DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TENDERS TO BE INVITED FOR
OPEN STORAGE SITES IN TUEN MUN
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INVITE TENDERS FOR SHORT TERM TENANCIES FOR MORE THAN 31 000 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR FIVE SITES AT THE SOUTHWESTERN SIDE OF THE NEW TOWN WHICH IS SERVED BY LUNG MUN ROAD.

THREE SITES, MEASURING 5 500, 5 000 AND 5 550 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY, ARE FOR OPEN STORAGE INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES. TENANCIES ARE FOR TWO YEARS INITIALLY AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE TENANCY FOR A FOURTH SITE, MEASURING 6 300 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR ONE YEAR AND NON-RENEWABLE. IT IS ALSO FOR OPEN STORAGE INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY FOR THE FIFTH SITE MEASURING 9 150 SQUARE METRES IS FOR TWO YEARS INITIALLY AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE, EXCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR VICTOR LEUNG, POINTED OUT THAT STORAGE OF CONTAINERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON THE SITES.

+ONE WATCHMAN'S STRUCTURE WILL BE PERMITTED ON EACH SITE,+ HE SAID.

A YEAR'S RENT IS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE ON ALL THE SITES. RENT FOR THE TWO-YEAR TENANCY SITES IS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON, BEFORE NOON ON FEBRUARY 22 (FRIDAY).

DETAILS OF THE TENDERS AND TENDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES OF ISLANDS, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTHERN, TSUEN WAN, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

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TOWN PLANNING BOARD PLANS PUBLISHED

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A LIST OF PLANS PREPARED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD AND NOTIFIED IN THE GAZETTE IS PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

THE LIST PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LISTS THOSE PLANS WHICH AT DECEMBER 31, 1979 HAVE BEEN:

(1) APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL=

(2) REFERRED BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR AMENDMENT OR REPLACEMENT=

(3) EXHIBITED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD AS DRAFT PLANS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE APPROVED PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FREE OF CHARGE AT THE LAND OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING).

COPIES OF APPROVED AND DRAFT PLANS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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PERCENTAGE RATE CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1980/81

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PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE IS A RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FIXING THE PERCENTAGES TO BE CHARGED ON THE RATEABLE VALUES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1980.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THE PERCENTAGE RATE CHARGES IN THE URBAN AREAS OR IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG OR TSING YI.

THE ONLY CHANGES WILL BE FOR THE NEW RATING AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, I.E. TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI, TAI PO, SHA TIN, CLEAR WATER BAY AND SAI KUNG.

RATES WILL ALSO BE IMPOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LANTAU AND MA WAN, AND LAMMA ISLANDS.

THE ESTABLISHED POLICY FOR THE NEW RATING AREAS IS THAT THE RATE FOR THE FIRST YEAR SHALL BE EQUAL TO 50 PER CENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES GENERAL RATE, 60 PER CENT IN THE SECOND YEAR, 70 PER CENT IN THE THIRD YEAR AND SO ON UP TO 100 PER CENT IN THE SIXTH YEAR.

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RATES (INCLUDING URBAN COUNCIL RATES WHERE APPLICABLE) TO BE CHARGED ON RATEABLE VALUES EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1980 ARE -

HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND NEW KOWLOON	11-1/2 PER CENT (NO CHANGE)
TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG, AND TSING YI	11 PER CENT (NO CHANGE)
TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, FANLING/ SHEUNG SHUI, TAI PO, SHA TIN AND CLEAR WATER BAY	10 PER CENT (INCREASED FROM 9 PER CENT)
SAI KUNG	9 PER CENT (INCREASED FROM 8 PER CENT)
CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LANTAU AND MA WAN, AND LAMMA ISLANDS	5-1/2 PER CENT (FIRST LIABLE TO PAY RATES 1/4/80)

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COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PRECAUTIONS

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VOLUNTEER GROUPS HAVE BEEN ENLISTED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE RISK OF COUNTRYSIDE FIRE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THE GROUPS ARE MADE UP OF INDIVIDUAL HIKING ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE AN INTENSIVE CRASH COURSE ON FIRE PREVENTION DURING THE PAST MONTH. THE LECTURES WERE GIVEN BY AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S EDUCATION AND PROTECTION OFFICERS AT THE KOWLOON HILLS FIRE CONTROL CENTRE.

THE EXPERIENCED HIKERS WILL MINGLE AMONG PICNICKERS ADVISING THEM OF FIRE PRECAUTIONS. IF THE VOLUNTEERS DETECT ANY BREACH OF THE COUNTRY CODE THEY WILL MAKE A REPORT TO THE NEAREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE OR PARK RANGER FOR FURTHER ACTION.

