



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1978

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REVIEW OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES 1978

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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC AGAINST COUNTERFEIT AND SUB-STANDARD MEDICINE, THE SETTING UP OF A CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT TO PLAN AND COORDINATE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND THE OPENING OF THE FIRST DENTAL THERAPIST TRAINING SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTED A YEAR OF RAPID EXPANSION FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR THAT MAY HAVE WIDE-RANGING EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY WAS THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS ON JULY 1, AIMED AT CONTROLLING THE SALE AND MANUFACTURE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

A FORENSIC PHARMACY SECTION WAS SET UP WITHIN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SEE THAT THE REGULATIONS ARE PROPERLY ENFORCED.

THIS SECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICING SOME 2,500 SHOPS SELLING ORDINARY MEDICINES AND ANOTHER 2,200 SHOPS REGISTERED AS LISTED SELLERS OF PART II POISONS.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT TO PLAN AND COORDINATE ALL HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES BOTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THE UNIT HAS MADE GREAT EFFORTS IN PROMOTING HEALTH CARE THROUGH SUCH CAMPAIGNS AS DOWN WITH HYPERTENSION, EYE CARE, JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEAF AND CHILD CARE.

THE PAST YEAR ALSO SAW THE OPENING OF HONG KONG'S FIRST DENTAL THERAPIST TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE NEW MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE IN MORRISON HILL.

THE TRAINING COURSE IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE DENTAL HYGIENE AND PROPER DENTAL CARE TO THE COMMUNITY.

UNDER THE TRAINING SCHEME, 33 DENTAL THERAPISTS ARE UNDERGOING A THREE-YEAR TRAINING COURSE AND FIVE DENTAL HYGIENISTS WILL TAKE PART IN A ONE-YEAR TRAINING COURSE.

AFTER TRAINING, THE GRADUATES WILL BE ASSIGNED TO A SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SCHEME TO BE LAUNCHED IN 1980, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH REGULAR DENTAL EXAMINATIONS AND SIMPLE CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT, INCLUDING ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT.

A COMPREHENSIVE OBSERVATION SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN APRIL TO PROVIDE REGULAR CHECK-UPS TO CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO THE AGE OF FIVE.

THE SCHEME IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONGENITAL OR ACQUIRED ANOMALIES OF A CHILD ARE DISCOVERED, AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. UNDER THE SCHEME, CHILDREN FOUND TO HAVE CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES ARE REFERRED TO VARIOUS SPECIALISTS FOR ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT. THE RESPONSE SO FAR HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING.

THE REGIONALISATION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, INTRODUCED IN APRIL 1977, HAS LARGELY ACHIEVED ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE OF PUTTING INTO MAXIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES IN HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.

PRESSURE ON THE TWO MAJOR REGIONAL HOSPITALS -- QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH -- HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY RELIEVED AND THE BED OCCUPANCY RATE OF THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAS BEEN INCREASED TO THE SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF OVER 80 PER CENT.

DEMAND FOR OUT-PATIENT TREATMENT AT GOVERNMENT CLINICS CONTINUED TO INCREASE AND, TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND, THE DEPARTMENT OPENED FOUR MORE EVENING CLINICS IN OCTOBER, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 14.

SIX GOVERNMENT CLINICS ALSO OPERATE SESSIONS ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES AT GOVERNMENT CLINICS TOTALLED MORE THAN 10.2 MILLION IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON AN 11-STORY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY BUILDING AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL STARTED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. WHEN COMPLETED, IT WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF CLINICAL SERVICES WHICH WILL GREATLY IMPROVE THE FACILITIES OF THE SUBVENTED HOSPITAL AND ENABLE IT TO PLAY THE FULL ROLE OF A REGIONAL HOSPITAL SERVING THE WEST KOWLOON REGION.

DURING THE YEAR, THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE EXTENSION WAS COMPLETED, PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL 600 BEDS.

A FURTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE FOR TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG RESIDENTS WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW EXTENSION TO YAN CHAI HOSPITAL WHICH STARTED IN MID-1978.

