



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1977.

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EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY DROPS SLIGHTLY

A TOTAL OF 756,300 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AS AT MARCH 15, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTED A DECLINE OF ABOUT 17,400 PERSONS OR 2.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 773,700 PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1976.

INDUSTRIES WHERE DECREASED EMPLOYMENT OCCURRED INCLUDED GARMENTS, COTTON WEAVING, ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, HANDBAGS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 698,800 PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1976, HOWEVER, MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1977 WAS HIGHER BY 57,500 PERSONS OR 8.2 PER CENT.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST INDUSTRY GROUPS REMAINED WEARING APPAREL, TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

A COMPARISON OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN DECEMBER 1976 AND MARCH 1977 ARE GIVEN BELOW :

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1977	CHANGE OF MARCH 1977 OVER DEC. 1976	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	249,883	265,913	259,380	-6,533	-2.5
TEXTILES	114,973	115,912	110,144	-5,768	-5.0
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES	67,224	88,057	85,828	-2,229	-2.5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	66,485	76,994	77,156	+ 162	+0.2
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	58,221	69,781	68,635	-1,146	-1.6

MAIN INCREASES AND DECREASES AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR LEVEL BETWEEN DECEMBER 1976 AND MARCH 1977 ARE AS FOLLOWS :

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INDUSTRY SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1976	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1977	CHANGE OF MARCH 1977 OVER DEC. 1976	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WOOL KNITTING	18,127	16,789	17,842	+1,053	+6.3
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	4,200	5,074	5,773	+ 699	+13.8
JEWELLERY AND RELATED ARTICLES	6,040	7,328	7,800	+ 472	+6.4
GARMENTS	200,482	211,098	205,633	-5,465	-2.6
COTTON WEAVING	31,756	32,769	28,354	-4,415	-13.5
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	51,881	70,998	68,490	-2,508	-3.5
HANDBAGS	10,284	13,139	11,796	-1,343	-10.2
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	24,806	29,252	28,412	- 840	-2.9

DETAILED FIGURES OF EMPLOYMENT BROKEN DOWN BY OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS OR INDUSTRY SECTORS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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CHEUNG CHAU TYPHOON SHELTER

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADVISED THAT THE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION PUT FORWARD BY THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE BREAKWATERS OF THE PROPOSED CHEUNG CHAU TYPHOON SHELTER SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED AND GAZETTED.

THE RURAL COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL FOR THE BREAKWATERS WOULD ENCLOSE A GREATER AREA OF THE WEST BAY OF CHEUNG CHAU. THE SUGGESTION WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE RURAL COMMITTEE WHO FELT THAT THE PROPOSED TYPHOON SHELTER WOULD CONFINE THE WATERS OF THE BAY AND THUS SPOIL THE ENVIRONMENT OF CHEUNG CHAU WHICH DEPENDS COMMERCIALY ON ITS POPULARITY AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION.

A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON THE FINAL ALIGNMENT OF THE BREAKWATERS WHEN THE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF THE RURAL COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED.

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CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING FOR KWONG WAH HOSPITAL
GOVT. TO ALLOCATE OVER \$13M IN CAPITAL OUTLAY

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO ALLOCATE MORE THAN \$13 MILLION IN CAPITAL OUTLAY TO ENABLE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL TO CONSTRUCT A CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF PATHOLOGY SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR TRAINING LABORATORY TECHNICIANS FOR THE ACUTE HOSPITAL.

THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$17 MILLION, THE BALANCE TO BE MET BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS THROUGH ITS FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN ANNUALLY RECURRENT SUBVENTION AMOUNTING TO \$1,870,000 TO MEET THE COST OF EXTRA STAFF NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE EXPANDED SERVICES.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1979.

THE 10-STORY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING WILL PROVIDE SPACE FOR KWONG WAH HOSPITAL TO EXPAND ITS EXISTING X-RAY DEPARTMENT, DISPENSARY STORE, INSTRUMENT STORE AND MEDICAL RECORDS OFFICE.

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR ESTABLISHING A PHYSIOTHERAPY UNIT, AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY UNIT, A MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE AND AN ADDITIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC WARD.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL IS IN KEEPING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH REGIONALISATION PLAN, THE OBJECT OF WHICH IS TO SECURE A MORE EVEN USE OF BEDS AVAILABLE IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS.

UNDER THE REGIONALISATION SCHEME, INTRODUCED AS FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR, KWONG WAH HOSPITAL NOW SERVES AS THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR WEST KOWLOON, PROVIDING THE REGION WITH ALL MAJOR SPECIALIST SERVICES.

APART FROM IMPROVING SERVICES AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO APPROVED EXTRA FUNDS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR BRINGING INTO USE ADDITIONAL BEDS AT THE NEW CENTENARY BUILDING OF THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL AND GRANTHAM HOSPITAL.

