



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1978

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POPULATION IN MID-1978

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THE ESTIMATED POPULATION IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE 1978 WAS 4,606,300, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID TODAY.

THE FIGURE REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 39,415 PERSONS OVER THE END-1977 ESTIMATE. THIS WAS MADE UP OF A +PLUS+ OF 23,515 THROUGH THE BALANCE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS AND A GAIN OF 15,900 PERSONS THROUGH THE BALANCE OF MIGRATION.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 WAS 35,794- THIS WAS 835 LESS THAN THE FIGURE FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 WAS 12,279, AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE OF 12,484 RECORDED IN 1977.

THE FIGURES FOR BIRTHS AND DEATHS ARE BASED UPON EVENTS OCCURRING RATHER THAN UPON REGISTRATIONS MADE AND THEREFORE DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE RELEASED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

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STUDENT GUIDANCE SCHEME

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A STUDENT GUIDANCE SCHEME WILL MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) WHEN A THREE-MONTH STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS TRAINING PROGRAMME BEGINS FOR 79 NON-GRADUATE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

UNDER THE SCHEME OUTLINED IN THE GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, FULL-TIME STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS WILL BEGIN FROM DECEMBER 4 SERVING ABOUT 250,000 PUPILS IN 341 PRIMARY SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE SCHEME JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW SCHEME, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, IT WAS PLANNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS WORKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO 230 OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

/+THE SCHEME,

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+THE SCHEME, WHICH WILL FORM PART OF THE EXISTING PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AIMS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO PUPILS ON PERSONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL MATTERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE INITIAL INTAKE OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS WILL WORK INDEPENDENTLY, BUT WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE LINKS WITH SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS WOULD:

- * PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING TO CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL OR PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND HELP TEACHERS HANDLE PROBLEM CHILDREN=
- * ADVISE CHILDREN ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, CHOICE OF SCHOOLS AND HELP PREPARE THEM FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION=
- * PROMOTE AND DEVELOP VOCATIONAL AWARENESS, AND HELP CHILDREN APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF WORK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS JOBS IN THE COMMUNITY=
- * ARRANGE VISITS AND CONDUCT PROGRAMMES TO HELP CHILDREN BROADEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES= AND
- * LIAISE WITH PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN HANDLING COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT CASES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAMME WILL BE LAUNCHED ON MONDAY AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAUMATI.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL), MR. HO NGAMING, AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOCIAL WORK), MRS. EVELYN DOE WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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EASTERN CORRIDOR PROJECT TO BEGIN SOON

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO INVITE TENDERS WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS FROM PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR -- STAGE I.

THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR -- STAGE I WILL BE AN ELEVATED COASTAL ROUTE ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES LONG, PROVIDING A DUAL FOUR-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OVER TWO THIRDS OF ITS LENGTH AND DUAL THREE-LANE OVER THE REMAINING SECTION. THREE INTERCHANGES WILL BE PROVIDED TO CONNECT THE COASTAL ROUTE WITH THE EXISTING ROAD NETWORK.

A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID ONLY CONTRACTORS OF EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-SPAN CONCRETE HIGHWAY STRUCTURES AND MARINE STRUCTURES WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIST OF PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PREQUALIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MESSRS. MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, CONSULTING ENGINEER, 1 KOWLOON PARK DRIVE, 14TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

A NOTICE INVITING APPROPRIATE CONTRACTORS TO CONTACT THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR CONSIDERATION OF INCLUSION IN THE PREQUALIFICATION LIST WAS PUBLISHED IN YESTERDAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WILL COMMENCE IN THE EARLIER PART OF NEXT YEAR AND THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR -- STAGE I WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN ABOUT FOUR YEARS.

THE CONTRACT IS BEING PREPARED AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA ON BEHALF OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX
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THE HONG KONG HEALTH AUTHORITY MAY ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS WHEREBY ARRIVALS FROM SMALLPOX INFECTED AREAS WOULD HAVE TO POSSESS VALID CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AGAINST THE DISEASE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM SO FAR HAS INDICATED THAT THE COUNTRY IS LIKELY TO BE DECLARED A SMALLPOX INFECTED AREA.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, NEXT TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY WHEN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORDS BECOME AVAILABLE, TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES INFORMING THEM OF THE SITUATION IN THE CURRENT SMALLPOX OUTBREAK IN BIRMINGHAM.

ACCORDING TO WHO RECOMMENDATIONS, A VACCINATION CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED FROM TRAVELLERS WHO, WITHIN THE PRECEDING 14 DAYS, HAVE VISITED A SMALLPOX INFECTED COUNTRY AS REFLECTED IN THE WHO'S WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORDS.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT PENDING THE RECEIPT OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORDS, TRAVELLERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE PRESENTLY NOT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE SMALLPOX VACCINATION CERTIFICATES FOR ENTRY INTO HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, HE ADVISED THAT PEOPLE INTENDING TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO TO GET THEMSELVES PREPARED BY POSSESSING AN INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

+THIS IS BECAUSE BY THE TIME THEY RETURN TO HONG KONG THEY MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED AT ANY TIME NOW,+ HE ADDED.

