



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1976

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN NEW LEGCO SESSION ON WEDNESDAY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL REVIEW THE AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG WHEN HE OPENS THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION FOR 1976/77 ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 6).

THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH BEGIN AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL BROADCAST THE ADDRESS IN CHINESE WHILE THE THREE TELEVISION STATIONS WILL GIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S REVIEW IN THEIR REGULAR NEWS PROGRAMMES.

ON OCTOBER 27, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION TO THANK THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADDRESS AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SPEAK ON THE MOTION ON THE SAME DAY AND THE FOLLOWING DAY (OCTOBER 28), IF NECESSARY.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE SCHEDULED TO REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 10 AND, IF NECESSARY, NOVEMBER 11.

WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE COUNCIL, THE OPENING SESSION WILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BE ATTENDED BY 22 UNOFFICIAL AND 19 OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

PRIOR TO THE START OF THE NEW SESSION, 10 NEWLY-APPOINTED MEMBERS WILL EITHER MAKE THE AFFIRMATION OR TAKE THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 6).

MR. CHEN SHOU-LUM, DR. HENRY HU, MR. LEUNG TAT-SHING, MR. PETER C. WONG, AND MR. WONG LAM (UNOFFICIALS) WILL MAKE THE AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE WHILE MR. ALAN SCOTT, MR. THOMAS LEE CHUN-YON (OFFICIALS), REV. JOYCE BENNETT, MISS LYDIA DUNN AND REV. P.T. MCGOVERN (UNOFFICIALS) WILL TAKE THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

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RENT ALLOWANCE INCREASE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES  
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SOME 450 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN GRANTED INCREASED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SINCE THE RENT ALLOWANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAS BEEN RAISED FROM SEPTEMBER 1.

THIS NUMBER FORMS ABOUT 10 PER CENT OF THOSE CASES WHICH CAME UP FOR REVIEW LAST MONTH AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

MR. ALAN LU, HEAD OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION, SAID:  
+THE REVIEW MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE AS THERE ARE 51,000 CASES.+

HE SAID: +AS FOR CASES THAT ARE YET TO BE REVIEWED, THEY WILL OF COURSE BE BACK-DATED TO SEPTEMBER 1.+

THE INCREASE IN RENT ALLOWANCE, MR. LU POINTED OUT, WOULD ENABLE FAMILIES ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO USE THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO SUPPLEMENT ANY OTHER INCOME TO MEET THEIR BASIC FOOD AND CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS.

QUOTING AN EXAMPLE OF HOW PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED RATE IN RENT ALLOWANCE, HE SAID: +THE SCALE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS \$180 FOR A SINGLE PERSON, AND FOR A FAMILY, \$130 FOR EACH OF THE FIRST THREE FAMILY MEMBERS, AND \$105 FOR THE NEXT THREE, AND \$80 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE MEMBER. THEREFORE, THE BASIC PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCALE FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE IS \$600 A MONTH.

+ON TOP OF THIS, THE FAMILY, UNDER THE PREVIOUS RENT ALLOWANCE SCALE, WAS ELIGIBLE FOR A MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE OF \$130, BRINGING THE TOTAL ALLOWANCE TO \$730.

+IF THE FAMILY OF FIVE HAD A TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME OF \$500 AND HAD TO PAY \$250 AS RENT, IT WAS ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OF \$230 - THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAMILY INCOME OF \$500 AND THEIR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL OF \$730.+

HOWEVER, SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, THE RENT ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$130 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$285.

