



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, April 2, 1973

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SCHOOLS TO OPEN AS USUAL ON WEDNESDAY

Schools in Hong Kong will be open for normal sessions on Wednesday.

Announcing this today the Assistant Director of Education (Primary), Mr. K.S. Yeung, said he had asked headmasters to make this point clear to parents and pupils.

"I am sure that the vast majority of teachers will follow their normal timetables on Wednesday and will be teaching their pupils as usual," he added.

"Teaching is a profession which instills a sense of responsibility and I am confident that our teachers will, as always, be conscious of their duty to their pupils."

Commenting on the proposed course of action announced at a meeting of teachers on Sunday, Mr. Yeung said he regretted that the leaders of the certificated masters had apparently rejected the new pay scale now being implemented.

Regarding the criticism that under the new scale a teacher must wait 19 years to reach the maximum, Mr. Yeung said the normal scale ran from \$1,175 to \$1,750 by annual increments over a span of eight years. The extended scale up to \$2,050, was reached by three increments of five years, three years and three years.

"The majority of certificated masters are in aided schools and have recently benefitted by the introduction of a new structure which provides many more promotion posts", he added.

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"In the primary school sector promotion posts have increased from 76 to 1891, and in the secondary school sector from 88 to 236. As many more certificated masters will be promoted, fewer will have to move on to the extended scale.

"The Government had considered most carefully the situation regarding the salaries of certificated masters, and in particular the points raised by them in their various representations."

Mr. Yeung pointed out that the independent Morgan Working Group carried out a detailed analysis of their conditions, in comparison with 24 other grades at this level in the government service, and based its recommendations on this study.

"Contrary to allegations that the report represents a rejection of the teachers' claims, careful reading shows that to a significant extent it supports their claims, though not in every single respect," he commented.

"While accepting the basic recommendations of the working group, the Government has implemented them sooner than the group envisaged by establishing the higher entry point of \$1,250 this year, for those who graduate from training colleges with credit.

"The Government's final decision was reached after careful consideration in Executive Council and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. Steps are now being taken to implement the new scale and teachers will receive the additional benefits as soon as possible.

"These benefits include, for those at the top of the existing scale, automatic entry to the extra scale proposed by the Morgan Group. But this extra scale rises to \$2,050, which is higher than the Group envisaged, and does not require the teacher to forfeit his chances of promotion."

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Following is a comparison between the old and new scales for
Certificated Masters.

<u>Scale before 1.4.71</u>	<u>Scale w.e.f. 1.4.72 (i.e. with 3% increase)</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
1044	1215	16.37%
1109	1295	16.77%
1173	1375	17.22%
1244	1455	16.96%
1315	1535	16.73%
1385	1615	16.6 %
1457	1715	17.7 %
1528	1815	18.78%
1598	1815	13.57%
	<u>"Extra scale"</u>	
	1915	
	2015	
	2115	

One important effect of the increase in the maximum scale from
\$1,598 to \$2,115 is that the maximum pension is subsequently raised by 28
per cent.

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NEW HOUSING DEPARTMENT TAKES SHAPE

The new Housing Department today started working as an integrated housing administration.

It is an amalgamation of the former Housing Division (which serviced the previous Housing Authority) and of the Resettlement Department.

The department will be the executive arm of the new Housing Authority whose membership were announced on Saturday.

Its headquarters is the former Housing Division office block at Ma Tau Wai Estate, Kowloon, which also houses the Architectural Division and the Secretariat to the Housing Authority.

The headquarters of the Estates Management Division is now at the Government Offices at San Po Kong.

This integrates the management of all public housing estates under one roof, including estates built by the former Housing Authority, Low Cost Housing Estates and Resettlement Estates.

The Applications Section, which formerly dealt only with Waiting List applicants for public housing, is now located in the former Resettlement Department headquarters in Middle Road, and will handle all applications for public housing, including those from people cleared from land required for development, and from dangerous buildings.

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The Housing Department's Squatter Control and Squatter Clearance Sections will remain in the Middle Road building.

These moves are the outcome of the decision to introduce a more streamlined housing organisation to service the new Housing Authority and its 10-year public housing building programme.