A TOTAL OF 50 ADDITIONAL BEDS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE EXPANSION PROJECT. ADDITIONAL BEDS, SUPPORTING FACILITIES AND STAFF QUARTERS ARE ALSO PLANNED IN THE SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

IN THE EAST NEW TERRITORIES, CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FANLING HOSPITAL EXTENSION STARTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1978. THE AIM OF THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT IS TO BRING THE EXISTING HOSPITAL UP TO A DISTRICT HOSPITAL CAPABILITY.

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, A NUMBER OF MAJOR PROJECTS OUTLINED IN THE 10-YEAR MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED. THE 1,300-BED PSYCHIATRIC WING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1980.

SITE FORMATION WORK FOR THE 1,400-BED HOSPITAL IN SHA TIN AND THE 1,300-BED HOSPITAL IN TUEN MUN HAS BEGUN. THESE PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1982 AND 1984 RESPECTIVELY.

MORE THAN 10 CLINICS, POLYCLINICS AND HEALTH CENTRES WILL BE COMPLETED AND BROUGHT INTO USE BY 1983.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THESE PROJECTS, THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS IN HONG KONG WILL BE INCREASED FROM 19,770 TO 25,000 BY THE EARLY 1980S WITH THE BED/POPULATION REACHING 5.2 PER 1,000 POPULATION.

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THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN HONG KONG IS TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. THE FIRST PRE-CLINICAL INTAKE WILL BE IN 1981 AND THE SCHOOL WILL EVENTUALLY PRODUCE 100 DOCTORS A YEAR. THE NEW HOSPITAL AT SHA TIN WILL SERVE AS THE TEACHING HOSPITAL.

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WHICH HAS HAD A MEDICAL SCHOOL SINCE THE UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDATION IN 1911, IT IS PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A DENTAL SCHOOL IN 1980. TO PROVIDE TEACHING FACILITIES, A NEW DENTAL TEACHING CLINIC WILL BE BUILT AND SOME EXISTING FACILITIES AT THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL WILL BE CONVERTED AND UPGRADED TO PROVIDE 220 DENTAL TEACHING BEDS.

PLANNING WORK HAS ALSO STARTED ON THE NEW HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE READY BY 1981. THE CENTRE WILL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE BLOOD REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG.

AN EVALUATION REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE IN HONG KONG WAS COMPLETED AND 22 NURSES GRADUATED FROM THE FIRST GOVERNMENT-RUN COMMUNITY NURSING COURSE.

TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S SICK AND DISABLED, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE SERVICE WILL BE FURTHER EXPANDED. PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ON THE HEALTH SIDE, THE GENERAL STATE OF HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE GOOD.

THERE WERE TWO CHOLERA CASES REPORTED IN 1978, ONE IN KOWLOON AND THE OTHER IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. ALL APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

THE INCIDENCE AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS CONTINUED TO DECLINE. ABOUT 98 PER CENT OF NEW-BORN BABIES ARE VACCINATED WITH B.C.G. — PROBABLY THE HIGHEST RATE IN THE WORLD. A CASE-FINDING CAMPAIGN WAS UNDERTAKEN IN APRIL WITH GOOD RESPONSE. THERE ARE PLANS TO LAUNCH ANOTHER MAJOR CAMPAIGN LATER THIS YEAR.

MEASLES WAS AT ONE TIME VERY PREVALENT AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIVE BUT, SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-MEASLES VACCINE IN 1967, THE INCIDENCE HAS BEEN REDUCED DRASTICALLY AND THE PATTERN OF INFECTION IS NO LONGER BIENNIAL. ONE SMALL OUTBREAK IN THE CHILDREN OF THE ARMED FORCES WAS NOTED IN JUNE AND JULY.

NO CASE OF POLIOMYELITIS OR DIPHTHERIA WAS REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

IN SEPTEMBER, RUBELLA VACCINATION WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE IMMUNISATION WAS DIRECTED AT GIRLS 11-14 YEARS AND WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE TO PREVENT THE OCCURANCE OF BABIES BORN WITH CONGENITAL RUBELLA DEFECTS.

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C.A.S. OVERSEAS TRAINING PROGRAMME

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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES HAVE MADE THEIR OVERSEAS TRAINING PROGRAMME AS REGULARLY AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP THEIR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY ON PAR WITH ADVANCED COUNTRIES.

