



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1978

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BUDGET DAY ON WEDNESDAY

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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79 WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL MOVE THE SECOND READING OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1978 AT 2.30 P.M. DURING WHICH HE WILL OUTLINE HONG KONG'S ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1978-79.

THE ESTIMATED HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WILL BE SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE BILL TO BE PUBLISHED IN A GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY AT 2.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL WILL BE ADJOURNED AND RESUMED ON MARCH 29 WHEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SPEAK ON THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATE OF HONG KONG AND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIONS AS INDICATED BY THE BILL AND THE ESTIMATES. IF NECESSARY, THE DEBATE WILL CONTINUE ON MARCH 30.

ON APRIL 12 AND 13, THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THEIR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE STAGE AND THE FORMAL THIRD READING OF THE BILL.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE COMPREHENSIVELY COVERED BY RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT WEDNESDAY'S SITTING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE OVER RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S CHINESE (RTHK 2) AND ENGLISH (RTHK 3) SERVICES. THE SAME CHANNELS WILL ALSO BROADCAST ALL THE OTHER BUDGET DEBATES LIVE.

COMMERCIAL RADIO'S CHINESE SERVICE WILL BROADCAST THE FIRST BUDGET SITTING LIVE ON CHANNEL ONE.

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NEW TERRITORIES POPULATION BOOM OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY HE EXPECTED THAT BETWEEN 120,000 AND 150,000 PEOPLE WILL BE ADDED EACH YEAR TO THE POPULATION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

+THE PROOF OF THIS IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE, FOR NO SOONER IS THE SEA BEING RECLAIMED THAN THE PILE DRIVERS OF THE HOUSING ESTATES ARE HARD ON THE HEELS OF THE BULLDOZERS OF RECLAMATION,+ HE TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

+AND, IF YOU ARE SURPRISED BY THE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS TAKING PLACE NOW, YOU WILL BE STAGGERED BY WHAT YOU SEE IN 1980-81, IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN, AND EVEN IN TAI PO, WHERE AN ESTATE FOR 33,000 PEOPLE IS ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT APART FROM THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AT YUEN LONG AND TAI PO, LARGE AREAS OF INDUSTRIAL LAND WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SO THAT THE INCOMING RESIDENTS COULD FIND WORK LOCALLY.

ABOUT HALF A MILLION SQUARE FEET OF INDUSTRIAL LAND WOULD COME ON THE MARKET THIS YEAR AND ANOTHER MILLION SQUARE FEET THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

+IN 1980/81 AN AREA ON THE EAST COAST OF SHA TIN COVE WILL HAVE BEEN RECLAIMED FROM THE SEA AND WILL BE COMING ON STREAM FOR DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 5.5 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF FLATTED FACTORY SPACE WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE AT KWAI CHUNG, TUEN MUN AND SHA TIN IN 1978/79.

MOST OF THIS WOULD BE ON LAND DEVELOPED UNDER THE LAND EXCHANGE SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE EXCHANGE SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH A MYSTERY TO FOREIGN INVESTORS, HAD WORKED WELL, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOW IN NEED OF AN OVERHAUL.

IN ADDITION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE CITED THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN AS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THE SYSTEM WORKING SUCCESSFULLY.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THAT ABOUT 40 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF PRIVATE LAND HAD BEEN ACQUIRED FOR DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED.

/HE EXPLAINED THAT

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HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SYSTEM CARRIED AN EXCHANGE RATIO OF TWO SQUARE FEET OF DEVELOPMENT LAND FOR EACH FIVE SQUARE FEET OF PRIVATE LAND ACQUIRED.

ORIGINALLY THE TWO SQUARE FEET OF LAND REPRESENTED THE ROUGH PROPORTION OF LAND AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE PROVISION OF ROADS, DRAINAGE AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES, SUCH AS SCHOOLS, POLICE STATIONS AND THE LIKE.

