN DUE TO OBJECTIONS BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY.

IN RESPONSE TO A SECOND REQUEST THE LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE ARRANGED FOR A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF \$50 000 TO HELP MEET THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW PIER TO GIVE THEM ACCESS TO CHEUNG CHAU.

THE SUBSIDY COMES FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS (LPW) VOTE.

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICKY LO, SAID MONG TUNG WAN FORMERLY HAD A POPULATION OF 84, BUT IN VIEW OF ITS LOCATION AND TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES MANY OF THE RESIDENTS HAVE MOVED FURTHER INLAND TO HAM TIN OR PUI O OVER THE YEARS.

HE SAID TO ENSURE SAFE TRAVEL FOR THE VILLAGERS, THE NEW PIER NEEDED TO BE BUILT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PLACE OF THE ONE THEY HAD BEEN USING.

THE PIER WILL COST \$80 000. WITH THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OF \$50 000, THE VILLAGERS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO MEET THE REMAINDER OF THE COST THEMSELVES.

MR LO SAID THE VILLAGERS' CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROJECT WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LPW SCHEME - TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPROVING THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS.

TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PIER WILL BE INVITED IN JUNE. WORK WILL START SHORTLY AFTERWARDS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1980

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PLB PROHIBITED ZONE IN SHA TIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING SIU LEK YUEN ROAD, SHA TIN, FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 20).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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