



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
LABOUR DEPARTMENT FINDS JOBS FOR THE DISABLED	1
FISHERMEN RECEIVED \$5.8 MILLION IN LOANS LAST YEAR	2
SUMMER CONCESSION FARES FOR STUDENTS	3
SHA TIN READING ROOM PROVES POPULAR	3
STUDENTS SHOW WORK ON HISTORY PROJECTS	4
NIGHT CLOSURE OF CANAL ROAD WEST FLYOVER	4
CHI KIANG STREET RESTRICTIONS LIFTED	4
HOLIDAY CLOSURES	5
WATER CUT	5

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980

- 1 -

LABOUR DEPARTMENT FINDS JOBS FOR THE DISABLED
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS TO ASSUME ANOTHER RESPONSIBILITY - HELPING TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, INCLUDING THE BLIND, DEAF AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE NEW UNDERTAKING, TO BE THE TASK OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE (SPS), WAS BEING TAKEN OVER FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HELPING THE EX-MENTALLY ILL, THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, AND THE MULTIPLE-HANDICAPPED WOULD CONTINUE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S JOB PLACEMENT UNIT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION AS AT PRESENT, HE SAID.

THE NEW SERVICE WOULD OPERATE FROM NEW RODNEY BLOCK, 99 QUEENSWAY, WHERE SOME SPECIAL FACILITIES HAVE BEEN FITTED TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO PHYSICALLY DISABLED VISITORS.

TO MARK THE START OF THE SERVICE, AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT NEW RODNEY BLOCK AT 11 AM ON JULY 7 WITH AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR HO KAM-FAI, OFFICIATING.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ALL CASES OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS REGISTERED WITH THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THOSE NOT YET PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT, WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SPS AT THE BEGINNING OF JULY.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE REQUIRING EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE AFTER JULY 7. TO FACILITATE SMOOTH OPERATION AND TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE, THEY WERE ADVISED TO MAKE PRIOR APPOINTMENTS ON TELEPHONE 5-280049 OR 5-282523 EXT. 50 BEFORE CALLING AT THE SERVICE.

EMPLOYERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ON THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OR HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE SPS ON THE SAME TELEPHONE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE OPENING OF THE SPS FOLLOWED CONSIDERABLE PREPARATION EFFORTS, WHICH INCLUDED SENDING OFFICERS OVERSEAS TO RECEIVE RELEVANT TRAINING. IN ADDITION, OFFICERS OF THE SPS HAD ALSO RECEIVED IN-SERVICE TRAINING LOCALLY TO UNDERSTAND THE HONG KONG SITUATION.

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FISHERMEN RECEIVED \$5.8 MILLION IN
LOANS LAST YEAR
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FISHERMEN LAST YEAR RECEIVED LOW-INTEREST LOANS TOTALLING \$5.8 MILLION TO HELP IMPROVE FISHING OPERATIONS.

THIS BRINGS TO MORE THAN \$93 MILLION IN TOTAL LOANS ALLOCATED SINCE 1946 FROM THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION LOAN FUND, THE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND, THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR LOAN FUND AND THE CO-OPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN RELIEF EVERYWHERE (CARE) LOAN FUND.

THE FUNDS ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THEY HAVE AT PRESENT A COMBINED CAPITAL OF \$14.4 MILLION. LOANS ARE GRANTED TO HELP FISHERMEN BUILD OR REPAIR VESSELS, PURCHASE MORE EFFICIENT FISHING GEAR AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, AND DEVELOP MECHANISED PRODUCTIVE TECHNIQUES.

TODAY, 90 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S FISHING VESSELS ARE MECHANISED- AND IN 1979, MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE FRESH MARINE FISH CONSUMED HERE WERE CAUGHT BY LOCAL FISHERMEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CREDIT SECTION SAID 129 FISHERMEN RECEIVED THE \$5.8 MILLION LOANS.

+OF THE TOTAL, \$4.9 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FROM THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION LOAN FUND,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+THE BIGGEST SINGLE LOAN GRANTED WAS \$300 000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 27-METRE TRAWLER,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE AVERAGE LOAN WAS ABOUT \$45 000.

INTEREST IS CHARGED AT THREE TO SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM AND THE REPAYMENT PERIOD STRETCHES FROM A FEW MONTHS TO 15 YEARS OR MORE, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE LOAN.

+TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE UNSTEADY INCOME OF THE FISHERMEN, REPAYMENT IS USUALLY MADE BY DEDUCTIONS OF 15 TO 20 PER CENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE OF CATCHES,+ HE SAID.

