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HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, September 8, 1972

DUST NUISANCE TO BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED FROM GOVERNMENT QUARRIES

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The latest methods of quarrying and processing rocks are being introduced at the two government quarries at Diamond Hill and at Mount Butler.

The modernisation will enable workers to carry out their operation in safer working conditions and virtually eliminate the problem of dust discharging into the atmosphere during the mixing process.

At the same time it will lead to an almost doubling in the output of asphalt and bitumen macadam which is essential if the needs of the road construction and maintenance programmes are to be met.

A spokesman for the Quarries Section of the Public Works Department said today: "Modernisation of the two quarries actually began some years ago and the whole process is estimated to be completed towards the end of next year."

"New stone crushers are being installed at Mount Butler Quarry and orders have been placed for similar crushing plants for the Diamond Hill Quarry."

In order to tackle the dust problem, a modern dust filtration method using "bag" filters for the final stage of cleansing will be adopted.

About 99.9 per cent of the fine granite dust produced during the crushing and mixing process will be extracted by the "bags", thus preventing it from escaping into the atmosphere.

/The fine .....

The fine granite particles extracted will be used as "filler" to improve the durability of the asphalt produced by the mixing plant for road surfacing.

Two dust filtration plants adopting this new extracting process will be installed soon at the two quarries at a cost of nearly $1 million.

Apart from tackling the dust problem, the Quarry Section is also looking into the safety of the workers.

A quarrying practice, known as the "benching method," is being adopted and private quarry operators have been informed that they will have to adopt the same method of quarrying by the end of this year.

Under this method, workers will not be permitted to operate at heights up to several hundred feet from ground level as is the case now.

Rocks will be blasted from the hillside at varying heights but not more than 80 feet from one level to the other. In this way, "benches" will be formed.

The spokesman said that the height of the faces will thus be limited to not more than 80 feet and the risk of falling from a height will be minimised.

The whole modernisation project will cost more than $3½ million.

Production by the quarries will be increased from the present 300,000 tons to 750,000 tons annually on the completion of the scheme.

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MORE FLATS FOR PAK TIN ESTATE

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About 8,600 people will have new homes when another two domestic blocks are completed in the Pak Tin estate, Shum Shui Po.

The blocks, one 16 storeys high and the other seven storeys, will be built to the latest Mark VII design which is similar to the present government low cost housing projects.

A modular market providing places for 40 vegetable and fruit stalls, and 10 meat, fish and poultry stalls are included in the plans.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said the total estimated cost will be about $16 million.

Tenders for the construction are now being called and the work is expected to begin some time next month and take two and a half years to complete.

Pak Tin estate is the first resettlement estate under the management of the Housing Authority as part of a pilot scheme.

It is also the reception estate for Shek Kip Mei which was the first resettlement estate built after the disastrous Shek Kip Mei fire in 1954. Some of the present tenants were among those made homeless in the fire.

A spokesman for the Resettlement Department said today that some 10,000 tenants of the old Shek Kip Mei estate involved in the first phase of the estate's conversion scheme, will be offered the opportunity of applying for flats in some of the already completed blocks in the Pak Tin estate next month.

These tenants are now residing in six blocks which will be the first to be converted into self-contained units when the conversion scheme starts next year.

Details of the multi-million dollar scheme will be announced later.

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GOVERNMENT PAVILION AT C.M.A. EXHIBITION

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The Government is to build a pavilion at the Chinese Manufacturers' Association Exhibition at the Wan Chai reclamation this year.

The pavilion, occupying an area of 9,000 square feet, is circular in shape and consists of a walk around area with a series of three dimensional displays.

In the centre, there will be a permanent cinema showing films of general interest about Hong Kong.

Some 30,000 people are expected to visit the pavilion daily and it has been designed in such a way to allow a one-way flow of people from entrance to exit.

The designer is Mr. Patrick Chung of the Graphic Atelier Limited.

The theme of the pavilion this year shows the outline of life in Hong Kong during the next few years.

Construction of the pavilion, which is estimated to cost $260,000 including the interior decoration, is expected to begin next month to be completed in time for the opening of the C.M.A. Exhibition on December 7.

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STAFF QUARTERS FOR NEW LAI CHI KOK GENERAL AND MENTAL HOSPITALS

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Construction of the New Lai Chi Kok General Hospital is well under-way, and today tenders are being called for the erection of staff quarters.