UNDER THIS TRAINING PROGRAMME, PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP TO SEND TWO CAS MEMBERS TO AUSTRALIA NEXT YEAR FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING ON MODERN TECHNIQUES IN DISASTER DUTIES.

THE TWO OFFICERS WILL LEARN THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNIQUES IN HANDLING EMERGENCIES SUCH AS DISASTER, FLOODING, CYCLONE AND HILL FIRE.

CAS MEMBERS AND THEIR PERMANENT TRAINING STAFF ARE ALSO SENT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR TRAINING AND THE LAST GROUP RETURNED LAST AUGUST AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING COURSES ON MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND CANOEING.

THE OVERSEAS TRAINING PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED 15 YEARS AGO AND THE FIRST CAS OFFICER SENT ABROAD WAS MR. CHAN CHUN-YING WHO IS NOW THE PRINCIPAL TRAINING OFFICER OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES.

THE OVERSEAS TRAINING WAS FIRST RESTRICTED TO STUDY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN 1968, THE PROGRAMME WAS EXTENDED TO COVER AUSTRALIA WHERE OFFICERS HAVE SINCE BEEN SENT FOR CIVIL DEFENCE AND DISASTER TRAINING.

MR. CHAN SAID OFFICERS ON RETURN FROM THEIR OVERSEAS TRAINING WILL IMPART WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNT TO OTHER CAS MEMBERS THROUGH SEMINARS, TRAINING SESSIONS AND BRIEFINGS.

+THROUGH THIS, OUR SERVICES ARE KEPT ABREAST WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA,+ MR. CHAN SAID.

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MOTORCYCLISTS WARNED NOT TO USE CROSS-COUNTRY TYRES ON  
PUBLIC HIGHWAYS  
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MOTORCYCLISTS NEED KNOBBLY TYRES TO WIN CROSS-COUNTRY RACES -- BUT THESE COMPETITION-TYPE WHEELS ARE DEFINITELY NOT FOR USE ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

+THESE TYRES ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS WHEN USED ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS,+ A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) WHILE WARNING MOTOR-CYCLISTS TO SWITCH TO REGULAR TYRES WHEN THEY ARE USING THEIR MACHINES.

COMPETITION-TYPE TYRES, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, WOULD NOT ONLY ENDANGER THE MOTOR-CYCLIST BUT ALSO OTHER ROAD USERS.

+IT IS ALSO AN OFFENCE TO USE CROSS-COUNTRY TYRES ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS,+ HE ADDED.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE STATES THAT ON FIRST CONVICTION, THE OFFENDER IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$500 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS.

IN A RECENT CASE A MOTORCYCLIST CONVICTED OF DANGEROUS DRIVING CAUSING DEATH WAS USING A MOTORCYCLE FITTED WITH CROSS-COUNTRY TYRES AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+CROSS-COUNTRY TYRES ARE SO DESIGNED THAT THEY HAVE A VERY GOOD GRIP ON SOFT GROUND AS THEY ARE MADE TO DIG INTO THE DIRT. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVE A POOR ROAD-HOLDING PERFORMANCE ON NORMAL ROAD SURFACE.

+THERE CAN BE AN ADVERSE EFFECT IF THE MOTORCYCLIST DRIVING ON NORMAL ROAD BRAKES SUDDENLY AS THERE IS SIMPLY INSUFFICIENT CONTACT BETWEEN THE TYRES AND THE ACTUAL ROAD SURFACE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, THESE TYRES ARE CLEARLY AND INDIVIDUALLY MARKED AS UNSUITABLE FOR ROAD USE.

+THE DEPARTMENT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWING NUMBER OF MOTORCYCLISTS WHO ARE FITTING CROSS-COUNTRY TYRES TO THEIR MOTOR CYCLES AND USING THEM ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

+THE DEPARTMENT REGISTERED 17,000 MOTORCYCLES AT THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR. THE CONTINUING MISUSE OF THIS TYPE OF TYRES WOULD BE A GREAT HAZARD TO ROAD SAFETY,+ THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

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FIRE SERVICES ON RECRUITING DRIVE  
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A FOUR-DAY RECRUITMENT EXERCISE STARTING ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 2) TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE RANK OF FIREMAN.

