



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, October 20, 1972

PROPOSED DETERRENENTS AGAINST MALPRACTICE IN BUILDING WORKS

An amending bill to provide effective deterrents in the interest of public safety against malpractice in, or irresponsible supervision of, building works, will be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly.

The Buildings (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 1972 also seeks to empower the Building Authority to take positive action to remedy dangerous or potentially dangerous situations arising out of various forms of building works,

If enacted, the bill will increase the maximum fine which may be imposed on a person for certain offences under the Building Ordinance from \$2,000 to \$50,000.

In addition, it will empower the Building Authority to order a person responsible for the carrying out of building works which are dangerous or potentially dangerous, to remedy the situation.

If such an order is not complied with, the Building Authority will have the power to cause the necessary work to be carried out and recover the cost of the work.

The amending legislation also provides that an authorised architect or registered contractor directly concerned with any building works, who authorises or permits any such works to become dangerous will be guilty of an offence and will be liable on conviction to a penalty of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for two years.

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Anyone who fails to comply with the order to remedy the situation may, in addition, be fined up to \$10,000 for each day that the failure to comply continues.

Another provision proposes to remove the suspension of the operation of a section of the principal Ordinance relating to the issue of occupation permits and temporary occupation permits.

The suspension was introduced as an emergency measure by the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 1972.

A government spokesman said it is considered that the former heavy commitments upon the staff of the Buildings Ordinance Office have now eased sufficiently in order to remove this restriction.

Another proposal is that the period relating to the approval of plans be extended from 28 days to 60 days.

This measure is being introduced to protect the public, as building plans are now so complicated that they require very detailed consideration.

The government spokesman said there is no practical or safe way to simplify the checking of submissions.

He added that this is particularly true in the structural field, where checking is already restricted to points of principle and spot checks of calculations.

This extension will apply only to approval of plans and not to consent to commence work or to the issue of occupation permit.

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H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA ARRIVING TOMORROW

Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will fly into Hong Kong tomorrow (Saturday) morning to begin a six-day official visit here.

The Royal Air Force aircraft taking the Princess and her husband, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, to Hong Kong will touch down at Kai Tak Airport at 10.30 a.m.

The Princess is no stranger to Hong Kong -- she has been here several times before. She paid her first official visit to Hong Kong in November 1961.

The Royal Couple will be greeted at the airport by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, and Lady MacLehose.

As the party crosses the harbour from Kai Tak Airport to Government House, the Princess will be greeted by a 21-gun salute by H.M.S. Tamar.

At a welcoming ceremony at Queen's Pier, the Princess will inspect a guard of honour and will be presented to local dignitaries.

At about 12.30 p.m., Her Royal Highness and Mr. Ogilvy will leave Government House for a drive through the cross-harbour tunnel.

She will unveil a plaque outside the tunnel company's Administration Building to mark her visit to the tunnel. The ceremony will be attended by about 200 distinguished members of the community and people connected with the tunnel.

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After a buffet lunch in the Administration Building, the Royal visitors will take a helicopter flight to Fanling Lodge for a quiet weekend there.

Note to Editors: Full details of tomorrow's programme are distributed separately in your press boxes this evening.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will be accompanied by the Queen Mother and the Duke of Edinburgh. They will be met at the airport by the Governor, Sir Murray Macdonald, and Lady Macdonald. A party of honour will be presented to local dignitaries. At about 10.30 a.m. the Royal Helicopter will leave Government House for a flight through the cross-country. She will arrive at Fanling Lodge. The evening will be attended by about 300 distinguished members of the community and people connected with the summer.

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ACCIDENTS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SITES

Artificial lighting should be provided where natural lighting in buildings under construction is inadequate.

Mr. A.H. Carter, the Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, said this would enable workers to see where they were going and serve as a safety precaution on building sites.

In September, four workers were killed and 324 injured while working on building construction sites. Of this number, 70 were the result of accidental falls.

Mr. Carter said: "The number of workers injured by falling from height could be substantially reduced if higher standards were employed in the construction of safer working platforms and means of access."

"Many of the falls which occur on the level would not happen if good housekeeping were maintained."

He continued: "Materials should be neatly stacked, rubbish, debris and unwanted material removed from the site at regular intervals. They must not be allowed to accumulate in untidy stacks and piles."

All excavations should be fenced as should be all openings in floors and lift shafts to prevent workers from falling into them, he added.

