



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
RATES INCREASED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE .....	1
MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS LOOK AFTER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES .....	2
SCHOOLS URGED TO PROVIDE CAREERS GUIDANCE .....	4
PROPERTY TAX FOR 1979/80 .....	5
FIRE OFFICERS TO ATTEND FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE .....	6
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI .....	7
PLB RESTRICTIONS ON BONHAM ROAD .....	7
KOWLOON CITY ROAD TO BE RE-OPENED .....	8
WATER CUT .....	8

RATES INCREASED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND  
SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

PEOPLE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE (SNA) WILL NOW GET ABOUT 15 PER CENT MORE AS THE NEW RATES OF PAYMENT FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES COME INTO EFFECT TODAY (SATURDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST MONTHS FOR BENEFICIARIES TO BE PAID AT THE NEW RATES FROM TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN PA CASES WHERE THE ORIGINAL CASH COUPONS COVERED A PERIOD BEYOND THE END OF AUGUST, SUPPLEMENTARY COUPONS WERE ISSUED FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS ARISING FROM THE INCREASED RATES.

SNA RECIPIENTS ARE PAID THROUGH AUTO-PAY SYSTEM BY BANKS AND THEIR PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID.

THE INCREASES, HE SAID, ARE ESTIMATED TO COST AN ADDITIONAL \$31.2 MILLION UP TO THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR, AND THEREAFTER AN EXTRA \$53.4 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PAYMENT RATES FOR BOTH PA AND SNA WERE REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAINTAIN THEIR PURCHASING POWER IN REAL TERMS. SNA COMPRISES THE OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES.

THE MEANS-TESTED PA SCHEME PROVIDES MONTHLY CASH ASSISTANCE TO BRING THE INCOME OF A HOUSEHOLD IN NEED UP TO A LEVEL WHERE ESSENTIAL NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING CAN BE MET.

THE NON-MEANS TESTED SNA PROVIDES A MONTHLY CASH GRANT, ON TOP OF ANY PA PAYMENT, AS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY TO LOOK AFTER AN ELDERLY OR SEVERELY DISABLED MEMBER AND TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO REMAIN FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

THE NEW RATES OF PAYMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SINGLE PERSON LIVING ALONE .....	\$230
EACH OF FIRST THREE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY .....	\$165
EACH OF SECOND THREE MEMBERS OF FAMILY .....	\$140
EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER THEREAFTER .....	\$105
OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT (FOR ANY PA RECIPIENT AGED 60 AND OVER) .....	\$115

/ANNUAL LONG-TERM .....

ANNUAL LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT (FOR THOSE RECEIVING PA FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE)	
(A) FOR A SINGLE PERSON .....	\$290
(B) FOR A FAMILY .....	\$575

SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE .....	\$230
OLD AGE ALLOWANCE .....	\$115

AT PRESENT, THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS HANDLE ABOUT 46 300 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 137 000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES AND 21 900 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS LOOK AFTER PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
\* \* \* \* \*

PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS NEED NOT WORRY HOW THEIR FAMILIES ARE FARING WHILE THEY ARE AWAY FROM HOME.

WHILE SOME MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL HELP THEM TO RECOVER FROM THEIR ILLNESS, OTHERS ARE LOOKING AFTER THE WELL-BEING OF THEIR FAMILIES.

THESE ARE THE 145 MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHO PROVIDE REGIONAL SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS SERVICE IS TO ASSIST PATIENTS IN SOLVING PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROBLEMS -- BY HELPING THEM TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE MEDICAL CARE AND TO OVERCOME PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR ILLNESS,+ EXPLAINED MISS PEGGY CHAN, THE PRINCIPAL MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER IN CHARGE OF THE SERVICE.

BUT THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE IS NOT LIMITED TO THE PATIENT ALONE.

+IT ALSO ASSISTS FAMILY MEMBERS WHO NEED HELP AS A RESULT OF THE ILLNESS SUFFERED BY THE PATIENT,+ SHE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, SHE SAID, IF A BREADWINNER WHO IS A DRIVER LOST A LEG IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHILST AT WORK, OUR MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD FIRST HELP THE FAMILY OBTAIN EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

+APART FROM OFFERING SYMPATHY AND BUILDING UP THE MORALE OF THE PATIENT, OUR OFFICERS WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT HE STILL HAS THE ABILITY TO WORK WITH HIS HANDS AND MAKE A LIVING EVEN THOUGH HE HAD LOST A LEG.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 3 -

+ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR HIM TO RECEIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AFTER HE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED WITH AN ARTIFICIAL LEG IF NECESSARY. WE ALSO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES IN RESPECT OF JOB PLACEMENTS,+ MISS CHAN SAID.

