



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1974

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RATEABLE VALUES OF 33 TSIM SHA TSUI PREMISES REDUCED

A TOTAL OF 91 PROPOSALS FOR THE ALTERATION OF ENTRIES IN THE VALUATION LISTS FOR 1974-75 HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION.

A NUMBER OF THESE PROPOSALS WERE OBJECTIONS AGAINST THE PREMISES BEING RATED AND INCLUDED IN A LIST, WHILE OTHERS WERE PROPOSALS TO REDUCE ASSESSED RATEABLE VALUES. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE 33 PROPOSALS IN RESPECT OF PREMISES IN A WELL-KNOWN TSIM SHA TSUI SHOPPING ARCADE. BECAUSE OF REDUCED RENTS RECENTLY NEGOTIATED BY TENANTS THE DEPARTMENT HAS ACCEPTED THESE PROPOSALS AND AGREED REDUCED RATING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

THE REMAINING PROPOSALS HAVE EITHER BEEN DEALT WITH OR ARE STILL BEING CONSIDERED. ALL VALID PROPOSALS SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY MARCH 29.

THIS IS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH RATEPAYERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEEK REDUCTIONS IN RATEABLE VALUES IN AN EXISTING VALUATION LIST WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE SOMETIMES EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF LODGING AN APPEAL IN THE DISTRICT COURT. THIS WAS ONE OF THE NEW FEATURES OF RATING PRACTICE INTRODUCED BY THE RATING ORDINANCE 1973.

THE RIGHT OF APPEAL TO THE DISTRICT COURT AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOLLOWING THE MAKING OF A PROPOSAL STILL REMAINS.

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NEW TERRITORIES CROWN LAND SALES

TWENTY LOTS OF CROWN LAND, IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING MORE THAN 450,000 SQUARE FEET OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN TUEN MUN, WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 3.

THE LOTS ARE A PART OF A SIX-MONTH FORECAST OF PROVISIONAL RURAL LAND SALE ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND ALREADY 10 LOTS HAVE BEEN AUCTIONED SINCE FEBRUARY 1.

TWO LOTS IN TUEN MUN HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. THEY HAVE A TOTAL AREA OF 9,500 SQUARE FEET.

SIX LOTS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AUCTION. THEY ARE: TWO 4,000-SQUARE-FOOT SITES ON PENG CHAU= THREE LOTS AT ROUTE TWISK, WITH A TOTAL AREA EXCEEDING 218,000 SQUARE FEET= AND ONE LOT IN SHAM TSENG, WITH AN AREA OF 16,400 SQUARE FEET.

THE REMAINING SITES ARE ALSO RESERVED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES: TWO IN YUEN LONG WITH A TOTAL AREA OF NEARLY 22,000 SQUARE FEET= TWO IN MUI WO, WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 8,000 SQUARE FEET= AND ONE ON PENG CHAU, WITH AN AREA OF 700 SQUARE FEET.

CONDITIONS AND VENUES OF SALES OF THE ABOVE LOTS WILL BE ADVERTISED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIMES.

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THE LEGEND OF TSAN KWAN TAI DAI.

OF THE MANY CHINESE FESTIVALS THAT ARE CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR IN HONG KONG, THERE IS ONE WHICH ATTRACTS RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION.

IN FACT, NOT VERY MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER GENERATION, HAVE HEARD OF THIS ANNUAL FESTIVAL WHICH TAKES PLACE ONLY ON THE ISLAND OF TSING YI.

THE FESTIVAL, SIMILAR TO THAT OF TIN HAU, IS TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE LEGENDARY CHARACTER +TSAN KWAN TAI DAI+ OR - IN THE BEST ENGLISH EQUIVALENT - THE GOD OF FAIRPLAY, WISDOM AND TRUTH.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT DURING THE SUNG DYNASTY, THE PROVINCE OF KWANG TUNG WAS PLACED BY PIRATES AND THE AUTHORITIES THERE WERE UNABLE TO SUPPRESS THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE WATER-BORNE THIEVES.

WHEN THE PLUNDERING AND KILLINGS WERE ABOUT TO GET OUT OF HAND, ALONG CAME A MAN KNOWN SIMPLY AS NG.

HE APPROACHED THE EMPEROR LI T'SUNG WITH A PLAN TO RID THE PROVINCE OF PIRATES.

WHATEVER THE PLANS WERE, LEGEND NEVER REVEALED. BUT APPARENTLY THEY WORKED AND PEACE ONCE MORE RETURNED TO KWANG TUNG.

