



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1975

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PROTECTION OF COUNTRYSIDE FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT
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AREAS OF HONG KONG COUNTRYSIDE CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT ARE TO BE MADE INTO COUNTRY PARKS AND THEIR NATURAL SURROUNDINGS, VEGETATION AND WILD-LIFE PROTECTED, IF A BILL, PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY), IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE COUNTRY PARKS BILL 1976 ALSO PROVIDES FOR ANY AREA OF CROWN LAND, WHETHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE A COUNTRY PARK, TO BE SET ASIDE AS A SPECIAL AREA, AGAIN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

ALSO TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE BILL IS A COUNTRY PARKS BOARD. THE BOARD WILL CONSIST OF NO FEWER THAN TEN MEMBERS, AT LEAST FIVE OF WHOM WILL BE OFFICIAL. THE OTHERS WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE BOARD WILL REPLACE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WILL BE THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS. HE WILL CHAIR THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD.

IT WILL BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR THE AREAS TO BE DESIGNATED AS COUNTRY PARKS OR SPECIAL AREAS. IN ADDITION, IT WILL BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE VEGETATION AND WILD-LIFE INSIDE THE PARKS OR AREAS AND TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN BUILDINGS AND SITES OF HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL INTEREST. HE WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS FOR RECREATION AND TOURISM AND PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT.

IF AN AREA IS TO BE DESIGNATED AS A COUNTRY PARK, THE AUTHORITY MAY PREPARE A DRAFT MAP OF THE PROPOSED AREA. AT THE SAME TIME A NOTICE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE GIVING A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AND DETAILS OF WHERE THE MAP MAY BE INSPECTED BY THE PUBLIC TOGETHER WITH THE TIME LIMIT WITHIN WHICH OBJECTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE BOARD.

ONCE THE NOTICE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED, NO NEW DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS BUILDING, ENGINEERING, MINING OR OTHER SIMILAR OPERATIONS, WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PROPOSED AREA WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY, APART FROM THOSE FOR WHICH APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN BEFORE THE NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED. MAINTENANCE WORKS, REPAIR WORKS AND THE USE OF LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES, WILL HOWEVER, BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

/ ALSO, IF IT

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ALSO, IF IT APPEARS THAT THE USE OR PROPOSED USE OF LEASED LAND WITHIN A COUNTRY PARK WOULD REDUCE THE ENJOYMENT AND AMENITIES OF THE COUNTRY PARK, THE AUTHORITY MAY REQUEST THE LAND AUTHORITY TO HAVE IT STOPPED OR MODIFIED.

OWNERS OR DEVELOPERS OF THE LAND CONCERNED, WHO ARE REFUSED PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED OR WHO ARE ORDERED TO STOP OR MODIFY THE PROPOSED USE OF THE LAND, WILL BE ABLE TO CLAIM COMPENSATION.

UNDER THE BILL THE GOVERNOR IS EMPOWERED TO EXCLUDE FROM ANY COUNTRY PARK OR SPECIAL AREA CERTAIN AREAS AND BUILDINGS SUCH AS TRADITIONAL BURIAL GROUNDS, TEMPLES AND MONUMENTS.

COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE INTENSE PRESSURE THAT IS BEING PUT ON THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE INADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PURPOSES. IT WAS ORIGINALLY ENACTED IN 1937 GEARED TO A SITUATION WHERE A POPULATION OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION INCLUDED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEASANT FARMERS WHO RELIED ON WOOD FOR FUEL, TIMBER FOR BUILDING PURPOSES AND HILLSIDE GRAZING FOR THEIR CATTLE.

+CLEARLY THIS SITUATION NO LONGER APPLIES WITH A POPULATION OF 4.3 MILLION WHO ARE PREDOMINANTLY URBAN DWELLERS LOOKING UPON THE COUNTRYSIDE PRINCIPALLY AS A RECREATIONAL OUTLET. THIS NEW LEGISLATION WILL INCLUDE FORESTED AREAS AND THE TRACTS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE WHICH ARE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM VISITORS. THE SPECIAL AREAS WILL COMPRISE SUCH THINGS AS FORESTS, BARBECUE AND PICNIC SPOTS AND SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.+

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ORIENTATION COURSE FOR YOUTH LEADERS

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SIXTY-THREE POTENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF GROUPS AND CLUBS WILL ATTEND AN ORIENTATION COURSE LATER THIS WEEK ORGANISED BY STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY YOUTH AND SOCIAL CENTRES.

THE TWO-AND-A-HALF-DAY COURSE, RUNNING FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 26) TO SUNDAY (DECEMBER 28), WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DIOCESAN YOUTH CENTRE IN POK FU LAM.

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO HELP ORGANISE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES IN THEIR CENTRES IN THE FUTURE.

THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE TALKS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PRACTICAL SESSIONS.

MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY ON FRIDAY IN THE YOUTH CENTRE AT 10 A.M.

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BURMESE PYTHON TO BE PROTECTED

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THE BURMESE PYTHON IS TO BE PLACED ON THE LIST OF PROTECTED ANIMALS UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION BILL 1976 PUBLISHED TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE BURMESE PYTHON WAS BEING PLACED ON THE SCHEDULE OF PROTECTED ANIMALS TO PREVENT IT BEING WANTONLY CAPTURED AND KILLED.

+WITHOUT SUCH PROTECTION, THIS RELATIVELY HARMLESS SNAKE WILL BE IN DANGER OF BECOMING EXTINCT,+ HE SAID.

IF APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION BILL 1976 WILL ALSO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE WILD BIRDS AND WILD MAMMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 170).

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DUTY FREE BRANDY FROM MACAU
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM MACAU DURING THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS (DECEMBER 26 AND 27) MAY BRING INTO HONG KONG FREE OF DUTY ONE BOTTLE OF PORTUGUESE BRANDY CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN ONE LITRE.

THIS IS IN LIEU OF THE CUSTOMARY ONE QUART BOTTLE OF GRAPE WINE AT PRESENT ALLOWED.

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EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO SWEDEN
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THE COMMENCEMENT OF PHASE II OF THE SWING SCHEME FOR 1975/76 IN RESPECT OF EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO SWEDEN.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, SERIES 3, NO. 31/75 DATED DECEMBER 24, 1975.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND COMPANIES ON THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S MAILING LIST FOR NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, SERIES 3, WILL RECEIVE COPIES OF THE ABOVE NOTICE SHORTLY. COPIES OF THIS NOTICE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST COUNTER ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, 46 CONNAUGHT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

INTERESTED PARTIES WHO WISH TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT ARE INVITED TO CONTACT THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT :

MR. C.H. POON - INDUSTRY ASSISTANT
TEL. NO. 5-247315

MRS. A.M.K. CHEUNG - CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT
(SWING AND TRANSFER)
TEL. NO. 5-223219

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