



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1984

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
FEWER APPEALS OVER SOCIAL SECURITY CASES	1
DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LTD.	2
NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1985	3
MEMBERSHIP OF UNIFIED EXCHANGE	3
SERVICES FOR AREAS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	4
BEACH REFRESHMENT KIOSKS FOR TENDER	4
NEW PEAK TRAM STATION TO OPEN	5
LANE IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO BE CLOSED	5

FEWER APPEALS OVER SOCIAL SECURITY CASES

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THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD RECEIVED 63 APPEALS AGAINST THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S DECISIONS ON ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1983-84, ACCORDING TO THE BOARD'S LATEST ANNUAL REPORT.

THIS REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF 30 CASES OVER THE FIGURE FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT 42 OF THESE APPEALS RELATED TO DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

THE OTHERS WERE CONNECTED WITH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (16 CASES), OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (FOUR CASES) AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (ONE CASE).

THE BOARD, COMPRISING FOUR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSIDERING APPEALS FROM THE PUBLIC IN RESPECT OF SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS.

SIXTY-TWO APPEALS WERE HEARD DURING THE YEAR, INCLUDING 21 BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE BOARD CONFIRMED THE DECISIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 43 CASES AND SUBSTITUTED ITS DECISIONS IN 19 OTHERS.

THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS CONTINUED TO BE ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE BOARD.

+THESE COMPLAINTS DO NOT NECESSARILY BECOME APPEALS BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS OF SOME OF THE COMPLAINANTS MAY BE SOLVED AFTER APPROPRIATE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE STAFF OF THE BOARD,+ THE REPORT SAYS.

DURING THE YEAR, 142 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED, AS AGAINST 137 IN THE PRECEDING YEAR. OF THESE, 82 WERE REGARDED AS SETTLED, SIX WERE REFERRED TO OTHER OFFICES FOR ACTION AND THE REMAINING 54 EVENTUALLY BECAME APPEALS.

THE BOARD HAS MADE SUGGESTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES.

IT POINTS OUT THERE ARE SOME DISABLED APPELLANTS WHO, BECAUSE OF MOVEMENT DIFFICULTIES, ARE UNABLE TO USE THE CHEAPEST MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN ATTENDING BOARD HEARINGS. FOR SUCH APPELLANTS, THE BOARD FEELS THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE A MORE EXPENSIVE - AND YET REASONABLE - FORM OF TRANSPORT, AND REIMBURSEMENT BE MADE ACCORDINGLY.

THE BOARD CONSIDERS THAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, A TIME LIMIT SHOULD BE SET FOR THE RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT, ESPECIALLY FOR OVERPAYMENT ARISING NOT FROM THE DISHONESTY OF THE RECIPIENTS.

TO GUARD AGAINST UNJUSTIFIED CLAIMS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE THROUGH BENEFIT-MOTIVATED SEPARATION BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE, THE BOARD SUGGESTS THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BE MORE WATCHFUL AND SHOULD ONLY APPROVE CASES ON THE BASIS OF MORE CONCRETE PROOFS. THESE PROOFS COULD INCLUDE COMPLETION OF LEGAL FORMALITIES, FREQUENT DISPUTES OF COUPLES OR COLLATERAL INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM NEIGHBOURS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMED THE SUGGESTIONS.

APPEALS CAN BE MADE AT THE OFFICE OF THE APPEAL BOARD AT 7TH FLOOR, PACIFIC HOUSE, 20-20B, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, OR AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY OR AT ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS.

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DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LTD.
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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, COMMENTING ON THE POSITION REGARDING UNCOMPLETED DEALINGS IN GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS WITH DEAK-PERERA FAR EAST LIMITED, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT ALL TRADING WAS SUSPENDED AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT AS PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR ON DECEMBER 27.

TRADING WOULD REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE HEARING OF THE WINDING-UP PETITION, WHICH WAS LISTED FOR FEBRUARY 4, 1985.

UNTIL THEN, GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METAL CUSTOMERS, AS WELL AS GENERAL CREDITORS, SHOULD NOT APPROACH THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE BUT SHOULD RETAIN ALL DOCUMENTS HELD BY THEM CONCERNING THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE COMPANY.

IF A WINDING-UP ORDER IS MADE, CLAIMS SHOULD BE LODGED WITHOUT DELAY WITH THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER OR OTHER LIQUIDATOR APPOINTED BY THE COURT.

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE COMPANY'S GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METAL HOLDINGS ARE HELD ON TRUST SPECIFICALLY FOR GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METAL CUSTOMERS OR ALTERNATIVELY WOULD BECOME PART OF THE GENERAL ASSETS OF THE COMPANY IN THE EVENT OF A WINDING-UP ORDER BEING MADE IS OF CONSIDERABLE LEGAL COMPLEXITY.

