



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, July 27, 1973

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NEW TRAFFIC SYSTEM TO COMBAT CONGESTION

A new road system will be introduced by the government in a determined effort to try to sort out serious traffic congestion at a number of major intersections.

The system, known as box junctions, will be gradually introduced by the Transport Department following approval by the Governor in Council of certain amendments to the Road Traffic (Roads and Signs) Regulations.

These box junctions will be clearly identifiable by broad yellow criss-cross lines painted on the carriageway and warning traffic signs at the approaches.

In future it will be an offence for a motorist, without reasonable excuse, to drive his vehicle into the box junction unless there is a clear passageway for him to drive right through.

"This means," a government spokesman said today, "that even if the traffic lights are green, a motorist will be liable to prosecution if he drives into the box area and finds himself stranded in the middle of the junction when the lights change, because of a queue of vehicles in front of him."

Explaining further, he said a motorist should not enter the box junction when the lights are green unless he is positive he can clear the junction before the lights change.

The aim of the new system is to prevent light-controlled and other road junctions becoming completely blocked with vehicles unable to move in any direction.

/Two other

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Two other amendments to the regulations have also been approved to reduce road danger.

With immediate effect it will be an offence for a motorist to allow any part of his vehicle to cross over continuous double white lines painted on the road surface.

However, there will be certain exceptions, such as conforming with a direction given by a traffic sign or a uniformed police officer, or when it is necessary to avoid accidents.

In places where the double white line is continuous on one side, but broken on the other, a motorist commits an offence if he crosses the continuous white line nearest to him. But he is permitted to cross over the broken white line, when it is nearest to him, provided it is safe to do so.

The other amendment closes loopholes which existed under the old regulations dealing with certain powers of the Commissioner for Transport to prohibit specified vehicles from driving in designated zones, and restricting vehicles from picking up and setting down passengers or loading and unloading goods in certain zones at specified times.

A number of minor amendments to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations have also been approved. Up until now the law has required a licence disc to be displayed on a vehicle but has not specified that the disc must be a valid one. This has been put right.

The Commissioner for Transport is empowered by another amendment to issue permits authorising the use of unregistered vehicles (including trailers) within construction sites and the precincts of Hong Kong airport.

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MR. I.R. PRICE TO BE NEW COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR

The Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price, is to succeed Mr. Paul K.C. Tsui as the Commissioner of Labour, who will be going on leave prior to retirement on September 1.

The promotion has been approved by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Mr. Price, aged 53, joined the Malayan civil service as an administrative officer in 1947 after seven years of war service in France, Burma and Malaya.

Almost all his service from 1947 until 1961 was with the Department of Labour and his last appointment was Commissioner for Labour in Malaya.

He retired in 1961 under the terms of the Malayanization scheme and became Executive Director of the Coffee Growers' Association in Kenya.

In 1965 he joined the Labour Department in Hong Kong as a Senior Labour Officer. He was promoted to Assistant Commissioner in 1968 and to Deputy Commissioner in 1971.

Mr. Price was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration (T.D.) in 1957 and was appointed an Official Justice of the Peace in 1971. He is married with no children.

Mr. Price has attended the last two conferences of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva as a technical adviser to the British government delegation.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of Mr. Price are boxed today.

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MORE PEOPLE TO BE HOUSED AT KWAI SHING

Homes for another 24,000 people are to be provided in the next phase of the Kwai Shing Estate in the New Territories -- one of the largest to be built by the Public Works Department.

Work on the second stage of the estate will start in September this year and should be completed by mid-1976.

This stage will cost an estimated \$44 million and involves the construction of another five multi-storey domestic blocks, ranging from seven to 22 storeys in height, and two primary estate schools.

It will comprise some 5,300 self-contained units, each with individual kitchen and toilet facilities.

The second stage has been designed to form the commercial centre of the estate with most of the department stores, restaurants, cafes, modular markets, and a post office concentrated in one block.

Access to and from the shopping centre will be facilitated by a number of covered walkways and high-capacity lifts which will also link domestic blocks on different levels.

