



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, February 16, 1973

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RESTRICTIONS ON DRINKING AT LATE HOURS LIFTED

Situation To Be Reviewed After One Year

The Government will abolish the restrictions on drinking during late hours with effect from today.

However, a Government spokesman said the situation would be reviewed after 12 months.

New regulations, making abolition of these restrictions possible, are published in the Gazette today for general information.

Under existing regulations, the public can only legally purchase and consume liquor between 8 a.m. and 2 a.m. on premises licensed by the Liquor Licensing Board.

In addition, licensed hotels and private clubs may sell liquor at any time to bona fide residents and members respectively.

The new regulations will enable members of the public to buy and drink liquor at any time of the day or night.

This means that owners of establishments selling liquor can determine their own opening hours.

Explaining the new measures, a spokesman said: "During 1971, there was an increase in the number of applications for club liquor licences where the sole purpose of the club appeared to be evading licensing hours and controls on entertainment.

/"These clubs

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"These clubs are not subject to the usual regulations governing hygiene and safety, and their control presents the Police with a difficult and time-consuming task.

"By abolishing the licensing hours the number of these clubs is likely to be reduced thereby reducing the burden of administrative work borne by the police."

Commenting on a possible increase in late night noise and disturbance after the enforcement of the new regulations, he said the Police already had the powers to maintain peace and quiet between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

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MORE TEACHER TRAINING FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

Old Northcote College Building To Get Face Lift

The Old Northcote Teacher Training College building centrally sited at Bonham Road is to be renovated to provide more teacher training facilities.

The building had been occupied previously by the United College of The Chinese University.

After renovation, it will be used by the Northcote College of Education to run a number of courses for in-service secondary school teachers.

These courses are designed to equip them as qualified teachers.

This is in line with the new post primary education policy which aims at providing, with Government assistance, three more years of aided education.

A spokesman for the Education Department said: "In May last year the Finance Committee approved an expansion of the existing teacher education programme designed to provide 2,000 additional non-graduate qualified teachers by September 1976 to meet the urgent demand for qualified secondary school teachers.

"The demand is due mainly to the increase in secondary school places as a result of the implementation of the new post primary education policy," he said.

/The building

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The building will provide 10 lecture/tutorial rooms, six classrooms for the teaching of special sciences, a library, a language laboratory, an assembly hall and offices for administrative and teaching staff.

A language teaching centre is also to be set up.

The renovation project is expected to start in the middle of March and will take about three-and-a-half months to complete.

It is expected that the building will be ready for use in September.

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LIST OF TOWN PLANS PUBLISHED

A list of plans prepared by the Town Planning Board was published in today's Government Gazette for general information.

The plans, in three categories, include approved plans, approved plans referred back to the Town Planning Board for amendment or replacement, and draft plans exhibited by the Board for public inspection.

Certified copies of the approved plans are available for inspection without charge at the Land Office, Central Government Offices (West Wing).

Printed copies of the approved plans may also be purchased from the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong or from the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong.

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LAW ON COMPANY PROSPECTUSES

Effective On March 1

The Registrar of Companies, Mr. W. Hume, drew attention today to the notification in the Gazette that the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 1972 will come into operation on March 1, 1973.

"One of the effects of the commencement of the Ordinance", said Mr. Hume, "is that no prospectus may be issued on or after March 1 unless the prospectus has been registered in the Companies Registry.

"The Ordinance, however, gives the Registrar of Companies power to refuse to register a prospectus if it does not comply in all respects with the Ordinance or contains any information likely to mislead."

Mr. Hume said that, subject to certain conditions being satisfied, it was hoped to clear a draft prospectus within a few days of its receipt in the Companies Registry.

The conditions were:

- (1) that three copies of the draft are presented in complete form, including accounts and valuation reports, although not necessarily including the final price or anticipated price/earnings ratio;
- (2) that the draft is presented in an easily readable form;
- (3) that any comments made by the Registrar are accepted by the parties concerned;
- (4) that the Chinese text is accurate and does not require a great deal of alteration; and
- (5) that there is an even flow of draft prospectuses into the Companies Registry not exceeding three per week.

/Mr. Hume

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Mr. Hume stressed that condition (5) is most important, and that if the flow of draft prospectuses is uneven or excessive, there are certain to be delays.

"Draft prospectuses received by the Companies Registry", said Mr. Hume, "will be given serial numbers and will be examined in strict numerical order.

"A draft will, however, lose its priority if it requires substantial alteration or if a second draft has to be prepared."

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GOVERNOR TO BE FIRST PRESIDENT OF POLYTECHNIC

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, has accepted an invitation by the Board of Governors of the Polytechnic to become its first President.

Announcing this, the Board Chairman, Dr. S.Y. Chung, said the Governor's association with the Polytechnic in this way would give an added measure of prestige to the Polytechnic itself and perhaps more importantly, to the students enrolled there.

"This is a welcome development," Dr. Chung said, "in keeping with the general intention to upgrade the status of technical education in Hong Kong."

