



---

# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

---

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ROAD SAFETY URGED .....	1
WRITTEN CONTRACT REQUIRED BEFORE WORKERS GO OVERSEAS .....	2
PARTITION FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES COMPULSORY FROM JULY .....	3
NEW DISTRICT OFFICER FOR TAI PO .....	3
SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME .....	4

ROAD SAFETY URGED

\* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON MOTORISTS TO EXERCISE GREATER SELF-DISCIPLINE AND COURTESY TO ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ROAD COURTESY CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHEAST, MR LEUNG SAID SPEEDING AND CARELESS LANE-CHANGING HAD CAUSED MORE THAN 4,000 ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR, REPRESENTING ABOUT 27 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS.

HE SAID: "TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DRAFTED EXPRESSWAY LEGISLATION TO CURB LANE-CHANGING AND SPEEDING ON HIGH CAPACITY ROADS."

THE SECRETARY SAID THE LEGISLATION WOULD HOPEFULLY COME INTO EFFECT IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR IF IT WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR LEUNG SAID APART FROM INTRODUCING LEGAL AMENDMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DIRECTED ITS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY BY IMPROVING THE DESIGN OF ROADS, MOUNTING EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, AND STEPPING UP LAW ENFORCEMENT.

"OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RATE HAD DROPPED FROM 64 ACCIDENTS PER 1,000 VEHICLES IN 1981 TO 43 ACCIDENTS PER 1,000 VEHICLES IN 1990, THANKS TO THE CO-OPERATION OF VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG HOPED THAT THE ROAD COURTESY CAMPAIGN'S MESSAGE "TAKE TURNS TO GO, QUICKER FLOW" WILL INFLUENCE DRIVING HABITS AND ACHIEVE BETTER AND SAFER ROAD USAGE.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN GIS NEWSROOM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

- 2 -

WRITTEN CONTRACT REQUIRED BEFORE WORKERS GO OVERSEAS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS OF THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT FOR THEM TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH ALL LOCAL MANUAL WORKERS ON EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

EMPLOYERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED UNDER THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE TO PRESENT THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR ATTESTATION BEFORE THE WORKERS' DEPARTURE.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OF PROTECTION SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT ARE IN NO WAY LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION," THE LABOUR OFFICER (EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE), MR WONG MAIN-FU, EXPLAINED.

"A CONTRACT WITH TERMS WHICH ARE UNFAIR TO THE WORKER OR WHICH DO NOT ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE WORKER'S INTEREST WILL NOT BE ATTESTED," MR WONG SAID.

A DULY ATTESTED CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MANUAL WORKERS OUTSIDE HONG KONG NOT ONLY CLEARLY DEFINES THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES BUT ALSO ENSURES THAT THE TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT ARE REASONABLE.

IT SHOULD INCLUDE SUCH DETAILS AS PAY, NATURE AND HOURS OF WORK, HOLIDAYS, SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION, PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION, REPATRIATION ARRANGEMENT AND PROVISIONS FOR DEPENDANTS.

ALSO, AS AN ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD AGAINST EXPLOITATION BY THE EMPLOYER, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL REQUIRE A HONG KONG RESIDENT NOMINATED BY THE EMPLOYER TO FURNISH A BOND OR GUARANTEE BEFORE ATTESTING THE CONTRACT.

MR WONG SAID IT WAS AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO INDUCE A MANUAL WORKER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WHICH DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, OR TO CAUSE HIM TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT BEFORE THE CONTRACT WAS ATTESTED.

"ANY EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ORDINANCE WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000," HE SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS UNDER THE ORDINANCE MAY BE MADE TO THE EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ON TEL. 852 3535.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

- 3 -

PARTITION FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES COMPULSORY FROM JULY

\* \* \* \* \*

VAN-TYPE LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE OWNERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE GRACE PERIOD FOR INSTALLING PARTITION AND BLANKING OF SIDE WINDOWS WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID AN EFFECTIVE PROTECTIVE PARTITION BETWEEN THE FRONT SEATS AND THE GOODS COMPARTMENT OF LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES MUST BE ERECTED AND IT WAS ILLEGAL TO HAVE SIDE WINDOWS IN THE GOODS COMPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION IMPOSING THESE TWO REQUIREMENTS TOOK EFFECT ON JULY 1 LAST YEAR BUT A ONE-YEAR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WAS GIVEN TO EXISTING VEHICLES.

VEHICLES REGISTERED ON OR AFTER JULY 1 LAST YEAR HAVE MET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

ON CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARTITION FOR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES, OWNERS SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE HEIGHT, WIDTH, STRENGTH, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARTITION MUST BE CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING OR BEARING THE WEIGHT OF ANY LOAD WHICH THE PARTITION IS LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER OR THE VAN IS LIKELY TO CARRY; AND ACTING AS A PROTECTIVE BARRIER AGAINST GOODS IN THE GOODS COMPARTMENT SHIFTING INTO THE SEATING ACCOMMODATION.

ON BLANKING OF SIDE WINDOWS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID METAL FIBREGLASS OR SIMILAR TYPE MATERIAL INSERTS OF ADEQUATE STRENGTH SHOULD BE USED.

"IF OTHER ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION OR FIXING ARE USED, VEHICLE OWNERS ARE ADVISED TO PRESENT THE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLE EXAMINATION DIVISION FOR CONSIDERATION BEFORE COMMENCING ON THE MODIFICATION WORK," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW DISTRICT OFFICER FOR TAI PO

\* \* \* \* \*

MR PO PUI-LEONG HAS BEEN APPOINTED DISTRICT OFFICER OF TAI PO AND WILL ASSUME OFFICE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY), THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR PO SUCCEEDS MR THOMAS YIU, WHO WILL TAKE UP THE POST OF PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATION) IN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH.

/MR PO .....

MR PO, 40, JOINED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1978. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF POLICY BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, OMELCO, THE ADMINISTRATION SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH AND THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH.

HE HAD SERVED AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (ISLANDS) IN THE LATE 1970'S AND WAS ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (TAI PO) FROM 1980 TO 1981.

MR PO'S LAST POSTING WAS SECRETARY OF THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF MR PO PUI-LEONG IS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS NEWSROOM.

SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME  
\* \* \* \* \*

NINETEEN PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR PHASE I OF THE EXTENSIVE READING SCHEME IN ENGLISH (SECONDARY 1-3) STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE READING SCHEME, WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED AS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, WILL BE EXTENDED TO 200 SCHOOLS UNDER A SEVEN-YEAR PHASED PROGRAMME.

SCHOOLS ARE NOW BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE 1992 PHASE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A WELL-ORGANISED READING PROGRAMME USUALLY RESULTED IN A RAPID INCREASE IN READING COMPREHENSION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN WRITING ABILITY AND OTHER SKILLS.

"IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAMME HELPS TO PROMOTE PUPIL-CENTRED LEARNING," HE SAID.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH:

- \* A SET OF 400 BOOKS GRADED INTO EIGHT LEVELS;
- \* A SET OF 120 READING CARDS AT TWO LEVELS FOR STUDENTS WITH LOWER ABILITY, AND
- \* READING AND TEACHING AIDS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SPECIALIST SUPPORT WILL BE OFFERED TO SCHOOLS TO HELP TEACHERS IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME.

THIS WILL INCLUDE IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING, BOTH INSTITUTION AND SCHOOL-BASED IN THE FORM OF SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TEACHING GUIDES, AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES BEFORE AND AFTER PARTICIPATION, HE ADDED.