



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, February 9, 1973

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TENDERS OPEN FOR NEW TELEVISION LICENCES

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Tenders have been invited for the issue of licences to establish and operate two additional wireless television companies in Hong Kong.

A notice announcing this has appeared in the Government Gazette today.

It is intended that one of the stations will operate two programme services, one in Chinese and one in English and the other will operate a single programme service in Chinese.

The tender period for both licences will be three months and tenders will close at 12 noon on Friday, May 11, 1973.

Tender documents which include an application form, a draft licence, a copy of the Television Ordinance, details of Programme, Advertising and Technical Standards and notes for the guidance of applicants can be obtained from the Secretary, Television Authority, 24th floor, International Building, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong at a cost of HK\$30 per set.

Commenting on the notice, the Television Authority, Mr. Nigel Watt, pointed out that it is Government's firm policy, as stated on a number of occasions, to introduce competitive television as quickly as possible.

However, it has always been recognised that some degree of phasing in the coming on air of the two new companies will be necessary to enable working tests in the congested frequency band to be carried out with the main transmitters of the second, dual-service licensee before the final allocation of frequencies for the third licensee and his operating date can be confirmed.

/It was .....

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It was the earlier intention to have a longer tender period for the third station but it is now felt that the policy of maximum speed, subject to adequate time being allowed for final technical adjustments, can be met more effectively by a common tender period with a deferment on the operating date of the third licence - which will be kept as short as possible.

Mr. Watt concluded: "It is difficult to estimate accurately as to when the two new services might be operating because at this stage there are so many unknown factors.

"However, it is reasonable to assume that by the end of 1975, and hopefully earlier, the Hong Kong public should have a choice of five channels of television - three in Chinese and two in English."

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#### NEW SEWER TO BE BUILT IN TUNG LO WAN ROAD

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A larger sewer will be built along Tung Lo Wan Road to replace the existing one to cope with the development of the Lai Tak Tsuen housing project.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said the existing sewer is too small to provide adequate drainage facility for the big low-cost housing estate built by the Housing Society.

Work on the sewer is expected to begin in April and will take six months to complete.

Construction of the Lai Tak Tsuen project has just started. The first phase of the \$36 million estate is expected to be ready by the middle of 1974.

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### EASIER ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PAPERS

To Ease Off Pressure On Pupils

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The Education Department has taken steps since 1971 to make the papers of the Secondary School Entrance Examination progressively easier, the Deputy Director of Education (Professional), Mr. N.M. Ho, said today.

"This innovation, together with the steady expansion of secondary education, is expected to ease off the pressure exerted on pupils," Mr. Ho told the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West.

He was speaking on some problems concerning primary education mainly from the parent's point of view.

In the last few years, the Education Department had taken positive steps to improve the quality of the S.S.E.E.

Most of the questions set were of the objective type, and machine-marked multiple choice questions had been introduced on a large scale to improve further the accuracy of the selection procedure for secondary education.

Mr. Ho advised parents whose children were about to sit the S.S.E.E. to be most careful not to reveal to them any extreme anxiety they might feel about this critical point in their children's career.

Such over-anxiety, he said, might "actually make them so nervous on the great day that they fail to do themselves justice."

On special coaching for the entrance examination, Mr. Ho cautioned parents that the danger again was over-pressure, with the result that their children did not have adequate time for fresh air, exercise and sleep.

/Dealing .....

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Dealing with homework, Mr. Ho said parents should recognise that some homework should go with school work, though an excessive amount should not be set by teachers.

Because most homes did not have a quiet room, which was essential for satisfactory work, the Deputy Director urged parents to sacrifice the wireless and television for an hour or so.

This would not only help concentration but it would be a demonstration to children of the genuine belief of parents in the importance of the work.

Mr. Ho warned parents never to do their children's homework but to show them the method of working.

On improving the memory of children, Mr. Ho said parents could help best by ensuring that the child understood the general drift of thought or the inter-connection of facts in a lesson. This was, he added, far better than merely hearing, for example, a poem recited or asking questions on small points.

He said: "In some school subjects where there is much memorising to do, the intelligent child with poor 'rote memories' will not at first do himself justice. The thing to do is to appeal to his interest as far as possible.

