



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1978

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY OUTLINES
IMPORTANCE OF BANKING INDUSTRY
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE BANKING INDUSTRY IS +CRITICAL TO THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG+.

MR. HADDON-CAVE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A NEW BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK AT CHINA BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

HE SAID THE BANKING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE, AND THE HONG KONG BANK PARTICULARLY, HAS SERVED HONG KONG EXCEEDINGLY WELL OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS. MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HONG KONG NOT ONLY NEEDS TO BE, BUT DESERVES TO BE WELL SERVED BY ITS FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

BUT BECAUSE THE BANKING INDUSTRY'S ROLE IS SO CRITICAL IT HAS HAD TO BE REGULATED RATHER MORE CLOSELY THAN OTHER PARTS OF THE ECONOMY.

+THE COROLLARY TO THIS IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT - BY WHICH I MEAN THE ADMINISTRATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS - HAS AN OBLIGATION TO CONSULT WITH THE INDUSTRY THROUGH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE BANKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHEN CONSIDERING POLICY DECISIONS WITH DIRECT - OR EVEN INDIRECT - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A FURTHER OBLIGATION TO TAKE THE INDUSTRY'S VIEWS SERIOUSLY.

+AND IT DOES+ HE SAID, +THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AVOID AN OVER-RIDING OBLIGATION ULTIMATELY TO MAKE UP ITS OWN MIND HAVING REGARD TO THE VIEW IT FORMS OF THE BROAD PUBLIC INTEREST.+

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SNT PREDICTS BUSY YEAR AHEAD FOR NT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID TODAY THE BROADENING OF PROCESSES OF LOCAL CONSULTATION WILL IMPROVE THE LIVES AND BRING BENEFIT TO ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ADDRESSING OVER 100 RURAL LEADERS AT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR TEA PARTY OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR. AKERS-JONES FORECAST THAT THE YEAR AHEAD FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE AS BUSY AND FULL OF CHANGE AS THE LAST.

+I AM SURE,+ HE SAID, +IF WE CO-OPERATE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES IT WILL BRING, WE WILL FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS AND THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER.+

MR. AKERS-JONES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT LAST YEAR WAS A YEAR OF CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY FOR THE HEUNG YEE KUK, AND PRAISED THE KUK FOR DEVOTING MUCH TIME, THOUGHT AND EFFORT IN SENDING A DELEGATION TO LONDON.

HE BELIEVED THE EFFORT IN BRINGING CERTAIN MATTERS TO THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER OF STATE WAS WELL WORTHWHILE.

+NOT LEAST IT HELPED CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THIS BUSY PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES ALSO SPOKE OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY ON LAND ACQUISITION AND THE SUCCESSFUL FORMATION OF THE SEVEN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

LATER IN THE EVENING, MR. AKERS-JONES HOSTED AN ANNUAL YAN YAT PARTY AT THE OCEANIA RESTAURANT IN KOWLOON FOR ABOUT 1,700 PEOPLE COMPRISING MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO AND HEUNG YEE KUK, VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS OF THE SEVEN N.T. DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH N.T. AFFAIRS.

THE PARTY WAS ORGANISED AS A MARK OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE WORK PERFORMED BY COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PARTY WAS A TWO-HOUR ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME BY YOUNGSTERS FROM THE ARTS PROMOTIONS ORGANISATIONS OF YUEN LONG, TAI PO, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

IT FEATURED CHINESE MUSICAL AND CHORAL PERFORMANCES, CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCES AND A MODERN OPERA.

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UNOFFICIALS TO RAISE 20 QUESTIONS IN LEGCO MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL RAISE A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15).

THE HON. LYDIA DUNN WILL ASK ABOUT THE CAUSES OF THE RECENT HUNGER STRIKE BY PRISONERS IN MA PO PING PRISON AND WHAT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN THE FUTURE.

MISS DUNN WILL ALSO ASK WHAT SAFEGUARDS THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO ENSURE THERE IS NO ABUSE OF POWER BY OFFICERS IN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND THERE ARE ADEQUATE CHANNELS, FOR PRISONERS AS WELL AS PRISON STAFF, TO LODGE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES.

DR. THE HON. RAYSON HUANG WILL RAISE A QUESTION ON GAMBLING AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT SURVEYS ON GAMBLING= CONSIDER LIMITING THE TIME ALLOWED FOR HORSE-RACING PROGRAMMES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION= AND INTRODUCE INTO SCHOOL CURRICULUM MATERIAL TO EXPLAIN THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF HABITUAL GAMBLING.

THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH WILL ASK WHAT MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO ASSIST THE MORE THAN 100 ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE TO BE EVICTED BY THEIR LANDLORD FROM THEIR APARTMENT IN TSUEN WAN.

THE HON. ALEX WU WILL ASK IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANY PLANS TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SHATIN, PARTICULARLY ALONG WATERLOO ROAD. WHILE THE HON. T.S. LO WILL RAISE A QUESTION ON THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN COTTON TREE DRIVE AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DO ABOUT IT.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS CONCERN THE PROPOSED MERGING OF THE FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES, THE DISPLAY OF DESTINATIONS AND FARES BY MINI-BUSES, THE +BUY HONG KONG+ CAMPAIGN, AND THE SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISING SIGNS.

THREE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS) BILL 1978 AND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

DEBATES WILL RESUME ON SEVEN BILLS. THEY ARE THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1976-77) BILL 1978, THE RESERVED COMMODITIES BILL 1977, THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE MARINE FISH (MARKETING) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

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NEW BRANCH OFFICE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S APPRENTICESHIP
DIVISION

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY OPENED A NEW BRANCH OFFICE IN KOWLOON FOR ITS APPRENTICESHIP DIVISION TO ASSIST BOTH EMPLOYERS AND YOUNG WORKERS IN MATTERS CONCERNING APPRENTICE TRAINING UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

THE NEW OFFICE, THE THIRD OPERATED BY THE DIVISION, IS IN A SINGLE STOREY STRUCTURE IN SALISBURY ROAD OPPOSITE THE SHERATON HOTEL IN TSTM SHA TSUI. ITS TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 3-667120 AND 3-667463.

THE OTHER TWO OFFICES ARE IN NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG, AND 7 KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID, +THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THESE OFFICES ARE TO ADMINISTER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE AND TO PROMOTE APPRENTICE TRAINING IN THE 28 DESIGNATED TRADES WHICH ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

+THE AIM OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, + THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, +IS TO ENSURE YOUNG PERSONS OF AGE BETWEEN 14 AND 18 WORKING IN THESE TRADES RECEIVE ADEQUATE TRAINING SO THAT HONG KONG WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SKILLED MANPOWER IN THESE IMPORTANT TRADES.+

+THE APPRENTICESHIP DIVISION WOULD ALSO ENDEAVOUR TO SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THEIR REGISTERED APPRENTICES,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ALL CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP OF YOUNG PERSONS IN DESIGNATED TRADES SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE APPRENTICESHIP DIVISION FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN 14 DAYS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

HE REMINDED EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN THE FIVE ENGINEERING TRADES OF MACHINIST, FITTER, TOOL AND DIE MAKER, ELECTRICIAN AND INSTRUMENT MECHANIC WHICH HAVE BEEN SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR AS DESIGNATED TRADES RECENTLY, THAT THEY HAVE 60 DAYS GRACE FROM FEBRUARY 1, TO SIGN CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP WITH YOUNG WORKERS UNDER THEIR EMPLOY.

FAILURE TO SIGN CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP WITH THE YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED IN DESIGNATED TRADES AND REGISTERING THE CONTRACTS WITHIN 14 DAYS WITH THE APPRENTICESHIP DIVISION MAY RENDER AN EMPLOYER LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.

HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR HAS THE POWER TO GRANT EXEMPTION IN CERTAIN CASES, FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE YOUNG PERSON HAS UNDERGONE SUFFICIENT TRAINING IN A PARTICULAR TRADE. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AN EMPLOYER CAN APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR EXEMPTION.

/THE SPOKESMAN ALSO

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THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN NON-DESIGNATED TRADES TO SEND CONTRACTS OF APPRENTICESHIP TO THE DIVISION FOR VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION.

A GUIDE BOOK ON THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE AND A LIST OF THE 28 DESIGNATED TRADES CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE AT ANY OFFICES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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SITE VISIT BY P.W.D.'S
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT
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MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, TODAY VISITED A NUMBER OF SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS P.W.D. PROJECTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF ENGINEERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR. STEAD FIRST WENT TO KWAI CHUNG INCINERATOR, THE THIRD INCINERATOR PLANT IN HONG KONG.

WORK ON THE 150-METRE CHIMNEY, THE TALLEST IN HONG KONG, AND THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE PLANT ARE NEAR COMPLETION AND THE PLANT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL THIS AUTUMN.

FROM KWAI CHUNG, MR. STEAD PROCEEDED TO TSUEN WAN WHERE HE SAW THE FOUNDATION WORK ON THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS STAGE ONE.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WHICH WILL JOIN KWAI CHUNG ROAD WITH TEXACO ROAD.

