



HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

**DAILY INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Wednesday, March 8, 1972

OBJECT OF INCREASED CAR PARKING CHARGES

To Ease Problem Of Road Congestion

"The proposed increased car parking charges announced in the Budget should help ease Hong Kong's worsening problem of road congestion," a government spokesman said today. Parking charges are to be raised not so much because of a shortage of car parks but because of the shortage of road space.

"By constricting parking the companion activity of motoring is controlled," the spokesman said, adding that practical experience in Western cities indicated that higher parking fees did discourage people from driving their cars to work, thereby helping to ease congestion in urban centres at peak hours.

With the higher charges proposed, people previously motoring to and from work would be induced either to share cars or to use public transport facilities. Moreover many would-be motorists would recognise that they could not afford to use their cars for the journey to and from work. At present a great deal of peak hour congestion is caused by commuters who park their cars all day along in city centres. They drive in during the morning, fill the car parks and drive out after work in the evening. While they are on the roads they use road space uneconomically by comparison with public transport, and while their vehicles are parked they prevent short-term parkers from finding

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parking spaces. Present charges do not achieve the policy objective of always maintaining a few parking spaces empty. The present excess of demand for parking spaces over supply also means that motorists make an abortive search to find parking spaces which itself adds to the congestion on the roads.

Charges for spaces in Government multi-storey car parks have remained unchanged for six years, the spokesman said, and the alternative uses to which land given over to vehicle parking could be put would bring in a far higher rental than the return now received from car parking fees. "So the motorists are getting a bargain, the undercharging for parking amounting to a subsidy to those motorists enjoying the facility," he added.

Basic Objection

Another basic objection to the present situation was that somebody prepared to pay for a parking space in the down-town area was not permitted to do so. Raising the charges would discourage some would-be parkers and make the facilities available for those who were prepared to pay.

At present there are six Government multi-storey car parks providing 3,600 parking spaces, one is under construction and a number of others are planned. In addition, there are two government open air car parks with about 900 parking spaces.

As regards on-street parking, there are 18,000 free on-street parking spaces, 3,000 free spaces for goods vehicles, and 7,000 metered spaces.

The Financial Secretary, when he presented his Budget on March 1, said that more meters were on order, and the aim would be progressively to extend meter charging to all parts of the urban areas where on-street parking could be permitted, to extend the hours of operation, and to charge the appropriate rate in each area according to demand.

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"In due course, this should ensure that parking spaces, whether on the street or in multi-storey or open air car parks, are available for those who wish to park and to pay for the privilege."

In addition, this policy would provide a tariff base which should encourage the building of car parks by private developers and land would be made available for this purpose.

At present, Government is pushing ahead with a road reconstruction and development programme. More than \$240 million will be spent in the coming 1972/73 financial year on civil engineering and highways projects to improve the Colony's roads and transport.

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SOCIAL WORK TRAINING IN HONG KONG

Publication Of Dame Eileen Younghusband's Report

Dame Eileen Younghusband believes there is a need for more trained social workers in Hong Kong, and to meet this need, there should be a two-year full-time qualifying course -- under the care of an educational institution whose policies are decided primarily on educational grounds.

Dame Eileen says if the course cannot be sponsored by a university, then an independent educational institution, or board, might have to be established, with responsibility for setting standards -- and students who complete the course should be recognised for appointment, salary and promotion prospects as qualified social workers.

This proposal is one of several major recommendations put forward by Dame Eileen in a 50-page report following a second visit to Hong Kong between December 28, 1970, and January 27, 1971, and published today.

The visit was financed by a grant from the Social Work Training Fund, and her terms of reference were related to the provision of social work training in Hong Kong, with particular attention to in-service training at all levels.

Her report, entitled "Employment and Training for Social Work in Hong Kong," has already been tabled in the Legislative Council, but is being published now because a wider distribution is considered desirable to enable government departments, voluntary agencies, and the universities to comment in detail, addressing this to the Director of Social Welfare.

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Dame Eileen proposes that the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training be re-constituted to form a strong advisory committee, or council, composed of the various bodies active in social work training.

She urges that the 1965 "Survey of the Need for Trained Social Workers in Hong Kong," prepared by a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training, be updated to give an accurate picture of the supply of social workers in relation to the demand.

She suggests that an overall planning group be established to review the total training needs and resources with a view to agreeing on an annual comprehensive programme for the Social Welfare Department's Lady Trench Training Centre.

Overall Strategy

In her view, this planning group should prepare an overall strategy of in-service training for different levels of social workers.

Commenting on these recommendations, Mr. T.S. Heppell, Assistant Director (General), Social Welfare Department, says "considerable progress has already been made in actively considering, and making plans for implementing, Dame Eileen's major proposals."

In particular, her recommendation for a full-time two-year training course is under close examination, along with similar proposals for a College of Social Work Training by Dr. Irving Spergel, a visiting United Nations Adviser on Youth Work, who has since returned to the University of Chicago, and by a committee of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service under the chairmanship of the Reverend Eric Kvan.

