

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Monday, July 24, 1972

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS ON MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY

The provision of a Mass Transit Railway system for Hong Kong advanced a step further today with the announcement that the government is inviting firms to submit preliminary proposals for the scheme.

The invitation is to individuals or groups with a genuine interest in either financing, constructing, equipping or operating the proposed railway. The preliminary proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than mid-October this year.

A spokesman for the Steering Group, set up to consider and advise the government on the scheme, said that the Group had already been contacted by a large number of individuals and groups.

"But we are now issuing a general invitation to all financial interests, groups of construction companies and manufacturers of equipment to make it clear we are open to bids from all comers."

All proposals received will be strictly confidential.

The spokesman emphasised that although the basic design and alignment of the railway system had been approved, the government had no fixed view on the manner in which the railway should be financed, constructed or operated.

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Decisions would only be taken once the views and proposals of interested groups had been fully evaluated.

He said proposals may be confined to financing or building or operating the railway; or they may provide for a combination of any or all of these aspects of the scheme.

The deadline for submission of proposals is mid-October.

All proposals and enquiries should be addressed to the Director of Mass Transit Studies, Public Works Department, Murray Building, Hong Kong.

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GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TO BE EXPANDED

Additional facilities will be provided at the Grantham College of Education, including a four-storey classroom block and a 6,500 square foot multi-purpose games hall.

The new classroom block will have a general science laboratory and preparation room, together with rooms for geography, music practice, art and printing, as well as a reading room, sculpture space and an exhibition space.

The first floor of the east wing of the existing building will be altered to accommodate a 700 square foot language laboratory, a 1,200 square foot lecture room, an audio-visual-aid preparation room and a dark room.

There will also be a new single-storey block to provide quarters for staff.

Construction work is expected to start in September this year for completion by the end of August 1973.

The Grantham College of Education is one of three teacher-training colleges run by the Education Department, the others are the Northcote College and the Sir Robert Black College.

The extension and alterations to Grantham College will provide more space as well as better facilities for teacher trainees.

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GOVERNOR TOURS KENNEDY TOWN

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today paid a visit to Kennedy Town to see for himself the environmental conditions in the area and to be briefed on development plans.

The tour lasted some two hours during which time the Governor examined the operations of wholesale and retail markets, poultry laans, and the cattle lairage, as well as the effects of cargo handling activities on the Western waterfront.

The Governor was accompanied on his visit by the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C.C. Luddington, the City District Commissioner (H.K.), Mr. David T.K. Wong; the Government Town Planner, Mr. A.F. Meyers; and the City District Officer (Western), Mr. Rafael Hui.

He started his tour at the Shek Tong Tsui Market which was built in 1869 and is now being reprovisioned. Later, he went via the waterfront to Cadogan Street, where he walked through the poultry laans and saw the sites for the Kennedy Town swimming pool complex and the proposed Kennedy Town station for the mass transit system.

The Governor was also briefed on plans for wholesale markets, hawkers bazaars, relocation of the Victoria Public Mortuary and the cattle lairage, and other improvements contemplated for Kennedy Town.

Note to Editors: Copies of photographs of the Governor during his visit to Kennedy Town are distributed separately in the G.I.S. Press Boxes this evening.

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PUBLIC HOUSING FOR ADDITIONAL 2,500 PEOPLE

About 2,500 people living on three terraces of the Hong Ning Road licensed area in Kwun Tong will be offered public housing towards the end of this year when the area will be cleared.

These people are now staying at terraces 4,5 and 6.

Terraces 1 and 2 will continue to be used as a licensed area and work will be carried out soon to improve the drainage channel there. Terrace 3 is now vacant.

A Resettlement Department spokesman said there appears to be no serious risk of landslide or flooding in the area. However as an added precaution the Public Works Department has recommended that further detailed investigations of this and other sites should be conducted to determine their stability more exactly.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared all of No. 1 Bonham Road and the first floor of the kitchen and bathroom block of No. 3 Bonham Road to be in a dangerous condition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these pre-war buildings were inspected following a report of a collapsed floor during the June rainstorm. Both buildings are two-storey with double floors of basements.

A portion of the rear of the timber ground floor of No. 1 recently collapsed leaving the rear main wall in a dangerous condition.

The remainder of the structural timbers of this building are in a decayed condition and beyond reasonable repair.

The rear wall of the kitchen and bathroom block of No. 3 is severely fractured at the first floor level and there is a risk of a collapse onto Hospital Road.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on August 23, 1972 were posted today.

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LITTLE ARTISTS AT WORK IN STATUE SQUARE

Statue Square on Hong Kong Island will be turned temporarily into a studio for young artists during a drawing and photo contest to be held early next month.

The drawing section of the contest is open to children aged from 8 to 14 and the photo section is open to young people under 25.

The young painters will draw from life and the photographers will in turn capture their expressions with the camera. Drawing paper and colours will be provided.

Valuable prizes will be awarded in both sections and there will be many consolation prizes.

The event, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 6, is organised by the Social Welfare Department District Community Work Office (Wan Chai), the City District Office (Wan Chai) and the Hong Kong Boys' and Girls' Club Association.

Application forms are obtainable at these three places.

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SUMMER COURSES FOR TEACHERS

The Education Department is holding another two summer courses for in service teachers this week.

Sixty primary school teachers in the New Territories are being given an opportunity to learn the latest methods of teaching oral Chinese.

The course, which begins tomorrow, is being held at the Fortress Hill Government Primary School.

The second course, for geography teachers in secondary schools, also starts tomorrow at the Grantham College of Education.

Discussions will range over a number of topics including the aims and purpose of fieldwork in geography, fieldwork in rural and urban areas and possible fieldwork areas in Hong Kong.

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.