+THE CASE, HOWEVER, IS NOT YET FINISHED,+ SHE SAID. +MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS WILL ALSO ADVISE ON HOW TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEME AND THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME.+

THE CASES HANDLED BY THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE MAY COME AS REFERRALS FROM MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF IN CLINICS AND HOSPITALS, OR EVEN FROM ACCOUNTING STAFF IN THESE INSTITUTIONS IN CASES WHEN FEES CANNOT BE PAID BY DESTITUTE FAMILIES.

OTHER CASES MAY BE FROM REFERRALS BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER WELFARE AGENCIES. PATIENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS CAN ALSO APPROACH THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS FOR SERVICE DIRECTLY. THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES TO ANY PATIENT IN NEED.

+MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK CASES MAY BE OF A SHORT-TERM OR A LONG-TERM BASIS DEPENDING ON ITS NATURE -- SOME FILES MAY BE CLOSED AS SOON AS THE PATIENT LEAVES THE HOSPITAL, WHILE THOSE INVOLVING DISEASE OF A CHRONIC OR PROTRACTED NATURE ARE THE LONG-TERM ONES,+ SHE EXPLAINED.

CASES MAY BE RE-ACTIVATED AT ANY TIME AS THE NEED ARISES.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE IS REFLECTED BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF CASES IN 1978. A TOTAL OF 70 000 CASES WERE HANDLED, AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

SHE SAID THE INCREASE MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO INCREASE IN POPULATION= INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS= THE PRESSING PROBLEMS ON AGED PEOPLE= CHANGES IN DISEASE PATTERNS -- MORE CASES OF CANCER AND MORE PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM STROKE OR HEART DISEASE= AND MORE PEOPLE SEEKING WESTERN MEDICAL TREATMENT.

+THE GREATER PRESSURE IN DAILY LIFE -- WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE GROWING NUMBER OF MENTAL ILLNESS -- IS ALSO A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR,+ SHE POINTED OUT.

THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE ALSO PROVIDES SPECIALISED SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH, TUBERCULOSIS, SKIN DISEASE AND NARCOTICS.

THE WORK DEALING WITH NARCOTICS IS THE LATEST ADDED TO THE SERVICE, INVOLVING PEOPLE SEEKING DETOXIFICATION UNDER THE METHADONE TREATMENT SCHEME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 4 -

SCHOOLS URGED TO PROVIDE CAREERS GUIDANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

SCHOOLS SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE TO THEIR STUDENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MANY SCHOOLS, HE NOTED, WERE ALREADY PROVIDING SUCH SERVICE AND IT WAS HOPED THAT SCHOOL HEADS WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THIS IMPORTANT WORK.

+THE CAREERS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST SCHOOLS TO ORGANISE CAREER ACTIVITIES FOR THEIR STUDENTS AND TO OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE THAT SCHOOLS MAY REQUIRE IN PROVIDING CAREER ADVISORY SERVICE TO THEIR STUDENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE SHOULD CONSIDER APPOINTING ONE OF THEIR TEACHERS AS A CAREERS MASTER -- PREFERABLY ONE WHO SHOWS GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND IS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH UPPER FORM PUPILS.

ONCE APPOINTED, THE TEACHER SHOULD JOIN THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS WHICH IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING CAREER WORK IN SCHOOLS AND HAS PRODUCED MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION ON EDUCATION AND OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

+SCHOOL HEADS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR CAREERS MASTERS BE ALLOTTED A FEW ADDITIONAL NON-TEACHING PERIODS PER WEEK TO ENABLE THEM TO INTERVIEW INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS, TO COMPILE INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS' CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS, TO FILE CAREERS LITERATURE AND INFORMATION AND TO ORGANISE CAREER ACTIVITIES WITH THE AIM OF FAMILIARISING STUDENTS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CAREERS AND DIFFERENT AVENUES OF STUDY AND TRAINING.

+THEY SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND SEMINARS, TALKS AND VISITS ARRANGED BY THE ASSOCIATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS OFFICER, MISS ROSE LAU, IS ALSO THE SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD SUBMIT THE NAME OF THEIR CAREERS MASTER TO MISS LAU TOGETHER WITH A CHEQUE FOR \$10 AS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MISS LAU CAN BE CONTACTED AT TEL: 5-778311 EXT. 239.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5 .....

