



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1978

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WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT
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WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT ALL WATER RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG AND NORMAL SUPPLY RESUMED.

ANNOUNCING THIS DECISION TODAY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. W.D.A. TUCKER, SAID THAT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SATISFACTORY STORAGE SITUATION AT THE OUTSET OF THE WET SEASON, THE PROSPECT OF AVERAGE RAINFALL FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS AND THE CONTINUED WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA, THE GOVERNMENT FELT A REVERSION TO NORMAL SUPPLY WAS JUSTIFIED.

MR. TUCKER SAID: +WHEN THE WATER IS TURNED ON AT 4 P.M. IT WILL STAY ON.+

MR. TUCKER SAID THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW, BUT ADDED THAT UNLESS THERE WAS AN UNEXPECTED CHANGE IN FORECASTS A FULL WATER SUPPLY WOULD BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

IN THE MEANTIME, OPERATION OF THE DESALTING PLANT AT LOK ON PAI WOULD CONTINUE.

MR. TUCKER ALSO STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THE RESTRICTIONS WERE BEING LIFTED THE NEED TO CONSERVE WATER SENSIBLY WAS STILL IMPORTANT.

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ABOLITION OF LIQUOR LICENCES FOR RESTAURANTS PLANNED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO ABOLISH LIQUOR LICENCES FOR RESTAURANTS, FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS EFFECT BY A WORKING GROUP SET UP IN 1975.

THE MOVE IS PART OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF ELIMINATING LICENCES WHICH SERVE NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE AND ARE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CORRUPTION.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT RESTAURANTS WOULD NO LONGER NEED LICENCES TO SELL LIQUOR WHICH IS TO BE CONSUMED ON THE PREMISES.

HE SAID THE RESTAURANT LICENSING PROCEDURE IS ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT STANDARDS OF HYGIENE AND STRUCTURAL AND FIRE SAFETY ARE MAINTAINED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CLUBS SELLING LIQUOR FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES WOULD STILL HAVE TO HAVE A LIQUOR LICENCE. HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE CLUBS DID NOT NEED TO BE REGISTERED AS RESTAURANTS AND, IF THE LIQUOR LICENCE REQUIREMENTS WERE ABOLISHED THEY WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY FORM OF CONTROL. +THIS WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO ALL SORTS OF PREMISES OPENING AS CLUBS TO SELL LIQUOR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS,+ HE SAID, +ALTHOUGH THERE IS A CONTINUED NEED TO LICENSE CLUBS SELLING LIQUOR FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES, THE EXISTING LICENSING SYSTEM IS BOTH SOCIALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY REDUNDANT. THE CONTROL OF HYGIENE, STRUCTURAL SAFETY AND SUCH LIKE FOR SOCIAL PURPOSE IS ALREADY LARGELY COVERED BY OTHER ORDINANCES.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ABOLITION OF LIQUOR LICENSING WOULD NOT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN DRUNKENNESS, WHICH IS RARE IN HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ABOLITION OF LIQUOR LICENSING FOR RESTAURANTS WOULD NOT PERMIT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SHOPS TO SELL LIQUOR FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES. +THESE SHOPS ARE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS AND WILL STILL BE FORBIDDEN TO DO THIS,+ HE SAID.

NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN AS TO THE DATE ON WHICH ABOLITION SHOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED. THIS DEPENDS ON WHEN THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION IS READY FOR PRESENTATION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE WORKING GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE POLICE. ITS REPORT WAS PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS TO NEEDY STUDENTS

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NEEDY STUDENTS WHO OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS IN THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION CAN APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS TO ENABLE THEM TO TAKE MATRICULATION COURSES.

THE AMOUNT OF GRANT WILL BE DETERMINED BY A MAINTENANCE GRANT COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

IN RECENT YEARS THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT AWARDED HAS BEEN ABOUT \$50 A MONTH. THESE GRANTS ARE TENABLE FOR ONE YEAR AT ANY SCHOOL APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR.

+A GRANT SHALL BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME IF IN THE OPINION OF THE DIRECTOR THE RECIPIENT FAILS TO MERIT THE AWARD BY REASON OF LACK OF PROGRESS OR UNSATISFACTORY CONDUCT,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE OBTAINABLE FROM JUNE 1 AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BRANCH OFFICE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED, THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS, TO THE SECRETARY, MAINTENANCE GRANTS COMMITTEE, AT THE SAME ADDRESS, NOT LATER THAN TEN DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

FOR STUDENTS TO ENTER UPPER 6 CLASSES (ENGLISH), IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 1978-79 THE COMPLETED FORMS MUST REACH THE SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN JULY 29, 1978.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +HEADS OF SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INFORM PUPILS IN UPPER FORMS AND MIDDLE 5 CLASSES ABOUT TWO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIRCULARS WHICH GIVE DETAILS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THE GRANTS.+

DURING THE 1977-78 ACADEMIC YEAR, 139 STUDENTS IN CHINESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS APPLIED FOR MAINTENANCE GRANTS. OF THESE, 99 WERE AWARDED GRANTS AMOUNTING TO \$5,730 A MONTH - AN AVERAGE OF \$57.88 TO EACH STUDENT A MONTH.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE 688 APPLICATIONS FROM STUDENTS IN UPPER FORMS IN ANGLO-CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS. GRANTS AMOUNTING TO \$34,610 A MONTH WERE AWARDED TO 602 PUPILS (AN AVERAGE OF \$57.49 PER STUDENT).

