



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, June 7, 1973

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STEPS TO CURB ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The biggest problem facing Hong Kong's environment in the future is expected to be the ever-increasing population and the demands which will be made on the limited land resources of Hong Kong.

A government spokesman, reviewing the progress and problems concerning the environment, said that the way in which "we use the land will become increasingly important, and its waste or deterioration by pollution will not be tolerable".

To conserve and make use of what Hong Kong has will mean planning, self-control and sanctions for those who misuse and pollute the land, he said.

At the same time, it will demand programmes of action for both the government and the private sector, "but above all it demands the concern and effort of everyone who lives in Hong Kong to ensure that we do not spoil the environment which we and our successors were meant to enjoy", the spokesman stressed.

Speaking about other trends which Hong Kong must guard against in the future, he said that the great increase in the Sheung Shui tanneries between 1968 and 1970, with their pollution problems, illustrated clearly the dangers of too loose a control over land and industry.

Refuse disposal problems in the New Territories also showed that as much attention must be devoted to the disposal of urban wastes as to other forms of pollution.

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Turning to the problem of the automobile, the spokesman said that the fumes from motor cars were again looming as a problem in a city where the buildings must inevitably grow bigger.

However, the spokesman sounded a bright note when he reviewed the achievements of the past year, which he described as being a "significant period for Hong Kong's environment".

Heading the list was the Clean Hong Kong campaign, but it was also a year during which planning for the improvement of the environment was started and reached fruition.

The government, he said, received studies on harbour pollution and sewage treatment, and pollution of the waters of the north west New Territories. The first report of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Pollution on Land and Water was also submitted and this document set out practical aims for the reduction of pollution in Hong Kong.

The spokesman said that further studies on the pollution of the New Territories as a whole, and ways of tackling the problems of pollution from pig and poultry farms were now nearing completion.

Plans to improve outdoor recreation in the countryside came to fruition with the commencement of the five-year development scheme prepared by the Advisory Committees for Recreational Development and Nature Conservation for Hong Kong Island and the New Territories.

The programmes provide for a ring of country parks around Kowloon and the opening up and provision of amenities at beauty spots on the island. Plans for the development of recreational and tourist facilities on Lantau and Ma Wan Islands and on Sai Kung Peninsula will also be studied by consultants this year.

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LOAN SHARK VICTIMS URGED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

Victims of "loan sharks" were today urged to seek legal advice if they have been trapped into paying extortionate rates of interest.

This advice follows recent newspaper publicity about the plight of a hawker who was assaulted after she was unable to continue paying exorbitant amounts of interest on a loan.

A government spokesman said; "The unfortunate victim in this case clearly was not aware that the courts have power to examine wholly unreasonable loan transactions and grant relief to borrowers who have been trapped into paying extortionate rates of interest."

Victims of unscrupulous money-lenders are advised to seek legal advice from a solicitor, or approach the Legal Aid Department, Top Floor, Victoria District Court building, Battery Path, Hong Kong.

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CHI MA WAN NOT A PUBLIC BEACH

People wishing to use the beach at Chi Ma Wan on Lantau Island should make sure they have first obtained permission from the Prisons Department.

This is the advice of the Superintendent of the Chi Ma Wan Prison, Mr. E. Barber, who emphasised today that the beach is not a gazetted public beach and is under the direct administration of the Prisons Department.

"Permission to use the facilities at the beach are only granted to organised groups," he said.

As no life-guards are provided, the visiting group has to bring its own.

He said that at present, the facilities at the beach are heavily booked in connection with various summer youth programs.

"It is extremely unlikely that permission will be granted to any group in the near future," Mr. Barber said.

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SECTION OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD REMAINS CLOSED

A section of Prince Edward Road between Knight Street and Waterloo Road will continue to be closed to eastbound traffic for another month.

This is to enable new sewers to be laid in this section and other service diversions to be carried out.

The work will involve the continued closure of part of Prince Edward Road except for access to premises.

Through traffic will use the temporary flyover and left-turning traffic will be routed via Knight Street and Boundary Street.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN TO KWA WAN

Water supply to a number of premises in the To Kwa Wan area will be cut off for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Saturday (June 9).

The temporary stoppage is to allow staff of the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Lok Shan Road, To Kwa Wan Road, Ma Hang Chung Road, Kowloon City Road, Ma Tau Kok Road, Tam Kung Road, San Shan Road and Pau Chung Street.

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NEW OFFICES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS SECTION

The Overseas Students and Scholarships Section of the Education Department, which provides an advisory service to students to further their studies overseas, is moving from the department's headquarters in Lee Gardens tomorrow (Friday).

The section will occupy new accommodation on the 2nd floor of Bonaventure House, 91 Leighton Road which is very near to its former offices.

The staff of the section remains unchanged but new telephone numbers will be in use as from tomorrow (Friday).

For the benefit of students and other members of the general public wishing to contact the section, the new telephone numbers are as follows:

Senior Education Officer	J.C.H. Gillard	5-793968
Education Officers	A. Ling	5-793869
	Miss A.S.K. Yau	5-793877
	C.K. Lau	5-793877
	Robert C.H. Lo	5-793869
Enquiries	..	5-793968

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Release Time: 6.45 p.m.