"Even if his specific rote memory for things both heard and seen is weak, his intelligence will later find ways of compensating for these to a large extent."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Ho's speech in Chinese and English are distributed separately in the Press Boxes, Government Information Services, this evening.

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FIRE PREVENTION COURSES TO COMBAT FIRE HAZARD

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The Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department, in conjunction with the Fire Services Department, is organising 28 one-day fire prevention courses for industrial workers.

The main purpose of the courses is to provide participants with basic knowledge of fire prevention and fire fighting, industrial housekeeping, safe storage and the handling of inflammable liquid and other highly combustible materials.

Each course concludes with a demonstration of various fire extinguishers.

Mr. A.H. Carter, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, said: "Forty-three similar courses were organised last year and I was appalled at the poor response. Of over 20,000 registered and recorded industrial undertakings, only 68 or 0.34 per cent had sent their staff to attend these courses."

"Safety training is one of the most effective means to prevent or reduce industrial accidents and it is a pity that the majority of employers do not appreciate the value of these training courses."

Mr. Carter went on to say that in 1972 direct fire losses exceeded \$100 million.

"Many fires would not have developed had they been dealt with promptly by trained personnel," he remarked.

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PEOPLE ASKED TO COLLECT LOST I.D. CARDS

Unclaimed Cards Will Be Cancelled After 3 Months

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The Commissioner of Registration today appealed to people who had lost their Hong Kong identity cards to come forward and collect them.

Lists containing the names of the unclaimed cards can be inspected at all City District Offices in the urban areas and District Offices in the New Territories.

Owners of lost cards can collect them in person at the Registration of Persons Office on the 4th floor of the Causeway Bay Magistracy Building.

If they are not collected after a period of three months, the identity cards will be cancelled.

The Commissioner emphasised that if people notified his office of the changes of previously registered particulars, it would be much easier for lost identity cards to be returned to their owners.

All unclaimed cards in the period from July 3 to September 30, 1972, will be cancelled on February 10, 1973.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC DIVERSION AT ROAD JUNCTION

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Eastbound traffic on Argyle Street will be prohibited from turning left into Nathan Road between 5 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Traffic will be diverted via Portland Street and Fife Street.

The temporary arrangement is necessary because of construction work in Nathan Road.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to indicate the temporary diversion and police will be present to guide motorists.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

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The Port Health Authority announced today that the quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Kandahar (airport), Afghanistan, on account of smallpox, have now been removed.

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NEW LAND EXCHANGE SCHEME FOR N.T. ANNOUNCED

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A new land exchange scheme has been approved to allow for private development in certain areas in the New Territories not covered by outline zoning plans.

This was announced today by the District Commissioner, N.T., Mr. Denis Bray, in an address to the Heung Yee Kuk during his annual New Year call on them.

The new scheme originates from proposals put forward by the Heung Yee Kuk to relieve frustrations felt by owners of land in areas planned for eventual development but where development could not yet be accommodated.

In these areas, said Mr. Bray, land owners would not be able to pay a development premium and build precisely on land they now own.

This method of development had been tried and was slow.

It also meant that the benefit to be derived from new town development would depend heavily on whether a man's land was planned for a park or a tenement building.

Compensation, he added, had to be averaged over a large area.

Mr. Bray emphasized that compensation paid for land required for public housing or town centres "should not depend on the zoning of the particular land concerned."

"This is logical and fair but it does mean that we cannot agree that owners of agricultural land in strategic positions should be allowed to develop these areas on payment of a premium."

/Under the .....

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Under the new arrangements, the Government will accept the surrender of land with vacant possession in what is to be known as Special Acquisition Areas, in exchange for grants of land in places which can be developed without the provision by the Government of such services as sewage disposal or water mains.

The Special Acquisition Areas will include all land within the boundaries of outline zoning plans for Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Island; Tuen Mun and Sha Tin.

The only exception will be areas zoned for green belts, but land designated for country parks will be included and will be eligible for exchange.

