



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1993

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OPENING OF CHOI HA ROAD NORTHERN EXTENSION

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TRAFFIC FLOW IN NGAU TAU KOK WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED WHEN THE NEW CHOI HA ROAD NORTHERN EXTENSION OPENS TO TRAFFIC AT 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 29).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THIS \$18-MILLION PROJECT EXTENDED THE NORTHERN END OF CHOI HA ROAD TO LINK UP CHOI WAN ROAD WITH JORDAN VALLEY NORTH ROAD.

THE ROAD EXTENSION IS A 270-METRE LONG TWO-WAY CARRIAGEWAY FORMED ON A SLOPE. WORK ON THIS PROJECT STARTED IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

TO REDUCE NOISE GENERATED BY TRAFFIC, LOW NOISE OPEN-TEXTURED ROAD SURFACING MATERIAL IN LINE WITH FLEXIBLE PAVEMENT DESIGN IS USED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE ROAD EXTENSION WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE PARALLEL ROUTE TO THE HEAVILY CONGESTED NGAU TAU KOK ROAD HENCE IMPROVING THE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE LOCAL AREAS OF AMOY GARDENS AND CHOI HA ESTATE," HE ADDED.

THIS ROAD EXTENSION WILL BE DESIGNATED A CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY TO RESTRICT LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW.

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SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL BEGINS

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED THE DECEMBER 1993 SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN RESPECT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

THIS ROUND COVERS ABOUT 40,000 ESTABLISHMENTS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING:

- \* THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS),
- \* THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS), AND
- \* THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

/INFORMATION ON .....

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

A RANDOM SUB-SAMPLE OF ABOUT 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IS SELECTED FROM THE MAIN SAMPLE TO COLLECT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1993.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR HELP ON TEL 582 5076.

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AMENDED IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST  
BE EFFECTIVE NEXT MONTH  
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE NEWLY AMENDED HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM) 1992 EDITION GAZETTED ON DECEMBER 24 WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1.

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REMINDED TO COMPLETE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS THEREAFTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED CLASSIFICATION.

AMENDMENTS MADE ON COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION MAINLY INCLUDE REPUBLICS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, CZECH AND SLOVAKIA.

THOSE MADE ON COMMODITIES CLASSIFICATION ARE MAINLY LEFT-HAND DRIVE AND RIGHT-HAND DRIVE VEHICLES, CORMS AND ARTICLES CONTAINING WHITE-, BLUE-, AND BROWN ASBESTOS.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE AMENDMENTS HAD BROUGHT THE CLASSIFICATION UP-TO-DATE.

FREE COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT LIST ARE NOW OBTAINABLE AT BOTH CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI CUSTOMS COLLECTION OFFICES, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CENTRAL AND CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 17TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER.

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BUDDING FLIERS IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES

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FOUR ASPIRING YOUNG LOCALS WHO WANT TO FLY MODERN AIRCRAFT HAVE ENTERED THE PORTALS OF HISTORY IN THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE (GFS).

THEY ARE THE FIRST FOUR LOCALLY TRAINED PILOTS QUALIFIED TO FLY ON SIKORSKY S76 HELICOPTER FOR THE SERVICE.

GETTING OFF TO A FLYING START ARE CAPT WEST WH WU (28), CAPT KARL K T CHAN (28), CAPT MICHAEL C P CHAN (31) AND CAPT LAWRENCE C P WONG (27).

FOR THOSE YOUNGSTERS WHO LOOK UP TO THESE BUDDING FLIERS AS TOUGH GUYS IN SUN GLASSES AND BLACK LEATHER JACKETS, THEY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.

THEY ARE PROFESSIONAL AVIATORS, ALBEIT YOUNG MEN WHO MAY BE YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

THE GFS IS LOOKING FOR INTELLIGENT, MOTIVATED AND DEDICATED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE EXCELLENT HEALTH, TOP-NOTCH CO-ORDINATION, SOUND CHARACTER AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

"BEING A CAPTAIN IN THE GFS IS NOT MERELY OPERATING AN AIRCRAFT, HE MUST BE A SYSTEMS MANAGER AS WELL AS A MANAGER OF THE CREW," CAPTAIN WEST WU, A FORMER AIRCREWMAN WITH THE SERVICE, SAID.

THE GFS WAS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED IN APRIL THIS YEAR TO SUCCEED THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE.

TO MEET THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE AND TO TAKE OVER THE DUTIES OF THE BRITISH GARRISON AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE DUE TO LEAVE BEFORE 1997, A PILOT LOCALISATION SCHEME IS VIGOROUSLY UNDERWAY TO TRAIN OVER 20 LOCAL PILOTS FROM AN AB-INITIO TO FULL OPERATIONAL STANDARD.

