



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1977

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WAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WITH SUPPORT FROM THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS TO FOSTER AND IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF HONG KONG'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST INTENSIVELY DEVELOPED AND DIVERSE IN THE WORLD.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. IAN MACPHERSON, WHEN HE OPENED THE TAXI RADIO TAXI CENTRE THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR. MACPHERSON SAID THAT THE PROCESS OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ALWAYS A COMPLETELY SMOOTH ONE. THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF EACH OF THE MANY ELEMENTS IN OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUED TO OPERATE NOT ONLY PROFITABLY, BUT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC.

HE SAID : +OCCASIONALLY DURING THE MONITORING PROCESS WE FIND PRACTICES DEVELOPING THAT ARE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND IT IS NECESSARY THEN TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION.+

MR. MACPHERSON NOTED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE URBAN TAXI WAS THAT IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, WITHOUT FORMALITY, TO CARRY INDIVIDUALS, OR SMALL GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO ANY DESTINATION THEY REQUIRED AT A FIXED SCALE OF FARES.

IN RECENT MONTHS THIS PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN BREACHED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS FOSTERED BY A VERY HIGH DEMAND FOR TAXIS AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE DAY.

+OUR RESPONSE TO THESE MALPRACTICES HAS BEEN TO SEEK TO CURE THEM AT SOURCE,+ HE SAID.

MR. MACPHERSON HOPED THAT THE RECENT ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL TAXI LICENCES WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE DEMAND FOR THEIR SERVICES THUS REDUCING THE INCENTIVE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR MALPRACTICES.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS VERY MODERN RADIO CALL TAXI CENTRE WOULD BRING ABOUT A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE EFFICIENCY OF THE TAXI SERVICE AND SAID IT DEMONSTRATED THE WILLINGNESS OF MEMBERS OF THE TAXI TRADE TO COOPERATE IN THIS JOINT VENTURE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BETTER.

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NEW PRINTING DEPARTMENT CHIEF APPOINTED

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MR. J.R. LEE, WILL GO ON LEAVE PRIOR TO RETIREMENT FROM THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN MARCH NEXT YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

MR. D.R. RICK, PRESENTLY ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WILL SUCCEED MR. LEE AS GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

MR. LEE, AGED 56, HAS BEEN IN THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT FOR 22 YEARS SINCE 1955 WHEN HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A SUPERINTENDENT. IN 1961, HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT GOVERNMENT PRINTER AND HAS BEEN SERVING AS GOVERNMENT PRINTER FROM 1970. HE IS MARRIED WITH ONE DAUGHTER.

MR. RICK, AGED 45, WAS ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION OF PERIODICALS IN THE U.K. PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRY BEFORE HE CAME TO HONG KONG. HE IS A CITY AND GUILDS BRONZE MEDALLIST IN BINDERY AND FINISHING ASPECTS OF THE TRADE.

HE FIRST CAME TO HONG KONG AS A SUB-INSPECTOR IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE IN APRIL, 1955, AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT IN 1961 AS AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SUPERINTENDENT IN APRIL 1965 AND TO HIS PRESENT RANK IN MARCH 1974.

MR. RICK, HAVING BEEN TRAINED AT THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, LONDON AND AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, IS A SPECIALIST IN THE RESTORATION OF OLD BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS. HIS OTHER INTERESTS LIE IN JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINTS, MODEL PERIOD SHIPS AND ORCHID GROWING. HE IS MARRIED WITH A SON AND A DAUGHTER.

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INTERIM REPORT ON MAF CREDIT LIMITED SUBMITTED
TO FINANCIAL SECRETARY

AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE AFFAIRS OF MAF CREDIT LIMITED HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, BY MR. MICHAEL J. JOHNSON OF MESSRS. ARTHUR ANDERSON AND COMPANY.

