



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, January 13, 1976.

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TRAINING LEVY ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

A training levy of 0.25 per cent of the value of all construction work undertaken in Hong Kong and payable by the contractors concerned will come into effect on Sunday (January 18).

Announcing this today, the Chairman of the Construction Industry Training Authority, Mr. Jeffrey Yeh, said the levy would be collected by the authority to establish and maintain a training centre to provide one-year full-time basic training for about 660 craft trainees in the key construction trades.

"The training centre will play a major role in ensuring not only that the industry will be adequately supplied with trained skilled workers, but also that it will become more efficient," he said.

Construction work on the training centre, located in Tai Yip Street, Kwun Tong, is expected to begin next month.

This rate of 0.25 per cent, announced in the Gazette last month, is imposed under the Industrial Training (Construction Industry) Ordinance 1975.

Contractors and authorised people responsible for all construction work started on or after September 5, 1975, the date when the Ordinance became effective, are obliged to notify the Training Authority in a prescribed form (Form 1 in the regulations).

Under the Ordinance, contractors are required to notify the Authority within 14 days after a payment is made to them in respect of any construction work.

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They are also required to notify the Authority in another prescribed form (Form 3 in the regulations) not later than 14 days after the completion of any such work or of any stage of such work.

Those who fail to comply with either of these provisions will be liable to a fine and a surcharge not exceeding twice the amount of the assessed levy may also be imposed on the contractors.

The Training Authority will notify contractors in writing of the assessment of levy payable by the contractors within 28 days after receipt of notices.

Prescribed forms can be obtained from the Training Authority at Asian House, 12th floor, Room 10, 1 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong. Enquiries may be directed to the Secretary of the Authority at 5-280008.

The Ordinance does not apply to construction work which started before September 5, 1975, and no levy is payable for any or part of any work completed before Sunday (January 18).

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU KEPT BUSY LAST MONTH

The Fire Prevention Bureau carried out 15,662 inspections last month, compared with 12,843 for the previous month.

The largest number of inspections, as usual, related to means of escape, totalling 8,602. Of this, 7,645 inspections were in response to complaints.

During the month, 86 vehicles used to carry inflammable liquids and compressed gases were inspected, bringing to 546 the number of such vehicles examined since April last year.

There was a big increase in the number of inspections on factories and other industrial undertakings in December - 3,234 compared with 2,652 for the preceding month. A further 1,586 general complaints were also looked into.

Other inspections covered: premises used for storing or manufacturing dangerous goods (595), building ventilation systems (477), schools (165), fire service installations in residential and industrial buildings (384), restaurants and nightclubs (274), places of public assembly (134), timber yards and storage (13), neon signs (7) and miscellaneous (86).

Nineteen fires were investigated in detail by officers from the Bureau.

The Bureau finalised 501 plans for new building projects, issued or renewed 349 dangerous goods licences and four timber licences. Over 580 fire hazard abatement notices were issued and 88 prosecutions were taken out resulting in the imposition of fines amounting to over \$44,460.

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TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH LEADERS

Forty youth leaders will attend a training course next month designed to help them develop their skills and knowledge in human relations.

The course, organised by the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department, will adopt a "laboratory" approach in which participants will learn through experimenting in a secure environment.

Lectures will be given every Monday and Thursday evening from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. between February 16 and 26 at the Lady Trench Training Centre in Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai.

The course will end with an overnight camp at the Diocesan Youth Centre in Pok Fu Lam Road on February 28.

It is open to all young people between 18 and 25 who have completed at least Form Five level.

As the course is limited to 40 participants, enrolment will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Application forms are available at Room 908, Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-712467) and on the Top Floor of the Kowloon Central Post Offices Building at 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel. 3-884111 Ext. 331) until February 6. There will be a charge of \$15 a person.

Six similar courses have been organised since early 1974. More than 250 applications were received in the last course held in November 1975, indicating that there was a demand for this type of training among young people.

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REPRIEVE FOR AIRPORT COACH SERVICE

The airport coach service, Route 200, is to continue operating at least for another six weeks.

The decision was taken following talks at the weekend between the Transport Department and KMB on results of the two-week trial period which featured a revised route and lower fares.

During the trial period from December 29 to January 12, the service carried an average of 1,236 passengers a day compared with an average of 715 for the period December 1 to 28.

Although this figure is still below the break-even point, which at a \$2 fare calls for 1,425 passengers a day, officials are encouraged by the response to the recent changes in route and fare. The company has suggested that the service be continued for a further period up to the end of February in the hope that passenger traffic will increase.

While there has been an increase in the number of passengers carried to and from intermediate points the survey conducted by Transport Inspectors on January 7 and 8 shows 74 per cent of passengers were travelling to the airport and 65 per cent from the airport. During the survey a total of 1,247 passengers were interviewed.

The Central District terminus is located in Ice House Street, between Connaught Road Central and Chater Road and the Airport terminus is situated at the western end of the Arrivals Hall, next to the public car park.

The first coach leaves Central at 7 a.m. and the Airport at 7.25 a.m. and the service then operates every 15 minutes until 7.40 p.m. from the Airport and 8.15 p.m. from Central.

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On journeys to the Airport, coaches travel via Ice House Street, Chater Road, Murray Road, Queensway, Hennessy Road, Great George Street, Gloucester Road, Waterfront Road, Cross-harbour Tunnel, Hong Chong Road, Chatham Road, Ma Tau Wei Road, Chi Kiang Street, To Kwa Wan Road, Sung Wong Toi Road, Olympic Avenue, Airport Departure Level and Airport Arrival Level.

On journeys to Central, the route is via Olympic Avenue, Tam Kung Road, Ma Tau Wei Road, Chatham Road, Hong Chong Road, Cross-harbour Tunnel, Waterfront Road, Gloucester Road, Paterson Street, Yee Wo Street, Causeway Road, Irving Street, Pennington Street, Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Jackson Road, Chater Road, Club Street, Connaught Road Central and Ice House Street.

The fare is \$2 per single journey but passengers who board after the coach has passed through the Cross-harbour Tunnel pay only \$1.

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CROWN LAND SALES

Two lots of Crown land on Hong Kong Island will be put up for sale by auction next month.

The auction will take place on February 13 (Friday) at 2.30 p.m. in the lecture room, 8th floor, City Hall.

One lot is situated between Upper Lascar Row and Hollywood Road. It measures 4,700 sq. ft. and is earmarked for non-industrial purposes.

The other lot, measuring 12,060 sq. ft., is at Chung Hom Kok Road. It is for private residential purposes.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), ground floor, Hong Kong and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, 10th floor, Kowloon.

Sale plans can also be inspected at these offices.

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LAND SALES IN N.T. NET NEARLY \$2 MILLION

Two lots of Crown land in Clearwater Bay Road were sold by auction today (Tuesday) at an average price of \$21.34 per square foot.

The first lot, totalling 27,930 sq. ft., went for \$640,000; the second lot totalling 62,500 sq. ft., was sold for \$1,290,000.

Both lots will be used for private residential purposes.

The auction took place in San Po Kong Government Offices and was administered by staff of the District Office, Sai Kung.

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