P.R.H. 7 (REVISED) 4000091

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, June 23, 1972

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO KWUN TONG

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A multi-million dollar project is in hand for the construction of an alternative route to Kwun Tong Road to form part of the North East Kowloon Corridor.

This duplication of Kwun Tong Road will relieve present congestion and provide for anticipated traffic increase.

The dual-two-lane road will be an extension of Wai Yip Street and runs parallel to, and just to the west of, Kwun Tong Road. It then joins Kwun Tong Road about mid-way between Clearwater Bay Road and Ngau Tau Kok Road.

The junction of the new road with Kwun Tong Road will have a grade-separated interchange to allow both eastbound and westbound traffic to merge with and diverge from the main Kwun Tong Road traffic.

The section of Kwun Tong Road between this junction and the Clearwater Bay Road junction will be widened from six to 12 lanes.

A pedestrain bridge near St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School will permit safe-crossing of the Road.

The design of the project has allowed for future improvements to adjacent road junctions, including those at Ngau Tau Kok Road and planned development roads on the Kowloon Bay Reclamation.

The design of the flyover at the Wai Yip Street Extension junction has also taken into account future requirements for the Mass Transit Kowloon Bay Station and a nearby maintenance depot.

The entire project is expected to be completed early in 1975.

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GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR HONG KONG OLYMPIC TEAM

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The Government is to give an outright grant of $90,000 to help finance the participation of a Hong Kong team in the Olympic Games in West Germany later this year.

The grant will go to the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee which had applied for financial assistance following an invitation to take part in the Games.

The Games will be held in Munich from August 26 to September 6.

The Hong Kong team will comprise some 17 competitors and two officials of the Olympic Committee. The sports in which the competitors will take part are fencing, judo, shooting, swimming and yachting.

The total cost of sending the team to Munich is estimated at more than $170,000.

The government's grant of $90,000 is in line with previous decisions to give financial assistance to the Federation and Olympic Committee towards the cost of Hong Kong participating in the Olympic Games.

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PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS NEAR YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER

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Work will start shortly on the construction of pedestrian subways and drainage works in the reclamation in Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Anchorage to provide easier and safer pedestrian crossing of Tong Mi Road.

The work will involve the construction of two pedestrian subways off Tung Kun Street and Dundas Street, and about 1,750 feet of stormwater drains.

The project forms part of the Tong Mi Road Extension Scheme, which when completed, will become a major road linking Kowloon South with Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.

Construction work is expected to start in August this year and should take about 14 months to complete.

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TRAINING SCHOOL FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE

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The construction of the first permanent training school for the Preventive Service at Tai Lam Chung in the New Territories will begin in August this year.

The school will mainly consist of a three-storey office and classroom block and a four storey residential block able to accommodate 113 trainees. Quarters for senior and junior staff will also be provided in three separate blocks.

A single storey gymnasium attached to the main residential building will also serve as a multi-purpose hall.

The project is estimated to cost more than $5 million.

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SQUATTERS GIVEN ACCOMMODATION

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About 60 squatters staying at the open playground of the Kwun Tong Community Centre will now be moved to the Sau Mau Ping Welfare building where they will be given proper covered shelter and relief grants.

These squatters were originally living at the Sai Cho Wan squatter area in Kwun Tong.

During the rainstorm, they were taken to the Kwun Tong Community Centre where they were temporarily accommodated on the open playground because the Centre was already fully occupied by survivors of the Sau Mau Ping landslide.

This morning these squatters complained about their open-air accommodation and staff of the Resettlement Department, after interviewing them, decided that they be given covered accommodation immediately.

After moving into the Sau Mau Ping Welfare building, these squatters will be given cash, blankets, cooking utensils and other relief measures.

A Public Works Department engineer will visit their squatter area on Monday to see whether or not the area is dangerous. If so, the Resettlement Department will offer resettlement to these squatters.

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PARK IMPROVEMENTS

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The Government is to undertake several projects to provide new rest areas and to improve existing ones.

A new sitting-out area of about 3,000 square feet will be built around an old shrine at the junction of Tung Lo Wan Road and Tai Hang Road. It will be lined with flower beds and contain several garden benches.

At the same time, some 3,000 feet of concrete footpaths will be laid in the Tin Hau Temple Road Park as part of the development of the 23-acre park.

The existing network of footpaths, a favourite walk for residents of the North Point area, will also be renovated. This will enable flowers and trees to be planted, while two areas of land next to the footpath will be turfed and swings and benches added.

Work will also begin next month on refreshment kiosks in five parks on both sides of the harbour. They will be at Fat Kwong Street Garden, Willow Street Playground and Oxford Road Playground in Kowloon and Victoria Peak Garden and Blake Garden on Hong Kong Island.

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CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING AREA

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The Government is planning to construct a cargo handling basin in Chai Wan to meet the demands of industrial development in the area.

When completed the basin would facilitate the transportation of raw material or finished products to and from Chai Wan by sea. At present only land transportation can be used.