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CLEARWATER BAY ROAD TO BE FURTHER IMPROVED
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR IMPROVING A SECTION OF CLEARWATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN PIK UK AND CLEARWATER BAY APARTMENTS.

THE PROJECT FORMS THE SECOND STAGE OF AN OVERALL SCHEME AIMED AT RELIEVING THE PRESENT TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN CLEARWATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN ANDERSON ROAD AND HANG HAU ROAD.

+THE WORK INVOLVES THE WIDENING OF ABOUT 1,100 METRES OF THE EXISTING ROAD TO DUAL TWO-LANE STANDARD CARRIAGEWAY WITH FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES,+ MR. AU CHI-LAU, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, SAID.

+CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.+

MEANWHILE, IMPROVEMENT WORK IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY ON TWO OTHER SECTIONS OF CLEARWATER BAY ROAD -- ONE ADJOINING NGAU CHI WAN ESTATE AND THE OTHER BETWEEN PIK UK AND HIRAM'S HIGHWAY.

THE WORK INCLUDES THE WIDENING OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ROAD, CHANGE OF ALIGNMENT AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY AT THE VILLAGE OF TSENG LAN SHUE.

WORK ON THE REMAINING TWO SECTIONS BETWEEN HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND HANG HAU AND BETWEEN ANDERSON ROAD AND PIK UK WILL BEGIN WITHIN THE NEXT NINE MONTHS.

THE ENTIRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME COSTING MORE THAN \$72 MILLION, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1980.

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PLASTIC NETHOUSES SAVE LOCAL CROPS

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NEW TERRITORIES FARMERS, WHOSE CROPS WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED RECENTLY BY SEVERE TROPICAL STORM AGNES, ARE NOW TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO A SOPHISTICATED FORM OF CROP PROTECTION --- THE INSTALLATION OF PLASTIC NETHOUSES.

ACCORDING TO THE SENIOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR. T.C. CHAU, ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S VEGETABLE CROPS WERE DAMAGED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF AGNES.

+BUT CROPS AND SEEDLINGS WHICH WERE GROWING IN DEMONSTRATION PLASTIC NETHOUSES SURVIVED AGNES VERY WELL,+ HE SAID.

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF INTENSE TRIALS UNDER ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND THAT THE NETHOUSES CAN EFFECTIVELY PROTECT CROPS FROM TYPHOONS AND HEAVY RAINS,+ SAID MR. CHAU.

DEMONSTRATION UNITS, SPONSORED BY THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION, HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AT SUNG CHING SUN TSUEN NEAR YUEN LONG AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S EXTENSION FARM AT SHEUNG SHUI.

SINCE THE WRATH OF AGNES, A FARMER AT SHEK KONG COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NETHOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS ENQUIRIES FROM FARMERS IN THE YUEN LONG AND TAI PO DISTRICTS ABOUT THE FUNDING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NETHOUSES.

THE PLASTIC NETHOUSE IS CHEAPER AND MORE VERSATILE THAN ITS EUROPEAN COUNTERPART, THE GLASSHOUSE.

DURING HOT AND HUMID WEATHER, THE SIDES OF THE NETHOUSES CAN BE ROLLED UP TO ALLOW GENTLE BREEZES BLOW OVER THE CROPS, AND DURING THE APPLICATION OF FERTILISERS, HERBICIDES AND INSECTICIDES, THE SIDES CAN BE LOWERED SO THE PLANTS RECEIVE FULL BENEFIT OF THE TREATMENT. WITH SUCH CONTROLS, FARMERS ARE ASSURED OF UNDAMAGED SEEDLINGS WHICH CAN BE TRANSPLANTED A FEW DAYS AFTER A TYPHOON AND GOOD QUALITY CROPS LITERALLY FREE OF INSECT DAMAGE.

MR. CHAU SAID NETHOUSES OF ABOUT ONE DAU CHUNG (ABOUT 1/6TH OF AN ACRE) COST ABOUT \$9,000, INCLUDING LABOUR. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE COSTS GOES TOWARDS THE PLASTIC NETTING.

FARMERS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING PLASTIC NETHOUSES CAN APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO HELP MEET THE COSTS. THE INTEREST VARIES FROM ONE TO FOUR PER CENT DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE LOAN.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT JAPAN
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR JAPAN ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) ON A TWO-WEEK STUDY TOUR AT THE INVITATION OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

MR. CHUI WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE JUNCTION OF CANAL ROAD WEST AND GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 6.30 P.M. TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO FACILITATE DUCT-LAYING WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TURN LEFT FROM CANAL ROAD WEST ONTO GLOUCESTER ROAD.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
SEPTEMBER 4 (MONDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 5 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 6 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 7 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 8 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. - 10.30 P.M.

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WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 A.M. ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 5) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY SMITHFIELD ROAD, CADOGAN STREET, FORBES STREET AND THE NEW PRAYA.

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