ABOUT 160 PHYSICALLY FIT YOUNG MEN WILL BE RECRUITED AND TRAINED FOR GENERAL FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE DUTIES.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30, HAVE GOOD PHYSIQUE AND NORMAL EYESIGHT, BE ABLE TO SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE AND READ AND WRITE CHINESE.

THEY SHOULD HAVE LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS OR MORE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION.

THE POST CARRIES A SALARY RANGING FROM \$1,315 TO \$1,925. AN INCREMENT WILL BE AWARDED AFTER SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE SIX-MONTH BASIC TRAINING.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS, THREE MOBILE RECRUITING CENTRES WILL BE SET UP.

THE CENTRES WILL OPERATE FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY (JANUARY 2-5) BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 7 P.M. DAILY AT THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS:

TUESDAY -- HARBOUR ROAD (NEAR WANCHAI FERRY PIER)  
HOMANTIN ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 8)  
KWAI HING ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 5)

WEDNESDAY -- WAH FU ESTATE (NEAR WAH LOK HOUSE)  
LAM TIN ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 6)  
TAI WOR HAU ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 7)

THURSDAY -- CHAI WAN ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 6)  
SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 10)  
LEI MUK SHUE ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 13)

FRIDAY -- WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 5)  
PAK TIN ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 5)  
YUEN LONG ESTATE (NEAR BLOCK 1)

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS WHEN CALLING AT THESE CENTRES.

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THE TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL CONNECTION

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THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S TSUEN WAN LIBRARY WILL ARRANGE A SERIES OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES TO TIE IN WITH THE FIRST TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL RUN FOR TWO WEEKS, STARTING FROM TOMORROW (JANUARY 1) TO JANUARY 15.

THE ACTIVITIES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES -- A BOOK EXHIBITION AND A NUMBER OF +APPRECIATION+ SERIES.

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE TSUEN WAN ADULT LIBRARY BETWEEN JANUARY 2 AND 14, WILL DISPLAY BOOKS ON ARTS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CALLIGRAPHY, PAINTING, MUSIC, OPERA AND DRAMA.

A SERIES OF TALKS ON CHINESE MUSIC, CHINESE OPERA, WESTERN MUSIC AND CANTONESE DRAMA WILL ALSO BE HELD WITHIN THE FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN OF THE USD'S LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. R. O'HARA, SAID THE AIM OF THESE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IS TO PROVIDE THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL WITH KNOWLEDGE ON THE FORM OF ART WHICH THEY HAVE SELECTED TO ENJOY EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.

+TO ENRICH THE COLLECTION OF BOOKS FOR EXHIBITION, PART OF THEM ARE FROM THE STOCKS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

APART FROM THOSE SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL, ALL LIBRARIES IN THE NT, INCLUDING THE SHEUNG SHUI LIBRARY, THE SHA TIN LIBRARY, THE TAI PO LIBRARY, THE TUEN MUN LIBRARY AND THE TSUEN WAN LIBRARY, HAVE ALSO PREPARED A NEW PROGRAMME OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES TO DRAW MORE YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE LIBRARIES AND SO INCREASE LIBRARY USAGE.

IN ADDITION TO REGULAR FILM SHOWS, TALKS AND INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN THE NT LIBRARIES IN JANUARY WILL INCLUDE A PIANO RECITAL BY AMY WONG, A CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT, A FLUTE RECITAL BY LAU CHEUNG-KONG, A GLOVE PUPPET SHOW, A JOINT VOCAL RECITAL BY STUDENTS OF LEE BING, A VOCAL CONCERT BY FRANCESCA CHAN, A FOLK SONG AND FOLK DANCE SHOW, AND A SINGING AND MAGIC SHOW.

+ADMISSION TO ALL THESE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IS FREE. FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE RING UP THE USD LIBRARIES HEAD OFFICE AT 12-420951,+ MR. O'HARA SAID.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE PEAK WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON JANUARY 3 TO 6 A.M. ON JANUARY 4 FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED WILL BE BOUNDED BY MOUNT AUSTIN ROAD HOUSE NOS. 25, 26A-26E AND LUGARD ROAD.

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