



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, December 8, 1972

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GOVERNOR PRAISES "HARD-WORKING" FARMERS

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today praised Hong Kong's "hard-working" farmers for their enterprise and willingness to experiment and try new techniques.

Speaking at the official opening of the Agricultural Show at the Sek Kong airstrip, he said that without their enterprise and willingness, "there would be much less to show here today and far less cause for pride of achievement, far less profit - which after all is what farming is all about."

Sir Murray described the increased productivity as "the result of teamwork", in which he said the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the farmers' cooperatives and the producer associations have all played their share.

The Show, featuring a wide variety of produce on display, will continue until Monday (December 11).

The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:-

"Most people think of Hong Kong as an industrial city. Only yesterday I had the pleasure of opening the impressive exhibition of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association.

"That Hong Kong also has an agricultural industry is less obvious to our city dwellers - despite the fact that a large proportion of their food is locally produced.

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"I hope that many of them will make the effort to come here and see for themselves what has been achieved in this field. They might be surprised.

"For one thing, they will find that although our agricultural industry is comparatively small, it too is adapting itself to a changing world. The variety of produce on display here is striking testimony to the efficiency of our farming techniques. Certainly it gives the lie to that old illusion that farmers are not susceptible to change.

"This increased productivity is the result of teamwork, in which the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the farmers' co-operatives and the producer associations have all played their share. But the key member of the team is of course the hard working farmer himself. Without his enterprise and willingness to experiment and try new techniques, there would be much less to show here today and far less cause for pride of achievement, far less profit - which after all is what farming is all about.

"It is not only techniques that have changed but the products as well. The shift from rice farming into vegetable cultivation and pig poultry breeding is reflected in the revised competitive classes at this year's show.

"I congratulate all concerned with organising this 1972 Agricultural Show, and I have much pleasure in declaring it open."

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DRAFT KWAI CHUNG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

The Town Planning Board has proposed to extend the planning area of the draft outline zoning plan for Kwai Chung to the boundary of the New Territories and New Kowloon.

The proposed amendment will include in the planning area the Tai Wo Tsuen borrow area, which is above the Castle Peak Road near Kau Wah Kang. The additional area also includes Kau Wah Kang Village.

The draft plan was first exhibited for public inspection in last November.

As a result of the amendment, a further 198 acres of land will be added to the land covered by the plan of which 57 acres will be for residential development.

The residential zone will include the proposed Kau Wah Kang Government Low Cost Housing Estate for about 12,000 people. The whole estate is expected to be completed in 1979.

The Tai Wo Tsuen borrow area, worked in connection with the development of the container port, will produce platform areas of about 10 acres intended for low density residential purposes.

A three-acre commercial zone is reserved north of the Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park and will include a bus terminus.

Two areas totalling 48 acres are zoned for government, institutional and community uses. The major uses in the larger area are the Lai Chi Kok Hospital, now nearing completion, and the existing Waterworks Service Reservoir. The smaller area is the Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park.

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A zone covering seven acres to the east of the Amusement Park has been earmarked for district open space.

A 30-acre area has been zoned for park strip. This is a continuation from a similar zoning to the north of the extension area. When developed, it will provide an attractive public amenity.

Another strip of steep land covering 16 acres between Castle Peak Road and Kwai Chung Road in the south-western part of the extension area, has been set aside for green belt.

The two existing petrol filling stations on Castle Peak Road will remain in the one-acre land marked for other specified uses.

The distributor road pattern in the extended area will take up 36 acres of land.

The amendments to the plan are now exhibited for public inspection during normal office hours at the Central Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices, West Wing Entrance, Hong Kong; and at the Tsuen Wan District Office, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building, Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

Copies of the amendments may also be purchased, at \$3 per uncoloured copy, and \$25 per coloured copy, from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, 19th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong.

Any objections to the amendments may be made in writing to the Secretary, Town Planning Board, c/o Public Works Department, Murray Building, not later than February 7, 1973.

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AMENDING LEGISLATION ON COURT EVIDENCE

Government proposes to amend the existing legislation to make microfilm reproductions of public documents admissible as evidence in courts.

Making this proposal possible is the Evidence (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973 which is published in today's Gazette and which will be introduced into the Legislative Council soon.

Briefly explaining the purpose of the bill, a Government spokesman said many Government departments as well as banks have experienced grave problems in storing their files and papers.

One solution to this problem is to microfilm records which could then be destroyed.

