

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Friday, July 28, 1972

PILE-DRIVING TO BE FURTHER RESTRICTED

The deafening sounds of pile drivers disturbing residents late into the night and on public holidays will virtually be a thing of the past if proposed legislation being introduced into the Legislative Council is approved.

Under an amending bill, it will be an offence to operate or permit the operation of pile drivers between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. or on any public holiday including Sundays. At present the only restrictions are between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

However, a government spokesman said today that this provision of the bill will not come into force until June 1, 1973 because of the considerable difficulties that would be encountered with existing piling contracts. But within 10 months all these contracts should have been completed.

The spokesman said the proposed additional restrictions should not interfere unduly with building operations, and although there was bound to be some increase in building costs, they would not be unacceptable.

The new bill - the Summary Offences (Amendment) Bill 1972 - also raises the maximum penalty for offences under the provisions relating to noise from \$500 to \$5,000.

/Under

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 2 -

Under the present legislation, when an exemption is granted to a specific district it has the effect of giving a blanket exemption to the whole area.

However, the new bill will enable the Governor in Council to limit the exemptions to specified purposes and circumstances. The Governor in Council will also be empowered to impose conditions on the exemption.

The proposed legislation also provides a simple procedure for granting exemptions for short-term works, particularly emergency jobs. Under this provision the Governor in Council can make regulations to allow the Director of Public Works to grant permits to carry out certain works at night.

These permits are expected to be issued for a maximum period of one month and will probably be renewable for a similar period.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL OPERATING DATE

Motorists were today reminded that the actual operating date for the cross-harbour tunnel was next Thursday, August 3.

The Commissioner for Transport said that this is the date on which the tunnel will be opened for public use.

He emphasised that although the opening ceremonies will be held on Wednesday evening, general traffic will not be able to use the tunnel until 1 a.m. on Thursday.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 3 -

USE OF CANTONESE IN OPEN URBAN COUNCIL MEETINGS

A bill is to be introduced into the Legislative Council next week that will pave the way for the use of Cantonese as well as English at open meetings of the Urban Council.

The Urban Council Amendment Bill 1972 proposes to repeal a section of the Urban Council Ordinance which requires proceedings of the Council to be conducted in English.

It also proposes to repeal and to re-enact in part another section of the same ordinance to allow minutes of the proceedings to be kept in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council.

Commenting on the bill, a government spokesman said that this follows the acceptance by the government of the recommendations of the first report of the Chinese Language Committee. This report dealt with the use of Cantonese in the Legislative and Urban Councils and government boards and committees.

If the bill is approved, the languages spoken at open meetings of the Urban Council will no longer be regulated by the Urban Council Ordinance. Such regulations will be affected by the Council's Standing Orders.

"This means", the spokesman said, "the Urban Council will change its Standing Orders as soon as a simultaneous interpretation system is available to allow the use of Cantonese in its open meetings.

The use of the Standing Orders for this purpose will bring the Urban Council into line with the Legislative Council.

A meeting of the Legislative Council in November last year passed a resolution amending its Standing Order to allow members to address the Council in either English or Cantonese.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 4 -

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILE EXPORTS TO CANADA

Restrictions on Hong Kong's textile exports to Canada will be eased slightly under a new agreement just concluded.

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Jack Cater, said this afternoon that although restraints would continue, one item -- nightwear -- had been removed from the list.

At the same time the agreement incorporates other improvements, including provisions for a more liberal growth rate.

The agreement, which was formally signed yesterday, was the result of negotiations held in Ottawa at the end of June. It will take effect from October 1.

Mr. Cater said that full details of the new scheme would soon be announced by the Commerce and Industry Department.

In 1971, Hong Kong's textile exports to Canada were worth \$246 million.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5.....

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 5 -

NGAU CHI WAN TO REMAIN BASICALLY RESIDENTIAL

Ngau Chi Wan in north-east Kowloon is to remain basically a residential and green belt area under an outline zoning plan approved by the Governor in Council.

The plan, covering 464 acres, has been prepared by the Town Planning Board and provides a land use pattern and major road framework within which the use and development of the land may be controlled.

By far the largest area -- 232.8 acres -- has been reserved as a green belt which takes in the wooded steep hillsides to the north-east of Ngau Chi Wan village and the lower slopes of Kowloon Peak.

Almost 60 acres has been zoned for residential and 2.3 acres for commercial/residential use.

The residential zone includes the existing Choi Hung and Ping Shek housing estates and a similar estate to be developed immediately to the north of Clear Water Bay Road. It also includes a further government low-cost housing estate planned to the east of Hammer Hill Road.

Land for government, institution and community uses occupy 42.2 acres. Within this area, five acres are reserved for government purposes, including a polyclinic, market and bus terminus. Space is also allocated for future schools.