THE 106 ADDITIONAL BEDS TO BE BROUGHT INTO USE AT THE CENTENARY BUILDING AND THE 90 BEDS TO BE CONVERTED AT GRANTHAM HOSPITAL FOR CONVALESCENT PATIENTS WOULD HELP EASE THE CONGESTION AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

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LEGCO MEETING TOMORROW

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ADULT FERRY FARES FOR MOST OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES WILL BE INCREASED FROM 30 CENTS TO 40 CENTS FROM JULY 1, IF A MOTION TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE TO THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICE) ORDINANCE IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS, IF APPROVED, WILL ALSO BRING THE CHARGE FOR A MONTHLY TICKET UP FROM \$12 TO \$16.

DURING QUESTION TIME, THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 14 QUESTIONS.

DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG WILL ASK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED ALONG THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND WHAT STEPS THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO URGENTLY IMPROVE DRIVING SAFETY THERE.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE HIGHER RATE OF VACATION LEAVE FOR OVERSEAS OFFICERS COMPARED WITH LOCAL OFFICERS OF EQUIVALENT RANK WILL BE SOUGHT BY THE HON. T.S. LO.

DR. THE HON. HENRY HU WILL ENQUIRE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE AMENDING LEGISLATION FOR THE CONFISCATION OF THE ASSETS OF CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHICH ARE HELD BY THEIR NEAR RELATIVES AND NOMINEES.

A QUESTION ABOUT RAISING THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATION OF FUTURE PERMITTED TEACHERS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS WILL BE ASKED BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT.

THE HON. WONG LAM IS TO ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY TO REDUCE THE RATE TOLLS IT COLLECTS FROM MOTORISTS IN VIEW OF THE COMPANY'S ABILITY TO REPAY ITS INVESTMENT LOAN LATER THIS YEAR.

OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROTECTION OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS, WATER SUPPLY TO SHEK O, ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF NEW TOWNS, LIGHTS ON CONTAINER LORRIES AND RECRUITMENT OF CORONERS.

NINE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL WHILE DEBATE ON NINE OTHER BILLS WILL BE RESUMED.

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN RECREATION AND SPORT EXHIBITION

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE THIS FRIDAY (JUNE 3) AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL.

THE EXHIBITION WILL EXPLAIN THE WORK OF THE SERVICE AND FEATURE MANY OF ITS PAST ACTIVITIES. IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (JUNE 4 AND 5).

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION, A SEMINAR ON SPORT AND RECREATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG WILL BE ORGANISED AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

A GYMNASTIC DISPLAY WILL TAKE PLACE AT EDINBURGH PLACE IN FRONT OF QUEEN'S PIER ON SUNDAY MORNING, FROM 10 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN OCTOBER, 1974, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HAS ORGANISED A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR OVER 320,000 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

IT HAS INCREASED ITS DISTRICT OFFICES FROM SIX TO 17 AT PRESENT, COVERING HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES TO MEET THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC DEMAND FOR PARTICIPATION IN ITS ACTIVITIES.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL ON FRIDAY.

THERE WILL BE A PRELIMINARY PRESS BRIEFING AT 3.30 P.M. AND A PREVIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT 3.45 P.M.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL OPEN THE EXHIBITION AT 4.30 P.M.

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DOUBLE-DECK BUS TEST RUN PROVES SUCCESSFUL ON LANTAU ISLAND

A TEST RUN WITH A DOUBLE-DECK BUS ON LANTAU ISLAND HELD YESTERDAY (MONDAY) WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF P.W.D., POLICE TRAFFIC BRANCH AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT INDICATED THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING DOUBLE-DECK BUSES TO LANTAU ISLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF NO. 415, MARITIME TROOP FROM STONECUTTERS ISLAND WHO TRANSHIPPED A CMB DOUBLE-DECK BUS BY A LANDING CRAFT TO AND FROM SILVERMINE BAY, THE BUS WAS USED IN EXTENSIVE TESTS ALONG THE SOUTH LANTAU ROAD BETWEEN MUI WO AND TAI O AND COMPLETED THE TRIALS SUCCESSFULLY ON GROUNDS OF BOTH ROAD SAFETY AND HEIGHT STABILITY.

THE BUS BALLASTED WITH ALMOST A HUNDRED SAND BAGS AND A PARTY OF 25 OFFICIALS WHO TOGETHER SIMULATED A FULLY LOADED BUS UNDER NORMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY TESTS CONDUCTED ON STARTS ON STEEP GRADIENTS, MANOEUVREABILITY AROUND TIGHT CORNERS AND GENERAL HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

+THE LOW FLOOR LEVEL OF DOUBLE-DECK BUSES WAS FOUND TO BE PARTICULARLY WELL SUITED TO LANTAU ISLAND IN GIVING GREATER VEHICLE STABILITY AND A SMOOTHER PASSENGER RIDE.

+THE DOUBLE-DECK VEHICLE CHOSEN FOR THE TEST RUN WAS ONE OF THE STANDARD CMB BUSES USED ON SUBURBAN SERVICES TO THE PEAK, MID-LEVELS, SHEK O AND BRAEMAR HILL AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND THESE BUSES ARE SLIGHTLY SHORTER AND NARROWER THAN THE EXISTING SINGLE-DECK BUSES USED BY THE NEW LANTAU BUS COMPANY ON LANTAU ISLAND.

