



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1975

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TRANSPORT FARE INCREASES

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASES FOR THREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES - HONG KONG TRAMWAYS, STAR FERRY AND PEAK TRAMWAYS. IN THE CASE OF THE STAR FERRY AND HONG KONG TRAMWAYS, THE INCREASES WILL NOW BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO BE MADE.

AT THE SAME TIME, A PROPOSAL TO WAIVE OR REDUCE ROYALTIES WILL ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL. THE DRAFT PROVISIONS REQUIRED TO BRING THESE CHANGES INTO EFFECT ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S GAZETTE.

THE PROPOSED NEW FARE STRUCTURES WILL BE A FLAT 30 CENTS FOR HONG KONG TRAMWAYS (AN INCREASE OF 10 CENTS) = 30 CENTS FOR THE TOP DECK OF THE STAR FERRY AND 15 CENTS FOR THE LOWER DECK (AN INCREASE OF 5 CENTS IN EACH CASE) = AND \$1.50 FOR THE PEAK TRAM OR \$1 BETWEEN MAY ROAD AND EITHER THE UPPER OR LOWER TERMINI (AN INCREASE OF 50 CENTS IN EACH CASE).

THESE INCREASES, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO COME INTO EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1, ARE REQUIRED BECAUSE THE COMPANIES HAVE HAD TO FACE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED COSTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, IN PARTICULAR THE FOUR-FOLD INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF FUEL OIL IN 1974.

IN THE CASE OF THE STAR FERRY, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE MINOR INCREASE IN FARES IN THE PAST 30 YEARS - A 5 CENT INCREASE IN THE FIRST CLASS FARE IN 1966. THE SECOND CLASS FARE HAS REMAINED AT 10 CENTS SINCE 1946.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE STAR FERRY COMPANY INDICATED THAT, WITHOUT A FARE INCREASE, IT WOULD HAVE SUFFERED A SERIES OF LOSSES RISING FROM \$500,000 IN 1975 TO OVER \$2 MILLION IN 1977.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASE OF ONLY FIVE CENTS IN BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS FARES AT THE PRESENT TIME WAS AIMED AT KEEPING INCREASES TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF STEADILY RISING COSTS, ANOTHER INCREASE OF FIVE CENTS IN THE SECOND CLASS FARE WOULD BE INTRODUCED FROM JANUARY 1, 1977, GIVING A TWO-STAGE RISE AS AN ALTERNATIVE OF HAVING TO PAY 20 CENTS STRAIGHT AWAY.

THIS WOULD THEN BRING THE FARES ON THE STAR FERRY INTO LINE WITH THOSE ON THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY FOR ITS CROSS HARBOUR ROUTES - 30 CENTS FIRST CLASS AND 20 CENTS SECOND CLASS.

IN THE CASE OF THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY, THE LAST INCREASE WAS IN 1972 WHEN THE OLD THIRD CLASS ACCOMMODATION WAS ABOLISHED AND A STANDARD FARE OF 20 CENTS WAS INTRODUCED TO REPLACE THE PREVIOUS FARE OF 20 CENTS UPSTAIRS AND 10 CENTS DOWN STAIRS.

SINCE THEN EXPENDITURE, PARTICULARLY ON ELECTRICITY AND WAGES, HAS CONTINUALLY INCREASED. IN 1974 ALONE, THE COST OF ELECTRICITY INCREASED BY 136 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WHILE WAGES FOR TRAFFIC STAFF ROSE BY 21 PER CENT AND THOSE FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE STAFF WENT UP BY 41 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE SCOPE FOR THE TRAMWAY COMPANY TO INCREASE ITS REVENUE BY CARRYING MORE PASSENGERS, EVEN IF THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WERE TO BE INCREASED. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE VERY INTENSE UTILIZATION ALREADY BEING MADE OF THE EXISTING TRACK AND ROLLING STOCK.

THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ADVISED THAT, IF THE COMPANY IS TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF SERVICE, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO AN INCREASE IN THE FARE.

THIS ADVICE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND A BILL WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASE WAS PUBLISHED TODAY, AND WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE LAST INCREASE FOR THE PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY WAS ALSO IN 1972. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN THE INCREASED REVENUE GENERATED BY THE NEW FARES HAS BEEN MORE THAN OFFSET BY RAPIDLY RISING OPERATING COSTS.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A 62 PER CENT INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY CHARGES ARISING FROM SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN FUEL OIL COSTS. SINCE 1973, WAGES HAVE GONE UP BY 76 PER CENT.

THE COMPANY IS FACING A CRITICAL CASH FLOW SITUATION AND SAYS IT WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND THE MONEY TO EMBARK ON A COSTLY CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME NOW UNDER WAY, AND WHICH IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS REQUIRED OF THIS TRAMWAY.

INCLUDED IN THIS IS AN ITEM OF MACHINERY PURCHASED LAST MONTH AT A COST OF \$117,000, TOGETHER WITH THE PURCHASE OF HAULAGE ROPES, THE PRICE OF WHICH HAS INCREASED 300 PER CENT IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

THE COMPANY IS ALSO REPLACING, REPAIRING OR REFURNISHING OTHER ITEMS OF MACHINERY= AND IN EARLY 1976 WILL UNDERTAKE A TRACK REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME COSTING ABOUT \$120,000.

BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A VIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM, AND TO KEEP FARE INCREASES TO A MINIMUM, PROPOSALS TO WAIVE ROYALTY PAYMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE STAR FERRY COMPANY FOR THE YEARS 1974, 1975 AND 1976 AND TO DISCONTINUE THEM ALTOGETHER FOR HONG KONG TRAMWAYS WILL ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

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TUEN MUN ROAD LINK
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WORK BEGINS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) ON A \$24 MILLION ROAD TO LINK THE CENTRE OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WITH THE \$300 MILLION TUEN MUN ROAD NOW BEING BUILT FROM TSUEN WAN TO A POINT ON THE HILLSIDE NEAR THE DRAGON INN ABOVE CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

MR. NICKY CHAN NAI-KEONG, THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN PROJECT MANAGER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT ENGINEER, SAID THE 1.7-KILOMETRE LINK ROAD MARKED AN IMPORTANT PHASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN INTO A NEW TOWN.

BY JOINING UP WITH THE MAJOR TUEN MUN NEW ROAD IT WILL PROVIDE A MODERN THREE-LANE HIGHWAY FOR CLEARWAY TRAFFIC BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN.

THE LINK ROAD SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1977 AND THE ENTIRE TUEN MUN - TSUEN WAN EXPRESSWAY SHOULD BE OPEN BY THE END OF 1977.

MR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AND THE EXPANSION PROGRAMMES FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG NOW IN FULL SWING, THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR A MODERN HIGHWAY IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

HE SAID THAT THIS ROAD PROJECT AND THE TUEN MUN ROAD PROJECT HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CATER FOR THE LARGE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC EXPECT TO BE GENERATED BETWEEN THE TOWNS.

CITING STATISTICS ON POPULATION PROJECTIONS, MR. CHAN SAID THAT TUEN MUN WOULD HAVE AN ULTIMATE POPULATION OF HALF A MILLION IN ABOUT 10 YEARS' TIME, WHILE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG WOULD HAVE A TOTAL OF ANOTHER 850,000.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW ROUTE WOULD MEAN A MARKED SAVING IN TRAVELLING TIME BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN, CUTTING THE JOURNEY TO ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

GIVING DETAILS OF THE NEW ROAD PROJECT, WHICH IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MR. CHAN SAID THAT THE ALIGNMENT OF THE ROAD EXTENDED FROM THE HIGH GROUND AT THE DRAGON INN AND OVER THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT SAM SHING HUI BY MEANS OF A SIX-SPAN REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGE.

