



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW DEVICE TO CATCH "RED-HANDED" DRIVERS IGNORING RED LIGHTS

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A NEW DEVICE WILL BE PUT ON TRIAL AT SIGNALISED ROAD JUNCTIONS TO CHECK ON VEHICLES IGNORING A RED-LIGHT SIGNAL TO ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING TO INSTALL A NUMBER OF RED-LIGHT CAMERAS AT ROAD JUNCTIONS WHERE RIGHT-ANGLED COLLISION ACCIDENTS WERE FREQUENT.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 2,932 ACCIDENTS OCCURRED AT SIGNALISED ROAD JUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. ABOUT 12 PER CENT OF WHICH INVOLVED RIGHT-ANGLED COLLISIONS THAT WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO VEHICLES NOT COMPLYING WITH RED-LIGHT SIGNAL.

"DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD, CAMERA UNITS WILL BE INSTALLED AT TWO LOCATIONS AND ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP AT REASONABLE DISTANCE BEFORE THE CAMERA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE RED LIGHT CAMERA WILL AUTOMATICALLY SHOOT PHOTOGRAPHS OF VEHICLES THAT IGNORE A RED LIGHT AT A SIGNALISED ROAD JUNCTION.

WHEN THE RED LIGHT IS ON, THE CAMERA WILL BE ACTIVATED TO A STAND-BY MODE.

LINKED WITH A SET OF DETECTOR LOOPS LAID BEYOND THE STOP LINE OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT, IT WILL BE TRIGGERED AND TAKE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS IF A RUNNING VEHICLE IGNORING THE RED LIGHT IS DETECTED.

IF A SECOND CAR VIOLATES THE SIGNAL BEFORE THE SECOND PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRECEDING CAR HAS BEEN SHOT, THE THIRD AND FOURTH PHOTOGRAPHS WILL THEN BE TAKEN.

THE SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL ROUND-THE-CLOCK UNDER ANY WEATHER CONDITION.

EACH PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN WILL SHOW THE VEHICLE WITH THE RED LIGHT SIGNAL ON. THE DATE AND TIME OF THE OFFENCE AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED ON THE PHOTOGRAPH.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE A STRONG PROSECUTION EVIDENCE IN COURT AGAINST A DRIVER IGNORING THE RED-LIGHT SIGNAL AT A JUNCTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MOTORISTS OR THE VEHICLE OWNERS CONCERNED WILL BE PROSECUTED AND LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES.

"IN ADDITION, FAILING TO COMPLY WITH TRAFFIC SIGNALS, THE DRIVER WILL BE SUBJECT TO INCURRING THREE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS," HE ADDED.

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"SHOOTING" HONG KONG IN THE AIR

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IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS IT WAS A HERCULEAN JOB TO DRAW MAPS FOR A PLACE. IT MIGHT TAKE YEARS, IF NOT ONE'S LIFETIME.

NOW, WITH THE HELP OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF), THE JOB CAN BE REALISED IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

WHAT IS NEEDED IS A CLEAR BLUE SKY.

WHAT'S MORE? A SET OF ADVANCED AERIAL CAMERA SYSTEM FOR TAKING VERTICAL OVERLAPPING PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE JOB ITSELF DOES NOT ATTRACT MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION BUT THE FRUIT IT BEARS IS ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE GROWTH OF HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY IS NOW FULL STEAM AHEAD.

FOR SENIOR PILOT OF THE RHKAAF, FLIGHT LIEUTENANT CERI HARRIS, FLYING OFFICERS FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE (SMO) TO CONDUCT AERIAL SURVEY WORK IS JUST AS MEANINGFUL AS RISKING HIS LIFE IN SAVING THOSE ON THE BRINK OF THE GRAVE IN HECTIC SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

A SURVEY FLIGHT NORMALLY TAKES OFF FROM THE BASE AT KAI TAK AIRPORT AT 10 AM AND RETURNS AROUND 3 PM.

FOR LIEUTENANT HARRIS, THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY FOR SHOOTING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FOR MAP-MAKING AND TOWN PLANNING.

"IF A GROUND TEAM TAKES A YEAR FOR A PIECE OF MAP-SURVEY WORK, WE CAN CAPTURE GROUND INFORMATION IN A COUPLE OF DAYS," LIEUTENANT HARRIS SAID.

TWO OVERALL FLIGHT SURVEYS - ONE IN APRIL AND THE OTHER IN OCTOBER - ARE NEEDED EVERY YEAR TO KEEP UP WITH THE CHANGING FACES OF THE TERRITORY.