#### Guiding Rules

Seven guiding rules are set out under which the scheme will operate. These are:

- \* Land will be exchanged on a foot for foot, or value for value, basis but the area of land granted will not exceed the area surrendered.
- \* Land will only be granted in exchange in areas acceptable to the District Commissioner but the areas will not include an area covered by an outline zoning plan (approved or draft), an approved layout plan or an area designated or likely to be designated as a Special Acquisition Area.
- \* The applicant will be required to find suitable land to be granted in exchange. He should enquire early on whether or not an area under consideration would be acceptable.

/\* The applicant .....

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- \* The applicant can apply for the new grant lot to be in either agricultural or building status.
- \* A premium will be payable if the value of the new lot to be granted exceeds the value of the land to be surrendered.
- \* The new grant lot will be subject to development and such other conditions as are deemed appropriate for the locality.
- \* The applicant must give vacant possession free from incumbrances of the land to be surrendered.

In his address, Mr. Bray stressed that the Government was anxious to build and make way for building of towns as fast as was possible.

#### Development

"We do not want to frustrate development where it can take place in a socially acceptable manner, but we will not allow individual land owners to put up buildings which will be intolerable to those who will live in and around them," he said.

While he did not believe that the new arrangements for land exchanges would produce much development, the Commissioner felt that the scheme would provide "an outlet for land owners who are prepared to play the game according to these rules."

There were places in the New Territories where private development could be accommodated, he said, and where the developers could provide the necessary services themselves.

/He explained .....

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He explained that when the Government was ready to act in new towns, it would resume the land with fair compensation to land owners, provide resettlement for anyone living on it, pay compensation to farmers, pig breeders and others, before moving in.

Looking back over 1972, Mr. Bray noted that the year had seen considerable progress in the New Territories and he envisaged that even more could be accomplished in the year ahead by way of more public housing and villages, improved communications, recreation facilities and possibly holiday resorts complete with hotels and weekend bungalows.

"A strong Government initiative is going to be required," he stressed, "but success will only follow a combined effort by the people of the area and their government."

#### Impact

But the predominant influence in the new towns, Mr. Bray went on, would be the impact of the Government's stated aim to provide housing for every family over the next 10 years.

Public housing by itself, however, was not enough to create new towns, he added.

"Quite apart from the social and commercial services needed for the new population we must provide for industrial development and privately built housing."

He said the enterprise and capital were available for this and private enterprise building would be welcomed once sufficient progress had been made in planning and the provision of the basic engineering services like water supplies, communications and sewage disposal.

/"To achieve .....

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"To achieve all this will require careful planning as well as development at a breakneck speed," he said. "The crunch will come in the mid-Seventies."

During the period 1974-78, he said, the target population for Tsuen Wan should go up by about 300,000 while in Sha Tin there should be a tenfold population increase from 26,000 to 233,000.

"The Tuen Mun explosion follows a little later, but even there a five fold increase from 38,000 to 190,000 is in this period the sort of thing we should aim for."

Already the basic ingredients for the redevelopment of new towns and population centres in the accessible parts of the rural areas were beginning to emerge, he went on.

#### New Estates

Seven new estates were in the planning and he estimated that between 20 and 30 more small estates would be needed over the next ten years.

Two new villages were also being examined with a view towards permanent village development.

With regard to the problem of resettling small scale industries which had been cleared from the urban areas but were not acceptable in resettlement factories, the Commissioner said a "new initiative" was needed to cope with this problem.

Land tenure would also have to be looked at and the problems of pollution arising from present methods of disposing of agricultural waste -- particularly from pigs and chickens -- would have to be tackled.

/Mr. Bray .....

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Mr. Bray suggested that plans should be drawn up for good privately built rural housing where people could either live with space round them or build holiday homes.

"This type of development is much in demand," he said, "There is land for it but not yet the planning or services."

Turning to the remote countryside, the Commissioner said these parts were fast becoming a popular recreation area for those living in the urban areas.

Some areas were to be turned into countryparks, he said, but he felt that some others should not be developed at all but would need conservation, litter cleansing and fire protection.

In other areas the building of hotels and weekend bungalows would be encouraged.

"Particular attention is being given to the comprehensive planned resort development of two major areas of Lan Tau Island and the Sai Kung Peninsula," he added.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.