



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, JULY 17, 1978

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GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION POLICY IN NT IS TO BE
+FAIR AND REASONABLE+, SAYS SNT
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY DESCRIBED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPENSATION POLICY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS A VERY SIMPLE ONE -- IT IS TO BE AS FAIR AND REASONABLE AS POSSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

BUT WHILE THE POLICY MAY BE CLEAR, HE ADDED, THE REAL DIFFICULTY LIES IN ESTABLISHING FORMULAE AND RATES IN SOMETIMES EXTREMELY COMPLICATED CIRCUMSTANCES.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE POLICY MUST ALSO HAVE REGARD TO THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST -- TO BE FAIR TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID: +IT IS NOT EASY TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ALL, AND IN A PROGRAMME SUCH AS THE ONE IN WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED, WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO BE MOVED TO IMPLEMENT IT, OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE GOING TO BE CASES WHERE PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH WHAT HAS BEEN OFFERED.

+BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED ARE MOST CONCERNED TO GET THE BALANCE RIGHT OF WHAT IS FAIR AND REASONABLE.+

MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT SENSIBLE ADVICE, OPINION AND INFLUENCE OF COMMUNITY LEADERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART AND ARE VERY WELCOME.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID, SOME 100,000 PEOPLE OR MORE MUST BE CLEARED FROM THEIR HOMES ON THE LAND SO THAT THE COMMITMENT OF OUR SOCIETY TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT CAN BE MET IN TIME.

+THESE ARE YEARS OF GREAT CHANGE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THEY ARE YEARS OF EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE AS THE VERY NATURE OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS SHIFTS FROM THE COUNTRY PATTERN OF HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO THAT OF A COMPLEX DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY.

+THESE CHANGES INVOLVE PEOPLE - THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE - PEOPLE AND LAND, PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO FORSAKE THEIR HOMES AND LAND FOR HIGH-RISE FLATS AND WORK IN INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE NEW RATES AND PROCEDURES RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING GROUP HEADED BY SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK WERE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF BEING FAIR AND REASONABLE.

/MR. AKERS-JONES

MR. AKERS-JONES SPOKE OF THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD NOT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF EXISTING ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE RURAL COMMITTEES BUT TO INVOLVE THE NEW ARRIVALS IN THE NEW TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+AS A MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, ADVISORY BOARDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN EACH DISTRICT.

+I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN MUCH VALUABLE ADVICE AND MADE MANY SENSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR USE OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+IT IS EARLY YET BUT I CAN SAY THAT THESE FIRST STEPS IN THE LIFE OF THE ADVISORY BOARDS ARE VERY ENCOURAGING AND WE SHOULD WATCH THEIR DEVELOPMENT WITH INTEREST,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

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TENDERS FOR 300 MORE TAXI LICENCES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE OFFERING A FURTHER 300 HONG KONG AND KOWLOON TAXI LICENCES FOR TENDER EARLY NEXT MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THIS FURTHER ISSUE OF 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POLICY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FULL DETAILS OF THE TENDER WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND IN THE NEWS MEDIA ON AUGUST 4, 1978.

TENDER FORMS FOR THESE LICENCES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 4 AT THE DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THAT THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE WILL BE MOVING THIS WEEKEND FROM PUI CHING ROAD TO THE PARK-IN CENTRE IN DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE 300 TAXI LICENCES WOULD BE ISSUED TO SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AT THE RATE OF 100 A MONTH STARTING FROM OCTOBER.

THE LAST TAXI LICENCE TENDER WAS CALLED IN APRIL THIS YEAR WHEN 300 TAXI LICENCES WERE ALLOCATED TO SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS WHO HAD BID BETWEEN \$206,510 AND \$212,860 FOR EACH LICENCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER SIMILAR CALLS FOR TAXI TENDERS MAY BE MADE IN ABOUT EVERY FOUR MONTHS.

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INTEREST UP TO 2-1/2 PER CENT PER ANNUM EXEMPT FROM TAX
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT INTEREST PAYABLE BY LICENSED BANKS AND BY THE GOVERNMENT AT RATES OF UP TO 2-1/2 PER CENT PER ANNUM WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM INTEREST TAX WITH EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 1/4 PER CENT IN THE EXEMPTION LIMIT AND FOLLOWS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE EXCHANGE BANKS' ASSOCIATION LAST FRIDAY THAT THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS WOULD BE SIMILARLY RAISED TO 2-1/2 PER CENT ALSO WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY.

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PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING CONTRACT
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND MOTT, HAY AND ANDERSON FAR EAST WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROPOSED LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE SIGNING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE P.W.D.'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 11 A.M.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY AT 11 A.M. ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING. TELEVISION CREWS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR CAMERAS.

AFTER THE SIGNING CEREMONY, MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, AND MR. C.K. CHOW, GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER/MANAGEMENT, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW.

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120 DISABLED FOUND JOBS IN LAST THREE MONTHS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S JOB PLACEMENT UNIT LAST MONTH HELPED FIND JOBS FOR 39 DISABLED, BRINGING TO 120 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FOUND WORK WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNIT DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE GROUP WHO FOUND JOBS IN JUNE INCLUDED 10 BLIND, 15 PHYSICALLY DISABLED, SIX DEAF, FOUR EX-MENTAL PATIENTS AND FOUR MENTAL RETARDATES.

