



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1992

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STUDY ON CHEMICAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLETED

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CONSULTANTS HAVE JUST COMPLETED A STUDY FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE CHEMICAL PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS ERNST AND YOUNG, TOGETHER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, ERL ASIA LIMITED HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT A SUITABLE SITE SHOULD BE TARGETED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A CHEMICAL ESTATE WITH INFRASTRUCTURE APPROPRIATE TO THE HIGH-VALUE-ADDED CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND THAT INVESTMENT IN AN INDEPENDENT BULK STORAGE FACILITY WAS A NECESSARY PART OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE.

TAKING SUCH ACTION SHOULD OVERCOME THE FAILURE TO CONSIDER HONG KONG AS A FIRST CHOICE FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION OF HIGH-VALUE-ADDED CHEMICALS, THE CONSULTANTS ADDED.

THE CONSULTANTS EXAMINED A NUMBER OF SITES USING ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT COST CRITERIA TO ARRIVE AT A RANKING OF ORDER OF PRIORITY.

THE SITE OFFERING A COMBINATION OF THE LOWEST DEVELOPMENT COST AND LEAST ENVIRONMENTAL RISK WAS TSEUNG KWAN O AREA 137. THIS AREA, WHICH WILL REQUIRE RECLAMATION, IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY TO THE SOUTH OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION'S THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NEAR JUNK ISLAND IN TSEUNG KWAN O.

OTHER SITES EXAMINED INCLUDE TUEN MUN AREA 38, THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O, THE PROPOSED LAMMA BREAKWATER AND AP LEI PAI ISLAND IN ABERDEEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID THE STUDY FELL OUTSIDE THE USUAL SERIES OF TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDIES COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE MAJOR GROUPS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG SUCH AS THE TEXTILES, GARMENTS, PLASTICS AND METALS INDUSTRIES.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS STUDY REQUIRED THE CONSULTANTS TO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDUSTRY THAT HAD YET FORMED ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

INVESTOR ENQUIRIES BOTH PRIOR TO THE START OF THE STUDY AND SINCE INDICATED THAT THERE COULD BE SOME POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH, PARTICULARLY TO SERVE THE RAPIDLY GROWING SOUTH CHINA MANUFACTURING REGION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"GIVEN THE RELIANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ON IMPORTED CHEMICALS, THERE MAY BE THE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH IN THE LOCAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY IN HIGH-VALUE-ADDED CHEMICALS THAT ARE INCREASINGLY USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF HONG KONG'S HIGHER QUALITY EXPORTS.

/"THE PURPOSE

"THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY IS TO ENSURE THAT, SHOULD THERE BE A GENUINE MARKET DEMAND FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT HAD YET TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT. DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

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TASK FORCE PROTECTS WORKERS' WELFARE

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS STEPPED UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO SAFEGUARD THE STATUTORY BENEFITS OF WORKERS.

LABOUR INSPECTORS FROM THE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAMS (SET) MADE MORE THAN 1,960 VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS LAST YEAR TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVED THEIR FULL ENTITLEMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION), MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT AS A RESULT, THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN 271 SUMMONSES AGAINST EMPLOYERS FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES RELATING TO THE GRANTING OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS AND ANNUAL LEAVE, HOLIDAY AND MATERNITY LEAVE PAY, AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

"THESE PROSECUTIONS REPRESENTED A SEVENFOLD INCREASE OVER THE 33 SUMMONSES LAID IN 1990 BY THE SET," MR CHAN NOTED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASE WAS DUE MAINLY TO THE SETTING UP OF TWO ADDITIONAL SETS FOR LOCAL WORKERS IN APRIL LAST YEAR AND TO THEIR STEPPED-UP EFFORTS TO PREVENT MALPRACTICES BY UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS.

THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE OPERATES FIVE SETS, THREE FOR LOCAL WORKERS AND TWO FOR IMPORTED WORKERS, TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE WELFARE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE BY EMPLOYERS, SUCH AS THE GRANTING OF MATERNITY LEAVE, REST DAYS, SICKNESS ALLOWANCES, HOLIDAYS AND ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PAY.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BREACHES OF THESE PROVISIONS ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

THE INSPECTORATE ALSO ENSURES THAT EMPLOYERS KEEP EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS AGAIN

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THE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE FORMATION OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE SETTING UP OF SUB-COMMITTEES HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO FACILITATE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES CONCERNING THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS.

"MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS IN THE MEETING WHETHER AND HOW SUB-COMMITTEES SHOULD BE FORMED," HE ADDED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, ONE OF THE 10 CORE PROJECTS UNDER THE ACP.

"THE BRIEFING WILL COVER THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT, THE PRIVATISATION METHODS AND PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEXE) AND WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MS LEUNG WING-CHONG ON 802 3511 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATING IN THE CONFERENCE HALL IS LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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FACTORIES REMINDED NOT TO EMPLOY CHILDREN

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS NOT TO EMPLOY CHILDREN IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED A RECENT CASE AT THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY IN WHICH A PLASTIC TOY FACTORY WAS FINED \$4,000 FOR EMPLOYING A CHILD.

/"DURING A

"DURING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST EMPLOYING CHILDREN CONDUCTED LAST YEAR, LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND A CHILD UNDER 14 EMPLOYED AS A PIECE-RATED WORKER IN THE JUN KONG (PAK'S) PLASTIC PRODUCTS MANUFACTORY LIMITED," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS) MR JOHN SUNG SAID.

"ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15 MUST NOT BE EMPLOYED IN ANY INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING, WHILE THOSE AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 14 MAY BE EMPLOYED ONLY FOR PART-TIME JOBS IN A NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS," MR SUNG EXPLAINED.

"ANY EMPLOYER WHO BREACHES THE PROVISIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN INDUSTRY IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000," HE SAID.

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AVOID BUDGET DAY RUSH FOR VEHICLES' AND DRIVERS' LICENCES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR LICENCES EXPIRE AS THEY CAN APPLY ANY TIME DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE LICENSING OFFICES WERE USUALLY BUSY IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH WHEN PEOPLE RUSHED TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES JUST BEFORE THE ANNUAL BUDGET WAS ANNOUNCED.

ON EXTREMELY BUSY DAYS, THE LICENSING OFFICES WILL ADOPT A QUOTA SYSTEM UNDER WHICH APPLICANTS ARE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT DISC FOR A SPECIFIED TIME TO HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS.

THE APPOINTMENT DISCS WILL BE HANDED OUT ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

TO AVOID LONG QUEUES AT THE LICENSING OFFICES, THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS THAT THEY COULD SAVE TIME BY APPLYING TO RENEW THEIR DRIVING OR VEHICLE LICENCES BY POST.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES, ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE EXISTING LICENCE FEES WOULD STILL BE APPLIED TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEARING POSTAL CHOPS BEFORE 2.30 PM ON BUDGET DAY, WHETHER OR NOT THE FEES WOULD BE INCREASED.

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NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CNTA ENQUIRY CENTRE

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THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE (CTEC) OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) WILL BE CHANGED TO 835 2500, EFFECTIVE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE CHANGE WAS DUE TO THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW AUTOMATIC CALL DISTRIBUTION TELEPHONE SYSTEM WITH WHICH CALLERS WOULD BE ANSWERED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HE NOTED THAT THE CTEC HAD BEEN SET UP AT THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS SINCE APRIL LAST YEAR AS A BACK-UP TO THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES IN VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES.

"DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL LAST YEAR AND JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE CENTRE HANDLED 162,760 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES.

"THE ENQUIRIES WERE MAINLY ON THE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, APPLICATION PROCEDURES, STATUTORY DECLARATION SERVICE, GOVERNMENT VACANCIES AND FREE LEGAL ADVICE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE.

THE ENQUIRY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

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SEMINARS TO ENHANCE TEACHERS' TEACHING SKILLS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH CONDUCTED 26 WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND COURSES FOR KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, TO BETTER THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON SOME SCHOOL SUBJECTS AND TEACHING TECHNIQUES.

WORKSHOPS HELD INCLUDED COMPUTER GRAPHICS, FASHION DESIGN AND PATTERN, ELECTRONICS, REVISED CHINESE LANGUAGE SYLLABUS, ACTIVITY APPROACH IN PRIMARY MATHEMATICS CLASSES, HISTORY AND REMEDIAL TEACHING OF CHINESE LANGUAGE.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE SEMINARS INCLUDED COMPUTER AWARENESS, ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY-LEVEL CHINESE HISTORY AND PHYSICS, SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM PROJECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

A NUMBER OF TRAINING COURSES WERE ALSO ORGANISED FOR TEACHER LIBRARIANS, AND ARTS AND CRAFT TEACHERS.

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