



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, October 5, 1973

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RISE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING

June Accounts Show \$93 Million Deficit

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The government accounts for the month of June 1973 show a deficit of \$93 million, compared with a deficit of \$82 million in June last year.

This has resulted in a total surplus of \$10 million for the first quarter of this financial year.

Total expenditure for the month amounted to \$358 million, an increase of \$29 million over the same month last year.

This brings the total expenditure for the first quarter of the financial year to \$999 million - \$159 million more than the same period last year.

Total revenue for the month was \$265 million, an increase of \$18 million over June 1972. The total revenue for the first quarter of the financial year at \$1,010 million was \$252 million more than the same period last year.

However, a government spokesman said that because of the substantial increase in revenue after June last year, revenue in 1973-74 was unlikely to continue at the present high level compared with revenue in 1972-73.

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NEW TERRITORIES RATING AREA REVISED

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The section of the shore along Castle Peak Road and extending south to the northern boundary of New Kowloon is included within a revised rating area under an order made by the Governor in the gazette today.

This section of land was outside the boundary of the existing rating area because it had only recently been reclaimed from the sea.

The new rating area includes all present and anticipated future areas of reclaimed land.

It affects three container terminal lots at Kwai Chung and includes the island of Pei Pa Chau (Pearl Island) which has been linked to the mainland and developed as a holiday resort.

It also includes reclaimed areas in Kwai Chung which are likely to be leased and developed in due course.

All these areas enjoy the same kind of services provided by the government for the areas lying within the existing boundary, and they will be assessed for rates on the same basis.

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STRAIGHTENING OF QUEENSWAY BENDS

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Road improvement works to eliminate the dangerous bends in Queensway near the Old Naval Dockyard will begin shortly.

This follows the demolition of the last 12 buildings standing in the way of the Queensway realignment scheme.

The road works will include the realignment and widening of the existing carriageway to a smooth six-lane dual carriageway.

When completed, traffic flow between Wan Chai and Central Districts will be greatly improved and the traffic hazard at the existing dangerous bends will be eliminated, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said.

Part of the project involves the construction of footpaths on both sides of the road. A footbridge will also be incorporated in the scheme to provide a safe walkway for pedestrians crossing this busy traffic route.

The spokesman said that it should be possible to bring the new carriageway into operation in mid-1975.

The project has been designed by the Highways (H.K.) Division of the Highways Office, Public Works Department, which will also supervise the construction works.

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OPENING OF NEW LEGCO SESSION

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will review the affairs of Hong Kong on October 17, when the Legislative Council begins its 1973/74 session.

This will be the second time Sir Murray addresses the Council at the opening of a new session.

On the first occasion last year Sir Murray covered in his review the development of social services in Hong Kong and announced the 10-year housing plan.

The debate on a motion of thanks to his address this year will be held on October 31 and November 14.

The Unofficials will speak on October 31 and if necessary the next day (November 1), while the Officials will reply on November 14. An additional day has also been reserved for the officials, should they need it.

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DANGEROUS HILL SLOPE AT KWAI CHUNG TO BE REMOVED

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Improvement work will soon be carried out on a rubble mound near the bus terminus at Kwai Shing Estate in the Kwai Chung area.

Public Works Department engineers believe that the slope is too steep and liable to collapse in the event of continuous heavy rain.

The improvement works will consist of cutting back the slope from the existing gradient of 60 degrees to about 45 degrees.

The work will be carried out within the next few months and should be completed before April next year, well before the summer rains.

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METRICATED MATHEMATICS SYLLABUS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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The Education Department has produced a second edition in English and Chinese of the Suggested Mathematics Syllabus for Primary Schools.

"This syllabus is now fully metricated, so that children will start to learn and think in metric units," a spokesman for the department said today.

Basically the Systeme Internationale, which is universally used in scientific work, has been adopted.

"However, some other metric terms, and some traditional Chinese and Imperial measures are retained where classroom convenience and common usage suggest their continued usefulness.

"The syllabus will form the basis of the mathematics papers of the Secondary Schools Entrance Examination from 1975," the spokesman said.

