



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, March 9, 1973

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. VASTLY INCREASED IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

To Provide More Fully Trained Teachers

The Government's new post-primary education policy has made it possible to increase the proposed intake next September for the "In-Service Course of Training for Secondary School Teachers using English as the Medium of Instruction."

The Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning, said today: "The Government's intention to provide support at secondary level for greatly increased numbers of children carries with it an obligation to ensure that teachers are fully trained.

"In order to provide an opportunity for serving teachers to achieve trained status, Government has embarked on a vastly increased in-service training programme, and has re-designed some courses to fit the needs of secondary teachers in particular."

Of these, the In-Service Course of Training for Secondary School Teachers using English as the Medium of Instruction has been re-planned and expanded.

In a general schools circular, Mr. Canning drew the attention of such teachers to these new opportunities offered from September 1973.

"In the developing secondary field, training will become increasingly important and serving teachers are advised to apply for a place in the two-year in-service course, which is free of charge," Mr. Canning said.

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All applicants should be full-time teachers in Government-aided or private schools. Certificates of Qualified Teacher status will be awarded to those who are successful.

The course is held at the Grantham College of Education for teachers in schools in the New Territories and Kowloon, and at the Northcote College of Education for teachers in Hong Kong and Kowloon Schools.

Application forms for this course are available from the Education Department, Lee Gardens, Hysan Avenue, Hong Kong; the Northcote College of Education, Sassoon Road, Hong Kong; and the Grantham College of Education, Gascoigne Road, Kowloon.

Applicants must have had at least two years approved teaching experience by August 1973 and they should normally be teaching all classes in the medium of English.

Applications should be completed in duplicate together with letters of recommendation from Heads of schools. All completed forms must be sent to the college of education to which admission is sought by March 31.

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PLANS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AT KEY CROSSROAD

Two Flyovers For Robinson Road/Castle Road Junction

The Government is to embark on a project to improve traffic movement at the Robinson Road/Castle Road junction - a key crossroad in the Mid-levels and for long an accident black spot.

The improvement scheme, estimated to cost \$4.5 million, includes two flyovers providing some 400 feet of elevated roadway.

One of the flyovers will carry eastbound traffic on Robinson Road on a new alignment over the southbound portion of Castle Road.

The other will provide grade-separation for northbound traffic on Castle Road to the eastbound lane of Robinson Road.

The flyovers will reduce traffic conflict and accident hazards by grade separation of the existing four-way ground level junction.

The central area of the new junction will be used as a public carpark, with spaces for about 40 vehicles. It will also serve as a pickup point for parents collecting children from the Ying Wa Girls' School and so alleviate congestion on Robinson Road.

The very sharp and narrow S-bend on Robinson Road will also be straightened and widened. As Robinson Road runs parallel to Caine Road, improvement to it will help relieve Caine Road which is already taxed to capacity.

Caine Road is being widened as re-development permits, but substantial improvement to it is not practicable.

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At the same time, the very steep gradient and tortuous alignment on the upper section of Castle Road will be substantially improved, Castle Road being an important link between Caine Road and Robinson Road.

The whole junction improvement scheme is of great importance in serving rapid and intensive developments in the Conduit Road, Seymour Road, Park Road, Robinson Road and Kotewall Road area.

Construction is expected to begin in May and should take about 15 months to complete.

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VALUATION LIST FOR 1973-74 DECLARED

Over 300,000 Assessments Made

The valuation list for 1973-74 was today declared by the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation, Mr. R.A. Fry, before the Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. G.P. Lloyd, at the department's offices at No. 1 Garden Road.

The occasion was a historic one in that it is the last time that this annual ceremony will take place as, under the new Rating Ordinance, which will come into effect on April 1, the declaration procedure has been much simplified.

The Financial Secretary, Mr. C.P. Haddon-Cave, also took this opportunity to inspect the valuation list and meet senior officers of the Rating and Valuation Department.

The valuation list for 1973-74 is the largest ever, comprising 134 volumes containing about 313,000 separate assessments with a total rateable value of nearly \$3,277 million, as compared with some \$2,150 million a year ago.

Following the declaration, the 1973-74 list was delivered to the Accountant General, Mr. D.W.A. Blye, whose responsibility it is to collect the rates so assessed.

As Collector of Rates, Mr. Blye, will also now be responsible for paying to the Urban Council its share of the urban rate, which for 1973-74 has been set at six per cent.

The deposited list will be open for inspection during office hours at the offices of the Accountant General, Central Government Offices, West Wing, 2nd Floor, Ice House Street, Hong Kong, for a period of 21 days until March 30.

