



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1978

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS TO BE INCREASED NEXT MONTH
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THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES WILL BE INCREASED FROM NEXT MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ADVISED RECIPIENTS TO BRING ALONG THEIR ORIGINAL CASH VOUCHER BOOKS AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY COUPONS WHEN COLLECTING THEIR PAYMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT RECIPIENTS CURRENTLY RECEIVING PAYMENTS ALREADY POSSESS THE NORMAL CASH VOUCHER BOOKS AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN SUPPLEMENTARY CASH COUPONS FOR THE ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS IN THE REVISED SCALE.

+TO SAVE TIME, RECIPIENTS ARE REQUESTED TO PRODUCE BOTH THE COUPONS SO THAT THE TWO PAYMENTS COULD BE MADE AT THE SAME TIME,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES RECIPIENTS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS IF THEY HAVE ANY DOUBTS OR QUERIES.

THE INCREASE IN THE SCALE OF SOCIAL WELFARE PAYMENTS OF ABOUT 11 PER CENT WAS ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

+THIS IS THE FIFTH REVISION SINCE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1971,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ALWAYS KEEPS A CLOSE WATCH ON THE LEVELS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCES BY REFERRING EACH MONTH TO THE MOVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INDEX IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE POORER SECTOR OF OUR COMMUNITY.

+THIS INDEX IS MADE UP OF THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SUCH AS FOOD, FUEL, LIGHTING, CLOTHING IN PROPORTIONS REFLECTING THE SPENDING HABITS OF THE POORER FAMILIES,+ HE EXPLAINED, +RENT IS EXCLUDED BECAUSE IT IS ALLOWED FOR SEPARATELY IN CALCULATING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PAYABLE.+

/THE NEW RATES OF

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THE NEW RATES OF PAYMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

A) FOR A SINGLE PERSON ON HIS OWN FROM \$180 TO \$200-

B) FOR A FAMILY -

FIRST THREE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS FROM \$130 TO \$145
PER PERSON,

SECOND THREE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS FROM \$105 TO \$120
PER PERSON,

EACH ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE MEMBER .. FROM \$80 TO \$90
PER PERSON=

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FROM \$180 TO \$200 AND

INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE FROM \$90 TO \$100.

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ANOTHER AREA FOR PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CARRY OUT A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAINLY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, IN THE AREA WEST OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD IN SHA TIN.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS YEAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PART OF THE AREA ABOVE KAK TIN TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE SITE FOR ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION, A SITE NEAR THE SHING MUN RIVER IS EARMARKED FOR A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA TO ACCOMMODATE OVER 3,000 PEOPLE, AS WELL AS FOR THE ASSOCIATED ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID TODAY DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN HAD BEEN PROGRESSING RAPIDLY.

+THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA PLANNED FOR THESE AREAS WILL MAKE AVAILABLE MORE ACCOMMODATION FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE AS DEVELOPMENT GOES ON, AND WILL BE A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW TOWN,+ HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE THE SITE FORMATION WORK, WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CONTRACTORS, THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME ABOUT 42,874 SQUARE METRES OF PRIVATE LAND, MOSTLY AGRICULTURAL LAND, AND NOTICE OF THE LAND RESUMPTION WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON FRIDAY.

MR. HIGGINSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY COMPENSATION FOR CROPS, PINE TREES, FRUIT TREES, GRAVES AND BONE URNS, AS WELL AS EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR CULTIVATORS, PIG-BREEDERS AND POULTRY FARMERS.

HE SAID THE LAND RESUMPTION WOULD INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF ABOUT 500 TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES AND 1,000 OTHER ANCILLARY TEMPORARY STRUCTURES, MOST OF THEM ON CROWN LAND.

+FAMILIES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE WILL BE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING IN SHA TIN AND WILL RECEIVE EX-GRATIA DOMESTIC REMOVAL ALLOWANCE OF UP TO \$1,000 EACH.