IT WILL THEN RUN ALONG RECLAIMED LAND ON THE EASTERN PART OF CASTLE PEAK BAY TO A GROUND LEVEL INTERCHANGE WITH PUI TO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD, HE SAID.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT WAS SIGNED ON OCTOBER 17, AND WORK BEGINS TOMORROW FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL CLEARANCE OF SQUATTERS ON THE HILLSIDE AT SAM SHING HUI TODAY BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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THE CONTRACT ALSO COVERS RECLAMATION WORK IN THE EASTERN PART OF CASTLE PEAK BAY FROM SAM SHING HUI TO PUI TO ROAD AT WONG KA WAI AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR CULVERTS BY WHICH STORM WATER WILL BE INTERCEPTED AND DRAINED INTO THE SEA.

APART FROM PROVIDING PART OF THE ROAD SITE, THE RECLAMATION WILL YIELD ABOUT 11.5 HECTARES OF LAND FOR PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, SOME 500,000 CUBIC METRES OF DREDGED MARINE SAND FROM SO KWUN WAT BAY WILL BE DEPOSITED OVER THE RECLAMATION AREA TO ABOUT HIGH WATER LEVEL, AND ONE MILLION CUBIC METRES OF MATERIAL EXCAVATED FROM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE FOOTHILLS OF CASTLE PEAK WILL BE USED TO BRING THE RECLAMATION TO ITS FINAL LEVEL.

MR. CHAN SAID THAT MORE THAN 90 HECTARES OF LAND FOR VARIOUS USES HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORMED UNDER STAGE I DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NEW TOWN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF TAI HING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IS ALSO WELL ADVANCED. WHEN COMPLETED, THE ESTATE WILL HAVE ABOUT 29,000 UNITS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A SKETCH SHOWING THE TUEN MUN ROAD LINK HAS BEEN BOXED FOR YOUR COLLECTION THIS EVENING.

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT INTRODUCED
TO SPEED UP TRANSHIPMENT CARGO THROUGH HONG KONG
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THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT IS CUTTING RED TAPE TO ENABLE TRANSHIPMENT CARGO TO PASS THROUGH HONG KONG AT A FASTER PACE.

THE MOVE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY OF REDUCING, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, TRADE FORMALITIES TO A MINIMUM -- A POLICY WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO HONG KONG'S TRADE SUCCESS.

AS IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO AMEND THE PRESENT LAW, THE DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED A SPECIAL INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AN EXPORTER MAY TAKE OUT ONE LICENCE, CALLED AN +EXPORT LICENCE FOR TRANSHIPMENT CARGO, + TO SHIP AN INDEFINITE NUMBER OF CONSIGNMENTS FOR AS LONG AS THE LICENCE IS VALID -- NORMALLY THREE MONTHS.

THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT APPLIES INITIALLY TO THREE MAJOR EXPORT ITEMS : TEXTILES, PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE POWERED BY MAINS SUPPLY.

A DC AND I SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO DO AWAY ULTIMATELY WITH ALL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSHIPMENT CARGO, +BUT THE LAW NEEDS FIRST TO BE AMENDED WHICH IS WHY AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT HAS TO BE ADOPTED,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE SOME ITEMS WHICH COULD NOT BE LIBERALISED FOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY REASONS.

THE LICENCE IS AVAILABLE TO SHIPPING AND AIRLINE COMPANIES OR THEIR AGENTS. BUT THE SPOKESMAN URGED APPLICANTS TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE REGULATION WHICH STATES THAT CARGO FOR TRANSHIPMENT MUST REMAIN IN THE PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF THE LICENSEE AND MUST NOT BE SUBSTITUTED WHILE IN HONG KONG.

SHIPPERS WHO MAY HAVE QUERIES ON THE SUBJECT ARE ASKED TO CONTACT EITHER MR. H.Y. LI OR MR. C.K. LEUNG ON 5-432049 ABOUT TEXTILES= OR MISS GRACE KWAN ON 5-228449 ABOUT PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS, AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS POWERED BY MAINS SUPPLY.