+HENCE, NO DIFFICULTIES OF VEHICLE SIZE WERE EXPERIENCED OVER ANY SECTION OF THE ROUTE DURING THE TEST RUN,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BEFORE A REGULAR SERVICE OF DOUBLE-DECK BUSES IS INTRODUCED ONTO THE ISLAND, OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES HAVE TO BE TRIMMED AND THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ROAD WORKS BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA AND TONG FUK VILLAGE NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED, PROBABLY EARLY IN 1978.

+THE TEST RUN THEREFORE INDICATED THE LIKELY INTRODUCTION OF REGULAR DOUBLE-DECK SERVICES TO THE ISLAND INITIALLY BETWEEN MUI WO AND TONG FUK WHICH WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED CARRYING CAPACITY FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE ISLAND TRAVELLING TO AND FROM PUI O, CHEUNG SHA AND TONG FUK,+ HE SAID.

+ULTIMATELY, IT IS INTENDED TO EXTEND THE DOUBLE-DECK OPERATION TO SHEK PIK AND TAI O ON COMPLETION OF THE FURTHER STAGES OF ROAD WORKS ON THE ISLAND.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IT IS HOPED THAT BY A BETTER UTILIZATION OF THE EXISTING FLEET OF SINGLE-DECK BUSES USED AS INTERCHANGE FOR THE DOUBLE-DECK SERVICE, IMPROVED FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL AREAS OF THE ISLAND INCLUDING LOCAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TRAVELLING TO THE NGONG PING MONASTERY.

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RADIO TELEPHONE LINK FOR REMOTE N.T. ISLETS

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TWO REMOTE PICNIC SPOTS IN PORT SHELTER - HITHERTO UNCONNECTED WITH THE REST OF SAI KUNG EXCEPT BY A 40-MINUTE BOAT TRIP - ARE NOW LINKED BY RADIO TELEPHONES WITH A POLICE POST IN HIGH ISLAND.

THE RADIO TELEPHONE LINK PROVIDES A MUCH-NEEDED COMMUNICATION FACILITY TO SUMMON HELP IN THE EVENT OF A MISHAP ON THE TWO ISLETS - KAU SAI CHAU AND YIM TIN TSAI.

THE PLACES HAVE BEEN A POPULAR SPOT FOR WEEKEND TRIPPERS AND HOLIDAY-MAKERS WHO FLOCK THERE FOR HIKING, PICNICKING AND SWIMMING.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE VILLAGERS, THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE HAS ARRANGED FOR TWO RADIO TELEPHONE SETS FROM THE POST OFFICE TO BE INSTALLED, ONE EACH ON KAU SAI CHAU AND YIM TIN TSAI.

+IN THE PAST, IF THERE WERE MISHAPS ON THE ISLETS, THE ONLY WAY TO GET HELP WAS TO TAKE A 40-MINUTE BOAT TRIP TO SAI KUNG AND MAKE A PHONE CALL FROM THERE,+ SAID MR. LEO KWAN, ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, SAI KUNG.

+THIS IS MOST INCONVENIENT AND TIME-CONSUMING,+ HE SAID.

WITH THE RADIO TELEPHONE LINK, HE SAID, THE PROBLEM NO LONGER EXISTS= AN S.O.S. MESSAGE CAN BE SENT OFF WITHIN SECONDS TO THE HIGH ISLAND POLICE POST.

ON KAU SAI CHAU, THE RADIO TELEPHONE IS AT THE KAU SAI PUBLIC SCHOOL MANNED BY THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, MR. MA WING-TOR. ON YIM TIN TSAI, IT IS IN A CHURCH AND IS OPERATED BY THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, MR. CHAN KWAI-SAN.

MR. KWAN SAID SINCE THEY WERE INSTALLED THREE WEEKS AGO, THE RADIO TELEPHONES HAD NOT YET BEEN USED.

+LET'S HOPE THEY WILL NEVER BE USED,+ HE ADDED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF KOWLOON CITY ROAD BETWEEN MA HANG CHUNG ROAD AND MA TAU KOK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO ENABLE ROADWORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

ACCESS TO AFFECTED PREMISES WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGH SAN SHAN ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF ROADS IN YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK AREAS WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION THERE.

CANTON ROAD BETWEEN NAM TAU STREET AND ARGYLE STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY FROM NAM TAU STREET TO ARGYLE STREET, NAM TAU STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY FROM SHAM CHUN STREET TO CANTON ROAD, AND SHAM CHUN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY FROM ARGYLE STREET TO NAM TAU STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE OF PRISON OFFICERS

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

EIGHTY-TWO OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL BE PASSING OUT AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY THIS SATURDAY (JUNE 4).

THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR. J.B. HAWTHORNE, WILL INSPECT THE PARADE WHICH BEGINS AT 11 A.M.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT.

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