

**HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**

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**DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN**

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Wednesday, July 19, 1972

**MORE CONTROL OVER MINI BUSES?**

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The Transport Advisory Committee is considering adopting measures to check any undue profiteering by operators of public light buses.

The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, told the Legislative Council this afternoon that the Committee had before it a proposal that calls for public light bus operators to register their normal routes with the Transport Department, together with the maximum fares they wish to charge over these routes at peak and non-peak periods. The proposal also stipulates that the operators must adhere to these routes and fares which should be displayed outside and inside their vehicles.

Mr. Haddon-Cave, who was replying to a question by the Hon. Wilfred Wong, said that the Transport Advisory Committee had not yet reached any firm conclusions, but any recommendations would be carefully considered by the Government.

He said that when the public light buses were regularised in late 1969, the relative freedom accorded them was basically a recognition of the intention that they should be a flexible form of public transport.

However, in the course of time they had tended to operate over well-defined routes, and while more or less standard fares were charged at normal times, some operators put up their fares, sometimes by a significant margin, at weekends, on holidays and on certain other occasions.

/The Financial .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 2 -

The Financial Secretary said there had also been instances of operators dropping their passengers short of the destination declared on the notice board. Inevitably such practices had caused confusion and resentment among the travelling public.

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#### NEGOTIATIONS ON TEACHERS SALARY SCALE REACH DELICATE STAGE

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The Government is making every effort to implement the new salary scale for teachers by the beginning of the new academic year in September.

The Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. M.D.A. Clinton, said, however, that the Government was not the only party involved, and much depended on the progress of the long drawn out and complicated consultations now going on almost daily with the Staff Side of the Senior Civil Service Council.

Mr. Clinton, who was replying to a question by the Hon. Mrs. Joyce Symons, said that as the negotiations had reached a rather delicate stage he did not wish to say any more.

He also disclosed that the draft Code of Aid for schools was now in an advanced stage and hopefully agreement on the outstanding points could be reached with the Grant and Subsidised Schools Councils for the new unified code to be introduced in April 1973.

However, Mr. Clinton pointed out that there were still a "few formidable hurdles" to be surmounted "namely the Board of Education, the Executive Council and the Finance Committee of this Council."

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/3 .....

PROPOSED EXPORT LICENSING SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS

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The Health and Safety Committee of the Trade and Industry Advisory Board has recommended in its final report that guidelines be drawn up and widely disseminated to manufacturers to avoid the export of manifestly dangerous and unhygienic products.

The Committee has also recommended the introduction of an export licensing system for foodstuffs, toys and electrical products using mains power, supplemented by a system of spot-checks on product samples by industrial inspectors.

This was stated today by the Director of Commerce and Industry, the Hon. J. Cater, in reply to Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung.

Dr. Chung had asked whether the Government was in a position to publish, and to state its view on, the findings and recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Cater said the proposed export licensing system would allow him a degree of control, which he did not have at present, over exports of the three categories of products.

However, he said, the proposed spot-check system could be expensive to operate on a scale necessary to achieve effective results.

After in-depth consideration, he had concluded that the extent of the problem was not yet sufficiently serious to warrant the considerable interference with trade and the substantial expenditure of public funds that a spot-check system would entail, he said.

"My proposals were considered and endorsed by the Trade and Industry Advisory Board at its meeting of June 12 and they are now being considered further within the Government.

"Once a final decision has been made, I would hope that the report of the Committee will be published," he said.

CENSORS TAKE STERNER VIEW OF VIOLENCE IN FILMS

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The Panel of Film Censors has generally been taking a sterner view in recent weeks of violence in films submitted for censorship and it will continue to do so.

This was stated today by the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Hon. D.C.C. Luddington, in the Legislative Council in reply to the Hon. T.K. Ann.

Mr. Ann had asked: "Will Government take steps to moderate or curtail, if necessary by stricter censorship, the gory scenes of violence appearing in many Chinese language films which are shown locally and seen by young persons of an impressionable age?"

