



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
REASONABLY PRICED TRANSPORT SYSTEM THE AIM	1
GRANTS APPROVED FOR SPORTS PROJECTS	2
PRINTING INDUSTRY ANTICIPATES MODERATE GROWTH	3
SEAWALL TO BE BUILT OFF PENG CHAU	4
BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ELDERLY IN TAI PO	5
MUSIC GALA FOR KWUN TONG CHILDREN	5
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	6

REASONABLY PRICED TRANSPORT SYSTEM THE AIM
* * * * *

THE PUBLIC WAS TODAY (MONDAY) ASSURED THAT A FARE INCREASE BY THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE APPROVED UNNECESSARILY AND WOULD ONLY BE GRANTED WHEN IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT SERVICES), MR DAVID LAN, ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLY PRICED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM THAT WAS EFFICIENT AND GENERALLY OF A HIGH STANDARD.

MR LAN SAID THAT WHEN AN APPLICATION FOR A FARE INCREASE WAS RECEIVED, THE DETAILED FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORTING DATA SUBMITTED BY THE COMPANY WERE SUBJECTED TO CLOSE SCRUTINY AND ANALYSIS BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

+ALL POSSIBLE COST-CUTTING MEASURES ARE EXPLORED TO SEE IF ANY REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE WHICH WOULD NOT RESULT IN A DETERIORATION IN SERVICE OR IMPEDE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

+THEREAFTER THE APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DATA ARE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHO WILL BE CHECKING, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE PROPOSED FARE SCALES ARE FAIR AND APPROPRIATE.

+THEREAFTER THEIR ADVICE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR DECISION,+ HE SAID.

MR LAN SAID THE TWO BUS COMPANIES WERE REGULATED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THEIR FRANCHISES.

COMMENCING IN 1985, MR LAN SAID, THE FRANCHISED COMPANIES WERE REQUIRED EACH YEAR TO DRAW UP THEIR OWN FIVE-YEAR FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME WHICH REQUIRED THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL.

+THE ANNUAL PREPARATION OF THESE PROGRAMMES ENABLES GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT A COMPANY EXPANDS OR ADJUSTS ITS LEVELS OF SERVICE, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGING TRAVEL PATTERNS.

+IT ALSO ENSURES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A COMPANY CANNOT OVER-INVEST IN ORDER TO BOOST ITS ASSET BASE,+ HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO THE FINANCES OF THE BUS OPERATORS, MR LAN SAID BOTH THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY WERE GOVERNED BY A SCHEME OF CONTROL UNDER WHICH THE TWO COMPANIES WERE PERMITTED RESPECTIVELY A 16 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RETURN ON AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS.

HE SAID THE PERMITTED RATES WERE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE IN PROVIDING THE COMPANIES WITH THE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR INVESTMENT, ADDING THAT THERE WAS PROVISION FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME TO BE REVIEWED EVERY TWO YEARS.

- 2 -

+IN FACT, SOME MINOR ACCOUNTING ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE AS RECENTLY AS LAST YEAR, AND THE SCHEME WILL AGAIN BE REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1988,+ HE SAID.

EXPLAINING WHY FARE INCREASES WERE NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME, MR LAN SAID FARES WERE SET AT A LEVEL WHICH WOULD GENERATE SUFFICIENT INCOME OVERALL TO COVER OPERATING COSTS AND A REASONABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

HE SAID FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT INCLUDED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, OPERATING COSTS INCLUDING WAGES, GENERAL INFLATION, EXCHANGE AND INTEREST RATES, LEVELS OF SERVICE AND OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS DECLINES IN PATRONAGE RESULTING IN AN OVERALL REDUCTION IN REVENUE.

+WHERE TOTAL COSTS EXCEED TOTAL REVENUE AS A RESULT OF ALL OR ANY OF THESE FACTORS, FARES NEED TO BE INCREASED SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN EXISTING STANDARDS AND LEVELS OF SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

MR LAN ADDED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO THINK IN TERMS OF FREEZING FARES UNLESS PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A DETERIORATION IN THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE PROVIDED= OR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WAS WILLING TO SUBSIDISE THE BUS OPERATORS OR SEE THE NATIONALISATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

WITHOUT ARGUING THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF NATIONALISATION, MR LAN SAID THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHEREBY PUBLIC TRANSPORT WAS PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, OR BY PRIVATE CORPORATIONS WORKING ON COMMERCIAL LINES, HAD SERVED THE PUBLIC WELL.

+I BELIEVE THIS HAS PROVED ITSELF TO BE THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE AT REASONABLE COST TO THE CONSUMER, I.E. THE PASSENGER, RATHER THAN TO THE TAXPAYER IN GENERAL THROUGH DIRECT SUBSIDY,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GRANTS APPROVED FOR SPORTS PROJECTS
* * * * *

THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT HAS APPROVED GRANTS TOTALLING ABOUT \$1.05 MILLION FOR 24 CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION IN THE 1986-87 FINANCIAL YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID THAT SINCE 1981 AN ALLOCATION HAD BEEN SET ASIDE EACH YEAR FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION IN AID OF CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

/SO FAR,

SO FAR, 95 CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS HAD BEEN GIVEN GRANTS TOTALLING \$7.8 MILLION.

