



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, August 4, 1972

TARGET ALMOST REACHED FOR AIDED POST PRIMARY EDUCATION POLICY

The Government is nearing its goal of providing three year post-primary courses for 50 per cent of the 12-14 age group by 1976.

This year there has been a sharp increase in the number of allotted places for successful candidates in the Secondary School Entrance Examination, mainly through the purchasing of places in private secondary schools.

As more and more places become available selective stringency through the entrance examination will be relaxed and examination questions will become easier.

However, a spokesman for the Education Department said today that at this stage there was no alternative to a public selective examination.

In 1971 the number of candidates in the Secondary Schools Entrance Examination was 69,396; and 34.8 per cent of these were allotted places by the Education Department. This year there were 79,156 candidates and a total of 34,989 places were allotted. This represents an increase of more than 10,800 places or nearly 10 per cent over last year.

The ultimate goal of the scheme is to provide three-year post-primary education for 100 per cent of the 12-14 age group.

In fact, the spokesman said, the Government is now giving active consideration to implementing the plan as soon as it can be achieved.

This can be done by buying more places in private secondary schools as well as the building of more schools whose sponsors will receive capital subsidy and recurrent assistance from the Government.

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HONG KONG'S FIRST TEMPORARY FLYOVER UP SOON

For three days towards the end of August, engineers will work round the clock to put up Hong Kong's first-ever temporary steel flyover in a major thoroughfare in Kowloon.

The massive structure, to be erected along Prince Edward Road at its junction with Waterloo Road in 72 hours, will help ease traffic conditions during the construction of the Waterloo Road/Prince Edward Road/Boundary Street Interchange later this year.

The interchange consists of a main flyover along Waterloo Road spanning the two busy junctions at Prince Edward Road and Boundary Street.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today the temporary flyover would be in operation for about two years. Then it would be dismantled and re-used as required at other traffic "black spots" as either a three-lane or a two-lane flyover.

The steel flyover, manufactured in Japan, will be about 1,000 feet long with a maximum height of about 40 feet where it spans Waterloo Road.

The foundations are now being constructed and work is expected to be completed by the middle of August.

The spokesman described the erection of the temporary flyover as "a complex and carefully planned operation."

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During the long weekend at the end of August, Prince Edward Road between Earl Street and Knight Street will be closed to traffic. Waterloo Road at its junction with Prince Edward Road will also be closed for two nights between midnight and 7 o'clock in the morning.

However the public will be informed of the alternative routes well in advance of the closures.

A 24-hour working day will be employed and every effort will be made to keep the noise level down to a minimum, the spokesman said.

The temporary flyover will be replaced by a vehicular underpass along Prince Edward Road after work on the main flyover complex has been completed.

Construction of these permanent flyovers and another major road project - the Argyle Street/Waterloo Road/Princess Margaret Road Grade Separated Interchange - is scheduled to begin in October and take about 2½ years to complete.

Certain work will have to be done outside normal working hours in order not to impede the traffic flow. This will involve the placing of precast concrete beams and possibly some concreting.

An application by the Director of Public Works for exemption from the provisions of the law on night noise for both projects has been approved by the Governor in Council.

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However, the spokesman emphasised that night work will only be carried out where the Director considers that it is vital to the interests of the project.

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Note to Editors: Photographs showing the positioning of the Prince Edward Road temporary flyover on a scale model are issued separately in the G.I.S. Press boxes tonight.

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CITY HALL & MARINE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The City Hall, including the restaurants, will remain open on Monday, a general holiday.

The City Museum and Art Gallery will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the Lei Cheng Uk Museum from 12 noon to 7 p.m.

The City Hall Library and the branch libraries at Waterloo Road and Ping Shek will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., while the branch libraries at Yau Ma Tei and Aberdeen/Pok Fu Lam will be closed.

The Kowloon Park Students' Study Room will also be closed on that day.

The Marine Department also announced that it will be closed on Monday with the exception of the Port Control, Entry and Clearance and Marine Licensing Offices which will open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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STATUTORY CONTROL OVER PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

Accountants practising public accountancy will have to be registered under a bill to be introduced into the Legislative Council shortly.

