



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, April 26, 1997

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Pilot Scheme on Linked Site Approach to speed up urban renewal	1
New code of practice for LPG cylinder regulators	2
Employment agency licences revoked	3

Pilot Scheme on Linked Site Approach to speed up urban renewal

* * * * *

The Governor-in-Council has approved a proposal to test the practicality of a linked site approach to facilitate the urban renewal process.

Two vacant sites which are financially viable will be granted by private treaty at full market value premium to the Land Development Corporation (LDC) to cross-subsidise two redevelopment projects on Kennedy Town New Praya and in Tsuen Wan Town Centre.

A Government spokesman said today (Saturday) that under the pilot scheme, to offset the estimated deficit arising from the two urban renewal projects, the LDC would be granted the right to develop the following sites:

- a) a commercial/residential site at Yeung Uk Road in Area 35, Tsuen Wan, and
- b) a residential site at 33 Ka Wai Man Road in Kennedy Town.

Granting the above sites to the LDC will cross-subsidise the two proposed urban renewal projects which will help improve the environment in Kennedy Town and Tsuen Wan in terms of restructuring obsolete landuse patterns, improving traffic circulation, providing much needed open spaces and Government/Institution / Community facilities.

"We have explained the proposals to concerned members of the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils and the two District Boards involved as well as to affected property owners and tenants. In response, they have urged an early start," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the two linked sites proposed were required to turn the projects round, making them marginally viable, and only so in the case that the latest proposal on revision to the Home Purchase Allowance, approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council yesterday (Friday), was implemented.

The Land Development Corporation is conducting a freezing survey for the redevelopment sites from 26 April 1997 to 30 April 1997.

End

New code of practice for LPG cylinder regulators

* * * * *

A code of practice has been issued today (Saturday) to ensure that the supply, installation and use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder regulators in Hong Kong meet international standards.

A spokesman for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department said the code was directed at local LPG supply companies, equipment manufacturers and official overseas testing establishments. Copies have been sent to them.

"The code aims to lay down a set of standard safety criteria for low-pressure regulators supplying gas from LPG cylinders with a capacity equivalent to less than 40 litres of water.

"Areas focused on include the product design, quality assurance of imported regulators, supply to the public and improvements to customers' information.

"These include the requirements to indicate the date on a label for customers to exchange a regulator; to sell the regulators through authorised gas distributors and to issue safety handbooks to users periodically."

The spokesman said the code had been prepared after the Gas Safety Advisory Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the department in enhancing safety use of regulators last September.

The Gas Authority made subsequent wide consultation with LPG suppliers and overseas manufacturers in drafting the code.

The new requirements are being introduced progressively, and will be published in the Gazette and become fully operational in early 1998.

Parties who wish to obtain copies can write to the Gas Utilization Division, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, 98 Caroline Hill Road, Hong Kong.

End

Employment agency licences revoked

* * * * *

The Labour Department today (Saturday) urged operators of employment agencies to comply with the law, or their licences could be revoked.

The licences of three employment agencies were revoked and the licence of another employment agency was not renewed following the operators of the agencies were convicted of offences involving fraud.

The licence of Sanbarry Employment Centre was revoked after the licensee was found guilty of aiding and abetting the making of false representation to an Immigration Officer regarding the arrangement of bogus employment contracts for four Filipino domestic helpers.

Moreover, the Labour Department had revoked the licences of Li An Commodities Limited and Manisource Investment Limited, and had also refused to renew the licence of Rahmat Trading & Services Co. The operators of the agencies were convicted of conspiring with employers and inciting other persons to supply false wage information to the Immigration Department in the application for Indonesian domestic helpers.

"Under the Employment Ordinance, the Commissioner for Labour may refuse to issue or renew, or may revoke a licence if the person operating or intending to operate the agency has been convicted of an offence involving membership of a triad society, fraud, dishonesty or extortion, or has contravened any provision of Part XII of the Employment Ordinance or the Employment Agency Regulations, or is not a fit and proper person to operate an employment agency," Labour Officer (Employment Agencies Administration), Mrs Lourdes Lam, said today (Saturday).

"Moreover, an employment agency can only charge a successful job-seeker a commission of not more than 10 per cent of his first month's salary. Overcharging a job-seeker is an offence under the Employment Ordinance. The maximum penalty is \$50,000," she added.

Enquiries and complaints on the operation of employment agencies can be made to the Employment Agencies Administration in person or by telephone at 2852 3535.

End