THIS IS BEING LOOKED INTO AND EXPERT ADVICE IS BEING OBTAINED. WHEN THE LEGAL POSITION IN THIS REGARD HAS BEEN CLARIFIED, CREDITORS AND CUSTOMERS WILL BE INFORMED.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1984

- 3 -

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1985

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COPIES OF THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1985 MAY BE COLLECTED TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FROM THE GIS NEWS ROOM AT 3 PM.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HONOURS LIST WILL BE MADE IN LONDON AT 0001 HOURS GMT ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 31).

PUBLICATION IS PERMITTED IN HONG KONG NEWSPAPERS ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 31), BUT NO NEWS AGENCY OR OVERSEAS RADIO TRANSMISSION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY CARRY THE INFORMATION WITHOUT THE EMBARGO QUALIFICATION.

THE NEWS MAY BE BROADCAST FROM 6 AM ONWARDS ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 31) OVER THE LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS.

ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD ANY OF THE RECIPIENTS OF HONOURS BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEWS, OR FOR INFORMATION RELATED TO THEIR CAREERS, OR BE APPROACHED IN ANY WAY IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR AWARDS BEFORE THESE HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.

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MEMBERSHIP OF UNIFIED EXCHANGE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, MR RAY ASTIN, TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT THE PRESENT MORATORIUM ON THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNIFIED EXCHANGE WILL NOT BE FURTHER RENEWED ON ITS EXPIRY ON DECEMBER 31, 1984.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, HOWEVER, JOINS WITH DR WOO HON-FAI, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIFIED EXCHANGE, IN POINTING OUT THAT ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNIFIED EXCHANGE HAVE NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED AND IT IS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER A MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO THEIR FINAL DETERMINATION.

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SERVICES FOR AREAS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO HELP RESIDENTS IN AREAS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, INCLUDING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS THROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, WHEN HE OPENED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE-ACTION COUNCIL'S CHAI WAN (YUE WAN) CENTRE.

HE SAID THESE PROJECTS AIMED TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO DEVELOP NEIGHBOURLINESS, IDENTIFY THEIR NEEDS AND MOBILISE COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

+AT PRESENT, 39 SUCH PROJECTS ARE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, PROVIDING VARIOUS SERVICES TO THESE RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY,+ HE SAID.

MR LAW SAID THE NEW CENTRE PROVIDED AN ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO HAD PROBLEMS IN ADAPTING TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT, GAVE GUIDANCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND SECURITY, AS WELL AS OFFERED TUITION AND STUDY ROOM SERVICES FOR STUDENTS.

THE CENTRE SERVES A POPULATION OF ABOUT 6 000 RESIDENTS IN BOTH THE YUE WAN AND CHAI WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS.

MR LAW WAS CONFIDENT THAT STAFF OF THE NEW CENTRE AND THE RESIDENTS WOULD WORK HAND-IN-HAND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE AREAS.

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BEACH REFRESHMENT KIOSKS FOR TENDER

THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SEPARATE TENDERS TO RUN A REFRESHMENT KIOSK AT APPROACH BEACH AND ANOTHER AT GEMINI BEACH IN TSUEN WAN.

THE TWO BEACHES ATTRACTED LARGE NUMBERS OF VISITORS IN SUMMER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE CONTRACTS WILL BE FOR TWO YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS, STARTING ON APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR.

TENDERS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TSUEN WAN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF FAR EAST BANK BUILDING AT 135 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SWIRE AND MACLAINE HOUSE (AUSTIN CENTRE) AT 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE BEFORE 9 AM ON FEBRUARY 1 (FRIDAY) NEXT YEAR.

FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TSUEN WAN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE AT TELEPHONE 0-444281.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1984

- 5 -

NEW PEAK TRAM STATION TO OPEN

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A NEW PEAK TRAM STATION SITUATED MIDWAY BETWEEN THE EXISTING MACDONNELL ROAD AND BOWEN ROAD STATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 AM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 1), REPLACING THE TWO EXISTING STATIONS.

THE NEW STATION WILL BE NAMED MACDONNELL ROAD STATION.

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LANE IN TSIM SHA TSUI TO BE CLOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CLOSE THE LANE BETWEEN 1A OBSERVATORY ROAD AND 79A CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE GRANT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW UNIFIED LOT.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL IS THE REPROVISIONING OF A LANE BETWEEN NOS. 79 AND 79A CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH.

THE NEW LANE WILL BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE EXISTING LANE IS CLOSED.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE WORKS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A RELATED PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * KOWLOON WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, 490 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY FEBRUARY 26, 1985.

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