



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1979

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FOUR NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILLS TO BE PROPOSED
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FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE DRAFT LEGISLATION WILL BE A WASTE DISPOSAL BILL, A WATER POLLUTION BILL, AN AIR POLLUTION BILL AND A NOISE ABATEMENT BILL.

THE CONCEPT BEHIND THIS LEGISLATION WAS LAID DOWN BY A U.K.-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT DURING A SERIES OF CONSULTATIVE SESSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) TWO YEARS AGO, AND THE DETAILED DRAFT LAWS ARE NOW MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH EPCOM VETTING SESSIONS.

A DRAFT WATER POLLUTION BILL AND AN AIR POLLUTION BILL WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THE COMMITTEE'S COMING TERM, AND THESE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT BILL.

A DRAFT WASTE DISPOSAL BILL WAS DISCUSSED IN EPCOM'S LAST TERM EARLIER THIS YEAR AND IS NOW BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE WATER AND AIR POLLUTION DRAFTS MAY BE PUT TO LEGCO DURING THE LATTER PART OF THIS YEAR WITH THE NOISE ABATEMENT DRAFT FOLLOWING IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

THE NEW LAWS BEING DRAFTED AIM TO PRODUCE CONTROL MEASURES WHICH WILL MATCH THE EMISSION OF VARIOUS KINDS OF POLLUTANTS TO THE ABILITY OF DIFFERENT AREAS TO ABSORB OR DISPERSE THEM.

THE OBJECTIVE IS, ON THE ONE HAND, TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY POLLUTION, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND AVOIDING THE IMPOSITION OF BLANKET CONTROLS WHICH CAN HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A CHANGE IN EPCOM'S MEMBERSHIP DURING ITS LAST TERM BROUGHT IN REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY OVER THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

HE SAID: +THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TOWARDS ENSURING THAT THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ARE PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE.+

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT EPCOM, WITH ITS INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATION, ON ALL PROPOSALS FOR DETAILED REGULATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE NEW LAWS AS WELL AS ON THE MAIN BODY OF THE LAWS THEMSELVES.

THE COMMITTEE'S STRUCTURE HAS BEEN FURTHER AMENDED FOR THE COMING TERM IN ORDER TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH IT IS CALLED UPON TO GIVE ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

ON AUGUST 31, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. RAYSON HUANG, TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

/THE APPOINTMENT

THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. HUANG, A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AND A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, UNDERLINES BOTH THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE ADVICE GIVEN BY EPCOM IN DRAWING UP MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A NUMBER OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES DEALING WITH SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL FIELDS.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES ON LAND, WATER AND AIR POLLUTION, NOISE ABATEMENT AND LEGISLATION ARE TO BE FORMED.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, EPCOM DEVOTED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS THE NEW POWER STATIONS AT CASTLE PEAK AND LAMMA ISLAND.

IN THE COMING TERM THE COMMITTEE IS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED PARTICULARLY IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS IN ADDITION TO KEEPING AN EYE ON DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE ENVIRONMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE : THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (CHAIRMAN), DR. RAYSON HUANG, MR. J.L. MARDEN, MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, MR. H. LITTON, MR. W.M. SULKE, DR. DANIEL NG, MR. M.A. WEBSTER, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISOR, AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SECRETARY TO THE COMMITTEE). MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES IS TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

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MORE LUXURY HOME SITES FOR SALE IN SHA TIN
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SELL ANOTHER EIGHT PRIME SITES IN THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN FOR HIGH CLASS PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TO MEET THE PREVAILING MARKET DEMAND FOR MORE LUXURY FLATS.

THE SITES, RANGING FROM 718 SQUARE METRES TO 1.3 HECTARES IN AREA, ARE ALL IN PRESTIGE LOCATIONS WITH SCENIC SURROUNDINGS.

THEY WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER TO REGISTERED HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. DON SMITH SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) SIX OF THE SITES WERE SITUATED IN THE +JARDINE'S LOOKOUT OF SHA TIN+ MIDWAY BETWEEN THE WESTERN END OF SHA TIN RACE COURSE AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WHERE THE FIRST TOWN HOUSE SITE WAS SOLD FOR \$3.2 MILLION AT A PUBLIC AUCTION THIS WEEK.

HE SAID THEY WERE AMONG 25 LOTS IN THE AREA AND WERE THE SECOND BATCH TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET.

ALL SIX LOTS ARE EARMARKED FOR TWO-STORY TOWN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT. MR. SMITH POINTED OUT THAT THE BIGGEST LOT OF 1.3 HECTARES AT THE SOUTH-WESTERN EDGE WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR ATTRACTION.

ITS SIZE WOULD ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE COMPLEX OF LUXURY HOUSES WITH LOTS OF OPEN SPACE, HE SAID.

