



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT SMUGGLING	1
LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO BE INTRODUCED	3
DEPUTY DIRECTOR VISITS INJURED FIREMEN	3
OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMPETITION	4
CENSUS EXHIBITION IN KWUN TONG	5
LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE ON MOVE	5
CUSTOMS' KOWLOON COLLECTION OFFICE ON MOVE	6
REPROVISIONING OF EASTERN MARRIAGE REGISTRY	6
NGAU TAU KOK MATERNITY HOME CLOSURES	7
ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT RECRUITS JUNIOR LEADERS	7

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 1 -

NEW MEASURES TO COMBAT SMUGGLING

* * * *

A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEW YEAR TO COMBAT THE SMUGGLING OF GOODS INTO CHINA.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID ACTION WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OPERATIONS AGAINST SMUGGLING.

"SMUGGLING WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM DURING 1990. LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG BECAME A MAJOR ISSUE. WE INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT, EFFECTIVE MEASURES. WE NOW NEED TO TIGHTEN THE NET ON THE SMUGGLERS FURTHER," HE SAID.

THE FIRST OF THE NEW MEASURES WILL BE AIMED AT PREVENTING THE USE OF SPEEDBOATS FOR SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES.

IN JUNE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BANNED THE USE OF MULTIPLE HIGH POWERED OUTBOARD ENGINES EXCEEDING 600 HORSEPOWER ON PLEASURE VESSELS AND REQUIRED ALL LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR SPEEDBOATS FITTED WITH OUTBOARD ENGINES OF ANY POWER TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BOAT.

"HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN DISCOVERED THAT SOME APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE USING FALSE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE VESSELS IN QUESTION ARE BEING USED FOR SMUGGLING," THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SAID.

"WE INTEND TO PUT A STOP TO THIS AND WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 28, ALL NEW SPEEDBOATS FITTED OR DESIGNED TO BE FITTED WITH OUTBOARD ENGINES WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION PRIOR TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF A LICENCE.

"UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (PLEASURE VESSELS) REGULATIONS, SPEEDBOATS WHICH ARE ALREADY LICENSED MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION IF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY."

MR SZE SAID WHILE THIS WOULD INEVITABLY LENGTHEN THE TIME TAKEN FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS, WHICH WAS REGRETTABLE, THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT ONLY GENUINE PLEASURE BOATS WERE LICENSED.

"AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND MARINE POLICE WILL WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THIS REMAINS THE CASE," HE ADDED.

THE AUTHORITIES WILL SUSPEND TEMPORARILY THE LICENCE OF ANY SPEEDBOAT SUSPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING UNTIL IT IS INSPECTED.

IN ADDITION, MARINE DEPARTMENT STAFF ON PATROL DUTIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WATCH OUT FOR SPEEDBOATS WITH UNUSUAL FEATURES NOT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH PLEASURE CRAFT.

/IF IT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 2 -

IF IT IS FOUND THAT THE FEATURES DO NOT MATCH THOSE GIVEN IN THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE OWNER AND THE LICENCE WILL BE CANCELLED.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO KEEP A "BLACKLIST" OF BOATS WHOSE STATUS AS PLEASURE CRAFT IS SUSPECT. THE APPLICATIONS FOR ANNUAL RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR THESE CRAFT WILL BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AND A NEW LICENCE WILL NOT BE ISSUED IF A SPEEDBOAT DOES NOT MEET THE USUAL DESCRIPTION OF A PLEASURE CRAFT.

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR K.S. TONG, SAID MEASURES TAKEN RECENTLY TO CONTROL THE EXPORT OF GOODS FROM HONG KONG WOULD BE TIGHTENED FURTHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND NEW LEGISLATION WERE INTRODUCED IN JUNE TO CONTROL THE EXPORT OF CIGARETTES AND THE CARRIAGE OF TELEVISION SETS AND VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS BY VESSELS UNDER 250 TONS.

"WHILE THE SMUGGLING OF CIGARETTES BY SMALL VESSELS HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED, THE SMUGGLING OF ELECTRICAL GOODS AND VEHICLES REMAINS RAMPANT," MR TONG SAID.

"TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, NEW REGULATIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED SOON TO CONTROL THE CARRIAGE OF PRESCRIBED ARTICLES BY CERTAIN TYPES OF VESSELS," HE ADDED.

THE PRESCRIBED ARTICLES ARE TELEVISION SETS, VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS, VIDEO CASSETTE PLAYERS, AIR-CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, VEHICLES AND VEHICLE PARTS.

