



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1975

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
FLEXIBILITY ESSENTIAL IN FERRY SERVICES TO MEET CHANGING PASSENGER DEMANDS .....	1
WATER CUT IN SHEK KIP MEI .....	2
HALF-FARE TRAIN TICKETS FOR STUDENTS IN SUMMER .....	3
AMBULANCE SERVICES ANSWERED RECORD NUMBER OF CALLS LAST YEAR .....	4
GYMNASTICS DAY FOR CHILDREN AT KAU U FONG THIS SUNDAY ..	4

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1975

- 1 -

## FLEXIBILITY ESSENTIAL IN FERRY SERVICES

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. IAN MACPHERSON, TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN FERRY SERVICES IN ORDER TO MEET CHANGING PASSENGER DEMANDS.

FERRY SERVICES, HE SAID, NEED TO BE SO PLANNED AS TO BEST SUIT PASSENGER DEMANDS AS A COMPLÉMENT TO OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT AND AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF REDUCING ROAD CONGESTION.

THE COMMISSIONER WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY IN WHICH MRS. MACPHERSON LAUNCHED A NEW TRIPLE-DECK FERRY +MAN HONG+ AT THE HONGKONG SHIPYARD. THE VESSEL IS OWNED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

HE SAID NOT ALL FERRY ROUTES COULD BE PROFITABLE AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE FLEET BE DEPLOYED AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE BUSIER ROUTES COULD CROSS-SUBSIDISE THE LESS BUSY BUT ESSENTIAL ONES.

+THIS, AND THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY TO MEET CHANGING DEMAND, IS SOMETHING THAT BOTH THE COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED ARE WELL AWARE OF,+ HE SAID.

MR. MACPHERSON POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE COMPANY AS THERE HAD BEEN A DROP IN PASSENGERS ON CERTAIN ROUTES SINCE THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL CAME INTO USE.

THE EFFECT OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY SYSTEM ON FERRY SERVICES HAS YET TO BE MEASURED ALTHOUGH THIS WILL BECOME CLEARER WHEN THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORT STUDY REPORT IS AVAILABLE, HE ADDED.

+THERE IS, THEREFORE, AN OBVIOUS NEED TO PLAN SERVICES SO THAT THEY ARE BEST SUITED TO PASSENGER DEMANDS AS A COMPLÉMENT TO OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT AND AS A SIGNIFICANT MEANS OF REDUCING ROAD CONGESTION,+ HE SAID.

THIS PLANNING, HE SAID, IS GOING ON TOGETHER WITH THE VITAL NEED TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY PIER FACILITIES IN THE RIGHT PLACES. HE REASSURED THE COMPANY THAT, AS CONNECTING SERVICES TO PIERS, THERE WOULD BE 15 SEPARATE BUS ROUTES AT THE SHAM SHUI PO FERRY CONCOURSE, AND EIGHT ROUTES AT WESTERN.

/MR. MACPHERSON .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1975

- 2 -

MR. MACPHERSON DESCRIBED THE NEW TRIPLE-DECK FERRY AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL AND SAID IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE GO-AHEAD POLICY OF THE COMPANY DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTIES.

HE NOTED THAT A GROWING PHENOMENON WAS THE TREMENDOUS DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL SERVICES AT WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AS WITNESSED BY THE IMMENSE POPULARITY OF THE COMPANY'S AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES OF EXCURSION FERRY SERVICES.

THE LAUNCHING OF +MAN HONG+ BRINGS THE COMPANY'S TOTAL FLEET TO 86 WITH A TOTAL MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF ALMOST 50,000 PASSENGERS. THE FLEET RANGE FROM WATER TAXIS AND THE SPEEDY HOVERFERRIES TO THE BIG TRIPLE DECKERS, AND THE ROUTES VARY FROM THE FAST CROSS-HARBOUR COMMUTER SERVICES TO THE REGULAR ROUTES SERVING THE MORE REMOTE AREAS OF HONG KONG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF MR. MACPHERSON'S SPEECH, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHEK KIP MEI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JUNE 27) TO ENABLE A TEST FOR LEAKAGE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY TAI HANG TUNG ROAD, TONG YAM STREET, WOR CHAI STREET, AS WELL AS SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE BLOCKS 1 TO 8.

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/3 .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1975

- 3 -

HALF-FARE TRAIN TICKETS FOR STUDENTS

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STUDENTS TRAVELLING ORDINARY CLASS ON PASSENGER TRAINS WILL BE GIVEN A HALF-FARE CONCESSION DURING THE SUMMER VACATION STARTING NEXT WEDNESDAY (JULY 2).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, MR. REGINALD GREGORY SAID THE FARE CONCESSION, LIKE PREVIOUS YEARS, IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MORE YOUNGSTERS IN URBAN AREAS TO ORGANISE PICNICS AND OUTINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE LONG VACATION.

+AT THE SAME TIME,+ HE SAID, +YOUTHS IN RURAL AREAS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO TO TOWN MORE FREQUENTLY TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES.+

THE CONCESSION IS VALID BETWEEN JULY 2 AND AUGUST 29. ORDINARY HALF-FARE CHILD TICKETS OVERPRINTED WITH THE WORK +STUDENT+ WILL BE SOLD TO BONA-FIDE STUDENTS AT VARIOUS STATION, AND ONLY RETURN TICKETS VALID FOR THE DATE OF ISSUE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

THESE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON WEEKDAYS ONLY, AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

STUDENTS OVER-RIDING THE STATIONS FOR WHICH THEIR CONCESSION TICKETS WERE SOLD WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY HALF FARE PLUS 50 PER CENT FOR THAT PORTION OF THE JOURNEY FOR WHICH THEY DO NOT HOLD TICKETS.

AND THOSE FOUND TRAVELLING IN FIRST CLASS WITH ORDINARY CLASS HALF-FARE TICKETS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY ONE AND A HALF TIMES THE FULL FARE OF THE HIGHER CLASS LESS THE ORDINARY CLASS HALF-FARE.

WHEN PURCHASING THE HALF-FARE TICKETS, STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS SUCH AS SCHOOL PASS-BOOKS, OR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS TO VERIFY THEIR IDENTITY.

ON REQUEST, SUCH DOCUMENTS MUST ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE TRAINS.

THE CONCESSION MAY BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME.

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**BUSY YEAR FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES**  
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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANSWERED A TOTAL OF 110,203 CALLS DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE 1974/75 ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, IT WAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF CALLS EVER RECORDED.

THE COMMAND RECEIVED 61,950 EMERGENCY CALLS AND 48,253 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS, MAKING A TOTAL OF 110,203 DURING 1974/75. THE FIGURE FOR 1973/74 WAS 105,127 SHOWING AN INCREASE OF NEARLY FIVE PER CENT DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED EACH DAY WAS ABOUT 300, BUT THE REPORT POINTED OUT THAT ON MANY OCCASIONS THE NUMBER OF CALLS THAT THE COMMAND RECEIVED FAR EXCEEDED THIS FIGURE.

THE AMBULANCE COMMAND HAS A FLEET OF 86 AMBULANCES AND THERE ARE NINE DEPOTS/STATIONS. THE REPORT REVEALED THAT FIVE MORE AMBULANCES WILL BE ADDED TO THE PRESENT FLEET AND MORE DEPOTS ARE DUE TO OPEN IN 1975/76.

DURING THE YEAR, A NUMBER OF NEW FACILITIES WERE INSTALLED IN ALL THE AMBULANCES INCLUDING PIPED OXYGEN, PORTABLE INCUBATORS AND PAIN-KILLING GAS.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE WORKLOAD OF THE AMBULANCE HAS BEEN INCREASING IN THE PAST YEARS. BETWEEN 1970/71 AND 1974/75, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 29 PER CENT IN EMERGENCY CALLS AND 48 PER CENT IN NON-EMERGENCY CALLS. THE NUMBER OF TOTAL CALLS HAS INCREASED BY 36 PER CENT AND THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS BY 47 PER CENT.

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**GYMNASTICS DAY AT KAU U FONG**  
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ABOUT 500 CHILDREN IN CENTRAL WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN SOME GYMNASTIC EXERCISES THIS SUNDAY (JUNE 29) AT KAU U FONG WHEN IT IS TURNED INTO A PLAYSTREET.

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF FOUR DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES ON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION. ABOUT 500 CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP ON EACH OCCASION.

THE EVENT ON SUNDAY IS A JOINT VENTURE OF THE KAU U FONG PLAYSTREET COMMITTEE, THE RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICE (WESTERN), AND THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION.

STUDENTS AND STAFF OF NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL BE ON HAND TO GUIDE THE CHILDREN AND GIVE A GYMNASTIC DEMONSTRATION.

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