MEANWHILE, THE TOTAL FIRE BAN IS STILL IN FORCE IN THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK, TAI PO KAU SPECIAL AREA AND THE SHING MUN FOREST PLANTATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE HAD BEEN DAMPENED DURING THE PAST MONTH, THE RISK OF FIRE WAS STILL GREAT BECAUSE OF AN EXPECTED INCREASE IN VISITORS TO THE PARKS DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

BARBECUES ARE ALLOWED IN AREAS OUTSIDE THE FIRE PROHIBITED AREAS BUT THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT IN DOING SO EXTREME CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. HE ADVISED PICNICKERS THAT IF POSSIBLE THEY SHOULD TAKE PRE-COOKED FOOD WITH THEM TO MINIMISE THE RISK.

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MEASURES FOR FISHERMEN TO SAVE FUEL
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TO OFFSET INCREASED FUEL EXPENDITURE, FISHERMEN MUST ADOPT ALL MEASURES POSSIBLE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

AT THE FISHERMEN'S ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CEREMONY AT THE ABERDEEN FISH MARKET, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THAT AS FUEL COSTS REPRESENT A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF FISHING, INCREASES IN OIL PRICES HAVE VERY SERIOUS EFFECTS.

+WE MUST ACCEPT THAT THE DAYS OF CHEAP FUEL ARE NOW OVER AND IN FACT BE PREPARED FOR FUEL PRICES TO CONTINUE TO RISE,+ HE SAID.

TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, MR RIDDELL-SWAN ADVISED FISHERMEN TO ADOPT MORE MODERN TECHNIQUES WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE GEAR SUCH AS POWER WINCHES AND LINE HAULERS AND WITH MODERN LARGE MESH AND HIGH-OPENING TRAWL NETS.

+NAVIGATION MUST BE MORE PRECISE AND TO OBTAIN GREATER FUEL ECONOMY, PARTICULAR ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO REDUCING DRAG BY REMOVING FOULING ORGANISMS, EVEN IF THIS MEANS SLIPPING VESSELS MORE FREQUENTLY,+ HE SAID.

BUT KNOWING THE FISHERMEN'S CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK, THEIR HIGH TECHNICAL SKILLS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADAPT, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID HE WAS SURE THE FISHERMEN WOULD MEET AND SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME THE PROBLEM.

+TO ASSIST IN THIS, I CAN ASSURE ALL FISHERMEN THAT I AND MY COLLEAGUES WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE TO HELP THEM IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING HELPING THEM TO OBTAIN CREDIT FROM THE LOAN FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

+I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT I AM LOOKING INTO WAYS AND MEANS OF SIMPLIFYING LOAN PROCEDURES AND SPEEDING UP THEIR ISSUE,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH FISH LANDINGS INCREASED LAST YEAR (MARINE FISH UP TO 13 PER CENT, CRUSTACEANS UP 48 PER CENT, AND MOLLUSCA UP 25 PER CENT), AND PRICES WERE ALSO GENERALLY HIGHER, PROFITABILITY WAS SEVERELY REDUCED, WHICH ACCORDING TO MR RIDDELL-SWAN WAS DUE TO VERY CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF FUEL OIL.

DURING THE CEREMONY MR RIDDELL-SWAN PRESENTED AWARDS TO 24 CHAMPION FISHERMEN FOR THEIR FISHING ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR. ANOTHER 10 FISHERMEN ALSO RECEIVED AWARDS FOR SAVING LIVES AT SEA WHICH INCLUDED TWO RESCUES OF HELICOPTER ACCIDENTS IN MIRS BAY AND TOLO CHANNEL.

A GROUP OF TEN YOUNG FISHERMEN HAD ALSO COMPLETED A SIX-MONTH COURSE IN NAVIGATION AND MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY SATISFYING TO SEE THAT AMONGST THE TEN WAS A YOUNG LADY, MISS FUNG YUK-YIN.

+MISS FUNG IS THE SECOND LADY TO GRADUATE SINCE THE COURSE WAS STARTED IN 1960 AND I HOPE THAT OTHER FISHER GIRLS WILL FOLLOW MISS FUNG'S EXAMPLE AND ENROLL IN FISHERIES COURSES,+ HE SAID.

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PLB PROHIBITED ZONE IN LEI MUK ROAD
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A SECTION OF LEI MUK ROAD BETWEEN TUNG CHI STREET AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

WITHIN THE ZONE, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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