THE 24 PROJECTS APPROVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF FUNCTION ROOMS FOR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DANCING, GYMNASTICS AND PHOTOGRAPHY, THE PROVISION OF TENNIS COURTS AND BASKETBALL COURTS, AS WELL AS WORKS TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT CAMP SITES.

THE ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING GRANTS WERE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL, HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS, KWUN TONG METHODIST CENTRE, HOLY NATIVITY CHURCH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE, PO LEUNG KUK PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP, S.K.H. LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE, SUEN DOUH CAMP, THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, FINNISH MISSIONARY SOCIETY, STEWARDS' COMPANY - CHAK ON YOUTH CENTRE, YAU MA TEI AND TSIMSHATSUI RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MA WAN FISHERMEN'S BETTER LIVING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, SAN TIN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION LTD (RECREATION CENTRE), TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICT BALLET GROUP, EASTERN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL, TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

FOR THE 1987-88 ALLOCATION, APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS WILL BE INVITED IN MARCH WITH THE CLOSING DATE IN MID-MAY.

CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS THAT ARE MAINLY FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, CAN BENEFIT A LARGE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AND BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REASONABLE REQUEST.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE SPECIFICALLY OF THE +BRICK AND MORTAR+ TYPE, BE DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL AND ENCOURAGE PURPOSEFUL USE OF LEISURE TIME AND PRIMARILY BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRINTING INDUSTRY ANTICIPATES MODERATE GROWTH

* * * * *

MANPOWER OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AT A MODERATE RATE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, ACCORDING TO FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

TO COPE WITH THE MANPOWER NEED FROM 1987 TO 1991, THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD SUGGESTED THAT EMPLOYERS IN THE INDUSTRY SHOULD TAKE IN ABOUT 120 TECHNICIANS AND 530 CRAFTMEN A YEAR.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1987

- 4 -

THE 1986 MANPOWER SURVEY REPORT OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY ALSO PREDICTED LOSSES OR WASTAGE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WILL BE AROUND THREE PER CENT.

EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO TRAIN WORKERS TO FILL POSITIONS VACATED BY THOSE WHO WILL LEAVE THE INDUSTRY BECAUSE OF RETIREMENT, CHANGING JOBS OR OTHER REASONS.

THE WORKFORCE OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY HAD GROWTH BY AN AVERAGE OF 2.5 PER CENT TO 23 765 FROM 22 611 IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE LAST SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1984.

THE INDUSTRY'S RECENT UPTURN, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY REPORT, OCCURRED BECAUSE PRINTERS TURNED BACK TO HONG KONG FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS AS INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT ELSEWHERE DETERIORATED.

THE RAPID APPRECIATION OF THE JAPANESE YEN HAS ALSO GIVEN LOCAL PRINTERS GREATER PRICE COMPETITIVENESS OVER THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEAWALL TO BE BUILT OFF PENG CHAU
* * * * *

A \$5 MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL OFF PENG CHAU.

THE 60-METRE SEAWALL WILL ENABLE RECLAMATION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

ON COMPLETION, ABOUT 2 500 SQUARE METRES OF LAND WILL BE PROVIDED FOR AN OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC TOILETS.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT IS CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF ROADS AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

WORKS BEGAN RECENTLY AND WILL TAKE 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ELDERLY IN TAI PO
* * * * *

ABOUT 1 500 SENIOR RESIDENTS IN TAI PO WILL ENJOY A HAPPY +YAN YAT+ (EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY) PARTY AT TWO RESTAURANTS ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 4).

THE PARTY FOR THE ELDERLY IS ONE OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR PROGRAMME.

ELDERLY RESIDENTS AGED 73 OR OVER ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE PARTY WHICH IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE, TSAT YEUK RURAL COMMITTEE, TAI PO SOCIETIES FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION AND TAI PO MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

AT THE PARTY, GOLD MEDALS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE FIVE OLDEST PERSONS WHILE ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE LAI-SEE PACKETS.

,VOLUNTEERS FROM THE ORGANISING BODIES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE ELDERLY.

ACTING TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANISSA WONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PARTY.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PARTY FOR THE ELDERLY. A CEREMONY TO BEGIN THE FUNCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE KOON NIN WAH RESTAURANT, HEUNG SZE WUI STREET, TAI PO MARKET, AT 3 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

----- 0 -----

MUSIC GALA FOR KWUN TONG CHILDREN
* * * * *

MORE THAN 20 MUSIC TEAMS WILL TAKE PART IN THE THIRD KWUN TONG DISTRICT CHILDREN MUSIC GALA TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14 AND 15.

THE FUNCTION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, KWUN TONG CHILDREN'S CHORUS, URBAN COUNCIL AND THE MUSIC OFFICE, AND SPONSORED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

THE MUSIC GALA WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE, TELFORD GARDENS, AT 3 PM ON FEBRUARY 14, AND AT THE SKH KEI HAU SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LAM TIN AT 3 PM ON FEBRUARY 15.

PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE BAND PERFORMANCES, HYMN SINGING, AND PIANO AND FLUTE PERFORMANCES.

ADMISSION IS FREE. TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

----- 0 -----

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1987

- 6 -

WATER STORAGE FIGURE
* * *

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY)
STOOD AT 57.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 336.865 MILLION CUBIC
METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 367.725 MILLION
CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 62.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

----- 0 -----