Eleven point eight acres has been reserved for open space, with an area at the junction of Hammer Hill Road and Lung Cheung Road earmarked for active recreational facilities.

/The outline

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 6 -

The outline plan does not include land for industrial purposes as the proposed Kowloon Bay reclamation immediately to the south will provide industrial land, with ample employment opportunities for workers.

The site for a new crematorium is provided in a 61.2 acre zone marked for cemetery and crematorium uses and which includes the New Kowloon Cemetery No. 8.

The Choi Hung station for the proposed mass transit line to Kwun Tong is located under part of the commercial/residential zone and a grade separated interchange is also proposed at the Lung Cheung Road, Clear Water Bay Road and Kwun Tong Road junction.

The population of the Ngau Chi Wan area at the 1971 census was 77,204, and on full development this is expected to reach 117,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RECONSTRUCTION OF SECTION OF SHANGHAI STREET

The section of Shanghai Street between Mong Kok Road and Fife Street, and its two junctions with Nelson Street and Shantung Street are to be reconstructed.

The work involves the construction of the carriageway in reinforced concrete slab, a new footpath and ancillary drainage works. It is expected to begin in September and will take about six months to complete.

The temporary closure of side streets and traffic diversions will be put into effect when work is in progress.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 7 -

GOVERNOR VISITS CASTLE PEAK NEW TOWN

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today spent one and a half hours touring Castle Peak New Town which is now taking shape on the west coast of the New Territories.

He drove through the development area, saw works in progress, and was briefed on future development plans and problems.

The general area of the proposed new town has a population of about 36,000. Stage 1 is being completed to provide land for residential, industrial and community facilities.

The Governor was accompanied by a number of officials including the District Commissioner for New Territories, Mr. D.C. Bray; the Deputy District Commissioner, Mr. I.F.C. Macpherson; the District Officer, Yuen Long, Mr. A.P. Asprey; and the Senior Planning Officer (N.T.), Dr. E.G. Pryor.

During a walk around the Castle Peak Resettlement Estate, Sir Murray was mobbed by dozens of excited children.

The estate, which is part of Stage 1 of the development scheme, provides low-rent homes for 10,000 in two eight-storey and two 16-storey blocks of the latest type with 35 square feet of living space for each person.

----- 0 -----

/8

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 8 -

NEW SCENIC ROAD IN NEW TERRITORIES TO BE SURFACED

Work will start shortly on surfacing a new road in the New Territories to provide a direct link between Tai Mei Tuk and Luk Keng as well as a vehicular access to the remote villages at Wu Kau Tang.

Formation of the $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile-long road has already been completed -- the section from Luk Keng to Wu Kau Tang undertaken by the Army, and from Wu Kau Tang to Chung Mei, by the Government.

Surfacing work will involve the construction of a 20-foot-wide carriageway, lay-bys, turning circles and surface drainage.

Lookout points and open carparks will also be provided for sightseeing at suitable locations along the road. Work is expected to start in September and will take about 15 months to finish.

In conjunction with this road project, plans are in hand to widen the Luk Keng Road from 10 feet to ensure free vehicular movement between the new road and Sha Tau Kok Road.

----- 0 -----

/9

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 9 -

WORKING HAZARDS FOR NEWCOMERS

A leading Hong Kong industrialist, Mr. K.S. Lo, today had some specific advise for newcomers to industry.

During the presentation of certificates to instructors and supervisors who had completed a short course on basic industrial safety, Mr. Lo said that new workers, especially young people, were particularly vulnerable to accidents because they were ignorant of the hazards which experienced workers had learnt to avoid.

He went on: "They choose the unsafe way of doing job merely because it seems easier, or because they think it is an indication of maturity to disregard safety precautions."

Such ignorance and misconceptions, Mr. Lo added, could be overcome by incorporating accident prevention techniques into a training curriculum, thus ensuring that the basic elements of safe working methods were taught at the same time as technical skills.

A total of 29 people were awarded safety certificates in the course sponsored by the Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Friday, July 28, 1972

- 10 -

GUTZLAFF STREET BUILDINGS DANGEROUS

Two buildings Nos. 4 and 6, Gutzlaff Street in Central District on Hong Kong Island were today declared dangerous by the Building Authority.

At the same time it warned that No. 2 Gutzlaff Street was liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three-storey pre-war buildings were inspected following a report from one of the tenants.

On inspection it was found that the brick pier at the ground floor level supporting the rear wall in No. 4 is bulging and fractured. The brickwork of the party wall adjoining No. 6 Gutzlaff Street is also fractured. In addition much of the structural timbers in both these buildings is in a decayed condition and there is a possibility of collapse.

It is considered that No. 2 Gutzlaff Street is liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of Nos. 4 and 6, and notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 8, 1972 were posted today.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

Release Time: 6.30 p.m.