As part of the scheme a breakwater would have to be constructed to protect the basin from rough seas so that it could be used throughout the year.

A notice in the Government Gazette today outlines the area that would be affected by the construction of the breakwater. It calls on people who have objections or any claims of loss of private right to submit their objections or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months from the date of the Gazette Notice.

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BILL SEEKS GREATER CONTROL OVER CEMETERIES

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An amending bill which seeks to give the authorities greater control over the management of private cemeteries was published in today's gazette.

If enacted, the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 1972 would enable regulations to be made prescribing or providing for the depth and size of graves and vaults, as well as burial fees.

Another amendment would allow a charge to be made for permission to exhume human remains, whether in private or public cemeteries or elsewhere.

The bill, which will be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly, also empowers the authorities to make regulations in respect of other matters which they consider necessary for the proper regulation and control of public and private cemeteries.

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ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY ENQUIRY CENTRE

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An Emergency Enquiry Centre has been set up to co-ordinate answers to enquiries connected with the recent disasters, including matters relating to property that arise out of them.

The telephone numbers are H-95288, H-95388 and H-95488. The Centre will open tomorrow (Saturday) morning at 10 a.m. and will remain open daily, including Sundays, thereafter from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

The Centre has a dual function: To co-ordinate answers to questions which cannot by answered by existing enquiry offices; and to receive enquiries direct from members of the public.

The Centre will not replace existing Government offices to which the public are already accustomed to addressing queries. These are: The Tenancy Enquiry Bureau, the Buildings Ordinance Office, the Enquiry Centre at Western Police Station, the Legal Aid Office, the City District Offices and the Public Enquiry Centres.

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OCEAN TERMINAL CAR PARK BY-LAWS APPROVED

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By-laws regulating the parking of vehicles in the Ocean Terminal Car Park have been approved for the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd. by the Governor in Council.

The by-laws, published in today's gazette, are modelled on the Road Traffic (Parking and Waiting) Regulations which cover vehicles using government multi-storey car parks.

A vehicle which has been abandoned or allowed to wait in contravention of the by-laws may be removed by the company, which owns and controls the car park.

The vehicle may be recovered by its owner if a removal charge and a storage charge are paid, or if it is released by order of court. Other actions may be taken if the owner does not claim it within a set period.

Other by-laws prohibit lorries and public light buses from using the car park, and set out the obligations of drivers using the park, and the duties of the park attendants.

On conviction, a maximum penalty of $500 is prescribed for a breach of some of the by-laws.

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INAUGURATION OF KUK'S 20TH TERM

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The inauguration of the Heung Yee Kuk's 20th Term will be held in the City Hall Concert Hall on Monday, June 26, at 10.15 a.m.

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will witness the oath-taking and will present certificates of office to the councillors whose two-year term of office began on June 1, 1972.

The Kuk is the Government's statutory advisory body on New Territories' affairs.

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Note to editors: You are invited to cover the inauguration ceremony on Monday. The Heung Yee Kuk will issue special badges for this purpose, and they can be collected from the Press Room, Government Information Services, tomorrow (Saturday). No press representatives will be admitted without them.

The left balcony will be reserved for television camera teams and photographers who are advised to bring telephoto lens. Two rows of seats on the left of the auditorium fronting the stage have been set aside for reporters. Press representatives should be in place by 10.00 a.m. G.I.S. officers will be there to assist them.

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY BEGINS

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON WEDNESDAY

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The Commission of Inquiry appointed to investigate the recent rainstorm disasters, announced today that its public hearings will begin at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday (June 28).

They will be held in the Lecture Room North, City Hall High Block, 8th Floor.

In the meantime, any person who feels that he can give useful information on the subject of the inquiry is invited to communicate at once with the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Mo Yiu-chor, whose address is Secretary, Commission of Inquiry, Central Government Offices (East Wing), Hong Kong (Telephone No. H-95312).

All that is necessary, at this stage, is a letter in either English or Chinese, giving the writer's name and address and a brief summary of the information he can give. Arrangements will be made for a further statement to be taken if necessary by the Commission's counsel. The Commission will then decide whether the deponent should be called to give oral evidence before them.

All evidence given before the Commission will be absolutely privileged, and no witness will be liable to any suit or other civil proceeding in respect of such evidence.

The Commission held a private meeting today, and this afternoon made preliminary visits to the disaster areas at Sau Mau Ping and Po Shan Road.

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Friday, June 23, 1972

ANOTHER SUB-TREASURY IN KOWLOON?

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The Government is now considering opening another Sub-Treasury in Kowloon.

However, before any decision is reached, a sample survey will be conducted in July, August and September to see if there is adequate demand for additional Treasury facilities.

The survey, organized by the Secretariat for Home Affairs, the Census and Statistics Department and the Treasury, is to be carried out with the assistance of undergraduates of the University of Hong Kong.

The survey will require the co-operation of the public who are paying their rates, water charges, etc. at the Kowloon Sub-Treasury on the 4th floor of Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.