



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 3, 1973

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HONG KONG OFFERS BETTER PROSPECTS FOR WORKERS

Fewer workers are going abroad to take up employment as a result of better job opportunities in Hong Kong.

This is highlighted in recent statistics which shows a steady decline in the numbers of Hong Kong workers seeking employment overseas.

During the one-year period from July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971, 3,048 workers went overseas. This compares with 1,759 in 1971/72 and 1,438 in 1972/73.

This trend has been attributed to a continued demand locally for both skilled and unskilled workers as a result of the developing economy, for unless wages and conditions of employment offered are particularly attractive, Hong Kong workers are not inclined to seek employment overseas.

The Labour Department is responsible for protecting the interests of those workers who do go overseas.

Under the contracts for Overseas Employment Ordinance, all manual emigrant workers, except those in specifically excluded categories, must enter into written contracts with their prospective employers before leaving Hong Kong.

The Commissioner of Labour has authority to attest the contracts, which, among others, must provide for a number of conditions to the advantage of the worker.

These include facilities for remitting money to his family of dependents in Hong Kong, compensation in case of death or injury arising out of and in the course of employment, compensation in case of incapacity due to occupational diseases, and repatriation to Hong Kong at the employers' expense at the end of the contract.

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If the terms are unfair to the worker or do not adequately protect his interests, the Commissioner can under the contracts for Overseas Employment (Amendment) Ordinance refuse to attest the contract.

In the case of workers from overseas coming here to work, there is no discrimination against them once they have been engaged in employment, except for certain immigration restrictions.

These workers are mostly skilled and are recruited from overseas to fill specific jobs, such as setting up new manufacturing industries, working for major public works projects and the training of local workers.

Recently a number of workers from the Philippines came to Hong Kong as domestic servants under the sponsorship of their employers.

They have to enter into individual agreements approved by the Director of Immigration and in their case a guarantee of maintenance and repatriation is required.

There is no distinction between a local person and an immigrant, except in residential status, and all workers in Hong Kong enjoy equal benefits and protection afforded them by legislation.

If they want to seek employment they can approach the Local Employment Service of the Labour Department which provides free assistance to all job seekers irrespective of sex, religion, nationality, or race.

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HARBOUR BORING TESTS FOR TUBE SYSTEM

Boring tests in connection with the construction of the Mass Transit Railway tunnel between Kowloon Point, Tsim Sha Tsui, and the western end of the Wan Chai Reclamation will begin on Saturday (October 6).

The main objective of the tests is to investigate the formation of seabed and the bed rock levels. This will give the necessary information for the design and construction of the tunnel.

The work, to be carried out from two staging rigs, will involve the drilling of 15 holes along the line of the tunnel. It will take about three months to complete.

To reduce marine traffic in the work areas, vessels arriving at or departing from Hong Kong should use the Western Approaches.

A notice to this effect has been issued by the Marine Department to shipmasters, owners, agents, charterers and pilots.

The notice stipulates that all vessels with a draught of not more than 28 feet should use the western entrance when arriving at or leaving from a berth in the western sector of the harbour.

For those entering port by way of Lei Yue Mun and intending to proceed to a berth in the western sector of the harbour without the assistance of a pilot, they will have to go by way of Lei Yue Mun, Tathong Channel, and the East or West Lamma Channel.

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Vessels arriving in Kowloon Bay with a draught in excess of 28 feet are advised to obtain the services of a pilot for movement through the Hung Hom Fairway.

To warn shipping, the staging rigs, craft and floating plant engaged in the operation will be painted in "DAYGLO" mandarin orange colour and the craft and floating plant will carry appropriate signals for vessels engaged on boring work.

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NEW APPOINTMENT TO LEGCO

The Secretary for Security, Mr. G.P. Lloyd, has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council with effect from October 1, 1973 until June 30 next year.

In his capacity as Secretary for Security, he is responsible for the co-ordination of policy and programmes covering external security, emergencies, internal law and order, immigration, prisons, narcotics and fire services.

Mr. Lloyd, who is 46, assumed his present post in June this year.

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"LAP SAP" DUMP TO BE TURNED INTO RECREATIONAL AREA

Controlled tipping of refuse at Ngau Tam Mei in Yuen Long by systematic disposal of refuse without causing pollution hazard will begin shortly.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that after the tip was closed, some 5.5 acres of new land would have been formed for development as open space for recreational use.

Referring to the formation works, the spokesman said it would be carried out by sanitary and inoffensive methods.

"Controlled tipping consists essentially of the spreading and compaction of refuse in layers," he explained.

"Each layer will be covered with inert material as tipping proceeds to seal off all working faces daily at the dump to obviate noxious smells and to facilitate the control of vermin and to eliminate health as well as fire hazards."

Covering material such as earth will be obtained from adjacent areas which will be excavated to form platforms.

Construction of access roads to the tip, drainage, and protective works required for the systematic disposal of refuse will begin in December and is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

The project has been designed by the Development and Airport Division of the Civil Engineering Office, Public Works Department. Construction works will also be supervised by the Division.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

The Building Authority today declared two pre-war buildings in Aberdeen Main Road to be in a dangerous condition and two others in Wing Lok Street, Western District, liable to become dangerous.

The two buildings declared dangerous are Nos. 166 and 168 Aberdeen Main Road.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said detailed inspection of the two buildings showed that the load bearing brick walls were fractured and there was extensive spalling of reinforced concrete portions, as well as severe corrosion to the reinforcement.

Timbers were generally in poor condition and those in the roof were so decayed that there was a danger of collapse, he said.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on the buildings today. The applications will be heard in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on October 16.

Referring to the two pre-war buildings at Nos. 92 and 94 Wing Lok Street, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said they were inspected after the emergency closure of No. 96.

"Evidence of settlement in the walls, coupled with defects in the light reinforced concrete frames, indicate that there is a risk of failure during or after the demolition of the adjoining buildings."

In view of the danger of collapse of No. 96, applications will be made for the closure of Nos. 92 and 94.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on October 17 were posted today.

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RESIDENTIAL LAND FOR SALE

Two lots of Crown land for private residential development will be put up for auction later this month.

Both lots are located off Homantin Hill Road in Kowloon. One measures about 31,000 square feet and the other 34,500 square feet.

The auction will be held at 2.30 p.m. on October 26 in the City Hall lecture room, 8th floor.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained at 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.

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DIB HOLIDAY ISSUE

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Thursday) which is a public holiday.

Copies will be available for collection at 1 p.m. from the GIS Press room, 6th floor, Beaconsfield House.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.