IT IS PLANNED THAT THESE YOUNG MEN WOULD TAKE OVER IN STAGES FROM THE CURRENT TEAM OF OVER 20 EXPATRIATE PILOTS.

LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, GFS UPHOLDS THE MOTTO, "SEMPER PARATUS" - ALWAYS READY, IMPLYING A READINESS TO ADAPT TO HONG KONG'S EVER CHANGING AND EXPANDING NEEDS.

WHAT IS THE MASCULINE MYSTIQUE OF FLYING? THE FOUR CAPTAINS SAY IT IS THE MAGNETIC ATTRACTION OF THE SKY.

"YOU SIMPLY CANNOT DESCRIBE THE KIND OF SATISFACTION, THE KIND OF ACHIEVEMENT YOU HAVE WHEN YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO FLY IN THE SKY. THE JOB ITSELF IS IRRESISTIBLE," CAPTAIN MICHAEL CHAN, A FORMER AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, SAID.

HIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY CAPTAIN LAWRENCE WONG, WHOSE INTEREST IN FLYING WAS BUILT UP WHILE WORKING AS A MAINTENANCE OFFICER IN THE SERVICE.

THE SERVICE OFFERS MORE TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE: THE MULTIPLE DUTIES OF AN AIRCRAFT COMMANDER.

THE TOUGH TRAINING AND AIR EXPERIENCE HAD PREPARED THEM TO CONDUCT AIR PATROL, SEARCH AND RESCUE, AERIAL SURVEILLANCE, HELP IN FIGHTING HILL FIRES, CHAUFFEURING VIPS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND DURING NATURAL DISASTERS, TO AIR-LIFT SUPPLIES AND CASUALTIES TO HOSPITALS.

BUT THE HAND-PICKED GUYS HAD UNDERGONE ALL THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A FLYING TRAINING COURSE. THEY HAVE TO EXCEL IN COUNTLESS ROUNDS OF TRAININGS BEFORE THEY FINALLY SUCCEEDED.

FIRSTLY, AIRSICKNESS.

CAPTAIN KARL CHAN IS CANDID. HE SAID HE FELT AIRSICK ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF HIS FLYING TRAINING.

"I'D ALWAYS FEEL DIZZY AFTER EACH AEROBATIC EXERCISE," THE CITY POLYTECHNIC GRADUATE IN BUSINESS AND MARKETING SAID. THIS, HE TOOK SOME TIME TO OVERCOME.

THEN COMES THE LANGUAGE TEST.

"PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH IS A MUST FOR IT IS THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE FOR AVIATION INDUSTRY. BESIDES, NEARLY ALL OUR INSTRUCTORS ARE EXPATRIATES," CAPTAIN WU SAID.

AFTERALL, BAD LANGUAGE COMMAND COULD STRAITJACKET THEIR PERFORMANCE.

WHAT FOLLOWED WERE ENDLESS EXAMINATIONS.

AFTER PASSING AN APTITUDE TEST AND A SEARCHING AND FULL BOARD INTERVIEW, THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES HAD TO ATTEND A SEARCHING AND 42-WEEK TRAINING COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TO OBTAIN A PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE.

WHEN THEY RETURNED TO HONG KONG, THEY HAD TO GO THROUGH A FLYING TEST DESIGNED BY GFS ON BEHALF OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEY CAN HAVE THEIR LICENCE CONVERTED TO THE HONG KONG COMMERCIAL PILOT'S LICENCE.

TO FULFIL THE SPECIAL DUTIES OF GFS, THEY HAVE TO ATTEND A SIX-LEVEL CONVERSION TRAINING PROGRAMME TO LEARN THE SPECIAL TECHNIQUES REQUIRED OF THEIR JOB, FROM LEARNING TO FLY LOCALLY TO OBTAINING THE SKILLS TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND FINALLY TO FLYING WITH NIGHT VISION GOGGLES.

BUT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BORNE FRUITS.

"THEY ARE ALL GOOD PILOTS, THEY HAVE DISPLAYED THEIR STRONG MOTIVATION AND TALENT DURING THEIR TRAINING. THE ENTIRE UNIT INCLUDING I ARE PROUD OF THEM FOR BEING ABLE TO PASS THE FIRST STAGE OF TRAINING IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME," THE GFS CONTROLLER MR BRIAN CLUER SAID.

BUT AFTER THEY CLIMBED ONE HILL YET ANOTHER HAS A WAY OF COMING INTO VIEW. THERE ARE YET GREATER CHALLENGES LYING AHEAD.

MR CLUER IS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD PASS ALL SIX LEVELS OF TRAININGS AND TAKE OVER THE WORK OF THE EXPATRIATE OFFICERS IN THE SERVICE BY 1997.