+FISHERMEN OR REGISTERED FISHING COMPANIES CAN APPLY DIRECTLY FOR A LOAN WHILE MEMBERS OF REGISTERED FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES MAY APPLY THROUGH THEIR SOCIETIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO FACILITATE APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING, THE DEPARTMENT OPERATES LIAISON OFFICES IN 10 FISHING CENTRES. PROCESSING NORMALLY TAKES ABOUT A WEEK, BUT LARGER LOANS TAKE LONGER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSTANTLY WORKING TOWARDS IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG. THIS IS DONE THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ADVICE IN FISHING, HE ADDED.

SUMMER CONCESSION FARES FOR STUDENTS

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL BE PROMOTING SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES AGAIN THIS YEAR BY OFFERING SPECIAL HALF-FARE CONCESSIONS TO STUDENTS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A KCR SPOKESMAN SAID THESE TICKETS WOULD BE AVAILABLE EVERY WEEKDAY FROM WEDNESDAY (JULY 2) TO AUGUST 29.

+THE CHEAPER TICKETS WILL ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE URBAN AREA TO ENJOY OUTDOOR PURSUITS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THEY WILL ALSO BE AN INCENTIVE TO STUDENTS IN RURAL DISTRICTS TO GO TO THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN RECREATION PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY RETURN TICKETS VALID FOR THE DAY OF ISSUE WILL BE SOLD AND ONLY FULL TIME STUDENTS CAN ENJOY THE CONCESSION.

THEY WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS WHEN BUYING TICKETS.

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SHA TIN READING ROOM PROVES POPULAR

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MORE THAN 3 000 PEOPLE HAVE USED THE READING ROOM AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE SINCE IT OPENED THREE MONTHS AGO.

THIS REPRESENTS A DAILY AVERAGE OF OVER 30 PEOPLE. THERE ARE 24 SEATS IN THE READING ROOM.

+THE SEATS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED MOST OF THE TIME,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD SAID. +THE DAILY ATTENDANCE HAS RISEN TO OVER 40 IN THE RECENT WEEKS. THE BOARD'S CONFERENCE ROOM, NEXT TO THE READING ROOM, HAS ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.+

HE SAID THIS INDICATED A GROWING DEMAND FOR SUCH A SERVICE ESPECIALLY DURING EXAMINATION PERIODS.

THE READING ROOM IS MANAGED BY THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE BOARD.

A SUBSIDY OF \$45 000 WAS APPROVED AT A RECENT BOARD MEETING TO PAY THE SALARIES OF TWO PART-TIME SUPERVISORS, TO BUY NEW BOOKS AND INSTALL BOOKSHELVES.

THERE ARE PLANS TO APPROACH PUBLISHERS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR DONATIONS OF PUBLICATIONS.

THE READING ROOM IS ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SHAU CHUEN HOUSE IN THE CENTRE OF LEK YUEN ESTATE. IT IS OPEN FROM 5.30 PM TO 9.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980

- 4 -

STUDENTS SHOW WORK ON HISTORY PROJECTS

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THE PROJECT WORKS OF JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS IN CHINESE HISTORY WILL BE EXHIBITED NEXT MONTH TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE PILOT SCHEME OF THE PROVISIONAL CHINESE HISTORY SYLLABUS IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HISTORY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND 17 SECONDARY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT SCHEME.

IT WILL BE HELD ON JULY 17 AND 18 BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF HOMANTIN GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL, 8 PERTH STREET, KOWLOON.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE EXHIBITION.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF CANAL ROAD WEST FLYOVER

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THE UP-RAMP OF THE FLYOVER IN CANAL ROAD WEST WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON TUESDAY (JULY 1) TO FACILITATE WORK ON THE CANAL ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT.

CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE 121 FROM HENNESSY ROAD TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA YEE WO STREET, GREAT GEORGE STREET, PATERSON STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND WATERFRONT ROAD.

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CHI KIANG STREET RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

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THE EXISTING PEAK HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON THE SECTION OF CHI KIANG STREET BETWEEN TO KWA WAN ROAD AND YUK YAT STREET WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (JULY 1).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BAN ON ENTRY INTO CHI KIANG STREET EAST OF YUK YAT STREET AND ON RIGHT-TURNS FROM CHI KIANG STREET INTO YUK YAT STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980

- 5 -

HOLIDAY CLOSURES
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THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERY AND ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY (JULY 1), A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

MARINE DEPARTMENT OFFICES WILL ALSO BE CLOSED, EXCEPT ITS PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AT WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN, ITS PORT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, AND MACAU FERRY WHARF UNIT OFFICES.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO AP LEI CHAU WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 2) FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM.

THE WATER CUT WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ON THE ISLAND, INCLUDING THE POWER STATION AND OIL DEPOT BUT EXCLUDING AP LEI CHAU ESTATE.

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