



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1978

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WARNINGS AGAINST DEFECTIVE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY CALLED ON BUILDING OWNERS TO HAVE THEIR FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT PROPERLY MAINTAINED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE LAW.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWS ROUTINE INSPECTIONS BY FIRE OFFICERS DURING WHICH THE INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT IN A LARGE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS WERE FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE.

+IN MOST BUILDINGS, HOSE REELS WERE FOUND WITHOUT NOZZLES, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS EMPTY WITH MANY IN A HIGHLY DETERIORATED STATE AND SPRINKLER SYSTEMS OUT OF ORDER,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

+THE LAW HAS LAID DOWN FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDINGS TO PROTECT THE OCCUPANTS AND IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF OWNERS TO MAKE SURE THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL ALWAYS FUNCTION,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS.

UNDER THE FIRE SERVICE (INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT) REGULATIONS, THE OWNERS OF ANY FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION OR EQUIPMENT WHICH IS INSTALLED IN ANY PREMISES MUST KEEP SUCH INSTALLATION OR EQUIPMENT IN EFFICIENT WORKING ORDER AT ALL TIMES.

THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO HAVE IT INSPECTED BY A REGISTERED FIRE SERVICE CONTRACTOR AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR.

+IF ANYONE IS IN DOUBT,+ HE SAID, +WE SUGGEST THEY CONSULT A REGISTERED FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR, A LIST OF WHICH CAN BE AVAILABLE AT NO COST AT THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, ANY FIRE STATION OR CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED REGISTERED FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS TO FORWARD A COPY OF CERTIFICATE TO THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF MAINTENANCE TO THE INSTALLATION AND EQUIPMENT OF A BUILDING.

UNDER THE LAW, ANY CONTRACTOR WHO FAILS TO DO SO OR ISSUES OR FORWARDS A CERTIFICATE WHICH IS FALSE OR MISLEADING SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$2,000 AND TO SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

+IN ADDITION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION COULD ALSO BE TAKEN UNDER THE FIRE SERVICE (INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS) REGULATIONS AND THE HEAVIEST PENALTY, WHICH COULD BE IMPOSED, IS TO DE-REGISTER THE CONTRACTOR,+ HE ADDED.

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DROP IN FERRY COMMUTERS
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THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED ACROSS THE HARBOUR BY FERRIES LAST YEAR DROPPED BY MORE THAN 2.8 MILLION WHILE PASSENGERS USING THE OUTLYING DISTRICT FERRY SERVICES ROSE BY SOME 1.2 MILLION COMPARED WITH 1976.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, A TOTAL OF 166.7 MILLION PASSENGERS USED THE 16 CROSS-HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES LAST YEAR. THIS REPRESENTED A DROP OF 1.7 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 169.5 MILLION IN 1976.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECREASE IN FERRY PASSENGERS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE COMPETING SERVICES OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR BUSES. BUT HE ADDED THE RATE OF DECLINE WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THAT IN 1976.

IN THAT YEAR, 6.6 PER CENT OR 12 MILLION FEWER COMMUTERS WERE CARRIED ACROSS HONG KONG HARBOUR COMPARED WITH 1975.

OF THE 166.7 MILLION PASSENGERS, 115.7 MILLION TRAVELLED ON VESSELS OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WHILE THE REMAINDER WERE CARRIED BY THE +STAR+ FERRY COMPANY.

LAST YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING THE YAUMATI FERRY CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES DROPPED BY 3.1 MILLION COMPARED WITH 1976.

+FARES ON H.Y.F.'S CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES WERE RAISED FROM 30 TO 40 CENTS IN JULY LAST YEAR, BUT THE LOSS OF PASSENGERS AS A RESULT OF THIS INCREASE WAS SURPRISINGLY LOW,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING THE YEAR OF REVIEW, 17.8 MILLION PEOPLE USED THE OUTLYING DISTRICT FERRY SERVICES, AN INCREASE OF 7.4 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURE OF 16.5 MILLION IN 1976.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT PASSENGER SERVICES TO OUTLYING DISTRICTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE LARGELY BECAUSE OF LEISURE TRAFFIC AND THE GROWING POPULARITY OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

+THE DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL SERVICES SHOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN FUTURE WITH NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE LONGER PAID HOLIDAYS,+ HE ADDED.

THE TWO STAR FERRY SERVICES -- FROM EDINBURGH PLACE TO TSIM SHA TSUI AND TO HUNG HOM -- CARRIED A TOTAL OF 50.96 MILLION COMMUTERS IN 1977, 0.5 PER CENT MORE THAN 1976, WITH THE EDINBURGH PLACE TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE CONTRIBUTING 96 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL.

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SEMINAR AND DISPLAY ON ECONOMICS TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
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A SEMINAR AND DISPLAY ON ECONOMICS TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FROM MARCH 29 TO 31.

THE AIM OF THE EVENT IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEACHERS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

THE ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, ARE ORGANISING THE DISPLAY AND SEMINAR. ABOUT 200 TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

THE THREE-DAY DISPLAY WILL BE OPENED AT 10 A.M. ON MARCH 29 BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL), MR. HO NGA-MING, AND THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, PROFESSOR M.A. BRIMER. IT WILL BE ON VIEW TILL 1 P.M. ON MARCH 31.

THE TOPICS OF DISPLAY BY 18 SCHOOLS INCLUDE : INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS BY LA SALLE COLLEGE= LOCATION OF INDUSTRY BY COGNITIO COLLEGE AND PUI SHING MIDDLE SCHOOL= MONEY AND BANKING BY VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL= AND THE HONG KONG ECONOMY BY KEI CHI MIDDLE SCHOOL AND RAIMONDI COLLEGE.

THE SEMINAR ON ECONOMICS TEACHING WILL BE INAUGURATED BY MR. ARTHUR BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), AT 9.30 A.M. ON THURSDAY AND WILL BE HELD FOR TWO DAYS, MARCH 30 AND 31. MR. P. MORRIS OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WILL MAKE A WELCOMING SPEECH.

DISCUSSIONS AT THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE: EDUCATIONAL THEORY AND ECONOMICS EDUCATION BY MR. MORRIS= OBSERVATIONS ON THE MACRO-ECONOMICS OF HONG KONG BY DR. ALAN MCLEAN, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ECONOMIC SERVICES= AND THE AVAILABILITY OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS FOR ECONOMICS TEACHING BY MRS. S.L. KWOK, VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE FOLLOWING AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON :

- (1) THE OPENING OF THE DISPLAY ON ECONOMICS TEACHING AT 10 A.M. ON MARCH 29, AND
- (2) THE SEMINAR OPENING AT 9.30 A.M. ON MARCH 30.

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HOME AFFAIRS HANDLE RECORD ENQUIRIES
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THE 22 PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR HANDLED A RECORD 2,515,973 ENQUIRIES.

THIS COMPRISED 1,170,470 ENQUIRIES AND CASES HANDLED AND 1,345,503 FORMS AND BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED AS COMPARED WITH 1,013,292 AND 1,011,780 IN 1976, AN INCREASE OF 15.5 PER CENT AND 33 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH MOST QUESTIONS WERE RAISED CONCERNED GOVERNMENT JOBS AND VACANCIES AND APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON THREE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE :

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
MARCH 28 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 11 P.M.
MARCH 30 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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