However, this action can only be safely adopted if doubts as to the evidential value of microfilms under the law are removed.

At present, a true copy of document which is proved to have been lost or destroyed is admissible as secondary evidence of the original. But the spokesman said this is not wholly satisfactory in practice.

"For example, there may be difficulty, after a lapse of time, in calling evidence to prove destruction of the original or that the copy is a true copy.

"Where the secondary evidence consists of a microfilm reproduction, there may be the additional problem of identifying the film."

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The bill, he said, aims at dealing with these problems.

It makes admissible in evidence a print from a film of:

- * a public document which is defined as any document to which the public have a right of access;
- * subject to certain conditions, a document in the possession of the Government or an authorised person.

Proof of compliance with the conditions applicable to the latter class of documents may be given by a Government officer, by an employee of an authorised person, or by an authorised person orally or by certificate.

Authorised persons are banks, trust companies and persons authorised by the Governor,

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NEW PLAYGROUND FOR TOKWAWAN

Residents of the Lok Man Housing Estate at Kau Pui Loong Road will soon have a new playground for their leisurely enjoyment.

Covering an area of about 115,000 square feet, the playground will be located at the western side of the estate in Tokwawan.

It will include a children's playground complete with swings, slides and a merry-go-round.

The rest of the playground will be developed into a hard-surfaced basket-ball court, and a rest garden with paved footpaths, flower beds and park benches.

In addition, the Urban Services Department will plant trees and flowers in the whole area, and provide park lighting for people who want to take casual strolls in the evening.

The project is part of Government's efforts to provide more pleasure grounds for people living in densely populated areas.

Construction of the playground is expected to begin in January next year and should take about three months to complete.

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BILL TO AMEND IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE

A bill to amend the Import and Export Ordinance in one or two minor respects is published in today's Gazette and will be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly.

The Import and Export (Amendment) Bill 1973 seeks to effect some minor amendments of the principal Ordinance.

These amendments, which follow on from the recent revision of the Export (Certificates of Origin and Commonwealth Preference Certificates) Regulations, relate to the routine powers of investigation of persons and premises registered under those regulations and the inspection of licences and related documents and records.

Also slightly amended is the power of the Governor in Council to make regulations under the main Ordinance.

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ADDITIONAL UNIT FOR KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATION PLANT

An additional incinerator unit will soon be installed in the incineration plant at Kennedy Town to cope with the increasing quantity of refuse collected on Hong Kong Island.

At present, the incineration plant at Kennedy Town consists of four furnace lines, of which three are operated continuously with the fourth acting as a standby.

The installation of the fifth furnace, which will be similar in size and type to the existing ones, is expected to increase the capacity and daily throughput of the plant from the present 660 tons to 880 tons.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today: "No additional chimney will be required and it is not anticipated that the fifth furnace will increase the visible plume in the area."

At present, tender has already been invited for the civil engineering and building works for the extension of the plant.

Work is expected to begin early next year and should take about 15 months to complete.

Meanwhile, Government has already placed an order for the mechanical equipment connected with the fifth furnace.

The installation of the incinerator unit will proceed following the completion of the building works.

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COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS TO ATTEND U.N. SEMINAR ON DRUG PROBLEM

The Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T.G. Garner, will leave for Frascati, Italy, on Saturday (December 9) to attend an international seminar on narcotic drugs abuse, production and distribution.

The conference, organised by the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute, is mainly concerned with research into how different nations can cooperate in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

Mr. T. Ecob will act as Commissioner of Prisons during the absence of Mr. Garner.

Note to Editors: Mr. Garner is scheduled to leave for Italy on Saturday (December 9) by TWA at 6.25 p.m. and return on December 17 by TWA at 2.55 p.m.

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PRESS TRANSPORT FOR COVERAGE OF PRIZE PRESENTATION AT SHOW

Note to Editors: The Commander British Forces, Lt-Gen Sir Richard Ward, will present cups and trophies on Sunday (December 10) afternoon to winners of the various competitions held in connection with the Agricultural Show. Sir Richard is expected to arrive by helicopter at showground at the Sek Kong airstrip by 3.15 p.m. on Sunday.

You are cordially invited to have the prize-presentation ceremony covered. Press transport will be provided. Two government vans will leave the Kowloon Sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 1.15 p.m. sharp to take Press representatives to Sek Kong and later back to Kowloon. An officer from the Agriculture and Fisheries Department will be at the Sub-pool to assist the Press.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.