During this period any person who is aggrieved concerning a valuation shown in the list may lodge notice of appeal at the District Court. However, people intending so to do are invited first to get in touch with the Rating and Valuation Department, where advice will gladly be given.

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TWO PRIORITY LISTS FOR DRAFT COMPANY PROSPECTUSES

The Registrar of Companies, Mr. W. Hume, referred today to a statement made by him on February 15, when he said that draft prospectuses received by the Companies Registry would be given serial numbers and would be examined in strict numerical order.

Commenting on this statement, Mr. Hume said that representations have recently been made to the Commissioner for Securities by the chairmen of the stock exchanges, who are concerned lest public offers for which dates have been booked well in advance by the stock exchanges may be held up because of the large number of private placements now in the course of preparation.

"The question was discussed by the Securities Advisory Council yesterday morning", said Mr. Hume, "and I have accepted a recommendation of the Council that I should in future maintain two separate priority lists, one for draft prospectuses relating to public offers for which dates have been reserved by the stock exchanges under an agreement reached with the Exchange Banks Association, and one for draft prospectuses relating to any other public offers and all private placements.

"Any draft prospectus on the first of these lists will take priority over draft prospectuses on the second list."

"This means", added Mr. Hume, "that provided draft prospectuses relating to public offers falling within the scope of the agreement mentioned above do not exceed one in every 10 days, which it is understood will be the case, and provided the conditions set out in my statement of February 15 are satisfied, it should not take more than a few days to clear a draft prospectus relating to such a public offer."

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CONVEYANCE OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Law To Be Clarified

Amending legislation is to be introduced shortly to clarify the law regarding the conveyance of dangerous goods, in particular L.P. gas, within Hong Kong.

The Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Bill 1973 makes it clear that a licence is required for transporting dangerous goods within Hong Kong.

The existing Ordinance specifies that a licence to convey is needed for all dangerous goods. However, at the same time, it provides that no licence is required to convey dangerous goods "while in the course of transit as cargo in any vessel, aircraft or vehicle."

Thus all dangerous goods being transported in Hong Kong could be regarded as in the course of transit and hence exempt from the provisions of the Ordinance.

The amending bill defines the word "transit" to make it clear that the expression "in the course of transit as cargo" does not relate to dangerous goods while in the ordinary course of conveyance within Hong Kong.

A separate amendment seeks to give to certain members of the Preventive Service the same powers as are presently conferred on Police officers and officers of the Fire Services and Mines Department.

Commenting on the proposed changes, the Director of Fire Services said he had always considered the conveyance of liquefied petroleum gases in vehicles not equipped for the purpose to be "dangerous."

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"There has been a number of fires arising from the use of unsuitable vehicles," he said. "Many dangerous practices are committed by vehicles, such as the decanting of inflammable liquids in the street and the overnight parking (in residential areas) of vehicles loaded with inflammable liquids."

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WORK TO START SOON ON SHA TIN ESTATE

Two Blocks And A School To Be Built

Construction of the first blocks of the Lek Yuen Government Low Cost Housing Estate in Sha Tin will begin shortly.

Two 15-storey domestic blocks and an estate primary school will be built.

The two blocks will provide 1,144 flats for families of 5, 7 and 9.

An ambulance depot and two kindergartens will be accommodated in the ground floor spaces.

Work is expected to begin in April and will take about a year and a half to complete.

The \$63 million estate, to be built on reclaimed land, is initially designed to accommodate 23,000 people. On completion, it will have seven domestic blocks.

The project is part of the Sha Tin New Town development plan.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 1 and 3 Mau Lam Street, Kowloon, liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three-storey pre-war buildings were found to be in a dilapidated condition during a routine inspection.

A detailed survey revealed that the common timber staircase between Nos. 3 and 5 Mau Lam Street and the timber staircase serving No. 1, Mau Lam Street were in such a condition that notices have already been served requiring the owners to provide temporary supports.

Notices of intention to close and demolish Nos. 5 - 11 Mau Lam Street were served on March 5.

Owing to the weakness at the junction of the rear walls and party walls in these terrace buildings, and the poor condition of certain structural timbers and the staircases, that Nos. 1 and 3 Mau Lam Street are liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of the adjoining properties at Nos. 5 - 11 Mau Lam Street.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on April 13 were posted today.

In another statement today, the Building Authority declared No. 197 Hollywood Road and Nos. 36, 38 and 40 Upper Lascar Row to be in a dangerous condition.

