



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PAID OUT A TOTAL OF \$77.4 MILLION IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79 AS NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY CASH BENEFITS TO NEEDY FAMILIES, THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY.

OF THESE, \$28.9 MILLION WERE DISTRIBUTED IN JUNE -- THE BIGGEST AMOUNT EVER PAID OUT IN A SINGLE MONTH SINCE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE WELFARE ALLOWANCES SCHEMES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1971 AND 1973 RESPECTIVELY.

THE MONEY WENT TO MORE THAN 132,200 NEEDY FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS UNDER THESE TWO SCHEMES FINANCED BY PUBLIC FUNDS AND ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION.

MR. CHENG KWAN-KUEN, HEAD OF THE DIVISION, SAID TODAY THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE THIS YEAR REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF \$18.9 MILLION OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

HE SAID THE INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT HAD RESULTED FROM INCREASED PAYMENT RATES AND THE RECENTLY-INTRODUCED IMPROVEMENTS TO BOTH SCHEMES.

+UNDER THESE IMPROVEMENTS, ELIGIBLE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS ALSO RECEIVE OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT AND LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT ALLOWANCES, AND BENEFIT FROM THE DISREGARDED EARNINGS PROVISION, WHILE THE WELFARE ALLOWANCES SCHEME IS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THOSE LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHENG SAID THAT OF THE \$77.4 MILLION, \$48.9 MILLION WERE PAID OUT AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, \$17.9 MILLION AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, AND \$10.7 MILLION AS DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ARE HANDLING 47,400 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 65,600 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES AND 19,200 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

MEANWHILE, MR. CHENG REMINDED PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY CHANGES IN THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, WHICH WAS MEANS-TESTED, WAS WORKED OUT ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WAS KNOWN ABOUT THE APPLICANT AND HIS HOUSEHOLD AT A GIVEN POINT OF TIME.

+THE RESOURCES THAT AFFECT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INCLUDE INCOME, SAVINGS, OTHER ASSETS AND CASUAL EMPLOYMENT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THEREFORE MOST IMPORTANT THAT RECIPIENTS SHOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES ON THESE RESOURCES.

/+FAILING TO DO

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+FAILING TO DO SO MAY LEAD TO OVERPAYMENTS AND CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF INCONVENIENCE TO BOTH THE RECIPIENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHENG POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST, THERE HAD BEEN CASES IN WHICH THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT WITHHELD INFORMATION ON CHANGES OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS INCREASED EARNINGS, AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT TO COURT FOR DEFRAUDS.

+IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHEME IS NOT ABUSED AND THAT THE CASH ASSISTANCE GOES TO THE GENUINE NEEDY,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT, AS THE SCHEME WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A GUARANTEED INCOME TO NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS, PEOPLE COULD BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ONCE THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES FELL BELOW THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO STUDENTS UNDER FUNDS
ADMINISTERED BY AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

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APPLICATIONS FROM STUDENTS SEEKING SCHOLARSHIPS, INTEREST FREE LOANS OR GRANTS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND OR THE MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR. J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TWO FUNDS, EACH WITH A CAPITAL OF \$1 MILLION, ARE ADMINISTERED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEES COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FARMING AND FISHING PRODUCERS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AS THE TRUSTEE.

ONE SCHOLARSHIP UNDER EACH FUND WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS OF HIGH INTELLECTUAL PROMISE AND WHO ARE NORMALLY RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG.

/APPLICATIONS

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APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 26, 1978.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL GENERALLY INCLUDE APPROVED TUITION, HOSTEL, LABORATORY AND EXAMINATION FEES= PERSONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE= GRANTS FOR BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT= AND EXCEPTIONALLY, OVERSEAS TRAVEL COSTS.

MR. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MUST UNDERTAKE TO WORK FOR A STIPULATED PERIOD IN THE AGRICULTURE OR MARINE FISH INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD.

HE ADDED THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS FROM FISHING AND FARMING FAMILIES.

HE SAID THE SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD BE TENABLE AT EITHER OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, OR AT AN ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS ACADEMIC, TECHNICAL OR POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTION.

+THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NORMALLY OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN UNDER THE AGE OF 30 AND PREFERABLY BETWEEN 18 AND 25 YEARS. HOWEVER, SUITABLE MATURE AGED STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PRECLUDED FROM APPLYING,+ SAID MR. RIDDELL-SWAN.

THE FUNDS ALSO ALLOW FOR THE AWARDING OF INTEREST FREE LOANS OR GRANTS TO DESERVING STUDENTS WHO WISH TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES OR WHO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED FOR COURSE AT A HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, A HONG KONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OR AN OVERSEAS ACADEMIC OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

HOWEVER, SUBJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE STUDENTS MUST BE RELEVANT TO AGRICULTURE OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT MARKETING INDUSTRIES OR TO MARINE FISHERIES OR FISH MARKETING INDUSTRIES.