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NEW REGULATIONS ON DRIVING TESTS

The Governor in Council has made new regulations enabling the Commissioner for Transport to cancel a driving test form and refund the application fee to a candidate.

The regulations, known as the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 1973, are published in today's Government Gazette.

The regulations provide the Commissioner with such powers if he is satisfied that the candidate has been unable to attend for the test because it has been cancelled at short notice by the Commissioner or because of other circumstances beyond his control.

The regulations also provide the Commissioner with authority to cancel a test form if he considers that it would be contrary to the public interest to issue to the applicant the class of driving licence applied for and that the applicant is ineligible to obtain, or is disqualified from obtaining, a licence.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to certain areas in Central will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday).

This is to allow a fresh water connection to be made in Connaught Road Central at the junction of Man Wan Lane and Cleverly Street.

Premises affected are: Nos. 92-121, Connaught Road Central, Nos. 197-247, Des Voeux Road Central, the Shun Tak Shipping Co., Ltd., the Hong Kong Macau Hydrafoil Co., Ltd., the Far East Hydrofoil Co., and the Immigration Department.

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350 LABOUR PROBLEMS SETTLED LAST MONTH

With Help Of Labour Relations Service

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department helped employers and employees settle 350 labour problems in January.

As a result of agreements reached, 1,584 employees received a total of \$779,360.

Of this total, 68.5 per cent were paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, and statutory holiday pay.

Also included were other payments of a contractual nature under either the Employment Ordinance or the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance.

The remaining 31.5 per cent or \$245,216.45 were paid, apart from legal entitlements, as severance pay and other ex gratia payments to employees.

Fresh nominal claims made by employees in the same month amounted to \$1,410,017.

Officers of various district branches of the Labour Relations Service also handled 1,954 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management.

They visited 11 establishments to help employers introduce joint consultative machinery to strengthen communication between labour and management.

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TRAFFIC DIVERSION IN MONG KOK

Temporary traffic diversion will be introduced at the junction of Nathan Road and Argyle Street tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon.

Eastbound traffic on Argyle Street will be prohibited from turning left into Nathan Road as from 5 p.m. tomorrow.

This arrangement will continue until 3 p.m. on February 20 (Tuesday).

During this period, traffic will be diverted via Portland Street and Fife Street.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said that the temporary diversion was to facilitate construction work in Nathan Road.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and Police will be on hand to guide motorists.

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EXPORT OF CERTAIN TEXTILES TO NORWAY

The Director of Commerce and Industry has announced that, at the request of the Norwegian Government, the Department has suspended with immediate effect, issuing further export licences for the following textile products for export to Norway:

<u>H.K. Export Classification No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
841 163	Dress shirts, not knitted or crocheted, wholly or mainly of cotton

A Notice to Exporters will be issued later calling for returns from shippers for the following items:

<u>H.K. Export Classification No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
ex 841 117	Slacks, jeans and trousers (except shorts), not knitted or crocheted, wholly or mainly of cotton, men's and boys' wear.
841 739	Blouses and jumpers, not knitted or crocheted, wholly or mainly of discontinuous synthetic fibres, not embroidered, women's and girls' wear.
841 163	Dress shirts, not knitted or crocheted, wholly or mainly of cotton.

Trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters, Series 6 will receive copies of the Notice shortly.

Further enquiries can be directed to Mr. C.L. Li, Industry Assistant, on Tel. No. 5-247315.

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GOVERNOR TOURS CHAI WAN

Visits Park, Anchorage And Resettlement Blocks

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, this afternoon paid a two-hour familiarisation visit to Chai Wan to see the development in the area.

He saw some of the problems facing the Government and the progress made as a result of the Clean Hong Kong Campaign.

Accompanied by Mr. David T.K. Wong, City District Commissioner (Hong Kong), the Governor began his visit by touring the north-western part of the reclamation.

He then proceeded to the central part of the reclamation to visit the Chai Wan Park which was developed in 1970 after the clearance of some 50 squatter huts.

Sir Murray also visited the Chai Wan anchorage.

The 85 squatter boats mooring there will be affected by reclamation work in the middle of this year.

However, these people will get public housing while 2,000 others will be accommodated in the new licensed area on the outer edge of the reclamation.

Sir Murray visited some of the resettlement blocks. He went up to the roof of one of the blocks where he had a panoramic view of the area.

Mr. J.M. Wigglesworth, Chief Planning Officer, Public Works Department, who was present there, briefed him on the overall development in the district.

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This includes the plan to build an outdoor swimming pool complex to serve the increasing population of Chai Wan, Shau Kei Wan and Quarry Bay.

Before the visit ended, the Governor had a bird's eye view of Hing Wah Estate Stage II from the roof of a private multi-storey building.

Work on this stage, capable of accommodating about 26,000 people, is expected to be completed in 1974-75.

Hing Wah Estate Stage I was completed two years ago.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.