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Nos. 189, 191, 193 and 195 Hollywood Road and No. 34 Upper Lascar Row were declared liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three and four-storey pre-war buildings have been under observation for several years, and adjoining buildings were declared dangerous and demolished some time ago.

Recent movement and deterioration has been detected in the brick load-bearing walls of some of the buildings and a collapse could occur.

The remaining buildings would not withstand removal of those adjoining.

Accordingly, notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on April 10 were posted today.

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WORK TO IMPROVE VEHICULAR FERRY PIER

Improvement work will soon be carried out in the Jordan Road vehicular ferry pier to provide better facilities for passengers.

More spacious waiting areas will be provided in the ferry berth, and a second ferry berth will be built outside the northern arm of the pier.

This second berth will replace the temporary one now in use. A small area of land will be reclaimed for this purpose.

A notification in today's Gazette fully describes the boundaries of the area of foreshore and seabed involved in the improvement scheme.

The notification can also be seen on a notice board posted near the site.

People having objections to the proposed work or claims to private rights should submit them to the Director of Public Works within two months of the date of notification.

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PROJECT CONCERN CHEST CLINIC

Dr. Choa Opens New Service In Sau Mau Ping

Project Concern is an example of the part played by voluntary agencies in the provision of social services in Hong Kong, and the "excellent results" already achieved are clear for all to see.

Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, said this today at the opening ceremony of Project Concern's new chest clinic at Sau Mau Ping.

"The establishment of a chest clinic is not a new venture for Project Concern, as their doctors have always been interested in tuberculosis," Dr. Choa told a large gathering of invited guests.

"In 1969, a part-time tuberculosis clinic was in operation in the Project Concern's floating clinic in Kowloon Bay, and during that year, a mass mini-radiograph survey was carried out for the floating population in that area.

"The suggestion that Project Concern could start a full-time chest clinic in the east Kowloon area, where there will not be a government chest clinic until two years later, came last year, and I gladly accepted this kind offer. It gives me much pleasure to have the opportunity today to thank Project Concern for helping the Medical and Health Department fill the gap."

Dr. Choa said the procedure adopted in government chest clinics would be observed by the Project Concern Clinic in Sau Mau Ping as there would be close liaison between Project Concern and the Government's Chest Services.

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In his view, although much progress had already been made in Hong Kong's fight against tuberculosis, there was still a lot of work to be done.

The department's policy now was to treat as many patients as possible in out-patient clinic. What was more significant was that the department was presently in a position to go out to find new cases.

"We hope we will have enough facilities, because, in our overall plan to extend medical and health services to all newly-developed areas, chest clinics will continue to be included," Dr. Choa said.

He praised Project Concern as an organisation with an international flavour because it received contributions from people abroad, mainly from Australia and New Zealand. The organisation was also receiving assistance from the Community Chest of Hong Kong.

The clinic was an example of Project Concern's internationality. The facilities were paid by the people of New Zealand, including an X-ray machine. The people of the city of Edmonton, in Canada, were paying the expenses of the doctor in charge.

Dr. Choa recalled that Project Concern aimed at providing medical relief wherever this was needed. Its first project in Hong Kong was set up in the Walled City, followed by a floating clinic moored at such vantage points in the harbour as Lyemun Pass, the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter and Kowloon Bay.

At a time when there was great demand for out-patient clinic services by the general public, the service provided by Project Concern was much appreciated.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER 1972

The Hong Kong Government accounts for the month of December 1972 show a surplus of \$263 million compared with a surplus of \$178 million in December 1971.

This has resulted in a total surplus of \$559 million for the first nine months of this financial year.

Total revenue for the month at \$579 million was \$167 million more than in December 1971.

The total revenue for the first nine months of the financial year at \$3,232 million was \$773 million more than the same period in the preceding year.

Expenditure amounted to \$316 million, an increase of \$82 million over the same month in the preceding year.

This brings the total expenditure for the first nine months of the financial year to \$2,673 million, which was \$668 million more than the same period in the preceding year.

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SPORTS MEETING FOR YOUTH GROUPS

The fourth annual inter-group sports meeting for youth groups attached to the Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department will take place on Sunday (March 11) at Perth Street Sports Ground, Homantin, Kowloon.

Three hundred youth group members will take part in the meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. There will be 24 track and field events, including an invitation mixed relay for young people from the department's community, social and youth centres.

Mr. Alexander Fung, officer in charge of the Youth Work Unit, will give an address and present prizes at 4 p.m.

Note to Editors: You are invited to cover this sports
meeting.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.