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ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN 1973

Nine-Week Drive For Immunisation Starts Today

The Director of Medical and Health, Dr. G.H. Choa today appealed to parents of susceptible children to have them immunised against measles during the nine weeks of the 1973 anti-measles campaign, beginning today.

During this period, free measles vaccine will be offered to children between six months and five years at all maternal and health centres as well as at 25 new fixed centres which have been set up in resettlement estates, health offices, government clinics, dispensaries and hospitals.

A total of 21 mobile teams with 48 inoculators have been set up. They will make door to door visits among resettlement and housing estate residents.

In the New Territories, in addition to the fixed centres located in the town areas, mobile teams will visit villages.

The Medical and Health Department's two floating dispensaries or clinic launches will carry the vaccine to outlying islands for the immunisation of children there.

The campaign is aimed at children in the "susceptible age" between six months and five years. All are born with some degree of immunity against the disease which they receive from their mother, but before the first year is up, this natural immunity is usually gone.

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The campaign is on a large scale, and during the nine weeks, radio, television, and the cinema will be used to bring home the message that measles remains the last of the childhood diseases which has still to be controlled in Hong Kong.

Last year, the campaign was held between August and October. This year, the time has been advanced in an attempt to "beat the heat."

"I am sure it is not difficult for us to understand that many children are born every year, and they are not all immunised, and are therefore susceptible to an attack of the disease," Dr. Choa said.

"These susceptible children not only run the risk of getting the disease themselves, but can also transmit the disease when they mingle with other susceptible children, either in their own family or in the community.

"For this reason, immunisation campaigns are mounted every year in order to prevent the disease from spreading."

Dr. Choa repeated that although measles was a common and perhaps not a very serious disease, danger reposed in the complications that could arise from it -- such as bronchitis, pneumonia, middle ear infection, and encephalitis.

He strongly advised parents not to cling on to the erroneous belief that "every child should be made to go through an attack of measles instead of being prevented from getting it, or having it suppressed."

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NEW RATING LAW NOW IN FORCE

The Commissioner of Rating and Valuation, Mr. R.A. Fry, today reminded ratepayers that with effect from April 1 this year refunds of rates on vacant premises will be limited to half the amount paid, excluding any surcharge.

Where land (without buildings) is vacant and where premises are unoccupied because of a Government order, rates will continue to be refunded in full.

The Commissioner emphasized that ratepayers must give notice in writing not later than the 15th day of the month from the first day on which the premises become vacant, otherwise no refund may be approved.

However, in respect of premises assessed to rates for the first time, premises assessed following alterations and premises assessed following a period of exemption the department must be notified of any vacancy not later than the last day on which rates are payable.

Refunds of rates on account of vacancy are payable only where premises are vacant for one or more entire months and anyone wishing to have further information on this subject may enquire at the offices of the Rating and Valuation Department, 1 Garden Road, Hong Kong or telephone 5-249021.

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NEW FAMILY PLANNING CENTRE FOR YUEN LONG ON THE WAY

Lady MacLehose Commends F.P.A. Work

A new centre will be set up in Yuen Long by the Family Planning Association to provide residents with family planning and maternal and child health services.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the centre at 11 a.m. today (Monday), Lady MacLehose commended the Association for its "vital contribution to the family health and welfare of our community."

She also acknowledged the achievement of voluntary bodies "in pioneering the acceptance and practice of family planning among eligible women."

Family planning, she said, had played an important role in helping Hong Kong to maintain "a standard of living which is the envy of many in this part of the world."

The following is the full text of Lady MacLehose's speech:

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be able to participate this morning in the laying of the foundation stone of a very worthwhile project, the Yuen Long Family Planning Centre which is to be built on this site.

I agree with you, Madam Chairman, that the population problem is a universal one and indeed particularly applicable to Hong Kong in view of the very high density of population. Family Planning is therefore a subject which is of the utmost importance to us in Hong Kong. We have been fortunate enough so far to have achieved and maintained a standard of living which is the envy of many in this part of the world. As has been said before the necessity is to lay stress on quality rather than quantity.

