



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, July 5, 1973

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NEW ROAD OPENED

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today opened the new Nam Fung Road which links Aberdeen with Happy Valley and Wanchai.

The road begins at the widened upper section of Deep Water Bay Road and runs 5,100 feet along the southern foothills of Mount Nicholson before joining Wong Chuk Hang Road near the Grantham Hospital.

Costing more than \$4 million, it comprises two lanes for uphill traffic and one for downhill traffic, with a six-foot wide footpath on each side of the road.

It shortens the route from Wong Chuk Hang Road to Deep Water Bay Road by one third of a mile and will greatly reduce the travelling time between Aberdeen and Wanchai.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Sir Murray said the completion of this road should be a happy event for those who live on the southern side of Hong Kong Island.

Industry and housing are developing rapidly, but access is inadequate, and major improvement to Pokfulam Road must be slow because of topographical and land problems.

"The right long term answer would seem to be a road tunnel between Aberdeen and Happy Valley. The plan is for a 6,000-foot long twin tube four-lane tunnel.

/The cost .....

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"The cost is estimated to be \$185 million at today's prices. It will commence in the valley below us and run beneath where we are standing, emerging on to an elevated road system on the Wanchai Road from where it would connect with the cross harbour tunnel via the Canal Road flyover, the Wanchai interchange and the Waterfront Road.

"But this project is large and complicated and there is little prospect of its being completed before mid-1978."

The Governor said this was far too long to wait, and in the meantime the new road would ease the traffic problems of south Hong Kong.

"It is well named; and I hope that like the auspicious south wind it will render the normally laborious journey faster and more comfortable, and thus bring great convenience and prosperity to the people of Aberdeen and Wong Chuk Hang," he added.

The Acting Director of Engineering Development of the Public Works Department, Mr. H.D. Stead, also addressed the gathering.

He said although Nam Fung Road is a relatively small public works project, its completion will significantly improve road communications for the southern part of the Island.

"Considerable efforts have been made to blend the road into the surrounding countryside, I hope, successfully," he added.

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ABERDEEN TUNNEL IS FEASIBLE

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Consulting engineers have recommended to the government that the proposed Aberdeen tunnel road link between the north and south sides of Hong Kong Island is feasible.

A full report of the investigations has been submitted and is now under consideration. A decision on whether or not to proceed with detailed design and preparation of contract documents is expected within the next two months.

The report lists recommended alignments, together with details of the cross section proposed and the facilities to be provided for ventilation, lighting and traffic surveillance.

It is envisaged that the tunnel would run from a point within the colonial cemetery in Happy Valley to Wong Chuk Hang near Aberdeen -- a distance of about 6,000 feet. Twin tubes, 30 feet in diameter, and situated some 108 feet apart would carry a two lane carriageway in each direction.

Road connections in the north would be by means of a dual two lane elevated extension of the existing Canal Road flyover, passing along the line of Morrison Hill and Wong Nei Chong Roads to the north portal, providing rapid and convenient access to Waterfront Road and the cross-harbour tunnel.

In the south, a grade separated interchange will link the tunnel approaches to the existing Wong Chuk Hang Road which will be widened to dual three-lane carriageways.

Provision will also be made for suitable access to future facilities planned for the area such as an oceanarium and a possible government stadium.

The estimated cost of the tunnel and southern approaches is about \$185 million. In addition, the elevated link in the north to the Canal Road flyover will cost some \$70 million. This amount includes funds for considerable ground level improvements to the congested road junctions in the area.

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CENSUS MAIN REPORT PUBLISHED

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The main report of the 1971 Hong Kong Population and Housing Census has now been published by the Census and Statistics Department.

This report gives a full picture of the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population as recorded in March 1971.

The 63 tables giving the full census results are divided into nine chapters - introduction, taking of the census, demography, marriage and fertility, education, economic, agriculture and fisheries, household and housing.

Each chapter gives a detailed analysis and commentary on the tables concerned, explaining the main points of interest, which are illustrated by short summary tables.

In his introduction, the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr. K.W.J. Topley said: "The general picture which emerges from the 1971 Population and Housing Census is of a more settled, more modern and very hard working society in which women are playing a more positive role than heretofore.

"Overall, there had been a considerable improvement in living standards during the 10 years from 1961 to 1971. This appears to have been due mainly to the growth of manufacturing industry, and to developments in education, in public health and in low-rent public housing."