Accommodation will also be provided for welfare agencies and group activities, open and covered parking spaces, sitting out areas and recreation grounds, and bus terminal facilities.

Included in the scheme are two primary estate schools. These will be in addition to the four schools already provided in Stage I and another planned in Stage III.

/The first

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The first stage of the estate was completed last year and provides accommodation for some 38,000 people in nine multi-storey blocks. The third and final stage of the estate will provide housing for another 15,000.

When fully completed, it will have a population of some 77,000.

Tenders for construction of the second stage are invited in a notice published in today's gazette. The closing date is noon on Friday, August 24.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of a model of the estate are boxed this evening.

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POST OFFICE INTRODUCES SPECIAL SERVICE FOR COMMERCIAL
AND INDUSTRIAL SECTION

The Post Office will introduce a new faster postal service from September especially for the commercial and industrial sector in Hong Kong.

Known as speedpost, it is a door to door international package collection and delivery service. Times of collection and delivery are specified and agreed to by the customer, utilising predetermined flights and the integrity and resources of the distant Postal Administration.

Initially the service will operate between Hong Kong and most places in the United Kingdom.

However, plans are in hand to extend it to certain parts of the United States, to be followed by service to other countries when agreement has been reached with the Postal Administrations concerned.

Speedpost is designed to meet the needs of the modern age where there is a requirement for information and data to be conveyed regularly and urgently.

Those who will benefit from the advantages of the new service will include banks, insurance companies, department stores, shipping lines, importers and exporters.

The charges for the service are negotiated individually with each customer depending on weight, destination, frequency and timings of collection and delivery, and they are arranged on the basis of a contract.

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As a guide, the following is the basis on which the charges are calculated.

For collection from an accessible point in Hong Kong or Kowloon, \$100 will be charged for the first pound, and \$15 a pound thereafter for delivery to a place in Britain.

The main feature of speedpost ~~is its~~ speed and reliability. In fact, a parcel collected in Hong Kong at 6 p.m. can be delivered in central London around noon the following day.

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CHING CHEUNG ROAD EXTENSION

Ching Cheung Road in Kowloon is to be extended by about 4,500 feet as part of the Kowloon foothills road corridor scheme which will link the industrial towns of Kwai Chung and Kwun Tong via a super highway by 1975.

At present, it is being widened to a dual two-lane carriageway and work is expected to start within the next few weeks on extending the road from its junction with Castle Peak Road, round Lai Chi Kok Bay, to join Kwai Chung Road near the western end of the Lai Chi Kok Bay bridge.

The project will cost an estimated \$21 million.

The new Ching Cheung Road will also have dual two-lane carriageways with continuous pedestrian footways. Part of the road will consist of an overpass over Lai Wan Road, while another section will run on an embankment across the head of Lai Chi Kok Bay.

The present grade-separated interchange joining Ching Cheung Road with Castle Peak Road will be modified to allow for the continuation of all present traffic movements together with uninterrupted traffic flow on the new route.

At the other end of the new road, a section of Kwai Chung Road itself will be widened to provide a collector-distributor road on each side.

When completed the new road will form the westernmost section of the Kowloon foothills road corridor now under construction.

/The road

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The road extension project will take about 26 months to complete. The work has been designed by a firm of Consulting Engineers, Maunsell Consultants Asia, on behalf of the Public Works Department and they will also supervise the construction.

Tenders for the project are invited in a notice published in today's gazette.

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1972-73 LEGCO SESSION ENDS ON AUGUST 1

The current session of the Legislative Council will end after the next meeting on Wednesday (August 1).

A notice to this effect is published in today's gazette.

The 1973-74 session is due to be opened by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, on October 17.

During the current session 75 bills have so far been passed, compared with a total of 84 for the entire 1971-72 session.

The most significant change in the proceedings of the Legislative Council for some years came about in the present session with the introduction of simultaneous interpretation.

Not only did this enable members to speak in either English or Cantonese; it opened up the meetings to more people interested in listening to the proceedings from the public gallery.

During the year, the membership of the council increased to its present total of 30 members -- the largest in the council's history.