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The magnificent efforts of the voluntary bodies, in particular the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong in pioneering the acceptance and practice of family planning among eligible women need hardly be repeated on this occasion. Suffice it to say that in almost half a century of hard and dedicated work in close association with the Government Maternal and Child Health Service, the Family Planning Association have made vital contributions to the family health and welfare of our community.

I have no doubt that services provided by this Centre will achieve all that your Association have hoped for, i.e. to provide an effective and much needed Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Service for the rural people in the Yuen Long area. May I conclude by wishing you and the Family Planning Association the very best of luck in your new venture.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

A number of premises on both sides of the harbour will be without water supply for five hours on Wednesday (April 4) starting from 1 a.m.

The temporary stoppage is to allow the Waterworks Office to carry out leakage tests in the areas.

On Hong Kong Island, the affected buildings are Nos. 865 to 1021 and 992 to 1054, King's Road, including North Point Model Housing Estate, Finnie Street, Hoi Tai Street, Hoi Wan Street, Tong Chong Street, Hoi Kwong Street, Pan Hoi Street and Parker Road.

In Kowloon, all premises within the area bounded by Lung Cheung Road, Tung Tau Tsuen Road and Sheung Tak Street will be affected.

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ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS CAMPAIGN 1973

25,717 Doses Of Vaccine Administered Since February 26

During the week ending on March 24, 1973, a total of 6,814 doses of the anti-poliomyelitis vaccine was administered, according to figures released by the Medical and Health Department today.

Of these, 1,055 doses were administered on the Island, 3,316 in Kowloon, and 2,443 in the New Territories.

Since the second phase of the annual anti-poliomyelitis campaign began on February 26, 1973, the total number of doses administered amounted to 25,717. The second phase of the 1973 campaign ended on March 31.

But the vaccine remains available free at all Medical and Health Department inoculation and maternity and child health centres on a year-round basis.

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RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS VEHICLES USING CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD

Clear Water Bay Road between Lung Cheung Road and Fu Nga Shan Road will be closed to all goods vehicles travelling in an easterly (uphill) direction between 9 a.m. and noon on Sundays and public holidays.

The restrictions aim at reducing traffic congestion in the area and will apply from Thursday (April 5) to October 8.

Owners of goods vehicles wishing to use Clear Water Bay Road during the restricted hours may apply for permission to do so from the Commissioner for Transport.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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KWUN TONG ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Work is expected to begin in July this year on the realignment of a section of Kwun Tong Road to form part of the North East Kowloon Corridor.

The project, at an estimated cost of \$18 million, involves the widening of the section of Kwun Tong Road between the main entrance to R.A.F. Kai Tak and Choi Wan Road. This section will be widened from six to 12 lanes.

To further relieve the present congestion in the area, an elevated roadway will be built to link Kwun Tong Road and the future Wai Yip Street extension. Upon completion, this dual-two-lane road will allow both eastbound and westbound traffic to merge with and diverge from the main Kwun Tong Road traffic.

A pedestrian footbridge will also be constructed to the west of Choi Shek Lane to permit safe-crossing of the road.

The design of this project has allowed for the planned development of roads on the Kowloon Bay reclamation.

It has also taken into account future requirements for the Mass Transit Kowloon Bay Station and maintenance depot.

The scheme is expected to be completed in 1975.

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1973 HOUSING SURVEY

The Census and Statistics Department is to carry out a housing survey later this month to review housing needs in Hong Kong in connection with the Government's Ten Year Housing Plan.

The object of the 12-day survey, which begins on April 18, is to get up-to-date and accurate data regarding the size of households and the degree of sharing of living quarters.

A number of living quarters in all types of housing have been selected systematically for the survey.

In addition, an official letter, in both English and Chinese, has been sent out today to inform the occupants of the selected living quarters about the survey.

Commenting on the survey, a Department spokesman said only two questions would be asked -- the number of households in the living quarters, and the number of persons in each household.

He expressed the hope that all households in the selected living quarters would give their fullest co-operation in answering the questions when they are visited.

All information regarding individual households will be kept strictly confidential.

For identification purposes, all enumerators will carry an official Census and Statistics Department identity card.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.