

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Tuesday, August 22, 1972

TEN PER CENT PAY INCREASE FOR 40,000 GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Some 40,000 workers in the Civil Service will receive a 10 per cent increase in their "take-home" pay, which will be back-dated to April 1 this year.

The workers concerned are those paid on the Model Scale 1 and include street cleaners, messengers, labourers, lift operators, caretakers, workshop attendants and watchmen.

Artisans and senior artisans are also included. Postmen and assistant postmen, who are paid on a special scale, will also get this increase.

Revised pay scales for these government staff were recently considered and agreed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

A Government spokesman said this afternoon: "The new salary scales mean net increases ranging from \$48 to \$78 a month for men, and from \$43 to \$71 a month for women.

The new salaries and back pay will be paid out by the end of November.

The spokesman explained that, under the revised pay arrangements, part of the Cost of Living Allowance payable since April 1 this year, had been incorporated into the new pay scales.

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"Increases in the Modified Consumer Price Index will, in future, be compensated by a new Cost of Living Allowance which rises by \$15 for every five-point increase in the Consumer Price Index," he added.

The pay award results from a review by the Government's Pay Investigation Unit into the wages of Model Scale 1 staff, based on an objective comparison with pay and conditions of service of people doing similar work in private firms and commercial and industrial enterprises.

The extra cost of meeting the additional wage payments for Model Scale 1 staff will be about \$23 million a year.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR FERRY STREET

Traffic routing in the Public Light Bus Terminus at Ferry Street, Kowloon, is to be re-routed one-way eastbound to facilitate the picking-up and setting-down of passengers.

The new arrangement will come into force at 10 a.m. Thursday (August 24).

Appropriate traffic signs will be erected to guide drivers.

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CIVIL AVIATION - LONG TERM PLANNING STUDY BEING CONSIDERED

Feasibility Of Second Airport To Be Included

The Government is considering undertaking a long-term planning study to find out just how far it must go to satisfy civil aviation needs in the 1980's and 1990's, without affecting Hong Kong's economic life or the people's well-being.

Disclosing this today, the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. T.R. Thomson, said a study carried out in 1970 indicated that Hong Kong Airport would reach "complete saturation" at the peak periods around 1980-82.

He was giving a talk on "Government involvement in civil aviation" at a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong at the Mandarin Hotel.

Mr. Thomson pointed to the possible problems confronting the future of Hong Kong's air transport system and spoke of the past and present development programmes at the airport, as well as outlining the work and objectives of his department.

By 1980-82, he said, Hong Kong might expect to be handling a total of about 150,000 aircraft movements, including 71,000 scheduled international aircraft movements, some seven million passengers and around 500,000 metric tons of air cargo.

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"This being so, we have reached the point where there is a need for a complete review of Government's policy for civil aviation to be undertaken."

Mr. Thomson described the long-term planning study, if undertaken, as "a formidable and complex task".

This study would examine, among other things, the feasibilities and costs of further expanding Hong Kong Airport and of a new airport built elsewhere in the Colony, he said.

The Director said there was a relationship between Hong Kong's tourist and civil aviation policies, and posed a number of questions which the study would examine. He pointed out that of the total number of passengers carried, some 85 per cent were tourists.

"If we limit tourism, we run the risk of failing to attract a wide-spread of scheduled air services.

New Airport

"If we continue to attract the tourist to Hong Kong, we shall certainly need a new airport some time in the mid 1980's to accommodate the vast numbers of air movements such traffic would generate."

However, he asked if the cost of a new airport should rival that of the mass transit system, whether it was in Hong Kong's best interest to invest such large sums of money in providing facilities and services primarily to accommodate tourists.

"Is there a point in tourism beyond which it becomes a liability and embarrassment to Hong Kong; where the very fact of having too many tourists would have an adverse effect on the quality of life for those living in Hong Kong?"