The general hospital, as distinct from the Second Mental Hospital to be set up in the same area of the Lai Chi Kok promontery, is expected to be opened in 1974.

It will function as an acute general hospital, with a 24-hour casualty and emergency service. For this reason, there must be an adequate number of resident medical, nursing and other staff whose work will require their attendance at the hospital on short notice at any hour.

The quarters are expected to be completed at the same time as the general hospital. They are to be set up in three blocks and will accommodate doctors, matrons, nurses, nursing auxiliaries, stewards, hospital secretaries, foremen and hospital orderlies.

A special feature of one of the blocks will be a 12,000 square foot training school for psychiatric nurses, and the idea is to have such staff trained in time for the opening of the Second Mental Hospital. This hospital with 1,300 beds forms part of the total development scheme proposed for the upper part of the Lai Chi Kok promontery site.

Construction of the approach road providing access to this portion of the site has already been completed.

Site formation for the staff quarters of the mental hospital will be constructed later, and will form a separate tender.

The Second Mental Hospital is expected to be ready in 1976.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL AND KOWLOON

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The Building Authority today (Friday) declared three pre-war buildings in Wellington Street to be in a dangerous condition.

Two other buildings in Tung Shing Lane and Wellington Street were declared liable to become dangerous and demolition was ordered.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that this group of three-storey buildings -- Nos. 148, 150, 152 and 154 Wellington Street and No. 1 Tung Shing Lane -- had been under observation for some years.

However, recent inspections made following complaints from occupants and the removal of portion of the wall covering, revealed fractures in the brickwork of both load bearing party walls of No. 152.

These had worsened to the point where there was a danger of collapse of the front main walls of Nos. 150, 152 and 154 Wellington Street.

In addition, there is a severe fracture in the rear wall of No. 150, which also forms part of No. 1 Tung Shing Lane at the rear.

Much of the structural timber work of the floors and roofs of all five buildings is in a decayed condition and beyond reasonable repair.

As it is considered that No. 148 Wellington Street and No. 1 Tung Shing Lane are liable to become dangerous during the demolition of Nos. 150, 152 and 154, Wellington Street, notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on October 20 were posted today.

In Kowloon, the verandah of a building in Shanghai Street was also declared dangerous by the Building Authority today.

/This four-storey .....

This four-storey pre-war building, at No. 506 Shanghai Street, was inspected following a complaint from a tenant.

It was found that load-bearing brick piers in the verandah were seriously fractured with evidence of recent movement indicating that there is a risk of collapse.

Notice of intention to apply for a closure order in Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 26 was posted today.

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"NOTICE TO QUIT" FORM REVISED

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The Commissioner of Rating and Valuation today announced that he has specified a revised Notice to Quit, Form RC11, under the Rent Increases (Domestic Premises) Control Ordinance.

Copies of the new form are now available at the offices of the Rating and Valuation Department, Public Enquiry Counters, Tenancy Inquiry Bureaux and District Offices of the New Territories Administration.

The change has been necessitated because it is now considered that certain provisions printed on the existing form are set out in a manner which does not adequately comply with the Ordinance.

The Commissioner added that in future only the new form should be used for serving a Notice to Quit under the ordinance as the previous form has been revoked.

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RETIREMENT OF GIS OFFICERS

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Two officers of the Government Information Services will be retiring shortly after a combined total service of more than 50 years with the Hong Kong Government.

They are Mr. David Willis, I.S.O., Chief Information Officer, and Mr. Lee Kam-ching, Supplies Supervisor Cl. II.

To mark the occasion, the Acting Director of Information Services, Mr. David Ford, presented mementos to both officers on behalf of their colleagues at a farewell dinner party this (Friday) evening.

Mr. Willis first joined the Government in 1937 as a member of the Senior Clerical and Accounting Staff and served in a number of departments.

After the war he resigned from the Public Service and worked for many years with Reuters news agency.

He rejoined the Government in 1952 as an Assistant Press Officer in the Information Services Department. In 1959 he was promoted to Senior Information Officer and to his substantive post of Chief Information Officer in 1963.

In October last year, Mr. Willis was appointed Royal Visit Press Officer to H.R.H. The Princess Anne during her visit here.

He was awarded the Companion of Imperial Service Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June this year. Mr. Willis went on leave prior to retirement on September 1.

Mr. Lee joined the Government Supplies Department in June 1948 as Store Keeper Class III. He was promoted to Store Keeper Class II in April the following year.