COMMENTING ON LAST MONTH'S FIGURES, MR. CHAN SHIU-WING, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UNIT SAID TODAY THAT WHILE THE MAJORITY WERE PLACED IN JOBS OF A GENERAL NATURE, SUCH AS PACKING, ASSEMBLING AND ROUTINE OFFICE WORK, OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DISABLED TO JOIN SPECIALISED TRADES AS SKILLED PERSONNEL HAD SHOWN SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

+IN THE MONTH OF JUNE, A PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED YOUNG MAN JOINED A PUBLICATION FIRM AS AN ASSISTANT ARTIST, TWO MENTALLY RETARDED YOUNG PERSONS BECAME TAILORING ASSISTANTS WHILE ANOTHER WAS EMPLOYED AS A JEWELLERY APPRENTICE.+ HE SAID.

THIS IMPROVEMENT, MR. CHAN SAID, HAS RESULTED FROM AN INCREASING AWARENESS BY PROPRIETORS OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE POTENTIAL ABILITY OF THE DISABLED.

THOSE FOUND JOBS LAST MONTH ARE PAID EITHER AT DAILY RATES RANGING FROM \$20 TO \$28 OR ON A MONTHLY BASIS BETWEEN \$450 AND \$990.

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KOWLOON CAR LICENSING OFFICE MOVING TO NEW PREMISES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE AND ITS DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENTS AND WRITTEN TESTS UNITS, SITUATED AT PUI CHING ROAD, KOWLOON, WILL BE MOVING TO THE PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK, ON JULY 22. THE PUI CHING ROAD OFFICES WILL THEREFORE BE CLOSED ON JULY 22 AND 24, 1978.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ADVISED APPLICANTS FOR DRIVING LICENCES, VEHICLE LICENCES AND OTHER PERMITS TO MAKE USE OF THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE AT MURRAY ROAD CAR PARK ON JULY 22 AND 24.

THE NEW KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICES WILL BE IN OPERATION ON JULY 25, AND THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL BE 3-317826.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WRITTEN TESTS SET FOR JULY 24 WOULD BE HELD AS SCHEDULED IN THE NEW OFFICE AT PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE. CANDIDATES SHOULD NOTE THIS CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND TO REPORT TO THE NEW CENTRE AT THE DATE AND TIME ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED.

ENROLMENT FOR THE INDOOR DRIVING INSTRUCTION COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEW OFFICE ON AUGUST 15, 1978.

THE DRIVING TEST HEADQUARTERS AND THE INDOOR INSTRUCTION CENTRE WILL REMAIN AT PUI CHING ROAD, KOWLOON.

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PWD MASS TRANSIT OFFICE SETS UP SUB-OFFICE
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S MASS TRANSIT OFFICE HAS SET UP A SUB-OFFICE IN TSUEN WAN TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TENANTS/OWNERS OF THE SEVEN BUILDINGS AT SAI LAU KOK AFFECTED BY THE MTR TSUEN WAN EXTENSION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO RESUME THE LAND OCCUPIED BY THE SEVEN BUILDINGS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR DEPOT FOR THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION.

THE SUB-OFFICE IS LOCATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF TSUEN KING BUILDING AT 91-93, HOI PA STREET, TSUEN WAN.

IT WILL BE OPEN FROM 8.45 A.M. TO 5.15 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 A.M. TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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TUEN MUN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME STARTS
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THIS YEAR'S TUEN MUN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME GOT OFF TO A START IN CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

FIVE HUNDRED LOCAL CHILDREN AND YOUTHS WERE ENTERTAINED IN A FUN FAIR COMPRISING A VARIETY OF STALL GAMES HELD AT THE ST. SIMON'S LUI MING CHOY TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TUEN MUN.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS TO MARK THE START OF THE MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF 106 ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND LOCAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS.

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME FEATURES A NUMBER OF ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES -- ACADEMIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS TO THE CITY HALL MUSEUM, CHEUNG CHAU, LUNG KWU TANG IN TUEN MUN AND TO ANCIENT TEMPLES AND GRAVES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE SPECIAL VISITS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN ACADEMIC AND RECREATIONAL OUTLET FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN ARCHAEOLOGY.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE VARIETY SHOWS, PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL TRAINING COURSES AND PICNICKING.

ADDRESSING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE SAID THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WAS THE FIFTH ORGANISED FOR TUEN MUN YOUTH, WITH THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS INCREASING EACH YEAR.

+THIS YEAR, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 35,000 YOUNG PERSONS WILL JOIN THE PROGRAMME WHICH, I UNDERSTAND, IS GEARED TO THE VARYING INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS,+ MR. LEE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT THE PROGRAMME HAD BEEN FINANCED WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AND THE GOVERNMENT.

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SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IN TAI PO
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE TAI PO SIX DISTRICTS SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME 1978 TO BE HELD AT THE SHENG KUNG HUI BISHOP MOK SAL TSENG SECONDARY SCHOOL, TAI PO MARKET AT 9.45 A.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 20).

THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE A GAMES COMPETITION TO BE PARTICIPATED BY MORE THAN 1,500 CHILDREN FROM THE SIX DISTRICTS — TAI PO, FAN LING, SHEUNG SHUI, TA KWU LING, SHA TAU KOK AND SAI KUNG (NORTH).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE TAI PO SIX DISTRICTS SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

OFFICIAL TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 3274) WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI FOR TAI PO MARKET AT 8.15 A.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 20) AND WILL RETURN FROM TAI PO MARKET AT 11.15 A.M.

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WATER CUT IN TAI KOK TSUI
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 19) TO 6 A.M. ON THURSDAY (JULY 20) FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, LARCH STREET, WALNUT STREET, BEDFORD ROAD, LIME STREET, TUNG CHAU STREET, TONG MEI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET, PINE STREET, IVY STREET, BEECH STREET INCLUDING FIR STREET.

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