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Conversely, he asked if tourism were severely curtailed with the resultant loss of air services, whether this would detract from Hong Kong's position as a commercial, industrial and financial centre in this region.

"Or, tourism aside, if we opt out of the mainstream of air communication, do we also opt out of the mainstream of economic and social development?"

Mr. Thomson expressed his confidence that the opinion of the public as well as the industrial and business community would be sought as "inputs" to the study.

He said one of the basic objectives of the study was to present the problems of the future of Hong Kong's air transport system in such a manner that the Government would be able to appreciate the effect of adopting a particular course of action both on civil aviation and the economic life of the Colony.

Difficulties

As regards the immediate future, the Director cautioned that the next three or four years would be "very difficult years" because of the problems associated with the second major phase of development now in progress at the airport.

Some degree of congestion, delay and inconvenience would be experienced by passengers as massive construction work proceeded, but he assured that every effort would be made to minimise the effect of the works and the expected difficulties.

Mr. Thomson said the current phase of development programme, which included the runway extension, would expand the airport to roughly double its present size in terms of capacity.

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When this was completed by 1976, he said, the airport could handle some 30 to 32 aircraft an hour in adverse weather conditions, some 4,000 passengers an hour and a throughput of air cargo of some 220,000 metric tons a year.

The first major phase of development was finished in 1962. By 1976, the Government will have invested some \$700 million in Hong Kong's air transport system, he added.

The Director said the development programmes at the airport had made Hong Kong a "main aviation centre in South East Asia and the Far East".

Over the 10 years 1962 to 1972, international air services have increased from about 15,000 movements to 50,000 movements; passengers from 500,000 to 2.5 million, and air cargo from 6,000 metric tons to just over 78,000 metric tons.

Mr. Thomson described civil aviation as "a very large, important and expanding industry" in Hong Kong, and pointed out that the airport revenue alone was over \$100 million in the financial year 1971-72.

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BALANCE OF RAINSTORM DONATIONS

MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO COMMUNITY RELIEF TRUST FUND

The Management Committee of the Community Relief Trust Fund is considering carrying forward a balance of about \$4.4 million donated recently for victims of the June rainstorm disasters.

Members feel this would be in accordance with the wishes of the donors, and in the best interest of the community as a whole.

They agree that donations to the Fund were intended to relieve actual hardship among the victims, and not merely inconvenience or loss.

Their view is that the balance of the money subscribed should also be made available to those who might suffer equal hardship in other, perhaps less publicised, disasters which occur from time to time.

In a statement today, Mr. G.T. Rowe, Director of Social Welfare and Trustee of the Fund, said: "The transfer of the balance to the Community Relief Trust Fund would not mean that victims of the June rainstorms were excluded from further benefit. Indeed, payments are still continuing.

"It would be merely that they would no longer have exclusive call on these funds, which would also be made available to others who suffer similar disasters."

At a meeting earlier this week, the Committee discussed several proposals on how to dispose of the likely balance before deciding to consider carrying the money forward.

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One idea was to erect an exhibition hall in the heart of Sau Mau Ping, an area affected by the June rainstorms. But this was thought to be unsuitable because it was felt that such a building would normally be provided by the Government, and should not be built at the expense of these donations.

Another idea was to distribute the balance in a final cash payment to all registered victims.

While this proposal had the merit of immediately putting an end to the chapter on the June rainstorms in so far as it relates to the public's generosity, members felt such a liquidation of responsibility took no account of the expressed desire of many donors to have their money constructively employed among victims of future disasters.

Mr. Rowe said 4,528 families, or 21,580 individuals, had registered for aid after the rainstorms with the Social Welfare Department alone, and if the balance were distributed in cash among them, no one would get more than between \$100 and \$200 each.

In view of the smallness of this amount and the large payments already made, a more satisfactory solution would seem to be to consider legislation to enable the balance to be transferred to the Community Relief Trust Fund proper for use in future emergencies.

"There are precedents for this," Mr. Rowe explained. "Indeed, the Community Relief Trust Fund was begun with funds derived from donations in respect of specific disasters."

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COFFEE QUOTA ALLOCATED FOR RE-EXPORT

The Commerce and Industry Department announced today that it was prepared to approve applications to import coffee for re-export purpose from countries which are not members of the International Coffee Agreement.

A quota of 220,000 kilograms has been allocated for this purpose for the next coffee year.

A spokesman for the department said that applications would be considered on a first-come first-served basis and that they must be submitted before September 30.

"There will be no change in the procedure in respect of coffee imported from member countries," he said.

During the current Coffee Year - October 1, 1971 to September 30, 1972 - the Commerce and Industry Department had only approved applications to import coffee from non-member countries for local consumption.

The spokesman added that a further announcement regarding imports of coffee from non-member countries for the coming coffee year would be made as soon as information was received by his department.

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WORK FOR THE DISABLED

Twenty-eight disabled were found jobs by the Social Welfare Department's Liaison and Placement Unit during July -- despite keen competition for temporary factory places by students on summer vacation.

Of the total, 12 took up their occupations following successful interviews. The remaining 16 were also successful, but could not begin work immediately because of the late arrival of machinery on order.

They have been assured by the management that they will start as soon as the equipment has been installed.

Of the 12 already working, six are crippled. They have taken up jobs as messengers, inspectors, watchmen, and apprentice repairmen.

A young blind man is now a casual worker on a piece-rate basis, and three deaf men are respectively a printing worker, a packer, and a member of an assembly staff.

Two men who have recovered from tuberculosis are now a clerk and a watchman.

Mr. Paul Leung, Officer in charge of the Unit, says negotiations are now under way with a garment factory in Kwun Tong to employ a number of post-polio industrial sewing machine trainees as the result of a special bus service to operate from their homes to the factory and back.

"If technical problems can be overcome," he comments, "these trainees using calipers will really be standing on their own feet."

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MORE SEAMEN REGISTERED WITH S.R.O.

A total of 71,331 seamen was registered with the Seamen's Recruiting Office at the end of last month, according to statistics released by the Marine Department.

Of these, 27,471 were included in Part I of the register. These seamen had either been to sea during the past two years, or had had pre-sea training or acceptable shore experience.

There were 15,038 new entrants to the shipping industry who did not have pre-sea training or acceptable shore experience.

Another 28,822 seamen were included in Part IV, which comprises those who have been transferred from Part I in order to have their names listed with one of a number of licensed crew departments in shipping companies.

During the month, 277 seamen who had registered with the Recruiting Office were selected and engaged for service on foreign-going ships.

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SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Two open air variety shows providing free entertainment for all will be held this week in Sheung Shui and Mong Kok.

The Urban Services Department, the Tai Po District Office, the Sheung Shui Rural Committee and the Sheung Shui District Youth and Recreation Co-ordinating Committee will be holding a variety show to mark the official closing of the Summer Youth Programme for the Sheung Shui District.

The show will be held on Thursday (August 24) from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Shek Wu Hui Playground.

The second variety show is jointly organised by the Urban Council, the City District Office (Mong Kok) and the Mong Kok Kaifong Association.

It will be held in the MacPherson Playground on Saturday (August 26) from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Programmes will include folk dances, acrobatic displays, folk songs and mimicry. There will be lucky draws at the end of the shows, using the serial numbers of the free admission tickets.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN HUNG HOM

Water supply to certain premises in Hung Hom will be turned off for six hours with effect from 1 a.m. on Thursday (August 24).

The temporary stoppage is to allow a leakage test to be carried out in the area.

The premises affected are bounded by To Kwa Wan Road, Ma Hang Chung Road, Pau Chung Street and Sheung Heung Road.

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TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR

Mr. G.M.B. Salmon, has been appointed temporarily to the Executive Council with effect from August 21 during the absence of Mr. G.R. Ross.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.