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 5 -

PROPERTY TAX FOR 1979/80

\* \* \* \*

THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED THE 1979/80 DEMAND NOTES FOR PROPERTY TAX FOR PROPERTIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT PROPERTY TAXPAYERS, WHETHER OWNERS, AGENTS, OR OCCUPIERS, WHO PAY RATES IN RESPECT OF THE LAND OR BUILDINGS OR LAND AND BUILDINGS ON THE ISLAND SHOULD HAVE BY NOW RECEIVED THE DEMAND NOTES.

+ANY PROPERTY TAXPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE SHOULD APPLY TO THE TREASURY ACCOUNTS BRANCH OF THE TREASURY, ROOM 203, HANG CHONG BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG FOR A COPY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE PROPERTY TAX MUST BE PAID BY THE DUE DATE ON SEPTEMBER 29.

HE ADDED THAT IF THE TAX IS NOT PAID BY THE DUE DATE, A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE TAXPAYER, AND A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNTS (INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE) WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED TAXPAYERS THAT THE AMOUNT PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29 IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE +AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX DUE+ BOX.

+TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, PROPERTY TAXPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE COLLECTION OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PEOPLE WISHING TO SEEK ADVICE SHOULD CONTACT THE PROPERTY TAX SECTION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AT WINDSOR HOUSE, 17TH FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 6 -

FIRE OFFICERS TO ATTEND FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE  
\* \* \* \* \*

TWO SENIOR HONG KONG FIRE OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR SINGAPORE ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 3) TO ATTEND A FIVE-DAY SOUTHEAST ASIAN FIRE SAFETY CONFERENCE.

THEY ARE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR. ROBERT HOLMES AND DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR. WOO KWAN KUEN.

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE SINGAPOREAN BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS.

MR. HOLMES IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTION.

+THE CONFERENCE PROVIDES A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND IDEAS ON FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE ENGINEERING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD,+ SAID MR. HOLMES.

HE ADDED THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN THE FAR EAST AND WOULD BE ATTENDED BY MANY FIRE OFFICERS, FIRE ENGINEERS AND FIRE-APPLIANCE EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

---

AMONG THE OVERSEAS DELEGATES WILL BE A PARTY OF 28 MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE BRITISH PARTY IS LED BY MR. ERIC WHITAKER, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF THE EAST SESSEX FIRE BRIGADE.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS VISIT TO THE FAR EAST, THE PARTY STOPPED OVER IN HONG KONG ON ITS WAY TO SINGAPORE.

DURING THEIR STAY, THE MEMBERS VISITED THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAK HEUNG AND WERE TAKEN ON A FIRE BOAT TO SEE ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE WORK OF THE FIRE SERVICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 7 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI  
\* \* \* \* \*

TRAFFIC IN CARNARVON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI WILL RETURN TO NORMAL FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 3), FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF ROAD WORK THERE.

ALSO FROM THE SAME TIME ON MONDAY, INSTEAD OF AUGUST 28 AS ANNOUNCED EARLIER, MOTORISTS TRAVELLING ALONG NATHAN ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING LEFT INTO HUMPHREYS AVENUE.

THE SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT WHICH WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORK IN HUMPHREYS AVENUE.

DURING THIS PERIOD, HUMPHREYS AVENUE WILL BECOME A NO-THROUGH-ROAD FOR TRAFFIC WHICH WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY TO TWO-WAY FOR MOTORISTS TO GAIN ACCESS INTO PREMISES ALONG THE AVENUE.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PLB RESTRICTIONS ON BONHAM ROAD  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 3), THE SECTION OF BONHAM ROAD BETWEEN PARK ROAD AND THE BONHAM ROAD FLYOVER, AND THE SECTION OF WESTERN STREET BETWEEN HIGH STREET AND BONHAM ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONES.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THESE TWO AREAS, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTIONS.

AT THE SAME TIME ON SEPTEMBER 3, WAI KING STREET IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE OPENED TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC FROM SAN MA TAU STREET TO KWEI CHOW STREET TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

- 8 -

KOWLOON CITY ROAD TO BE RE-OPENED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECTION OF KOWLOON CITY ROAD BETWEEN MA HANG CHUNG ROAD AND SUNG WONG TOI ROAD WILL BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 3).

THIS SECTION HAS BEEN CLOSED TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAN SHAN INTERCHANGE WHICH IS PART OF THE EAST KOWLOON WAY PROJECT.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER CUT

\* \* \*

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY 300-430 HENNESSY ROAD, 1-39 MORRISON HILL ROAD, 220-240 AND 251-275 WAN CHAI ROAD, 10-30 CANAL ROAD WEST, 1-37 AND 2-40 BOWRINGTON ROAD, 3-17 AND 6-10 TIN LOK LANE, INCLUDING SHARP STREET WEST, CHAN TONG LANE AND 1 LEIGHTON ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -