



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1981

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DECISION ON WATER RESTRICTIONS DEFERRED

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER THERE WOULD BE WATER RESTRICTIONS ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAD BEEN FURTHER DEFERRED -- THIS TIME PROBABLY UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF JUNE.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AFTER THE HEAVY DOWNPOURS OVER THE WEEKEND, WHEN MORE THAN 140 MM OF RAIN WERE RECORDED, AND A REVIEW OF THE WATER STORAGE POSITION IN THE ISLAND RESERVOIRS.

MR TOMLINSON SAID: + THE RAINFALL AT BOTH SHEK PIK AND TAI TAM RESERVOIRS, WHICH MEET PART OF THE DEMAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WAS VERY FAVOURABLE AND IT CAME IN THE NICK OF TIME.

+WITHOUT THE LATEST RAIN, WATER RESTRICTIONS FOR HONG KONG ISLAND WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.+

HE ADDED: +THE SITUATION NOW IS THAT IF THE RESIDUAL YIELD RESULTING FROM THE WEEKEND'S RAIN IS SATISFACTORY, NO RESTRICTIONS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF JUNE EVEN WITHOUT RAIN.+

MR TOMLINSON STRESSED, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH RAINFALL OVER THE WEEKEND HAD HELPED THE GENERAL STORAGE POSITION, A LOT MORE RAIN WAS STILL REQUIRED TO BRING OVERALL STORAGE TO A HEALTHY LEVEL.

THE DIRECTOR URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE EXERCISING MAXIMUM ECONOMY IN THE USE OF WATER.

AT 9 AM TODAY, THE TOTAL STORAGE IN THE RESERVOIRS WAS 225 MILLION CUBIC METRES OR 39 PER CENT OF THE CAPACITY, COMPARED WITH 347 MILLION CUBIC METRES OR 60.1 PER CENT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO OFFICIATE AT CEREMONY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1981, AT THE JUNCTION OF RECLAMATION STREET AND MARKET STREET, NEAR THE YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB POLYCLINIC.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER FROM +CRADLE TO GRAVE+  
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOOK CARE OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG FROM +CRADLE TO GRAVE+ BY PROVIDING A WHOLE RANGE OF PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.H. LEE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSUEN WAN, DR LEE SAID THERE WAS A GENERAL MISCONCEPTION AMONG THE PUBLIC THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEALT ONLY WITH TREATMENT OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS OR CLINICS.

+PEOPLE TEND TO MEASURE THE STANDARD OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES BY THE INPUT OF RESOURCES, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF DOCTORS, NURSES, HOSPITAL BEDS AND CLINICS, INTO THE SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT, DR LEE SAID, WAS THE OUTPUT OF SUCH SERVICES, MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNISED HEALTH INDICES, SUCH AS THE MATERNAL, INFANT AND PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATES.

HE SAID THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF ANY RESPONSIBLE HEALTH AUTHORITY MUST BE TO PROVIDE A BALANCED PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT OF PREVENTIVE, PROMOTIVE, CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, AND NOT JUST HOSPITAL OR CLINIC SERVICES.

+WHEN ONE HAS TO USE THE FACILITIES IN A HOSPITAL IT MAY IMPLY THAT THERE IS A FAILURE IN THE PREVENTIVE AND PROMOTIVE ASPECT OF THE SERVICES, BECAUSE, IF WE ARE ABLE TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM GETTING ILL OR INJURED, THEY WILL NOT END UP IN A HOSPITAL,+ HE SAID.

THE SUCCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME IN ERADICATING POLIOMYELITIS AND TUBERCULOSIS OF THE BONES AND SPINE AMONG CHILDREN WAS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE WISE APPLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCES, HE SAID.

EXTENSIVE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT HAD RESULTED IN A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE NEED FOR HOSPITAL FACILITIES AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, SO MUCH SO THAT HOSPITAL BEDS INTENDED FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM THESE DISEASES COULD NOW BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES, DR LEE SAID.

AS A RESULT ALSO OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENSIVE EFFORTS IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES, THERE HAD BEEN, OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES, A STEADY DECLINE IN THE INFANT MORTALITY AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES IN HONG KONG.

THESE HEALTH INDICES WERE ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD AND COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH THOSE IN THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES, DR LEE SAID.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO GIVE MORE JOBS TO DISABLED PEOPLE  
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EMPLOYERS WERE URGED TODAY (MONDAY) TO HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORKING ABILITY OF DISABLED PEOPLE AND OFFER THEM MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER JOHN SUNG, IN A TALK TO THE WEEKLY MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES.

MR SUNG STRESSED THAT MANY OF THE DISABLED PEOPLE WHO HAD GONE THROUGH THE VARIOUS STEPS OF REHABILITATION WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES AND REGAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF WORKING ABILITY.

