



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, January 31, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
Three thousand more hospital beds in five years .....	1
Princess Alexandra to tour Chai Wan district .....	4
Commissioner for Narcotics to attend conference in Geneva .	6
Maxicab service between Central district and Po Shan Road to be improved .....	7
Lady MacLehose visits Chuk Yuen Children's Reception Centre .....	8
December banking statistics .....	10
Director of Social Welfare visits voluntary welfare agencies .....	12
Tender for Sai Kung development site postponed .....	13
Another choice site in Kowloon to be auctioned .....	14
Early pay days for public assistance recipients .....	16
Two Student Air Traffic Control Officers to attend course in U.K. ....	16
Pre-war building declared dangerous .....	17

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 1 -

HK TO HAVE 3,000 MORE HOSPITAL BEDS IN FIVE YEARS

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The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. H.D. Thong, said today that an additional 3,000 hospital beds would be available for use within the next five years, boosting the total number of beds in Hong Kong to 22,000, or 4.5 beds per thousand population.

"The development of new hospitals and clinics will take into account the geographical distribution and movement of population and the development of new towns," he said.

Dr. Thong was speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Association of Past Chairmen of the Previous Boards of Directors of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals this afternoon.

Outlining plans for the period up to 1981/82, the Director said the broad objective of future development of medical and health services was not only to build more hospitals and clinics to meet expected population growth but to improve and expand existing services and introduce new services to meet the changing demands of the community.

On hospital projects, the psychiatric wing of the Princess Margaret Hospital, providing 1,300 beds, is scheduled for completion in 1980, and a health centre at East Kowloon will be completed a year later. Work on the 1,300-bed Sha Tin Hospital, which is to become the teaching hospital for the new medical school at the Chinese University, will commence in 1979 and the target date for completion is 1982/83.

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Monday, January 31, 1977

- 2 -

In the Government-assisted sector, the Tung Wah Group is to embark on the construction of a clinical pathology building at Kwong Wah Hospital, which will be a regional hospital for the West Kowloon region. This building will provide a comprehensive range of modern pathological and laboratory services. The Caritas Extension is under construction and is scheduled for completion in 1978, providing an additional 600 beds.

Two new polyclinics will be opened this year. They are the South Kwai Chung Polyclinic and Stage One of the East Kowloon Polyclinic. During the next five years, three clinics will be built, one each at Ngau Tau Kok, Lei Muk Shue and Sha Tin. In addition, construction of a polyclinic at Sha Tin will begin in 1980/81 and at Tuen Mun in 1978/79 and a general clinic will also be built at Ha Kwai Chung in 1980/81.

The Director said the next five years would also see further progress in the provision of preventive health services.

He said the Department planned to launch a case-finding publicity programme for tuberculosis next year.

"A stage is now reached where greater efforts should be made to find out more cases and to encourage persons even with a simple cough lasting two to three weeks to come forward for X-ray examination," he said.

Dr. Thong said health education was an important tool in the prevention of diseases and in the positive promotion of the health of an individual and of the community.

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Monday, January 31, 1977

- 3 -

"It is essential," he said, "to coordinate the whole range of health education activities in the different units of the Medical and Health Department and to maximise the use of the resources by a Central Health Education Unit."

Dr. Thong said plans were in hand to set up such a unit in the Department.

In the field of dental health, the Director said the next five years would see considerable development and improvement.

A School Dental Care Service is expected to begin operation towards the end of the five-year forecast period when the first intake of dental nurses would have completed their training at the Dental Nurse Training School now under construction as part of the MacLehose Dental Centre project.

"In the meantime," said Dr. Thong, "planning has commenced for the building of a Dental Teaching Hospital, which is to be established at the Hong Kong University."

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 4 -

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA TO TOUR CHAI WAN DISTRICT

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HRH Princess Alexandra will tour Chai Wan District on February 8 - the second last day of her eight-day visit to Hong Kong.

Accompanied by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, the Princess will first arrive at Hing Wah Estate (Stage II). On arrival, Her Royal Highness will be greeted by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Brian Slevin.

The party will then visit the Neighbourhood Police Unit on the ground floor of On Hing Building. There, the chairmen and members of mutual aid committees in the area will be presented to Her Royal Highness.

