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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, February 2, 1973

CONTENTS

	Page No.
The new Housing Bill is published today	1
The Secretary for Home Affairs sends New Year greetings to people of Hong Kong	3
The prize-giving ceremony for fishermen will be held on Sunday	4
A Registration of Persons team will visit Sai Kung next week	5
Three footbridges will be built in Kwai Chung soon	5
The Urban Services Department launches "Operation Kung Hei" to usher in the New Year	6

Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

Friday, February 2, 1973

NEW AUTHORITY TO HAVE OVERALL CHARGE FOR HOUSING

Housing Bill 1973 Published

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Legislation is being introduced to create a reconstituted Housing Authority with overall responsibility for overseeing the massive 10-year public housing drive in Hong Kong.

Under the Housing Bill 1973, published in today's Gazette, the new Authority will assume the roles of the existing Housing Authority, the Urban Council, the Urban Services Department's Housing Division, the Resettlement Department and the Housing Board from April 1 this year.

For the first time, there will be one single body charged with implementing the Government's plan to build homes for 1.8 million people in a decade.

This will achieve the Government's stated aim of streamlining the work of the various agencies which have in the past been responsible for different aspects of public housing in Hong Kong.

The Housing Authority will operate through a new Housing Department which will act as the Authority's administrative arm in building and managing all types of public housing estates.

/In addition ....

In addition to its executive responsibility for estates, the new Housing Authority will advise the Governor on all housing policy matters.

Its members will all be appointed by the Governor and will comprise up to 13 unofficial members (of which 8 will be Urban Councillors) and up to 6 official members. The Secretary for Housing will be the chairman.

The Authority will have the power to co-opt non-members to serve on its select committees.

The Bill repeals both the Housing Ordinance and the Resettlement Ordinance. The work of the Housing Board, which was set up in 1965 to advise on general housing policy, will also be taken over by the new Authority.

Existing tenancies and licences created under these two ordinances will continue, and property vested in the present Hong Kong Housing Authority and authorities under the Resettlement Ordinance will be transferred to the new Housing Authority.

It is intended to retain the financial arrangements under which the present Housing Authority operates, but the reconstituted Authority will have to present its programme annually to the Governor and it will be able to borrow from the Government or from other sources approved by the Governor.

Among other things, the Bill removes the role of the Commissioner for Resettlement as a statutory authority for clearing land and transfers this role to the new Authority.

/The Bill ....

The Bill empowers the Authority to determine which categories of people should be eligible for public housing but these decisions will require approval.

Other parts of the Bill deal with the control of the Authority's estates and prescribe offences and penalties.

The Housing Authority will be able to make its own by-laws which will be subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.

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NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM S.H.A.

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The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C.C. Luddington, today sent his best wishes to the people of Hong Kong for the Lunar New Year.

In his message, he said: "On the threshold of the New Year, I should like to send to all in Hong Kong my best wishes for the New Year.

"During the past year efforts from all circles on community work have been more intensive and fruitful than ever before and I am grateful to all for the contribution they have made and I am sure will continue to make.

"With spring bringing with it a fresh and auspicious start for the New Year, I wish all Peace, Happiness and Long Life in the New Year."

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Friday, February 2, 1973

FISHERMEN TO RECEIVE PRIZES ON SUNDAY

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The traditional prize-giving ceremony for fishermen, arranged by the Fish Marketing Organisation, will be held on Sunday (February 4) at the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Fish Market in Fat Cheung Street, Kowloon.

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. E.H. Nichols, will address fishermen and guests.

Mrs. Nichols will present certificates and prizes to 19 fishermen who have rendered meritorious service in the saving of lives at sea.

Prizes will also be presented to 40 other fishermen who have landed the largest value of marine fish during the past year.

Long service medals will be awarded to 56 members of the Fish Marketing Organisation who have each completed 25 years of service in the Organisation.

After the presentation, guests will be entertained by a lion dance.

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Note to Editors: The prize-giving ceremony will begin at 12 noon on Sunday (February 4). You are cordially invited to cover the ceremony.

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MOBILE REGISTRATION TEAM TO VISIT SAI KUNG

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A Registration of Persons team will visit the Sai Kung and Hang Hau after the Lunar New Year holidays to register adults and children for identity cards.

The team will work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily between February 7 and 16.

It will be stationed at Tseng Lan Shu on February 7, Tai Po Tsai on February 8, and Wah Nam Sam Yuk School on February 9.

It will move to Hang Hau-Rural Committee Office on February 12, Ho Chung Village Office on February 13, and Tso Wo Hang Field Office on February 14. The team will be stationed at Sai Kung Rural Committee Office between February 15 and 16.

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THREE FOOTBRIDGES TO BE BUILT IN KWAI CHUNG

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Three pedestrian footbridges will shortly be built in Kwai Chung Road.

Two of the footbridges will link Kwai Fong and Kwai Hing low cost housing estates on one side of the road with a large industrial area on the other side.

The third will be built at a point about mid-way between the two estates.

Ramps will be provided on two of the footbridges for the passage of bicycles and handcarts.

Work on the project is expected to begin in March and take about twelve months to complete.

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"OPERATION KUNG HEI" TO USHER IN NEW YEAR

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The Urban Council and the Urban Services Department will usher in the Year of the Ox with "Operation Kung Hei", a series of performances of traditional Chinese dances, singing and acrobatic displays.

These performances will take place in playgrounds throughout Hong Kong.

Three performances will be given in the New Territories on Sunday, February 4 (at Tai Wai Playground, Sha Tin, at 9 a.m. at Luen Wo Market Playground, Fan Ling at 1 p.m. and at Yuen Long Resettlement Estate Playground at 4 p.m.).

They will be repeated for people living on Hong Kong Island on Monday, February 5 (at Chai Wan Recreation Ground at 10 a.m., at Chater Road in the Central at 1.30 p.m. and at Shek Pai Wan Resettlement Estate Recreation Ground at 4 p.m.).

Kowloon residents can enjoy the performances on Tuesday, February 6 (at MacPherson Playground at 10 a.m., at Cheung Sha Wan Road playground at 1 p.m. and at Wan Tau Hom Resettlement Estate Recreation Ground at 3.30 p.m.).

Packets of "Lucky Money" will be handed out to children attending the shows.

The troupe of performers will go from one playground to another in a convoy of gaily-decorated floats.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.