



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1975

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

HIGHER SALARIES BRING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE TAXABLE BRACKET	1
48 RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE AWARDS FROM THE GOVERNOR	3
FIRST FIRE EXHIBITION STARTS NEXT WEEK	4
MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PART-TIME COMMERCIAL COURSES	4

MORE PEOPLE PAY SALARIES TAX THIS YEAR

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MORE PEOPLE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG'S REVENUE IN THE FORM OF SALARIES TAX IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THIS IS INDICATED BY THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE FILES FOR PERSONS LIABLE TO SALARIES TAX WHICH STOOD AT 167,030 ON MARCH 31, 1975, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 45 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE INCREASE, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTINUED RISING TREND OF SALARIES WHICH HAD BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE INTO THE TAXABLE BRACKET.

THE NUMBER OF CASES WHERE TAX HAD BEEN CHARGED ROSE FROM 63,825 IN 1970-71 TO 144,993 IN 1974-75, AND DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR THE NET TAX ASSESSED AMOUNTED TO A RECORD OF \$428.7 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH \$306.2 MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR -- AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT.

+THE INCREASE IN NET TAX ASSESSED REFLECTS THE CONTINUED RISE IN THE LEVEL OF EMOLUMENTS BEING PAID TO EMPLOYEES AS A RESULT OF INFLATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE FIGURES WERE NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE BECAUSE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A PROVISIONAL TAX SYSTEM. +THE FIGURE FOR 1974-75 INCLUDES BOTH THE PROVISIONAL TAX FOR 1974-75 AND THE ADJUSTMENT IN THE FINAL ASSESSMENT FOR 1973-74, WHEREAS IN THE EARLIER YEAR, WHICH WAS ALSO AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE, THE IMPACT WAS REDUCED BY THE TRANSITIONAL RELIEF GIVEN IN THAT YEAR,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE YEAR 1974-75, THE AMOUNT OF SALARIES TAX COLLECTED WAS \$413.4 MILLION COMPARED TO \$283.2 MILLION IN 1973-74.

ONE NOTABLE POINT SHOWN BY A BREAKDOWN OF SALARIES TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1973-74 IS THAT 68.8 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAXPAYERS, FELL WITHIN THE INCOME RANGE OF \$1,000 TO \$3,000 PER MONTH.

WHEN CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MARITAL AND FAMILY STATUS, IT SHOWS THAT SINGLE PERSONS WITHOUT CHILDREN FORM THE LARGEST GROUP OF SALARIES TAXPAYERS. AS A GROUP, THEY PAID OVER \$42 MILLION IN 1973-74.

DURING THE SAME YEAR, 6,264 PERSONS PAID THEIR TAX AT THE STANDARD RATE OF 15 PER CENT ON TOTAL INCOME LESS CHARITABLE DONATIONS BUT WITHOUT ANY DEDUCTION FOR PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.

/+IT IS INTERESTING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1975

- 2 -

+IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS GROUP WHICH ONLY ACCOUNTED FOR 4.8 PER CENT OF SALARIES TAXPAYERS PAID A TOTAL OF \$147.8 MILLION OR ABOUT 47 PER CENT OF THE 1973-74 SALARIES TAX CHARGED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT POINT WAS THAT THE AVERAGE TAX ASSESSED PER SALARIES TAXPAYER, AT \$2,438, SHOWED A DECREASE OF \$195 OVER LAST YEAR. THIS, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, WAS DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF CASES COMING INTO THE TAX NET AT THE LOWER END OF THE INCOME SCALE.

SALARIES TAX IS CHARGED ON EMOLUMENTS ARISING IN OR DERIVED FROM HONG KONG AND IS CALCULATED ON A SLIDING SCALE WHICH VARIES FROM FIVE PER CENT TO 30 PER CENT ON NET CHARGEABLE INCOME. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL EFFECTIVE TAX RATE IS LIMITED TO 15 PER CENT OF THE INCOME WITHOUT DEDUCTION OF PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.

ASSESSMENTS OF SALARIES TAX ARE BASED ON THE ANNUAL RETURNS OF EMPLOYEES' EMOLUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, AND THE TAXPAYERS THEMSELVES.

THE PREPARATION AND ISSUE OF ASSESSMENTS ARE HANDLED BY UNIT 2 OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT. DESPITE THE TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN SALARIES TAX CASES, THE INSTALLATION OF A MINI-COMPUTER IN JUNE 1974 HAD ENABLED DEMAND NOTES TO BE ISSUED EARLIER THAN USUAL WITHOUT OVERTIME WORK.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1975

- 3 -

48 LOCAL RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE AWARDS FROM GOVERNOR
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FORTY-EIGHT LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WERE DECORATED BY THE QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY WILL RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT A CEREMONY IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT 11.30 A.M. ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 10).

THE INSIGNIA INCLUDE TWO C.M.G., TWO C.B.E., ONE O.B.E. (MILITARY), THREE O.B.E., ONE O.B.E. (HONORARY), THREE M.B.E. (MILITARY), SEVEN M.B.E. AND THREE M.B.E. (HONORARY).

SPECIAL PARKING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR GUESTS ATTENDING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

TO FACILITATE THESE ARRANGEMENTS THE METERED PARKING SPACES IN UPPER AND LOWER ALBERT ROADS AND BETWEEN KENNEDY ROAD AND GARDEN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THE INSIGNIA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE PRESS ROOM, G.I.S., BEACONSFIELD HOUSE 6TH FLOOR, AT 11.30 A.M. ON MONDAY.

ONLY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE GUARD ROOM OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE NOT LATER THAN 11 A.M. G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THEM.

NEWSPAPERS NOT RECEIVING PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS IN THE ORDINARY WAY WITH MAINLAND STUDIO AT 44 CARNARVON ROAD, KOWLOON, TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-671755.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1975

- 4 -

FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT OCEAN TERMINAL
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A FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION, THE FIRST EVER IN HONG KONG, IS TO BE HELD AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL FOR FIVE DAYS STARTING ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 13).

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES. IT WILL DISPLAY PRODUCTS OF TEN LOCAL COMPANIES AND AGENTS TRADING IN FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID: +THERE WILL BE 16 STANDS, INCLUDING A FIRE SERVICES STAND, OF WHICH THE THEME WILL BE 'ELECTRICAL OVERLOADING STARTS FIRE'.+

THE EXHIBITION, PART OF THE CURRENT FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, AIMS TO SHOW HOUSEHOLDERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG FOR PROTECTING HOMES AND FACTORIES FROM FIRE.

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. F.M. WATSON, WILL OPEN THE EXHIBITION ON THURSDAY AT 3.30 P.M.

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PART-TIME COMMERCIAL COURSES
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A NUMBER OF PART-TIME EVENING COURSES WILL SHORTLY BE OFFERED BY THE COMMERCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENTS AT THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

COURSES IN AUDIO-TYPING AND BUSINESS MACHINES WILL BE OFFERED BY BOTH INSTITUTES WHILE COURSES AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN SHORTHAND AND TYPING WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY AT THE MORRISON HILL INSTITUTE.

THE COURSES WILL BE HELD FROM MID-JANUARY TO MAY NEXT YEAR AND TUITION FEES RANGE FROM \$60 FOR A GENERAL COURSE TO \$100 FOR AN ADVANCED COURSE IN PITMAN'S SHORTHAND.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE AT THE TWO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. AND FROM 7 P.M. TO 8 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE TWO INSTITUTES BY NOVEMBER 22, 1975.

THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS AT 6, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AND THE KWAI CHUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS IN HING SHING ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

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