



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, August 2, 1973

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8 PER CENT PAY INCREASE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

The government announced today an 8 per cent pay rise for some 60,000 of its staff paid on the Master Pay Scale and disciplined scales, and other related scales. It will be back-dated to April 1 this year.

The increase is granted in response to a pay claim submitted by the three main staff associations in May this year, on the basis of an increase of 7.9 per cent in the Modified Consumer Price Index since April 1, 1972.

In addition to the 8 per cent increase, officers in the Construction Class will get a 3 per cent increase, which will be payable for the period April 1, 1972 to March 31, 1973. This 3 per cent increase was approved for staff in other classes in the civil service earlier this year.

The pay increases were approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council at its meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

A government spokesman explained that the increases were not based on the reports of the Pay Investigation Unit and would be taken into account in any subsequent pay reviews which may arise from Pay Investigation Unit Reports.

Most officers will receive their new salaries in August and the remainder in September. Arrears will be paid as soon as possible thereafter.

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The spokesman said that the overall cost of making these pay awards and other connected payments, is estimated to be \$116 million a year.

Staff on Model Scale 1 already receive a cost of living allowance which reflects the C.P.I. movements in any particular quarter, in addition to their normal wages. This now represents more than 8 per cent above their April 1972 Salary.

A survey of their pay is also currently in hand by the Pay Investigation Unit. The review is expected to be completed in September and a decision on it should be reached soon afterwards. A further announcement on the pay of Model Scale 1 staff will be made in due course.

The spokesman added that the Standing Committee on Superscale Salaries is considering whether any consequential adjustment to superscale salaries is required.

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IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC LIGHTING

New techniques in lighting are being studied by traffic engineers in an effort to improve the standard of street lighting in Hong Kong.

One of the aspects under consideration is a technique known as high mast lighting. This involves the use of clusters of powerful lights, similar to flood lighting, suspended from poles up to 90 feet above the road surface.

At present the maximum height for the mounting of street lighting in Hong Kong is 35 feet.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that high mast lighting is more effective in illuminating intersections where an even intensity of light is required.

To keep abreast of latest developments, a lighting engineer with the P.W.D., Mr. Chow Ping-wai, has been sent on a nine-month attachment to the City of Glasgow Corporation to study new public lighting techniques.

The corporation has one of the biggest street lighting departments in Europe.

The spokesman said that other measures which are now being implemented to facilitate both road traffic safety and public security, include the installation of improved mercury and sodium vapour lamps.

These are being installed along all major traffic routes and at road junctions in the urban areas.

In rural areas, the sodium lamp, which has a high light output without producing glare characteristics, is more widely used.

/Other

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Other roads are also being illuminated by appropriate lamps to ensure a higher standard of lighting.

During the past five years, about \$30 million has been spent on the street lighting programme.

This financial year \$7.3 million has been allocated by the government for the programme to keep pace with road development. Last year the figure was \$7.0 million.

The P.W.D. spokesman said that priority for the installation of street lights is given to new roads and interchanges, and roads requiring complete reconstruction. Streets in the urban areas without any lighting are also given high priority.

"Cable ducts are laid when new roads are under construction, and lighting is provided in phase with the progress of the development in the vicinity. This ensures minimum inconvenience to road users when street lighting is installed," he said.

Commenting on the lighting programme in rural areas, the spokesman pointed out that street lights had already been installed in the main towns -- Tuseu Wan, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Fanling and Sheung Shui. Other small places in the New Territories are being provided with public lighting under an expanding programme.

/"Traffic

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"Traffic routes in the New Territories are lit if there are special reasons, for instance places which carry relatively heavy pedestrian traffic; where accident potential is high; or for reasons of security.

At present there are some 22,000 street lamps, against 20,000 last year. More than 6,800 are on Hong Kong Island, 11,000 in Kowloon and 4,200 in the New Territories.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing contrasts in lighting are boxed today.

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COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE ADVICE TO DIRECTORS

Directors of all companies, especially those of public companies, should acquaint themselves with the principal requirements of the Companies Ordinance and the standards of ethical conduct followed by the best companies.

The Companies Law Revision Committee emphasises the importance of this in its second report published yesterday.

In Britain, advice to directors on how they should deal with the normal problems that arise in running a company is given by the Institute of Directors in their book 'Standard Boardroom Practice'.

