

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Tuesday, July 4, 1972

CLOSURE ORDER ON SEVERAL MID-LEVELS BUILDINGS REMOVED

The closure orders on three buildings in Mid-Levels are being lifted today as a result of progress on preliminary remedial works in the area of the Po Shan Road landslide.

The Director of Public Works, Mr. Robson, said this afternoon the closure orders are being removed from Nos. 17, 19 and 21 Babington Path.

Residents of these properties and other properties in the area, which were vacated without closure orders, can now, of course, return to their homes.

This includes the residents of Alpine Court (12 Kotewall Road), Clementine Court (49 Conduit Road), and the residents of buildings on the western side of the landslide. Water, gas or electricity are now available to these buildings on a temporary, or permanent basis.

Mr. Robson said, however, that the closure orders would remain in force for buildings in the immediate vicinity of the slip. Emerald Gardens Blocks I and II (36 Kotewall Road), Mirror Marina (47 Conduit Road), Skyline Mansion (51 Conduit Road), and 21 Po Shan Road have been damaged or are immediately affected and must be made safe before reoccupation.

Po Shan Mansions (10-16) Po Shan Road, 53 and 55 Conduit Road are to be kept under observation for the time being but their closure orders will be removed as quickly as possible.

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Arrangements will be made with the police for residents to enter these buildings and recover more of their personal effects **if** they so wish. These arrangements will be announced separately tomorrow.

The Director of Public Works also announced that with effect from tomorrow (Wednesday) and by arrangement with the Commissioner for Transport, Conduit Road in the area of the landslide will be reopened to through traffic for residents requiring access to Po Shan Road, Hatton Road, University Drive and Conduit Road beyond house No. 55.

These residents should arrange to collect permits at the Commissioner for Transport's office at Blake Block, Queensway as from today and are warned that delays may occur because of the continued remedial work in the area. Applicants must bring proof of identity and residency.

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21,000 PEOPLE BEING OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING

A total of 21,000 people are being offered public housing following the completion of a comprehensive survey of licensed and squatter areas after last month's rainstorms.

A Public Works Department engineer began the survey some two weeks ago. As a result of his last report, which has just been submitted to the Resettlement Department, another 7,000 squatters have been offered public housing.

This brings the total to 21,000 people.

Of these, about 5,000 will go to resettlement estates, while the others will be given Government low-cost housing.

Commenting on reports that the Resettlement Department is withholding empty flats from the public, a department spokesman said this was not true.

He said that these so called empty rooms had all been allocated to either squatters involved in clearance operations or to tenants of other estates due for decantation.

In fact, some of the department's clearance operations and decantation programmes had to be postponed due to the sudden in-take of rainstorm victims.

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UNSCRUPULOUS HUT SELLING AT TAI HANG TUNG

Officers of the Resettlement Department today uncovered cases of people selling their huts in the Tai Hang Tung squatter area where 6,000 squatters have been offered public housing as a result of a special survey.

Officers who are interviewing squatters at Tai Hang Tung for eventual resettlement discovered that many unscrupulous squatters are offering their illegal structures for sale.

A Resettlement Department spokesman said that these huts would be demolished as soon as the present occupants moved to resettlement estates or Government low-cost housing.

He said those who were foolish enough to buy them would not be given compensation or resettlement after these huts had been demolished.

The spokesman appealed to the public to be on their guard against such racketeering.

He said the area in Tai Hang Tung had been declared unsuitable for squatting and it was for this reason that the present squatters were given urgent resettlement or low-cost housing.

Resettlement Department officers had been sent to Tai Hang Tung to warn these squatters against practising such an unscrupulous trade.

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TAXI DISPUTE SETTLED

About \$400,000 has been paid to workers of a taxi company in settling a dispute over the termination of employment following the closure of the business.

The dispute, involving 240 workers of the World Taxi Company, was over the question of wages in lieu of notice for the termination of services and severance pay.

As a result of direct negotiations, the workers received an ex-gratia payment covering severance pay and year-end bonus in addition to the wages payable to them in lieu of notice.

Earlier, officers of the Labour Department had visited the company and advised the management on provisions of the Employment Ordinance.

About 70 per cent of the retrenched workers have been introduced to new jobs by the management.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

The water supply to certain premises in Aberdeen on Hong Kong Island will be interrupted for five hours beginning from 1 a.m. on Thursday, July 6.

The temporary water stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a night leakage test for waste detection.

The area to be affected is bounded by Yue Kwong Road and Yue Hong Road, including the Yue Kwong Estate.

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EDUCATION OFFICER RETIRING AFTER 22 YEARS

A Senior Education Officer, Mr. N.C. Fong, is retiring after 22 years with the Education Department.

Mr. Fong joined the department as an Assistant Master (later regraded Assistant Education Officer) in 1950.

He was promoted to Education Officer in 1960 and to his present grade in 1968. At one stage earlier this year he acted as Assistant Director of Education (Further Education).

Mr. Fong had been heading the Overseas Students and Scholarships Section until his retirement.

Outside his official duties, Mr. Fong also takes an active part in community work. He holds responsible positions in a number of educational bodies, including membership of the Court, Hong Kong University.

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Note to Editors: A farewell party will be held for Mr. Fong in the conference room, Education Department Headquarters, at 11.30 a.m. on July 7 (Friday) when the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, will present a retirement gift to him.

You are cordially invited to send a representative to cover the farewell party.

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NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS

Illuminated overhead direction signs to guide motorists are being installed along many approach roads to flyover complexes and busy traffic junctions.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that this was a further measure to provide safe and smooth traffic flow at all busy intersections.

White acrylic panels with place names in black mounted on steel gantries are illuminated at night by fluorescent tubes housed behind the plastic sheets so that the directions are legible during the day or night.

The spokesman said that the siting of these gantry signs, together with the large sized place names in English and Chinese, would enable motorists to select their correct traffic lanes some distance before reaching the actual junction.

Seven overhead signs have already been installed in the vicinity of the Kowloon City and San Po Kong interchanges.

Additional illuminated signs are being installed as more grade separated interchanges are built, particularly on the approaches to the cross-harbour tunnel.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the illuminated signs will be distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.