+THOSE WHO ARE FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE WILL BE OFFERED SPACE IN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

MR. HIGGINSON SAID LAND OWNERS INVOLVED IN THE RESUMPTION WOULD BE OFFERED THE ALTERNATIVE OF CASH COMPENSATION OR LAND EXCHANGE DOCUMENTS.

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LAND RECLAMATION IN SHAM SHUI PO
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 170-METRE SEAWALL WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE SECOND STAGE OF RECLAMATION IN SHAM SHUI PO.

THE RECLAMATION, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A SECTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATIONAL USES.

MR. HOWARD CHAMBERLAIN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF PORT WORKS DIVISION, SAID TODAY WORK ON THE SEAWALL WOULD START IN MARCH AND TAKE TEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LADY MACLEHOSE TO TOUR SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK
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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL BE TOURING THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 24).

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (COUNTRY PARKS), MR. MARTIN LEWIS, LADY MACLEHOSE WILL MAKE AN AERIAL TOUR OF THE 7,500 HECTARES OF COUNTRYSIDE IN THE GAZETTED AREA. SHE WILL THEN MAKE A ROAD TOUR OF VARIOUS SITES AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARK AFTER LANDING AT PAK TAM AU MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.15 A.M. AND RETURN AT 11.30 A.M. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE VISIT ARE REQUESTED TO MEET SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER, MR. MARK PINKSTONE, AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE DEPARTURE TIME.

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PRESENTATION OF COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDALS
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. M.K. LANE, TODAY (SATURDAY) PRESENTED COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO MORE THAN 80 FIRE OFFICERS, AT HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION.

ADDRESSING THE RECIPIENTS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE ALREADY RETIRED, MR. LANE SAID: +IN A FIRE SERVICE SUCH AS OURS, THESE AWARDS ARE NOT EARNED LIGHTLY, INDEED THE VERY OPPOSITE APPLIES.+

HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST, A MEMBER OF THE FIRE SERVICES DID MOST OF HIS WORK IN THE PUBLIC VIEW AND GAINED IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RECOGNITION AND PLAUDITS.

+NOW THAT HIS WORK IS MORE DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT, IT IS LARGELY DONE OUT OF THE GAZE OF THE PUBLIC WHO SEE ONLY THE APPLIANCES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE OPERATORS WITH HOSES DISAPPEARING INSIDE A HIGH-RISE BUILDING, TO WHERE OR WHAT THEY KNOW NOT,+ MR. LANE SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS,+ HE ADDED, +YOU KNOW AND I KNOW WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT AND OVER THE PERIOD OF YOUR SERVICE, THERE ARE MANY THOUSANDS WHO HAVE CAUSE TO BE THANKFUL FOR THEIR DELIVERANCE BY YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS SERVICE FROM THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THEIR LIVES, HEALTH AND TO THEIR PROPERTY.+

AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION, 37 FIRE OFFICERS RECEIVED THE LONG SERVICE MEDALS IN RECOGNITION OF 18 YEARS OF SERVICE, 29 RECEIVED FIRST CLASPS TO THEIR MEDALS FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AND 18 HAVING SERVED FOR OVER 30 YEARS WERE AWARDED THE SECOND CLASPS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE MAXICAB STANDS IN EDINBURGH PLACE EAST, WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 9 P.M. ON MONDAY (JANUARY 23) FOR THE GALA OPENING OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE STAND WILL BE SET UP IN FRONT OF THE STAR FERRY PIER.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 24) THE NEW EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SALISBURY ROAD EXTENSION CONNECTING MIDDLE ROAD AND HONG CHONG ROAD/CHEONG WAN ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

MOTORISTS MAY TAKE THIS NEW ROUTE THROUGH CHEONG WAN ROAD OR HONG CHONG ROAD TO YAU MA TEI, OR TO HUNG HOM THROUGH HONG CHEONG ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREAS TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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