



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, May 24, 1973

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THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME

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The Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, said today that the primary purpose of the disability and infirmity allowance is to help the severely disabled and elderly infirm to meet their extra and special needs.

He said it was never intended that the allowance was for helping with their basic needs in food and other daily necessities.

He said some people have misunderstood this and therefore have criticised the rate of payment as being too low to enable beneficiaries to subsist on it.

"Actually those beneficiaries can also apply for public assistance which is intended to help meet their basic needs," Mr. Lee said.

Mr. Lee, who was addressing the Lions Club of Tai Ping Shan at its luncheon meeting at the Mandarin Hotel, explained that both the public assistance scheme introduced in 1971, and the disability and infirmity allowance scheme were run by his department, and were the two main forms of social security in Hong Kong.

"Under the public assistance scheme, cash assistance is provided for the needy on passing a means test. As to the disability and infirmity allowance, it is, however, awarded to the severely disabled and the elderly infirm without a means test."

/Mr. Lee .....

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Mr. Lee described the disability and infirmity allowance scheme as a "home grown" product not copied from elsewhere and said it was designed in such a way as to meet the needs of the local situation.

Receipt of the allowance did not affect the eligibility for public assistance.

As an example, Mr. Lee said an old person with no income will receive \$135 a month as public assistance plus \$55 a month infirmity allowance bringing the total that person can receive to \$190 a month. A disabled person in a similar situation, he said, will receive \$245 a month.

"The disability and infirmity allowance is in fact an extra cash grant with which they can improve their living," he said.

Mr. Lee said it was still too early to assess the impact of this scheme. "Nonetheless, we have the impression that it has enabled those beneficiaries to have better nutritional and recreational activities as well as personal care or to make some contributions to their families which may then regard them less as a burden," he said.

On the eligibility requirements which he said some people felt were too strict, Mr. Lee pointed out that the criteria were intended to be used only in the initial period of implementation of the scheme. They would be reviewed after the scheme has been in operation for some time.

/Dealing with .....

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Dealing with the severely disabled and elderly infirm in residential institutional care, he said the reason for their not being covered by the scheme was to encourage more of them to receive care in the community which is a much more positive form of care and service.

He said such people who are in need of some pocket money can apply for public assistance which may help them according to their individual needs.

Reviewing the scheme's operation so far, Mr. Lee said up to the end of April, over 21,000 applications had been received of which about 90 per cent were for the infirmity allowance.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Lee's speech in English and Chinese will be available from the GIS Press Boxes, this evening.

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WARNING TO VISITORS AT HIGH ISLAND

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Consultants for the High Island Water scheme today appealed to weekend holiday makers to avoid possible danger by keeping well clear of the work site in the Straits of Kwun Mun and the private roads leading to it.

The Site Representative of Binnie and Partners, Mr. Tony Vail, said today that weekend visitors to the Straits had recently posed a major problem of safety.

"There is no doubt that these visitors are endangering their own lives and limbs, as well as impeding the contractors in their work which has to meet exacting time-schedules," he said.

He thought it was only a question of time before there was a tragic accident.

Mr. Vail pointed out that all roads which the contractors use are private ones built by themselves. "Nobody except people working on the scheme or residents in the area is allowed to drive on these roads, and pedestrians use them at their own risk."

He said visitors were entering the area by land and from the sea. In the latter case, sampans had been disembarking people on to the western dam construction site.

"This is extremely dangerous", Mr. Vail said, "because of rock blasting in the area and the very large earth moving plant in daily use."

/He added .....

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He added that to make sure no one was hurt he would like to see weekend hikers and others avoid the Straits of Kwun Mun altogether.

He also urged all visitors not to enter the reservoir site area by boat, and if they wished to pass through the area on foot on their way to the beaches at Sai Wan and Tai Long, to pay heed to the warning notices and keep to the paths and areas where their lives would not be at risk.

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FAREWELL FOR CHIEF JUSTICE

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A farewell ceremony will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Edinburgh Place for the retiring Chief Justice, Sir Ivo Rigby, and Lady Rigby.

Sir Ivo will leave Hong Kong on Saturday (May 26) after serving here for more than 11 years.

The ceremony will start at 3.30 p.m. and will be attended by some 200 invited guests and personal friends of the couple.

On arrival at Edinburgh Place, Sir Ivo will be met by the Director of Protocol, Brigadier R.G. Lewthwaite.

Sir Ivo will receive a salute and then inspect a Guard of Honour formed by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. The band of the Royal Hong Kong Police will be in attendance.

After the departure of the Guard of Honour, the Chief Justice and Lady Rigby will move to Queen's Pier where their friends will say goodbye.

Following this, the couple will board the Governor's launch "The Lady Maurine" and proceed towards Kowloon escorted by a Marine Police launch. They will arrive at Kowloon Public Pier at about 4.10 p.m.

Motorists are advised that special traffic arrangements will be in force during the ceremony.

From 3 p.m. onwards, access to Edinburgh Place East from Connaught Road Central will be prohibited to all vehicular traffic other than flag cars, labelled cars and official vehicles entering H.M.S. Tamar.

/The public .....

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The public light bus stand at Edinburgh Place East, adjacent to the west gate of H.M.S. Tamar, will also be temporarily closed. These arrangements will last until about 5 p.m.

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Note to Editors: Press representatives assigned to cover the ceremony should take up their positions NOT LATER THAN 3.15 p.m.

There will be two main press positions. The first will be at the east end corner of Queen's Pier and will be a general position for reporters, photographers and broadcasters. From this position cameramen may film the inspection of the Guard of Honour and the departure of the launch.

The second position will be on the west flank of the Guard of Honour and will be the main one for filming the inspection. This position is reserved for photographers and those using hand-held cine-cameras.