MR. JOHNSON, A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, WAS APPOINTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON AUGUST 2 TO INVESTIGATE THE COMPANY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

A COPY OF THE REPORT HAS ALSO BEEN SUBMITTED TO MAF CREDIT LIMITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SECTION OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SHAREHOLDERS OF MAF CREDIT LIMITED OR ITS SUBSIDIARIES CAN APPLY TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT WHICH WILL COST \$116 EACH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SHA TO ATTEND KAIFONG DAY CELEBRATION
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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. F.K. LI WILL OFFICIATE AT THE 1977 KAIFONG DAY CELEBRATION CEREMONY AT 7 P.M. ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20) AT THE OCEAN PALACE RESTAURANT, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE FUNCTION, WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY 64 KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, WILL BE ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND URBAN COUNCILS, CIVIC LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, VOLUNTARY BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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BLOCK BOOKINGS TO PAGEANT START SOON
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A SPECIAL FACILITY FOR GROUPS SEEKING BLOCK BOOKINGS TO THE SILVER JUBILEE PAGEANT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE STARTING THURSDAY (OCTOBER 20).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PAGEANT'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT SCHOOLS, ORGANISATIONS AND PRIVATE BODIES PLANNING GROUP ENTRIES WITH BOOKINGS EXCEEDING 10 CAN APPLY IN PERSON OR IN WRITING TO THE SILVER JUBILEE OFFICE AT 1A, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR TELEPHONE 5-251728 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

THE SILVER JUBILEE PAGEANT - THE BIGGEST EVER ENTERTAINMENT IN HONG KONG - WILL BE STAGED IN THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO 25 FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS. TICKETS ARE PRICED AT \$1 FOR UNCOVERED STANDS AND \$5 FOR SEATS UNDER COVER.

+ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF TICKETS WILL GO TOWARDS A SPECIAL APPEAL FUND WHICH WILL BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG BY PROMOTING SPORTING ACTIVITIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE USE OF THIS ADVANCE BOOKING SERVICE TO AVOID THE QUEUE AT THE 50 TICKET OFFICES WHEN THEY ARE OPEN ON NOVEMBER 1.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON LAI KA-SUM ON JULY 8, 1976, SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

LAI AND THREE OTHERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LI CHEUK-KWAI ON JUNE 5, 1975.

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CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL GRAVES IN CASTLE PEAK
FIRING RANGE

A TOTAL OF 15 ILLEGAL GRAVES IN THE KWONG SHAN AREA IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CLEARED BY GOVERNMENT STAFF.

WHERE RELATIVES COULD BE TRACED BEFORE EXHUMATION THEY WERE APPROACHED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE THE GRAVES THEMSELVES.

UNDER SECTION 118 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE BURIALS OUTSIDE AUTHORISED CEMETERIES ARE NOT PERMITTED AS THE PRACTICE IS CONTRARY TO THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND COULD CONSTITUTE A HEALTH HAZARD.

ILLEGAL BURIALS IN THE KWONG SHAN AREA CAN ALSO CAUSE A DANGER TO LIFE WHEN FIRING IS TAKING PLACE ON THE CASTLE PEAK RANGE.

REMAINS HAVE BEEN RE-INTERRED IN SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

LION ROCK CLIMBING COMPETITION

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A HONG KONG-WIDE LION ROCK CLIMBING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 23).

ABOUT 400 PEOPLE, AGED 16 AND ABOVE, WILL TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (KOWLOON CITY), THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES COUNCIL AND THE LIONS CLUB OF LION ROCK.

THE DISTANCE OF THE COMPETITION COVERS ABOUT 2,350 METRES WITH THE STARTING POINT AT TSZ WAN SHAN PLAYGROUND. THERE WILL BE FIRST-AID TEAMS ALONG THE ROUTE TO LOOK AFTER THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE FIRST THREE TO COMPLETE THE RACE WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES WHILE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES.

MR. ANGUS MIU, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (KOWLOON CITY) AND MR. CHENG HONG, PRESIDENT OF THE LION ROCK LIONS CLUB WILL JOINTLY START THE COMPETITION AT 9 A.M. AT TSZ WAN SHAN PLAYGROUND.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE COMPETITION.

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