



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1976

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NEW REGULATIONS TO DETER OVERLOADING OF BUSES

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN AMENDED TO ENSURE BETTER BRAKING SYSTEMS FOR ARTICULATED-LORRY TRAILERS, TO IMPOSE STIFF PENALTIES ON A BUS COMPANY RATHER THAN THE DRIVER OF AN OVERLOADED BUS, AND TO SET REVISED LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED BY GOODS VEHICLES.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND USE)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1976, TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), ADD TO THE SAFETY OF BUS PASSENGERS BY MAKING THE OWNER OF THE BUS LIABLE TO A \$2,000 FINE FOR CARRYING EXCESS PASSENGERS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PREVIOUSLY IT WAS THE BUS DRIVER WHO WAS MOST LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED, AS IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE TO THE SATISFACTION OF A COURT THAT HIS EMPLOYER HAD PERMITTED HIM TO CARRY AN EXCESS NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.

+THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY MOST UNFAIR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +ESPECIALLY TO DRIVERS OF THE MANY ONE-MAN OPERATED BUSES WHO HAD TO DEPEND ON THE COMPANY REGULATORS LIMITING THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS BOARDING AT BUSY BUS STOPS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE NEW REGULATION WILL DETER THE BUS COMPANIES FROM ALLOWING OR ENCOURAGING THE OVERLOADING OF BUSES AS PROSECUTION OF THE BUS OWNER WILL BE MUCH MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD,+ HE SAID.

THE REVISED REGULATIONS ALSO PROVIDE FOR GREATER SAFETY TO PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS BY SETTING STRICT NEW STANDARDS ON BRAKING SYSTEMS OF TRAILERS. THIS WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF 20-FOOT AND 40-FOOT CONTAINERS NOW BEING TRANSPORTED BETWEEN THE SHIPPING BERTHS AND FACTORIES.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THE REVISED REGULATIONS RESULTED FROM DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION. +INITIALLY, ONLY NEW TRAILERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JULY 23, 1976, THAT IS SIX MONTHS FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW LAWS, WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STANDARDS. AT THE END OF A FURTHER SIX MONTHS, THAT IS JANUARY 23, 1977, ALL EXISTING TRAILERS WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STANDARDS FOR BRAKING SYSTEMS.+

THE SEATING CAPACITY OF GOODS VEHICLES HAS ALSO BEEN REVISED SO AS TO ALLOW MORE PASSENGERS TO BE CARRIED IN THE CAB OF VEHICLES UNDER TWO TONS UNLADEN WEIGHT. AND IN THE CASE OF GOODS VEHICLES OVER TWO TONS, SIX PEOPLE MAY BE CARRIED IN THE REAR IN ADDITION TO THE SEATING CAPACITY OF THE CAB WHICH NOW CANNOT EXCEED FIVE.

/THE SPOKESMAN

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE AMENDMENTS WERE MADE AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FREQUENT NEED TO MOVE WORK-CREWS WITH THE VEHICLES.

AN ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT TO THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT BE WELCOMED BY NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS, ALLOWS EXCESS PASSENGER PERMITS TO BE ISSUED TO VEHICLES OF UNDER TWO TONS. PREVIOUSLY THESE PERMITS WERE RESTRICTED TO VEHICLES OF TWO TONS OR MORE.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE IMPROVED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THESE SMALLER VEHICLES IN RECENT YEARS, THE RESTRICTIONS WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY. THE EXCESS PASSENGERS PERMITS ARE USED BY VILLAGERS MAINLY FOR MOVING THEIR FARM PRODUCE TO MARKET IN AREAS NOT OTHERWISE SERVED BY BUSES.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EDINBURGH PLACE
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EDINBURGH PLACE, BETWEEN QUEEN'S PIER AND THE CITY HALL, WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 24) FOR THE REHEARSAL OF THE GALA OPENING OF THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

BUSES AND MAXICABS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE.

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP IN THE VICINITY OF EDINBURGH PLACE.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1975

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THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR DECEMBER 1975 WAS 108, THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS FOR THE MONTH FELL BY TWO POINTS. THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES DECLINED WHILE THAT OF FRESH WATER FISH ADVANCED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY SIX POINTS MAINLY BECAUSE OF HEAVIER DUTIES IMPOSED.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY TWO POINTS AS A RESULT OF UPWARD REVISION IN THE FARES CHARGED BY THE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS, THE STAR FERRY AND THE PEAK TRAMWAYS.

AT THE SAME TIME, AS THE RENTS OF PRIVATE POST-WAR BUILDINGS INCREASED SLIGHTLY, THE INDEX FOR HOUSING ROSE BY ONE POINT.

AN INCREASE OF ONE POINT EACH WAS ALSO RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES FOR KEROSENE, LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS AND MEDICINES.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR DECEMBER STOOD AT 108, ONE POINT LOWER THAN THAT FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

A DROP OF ONE POINT WAS RECORDED IN THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS BECAUSE OF LOWER PRICES FOR FRESH VEGETABLES.

FOR REASONS SIMILAR TO THAT FOR INDEX (A), THE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY FIVE POINTS AND THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES ADVANCED BY TWO POINTS. THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS ROSE BY ONE POINT EACH.

MOVEMENTS IN THE INDEXES FOR OTHER SECTIONS OF COMMODITY AND SERVICE WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IS BASED ON WEIGHTS DERIVED FROM THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 -- \$1,499 A MONTH WHILE INDEX (B) COVERS HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING \$1,500 -- \$2,999.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS MEETS TUNG WAH LEADERS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. KONG WING-ON, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, THIS AFTERNOON (THURSDAY).

DURING THEIR MEETING, MR. WALDEN PRAISED THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS FOR ITS SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AND URGED THAT THE CLOSE LINK WHICH HAD LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE GROUP AND THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT BE CONTINUED.

MR. KONG BRIEFED MR. WALDEN ON SOME OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THEY INCLUDE TWO NEW FUNERAL HOMES IN DIAMOND HILL AND HUNG HOM, A HOME FOR THE AGED IN LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN, A GERIATRIC CENTRE IN PLOVER COVE, A TUNG WAH CENTENARY BUILDING, AND NOS. 4 - 8 TUNG WAH SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

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PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

WINNERS OF COMPETITIONS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CENTRE WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT A CEREMONY AT THE MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND IN SHAM SHUI PO ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 24) NIGHT.

THE COMPETITIONS, PART OF THE CENTRE'S PLAYLEADERSHIP SCHEME, INCLUDED A FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, A CHINESE BILLIARD COMPETITION AND A CARD DESIGN COMPETITION.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION- MR. CHAN CHAP-YAN, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER (SHAM SHUI PO) AND MRS. LEUNG WONG KWOK-SHING, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF SHAM SHUI PO YOUTH CENTRE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CARDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY, WHICH STARTS AT 8 P.M.

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