



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RECORD AMOUNT SPENT ON PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AWARDED A TOTAL OF 60 CONTRACTS VALUED AT A RECORD TOTAL OF ABOUT \$1 267 MILLION IN NOVEMBER.

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRACTS, WORTH ABOUT \$485 MILLION, WAS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAGE ONE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

THE HIGHWAY WILL BE A 2.3-KILOMETRE ELEVATED ROAD, MOSTLY OVER WATER ALONG THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT WILL START FROM VICTORIA PARK ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND END AT HEALTHY STREET WEST IN NORTH POINT.

ANOTHER MAJOR CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT \$122 MILLION, WAS FOR THE RECLAMATION AND SITE FORMATION WORK ON TSING YI ISLAND.

UNDER THIS CONTRACT, ABOUT 22 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE FORMED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE WORK INCLUDES THE FORMATION OF LAND WEST OF TSING YI LAGOON AND THE RECLAMATION OF PART OF THE LAGOON AND TSING YI BAY.

ON COMPLETION, THE NEW LAND WILL BE USED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, VILLAGE HOUSING, OPEN SPACE, AND GOVERNMENT, INSTITUTE AND COMMUNITY PURPOSES.

OF THE CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE MONTH, 38 WERE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD AND THE OTHERS ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PWD TENDER BOARD.

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HIGHER CAR TOWING FEES FROM FRIDAY
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MOTORISTS WHOSE VEHICLES ARE TOWED AWAY FOR HAVING PARKED ILLEGALLY OR FOR OBSTRUCTING OTHER VEHICLES UNNECESSARILY WILL, FROM FRIDAY (JANUARY 2), HAVE TO DIG DEEPER INTO THEIR POCKETS TO PAY THE CHARGES.

THE PRESENT TOWING CHARGE OF \$80 WILL BE INCREASED TO \$110 AND THE STORAGE CHARGE IN POLICE VEHICLE POUNDS WILL GO UP FROM \$20 A DAY TO \$35 A DAY. THIS DAILY STORAGE CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED FOR EACH DAY AFTER THE SECOND DAY THE VEHICLE REMAINS IN A POUND.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED TODAY THAT THE CHARGES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1974.

+THESE LATEST INCREASES HAVE BEEN NECESSITATED BY THE RISING COSTS OF PROVIDING THE TOWING AND STORAGE FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO TOW AWAY SOME VEHICLES TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND THE SAFETY OF ROAD-USERS.

+SUCH ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BECOME MORE NECESSARY AS THE VEHICLE FLEET CONTINUES TO GROW AND ROADS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONGESTED,+ HE SAID.

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STAR FERRY TIME-TABLE ADJUSTED
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THE FREQUENCY OF THE STAR FERRY'S EDINBURGH PLACE TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE WILL BE REDUCED IN THE EARLY MORNING AND LATE AT NIGHT.

FROM SUNDAY (JANUARY 4), FERRIES WILL RUN AT 20 MINUTE INTERVALS FROM 6 AM TO 6.30 AM, AND FROM 11.45 PM TO 2 AM. PREVIOUSLY THEY OPERATE AT 10 AND 12 MINUTE INTERVALS RESPECTIVELY DURING THE EARLY AND LATE PERIODS.

THE STARTING AND CLOSING TIMES OF THE SERVICE AT 6 AM AND 2 AM WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT PATRONAGE OF THE FERRY SERVICE DURING THESE PERIODS HAD DROPPED CONSIDERABLY FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY OF SERVICE IS TO ECONOMIZE ON RISING OPERATION AND FUEL COSTS, HE SAID.

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SHELTER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF WARMTH
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY IT HAD MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO OPEN A NUMBER OF ITS COMMUNITY CENTRES AS TEMPORARY SHELTERS AND TO DISTRIBUTE BLANKETS DURING COLD SPELLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD COME INTO OPERATION IN THE EVENT OF THE TEMPERATURE DROPPING TO 10 DEGREES CELSIUS OR BELOW.

OVERNIGHT SHELTER AND BLANKETS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR STREET SLEEPERS AND OTHER PEOPLE TO KEEP THEMSELVES WARM IN COLD WEATHER.

UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, NINE COMMUNITY CENTRES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL OPEN TO LET PEOPLE STAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, BLANKETS AND SLEEPING BAGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT ALL THESE CENTRES AND AT FIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FIELD OFFICES.

+WHEN A COLD SPELL STRIKES, PEOPLE IN NEED ARE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF THESE FACILITIES, AND STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO GO OUT TO DISTRIBUTE BLANKETS,+ HE SAID.

/THE NINE

THE NINE COMMUNITY CENTRES ARE:

HONG KONG ISLAND -

- * WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AT WESTERN STREET-
- * CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 230 CHAI WAN ROAD-

KOWLOON -

- * WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 104 CHING TAK STREET-
- * KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 17 TSUI PING ROAD-
- * TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE AT TONG YAM STREET-

NEW TERRITORIES -

- * PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE AT TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN-
- * LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL AT KWAI WO HOUSE, LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN-
- * FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE AT FANLING WAI-
- * TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL AT TAI HING ESTATE, TUEN MUN.

THE FIVE FIELD OFFICES WHICH WILL OPERATE AS BLANKET DISTRIBUTION POINTS DURING OFFICE HOURS ARE:

- * WAN CHAI SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT AT 194 LOCKHART ROAD-
- * CAUSEWAY BAY SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT AT CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING-
- * ABERDEEN SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT AT 48 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD-
- * TAI PO NORTH COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE AT TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING IN TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO-
- * SHEUNG SHUI SOCIAL CENTRE IN SAN CHOI STREET, SHEUNG SHUI.

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BUILDING STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 48 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN NOVEMBER, COMPARED WITH 66 IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

OF THESE NEW PLANS, 18 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX FOR KOWLOON AND 24 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED A HEALTH AND WELFARE CENTRE AT KAM SHING ROAD, A STUDENT HOSTEL IN SHA TIN AND A SWIMMING POOL IN TAI PO.

THE DECLARED COST OF ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$377 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$348 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

/THEIR TOTAL

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THEIR TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA AMOUNTED TO 187 268.7 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 25 331.5 SQUARE METRES FOR DOMESTIC AND 161 937.2 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-DOMESTIC USES.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 47 PROJECTS, INCLUDING A SCHOOL EXTENSION AT CLIFF ROAD, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION IN TSZ WAN SHAN, TWO TELEPHONE EXCHANGE EXTENSIONS ON PENG CHAU AND IN SHEK WU HUI, AND A JETTY ON LAMMA ISLAND.

ALTOGETHER, 40 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN NOVEMBER, INCLUDING A SCHOOL IN SAI KUNG, A PETROL FILLING STATION AT LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND A SHIP REPAIR YARD WITH ANCILLARY BUILDINGS ON TSING YI ISLAND.

THE OFFICE ALSO AGREED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 57 BUILDINGS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR
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EDINBURGH PLACE EAST, BETWEEN THE CITY HALL MAIN ENTRANCE AND QUEEN'S PIER, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 2 PM AND 8 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 5) FOR THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR.

THE CITY HALL CAR PARK WILL ALSO BE CLOSED BETWEEN THESE HOURS FOR THE EVENT.

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