UNDER THE REGULATIONS, A LICENCE WILL BE REQUIRED FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE FOR THE SPECIFIED ARTICLES TO BE CARRIED BY VESSELS UNDER 250 TONS ANYWHERE IN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG OR BY FERRIES TO OUTLYING ISLANDS.

IN ORDER NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATIONS OF LEGITIMATE LOCAL TRADERS, EXEMPTIONS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE CASES OF GOODS COVERED BY EXPORT LICENCES OR BONA FIDE SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.

EXEMPTIONS WILL ALSO APPLY TO GOODS ON BOARD VESSELS WHICH ARE FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF THE CREW MEMBERS AND PASSENGERS AND GOODS CARRIED BY PASSENGERS FOR THEIR OWN USE ON FERRIES TO CHINA OR MACAU, FERRIES TO OUTLYING ISLANDS AND ON LAUNCHES AND KAITO.

ANYONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOADING, CARRIAGE, UNLOADING OR STORING OF THESE ARTICLES WITHOUT A LICENCE WILL BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION.

SUMMING UP, MR TONG SAID THE AUTHORITIES WERE BUILDING UP INTELLIGENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF SMUGGLERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAKE SMUGGLING AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN THIS ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS ACTIVITY.

"THIS NEW PACKAGE OF MEASURES WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. FURTHER MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED SHOULD THESE PROVE NECESSARY," HE SAID.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 3 -

LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 TO BE INTRODUCED

* * * * *

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE OBJECT OF THE BILL IS TO AMEND THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE SO AS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES MAY SIT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE BILL ARE DEEMED TO HAVE COME INTO OPERATION ON JULY 30, 1982 SO AS TO PUT BEYOND ANY DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF JUDGEMENTS OF DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES WHO HAVE SAT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS SINCE THAT TIME.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IN 1982 THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED ALL DISTRICT JUDGES TO BE PRESIDING OFFICERS. DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES HAVE ALSO SAT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS IN THE LANDS TRIBUNAL FROM TIME TO TIME.

BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 8 (1) OF THE DISTRICT COURT ORDINANCE, A DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGE SHALL "DURING THE PERIOD FOR WHICH HE IS APPOINTED, HAVE ALL THE JURISDICTION, POWERS AND PRIVILEGES, AND PERFORM ALL THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT JUDGE".

IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED THAT THIS PROVISION TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT OF "ALL DISTRICT JUDGES" TO BE PRESIDING OFFICERS ENABLED DEPUTY DISTRICT JUDGES TO SIT AS PRESIDING OFFICERS ON THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION IS BEING INTRODUCED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THE JUDICIARY THAT THE LAW BE MADE CLEAR ON THIS POINT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEPUTY DIRECTOR VISITS INJURED FIREMEN

* * * * *

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID A THIRD VISIT TO THE FOUR FIREMEN WHO ARE STILL IN HOSPITAL AFTER BEING INJURED IN THE NO. 4 ALARM FIRE IN SHAM SHUI PO ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 23).

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, HAD ALSO TWICE VISITED THE INJURED FIREMEN AND YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD THEM THAT THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, HAD ASKED HIM TO EXTEND HIS CONCERN AND TO WISH THEM A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

TWO OF THE FOUR OFFICERS, SENIOR FIREMAN HO HON-KEUNG AND FIREMAN IP YIN-KING, WERE ADMITTED IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL IN "FAIR" CONDITION. THE OTHER TWO, SENIOR FIREMAN MAK KWOK-LEUNG AND FIREMAN TAI KEI-CHEONG, WERE ADMITTED IN KWONG WAH HOSPITAL IN "SATISFACTORY" CONDITION.

/MR LAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 4 -

MR LAM TOLD THE FOUR THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CONDITION AND HOPED THEY WOULD RECOVER VERY SOON. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN \$10,000 EACH FROM THE FIRE SERVICES' WELFARE FUND TO ASSIST THEM TO MEET ADDITIONAL EXPENSES DURING THE RECOVERY PERIOD.

THE NO. 4 ALARM FIRE OCCURRED ON SUNDAY MORNING IN A NINE-STORY BUILDING AT 67-69 NAM CHEONG STREET.

A TOTAL OF SIX PEOPLE DIED AND 50 OTHERS WERE INJURED IN THE FIRE. THE INJURED INCLUDED 13 FIREMEN AND AN AMBULANCEMAN.