Mr. Luddington said he had discussed with the Chief Censor and the Secretary to the Panel about the need to warn film producers that the quantity and quality of violence portrayed was regarded as excessive and that he would pursue the matter.

He said the Government was aware of a strong body of opinion that many local films portrayed too much violence and included unnecessarily detailed scenes of wounds and suffering.

"In addition, the Panel of Film Censors and the Board of Review, of which I am Chairman, are aware that portrayal of sadistic or detailed and prolonged scenes of violence could have an unhealthy influence on young and impressionable minds."

However, he said, the setting of the films concerned would continue to influence the Panel's decisions as it was generally agreed that "fantastic films about by-gone days" were less likely to be harmful than films set in modern times with more realistic, and all too often, sadistic portrayal of violence.

TOUGHER MEASURES FOR CLEANING HONG KONG

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The Hon. H.M.G. Forsgate said today it was now time for all Hong Kong people to give serious consideration to their environment, and described the exercise of self-control in disposing litter as an "important first step".

He was speaking in support of the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972 at a resumed debate on its second reading in the Legislative Council.

He said he viewed this legislation as a vital part of the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" Campaign which was itself a first step towards the control of pollution and improvement in the quality of lives in Hong Kong.

"The carrots of education, improved Urban Services disposal facilities, publicity, etc., will be useless without the stick of enforcement, which we all sincerely hope this enabling Bill, with its subsequent Bye-Laws and Regulations, will provide," he said.

Also speaking in support of the Bill, the Hon. Wilson T.S. Wang said it could not be denied that Hong Kong's "filthy" condition had reached "disgraceful proportions" and that tougher measures were obviously needed to keep the city clean.

"For indeed Hong Kong must be cleaned up and kept clean - at all costs," he added.

Mr. Wang pointed out that schools could play a very important part, not only in terms of education but also as a spearhead of community involvement.

/"Let .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 6 -

"Let us hope that grown-ups and children from now on will join forces in an all-out effort to clean up Hong Kong and keep it clean all the time."

Earlier, the Hon. Wilfred Wong cited incidents in which rubbish were disposed of indiscriminately and said he preferred to see stronger legislation against littering.

He said he fully supported the Bill as a member of the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" Campaign committee and chairman of the Finance and Budget sub-committee.

"We are spending a large sum of money on this campaign and we must not fail," he said.

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/7 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 7 -

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME EXCEEDS TARGET

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The total number of active cases in the Social Welfare Department's Public Assistance Scheme reached 15,265 at the end of June -- exceeding for the first time the target of 15,000 originally set when the scheme was revised last year.

New applications received during the month numbered 889, including 88 from voluntary agencies. A total of 131 cases were reactivated in June, and at the same time, 618 cases were closed.

Cash payments during the month totalled \$2.5 million, bringing to \$18.5 million the amount spent so far since the expanded scheme was implemented on April 1, 1971.

Commenting on these figures, Mr. Chou Ting-hsun, Acting Assistant Director (General) of Social Welfare, said today: "They make clear that the scheme has begun to be widely known, and that people who were meant to benefit are coming forward."

On the basis of an average family of five members, 15,265 cases means that 76,325 residents are presently covered by the scheme.

But Mr. Chou said if one took into account the individuals who had been helped to stand on their own feet again and who were accordingly no longer beneficiaries, the grand total would be about 90,000.

To cope with these numbers, 14 field units have been set up, and the 15th, to serve the Shau Kei Wan and Chai Wan areas, will open on August 1, 1972.

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/8 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 8 -

GOVERNMENT URGED TO IMPLEMENT BILL WITHOUT DELAY

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The amending bill empowering the Commissioner for Transport to auction selected vehicle registration numbers will be welcomed by many private car owners who fancy good and prestigious numbers.

Speaking during the resumed debate on the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 1972 in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Szeto Wai explained that such numbers are usually acquired as "status symbols" for expensive or prestigious cars.