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PROPER FACILITIES FOR HAWKERS

A \$300,000 plan to provide proper facilities in off-street hawker bazaars has been approved by the Urban Council.

The purpose of the new council policy is to enable stallholders to trade in clean and hygienic surroundings and, as one Councillor put it, "to trade with dignity."

First to benefit from this scheme are eight bazaars, all with a life expectancy of one year or more.

"They will be provided with water, electricity, proper drainage and other facilities essential to their trade in spite of their temporary nature," an Urban Council spokesman said.

The bazaars are at Tai Kok Tsui, Kwun Chung Street, Hammer Hill Road, Yee On Street, Shui Wo Street, Hip Wo Street, Hing Wah and Wong Nei Chong Streets.

Work on the Shui Wo Street bazaar, one of the biggest bazaars in Kwun Tong, will start soon and is expected to be completed in early 1974.

It is noted that in many cases, hawkers need water to wash their stalls and the space around it as well as for their goods.

The Council has also noted that many stalls which use oil lamps, or tap electricity illegally from nearby houses, are fire risks and that proper installation of electric wiring will help eliminate this hazard.

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OPENING OF NEW FIRE STATION

The new satellite fire station at Yau Tong in Kowloon will be officially opened tomorrow (Saturday) by the newly-appointed Secretary for Security, Mr. G.P. Lloyd.

The 11-storey station is the ninth of its type built under the Fire Services Department's expansion programme to provide increased fire cover to rapidly developing areas.

The Yau Tong fire station provides covered parking spaces for four fire appliances on the ground floor, while the upper floors are reserved for living quarters.

Located at the junction of Ko Fai Road and Cha Kwo Ling Road, it will be responsible for most of the major industrial and commercial concerns in the area including Lei Yue Mun, Cha Kwo Ling and Yau Tong.

Also attending tomorrow's ceremony will be Mr. F.M. Watson, the acting Director of Fire Services.

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Note to Editors: You are welcome to cover the opening ceremony which will begin at 10.30 a.m.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FLYOVERS

Temporary traffic arrangements will be imposed on two flyovers in the mid-levels area on Sunday (July 29) to facilitate resurfacing work.

The one-way flyover connecting Cotton Tree Drive to Upper Albert Road will be closed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All vehicles, including bus route No. 4 express and tunnel bus route No. 103, will be diverted via Kennedy Road and then onto the Kennedy Road/Upper Albert Road flyover.

From 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., the two-way Kennedy Road/Upper Albert Road flyover will be open to one-way westbound traffic only.

Traffic from Upper Albert Road going to Kennedy Road will travel by the slip road to Garden Road and then via the slip road, adjacent to the Lower Peak Tram concourse, to Cotton Tree Drive and Kennedy Road.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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PRISONS OFFICERS RECEIVE LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

The Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. T.G. Garner will present letters of commendation and appreciation to 14 prisons officers for their outstanding service in coping with the disturbances at the Stanley Prison on April 20 this year.

The presentation will take place tomorrow (Saturday) at 12.00 noon at the Staff Training Institute, Stanley.

Of the 14 recipients, four will receive the Governor's commendation. The rest will be presented with letters of appreciation from the Colonial Secretary.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the ceremony. Transport will be provided. A Prisons Department vehicle will leave Queen's Pier, Edinburgh Place at 10.45 a.m. for Stanley. G.I.S. representatives and a Prisons Department liaison officer will be on hand to assist the press.

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PREVENTION OF BRIBERY BILL

A bill giving effect to two of the recommendations in the Commission of Inquiry's report was published in the gazette today for general information.

Under the bill, it will no longer be necessary for the Attorney General to give a person an opportunity to make representations before consenting to the institution of a prosecution against him for an offence against section 10 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

The bill also introduces a new section into the ordinance which empowers a magistrate, on application by the Director of the Anti-Corruption Office, to issue a written notice requiring a person, who is the subject of investigation under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, to surrender his travel documents.

If the person does not surrender them immediately the notice is served, he may be arrested and taken before a magistrate.

It is expected that all three readings of the bill will be taken at the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.