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Mr. Heppell says there have already been close consultations with other interested bodies, including in particular the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training.

He hopes it will be possible for the Department to put forward agreed proposals for a College for Social Work Training, "in one form or another within three months."

But before this is done, there will be further discussions with Dame Eileen who is now in Hong Kong again as the guest of the University of Hong Kong, which is conferring on her an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences. Dame Eileen has been invited by the Social Welfare Department to remain for another week to advise in more detail on her ideas regarding the two-year course.

Reconstitute

On her other recommendations, Mr. Heppell says Dame Eileen's proposal that the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training be re-constituted to form a strong advisory or consultative committee is being "actively pursued."

He notes that the updating of the 1965 "Survey of the Need for Trained Social Workers" is in hand, and that a new survey has been carried out and is now being analysed.

But he believes that further development in in-service training must depend on the outcome of proposals for a College for Social Work Training, "and wide-reaching forward plans in this field, accordingly, cannot be made until the College issue is settled."

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MEDICAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

For Week Ended February 12.

Statistics released today by the Medical and Health Department for the week ended on February 12, 1972 are as follows:-

Notifications of infectious cases (previous week's figures in brackets) -- total 267 (235); amoebiasis -- 1 (nil); bacillary dysentery -- 6 (10); chickenpox -- 37 (21); enteric fever (typhoid) -- 9 (8); enteric fever (paratyphoid) -- nil (1); leprosy -- nil (3); measles -- 33 (46); ophthalmia neonatorum -- 2 (1); poliomyelitis -- 1 (nil); and tuberculosis -- 178 (145).

Births -- total registered 1,413; 352 on Hong Kong Island, 848 in Kowloon, and 213 in the New Territories.

Deaths -- 447 from all causes; 138 on the Island, 274 in Kowloon and 35 in the New Territories.

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VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE INAUGURATES

Societies' 20th Term Committee

The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies Ltd. will be holding an inauguration ceremony for its Twentieth Term Committee on March 10 at 7 p.m.

The ceremony, which will last for about one hour, will take place at the New May Flower Restaurant at No. 611, Nathan Road, Mongkok, Kowloon.

Mr. J.M. Riddell-Swan, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Fisheries Department, will officiate at the ceremony.

The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies Ltd. is a division of the Vegetable Marketing Organisation, and its main function is to provide wholesale marketing facilities and other ancillary services to vegetable growers.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the inauguration ceremony which will start at 7 p.m.

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SWEDISH GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES
Arrangement Proposed By Hong Kong Accepted

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. E.I. Lee, today announced that the Swedish authorities had agreed to the arrangements which had been proposed by Hong Kong in respect of the certification and other administrative procedures involved in obtaining the benefits of the Swedish Generalised System of Preferences.

The Commerce and Industry Department has consequently now started to accept applications for Certificates of Origin (Form A), which are required for exports of products under claim to preferential duties on entry into Sweden.

The Generalised System of Preferences was introduced by Sweden with effect from January 1, 1972, and Hong Kong has been included as a beneficiary.

Certain agricultural and marine produce and most manufactured products from Hong Kong will be allowed entry into Sweden free of duty.

The origin criteria under the Swedish scheme are very similar to those of the E.E.C. and U.K. schemes.

Full details of the method of applying for the certificates of origin are included in a circular to the trade which the Department is issuing today.

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LARGE PLAYGROUND FOR SHAU KEI WAN RESIDENTS

To Provide Much Needed Recreational Facilities

Residents of densely-populated Shau Kei Wan will soon have a large playground to provide them with much needed sports and recreational facilities.

The new playground, which will be built on the concrete roof of the Shau Kei Wan Service Reservoir near Holy Cross Path Village, will have an approximate area of 1.8 acres when completed. It will be the largest recreation centre of the district.

The playground will have a turfied soccer pitch and a hard-surfaced basketball court together with a changing room with toilet and shower facilities.

Nine park benches will also be installed for the convenience of spectators, and additional railing will be built along the edge of the reservoir roof for safety purposes.

Construction is expected to begin in early May and should take about four months to complete.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN SHAM SHUI PO

Turned Off For Five Hours

Water supply to a number of premises in Sham Shui Po will be turned off for five hours on March 10 from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

The temporary stoppage is to allow the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test in the area.

The area affected is bounded by Po On Road, Pratas Street, Tonkin Street, Un Chau Street, Castle Peak Road and Cheung Fat Street.

In addition, water supply to Nos. 2 - 18 and 3 - 15 Headland Road will be turned off for eight hours from 10.00 p.m. on March 10 to 6.00 a.m. on March 11.

The temporary water stoppage is to allow the Waterworks Office to connect an eight-inch fresh water main at Headland Road near house No. 1.

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Release Time: 6.45 p.m.