+IN OTHER WORDS, FOR A TOTAL LAND AREA OF 500 ACRES, 300 ACRES WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC USE AND 200 ACRES COULD BE RE-ALLOCATED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE 5:2 RATIO OF 20 YEARS AGO HAD NOW BECOME OUTMODED BECAUSE OF THE VAST INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF LAND REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, FOR MORE SCHOOLS, POLICE STATIONS, ROADS, FLY-OVERS AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

+WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN FALLING BEHIND IN THE RATE AT WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE LAND AVAILABLE TO MEET THE EXCHANGE COMMITMENT, TO AN EXTENT THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN DEPRIVED, ALTHOUGH NECESSARILY DEPRIVED OF LAND IT WANTED TO HAVE FOR PRIVATE COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

ADDING THAT THE SYSTEM NEEDED AN OVERHAUL, HE POINTED OUT THAT A WORKING GROUP IS AT PRESENT ENGAGED IN SEEING WHAT ADJUSTMENTS TO IT ARE NEEDED IN THE LIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS REHABILITATION CENTRES

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LADY MACLEHOSE SPENT THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE AND THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT WELFARE ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE ABERDEEN CENTRE, LADY MACLEHOSE WAS MET BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE= THE HEAD OF SWD'S REHABILITATION DIVISION, MRS. ROSE GOODSTADT= THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE, MRS. JUDITH MA AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE, MISS OPHELIA CHAN.

DURING THE TOUR, LADY MACLEHOSE WAS BRIEFED ON THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE TWO INSTITUTIONS.

THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE, OPERATED BY SWD'S REHABILITATION DIVISION, IS AIMED AT PROVIDING SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN THE FORM OF MEDICAL CARE, RECREATION, EVENING ADULT EDUCATION, AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS. IT HAS AN ENROLMENT OF ABOUT 230.

THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE, WHICH IS IN THE SAME COMPOUND, WAS FORMERLY THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE BEFORE 1972. IT PROVIDES DAY AND RESIDENTIAL TRAINING FACILITIES TO 140 MODERATELY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 15.

THE CHILDREN ARE TRAINED IN SIMPLE SELF-CARE SKILLS, TAUGHT GENERAL KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING HABITS AND WORK TOLERANCE. IN ADDITION, SOME FORM OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING SIMPLE READING, WRITING, KNOWLEDGE OF NUMBERS AND SOCIAL MANNERS IS GIVEN.

AT THE END OF THE TOUR, LADY MACLEHOSE HAD TEA WITH TRAINEES FROM BOTH CENTRES, DURING WHICH SOME OF THEM DISPLAYED THEIR TALENTS WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, IN SINGING AND MARTIAL ARTS.

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NEW PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER APPOINTED
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THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, MR. A.F. MEYERS, WILL GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE NEXT MONTH (MARCH) AFTER SERVING THE GOVERNMENT FOR 16 YEARS.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. CHAU CHAM-SON, GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER.

MR. MEYERS FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1959 AS A PLANNING OFFICER AND BECAME A SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER IN JUNE 1964. HE WAS PROMOTED THREE YEARS LATER TO ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY, WHICH WAS RETITLED AS GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER IN FEBRUARY 1970, AND TO HIS PRESENT RANK IN AUGUST 1973.

MR. CHAU, AGED 45, WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS AN ASSISTANT PLANNING OFFICER IN 1960. HE WAS PROMOTED TO PLANNING OFFICER IN 1962, TO SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER IN 1967 AND TO CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER IN 1970. HE BECAME GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER IN AUGUST 1973.

ON PROMOTION TO PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, MR. CHAU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE.

MR. CHAU IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS.

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NEW YEAR ENTERTAINMENT A GREAT SUCCESS

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THE SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS EVENTS ORGANISED FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE PUBLIC DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WAS +A GREAT SUCCESS+.

COMMENTING ON THIS TODAY, MR. NORMAN OEI, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH RECREATION, SAID:
+SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE ORGANISED AGAIN NEXT YEAR WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON PROGRAMMES TO SUIT THE WHOLE FAMILY.+

+THIS YEAR A LARGE VARIETY OF EVENTS WERE HELD BUT IT WAS THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR FAMILIES, LIKE THE FAMILY SPORTS CAMPS AT THE SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, AND EVENTS INVOLVING MASS PARTICIPATION PROVED TO BE THE MOST POPULAR,+ MR. OEI SAID.