SO PLEASED WAS THE EMPEROR THAT HE APPOINTED NG AS PROVINCIAL COUNSELLOR - A ROLE HE PLAYED EXCEEDINGLY WELL. PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WERE SAID TO HAVE APPROACHED HIM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF HIS WISDOM AND IMPARTIALITY.

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WHEN HE DIED SOME YEARS LATER, THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE CONTINUED TO SEEK HELP AND GUIDANCE FROM HIS SPIRIT. AND, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, MANY SUCH REQUESTS WERE GRANTED.

AS A RESULT THE PEOPLE PETITIONED THE EMPEROR TO PRONOUNCE NG A DEITY.

THE EMPEROR DID SO, AND TO THIS DAY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF NG'S DEATH ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE THIRD MOON.

AND IN HONG KONG WHY IS THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED ONLY ON TSING YI ISLAND?

WELL, ACCORDING TO A VILLAGER WHO WAS BORN ON TSING YI, THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS:

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHEN THE JAPANESE INVADED HONG KONG, THE 2,000 INHABITANTS OF TSING YI BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT EVACUATING THE ISLAND.

NOT SURE WHETHER THE MOVE WOULD BE A WISE DECISION, THE ISLANDERS CALLED ON THE GUIDANCE OF +TSAN KHAN TAI DAI+ - THE NAME WHICH NG HAS NOW COME TO BE KNOWN.

THE ANSWER THE VILLAGERS RECEIVED WAS +NO EVACUATION IS NECESSARY+. SO EVERYBODY REMAINED ON THE ISLAND.

DURING THE INVASION SEVERAL BOMBS FELL ON TSING YI. BUT THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE OR INJURY AND DAMAGE WAS MINIMAL. THE VILLAGERS' PRAYERS HAD BEEN ANSWERED.

SINCE THEN RESIDENTS OF TSING YI HAVE BEEN HOLDING ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS TO GIVE THANKS TO NG'S SPIRIT.

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THE CELEBRATIONS ARE ELABORATE AND COSTLY AND LAST FOR FIVE DAYS. BUT THE MAIN EVENTS ARE ON THE FOURTH DAY - THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE THIRD MOON WHICH THIS YEAR FALLS ON SUNDAY APRIL 7.

VISITORS TO TSING YI THIS SUNDAY WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH COLOURFUL PROCESSIONS, LION DANCES, AND AN HOUR-LONG STAGE SHOW BY LEADING CANTONESE OPERA STARS. BUT THE MAIN ATTRACTION, ESPECIALLY TO WORSHIPPERS, WILL BE THE DRAW FOR THE 20 ODD PORTABLE FLORAL SHRINES OR +FAR PAU+.

EACH SHRINE, WHICH HOUSES THE DEITY, IS SUPPOSED TO BRING GOOD FORTUNE TO THE PERSON WHO GETS IT. HOWEVER, HE MUST RETURN IT THE NEXT YEAR FOR ANOTHER DRAW, IN WHICH HE CAN ALSO TAKE PART. AND IF HE IS LUCKY HE MAY GET ANOTHER SHRINE FOR A FURTHER 12 MONTHS.

TALK TO ANY VILLAGER OF TSING YI AND HE WILL PROBABLY TELL YOU OTHER STORIES OF HOW +TSAN KWAN TAI DAI+ HELPED HIM OR HIS FAMILY IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

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HEALTH REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

HEALTH RETURNS FOR FEBRUARY ISSUED TODAY BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT 10 CHILDREN DIED FROM MEASLES, A SLIGHT DROP COMPARED WITH THE 11 DEATHS RECORDED IN JANUARY.

NOTIFICATIONS OF MEASLES DURING THE MONTH ROSE TO 384, COMPARED WITH 367 IN JANUARY, AND 191 IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN SAID THEY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR PARENTS OF SUSCEPTIBLE CHILDREN BETWEEN SIX MONTHS AND FIVE YEARS TO HAVE THEM IMMUNISED.

+AS ALREADY ANNOUNCED, THE ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN IS CONTINUING UNTIL THE END OF MAY,+ HE STRESSED. +FREE VACCINE IS AVAILABLE AT ALL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES, NOT ONLY DURING THIS EXTENDED CAMPAIGN PERIOD, BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.+

OF THE 135 OTHER DEATHS RECORDED DURING FEBRUARY, 132 WERE CAUSED BY TUBERCULOSIS, ONE BY AMOEBIASIS, ONE BY CHICKEN-POX AND ONE BY TETANUS.