TWO SMALLER ADJOINING SITES TO THE SOUTH-EAST MEASURE 4 149 AND 3 164 SQUARE METRES WHILE OF THE REMAINING THREE ARE 795, 758 AND 718 SQUARE METRES IN AREA.

THE TWO MEDIUM AND THREE SMALL LOTS ARE ADJACENT SITES AND CAN BE DEVELOPED EITHER SEPARATELY OR AS A WHOLE.

THE OTHER TWO SHA TIN SITES ARE IN LOK LO HA TO THE LEFT OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY AND WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO THE RACE COURSE, AND ARE DESIGNED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-STORY HOUSING BLOCKS.

BOTH SITES, WITH RESPECTIVE AREAS OF 1 862 AND 1 459 SQUARE METRES, CARRY A PLOT RATIO OF 2.1 WHICH RESTRICTS THE DEVELOPMENT TO NOT MORE THAN 18 STOREYS.

TENDERS FOR THE EIGHT LOTS WILL CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 21.

THEY MUST BE PLACED IN THE APPLICATION BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON BEFORE NOON ON THAT DAY.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE OF THE SITES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AND ANY OF ITS SEVEN DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WARNING AGAINST SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AT HOME
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SCIENCE TEACHERS, LABORATORY STAFF AND STUDENTS SHOULD EXERCISE CARE WHEN CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS IN SCHOOL LABORATORIES OR AT HOME, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

COMMENTING ON SOME LOCAL SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS ADVOCATING CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENTS TO BE PERFORMED AT HOME BY STUDENTS, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THESE EXPERIMENTS COULD SOMETIMES BE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS.

HE URGED STUDENTS TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF THEIR TEACHERS ON THE NATURE OF THESE EXPERIMENTS.

+THE ONLY PROPER PLACE FOR POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS EXPERIMENTS IS THE SCHOOL LABORATORY WITH QUALIFIED SUPERVISORY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED THAT LESSONS ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF LABORATORY SAFETY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

+TEACHERS SHOULD EMPHASISE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF LABORATORY SAFETY IN DETAIL WHENEVER OPPORTUNITIES ARISE DURING NORMAL SCIENCE LESSONS,+ HE SAID.

IN THE CASE OF A LABORATORY BEING USED AS A CLASSROOM FOR NON-SCIENCE LESSONS DUE TO FLOATING CLASS ARRANGEMENTS, HE SAID, THE TEACHER CONCERNED SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT THE STUDENTS DO NOT ENTER THE LABORATORY UNLESS HE IS PRESENT, AND THAT THEY DO NOT DISTURB OR REMOVE ANY OF THE SCIENCE MATERIALS IN THE LABORATORY.

A PAMPHLET ENTITLED +SAFETY IN THE LABORATORY+ HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OUTLINING THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MINIMISING THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTS IN A SCHOOL LABORATORY.

+TO ENHANCE THE STANDARD OF SAFETY IN SCHOOL LABORATORIES, THIS PAMPHLET SHOULD BE CAREFULLY READ BY ALL SCIENCE TEACHERS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO PRODUCED POSTERS AND PICTURES ON LABORATORY SAFETY AIMING TO PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY IN SCHOOL LABORATORIES.

ENQUIRIES ON LABORATORY SAFETY AND REQUESTS FOR THE RELEVANT PAMPHLETS, POSTERS AND PICTURES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-774001 EXT. 37, 38 OR 41).

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FIREMEN STEP UP ACTION AGAINST FIRE HAZARDS

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THE FIRE SERVICES TOOK OUT 1 942 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST DOMESTIC TENANTS AND COMMERCIAL AND FACTORY PROPRIETORS FOR BREAKING FIRE REGULATIONS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1 549 IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL FINES IMPOSED IN THIS YEAR'S CASES AMOUNTED TO \$614 525 -- \$212 305 MORE THAN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS LAST YEAR.

A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE CASES MAINLY RELATED TO OBSTRUCTION OF STAIRCASES AND MEANS OF ESCAPE, FAILURE TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS WITHIN BUILDINGS OR TO COMPLY WITH FIRE SERVICES LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE THE MOST COMMON OFFENCES DISCOVERED BY FIRE OFFICERS DURING INSPECTIONS. DURING THE JANUARY-JUNE PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 4 960 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES WERE ISSUED.

/HE URGED

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE FIRE REGULATIONS AND REPORT ANY FIRE HAZARD TO THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ON 5-281114 WHICH MAINTAINS A ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE.

DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OFFICERS CARRIED OUT 137 794 INSPECTIONS, RE-INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP VISITS TO RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

OF THESE MORE THAN 94 500 INSPECTIONS WERE PROMPTED BY COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND 81 144 WERE RELATED TO BLOCKAGE OF MEANS OF ESCAPE.