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP TWO SPECIAL TEAMS TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE AND THE COLLAPSE OF A HYDRAULIC PLATFORM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMPETITION

* * * * *

RESPONSE FROM SCHOOLS TO THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM PROJECT COMPETITION WAS OVERWHELMING, WITH MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS TAKING PART, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE COMPETITION, MR WINFIELD ATTRIBUTED THE GOOD RESPONSE TO THE THEME WHICH WAS RELEVANT TO THE STUDY OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GEOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

"MANY STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED BY THEIR TEACHERS TO JOIN THE COMPETITION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD GAINED IN THE SUBJECTS IN AN INTERESTING AND PRACTICAL FORM," HE SAID.

MR WINFIELD SAID THE THEME ALSO WAS OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS WHO, THOUGH FAMILIAR WITH THE MANY TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN HONG KONG, MIGHT NOT PREVIOUSLY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THEM ALL.

BY TAKING PART IN THE COMPETITION, "THEY HAD GREAT FUN GOING TO PLACES OF INTEREST TO DO RESEARCH FOR THE PROJECT AND IN DOING SO MANY CAME UP WITH NEW IDEAS TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM PROJECT COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND AMERICAN EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 5 -

CENSUS EXHIBITION IN KWUN TONG

* * * * *

A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE KWUN TONG MTR STATION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS AND TO CALL FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION.

THIS WILL BE THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF 11 MOBILE EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND DESIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.

APART FROM SETTING OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT, THE EXHIBITION ELUCIDATES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AND GRAPHICS THE ENUMERATION METHODS TO BE USED IN THE CENSUS AND HOW THE DATA COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

"THE SELF-ENUMERATION METHOD, IN PARTICULAR, IS THE FIRST TIME TO BE USED IN HONG KONG," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID SIX OUT OF SEVEN HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE ENUMERATED THIS WAY WHILE THE OTHER ONE-SEVENTH HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE ENUMERATED BY THE TRADITIONAL INTERVIEWING METHOD.

"WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC WOULD GAIN A FAIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE METHODS THROUGH VISITING THE EXHIBITIONS," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITIONS WILL BE HELD IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS SUCH AS SHOPPING ARCADES OF POPULATED TOWN AREAS AND MTR STATIONS SO THAT THE MESSAGE CAN BE EFFECTIVELY CONVEYED TO THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

THE EXHIBITION AT KWUN TONG MTR STATION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11.30 AM TO 7.30 PM DAILY EXCEPT ON DECEMBER 30 WHEN IT WILL CLOSE AT 4 PM.

THE NEXT EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE TSUEN WAN MTR STATION STARTING JANUARY 4.

THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND 24.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE ON MOVE

* * * * *

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE AT NEW RODNEY BLOCK, QUEENSWAY, WILL MOVE TO NEW PREMISES IN SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG, ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 29).

THE NEW LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (HONG KONG EAST) OFFICE LOCATED AT THE EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, 12TH FLOOR, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, WILL START OPERATING ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 31).

/ENQUIRIES CAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1990

- 7 -

NGAU TAU KOK MATERNITY HOME CLOSURES

* * * * *

THE NGAU TAU KOK MATERNITY HOME WILL BE CLOSED FROM TUESDAY (JANUARY 1), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ALL PRESENT ANTENATAL CLIENTS WILL FROM THAT DATE BE REFERRED TO THE KWUN TONG MATERNITY HOME AT 457 KWUN TONG ROAD, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CLOSURE WILL NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE NGAU TAU KOK MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE AND GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE VARIOUS MEDICAL, METERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT RECRUITS JUNIOR LEADERS

* * * * *

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS TO ITS JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS. THE RECRUITMENT TARGET THIS YEAR IS 140.

APPLICANTS MUST BE MALE, AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 16, PHYSICALLY FIT AND OF GOOD CONDUCT.

THEY MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILLING TO OBEY DISCIPLINE AND UNDERGO TRAINING, AND HAVE THEIR PARENTS' OR GUARDIANS' WRITTEN CONSENT TO JOIN THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS.

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRESSIVE TRAINING COURSE TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SELF RELIANCE AND PROMOTE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE RECRUITS.

THE TRAINING WILL INCLUDE FOOT DRILLS, CAMPCRAFT, MAP READING, EXPEDITION, ORIENTEERING, FIRST AID, RADIO COMMUNICATION, SHOOTING, SWIMMING, FENCING, BAND, CANOEING AND LIFE SAVING.

SOME OF THE CORPS' TRAINING WILL BE LINKED WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME.

MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS ARE PROVIDED WITH UNIFORM AND RATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, 1 SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, HONG KONG OR BY TELEPHONING 576 1371. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JANUARY 31.

- - - - 0 - - - -