Before leaving for Chai Wan Community Centre, the Princess will walk through a shopping area in the estate. On arrival at the Community Centre, HRH will meet and talk with some members of Junior Police Call (JPC).

The present membership of the JPC totals some 178,000. They are friends and helpers of the police and represent an immense force of motivated youngsters conscious of their civic duties.

Twenty years ago, Chai Wan -- situated at the eastern tip of Hong Kong Island -- was a tiny fishing village. Today it is the site of one of Hong Kong's most modern highrise public housing estates.

The population of the district today stands at more than 100,000 as compared with a few hundred before its development. As more public and private housing projects are completed, the number of people who will live there in the next few years is expected to top 160,000.

/The Hing Wah .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 5 -

The Hing Wah Estate (Stage II), completed last year, adjoins the Hing Wah Estate (Stage I), which was completed in 1971. From its 20 acres of land, it commands magnificent views of the eastern entrance of the harbour in the north and of the wooded terrain in the south.

It consists of self-contained flats in seven blocks of seven to 29 storeys, designed to accommodate some 21,000 people.

Estate facilities include schools, kindergartens, welfare agencies, restaurants, shops and markets.

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/6 .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 6 -

ANTI-NARCOTICS CHIEF TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

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The Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr. Peter Lee, leaves Hong Kong today (Monday) to attend the 27th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Geneva, as a member of the United Kingdom delegation.

Mr. Lee will make a brief stop in the United Kingdom before proceeding to Geneva.

The meeting, an important international conference held every year to co-ordinate and promote global efforts in dealing with narcotic problems, will open on February 7 and close on February 25.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review will be carried out on the world situation of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, and the measures taken to reduce them since the last session of the Commission in February 1976.

Reports will be made by delegates from the 30 member nations of the Commission and by representatives from some 20 specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations concerned with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Also included in the agenda are the control of the world's licit trade of narcotic drugs for medical and scientific purposes, and scientific research into the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

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Monday, January 31, 1977

- 7 -

The U.N. Commission, an inter-governmental body, has specific administrative and advisory functions under the 1961 "Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs." The Single Convention, which has so far been ratified by more than 100 countries, seeks to curtail excess availability of drugs and to monitor cultivation, manufacture and international shipments.

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#### TWO MORE MAXICABS FOR ROUTE 3

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Services on Maxicab Route No. 3, which plies between the Central and Po Shan Road areas, will be improved from tomorrow (Tuesday).

The present fleet of four maxicabs on this Route will be increased to six tomorrow with the addition of two more maxicabs.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said that the additional two maxicabs would improve the carrying capacity and frequency frequency of the service.

Another advantage the two maxicabs will bring is the introduction of services on Sundays and public holidays between 7.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

"On these days," the spokesman said, "services on Route 3 will operate every 30 minutes."

He said that previously there were no services on Sundays and public holidays.

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/8 .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 8 -

LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE.

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Lady MacLehose paid visit to the Chuk Yuen Children's Reception Centre in Kowloon this (Monday) morning.

She was greeted on her arrival by Mr. Jimmy Sweetman, Deputy Director of Social Welfare; Mrs. Evelyn Doe, Head of the Family Services Division, and Mrs. Lu Cheng Yuk-yip, Superintendent of the Centre.

During the tour, Lady MacLehose was briefed by Mr. Sweetman.

The Centre, operated by the Social Welfare Department, provides temporary care for a capacity of 80 children under eight years old. The children include those who are abandoned, found wandering on the street, illegitimate babies and children in need of care and protection.

They are provided with opportunities to develop their physical and mental potentials. At the same time, thorough studies are made by social workers into the children's background and appropriate plans will also be made for their future.

For the homeless or the abandoned, arrangements will be made for their adoption into suitable families. In case of children with physical disabilities or mental defects where chances of adoption are slim, they will be admitted to other children's homes for long-term care and special training.

Lady MacLehose showed particular interest in the activities and services provided by the Centre for the children.

/+ Earlier, .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 9 -

Earlier, Lady MacLehose visited the Tsz Wan Shan Red Cross School which is also an organisation catering to the needs of underprivileged children.