He pointed out that while there is open trading of good car registration numbers, it is "ostrich-like not to recognise the possibility or the existence of irregular practice."

Mr. Szeto agreed with the Financial Secretary that by bringing the sale of these coveted numbers within the ambit of the law, the Transport Department will be rid of "a continuing source of embarrassment."

At the same time, by turning over the proceeds of the auction to charitable purposes, the present bill will have "the double merit of public acceptability and of jacking up the auction price," Mr. Szeto said.

He urged the Government to implement the provisions of the bill without further delay and pointed out that it was first considered by the Transport Advisory Committee more than 2½ years ago.

The delay has already robbed charity of "a very substantial sum" of money in the course of the two and a half years, he said.

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Speaking in support of the bill, Dr. the Hon. C.Y. Chung pointed out that it was misleading to suggest that a small batch of "good" numbers are at present reserved for members of the Legislative and Executive Councils.

He pointed out that this may have been true in the early years, but the practice no longer exists, and he emphasised that no such special privileges should be granted to members of the two Councils, members of the Government or other bodies.

To dispel the popular misconception that members of Umelco are exempted from the Road Traffic Ordinance Dr. Chung said: "There are instances in which honourable Members were fined not only for driving in excess of speed limit but also for minor parking offences."

In reply, the Financial Secretary, gave an assurance that charity had not been "robbed" of a substantial sum by a delay in the introduction of legislation. "In fact", he said, "since November 1969, pending the introduction of the legislation, the Commissioner for Transport has issued no further registration numbers which would qualify for inclusion in the list of 'good' numbers."

Mr. Haddon-Cave said that there were now over 3,000 'good' numbers in reserve and these would be auctioned in suitable batches at carefully pre-determined intervals.

He also said that his statement about a small batch of numbers being reserved for members of the Legislative and Executive Councils had been made in the context of a description of the established practice in the Transport Department in allocating registration numbers. Certain numbers had in fact been set aside and allocated in the past to members of the two councils, although the practice had now ceased.

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 10 -

MORE TYPHOON ANCHORAGES TO BE PROVIDED

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The area of typhoon anchorages will be increased from the present 866 acres to 940 acres by 1975. But some temporary shelters will be lost by reclamation projects.

This was disclosed by the Director of Public Works, the Hon. J.J. Robson, in today's Legislative Council meeting in reply to a question by the Hon. James Wu.

He said a full review of requirements was carried out by the Director of Marine, and it showed a shortage of 114 acres of sheltered space specifically designed for use as typhoon shelters.

At present the shortage was largely offset by areas of sheltered water, such as the area between the airport runway and the Kowloon Bay reclamation.

However, the Government is taking steps to improve the overall situation. A new 100-acre typhoon shelter is being constructed at Kwun Tong, and a 120 acre shelter and cargo handling basin at Castle Peak is expected to be upgraded to category A on the Public Works Programme.

The depth of water in certain parts of the shelters at Aberdeen will soon be reduced to provide better holding ground for the anchors of fishing craft. There are also plans for a large typhoon shelter in the south-western approaches to the harbour and a small one in the Sai Kung area, but the timing is still indefinite.

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/11 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 11 -

NEW WHOLESALE MARKET FOR CHEUNG SHA WAN

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The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, said today plans had been drawn up for a new wholesale market in Cheung Sha Wan for imported vegetables, fruit and poultry, together with the necessary wharf space.

He said the Public Works Sub-Committee would be asked to recommend next month a Category B item in the Public Works Programme.

If the Sub-Committee agrees to do this and the Finance Committee accepts the recommendation, he said, the new market would be constructed and in operation by mid-1976.

Mr. Haddon-Cave was speaking in the Legislative Council in reply to a question by the Hon. Wilfred Wong.

The Financial Secretary said there were no facilities for landing imported vegetables in Kowloon, and the trade was centred on Kennedy Town and based on long-standing traditional practices.

"The Government has for some time been aware of the inadequacy of facilities in Kowloon for dealing with imported vegetables."