The committee regards the advice contained in the book as vitally important. It has, therefore, not only arranged for copies to be sent to Hong Kong but also for a Chinese version to be prepared by its Secretary, Mr. Charles Y.K. Lee.

In its opinion every director who wishes to conform to the best directorial practice should obtain a copy of the book or Chinese version.

For directors who wish to acquire some basic legal knowledge of their functions, the committee recommends another book 'The Company Director', also prepared under the authority of the Institute of Directors.

/No Chinese

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No Chinese version of this has been made. However, at the end of its report the committee expresses the hope that some enterprising, suitably qualified person will undertake the task of writing a simple guide in Chinese to company law. If necessary, the government should commission someone to write the guide, it says.

Copies of 'Standard Boardroom Practice', the Chinese version, and 'The Company Director' may be obtained at the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong, at \$12, \$3, and \$35 respectively.

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FLATTED FACTORY ACCOMMODATION IN KWUN TONG

The Housing Department has warned 27 operators in Housing Authority flatted factory units in the Kwun Tong Estate that they must vacate by November 15 the additional premises let to them on temporary terms.

The operators are among 63 proprietors who in 1968 were granted extra units for manufacturing or storage purposes when there was a surplus of flatted factory space.

They rented the extra units on the clear understanding that the tenancy was temporary on a month-to-month basis and that the units had to be given back at one month's notice if they were needed.

In 1970, as pressure on available government flatted factory space grew, the units were needed for other factories that had to be cleared and notices to quit were served on all the operators who rented extra units on temporary terms.

But they refused to go and started a round of petitions to UMELCO and to the Governor.

To assist the operators, the deadline was extended several times and the majority of them subsequently moved out. The 27 who remain have now been served with a letter from the Housing Department naming November 15 as the date by which they must vacate.

/Mr. R. Husband,

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Mr. R. Husband, Deputy Director of Estate Management said today: "These temporary occupants have enjoyed an excessively long stay already. They have shown no signs of co-operation with the department, in contrast to the other operators who moved out of their premises.

"These people have now been given a reasonable period in which to vacate. They, after all, had notice to quit three years ago and for all this time they have deprived other factory owners of their rights to a Housing Authority flatted unit."

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS TO VISIT SWD'S SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT

Two unofficial members of the Legislative Council, Mr. Wilson Wang and Mr. James M.H. Wu, will visit summer youth projects sponsored by the Social Welfare Department in the New Territories on Saturday, (August 4).

In the morning, Mr. Wang will visit a group of young people learning about village life at Shui Lau Tin in the Yuen Long district.

Members of the group are from the rural observation and service society, one of the self-programming bodies of the Social Welfare Department's Youth Work Unit.

The began their programme today (Thursday) and will spend five days in the village.

The group, whose ages range from 17 to 25 will also have a chance to try their hands at farming. In the evenings, they will arrange entertainment for the village children and hold discussions with the people there.

This is the third year in which this particular self-programming group has been active in the New Territories. In the past, it has rendered service to different villages organising fun fairs and taking village children to visit the city. At present, the group has about 100 registered members half of whom are students, most of them attending post-secondary schools.

/Mr. Wu's

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Mr. Wu's visit will take place in the afternoon when he will call at the volunteers' training camp at Strafford House in Tai Po Kau.

The two-day camp is intended to arouse the participants' sense of responsibility towards the community and to explore together ways and means by which it can be interpreted into action.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the two visits.

Transport will be provided on both occasions.

For the morning visit by Mr. Wang, transport will leave the Kowloon sub-pool behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 9.15 a.m.

In the afternoon, transport for Mr. Wu's visit will leave at 2.45 p.m. from the same place.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

The Building Authority today declared two buildings in Kowloon to be in a dangerous condition. They are No. 1 West 5th Lane, Diamond Hill and No. 20 Ping Yeung New Village.

Both are single storey pre-war buildings with roof additions and were inspected following reports.

In the case of the building in West 5th Lane, it was found that the main roof had failed and there was a danger of further collapse affecting both the roof addition and the main building.

The inspection of the other building revealed that part of an external wall had failed and the materials used in its construction were of such quality that further failures could occur.

A notice of intention to apply for a closure order for this building in Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on August 16 was posted today. For the building at West 5th Lane, the application will be heard in the same court on August 10.

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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