IN LOWER 6 FORMS, 938 APPLIED FOR GRANTS AND 661 RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$37,110 PER MONTH, (AN AVERAGE OF \$56.14 PER STUDENT).

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TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER WILL BE ISSUED
LATER THIS YEAR

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THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. PETER LEEDS, SAID TODAY A WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER THIS YEAR AND IT IS EXPECTED THE POLICY ON THE ISSUE OF TAXI LICENCES WILL BE REVIEWED ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY FOR TAXI OPERATIONS HELD AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, HE SAID THE LAST APPLICATION FOR A TAXI FARE INCREASE WAS CONSIDERED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE LAST DECEMBER AND JANUARY ALONG WITH A REPORT PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID: +ON THE INFORMATION PRESENT TO THEM, THE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO RECOMMEND A FARE INCREASE.+

MR. LEEDS SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO PARTICULAR ASPECTS WHICH THE COMMITTEE WAS WORRIED ABOUT.

+ONE WAS THE FACT THAT THE PREMIA OFFERED FOR TAXI LICENCES IN 1977 WAS EXTREMELY HIGH AND, IF PRESS REPORTS ARE CORRECT, THE VALUE OF TAXI LICENCE ON TRANSFER WAS ALSO VERY HIGH. THIS APPEARS TO MEAN THAT THE PROFITABILITY OF TAXIS WAS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THE RESULTS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S STUDY SUGGESTED.+

HE SAID THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI DRIVERS REFUSING TO TAKE PASSENGERS TO THEIR DESTINATION AND COMPLAINTS OF OVERCHARGING.

SINCE THEN, HE ADDED, DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND THE SOLICITORS REPRESENTING THE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT A FURTHER REPORT WOULD BE MADE TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEXT MONTH.

MR. LEEDS POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL TAXI FLEET WOULD BE 6,669 TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT TENDERS FOR 300 TAXIS AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC CAR LICENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED FOR TAXI LICENCES.

ON THE SUBJECT OF HIRE CAR PERMITS, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER STRESSED THAT THE NEED FOR CAREFUL CONTROL IN ORDER TO PREVENT THESE VEHICLES COMPETING WITH TAXIS BY TOUTING ON THE STREETS WAS FULLY APPRECIATED AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE TO ENSURE THAT THESE MEASURES WERE EFFECTIVE.

HE SAID: +IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION THAT THE ENFORCEMENT MEASURES ARE LACKING IN EFFECTIVENESS THEN GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW THE POSITION+.

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NEW MARKET FOR TSUEN WAN
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD A TWO-STOREY MARKET SHORTLY IN TSUEN WAN TO SERVE PEOPLE IN THE HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE MARKET, OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,100 SQUARE METRES, IS SITUATED AT THE CORNER OF CHUNG ON STREET AND HOI PA STREET.

MR. PETER CHUNG, CHIEF P.W.D. ARCHITECT, SAID THAT WORK WOULD BEGIN TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT MONTH AND TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

+THE NEW MARKET WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF 393 STALLS FOR THE RETAILING OF MEAT, FISH, POULTRY, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND SUNDRY GOODS,+ HE SAID.

+THE ROOF WILL BE USED AS A PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN.+

THERE WOULD ALSO BE QUARTERS FOR JUNIOR MARRIED OFFICERS AND BARRACKS ACCOMMODATION FOR SINGLE STAFF, MR. CHUNG SAID.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WORK ON THE NEW BOWRINGTON ROAD MARKET IN WAN CHAI IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

WHEN COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE YEAR, IT WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING TEMPORARY MARKET WHICH HAS TO MAKE WAY FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE AT WAH FU ESTATE
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATION AT WAH FU ESTATE POST OFFICE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA FOR FIVE DAYS FROM NEXT MONDAY (APRIL 24).

REGISTRATION WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DURING THESE DAYS.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN AND WARDS BETWEEN 11 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND TO REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEE GARDEN ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THE SECTION OF LEE GARDEN ROAD BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND KAI CHIU ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY (APRIL 20) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN THE AREA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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