



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**\$269 MILLION IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PAID OUT
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED EXPANSION IN DIRECT WELFARE SERVICES, HAS PAID OUT \$269 MILLION AS NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY CASH BENEFITS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1980.

THE MONEY WENT TO MORE THAN 300 000 PEOPLE AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO MEET BASIC LIVING EXPENSES, AND AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS.

THE AMOUNT WAS ABOUT \$27.8 MILLION MORE THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR, AND REPRESENTED AN AVERAGE DAILY PAYOUT OF \$1.4 MILLION.

AT PRESENT, THE DEPARTMENT'S 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS ARE TOGETHER HANDLING 45 000 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, 149 000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND 26 200 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE INCREASE IN PAYOUT WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE INCREASE OF 15 PER CENT IN SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT RATES MADE LAST SEPTEMBER.

HE SAID THE PAYMENT RATES WOULD BE INCREASED BY ANOTHER 22 PER CENT AS FROM NEXT MONTH IN STEP WITH INFLATION TO MAINTAIN THEIR REAL PURCHASING POWER.

OF THE \$269 MILLION PAYOUT FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS THIS YEAR, HE SAID, \$119 MILLION WERE PAID AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, \$112 MILLION AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, AND \$38 MILLION AS DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

THE MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME PROVIDES MONTHLY CASH ASSISTANCE TO HELP MAINTAIN THE INCOME OF A HOUSEHOLD IN NEED UP TO A LEVEL WHERE BASIC LIVING CAN BE MET.

THE SCHEME IS BUILT IN WITH SUPPLEMENTS TO PROVIDE EXTRA GRANTS FOR RECIPIENTS WHO ARE AGED 60 YEARS AND OVER, OR WHO ARE PARTIALLY DISABLED. IN ADDITION, A LUMP SUM IS PAID EACH YEAR TO LONG-TERM RECIPIENTS FOR REPLACING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.

AS FROM NEXT MONTH, THE NEW PAYMENT RATES FOR SINGLE PERSONS WILL BE \$280 A MONTH AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE- \$140 A MONTH AS OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT OR DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT- AND \$355 A YEAR AS LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT (OR \$700 A YEAR FOR A FAMILY.)

THE NON-MEANS TESTED OLD AGE OR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE PROVIDES A MONTHLY CASH GRANT, ON TOP OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AS EXTRA FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY TO LOOK AFTER AN ELDERLY OR SEVERELY DISABLED PERSON AND TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING OUT OF OLD AGE OR DISABILITY.

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UNDER THE NEW RATES, IT WILL BE \$140 A MONTH FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE AGED 70 YEARS AND OVER- AND \$280 A MONTH FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

ANY INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY, WITHOUT INCOME OR UNABLE TO EARN ENOUGH FOR BASIC LIVING, OR IN NEED OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES, MAY APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT THEIR NEAREST FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE OR SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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CANCER EXPLAINED * * * *

WHAT IS CANCER? IS IT AN INCURABLE DISEASE? ARE THERE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT IT? WHAT ARE THE COMMON TYPES IN HONG KONG?

A VISIT TO THE ANTI-CANCER EXHIBITION IN THE EXHIBITION HALL AT THE CITY HALL THIS COMING WEEKEND WILL YIELD ANSWERS TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE STOMA ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC APPEARED TO HAVE A MISCONCEPTION THAT THE DISEASE IS DEADLY AND INCURABLE.

THIS IS BECAUSE CANCER HAS BECOME THE TOP KILLER DISEASE IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS. LAST YEAR ALONE IT CLAIMED 6 203 LIVES, WHICH MEANT THAT AN AVERAGE OF 17 PERSONS DIED OF IT EACH DAY, HE SAID.

+LITTLE DO PEOPLE KNOW THAT MOST CANCERS CAN BE CURED IF DETECTED EARLY AND TREATED IN TIME. FURTHERMORE, SOME CANCERS CAN BE PREVENTED,+ HE SAID.

THE OBJECTIVE OF MOUNTING THE EXHIBITION IS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISEASE AND TO ALLAY THEIR FEARS.

+WE HOPE THAT THROUGH THIS EXHIBITION THE PUBLIC WILL BECOME AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND EARLY TREATMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

DURING THE EXHIBITION, VISITORS WILL SEE STATIC DISPLAYS ON THE COMMON FORMS OF CANCER IN HONG KONG, AND ILLUSTRATIONS ON PREVENTIVE AND TREATMENT METHODS.

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EDUCATIONAL MOVIES AND SLIDES ON TOPICS INCLUDING LUNG CANCER AND CERVICAL CANCER WILL BE SHOWN AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

ILLUMINATED LIFE-SIZE MODELS INDICATING THE COMMON SITES OF CANCER AND THE SPREAD OF CANCER IN THE BODY WILL ALSO BE FEATURED.

TWO EDUCATIONAL LEAFLETS, ONE ON EARLY CANCER WARNING SIGNS AND THE OTHER ON STEPS TO CONDUCT SELF-EXAMINATION OF BREAST CANCER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN EVERY DAY BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6 PM FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 29) TO SUNDAY (AUGUST 31).

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MAJOR ROAD SCHEME IN TUEN MUN

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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR IMPLEMENTING A MAJOR ROAD PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE SOUTHERN ACCESS TO ON TING AND YAU OI ESTATES AND TUEN MUN'S PLANNED TOWN CENTRE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE PROGRAMME CALLED FOR CONSTRUCTING AN ELEVATED ROAD OVER TUEN MUN ROAD TO LINK CASTLE PEAK ROAD WITH A NEW ROAD LEADING TO THE TWO ESTATES.

PART OF TUEN MUN ROAD IN THE NEW TOWN WILL BE WIDENED TO A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY FOR 0.8 KILOMETRE SOUTH OF PUI TO ROAD.

THE LINK, HE SAID, WOULD BE MADE BY A HALF-DIAMOND SHAPED INTERCHANGE WITH ON TING BRIDGE, ACROSS TUEN MUN ROAD.

THIS BRIDGE WILL BE A TWO SPAN STRUCTURE OF PRECAST PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BEAMS WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE DECKS.

THE 0.5 KILOMETRE ELEVATED ROAD WILL HAVE TWO PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS WHICH WILL PROVIDE ACCESS FROM A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AREA AND ON TING ESTATE IN THE SOUTH, TO THE TUEN MUN CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPLEX IN THE TOWN'S CENTRE IN THE NORTH.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS.

THE PROGRAMME FORMS PART OF THE OVERALL NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HANDLED BY THE PWD TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

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APPLICATIONS FOR ISLANDS DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA
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SWIMMING ENTHUSIASTS LIVING IN ISLANDS DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A DISTRICT-WIDE SWIMMING GALA TO BE HELD AT KENNEDY TOWN SWIMMING POOL ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY ISLANDS DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICE, THE EVENT IS INTENDED TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN SWIMMING AND ENCOURAGE A SENSE OF FRATERNITY AMONG ISLANDS RESIDENTS.

ENTRY IS OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDES CHEUNG CHAU, LAMMA, LANTAU AND PENG CHAU. ENTRANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX. THERE WILL BE RACES IN BREAST-STROKE, BACK-STROKE, BUTTERFLY AND FREE STYLE.

WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND WILL BE SELECTED TO REPRESENT ISLANDS DISTRICT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SWIMMING GALA TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICE AT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, AND FROM RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICES. THEY SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.

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NEW RAILWAY BRIDGES AT FO TAN
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A NEW RAIL UNDERBRIDGE WILL BE BUILT AT FO TAN, SHA TIN, TO REPLACE THE TWO EXISTING UNDERBRIDGES TO BE DEMOLISHED.

TENDERS FOR THE DEMOLITION WORK, AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BRIDGE, ARE BEING INVITED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE WORK FORMS PART OF THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

IT INVOLVES THE PROVISION OF A WIDENED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE DECK WHICH WILL LATER CARRY THE MAIN LINES AS WELL AS THE PLATFORMS AND LOOP LINES INTO THE FUTURE FO TAN STATION.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED, AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, AS SUB-CONSULTANTS TO TRANSMARK WHO ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTANTS FOR THE ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT.

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TAI KOK TSUI ROAD TRAFFIC CHANGE
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THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI KOK TSUI ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH CHERRY STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT A WEEK FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 26) FOR ROAD RESURFACING.

DURING THIS PERIOD, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG CHERRY STREET INTENDING TO TURN INTO TAI KOK TSUI ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHUN WING STREET, FOO KWAI STREET AND POK MAN STREET.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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SHA TIN WATER SUPPLY OFF
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WATER SUPPLY TO MOST AREAS OF SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 11 HOURS FROM 7 PM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 26) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREAS COVER WO CHE AND LEK YUEN ESTATES- TIN LIU, PAI TAU, LOK LO HA, AND SHEUNG HA WO CHE VILLAGES- FO TAN, HO TUNG LAU, THE SHA TIN RACECOURSE, SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, CHINESE UNIVERSITY, AND THE TRUNK ROAD FROM THERE TO THE JUNCTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WITH TAI PO ROAD.

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