THERE WERE 140 NOTIFICATIONS OF CHICKENPOX, A RISE FROM THE 97 CASES RECORDED IN JANUARY. NOTIFICATIONS OF BACILLARY DYSENTERY ALSO INCREASED FROM 18 IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH TO 25.

NO CASES OF DIPHTHERIA OR POLIOHYELITIS WERE RECORDED, AND THE INCIDENCE OF THE OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SHOWED NO APPRECIABLE VARIATION.

DURING THE MONTH, HONG KONG REMAINED FREE FROM CHOLERA AND OTHER QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWUN TONG

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT WEEK IN A NUMBER OF STREETS IN KWUN TONG TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

THE CHANGES, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY, ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

* TSUN YIP STREET BETWEEN HUNG TO ROAD AND WAI YIP STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

* TSUN YIP STREET BETWEEN HUNG TO ROAD AND HOW MING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

* THE SECTION OF WAI YIP STREET EAST OF THE ENTRANCE TO KWUN TONG FERRY CONCOURSE, TOGETHER WITH THE SECTION OF KING YIP STREET BETWEEN WAI YIP STREET AND HUNG TO ROAD, WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY TOWARDS HUNG TO ROAD.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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MORE FIRST-AID COURSES APPROVED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT

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THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, HAS APPROVED COURSES RUN BY THREE MORE HONG KONG ORGANISATIONS AS COURSES QUALIFYING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TO ACT AS FIRST-AID PERSONNEL IN INDUSTRY.

THE NEWLY-RECOGNISED COURSES ARE RUN BY THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE, THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

THIS MEANS THAT, INCLUDING THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, THERE ARE NOW FOUR ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG WHICH CAN RUN COURSES GIVING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FULL RECOGNITION UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (FIRST AID IN REGISTRABLE WORKPLACES) REGULATIONS AND THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR HAS APPROVED A TOTAL OF SEVEN COURSES RUN BY THE THREE BODIES.

MR. HENDERSON SAID TODAY THE RECOGNITION OF THE COURSES WAS AIMED AT MAKING IT EASIER FOR EMPLOYERS TO GET MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFF QUALIFIED IN LINE WITH THE LAW, THUS HELPING TO SOLVE THE SHORTAGE OF FIRST-AID PERSONNEL IN INDUSTRY.

HE CALLED ON INDUSTRY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW COURSES.

/+FIRST-AIDERS

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+FIRST-AIDERS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY ON THE SHOPFLOOR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. FACTORY PROPRIETORS ARE REQUIRED BY LAWS TO PROVIDE A TRAINED FIRST-AIDER FOR EVERY 100 EMPLOYEES.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE WAS STILL GETTING A VERY GOOD RESPONSE TO ITS FIRST-AID COURSES BEING RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

+WE'VE SO FAR HAD 632 APPLICATIONS FROM 185 DIFFERENT FIRMS - BY FAR THE BEST RESPONSE EVER,+ HE SAID.

+ORIGINALLY WE HAD PLANNED THREE COURSES= THEN WE HAD TO ADD ANOTHER SEVEN AND THEN A FURTHER TWO. NOW WE'RE PLANNING 11 MORE.

+HOWEVER I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT MORE BUILDING CONTRACTORS ARE NOT SHOWING INTEREST. THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS, AFTER ALL, BY FAR THE WORST ACCIDENT RATE IN HONG KONG.

+SO FAR ONLY 30 OUT OF THE 1,800 REGISTERED WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAVE SENT THEIR EMPLOYEES ALONG FOR FIRST-AID TRAINING.

+THIS IS PARTICULARLY BAD IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS WILL BE COMING INTO FORCE ON MAY 1.

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+I MUST REMIND BUILDING CONTRACTORS THAT IT IS THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATION AS FROM MAY 1, TO PROVIDE A FIRST-AIDER ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE WHICH HAS NOT LESS THAN 30 WORKMEN. AND FOR A CONSTRUCTION SITE WITH MORE THAN 100 WORKMEN, TWO FIRST-AIDERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED.+

MR. HENDERSON URGED BUILDING CONTRACTORS TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW. ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE TRAINING OF THEIR EMPLOYEES IN FIRST-AID CAN BE MADE BY SIMPLY TELEPHONING 3-689458, TO THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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