



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1982

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GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO MAKE DISTRICT BOARDS WORK
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THERE WAS AN ABSOLUTE DETERMINATION AT ALL LEVELS IN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE DISTRICT BOARD SYSTEM WORK, THE ACTING CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, KOWLOON CITY, MR ALISTAIR LANG, SAID TODAY.

+THERE IS A GREAT WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN, TO LEARN, TO PROFIT FROM MISTAKES, AND TO TUNE UP THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT CAN RESPOND,+ HE SAID.

MR LANG WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF KAI TAK.

HE NOTED THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, THE CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VOTER, HIS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE AND THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD PROVIDE AN ANALOGUE TO THE MARKET SYSTEM IN WHICH THE PUBLIC, AS THE CUSTOMER COULD COMMUNICATE ITS NEEDS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE SUPPLIER OF GOODS.

+THE EFFICACY OF THE CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION DEPENDS ON ITS COMPONENT PARTS,+ HE SAID.

+AT ONE LEVEL, IT IS UP TO THE REGISTERED VOTER TO SELECT THE CANDIDATE HE WANTS, TO TURN OUT AND VOTE FOR HIM ON SEPTEMBER 23 AND THEN TO MONITOR THE ELECTED MEMBER, PROD HIM, LOBBY HIM AND GENERALLY ENSURE THAT HE REMAINS UP TO THE MARK.

+AT ANOTHER LEVEL, IT DEPENDS ON GOOD QUALITY CANDIDATES PRESENTING THEMSELVES FOR ELECTION.+

MR LANG SAID THAT A GOOD CANDIDATE SHOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE THE PUBLIC AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP FOR THEIR NEEDS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELL RECOGNISED THAT THE WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WAS NOT NECESSARILY TO THROW MORE RESOURCES AND MORE MONEY, +BUT RATHER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE ADVICE AVAILABLE TO US AND OF THE RESOURCES WE USE.+

+THE GREATEST OF HONG KONG'S RESOURCES IS ITS PEOPLE.

+SEPTEMBER 23 GIVES US ALL THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAP THAT RESOURCE FOR A PROFITABLE AND LASTING USE,+ HE ADDED.

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SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR PUPILS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE A NEW SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE SCHEME IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR TO HELP NEEDY STUDENTS PURCHASE TEXTBOOKS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY IT WAS EXPECTED THAT OVER 180 000 STUDENTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO COST THE GOVERNMENT MORE THAN \$37 MILLION FOR THE 1982-1983 SCHOOL YEAR.

UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY, VIA BANK AUTOPAY SYSTEMS, A CASH GRANT TO THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF ELIGIBLE PUPILS STUDYING IN PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS, AND THOSE OCCUPYING BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A FULL GRANT WOULD BE \$135 PER PUPIL PER ANNUM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS AND \$325 PER PUPIL PER ANNUM FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

SCHOOLS MAY AWARD FULL OR HALF GRANTS BASED ON A POINTS SYSTEM GIVEN IN A TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE RECKONER.

THEY MAY AWARD THEM TO ELIGIBLE PUPILS UP TO 25 PER CENT OF THEIR ACTUAL TOTAL ENROLMENT.

FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOUGHT PLACES, THE CEILING IS CALCULATED AT 25 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF BOUGHT PLACES IN THE CLASSES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HEADS OF SCHOOLS MIGHT AT THEIR DISCRETION ALSO AWARD GRANTS FOR CASES OF EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING HARDSHIP NOT COVERED BY THE RECKONER.

+THESE DISCRETIONARY GRANTS, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S OVERALL 25 PER CENT ENTITLEMENT AND ARE SUBJECT TO AN OVERALL MAXIMUM NUMBER CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF THREE FULL GRANTS PER CLASS,+ HE SAID.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS MAY, IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO AWARD AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF GRANTS OVER THE 25 PER CENT CEILING, PROVIDED THERE ARE +SAVINGS+ RESULTING FROM SOME SCHOOLS NOT TAKING UP THEIR FULL QUOTA.

PUPILS WHO WISH TO BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME CAN APPLY THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS USING A STANDARDISED FORM TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 15, 1982 FOR THE 1982-1983 SCHOOL YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC TO THE WORK OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES WHICH DEALS WITH ALL COMPLAINTS CONCERNING PRICES OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER SCHOOL ITEMS.

/THE COMMITTEE,

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THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1974, COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO THE SALE OF SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

THE CODE STRESSES THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT RESTRICT THE SALE OF SCHOOL BOOKS, UNIFORMS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO ONE SUPPLIER AND THAT PRICES FOR SUCH ITEMS SHOULD BE KEPT AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.