+GIVEN THE RIGHT JOBS BEST SUITED TO THEIR APTITUDE, THEY ARE JUST AS EFFICIENT AS THEIR ABLE-BODIED COUNTERPARTS,+ HE SAID.

APART FROM BEING EFFICIENT, THE DISABLED WERE +MORE LOYAL WORKERS COMPARED WITH SOME ABLE-BODIED WORKERS AND LESS LIKELY TO LEAVE FOR OTHER JOBS FOR A SMALL INCREASE IN EARNINGS,+ HE SAID.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN RECENT YEARS HAD ENHANCED THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE NOW CAPABLE OF DOING NUMEROUS JOBS, HE ADDED.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE WAS TO HELP A DISABLED PERSON TO RETURN TO A NORMAL WORKING LIFE IN REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT COMPATIBLE WITH HIS APTITUDE, INTERESTS AND CAPACITY, MR SUNG EXPLAINED.

SINCE ITS START LAST JULY, THE SPS HAD REGISTERED AND INTERVIEWED 1 045 DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS, PAID 183 PROMOTIONAL VISITS TO EMPLOYERS AND MADE 568 REFERRALS TO EMPLOYERS FOR SELECTION INTERVIEWS, WHICH RESULTED IN 230 SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS, HE SAID.

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ROWING BOATS TO MAKE WAY FOR COASTAL HIGHWAY  
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SOME 560 ROWING BOATS AT MA LIU SHUI, SHA TIN, WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH TO MAKE WAY FOR RECLAMATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE TAI PO COASTAL HIGHWAY.

THE BOATS HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS AND ARE A POPULAR ATTRACTION WITH RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO SHA TIN.

THERE ARE 22 OPERATORS, WHO HAVE RECEIVED AN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT OF \$1 500 FOR EACH LICENSED BOAT.

THE RECLAMATION CONTRACT WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE BOATS HAVE BEEN MOVED.

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A SPOKESMAN FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID OPERATORS HAD BEEN OFFERED AN ALTERNATIVE SITE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF SHA TIN HOI AT WU KAI SHA, BUT DECLINED.

HE SAID WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN FOR VARIOUS BOATING ACTIVITIES THEY WOULD BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A RESTRICTED TENDER TO OPERATE ROWING BOATS WHEN WORK ON THE RIVER IS COMPLETED IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

THE COASTAL ROAD, RUNNING FROM SHA TIN RACECOURSE TO TAI PO, WILL BE READY BY 1984.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YAN OI TONG TO HOLD SWEARING-IN CEREMONY  
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SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE SWEARING-IN OF YAN OI TONG DIRECTORS TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE REGENT HOTEL AT 7 PM.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TONG, MR LAU WONG-FAT, WILL SIGN THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE \$35 MILLION YAN OI TONG COMMUNITY AND INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE EVENTS.

THEY SHOULD MEET MR DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION PRESS UNIT AT THE REGENT HOTEL BALLROOM BY 6.45 PM.

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FREE SWIMMING LESSONS FOR PRIMARY PUPILS  
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PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO JOIN A +LEARN TO SWIM+ SCHEME DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS WHEN THEY CAN SEND PUPILS WHO CANNOT SWIM FOR FREE LESSONS.

THREE TEACHING SESSIONS OF 12 LESSONS EACH WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 20 TO AUGUST 29, AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES IS 12 750.

/THE SCHEME .....

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THE SCHEME IS OPERATED BY THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND WILL BE HELD AT THE CHAI WAN, VICTORIA PARK, ABERDEEN, KWUN TONG, MORSE PARK, TAI WAN SHAN, LEI CHENG UK, KWAI SHING, FANLING AND SHA TIN SWIMMING POOLS.

QUALIFIED SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS WILL BE CONDUCTING THE SWIMMING LESSONS, AND THE CHILDREN'S SWIMMING ABILITIES WILL BE ASSESSED FOR DISTANCE CERTIFICATES AND SWIMMING AWARDS.

TUITION AND ADMISSION TO THE POOL IS FREE.

PUPILS NOMINATED TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME MUST BE OVER 10 YEARS OF AGE AND MUST AGREE TO ATTEND ALL 12 ONE-HOUR LESSONS.

SCHOOLS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS THIS WEEK TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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#### SALT WATER LEAKAGE TEST

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO PART OF KOWLOON TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS, FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 14) TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 15) TO ALLOW LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD, BROADCAST DRIVE, EDE ROAD AND BEACON HILL ROAD, INCLUDING RHONDDA ROAD, ALNWICK ROAD, MARCONI ROAD, FESSENDEN ROAD, EASTBOURNE ROAD, BUILDINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' HOUSING SCHEMES, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO.

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