+THIS IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, BECAUSE TRADITIONALLY, THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN FAMILIES GET TOGETHER TO ENJOY THEMSELVES.+

+OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, LIKE PICNICS, SOCIAL GATHERINGS, FUN FAIRS, ALSO PROVED TO BE POPULAR AND WERE WELL-ATTENDED DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOUNG FACTORY WORKERS, SPENT THEIR HOLIDAYS ABROAD,+ MR. OEI ADDED.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME, THE GIS MOBILE STREET THEATRE STAGED A TOTAL OF 10 LIVE SHOWS AT VARIOUS PLACES IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 4 AND 12.

ONE DAY-SHOW AND ONE NIGHT-SHOW WERE HELD ON NEW YEAR DAY AND THE FOLLOWING DAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

THE CO-ORDINATOR OF THE STREET THEATRE SAID THAT THE SHOWS, WHICH INCLUDED PERFORMANCES BY WELL-KNOWN TV ARTISTES, LION DANCES AND DISTRIBUTION OF FREE GIFTS, HAD ATTRACTED LARGE HOLIDAY CROWDS.

+AT THE SAME TIME, MESSAGES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS LIKE FIGHT CRIME, CLEAN HONG KONG, ANTI-DRUGS AND ROAD SAFETY WERE WELL RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON PIRATED TAPES AND RECORDS
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A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (MARCH 2) AT 3 P.M. AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COPYRIGHT SUB-DIVISION OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE AT THE SIXTH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN KOWLOON.

THE CONFERENCE WILL EXPLAIN TO THE MEDIA THE SERVICES PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE TRADING IN PIRATED CASSETTE TAPES AND RECORDS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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INQUEST INTO DEATH OF STANLEY PRISONER
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AN INQUEST WILL BE HELD INTO THE DEATH OF WONG HON-FAI, A PRISONER WHO DIED AT STANLEY PRISON ON FEBRUARY 6, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THE INQUEST WILL BE HELD BY THE CORONER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A CORONER'S INQUIRY BEFORE A JURY OF THREE IS A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT WHENEVER A PERSON DIES IN OFFICIAL CUSTODY.

+MEANWHILE, THE CASE IS SUB-JUDICE AND NO FURTHER OFFICIAL COMMENT CAN BE MADE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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GOVERNOR COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCE
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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON TONG HOK-SUM ON JUNE 10 LAST YEAR SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

TONG WAS CONVICTED OF THE MURDER OF CHIU MING-CHAU AT DIAMOND HILL ON NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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CHECKS ON FIRE HAZARDS
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY AT JORDAN VALLEY HOUSING ESTATE IN NGAU TAU KOK TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO CHECK DOMESTIC PREMISES FOR OBSTRUCTION TO MEANS OF ESCAPE AND OTHER FIRE HAZARDS SUCH AS STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS WITHOUT A LICENCE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE BLOCK 13 OF THE ESTATE AT 9.30 A.M. DIVISIONAL OFFICER KEN HODGKINS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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NEW OPENING HOURS FOR GPO BOX LOBBIES
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) THE NEW OPENING HOURS OF THE POST OFFICE BOX LOBBIES IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE WILL BE FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE EXISTING OPENING HOURS OF THE LOBBIES ARE FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M., ON MONDAY TO SATURDAY, AND FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THEY ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY.

THE EXTENSION OF OPENING HOURS OF THE LOBBIES IS TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR P.O. BOX HOLDERS OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE TO COLLECT THEIR MAIL.

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COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES IN NT
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THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE SETTING UP TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES NEXT WEEK AT FAN LING AND SHEUNG SHUI FOR THE COLLECTION OF WATER CHARGES FOR THE THIRD PERIOD, 1977.

THE FAN LING COLLECTION CENTRE WILL BE LOCATED AT FAN LING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT LUEN WO HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON MARCH 6 AND 7. THE SHEUNG SHUI CENTRE WILL BE AT THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE, SHEK WU HUI AND WILL OPERATE ON MARCH 8 AND 9.

THE HOURS OF BUSINESS ON THESE DAYS WILL BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICTS ARE URGED TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE SPECIALLY PROVIDED FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE.

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