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TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET OPENS TODAY
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A TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT WAS OPENED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TO REPLACE THE OLD MARKET WHICH HAD BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE THE MID-1940'S.

THE OLD MARKET IS NOW BEING DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR AN MTR ISLAND LINE PROJECT.

THE TEMPORARY MARKET WOULD PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES, INCLUDING PARKING SPACES, LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITIES, A BANK, TRADE OFFICES AND A CANTEEN, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, SAID AT AN OPENING CEREMONY TODAY.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HONG KONG CONSUMES SOME 1 000 TONNES OF FRESH FRUIT PER DAY, AND MORE THAN 100 000 TONNES WORTH \$363 MILLION, PASSED THROUGH THE WESTERN MARKET LAST YEAR.

+SINCE THE MID-1940S THE MARKET DEALING WITH THIS CONSIDERABLE TRADE HAS BEEN CRAMPED BEHIND THE WESTERN RETAIL MARKET WITH INSUFFICIENT SPACE AND NO PROPER FACILITIES FOR THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF PRODUCE,+ MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID.

THE TEMPORARY WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET WILL BE IN OPERATION UNTIL A NEW WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEX AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT IS COMPLETED SEVERAL YEARS LATER.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT EVENTUALLY THE WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE NEW WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEX, WHICH WILL BE SITUATED ON THE WESTERN RECLAMATION WITH ALL MODERN MARKETING FACILITIES TOGETHER WITH AMPLE PARKING AND LOADING SPACE AND ADEQUATE BERTHING FACILITIES FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF CRAFT,+ MR RIDDELL-SWAN DISCLOSED.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR MORE URBAN AND NT TAXI LICENCES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE INVITING TENDERS FOR A FURTHER 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES AND 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TENDER FORMS FOR THE 450 TAXI LICENCES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION TOMORROW (FRIDAY), FROM EITHER THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, CENTRAL, OR THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE IN DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK.

BLUE TENDER FORMS WILL BE USED FOR URBAN AND WHITE FORMS FOR NEW TERRITORIES LICENCES.

+PROSPECTIVE TENDERERS CANNOT USE ANY OTHER FORM ISSUED PREVIOUSLY,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

TENDERS MUST DEPOSIT \$25 000 WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR EACH URBAN TAXI LICENCE AND \$15 000 FOR EACH NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCE.

THE TENDERER MAY SUBMIT ONE TENDER FORM FOR ANY NUMBER OF TAXI LICENCES NOT EXCEEDING 300 FOR THE URBAN AREA AND 150 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A PUBLIC BALLOT MAY BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERERS WHO OFFER THE SAME UNIT PREMIUM.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS, TOGETHER WITH ORIGINAL DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, MUST BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE IN SEALED ENVELOPES, ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX, IN THE ENTRANCE HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1982.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS COMMENDED

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FOURTEEN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS WERE AWARDED THE COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATIONS TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR THEIR COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY SHOWN AT TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN DURING A RAINSTORM IN MAY THIS YEAR.

THE OFFICERS WERE KWONG HO HANG-CHING, KEUNG TSUN-KI, LUK KING-YEE, LAM LEE KWONG-YING, CHIU SUI-NGOR, CHEUNG YIM-FONG, LI SHUM WAI-SUN, CHENG HUNG-KWAN, LEUNG PUI-LAN, WONG YU-YING, CHAU WAI-KWAN, MAN MING-CHI, CHAN WING-KUEN, AND MOK SUK-TING.

THE ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR R.W.B. HIGGINBOTTOM, PRESENTED THE CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE CENTRE.

THE TORRENTIAL RAIN ON MAY 29 SWEEPED AWAY A SECTION OF THE OUTER WALL AND THE INNER FENCE OF THE CENTRE, AND DAMAGED PART OF THE WALL OF ITS LAUNDRY.

THE 14 OFFICERS WORKED HARD AND KEPT THE SITUATION AT THE CENTRE UNDER CONTROL.

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NEW PLB STAND IN SHA TIN

A NEW STAND FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE SET UP AT TAM KAN PO STREET IN SHA TIN FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 20).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING PLB STOP AT SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD WILL BE CANCELLED TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE.

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WATER CUT IN MUI WO

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN MUI WO, LANTAU ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 23) TO FACILITATE WORK ON THE SUPPLY SYSTEM.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL ALSO AFFECT PREMISES IN LUK TEI TONG, TAI TEI TONG, PAK NGAN HEUNG, CHUNG HAU, KAY HAN, NAM PING, SAI YUEN, TONG YUEN, AND CHUNG HAU TAI STREET, AS WELL AS C.M.B. FREE HOSPITAL AND THE ELECTRIC SUB-STATION.

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