He said detailed investigations had been made by a special unit into the wholesale marketing of primary products, as a result of which plans had been drawn up for the new wholesale market in Cheung Sha Wan.

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/12 .....

NO SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR ROYAL OBSERVATORY

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The Director of Public Works, the Hon. J.J. Robson, said today that no suitable alternative site has been found for the Royal Observatory because of its specialised operation and communication requirements.

Mr. Robson was replying to a question by the Hon. H.J.C. Browne in today's Legislative Council.

Mr. Browne had asked if the Government had plans to move the Royal Observatory out of the urban area and thereby release valuable land in Tsim Sha Tsui.

"Aside from the large cost of rebuilding and installing specialised equipment, the continuity of some 80 years' geophysical records of both local and international value would be lost," Mr. Robson added.

He said if it were possible for the Observatory to move out, the present site, which was zoned on the statutory plan for Government institution and community purposes, would be used for open space.

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/13 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 13 -

NO SERIOUS RISK OF LANDSLIDE OR FLOODING IN RESITE AREA

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A squatter resite area in Hong Ning Road, Kwun Tong, can still be used provided one unoccupied section is left vacant and drainage channels are improved.

This decision follows inspections by an experienced engineer of the Public Works Department who had, since the June reainstorms, also examined many other licensed areas, squatter areas and cottage areas.

"There appears to be no serious risk of landslide or flooding in this area," the Commissioner for Resettlement, the Hon. I.M. Lightbody, said in reply to a question by the Hon. R. Lobo in the Legislative Council this afternoon.

"But as an added precaution the engineer who conducted these inspections has recommended that further detailed investigations of this and other sites should be made to determine their stability more exactly," Mr. Lightbody added.

Following the inspections by the engineer, many areas or parts of areas have been scheduled for clearance.

More than 24,000 people are to be removed. The great majority of them will be eligible for public housing, and the rest will be eligible for re-siting.

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/14 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 14 -

NEW LAW FOR CLEARING CROWN LAND

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The Director of Public Works, the Hon. J.J. Robson, said today many of the articles illegally stored on Crown land could block drains with serious consequences in the event of heavy rains.

He pointed out that illegal storage on Crown land was prevalent today and that it was very necessary to introduce law to prevent such continued practice.

Mr. Robson was speaking in the Legislative Council on the Crown Land Bill 1972 which provides for a simple procedure for the clearance of unlawfully occupied or used Crown land.

This provision, he said, empowers the District Commissioner, New Territories, the General Manager of the Railway or himself to serve a notice requiring the unlawful occupation to cease within a specified period.

"If the trespasser does not comply with this notice within the period laid down, he may be removed from the land and the Crown may take possession of anything remaining on it which then becomes government property to be disposed of as thought fit."

In event of any one failing to comply with any notice requiring him to cease unlawful occupation, he will be committing an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and to six months' imprisonment, he added.

Under the new Bill, Mr. Robson said, mere unlawful occupation of Crown land shall cease to be a criminal offence.

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/15 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 15 -

BETTER CONTROL OVER CEMETERIES

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Experience has shown a need to amend certain existing regulations in order to improve the administration of private cemeteries in the New Territories and to make the management of private and public cemeteries more uniform.

This was stated today by the Acting Director of Urban Services, the Hon. A.P. Richardson, in the Legislative Council while moving the second reading of the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No.3) Bill 1972.

The Bill, he said, seeks to amend the principal ordinance to enlarge the regulation-making powers of the authority relating to private cemeteries.

"It will enable the authority to make regulations prescribing, or providing for, the depth and size of graves and vaults, burial fees and other matters which it may consider necessary for the proper regulation and control of both private and public cemeteries in the public interest."

He said another amendment enables the authority to charge for permission granted under the principal ordinance to exhume human remains from any cemetery or from places outside authorised cemeteries.

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/16 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 16 -

THREE BILLS PASSED INTO LAW

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Three bills passed their committee stage and third readings in Legislative Council this afternoon and became law.