MR. RIDDELL-SWAN SAID PRIORITY FOR GRANTS OR LOANS WOULD BE GIVEN TO DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN.

THE AMOUNT OF GRANTS OR LOANS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN THE LIGHT OF FINANCIAL NEEDS AND FUNDS AVAILABLE. GRANTS WILL COVER FEES, BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR STUDIES WHILE THE LOANS WILL BE TOWARDS LIVING COST EXPENDITURE.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS OR LOANS CLOSE ON AUGUST 19, 1978.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE FUND SECRETARY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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BUSY YEAR FOR PORT OF HONG KONG IN 1977

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THE PORT OF HONG KONG EXPERIENCED A VERY BUSY YEAR IN 1977, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 250 VESSELS ENTERING OR CLEARING DAILY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, ABOUT 90,000 VESSELS COMPRISING OCEAN-GOING SHIPS, RIVER TRADE STEAMERS, HYDROFOILS AND LOCAL CRAFT WITH A COMBINED NET TONNAGE OF MORE THAN 97 MILLION ENTERED AND CLEARED THE PORT OF HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

THESE VESSELS LOADED AND UNLOADED A TOTAL OF 25.2 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO IN 1977, COMPARED WITH 22.97 MILLION TONNES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

CONTAINERISED CARGO, EXCLUDING FUEL OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, REPRESENTED 48.9 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CARGO TONNAGE HANDLED LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 44.6 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN TERMS OF T.E.U.'S (TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNIT), THE TOTAL CONTAINER THROUGHPUT WAS 1.26 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 22.3 PER CENT OVER THE 1976 THROUGHPUT OF 1.03 MILLION T.E.U.'S.

THE STATISTICS ALSO SHOWED THAT 8,916 OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WITH A COMBINED NET TONNAGE OF 42.8 MILLION ARRIVED HERE IN 1977, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 10.5 PER CENT AND 16.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CARGO UNLOADED BY THESE VESSELS STOOD AT 17.2 MILLION TONNES LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 11 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DURING THE YEAR, A TOTAL OF 8,969 OCEAN-GOING VESSELS WITH A COMBINED NET TONNAGE OF 42.9 MILLION CLEARED THE PORT OF HONG KONG, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 10.3 AND 17.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CARGO LOADED BY THESE VESSELS WAS 6.19 MILLION TONNES, AN INCREASE OF 8.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1976.

RIVER TRADE, MAINLY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU ALSO SHOWED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN 1977 WITH 71,433 VESSELS OF 11.6 MILLION NET TONNES ENTERING AND CLEARING, COMPARED WITH 70,823 VESSELS OF 11.4 MILLION NET TONNES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

CARGO FROM THE RIVER TRADE THAT WAS LOADED AND DISCHARGED HERE AMOUNTED TO 1.8 MILLION TONNES, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM MACAU INCREASED BY ABOUT TEN PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO 5.1 MILLION.

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APPROVAL OF BUILDINGS PLANS
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A TOTAL OF 67 NEW BUILDINGS PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN JUNE, COMPARED WITH 83 FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED, 27 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 14 FOR KOWLOON, AND 26 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR A HOTEL BUILDING IN SALISBURY ROAD EXTENSION, A CHURCH AND RETREAT HOUSE IN TUEN MUN, A SCHOOL IN STUBBS ROAD AND SEVERAL FACTORY BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN THE SAME MONTH, 40 COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION. THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF THESE BUILDINGS WAS MORE THAN \$202 MILLION.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF THESE BUILDINGS AMOUNTED TO 145,815 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 58,775 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 87,040 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

APPROVAL WAS ALSO GIVEN FOR 63 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS TO COMMENCE WORK, INCLUDING A HOSPITAL IN DUNDAS STREET, A COLD STORAGE IN SUNG WONG TOI ROAD, A CHURCH AND YOUTH CENTRE IN HUNG SHUI KUI, CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND A PIER AND FOOTBRIDGE IN YI LONG WAN, LANTAU ISLAND.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF 86 BUILDINGS DURING THE MONTH.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TO KWA WAN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ANHUI STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH MA TAU WEI ROAD IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 10) FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD ANHUI STREET WILL BECOME A NO-THROUGH ROAD AND TEMPORARILY BE RE-ROUTED TWO WAY.

THE SECTION OF KO SHAN ROAD BETWEEN ANHUI STREET AND KIANG HSI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO WAY TO ONE WAY SOUTHBOUND AND KIANG HSI STREET TO ONE WAY EASTBOUND.

ACCESS TO ANHUI STREET IS PROVIDED VIA CHI KIANG STREET AND KO SHAN ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9) TO 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE THOSE IN BLOCKS 1 TO 17 OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE (WEST) IN KWUN TONG.

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