Managed by the Hong Kong Red Cross, the school provides for 90 physically disabled children, many of them multiple-handicapped, an all-round education compatible with their capacity.

During her tour of the school, Lady MacLehose saw pupils taking lessons in water colour painting, mathematics, chinese and handicraft.

Lady MacLehose was conducted on her tour by Mrs. Lam Ma Fung-Yan, principal of the school, Mr. C.T. Cheng, Chairman of the schools Management Committee, Hong Kong Red Cross and Mrs. Gennie Lee, Supervisor of the school.

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## DECEMBER BANKING STATISTICS

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Banking deposits as at the end of December 1976 stood at \$44,030 million, comprising \$11,643 million in demand deposits, \$16,447 million in time deposits and \$15,940 million in savings deposits.

There were 74 licensed banks in Hong Kong as at the end of last month.

The following tables released by the Commissioner of Banking today gives a detailed breakdown of bank liabilities and assets and money supply for the month:-

		\$ Million
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
1. Deposits		44,030
2. Amount due to banks abroad		27,598
3. Other liabilities		8,170
	Total liabilities	<u>79,798</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
1. Cash		794
2. Amount due from banks abroad:		
(i) Demand and short term claims	22,448	
(ii) Time deposits	<u>3,301</u>	25,749
3. Loans and advances:		
(i) Hong Kong	29,480	
(ii) Abroad	<u>13,255</u>	42,735
		/4. Investments: .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 11 -

4. Investments:		
(i) Hong Kong	3,251	
(ii) Abroad	<u>74</u>	3,325
5. Other assets:		
(i) Hong Kong	3,666	
(ii) Abroad	<u>3,529</u>	<u>7,195</u>
Total assets		<u>79,798</u>

Average liquidity during month 45.27%

MONEY SUPPLY

Month ended  
December 31, 1976

\$ Million

1. Legal tender coins and notes in circulation (A)		
(i) Commercial bank issues	4,756	
(ii) Government issues	<u>421</u>	5,177
2. Licensed banks' holdings of legal tender coins and notes (B)		794
3. Legal tender coins and notes in hands of non-bank public (A) - (B) = (C)		4,383
4. Demand deposits with licensed banks (D)		11,643
5. Money supply (definition 1) (C) + (D) = (E)		16,026
6. Time deposits with licensed banks (F)		16,447
7. Savings deposits with licensed banks (G)		15,940
8. Money supply (definition 2) (E) + (F) + (G) = (H)		48,413

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/12 .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 12 -

DSW VISITS MORE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES

\* \* \* \* \*

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, making his third visit to voluntary welfare agencies in a month, today (Monday) visited three more agencies in Kowloon.

They were the Li Cheng Uk Friendly Centre, the New Life Sheltered Workshop and the Portland Street Day Creche and Nursery.

Mr. Lee was accompanied by Mr. Henry Au, Head of the Group and Community Work Division; Mr. T.P. Khoo, Head of the Rehabilitation Division and Mrs. Evelyn Doe, Head of the Family Services Division.

The Director first visited the Li Cheng Uk Friendly Centre, where he was met by the Superintendent Mr. YIP Yin-chi.

The Centre, an agency under the Hong Kong Christian Service, provides various social services for local residents including group activities for all ages, community projects, a library with an average daily attendance of 350 and a day care centre for 80 children aged between two and five.

The Director then proceeded to the New Life Sheltered Workshop operated by the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. On arrival, he was met by Dr. Raymond Yu, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Sheltered Workshop caters for about 60 former mental patients who are above 16 years old. The majority of them are engaged in assembly work with an average daily income of \$4. Apart from this, they also receive \$2.5 as incentive payment per work day. The Workshop is financed through social welfare subvention.

/+ Winding up .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 13 -

Winding up the afternoon's tour, the Director called on the Portland Street Day Creche and Nursery.

Operated by the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children, the Day Creche caters for 60 children up to two years old while the Nursery for 120 children between two and six.

Mr. Lee was accompanied by Mr. Dennis Lyth, President of the Society, on a tour of the premises.

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#### TENDER FOR SAI KUNG DEVELOPMENT SITE POSTPONED

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The Government has temporarily withdrawn a 3,511 square metre residential development site at Tai Mong Tsai, Sai Kung, from a tender which was to have closed on Friday (February 4).

