



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1979

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INCREASED PAYMENT RATES FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED THE RATES OF PAYMENT UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND WHICH PROVIDES GRANTS AND LOANS TO PEOPLE IN NEED OF RELIEF AS A RESULT OF FIRE, FLOODING, TYPHOON OR OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS.

THE INCREASED RATES ALSO APPLY TO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME AS THEIR SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT IS BASED ON THAT OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

THE REVISED RATES OF PAYMENT, WHICH HAVE NOW COME INTO EFFECT, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RISING COST OF LIVING.

UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PAYMENTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY, DOMESTIC RE-ACCOMMODATION AND RE-EQUIPMENT EXPENSES, REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF VESSELS, AGRICULTURAL LOSS AND SPECIAL CASES.

IN THE CASE OF DEATH AND INJURY GRANTS, THE PAYMENT RATES HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY ABOUT 26 PER CENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, FOR DEATH GRANTS INVOLVING THE LOSS OF A SOLE WAGE-EARNER, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT HAS BEEN RAISED FROM \$14 300 TO \$20 000, COMPRISING \$12 000 FOR ONE SURVIVING DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER AND \$1 000 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER.

FOR INJURY GRANTS, THE PAYMENT IS NOW FROM \$140 UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$4 300 DEPENDING ON THE GRAVITY OF INJURY. THE PREVIOUS MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS WERE \$120 AND \$3 600 RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE CASE OF DOMESTIC RE-ACCOMMODATION AND RE-EQUIPMENT GRANTS, PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN RATIONALISED AND EQUATED WITH THE LEVEL OF GRANTS PAID UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE FUND WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1962 AS THE COMMUNITY RELIEF TRUST FUND AND WAS RE-NAMED THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND IN 1973. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND IS VESTED IN THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WHO ACTS ON THE ADVICE OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE, COMPRISING BOTH UNOFFICIAL AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

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RENT OFFICER SCHEME TO EXPAND

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO EXPAND THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME TO COPE WITH INCREASING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR THE SERVICE.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY (SUNDAY), THE ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR. WONG KWONG-SANG SAID: +PENDING THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO POST RENT OFFICERS TO MORE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES TO BRING THE SERVICE CLOSER TO THE PUBLIC. CONSIDERATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO EXPANDING THE SERVICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.+

AT PRESENT, RENT OFFICERS ARE PROVIDING SERVICE AT THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE IN NEW MERCURY HOUSE AND FOUR CITY DISTRICT OFFICES — CENTRAL AND WESTERN (TUESDAYS), SHAM SHUI PO (WEDNESDAYS), EASTERN (THURSDAYS) AND WONG TAI SIN (FRIDAYS).

THE SCHEME, INTRODUCED IN APRIL LAST YEAR, AIMS TO HELP THE PUBLIC HANDLE MATTERS RELATING TO LANDLORD AND TENANT LEGISLATION.

MR. WONG SAID: +THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH LEGISLATION ARE RATHER COMPLEX AND MANY PEOPLE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. RENT OFFICERS ARE THERE TO EXPLAIN THE LAW AND TO HELP BOTH THE LANDLORD AND TENANT UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.+

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO GIVE LEGAL ADVICE, THEY ARE ALSO READY TO HELP THE PUBLIC SOLVE ANY OTHER LANDLORD-TENANT OR TENANT-SUB-TENANT PROBLEMS.

+VERY OFTEN, THEY ACT AS MEDIATORS IN DISPUTES OVER, FOR EXAMPLE, THE RIGHT TO USAGE OF COMMON SPACE,+ MR. WONG SAID.

WITH THE ADVICE OF RENT OFFICERS, MANY OF THE PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO FORMAL PROCEDURES WHICH TEND TO INTENSIFY THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED, HE ADDED.

THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME IS GETTING MORE POPULAR WITH THE PUBLIC AS IT IS REFLECTED BY THE INCREASING WORKLOAD OF RENT OFFICERS AND LARGER SCOPE OF CASES AND ENQUIRIES DEALT WITH.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, RENT OFFICERS HANDLED MORE THAN 50 000 CASES CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR RENTAL INCREASES OR CERTIFICATES OF STANDARD RENT= PRE-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS OR AFFECTED BY EXCLUSION ORDER= OCCUPIERS' RIGHT TO COMPENSATION= AND USAGE OF PREMISES FOR DOMESTIC OR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

IN ADDITION THEY ANSWERED ABOUT 14 000 ENQUIRIES ON VARIOUS LANDLORD-TENANT MATTERS. OF THESE ABOUT HALF WERE DEALT WITH AT THE FOUR CITY DISTRICT OFFICES.

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY MANPOWER SURVEY BEGINS TOMORROW
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THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A MANPOWER SURVEY IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY TOMORROW (MONDAY) WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY, THE FIFTH IN A SERIES, IS AIMED AT COLLECTING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE MANPOWER AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS WERE SENT TO ABOUT 550 TEXTILE MILLS SELECTED FOR THE SURVEY ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. SURVEY INTERVIEWING OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CALL AT EACH OF THESE MILLS DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING AND TO COLLECT THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THE INFORMATION WHICH EMPLOYERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT PRESENT EMPLOYED- THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT PRESENT UNDER TRAINING- THE NUMBER OF EXISTING VACANCIES, AND A FORECAST OF THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES REQUIRED FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR. FEI LEE, TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED THE EMPLOYERS TO OFFER THEIR CO-OPERATION AS THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD ASSIST THE BOARD IN DRAWING UP TRAINING PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRY.