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MRS. ROWE COMPLETES SERIES OF VISITS TO WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

Mrs. G.T. Rowe, wife of the Director of Social Welfare, today completed her series of visits to welfare institutions with a call at the St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Clear Water Bay Road, Ngau Chi Wan.

Mrs. Rowe chose that her last call before leaving Hong Kong on the retirement of her husband as Director of Social Welfare should be at the Home of the Aged because this was the Home she saw in 1947 after her first arrival in Hong Kong.

She was accompanied on her visit by Mrs. Evelyn Doe, Principal Social Welfare Officer.

The Home is one of two run by the Little Sisters of the Poor for the aged of both sexes over 60, irrespective of nationality or creed. At present there are about 400 old people in the Home.

The series of visits by Mrs. Rowe began in 1969 and had since continued intermittently.

Mrs. Rowe yesterday also visited the Kowloon Women's Welfare Club Nursery in Kowloon City.

The Club was founded in 1955 by 12 ladies under the chairmanship of the headmistress of the Pooi To Middle School to help solve the problem of child care for working parents. The Nursery provides day care services for 65 children between the ages of two and six. Fees charged for each child is \$30 a month.

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DECKING OF NULLAH AT AIRPORT

A section of the Kai Tak Nullah will be decked and surfaced for the construction of roads and parking areas as part of the development and modernisation of the Hong Kong Airport.

The decked nullah will form a culvert for the construction of roads and parking areas which will assist in the movement of passengers, baggage and aircraft on the aircraft parking apron.

When the work on the apron services complex is completed, there will be direct access from the new parking areas to the main apron via the decked nullah.

The concrete decking to the nullah will be constructed with precast beams on piled foundations to withstand heavy aircraft tractor loads.

Work on this project is expected to begin in December this year and will take about 12 months to complete.

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SUMMER TIME ENDS ON OCTOBER 22

Summer time in Hong Kong this year will officially end at 3.30 a.m. on Sunday (October 22).

Residents are reminded that before going to bed tomorrow (October 21) evening, they should not forget to put their clocks and watches back one hour.

Summer time came into force on April 16. Its observance in Hong Kong is regulated by the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance.

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR N.T. RESIDENTS

Another half a million people will be housed in Tsuen Wan on the slopes above the town centre, in Kwai Chung and on Tsing Yi in the next ten years.

In round numbers, half a million people will also be housed in Sha Tin and the same number in Tuen Mun at the same time.

This was stated today by Mr. D.C. Bray, District Commissioner, New Territories, at a luncheon meeting of the North Kowloon Rotary Club.

He said this housing provision will have to be made "if we are to get through the ten-year housing programme the Governor announced last Wednesday".

The New Territories Administration would improve the quality of the environment and the housing and aim to provide 35 square feet of living space a head, each family with its own self-contained home in a simple but balanced urban environment, he said.

Mr. Bray pointed out that the overwhelming number of animals and the amount of their wastes contribute a mammoth problem in the New Territories.

"In the north-west plains, the output of human and animal wastes measured in human terms is equivalent to the output of over a million human beings - and it all goes down our so-called stream courses without any trace of sewage treatment.

/"Consultants

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"Consultants have been briefed to come up with the answer to stream pollution but the cost is going to be monstrous," he added.

Mr. Bray said more and more people are now going out into the countryside for fun. However, he added the most welcome invasion of the countryside means that it must be prepared for litter, fires and erosion.

"So we plan country parks not only to give pleasure to those who will use them but also to lure people into areas where barbecue pits have been built, paths paved and looked after, and where wardens keep an eye out for forest fires," he said.

He said the Sai Kung peninsula and Lantau could be places developed with major resort facilities.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER

The General Consumer Price Index for September 1972 was 143, one point higher than that for the previous month.

This was due mainly to an increase of three points in the index for food. Rises of one point each were recorded in the index for miscellaneous goods and the index for services.

Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Prices of fresh vegetables went up as a result of a further drop in local supplies and supplies from China. Increases were also recorded in the average retail prices of rice and bread and cakes.

On the other hand, the average retail prices of fresh water fish, salt water fish, beef, poultry and fresh fruits dropped.

The Modified Consumer Price Index for September 1972 was 148, two points higher than that for the previous month, and ten points higher than that for the corresponding month in 1971.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.