THE MISSION OF LIEUTENANT HARRIS IS TO PILOT HIS AIRCRAFT ALONG A RIGID SURVEY PATH.

HE IS CANDID: IT'S A LONG HARD SLOG.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO MAINTAIN A STRAIGHT AND LEVEL LINE ROUTE FOR EACH PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN SHOULD BE AT LEAST 60 PER CENT OVERLAPPING THE NEXT ONE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THREE-DIMENSIONAL COVERAGE FOR ACCURATE MEASUREMENT.

GOVERNMENT LAND SURVEYOR OF SMO RONNIE CHAN AGREES.

WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 150 KILOGRAMMES AND A PRICE TAG OF \$3 MILLION, MR CHAN HAS TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS EQUIPMENT IS RIGHT THERE BESIDE HIM WHEN HE REACHES FOR THE SKY.

/APART FROM

APART FROM GETTING BLACK AND WHITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FOR MAP-MAKING, COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS AND FALSE COLOUR INFRARED PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SOMETIMES TAKEN FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION USES.

AN AVERAGE OF 7,000 PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN EACH YEAR SINCE 1989. THERE IS A STEADY INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT EACH YEAR.

WITH THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT PROJECT NOW IN FULL SWING, MORE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE AIRPORT SITE ARE EXPECTED IN FUTURE.

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EMPLOYER FINED FOR DEDUCTING IMPORTED WORKER'S WAGES

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY ARE LIABLE TO HEAVY FINES FOR UNLAWFULLY DEDUCTING THE WAGES OF THEIR IMPORTED WORKERS.

THE TOPTECH INDUSTRIAL LIMITED IN TUEN MUN WAS CONVICTED OF UNLAWFUL WAGE DEDUCTION AND WAS FINED \$2,000 BY A TUEN MUN MAGISTRATE EARLIER THIS MONTH.

LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND THAT THE COMPANY HAD DEDUCTED \$1,640 FROM AN IMPORTED WORKER'S WAGES, CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PROHIBITS AN EMPLOYER FROM DEDUCTING THE WAGES OF HIS EMPLOYEES EXCEPT UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND UP TO A CERTAIN LIMIT, SUCH AS FOR THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION AND RECOVERY OF LOANS MADE BY THE EMPLOYER," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MR JOHN SUNG, EXPLAINED.

"ANY DEDUCTION FROM AN IMPORTED WORKER'S WAGES OTHER THAN IS PERMITTED BY THE ORDINANCE IS UNLAWFUL AND AN OFFENDER IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000," HE POINTED OUT.

MR SUNG NOTED THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEEKING TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE TO A FINE OF \$100,000 PLUS ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

"OUR LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO VISIT EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS TO ENSURE THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST OFFENDERS WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE.

"WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PROSECUTING SIX EMPLOYERS ON 18 CHARGES OF UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION OF WAGES SO FAR THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

MR SUNG ALSO CALLED ON IMPORTED WORKERS WHO WERE EXPLOITED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS TO COME FORWARD AND REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BRING UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS TO JUSTICE.

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SPECIAL SCHOOL GETS \$8.8 MILLION JOCKEY CLUB GRANT

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS ALLOCATED AN \$8.83 MILLION GRANT TO MEET THE CAPITAL COST OF EXTENDING AND CONVERTING THE NIM TSI SCHOOL IN TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON.

THE SCHOOL, WHICH CATERS FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN THE 12-15 AGE GROUP, CONDUCTED A FEASIBILITY STUDY IN 1989 ON BUILDING AN EXTENSION WITHIN THE SCHOOL CAMPUS AND ON CARRYING OUT NECESSARY CONVERSION WITHIN EXISTING PREMISES TO UPGRADE TEACHING FACILITIES.

"THE PROJECT WOULD ADD THREE CLASSROOMS, SIX SPECIAL ROOMS AND OTHER FACILITIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE SCHOOL, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1980, CURRENTLY OPERATES FIVE CLASSES FOR EACH LEVEL FROM SECONDARY 1 TO SECONDARY 3, WITH 20 STUDENTS IN EACH CLASS.

THE CURRICULUM OF THE SCHOOL WAS MODIFIED IN 1989 TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON TEACHING BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS AND ON NON-ACADEMIC ELEMENTS TO ENHANCE THE STUDENTS' READINESS FOR FUTURE TRAINING IN SKILLS CENTRES RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

"THE EXTENSION AND CONVERSION PROJECT WOULD INCREASE THE FACILITIES WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT THE MODIFIED CURRICULUM COULD BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

"WITH THE \$8.83 MILLION DONATION, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE EXTENSION-CONVERSION PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1994-95," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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