+AS A RESULT OF THE RENT ALLOWANCE INCREASE, THIS FAMILY'S PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL HAS NOW BEEN RAISED FROM \$730 (\$600 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE + \$130 RENT ALLOWANCE) TO \$850 (\$600 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE + \$250 RENT ALLOWANCE). THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THEY ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR \$350 IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ON TOP OF THEIR \$500 INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES.+

COMMENTING ON THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, MR. LU SAID:  
+AT PRESENT, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL EXCEPT ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE BETWEEN 15 AND 55 YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE FREE TO WORK, THAT IS, PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT UNDERGOING FULL-TIME EDUCATION AND WHO DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN OR DEPENDANTS AT HOME.+

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THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, HE EXPLAINED, IS DESIGNED TO BRING THE INCOME OF A SINGLE ELIGIBLE PERSON OR A FAMILY UP TO THE LEVEL WHERE ESSENTIAL NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING CAN BE MET WITHOUT SUFFERING HARDSHIP.

+THE COST OF ACCOMMODATION IS COVERED SEPARATELY BY A RENT ALLOWANCE, AND WHERE THERE ARE SPECIAL EXPENSES, FOR EXAMPLE, SCHOOL FEES FOR CHILDREN AND THE COST OF A MEDICALLY APPROVED DIET, DISCRETIONARY PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE,+ HE ADDED.

IN REGARD TO THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, HE SAID: +THE SCHEME IS MEANS-TESTED. UNLESS IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THE FAMILY HAS SUFFICIENT SAVINGS TO KEEP GOING WITHOUT HELP, WE WORK OUT HOW MUCH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS TO BE PAID TO THEM.

+EACH ELIGIBLE PERSON IN THE FAMILY HAS A BASIC ALLOWANCE. A RENT ALLOWANCE AND SPECIAL EXPENSES INCURRED ARE ADDED TO THE FAMILY'S TOTAL BASIC ALLOWANCE. THEN ANY INCOME DERIVED FROM THEIR SAVINGS ETC. IS SUBTRACTED FROM THIS GRAND TOTAL AND THE BALANCE IS PAID TO THEM IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.+

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PLAYGROUND FOR KWAI CHUNG  
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RESIDENTS OF DENSELY-POPULATED KWAI CHUNG WILL SOON HAVE A PLAYGROUND FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION.

THE PLAYGROUND, TO BE LOCATED AT THE EASTERN SIDE OF SHEK LEI STREET OPPOSITE THE SHEK LEI ESTATE, WILL BE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF NEW PLAYGROUNDS SOON TO BE BUILT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN THE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG AREA.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF SOME 13,000 SQUARE METRES, THE NEW PLAYGROUND WILL HAVE A HARD SURFACE MINI-SOCCER PITCH, A BASKETBALL COURT, A BASKETBALL-CUM-VOLLEY BALL COURT, A SERVICE BUILDING, AND A SITTING OUT AREA WITH CONCRETE BENCHES AND ARBOURS.

THE WHOLE PLAYGROUND WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FLOODLIGHTS TO ENABLE MAXIMUM USE AT NIGHT.

WORK ON THE PLAYGROUND IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN EARLY DECEMBER AND SHOULD TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS RETIRING

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THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS, MR. TSANG TAT-SING, WILL RETIRE ON OCTOBER 27 AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. TSANG, WHO IS 55, FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1951 AS A CLERK/INTERPRETER ATTACHED TO THE KOWLOON MAGISTRACY. HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR GRADE THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

IN 1955, HE WAS APPOINTED AN ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS WITH THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS.

MR. TSANG, WHO WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY REGISTRAR IN 1969 AND REGISTRAR IN 1973, HAS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO BUILDING UP THIS DEPARTMENT DURING THE PAST 21 YEARS.

MR. TSANG WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR. Y.N. YIU, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY A SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

TO MARK MR. TSANG'S RETIREMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. M.C. MORGAN, WILL TOMORROW (TUESDAY) PRESENT HIM WITH A MEMENTO ON BEHALF OF ALL HIS COLLEAGUES.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 4.00 P.M. AT REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS, ROOM 1708, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE VICINITY OF PING SHEK ESTATE, NGAU CHI WAN, ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 6) TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY, A SECTION OF ABOUT 350 YARDS OF THE EXISTING EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY ON THE CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD EAST OF THE BUS TERMINUS AT PING SHEK ESTATE WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NEW ALIGNMENT OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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