THERE WERE 7 386 ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF MEANS OF ESCAPE AND 20 847 VISITS TO FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 8 400 VISITS WERE MADE TO PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY, RESTAURANTS AND NIGHTCLUBS, SCHOOLS, TIMBER YARDS AND TIMBER STORAGE AREAS AND INSPECTION OF VENTILATION SYSTEM.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 3 442 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE ON THE STORAGE AND MANUFACTURING OF DANGEROUS GOODS, 1 883 ON FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, 1 732 ON VEHICLES USED FOR CONVEYING COMPRESSED GASES AND INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND 167 ON CHILD CARE CENTRES.

A TOTAL OF 4 482 BUILDING PLANS WERE PROCESSED AND 1 943 DANGEROUS GOODS AND TIMBER YARDS STORAGE LICENCES WERE ISSUED OR RENEWED.

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RESERVOIRS POPULAR WITH ANGLERS

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THOUSANDS OF APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES TO FISH IN RESERVOIRS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND MORE ARE CONTINUING TO POUR IN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE RUSH FOR FISHING LICENCES WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE UNTIL OCTOBER.

+TO KEEP OUR LOCAL ANGLERS HAPPY WE HAVE DEPLOYED SPECIAL STAFF TO WORK FULL TIME IN PROCESSING THESE APPLICATIONS TO ENABLE OUR FISHING ENTHUSIASTS TO BE ON TIME FOR THE OPENING OF THE FISHING SEASON WHICH STARTED ON SEPTEMBER 1, AND WILL LAST UNTIL MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S MANY RESERVOIRS, APART FROM PERFORMING THEIR PRIMARY ROLE IN WATER SUPPLY, ALSO PROVIDE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY FOR HIKING ENTHUSIASTS, AND ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FISHING.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN FISHING IN RESERVOIR SHOULD OBTAIN A LICENCE AT A FEE OF \$20 FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AT LEIGHTON CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

FISHING LICENCES ARE VALID FOR ONE SEASON ONLY.

/+FIVE YEARS

+FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN THE FEE WAS \$10 WE ISSUED 9 000 FISHING LICENCES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS FIGURE DROPPED TO 6 700 IN 1976/77 WHEN WE RAISED THE FEE TO \$20, AND DECLINED FURTHER TO 4 500 FOR 1977/78.

+IN THE LAST FISHING SEASON THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS ROSE AGAIN TO SOME 7 000,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT FISHING FRY WERE INITIALLY INTRODUCED INTO RESERVOIRS WHEN THEY WERE FIRST BUILT TO HELP KEEP THE RESERVOIRS CLEAN. FISH INTRODUCED INCLUDED VARIOUS SPECIES OF CARP, BASS, TILAPIA AND SNAKE-HEAD.

HE POINTED OUT THERE ARE RULES TO OBSERVE IN RESERVOIR FISHING AND THESE ARE PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE FISHING LICENCE.

APART FROM THESE RULES, THE SPOKESMAN URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO FREQUENT RESERVOIR AREAS TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:-

- * DO NOT SWIM IN RESERVOIRS,
- * DO NOT LITTER OR POLLUTE THE WATER.

CONTRAVENTION OF THESE RULES COULD BRING HEAVY FINES.

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SWIMMING MEET HELPS FOSTER INTER-OFFICE HARMONY - PWD CHIEF
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THE 11TH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SWIMMING GALA WAS HELD AT THE ABERDEEN POOL TODAY (SUNDAY) WITH HUNDREDS OF STAFF BATTLING IT OUT FOR THE HONOURS IN 25 EVENTS.

IT WAS AN AFTERNOON OF THRILLS AND SPILLS AS THE MEN AND WOMEN COMPETED IN FREESTYLE, BACKSTROKE, BREASTSTROKE AND BUTTERFLY EVENTS.

THERE WERE RELAYS AND MEDLEYS AS WELL, AND ONE OF THE AQUATIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AFTERNOON WAS A WATERPOLO MATCH BETWEEN TWO OF THE TOP TEAMS IN HONG KONG, +THE HONG KONG SELECTION+ AND +THE WRECKS+.

ADDED COLOUR CAME FROM THIS YEAR'S MISS HONG KONG FIRST RUNNER-UP MARY NG, WHO CUT THE OPENING CEREMONY RIBBON WITH MRS. MCDONALD, WIFE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR, AND LATER DREW THE RAFFLE NUMBERS.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, SAID THAT MEETINGS SUCH AS THE SWIMMING GALA WERE IMPORTANT INTER-OFFICE ACTIVITIES AND HELPED TO FOSTER HARMONY.

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