BASED ON THE SURVEY FINDINGS, THE BOARD WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANPOWER PLANNING AND TRAINING TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL MILL, MR. LEE SAID.

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STUDENTS URGED TO JOIN CYC
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STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY FOUR TO FORM SEVEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MOVEMENT WHICH IS AIMED AT PROMOTING +INFORMAL EDUCATION AND THE TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE GOOD CITIZENS.+

THE MOVEMENT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE CYC SECRETARIAT IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID: +IT IS HOPED THAT BY PARTICIPATING IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE MOVEMENT, STUDENTS WILL BECOME MORE AWARE OF THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND SHOW AN ACTIVE CONCERN TOWARDS THEIR COMMUNITY.+

CYC ENGAGES IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS VISITS, TALKS, SEMINARS, SURVEYS, COMPETITIONS AND EXHIBITIONS RELATED TO VARIOUS THEMES WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO +COMMUNITY BUILDING+ IN HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CYC GROUPS TAKE THE FORM OF SCHOOL CLUBS AND ARE ENGAGED IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

+THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF CYC GROUPS A SCHOOL MAY FORM,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE OPTIMUM NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN ONE GROUP IS 11, COMPRISING ONE LEADER AND 10 MEMBERS.

+THE SCHOOL HEAD SHOULD ALSO APPOINT AN APPROPRIATE MEMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF TO OVERSEE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CYC GROUPS WITHIN THE SCHOOL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATIONS TO FORM CYC GROUPS CAN BE MADE THROUGH HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE CYC SECRETARIAT AT ROOM 515G, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG. ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE ON TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-768422 AND 5-7907221.

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SITE FOR PENG CHAU INCINERATOR BEING SOUGHT
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THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR A NEW SITE FOR AN INCINERATOR ON PENG CHAU.

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. NICKY LO SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE OLD INCINERATOR IN NAM WAN WAS DEMOLISHED LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS WHEN A NEW ONE WAS ABOUT TO BE BUILT ON THE SITE.

MR. LO SAID THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SITE WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE PENG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE ORIGINAL INCINERATOR WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1968, THE SURROUNDING AREA WAS RELATIVELY FREE OF DEVELOPMENT BUT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, BUILDINGS HAD GRADUALLY SPREAD INTO THE VICINITY OF THE INCINERATOR.

+I HOPE THAT A SUITABLE LOCATION FAR AWAY FROM EXISTING RESIDENTIAL AREAS CAN BE FOUND AND THAT THE SITE MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT,+ MR. LO SAID.

HE SAID THAT ANY SUCH LOCATIONS WOULD BE PUBLICISED BY POSTING NOTICES AT THE SITES AND AT THE PENG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE.

+RESIDENTS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INCINERATOR ARE INVITED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS TO THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICES,+ MR. LO SAID.

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SAI WAN HO DUMP OPENS TOMORROW
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE PUBLIC DUMP AT SAI WAN HO RECLAMATION STAGE I WILL BE OPENED FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) BETWEEN 6 A.M. AND 8 P.M.

DUMPING LICENCES MAY BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE ON APPLICATION TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PORT WORKS DIVISION, PWD AT MURRAY BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

HOLDERS OF VALID DUMPING LICENCE FOR PUBLIC DUMPS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE PERMITTED TO DISCARD APPROVED SOFT MATERIAL, BUILDING DEBRIS AND CERTAIN SIZE OF STONES PROVIDED THEY ARE WELL MIXED WITH EARTH.

ALL DUMPING MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DUMP SUPERVISORS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT TO RHKAAF

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A CESSNA TITAN COURIER AIRCRAFT ORDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AT NOON ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 9).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE DELIVERY OF THE AIRCRAFT AT THE RHKAAF HEADQUARTERS, KAI TAK.

STAFF OFFICER OF THE RHKAAF, SQUADRON LEADER J.G. SHAWCROSS WILL BE THERE TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE PRESS.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VAN AM 2807 AND A LAND ROVER AM 2651 WILL LEAVE THE KMB AIRPORT BUS TERMINUS FOR RHKAAF HEADQUARTERS AT 11.15 A.M. SHARP ON TUESDAY. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO USE THEIR OWN TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE RHKAAF HEADQUARTERS GUARD ROOM (VIA THE CARGO COMPLEX) NOT LATER THAN 11.30 A.M. WHERE ENTRY PERMITS TO THE AIRPORT CAN BE ARRANGED. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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SALT WATER CUT IN WEST KOWLOON

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT SALT WATER SUPPLY TO PREMISES IN WEST KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 A.M. ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 9) TO MIDNIGHT THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN CONNECTION WORKS.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED INCLUDE CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, TAI KOK TSUI, MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI, SHEK KIP MEI AND KOWLOON TONG.

HOLDERS OF VALID DUMPING LICENCE FOR PUBLIC DUMPS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE PERMITTED TO DISCARD APPROVED SOFT MATERIAL, BUILDING DEBRIS AND CERTAIN SIZES OF OTHERS PROVIDED THEY ARE WELL MIXED WITH EARTH.

ALL DUMPING MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE DUMP SUPERVISORS.