/Also published .....

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Also published this week are two further volumes relating to the census - the Population Projections and the Life Tables for 1971 to 1991. The former volume analyses in detail the main components of population growth - births, deaths and migration. It shows that Hong Kong's population may be expected to reach a figure of between 5.5 and 6.3 million by 1991.

The latter volume shows that of children born in 1971, males may expect a life of 67 years and females of 75 years; by 1991 this is expected to increase to 69 and 76 years respectively.

These two volumes will supply the basis for planning government and community services in the years ahead.

All three volumes are now on sale at the government publications centre at the Star Ferry Concourse.

The main report will be published in Chinese later this year.

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NEW SCIENCE COURSE TO BE INTRODUCED

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An integrated science course will be introduced into 20 secondary schools at the beginning of the new academic year in September to teach science as one cohesive subject.

Mr. A.J. Brown, Assistant Director of Education (Chief Inspector of Schools) said today that he hoped more schools would adopt the new subject next year.

He was speaking at the opening of the summer course for teachers on integrated science at the Hong Kong International School.

The course "banished the barriers" between individual science subjects such as physics and chemistry, which have been "grouped together to make more meaningful and realistic courses of study."

Mr. Brown pointed out that it was significant the introduction of the new course coincided with the expansion of secondary education, especially in the lower forms, thus providing a meaningful science course for students who will be leaving school on the completion of Form Three.

He said it was the second major effort in curriculum development in Hong Kong, the first being modern mathematics, which was introduced some years ago.

Tested in Scotland and other countries, the integrated science course has been modified and developed to suit the needs of Hong Kong students, and the newly formed curriculum development committees will evaluate the scheme and make the necessary adjustments.

The four Scottish tutors who are lecturing on the course will return next year and again in 1975 to continue the training programme for teachers.

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LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE HELPS SETTLE WATCH DISPUTE

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The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department has successfully settled the dispute involving some 150 retrenched workers of the Danemann Watch Case Factory Limited in Tsuen Wan.

The dispute arose out of the question of severance pay. It started in early June when the management gave the workers notice that their contracts of employment would be terminated.

About 120 workers came to a compromise with the management and collected their severance pay on June 30.

The remaining 28 workers yesterday reached agreement with the management at a meeting chaired by the Labour Officer in charge of the Labour Relations Service (Tsuen Wan).

Under the agreement reached, monthly-paid workers will get 30 days wages as severance pay, daily-rated workers will get 26 days pay and piece rated workers 14 days wages.

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DISCUSSION PROGRAMME ON DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES

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Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, is the guest speaker this weekend on the Radio Hong Kong programme "Talking Point" in which the \$800 million development of welfare services over the next five years will be discussed.

The programme will be broadcast on the Chinese network of Radio Hong Kong at 9 p.m. on Saturday (July 7) and repeated at 2:30 p.m. the next day.

Other panelists will include Mr. Hui Yin-fat, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service; Mr. Ho Yiu-kong, President of the Wan Chai Kaifongs' Association; Mr. Wong Shiu-cheuck, Unofficial Member of the Urban Council and Miss Pamela Wong, representing the Hong Kong Social Workers' Association.

Chairing the discussion will be Mr. Eddie Au Yeung, Senior Programme Supervisor, Public Affairs, Radio Hong Kong.

"Talking Point" is a 45-minute programme which deals with matters of public concern.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to certain buildings in Hung Hom will be interrupted for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Saturday (July 7) to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Chatham Road, Station Lane, Ma Tau Wei Road, Dyer Avenue, Dock Street, and Bulkeley Street.

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SAFETY FIRST FOR STUDENTS

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About 60 students of the Kowloon Technical School today visited Hong Kong's Industrial Safety Training Centre as part of a new Labour Department programme to promote industrial safety.

The department's Industrial Safety Training Officer, Mr. Chan Wing-kai, said the programme was aimed at instilling into the younger generation the importance of industrial safety.

"Most of these technical students will eventually take up industrial employment" he said, "and it is of the utmost importance to make them aware of the industrial hazards and the precautionary measures required well in advance."

Training officers of the centre also explained to the students, in detail, the basic principles of industrial safety. The talks were supplemented by film shows.

Similar visits are being arranged for other technical schools and institutes, and for the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups during the summer holidays.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of today's visit will be boxed this evening.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.