The tender for the lot, which is restricted to holders of Government land exchange entitlement documents, was first announced in the Government Gazette on January 14.

A spokesman for the New Territories Administration said he regretted that an error in the lease conditions had made it necessary to postpone the tender.

"The lot will be re-offered later in a new tender, probably in March," he added.

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Monday, January 31, 1977

- 14 -

ANOTHER CHOICE SITE IN KOWLOON TO BE AUCTIONED

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Another choice site at Tsim Sha Tsui East will be put up for auction at the City Hall next month.

The site covers an area of about 2,220 square metres and is reserved for non-industrial development, which includes shop, office, hotel or residential use.

It is the third of a number of major development sites on the reclamation between Tsim Sha Tsui and the cross-harbour tunnel approaches to be offered for sale by the P.W.D.'s Lands and Survey Department.

The fourth site, of some 2,654 square metres, is also for non-industrial development and will be put up for sale in early March.

The first two lots, which were also for non-industrial development, were sold several weeks ago, fetching a total of \$169 million.

The Government Land Agent, Mr. K.B. Rolfe, said today the sales of the first two lots reflected considerable confidence in the success of the development proposals for the area, and he was sure that there would be similar interest in the site to be sold next month.

"It commands an excellent location," he said. "It is very close to the main business centre of Kowloon and is at the hub of the major road, rail and ferry networks."

The auction will be held at 2.30 p.m. on February 25 in the City Hall Lecture Room.

/Three other .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 15 -

Three other lots, including a large private residential site on Hong Kong Island, will be offered for sale at the same auction.

The Island lot is situated at Cape Road in Chung Hom Kok and has an area of about 7,980 sq. metres.

One of the Kowloon lots occupies about 2,340 sq. metres off Cha Kwo Ling Road in Sam Ka Tsuen and is intended for industrial and/or godown uses.

The other, of some 280 sq. metres, is situated at the junction of Kau Pui Lung Road and Lok Shan Road. It is restricted to residential and non-industrial development.

During the next two months, the P.W.D.'s Lands and Survey Department proposes to put up for sale some 40,670.9 sq. metres of land, comprising 23,334.6 sq. metres for private residential development, 10,041.7 sq. metres of non-industrial land, and 7,294.6 sq. metres of industrial space.

Last year, a total of 38 lots were sold at a combined total of \$443 million.

These comprised seven private residential sites, 18 non-industrial lots, and 13 industrial sites.

The total land area amounted 52,207.10 sq. metres, an increase of 7,466.54 sq. metres or 14 per cent over 1975.

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/16 .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 16 -

EARLY PAY DAYS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

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People receiving public assistance and/or the disability and infirmity allowances the pay days of which fall within the Lunar New Year will be able to get their money earlier, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department announced today.

As in previous years, arrangements have been made with the post offices, treasury offices and district offices in the New Territories to enable recipients to cash their vouchers earlier so that they will have money for the occasion.

Those whose pay days fall on February 18, 19, 20, 21 will be able to get their money on February 14, 15, 16, 17 respectively.

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AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICERS TO ATTEND COURSE IN U.K.

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Two student Air Traffic Control Officers of the Civil Aviation Department, Mr. Ng Shung-ching and Mr. Ho Wai-kee, have left for the United Kingdom to receive basic training at Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport.

They will attend a 12-week basic Aerodrome and Approach Control Course at the College of Air Traffic Control between February 7 and May 6.

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/17 .....

Monday, January 31, 1977

- 17 -

PRE-WAR BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

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The Building Authority today declared No.18 Sai Yuen Lane on Hong Kong Island to be in a dangerous condition and ordered that the building should be demolished.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that this three-storey pre-war building was constructed of load-bearing brick walls with timber floors and roof. It was first inspected more than 10 years ago as part of a general survey of dilapidated buildings.

"A recent inspection indicated serious deterioration (fractures, crushing and erosion) of the rear main wall, and of the party walls to a lesser extent, and it is considered that there is now a danger of collapse," he said. "The danger is only temporarily relieved by the presence of extensive shoring in the building."

Notice of Intention to apply for a Closure Order in Victoria District Court at 9:30 a.m. on February 25 was posted today.

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