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THREE OUTLINE ZONING PLANS AMENDED

THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY PUBLISHED DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLANS WHICH SHOW AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED PLANS FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT, HUNG HOM AND THE URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT IN WESTERN.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANS CONSIST OF THE INCLUSION OF NOTES WHICH LIST IN DETAIL TWO CATEGORIES OF BUILDING OR LAND USES ALLOWED WITHIN EACH OF THE DIFFERENT ZONES - THOSE USES ALWAYS PERMITTED AND THOSE WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED WITH OR WITHOUT CONDITIONS ON APPLICATION TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

THE NOTES, WHICH ALLOW FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLANS, ARE INTRODUCED FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) ORDINANCE.

THE AMENDMENTS DO NOT AFFECT THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING LAND USE SHOWN ON ANY OF THE PLANS NOW ON EXHIBITION.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT AMENDMENT PLANS CAN BE SEEN DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 1975 AT THE CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE LOCATED AT THE WEST WING ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND AT THE KOWLOON BRANCH OF THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 405 NATHAN ROAD.

ANYONE WHO HAS ANY OBJECTION TO ANYTHING APPEARING IN THE AMENDED PARTS OF THE PLANS CAN WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD BEFORE DECEMBER 30, SETTING OUT THE REASONS FOR HIS OBJECTION AND ANY ALTERATIONS PROPOSED.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLANS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE ON THE 19TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING AT \$5 EACH UNCOLOURED.

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FIRING PRACTICE

FIRING PRACTICE WILL BE CONDUCTED IN OR OVER AREA 'D' OF THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK FIRING RANGE BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 3 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 6, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

FIRING PRACTICE WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SAME AREA BETWEEN 8.30 A.M. AND 6 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 20, 21, 27 AND 28.

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WORK TO START SOON ON NGAU TAU KOK M.T.R. STATION

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PRELIMINARY WORK IS TO START SOON ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OVERHEAD MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY LINES AND STATION AT NGAU TAU KOK AND THE ADJACENT SECTION OF ELEVATED ROAD, SUBWAYS AND ANCILLARY ROADWORKS.

DETAILS OF THE STREETS AFFECTED ARE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE FIRST PART OF THE WORK WILL BE THE DIVERSION OF UTILITY SERVICES, THE WIDENING OF KWUN TONG ROAD AT THE JUNCTION WITH ELEGANCE ROAD AND THE REALIGNMENT OF ELEGANCE ROAD. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OVERHEAD LINES AND STATION AT NGAU TAU KOK AT WHICH TIME THE OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO CARRY OUT SOME OF THE ADJACENT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN ORDER TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION PARTS OF KWUN TONG ROAD WILL BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM OF THREE LANES OF TRAFFIC. HOWEVER THESE RESTRICTIONS WILL NOT BE IMPOSED UNTIL WAI YIP STREET EXTENSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THIS WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WITH THE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF FOUR TRAFFIC LANES.

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME AS WORK PROGRESSES AND DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED.

THE PRELIMINARY ROADWORKS ARE DUE TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH WHILE THE MAIN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WORKS AND ASSOCIATED ROADWORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JULY 1976. THE WHOLE OF THE WORK IS DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1979.

PLANS SHOWING THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT ARE DISPLAYED AT THE CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, HONG KONG= THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON AND THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, (KWUN TONG), KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET, 3RD FLOOR, KOWLOON.

TODAY'S GAZETTE NOTICE STIPULATES THAT ANY PERSON MAKING A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ARISING OUT OF THESE STREET ALTERATIONS UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE MUST SEND HIS CLAIM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS. THE CLAIM MUST REACH THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF CLOSURE OF THE STREET OR FROM THE COMPLETION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION WHICH IS ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED PECUNIARY LOSS OR DAMAGE.