In November 1959, Mr. Lee was transferred to the Information Services Department and has worked for the department since then. He will go on pre-retirement leave on September 19.

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SIR MURRAY ATTENDS RECEPTION IN LONDON

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, took time off from official meetings in London on Wednesday (September 6) to attend a reception given by the Chamber of Chinese Traders (U.K.) Limited.

The occasion, according to a telegram received in Hong Kong last night, marked the inauguration of the fifth term office bearers who had earlier been sworn in by Mr. A.M.J. Wright, Hong Kong Commissioner.

Sir Murray's visit to the chamber was his first since he took office last year.

The Governor spent some 45 minutes at the reception chatting with Mr. Chan Sau-on, President of the chamber and members of the committee and their guests.

At the swearing in ceremony, Mr. Wright said: "We in the London Office look forward to another year of co-operation with your chamber in working for the Hong Kong community here.

"The range of community activities organised by Hong Kong people in Britain is increasing year by year and your chamber is playing an important part both in providing services and in encouraging Hong Kong people to take more interest in public affairs.

"I hope that more public spirited people will co-operate with your chamber during the coming year in this work.

/"The London .....

"The London office is always prepared to consider new schemes for joint action and I will be able to discuss any new proposals when I visit Hong Kong later this year."

The Governor's informality at the reception was the topic of discussion later among chamber members at a dinner party.

Mr. Chan commented, "the Governor's visit is a clear indication of the Hong Kong Government's interest in the welfare of Hong Kong people in Britain."

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GOVERNOR RETURNS ON SUNDAY

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Note to Editors: The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose will return to Hong Kong on Sunday afternoon after a holiday in Britain.

Lady MacLehose is remaining in Britain for a few more days.

Sir Murray will arrive at Kai Tak by B.O.A.C. flight BA/802. The estimated time of arrival at the airport is 3.50 p.m.

The Governor will meet the Press briefly in the V.I.P. Press Room before going to Government House.

Press representatives covering his return should assemble in the Airport Press Room in the Terminal Building half an hour before the scheduled touchdown.

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ARRIVAL OF MR. RIPPON

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Note to Editors: Mr. Geoffrey Rippon, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will arrive in Hong Kong on Sunday at 8.40 p.m. by flight ML 568.

Mr. Rippon is here mainly on a private visit, but during his stay he will have talks with the Governor and with senior advisers of the Hong Kong Government on Britain's accession to the European Economic Community and its effects on Hong Kong.

Mr. Rippon will meet the press briefly on arrival at Kai Tak.

Press representatives who wish to meet Mr. Rippon are requested to assemble in the Airport Press Room half an hour before his arrival.

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EXPORTS OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO CANADA

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The Director of Commerce and Industry announced today that exports of restrained textiles to Canada must be licensed on or before next Friday (September 15) for shipment by the end of the month.

A special shipment scheme will be operated from September 18 to September 29.

Under the scheme, all quotas not licensed by September 15 will be made available to all applicants for shipment before the end of the month.

Full details are announced in Notice to exporters: Series 4 (Canada) No. 5/72 which was issued yesterday.

In a separate Notice to Exporters: Series 4 (Canada) No. 6/72 also issued yesterday, the Director announced details of control arrangements regarding exports of restrained textiles to Canada for the year commencing October 1.

Trade Associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters Series 4 will receive copies of the Notices shortly. Anyone wishing to seek further information is invited to contact the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:

Mr. H.W.K. Lai - Assistant Trade Officer
Tel. No. H-252858

Mr. C.K. Lai - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. H-445666

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Friday, September 8, 1972

HAWKERS TO BE OFFERED ALTERNATIVE SITE

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Some 40 hawkers trading on the pavement along Lung Cheung Road in Ngau Chi Wan will be offered an alternative site when their present stalls are demolished on Tuesday for a major road project.

Others who are operating illegal trades there will be considered for a site if they can prove that they had held a hawker's licence at one time or another.

A Government spokesman said today that "no rice bowls will be broken" and no one will be made homeless in the clearance, which is connected with the Lung Cheung Road Extension Scheme.

A $20 million flyover complex will be built across the site where the hawkers are presently trading.

The spokesman said that the project could not be delayed any further as tenders for the job have already been accepted.

These hawkers, he said, were first informed in December, 1971 and since that time various reminders have been issued.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.