Those using this position will be allowed to move to the west end corner of the Pier, after the Guard of Honour has departed, or if they so wish to the first position on the east end corner of the Pier.

Press men may also wish to cover the event from the City Hall elevated walk, which will be open to the general public.

G.I.S. liaison officers will be on hand to assist the Press.

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"LUCKY" CAR NUMBERS STILL POPULAR

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A total of \$224,300 was raised for charity in the second public auction of 30 lucky car numbers yesterday (May 23).

In the auction, 10 of the numbers were sold for \$10,000 and over. The highest bid of the day - \$16,000 - was made by Mr. Ching Kum-yuen for the number AS 3.

In the first auction two weeks ago, 50 numbers were sold for just over \$300,000.

Proceeds of the auction, less the necessary expenses, will be paid to the Lotteries Fund for charitable purposes.

A third auction will be held next month when another 30 lucky car numbers will be put up for auction.

It will be held on June 6 at 5.30 p.m. in the Canteen, Central Government Offices (West Wing), 7th floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.

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SMOKE INSPECTORS AWARDED DIPLOMAS

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Three Assistant Smoke Inspectors of the Labour Department have been awarded diplomas in air pollution control after passing the first examination of its kind held locally by the Hong Kong Examination Board of the United Kingdom Royal Society of Health.

They are Mr. Chan Mai, Mr. Chung Moon-kun and Mr. Ng Kwok-ying.

The examination included two written papers and an oral test. The syllabus covered a wide range of topics, including fuel technology, air pollution control and administration, and the general effect of air pollution.

Mr. K. Higginson, Smoke Abatement Adviser of the Air Pollution Control Unit of the Labour Department, said the inspectors had been working in his unit for more than two years, during which they were given intensive theoretical and practical training.

Another four smoke inspectors may sit for the examination later this year.

Smoke inspectors are responsible for the monitoring work associated with air pollution; for the giving of free and constructive advice to fuel-users on the efficient use of fuel and the reduction of smoke emission from their plants; and for the enforcement of the provisions of the Clean Air Ordinance and Regulations.

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### GOVERNOR SEES HAWKER PROBLEMS

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, spent over an hour in Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po, today talking to hawker and market stall-holders and seeing for himself the great many problems confronting the Urban Services Department there.

Pei Ho Street was chosen for the visit because of the large range of hawker stalls -- from fixed pitch stalls to static stalls and unlicensed pedlar stalls -- selling a great variety of goods.

And as one USD spokesman put it: "All the hawker problems are represented here."

The street, long known as a hawker blackspot was also named Lap Sap Street during the early phases of the Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign.

In February this year, a large-scale cleaning and tidying-up operation was mounted. This was followed by the cutting-back to proper size of some 700 stalls which had been extended illegally choking the entire street.

The Governor was accompanied on the inspection visit by the Assistant Director (Abattoirs, Hawkers & Markets), Mr. James So, and two senior Hawker Liaison Officers, Mr. Harry Martin and Mr. D.L. Smith.

Sir Murray showed great interest in the trading following the tidying-up operations there and asked both Urban Services Department officials and the hawkers many questions.

The street was picked also because it is the starting point of a Hong Kong-wide campaign to tidy-up and cut back to size all hawker stalls, an operation named "Delineation" by the Urban Services Department.

This delineation drive will later on include a resiting of hawker stalls in other streets, or bazaars or in market complexes.

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CONSULS-GENERAL VISIT MR. DE SALES

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Five consuls-general in Hong Kong will pay an official visit to Mr. A. de O. Sales, the first non-government Chairman of the Urban Council, at the City Hall tomorrow (Friday).

They are Mr. Mario F. Real-de-Azua of Uruguay; Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Benson of Mexico; Mr. Geraldo Holanda Cavalcanti of Brazil; Mr. Oscar E. Michelena of Venezuela and Mr. Jorge Zaldua-Caro of Columbo.

The Consul-General of Uruguay, Mr. Real-de-Azua, who is leaving Hong Kong shortly to take up a new assignment, will present Mr. de Sales an oil painting of the Hoi Sum Temple, which once stood on an island of the same name off To Kwa Wan in Kowloon.

The temple was pulled down after the island was joined to Kowloon by reclamation, and turned into a park managed by the Urban Council.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event which will take place tomorrow (Friday) at 11.30 a.m. at the office of the Chairman of the Urban Council in the City Hall.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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New traffic arrangements will be introduced in To Kwa Wan and Kwun Tong to improve traffic conditions.

With effect from 10 a.m. tomorrow (May 25), motorists will be prohibited from making left turns from Ma Tau Wei Road into Tin Kwong Road and from Ma Hang Chung Road into Ma Tau Wei Road.

Also from 10 a.m. on Saturday (May 26), the unnamed lane from Hoi Bun Road to How Ming Street and the section of the unnamed lane from How Ming Street to Tsun Yip Street will be routed one-way eastbound.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted in the areas to guide motorists.

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GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES PROMOTION

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Note to Editors: Four well-known HK-TVB personalities will be selling Government Lottery tickets at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club selling booth at the Star Ferry concourse tomorrow (Friday) between 12.45 p.m. and 1.15 p.m.

They are Lydia Shum, Tam Bing-man, Wong Oi-ming and Yu Ming.

The winning numbers for the first Government Lottery this year will be drawn by the four personalities on June 1, at the HK-TVB studio.

The draw will be partly televised on the same night in the "Enjoy Yourself Tonight" show.

Members of the public who want to see the draw at the TVB studio can obtain free admission ticket from the above selling booth. Tickets are given on a first-come-first-served basis.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to the selling booth to cover the event.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.