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PRICE OF SAND REVISED

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THE PRICE OF BUILDING SAND PURCHASED FROM GOVERNMENT SAND DEPOTS HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$30 TO \$33.50 A CUBIC YARD AS A RESULT OF HIGHER OVERHEAD CHARGES.

THE NEW PRICE, ANNOUNCED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL SAND FOR WHICH PAYMENT IS MADE ON OR AFTER TODAY.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REAFFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY +IS NOT TO RECOVER MORE THAN THE COST OF BUYING AND SELLING SAND.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT INCREASE ARISES FROM A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE OVERHEAD CHARGES, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO FUEL OIL COSTS.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASE ON BUILDING COSTS WILL BE MINIMAL AND IS ESTIMATED TO REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF ONLY 0.4 PER CENT DEPENDING ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE BUILDING.

THE NEW PRICE WILL ALSO APPLY TO ROYALTY PAYMENTS FOR SAND COLLECTED FROM AUTHORISED SITES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SALE AND REMOVAL OF SAND IN SMALL QUANTITIES FOR LOCAL VILLAGE PURPOSES OR COMMUNITY WORKS.

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GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR AUGUST

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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1975 SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$90 MILLION COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$202 MILLION IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF \$421 MILLION FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$590 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR AUGUST WAS \$351 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED A LOAN OF \$15 MILLION FROM LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL. THE REVENUE WAS \$49 MILLION MORE THAN IN AUGUST 1974 DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED RECEIPTS FROM RATES AND INTERNAL REVENUE.

EXPENDITURE AT \$441 MILLION WAS \$63 MILLION LESS THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, MAINLY BECAUSE OF DECREASED SPENDING ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AS A RESULT OF DIFFICULT WEATHER CONDITIONS.

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LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID TODAY THAT THE GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HAD GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO DISTINGUISH ITSELF IN THE FIELD OF SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHING.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE SCHOOL, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT +IF EFFORTS IN THIS AND OTHER AREAS MATCH THE EFFORTS MADE IN PUTTING UP THE SCHOOL THEN THE RESULTS IN THIS SCHOOL WILL BE OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL.+

THE SCHOOL IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND WITH TWO STREAMS -- ONE LEADING TO THE GCE AND THE OTHER TO THE SCHLUSSPRUEFUNG (THE GERMAN SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION).

THE DIRECTOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION SHOWN BY A SMALL GROUP OF DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO OVERCAME DIFFICULTIES TO SEE THIS NEW SCHOOL PROJECT THROUGH.

EARLIER, MR. TOPLEY TOUCHED ON LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST, IN BRITAIN AT LEAST, LEARNING TO SPEAK OTHER PEOPLES' LANGUAGES WAS CONSIDERED UNNATURAL IN SOME CIRCLES.

BUT IN THE PRESENT DAY AND AGE, THE LINGUISTS SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS A NORMAL HUMAN BEING AND LINGUISTIC ACHIEVEMENT AS A NATURAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.

+WE SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO SEE LANGUAGE LEARNING AS LESS OF A BUSINESS FOR SPECIALISTS AND MORE OF A NORMAL HUMAN ACTIVITY. WE ALL OUGHT TO BE PREPARED TO HAVE A GO AT A NEW LANGUAGE WHEN APPROPRIATE,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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REVISION OF COMPANY FEES
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A NUMBER OF FEES PAYABLE UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN REVISED, IN LINE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.

THE COMPANIES (FEES) ORDER AND THE COMPANIES (FORMS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE REFER MAINLY TO FEES FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS KEPT BY THE REGISTRAR AND TO FEES FOR REGISTERING CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS AND FOR INSPECTING THE REGISTER OF CHARGES.

THE NEW FEES ARE LISTED IN THE GAZETTE AND WILL COME INTO EFFECT TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THESE FEES HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND THE INCREASES WERE CONSIDERED REASONABLE.

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