Comments on the syllabus from teachers and others are welcome and should be made to the Mathematics Inspectors of the Department's Advisory Inspectorate.

Copies of the syllabus will be issued to primary schools shortly.

The syllabus at \$1.50 each is available from the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN ABERDEEN

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A 4,000-foot section of Shek Pai Wan Road in Aberdeen near Wah Fu Estate is to be realigned and widened to improve traffic flow in the area.

The existing carriageway will be widened to a 44-foot dual two-lane road with footpaths on both sides.

The section to be improved is located between the junction of Shek Pai Wan Road with Pokfulam/Victoria Roads and its junction with Tin Wan Hill Road.

A loop road and concrete underpass will be constructed at the junction with Wah Fu Estate Road to improve through traffic flow on Shek Pai Wan Road by providing grade separated access to and from the estate.

A lookout area with parking facilities will be provided at a mid-way point on the improved section on a promontory which commands an excellent view seaward to Lamma Island and beyond.

The traffic flow on Shek Pai Wan Road and Pokfulam Road has greatly increased due to the rapid development of Aberdeen area and the Wah Fu Estate.

Work on the improvement is expected to begin towards the end of the year, and will take about two years to complete.

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SHA TIN FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME ALMOST COMPLETE

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The Shing Mun River flood control scheme in Sha Tin to protect lowlying areas from flooding is nearing completion.

Work is expected to start later this year on the final stage of the project. These works have been designed to protect the areas adjacent to the existing Tin Sam nullah in the small valley of the same name.

The nullah will be extended and part of its course, situated to the north of Che Kung Temple on the south bank of the Shing Mun River, will be reclaimed.

The course of the nullah will also be realigned and its banks lined with concrete for about 1,000 feet to join the Shing Mun River.

The flood control scheme has been carried out progressively in three stages. The overall plan was to deepen and widen the river to increase its carrying capacity during periods of heavy rain, as well as to straighten its course to facilitate water flow and to construct solid embankments along the river course.

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### DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

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The Building Authority today declared No. 89 Shaukiwan Main Street East on Hong Kong Island to be in a dangerous condition and Nos. 85 and 87 liable to become dangerous.

In a statement, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three-storey pre-war buildings were re-assessed as part of an extensive investigation in the area subsequent to a collapse leading to the closure of four buildings.

"The condition of the timbers to the floors and roof of No. 89 is such that any further deterioration may lead to a collapse," he said.

In addition, movement of the flank wall resulting in fracturing and bulging of the brickwork made it apparent that there was a risk of failure.

"In both Nos. 85 and 87 the condition of the timbers is poor and together with poor brickwork which exhibits some defects, it is apparent that there is risk of failure during or after the demolition of the adjoining buildings."

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on November 2 were posted today.

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BREATHING APPARATUS MUST BE APPROVED

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The Commissioner of Labour today invited applications from manufacturers of breathing apparatus for approval of their equipment under the newly enacted Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulations 1973.

The Regulations, which will come into effect on November 1, 1973, stipulate among other things, that any person entering a confined space must wear an approved breathing apparatus, unless the place has been certified safe by the proprietor. Proprietors are also required to keep a sufficient supply of such approved equipment.

Applications from manufacturers or their local agents should be made in writing to the Commissioner, Labour Department, Canton Road Government Offices, 4th floor, Kowloon.

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TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS IN YAUMATI

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Clearway restrictions will be imposed on sections of Gascoigne Road and Jordan Road as from 7.30 a.m. on Sunday (October 7) to facilitate the construction of an elevated road linking Gascoigne Road and Tong Mi Road.

The restrictions will apply between 7.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily. During this period no motor vehicles, except franchised buses, will be allowed to pick up or set down passengers along the sections of Jordan Road between Gascoigne Road and Jordan Path, and Gascoigne Road between Wylie Road and Nathan Road.

The eastbound bus stop for K.M.B. route Nos. 2B, 6C, 102 and 104 in Gascoigne Road will be resited about 200 feet westward outside the Kowloon Magistracy. The westbound bus stop will be placed next to the Diocesan Girls' School.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.