They were the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972, and the Nurses Registration (Amendment) Bill 1972.

The Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 1972 had its first and second readings, and three other bills had their second readings.

They were the Crimes (Amendment) Bill 1972; the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 1972, and the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1972.

The Crown Land Bill 1972 had its first reading and debate on the second reading was adjourned.

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Note to Editors: The proceedings in today's Legislative Council have been recorded. You are welcome to consult the tapes at the Press Room, G.I.S.

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/17 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 17 -

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT ESTATES

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The Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. M.D.A. Clinton, will pay a visit to three Kowloon resettlement estates tomorrow (Thursday).

He will be accompanied by the Commissioner for Resettlement, Mr. I.M. Lightbody, and the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Henry Ching.

Mr. Clinton will fly by helicopter to Yau Tong Estate to begin his visit. From there, he will tour, on foot and by car, the Lam Tin Estate and the Ngau Tau Kok Estate.

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Note to Editors:

The Acting Colonial Secretary will take off from the Harcourt Road helipad at 2.40 p.m. arriving at the Lady Margaret Trench Centre at 2.45 p.m. From there, he will travel by car to Yau Tong Estate.

A van will be available to take members of the Press and broadcasting stations who wish to cover the visit. It will leave the Resettlement Department headquarters at 10, Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, at 1.45 p.m. The visit is expected to end at about 5.30 p.m.

The Resettlement Department's public relations officer, Mr. J. Khan, will be there to assist the Press.

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/18 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 18 -

IMPROVING RELATIONS THROUGH TEA

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The art of tea drinking will be put to the test at a somewhat unusual competition for young people in the Kowloon Tsai and Shek Kip Mei districts.

It's competition to promote good-manners in tea drinking and has been sponsored by the Social Welfare Department. But the organisation has really been the work of a group of service-conscious youths from the two areas.

Apart from the promotion of good tea-drinking manners, the unusual project also aims at encouraging young people to become actively engaged in community service. It is hoped that through these activities, young people can establish good relations with other community minded youngsters in their neighbourhood.

One-hundred-and-twenty children whose ages range from seven to 13 will take part in the competition to be held at the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre on Saturday (July 22).

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or a photographer to cover the event. It begins at 3 p.m.

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/19 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 19 -

NEW LIBRARY OPENS

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The second Urban Council Public Library in a housing estate will be officially opened tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon.

The library, with a floor space of some 11,000 square feet and an initial stock of 13,000 books in English and Chinese, is on the first floor of Tsuen Shek House, Ping Shek Estate in Kowloon.

Among other things the library has a quick reference section and a students reading room accommodating 144 people.

A member of the Urban Council's Cultural Affairs Select Committee, Mrs. Elsie Elliott, will officiate at tomorrow's opening ceremony.

The library itself will open to the public from Friday. The times of operation will be 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and public holidays.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the opening ceremony which begins at 3.30 p.m.

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/20 .....

Wednesday, July 19, 1972

- 20 -

#### ROAD DEVELOPMENT AT JARDINE'S LOOKOUT

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Two new roads will be built in Jardine's Lookout adjoining new building development sites situated at the end of Moorsom Road and at the junction of Mount Butler Road and Mount Butler Drive.

The road will have a combined length of 1,100 feet with widths varying from 30 feet to 42 feet. The carriageway will be constructed with flexible bituminous material and the footpaths, surfaced in concrete.

Sewers and stormwater drains will also be laid in conjunction with the roadworks.

Work on the project will begin soon and should take about six months to complete.

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#### WATER INTERRUPTION IN HUNG HOM

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Water supply to certain premises in Hung Hom, Kowloon will be interrupted for five hours beginning from 1 a.m. on Friday, July 21.

The temporary water stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area to be affected is bounded by Lok Shan Road, Kowloon City Road, Hau Pui Loong Road, Ma Tau Wei Road, Pak Kung Street and Chatham Road.

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Release Time: 8.00 p.m.