The Accountants Bill 1972 provides for their registration and the regulation of their professional practice and conduct, and seeks to prohibit unregistered people from practising public accountancy.

Under the proposed legislation, a Hong Kong Society of Accountants will be incorporated and a Council set up as its governing body.

A Government spokesman said today leading accountants had recommended that the Society should be set up to provide training facilities for prospective accountants, and that the registration and control of accountants practising in Hong Kong should be prescribed by law.

Under the bill, the Society may make by-laws governing, amongst other things, the registration, training, examinations and discipline of students.

The bill requires the Council to appoint a registrar whose duties will include maintaining a register of accountants, which will be open to public inspection, and issuing practising certificates to accountants.

A person will be qualified for registration if he is over 21, is of good character and is a member of an approved institute or has passed examinations which the Society may have prescribed.

Anyone whose name is on the existing list of Authorized Auditors kept under the Companies Ordinance will be entitled to be registered.

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A practising certificate will be issued to a registered accountant only if the Council is satisfied that he has had such practical experience as the Society may prescribe in its by-laws.

Under the proposed legislation, the practice of public accountancy by an accountant not holding a practising certificate will be an offence punishable on conviction by a \$2,000 fine and six months imprisonment.

An accountant holding a practising certificate will also have to maintain a registered office. Failure to do so will be an offence punishable with a \$1,000 fine.

The bill provides for the setting up of a Disciplinary Committee to investigate complaints of misconduct by an accountant.

An official list of accountants will be published annually in the Government Gazette as evidence that the people listed are accountants holding practising certificates.

The bill will not apply to the Director of Audit or to public officers in connection with the discharge of their public duties.

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A person will be eligible to be entered in the register if he is over 21, is of good character and a member of an approved Institute or has passed examinations

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MORE BOAT-BUILDING YARDS FOR ALDRICH BAY

Seven boat-building yards will be built on an area of about 4.5 acres to be reclaimed on the northern side of A Kung Ngam, Hong Kong Island, as part of the Aldrich Bay Reclamation Scheme.

The yards will supplement the existing ones, and reclamation work will be planned so that interference to their work is kept to a minimum.

The near-shore area south of this reclamation has been reserved for road formation to provide transport links with Shau Kei Wan and other areas.

There are also plans to reclaim the seabed to the eastern and western side of the A Kung Ngam reclamation. A ferry concourse will be built on the eastern side, and a salt water pumping station and a wholesale fish market will be built on the western side.

Reclamation work is expected to begin towards the end of this year, and will take about one year to complete.

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CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL LOSS FROM INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The Director of Fire Services, Mr. A.E.H. Wood, said today it was a misguided belief of some employers and workers that safety requirements were either costly or unnecessary.

"Financial losses from industrial accidents are considerable," he said.

Mr. Wood, who was presenting certificates at the closing ceremony of an advanced industrial safety training course organised by the Labour Department, said safety precautions will pay for themselves by enhancing production and reducing the risks of lost man-hours through industrial accidents.

"In some respects, more important than economic loss is the personal injury which is sustained as a result of an accident, which too frequently leaves a breadwinner quite incapable of being employed," he added.

As a last advice, Mr. Wood called upon those who completed the course to apply what they have learned to their work and approach any government department for advice and assistance when needed.

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AMENDMENT TO TSUEN WAN PLAN

The Tsuen Wan draft Outline Zoning Plan has been amended by the Town Planning Board to provide more area for light industry development.

The area affected is the site of the Tsuen Wan Amusement Park which borders the junction of Castle Peak Road and Texaco Road.

The amendment changes the zoning of this area from commercial/residential uses to light industry, and in effect regularises the boundary of the existing industrial zone.

The amendment is exhibited for public inspection during normal office hours at the Central Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices, West Wing Entrance, Hong Kong and the Tsuen Wan District Office.

Copies of the amendment may also be purchased from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, 19th Floor, Murray Building, Hong Kong. Objections may be made in writing to the Secretary, Town Planning Board, at the above address, not later than Friday, August 25, 1972.

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.