THE FOUNDATION WORK, WHICH STARTED IN THE SECOND HALF OF LAST YEAR, IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER.

ANOTHER SITE VISITED BY MR. STEAD TODAY WAS THE TUEN MUN ROAD STAGE ONE, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST HIGHWAY PROJECT.

MR. STEAD WAS PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE \$300 MILLION ROAD WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS.

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TWO COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUES THIS YEAR
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT IT WILL ISSUE TWO SETS OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS THIS YEAR.

THE FIRST WILL BE TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION OF THE QUEEN AND THE SECOND TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF PO LEUNG KUK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID FURTHER DETAILS INCLUDING THE RELEASE DATES OF THESE STAMPS ISSUES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS
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SEVENTEEN SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF SOCIAL STUDIES TODAY STARTED ATTENDING AN INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE RUN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THE COURSE, LASTING MORE THAN 10 WEEKS, IS BEING HELD AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, 255 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ITS MAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ON IMPROVING THE TEACHERS' OWN ABILITY TO USE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THIS WILL INCLUDE PRACTICE TO IMPROVE PRONUNCIATION AND ORAL FLUENCY, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, AND IN THE USE OF CORRECT GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES.

DURING THE COURSE, GROUP DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD, AND GROUP WORKSHOPS WILL BE SET UP FOR TEACHERS TO WORK TOGETHER AND PRODUCE TEACHING MODULES SO AS TO BUILD UP CONFIDENCE IN USING ENGLISH IN CLASSROOM.

THIS IS A PILOT SCHEME AND IF SUCCESSFUL, COULD BE EXTENDED TO TEACHERS OF OTHER SUBJECTS.

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TWO FIRE OFFICERS COMMENDED

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TWO FIRE OFFICERS TODAY (MONDAY) RECEIVED THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES COMMENDATIONS FOR THE COURAGE, RESOURCEFULNESS AND DEVOTION TO DUTY THEY DISPLAYED DURING A RESCUE IN KOWLOON LAST NOVEMBER.

AT A CEREMONY AT MONGKOK FIRE STATION THIS MORNING, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR. FRED JACKSON PRESENTED THE COMMENDATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO ACTING ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR. KWOK HON-CHUNG AND ACTING PRINCIPAL FIREMAN, MR. LEE WAI.

THE AWARDS WERE IN RECOGNITION OF THE PART THEY PLAYED IN RESCUING A 31-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FROM FALLING FROM THE ROOF OF AN EIGHT-STORY BUILDING AT 67 TONG MEI ROAD LAST NOVEMBER.

DURING THE INCIDENT THE WOMAN WHO WAS IN A HYSTERICAL CONDITION SAT ON THE EDGE OF A LEDGE OUTSIDE THE PARAPET WALL ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING.

UPON ARRIVAL, MR. KWOK PATIENTLY PERSUADED HER TO RETURN TO THE ROOF. AFTER TALKING TO THE WOMAN FOR MORE THAN 15 MINUTES, HE SAW HER FEEL DIZZY AND START TO SWAY.

MR. KWOK IMMEDIATELY SIGNALLED PRINCIPAL FIREMAN LEE WHO SWIFTLY LEAPT OVER THE PARAPET WALL TO GRAB HER AND PULL HER BACK FROM THE LEDGE.

FOR THEIR FINE EFFORTS THE WOMAN WAS SAVED AND LATER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

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* PARTY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND TRAINEES UNDER CARE OF SWD

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ABOUT 300 CHILDREN AND TRAINEES FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE AND KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE WILL BE TREATED TO A SPRING DINNER PARTY THIS WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15).

THE PARTY, SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG CENTRAL, WILL BE HELD AT THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE IN WELFARE ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG BEGINNING AT 5.30 P.M.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE DAY WILL INCLUDE A LION DANCE, SINGING AND AN ACROBATIC SHOW.

MR. THOMAS LEE, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE - MR. TIMOTHY LUI, PRESIDENT OF THE LIONS CLUB HONG KONG CENTRAL - AND MR. WILSON CHEUNG, THE CHARTER PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB WILL ALSO ATTEND THE PARTY.

THE TWO CENTRES, BOTH SITUATED IN ABERDEEN, ARE FOR THE DISABLED. THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE PROVIDES RESIDENTIAL CARE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR SOME 250 DISABLED PERSONS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING WHILE THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE OFFERS RESIDENTIAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES TO ABOUT 120 RETARDED CHILDREN AGE BETWEEN FIVE AND 16.

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