



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1993

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PROVISION FOR RECOURSE TO COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
EXTENDED TO THREE STAFF COUNCILS

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO EXTEND THE PROVISION FOR RECOURSE TO A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ONLY TO THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL (SCSC) IN THEIR 1968 AGREEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, TO THE OTHER THREE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THEY INCLUDE THE STAFF SIDES OF THE MODEL SCALE 1 STAFF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, THE POLICE FORCE COUNCIL AND THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO THE STRONG REQUEST OF THE THREE COUNCILS.

"I AM GLAD THAT THIS STEP IS BEING TAKEN TO AUGMENT THE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY AND AM SURE THE COUNCILS WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY," HE SAID.

"THE DECISION SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY CIVIL SERVANTS AS AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE," MR WIGGHAM ADDED.

THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY COULD BE SET UP FOR EACH OF THE THREE COUNCILS WOULD BE LARGELY MODELLED ON THE TERMS REACHED IN THE 1968 AGREEMENT.

UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES, A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY COULD NOT BE INVOKED.

FIRST, THE MATTER IN DISPUTE, IN THE OPINION OF THE GOVERNOR, IS TRIVIAL, OR IS A MATTER OF SETTLED PUBLIC POLICY OR AFFECTS THE SECURITY OF HONG KONG. (1968 PROVISION)

SECONDLY, MATTERS UNDER DISPUTE ARE PENSION AND RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES WHICH ARE GOVERNED BY ORDINANCE, GRANT OR REFUSAL OF PENSIONABLE STATUS, NUMBERS OR COMPLEMENTS OF STAFF, ACTUAL TIMES OF ATTENDANCE OF STAFF, DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS AND MATTERS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS. (1968 PROVISION)

THIRDLY, THE DISPUTE INVOLVES ANY PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ISSUE WHICH HAS SERVICE-WIDE APPLICATION.

SUCH ISSUES INCLUDE ANNUAL PAY REVIEWS, HOUSING BENEFITS, MEDICAL AND DENTAL BENEFITS, LEAVE AND PASSAGE ARRANGEMENTS (NEW CONDITION).

THE 1968 AGREEMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE THE SCSC TO DISCUSS AND REACH CONSENSUS WITH THE STAFF SIDES OF THE OTHER THREE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS BEFORE SEEKING RECOURSE TO A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ON ANY SERVICE-WIDE MATTER WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT.

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FOURTHLY, WHILST THE COUNCILS MAY RAISE ANY PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ISSUES OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THEM (E.G. WORKING HOURS, ALLOWANCE, SHIFT DUTIES), A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, IN CONSIDERING SUCH MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE REGARD TO RELATIVITIES IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AS WELL AS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OVERALL (NEW CONDITION).

THE RATIONALE FOR THIS IS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION, AS THE EMPLOYER OF ALL CIVIL SERVANTS, MUST HAVE REGARD TO THE OVERALL PAY AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AS A WHOLE.

THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES.

MR WIGGHAM CONSIDERED THAT THE ABOVE MODIFIED TERMS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COUNCILS WHO HAD INFORMALLY INDICATED THAT THEY WERE READY TO ACCEPT A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY WITH A MORE RESTRICTED AMBIT.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SHORTLY CONSULT THE THREE COUNCILS WITH A VIEW TO INCORPORATE THIS NEW PROVISION INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

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PROPOSALS TO ALTER RATEABLE VALUE INVITED

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR STARTING APRIL 1 MAY DO SO DURING APRIL AND MAY.

FORMS FOR THIS PURPOSE (NO. R20A) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT HENNESSY CENTRE, 17TH FLOOR, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG AND FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

"PROPOSALS MUST BE LODGED WITH THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID. "THEY CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS VALID IF SERVED BEFORE APRIL 1 OR AFTER MAY 31."

A NOTICE SETTING OUT THE DETAILS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT RATEABLE VALUES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94 WOULD BE THE SAME AS FOR 1992/93.

WHERE AN ALTERATION WAS MADE TO THE RATEABLE VALUE AS A RESULT OF A PROPOSAL LODGED IN 1991 OR 1992, THE REVISED FIGURE WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR 1993/94 SO NO FURTHER PROPOSAL NEEDS TO BE MADE, HE SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE OF ANY PROPERTY WAS AN ESTIMATE OF THE ANNUAL RENT WHICH IT MIGHT HAVE COMMANDED ON THE OPEN MARKET AS AT JULY 1, 1990.

ANY CHANGE IN RENTAL VALUE SINCE JULY 1, 1990 WHETHER AN INCREASE OR REDUCTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE RATEABLE VALUE.

HE STRESSED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE LODGING OF A PROPOSAL OR APPEAL, RATES, AS SHOWN ON THE RATES DEMAND, MUST STILL BE PAID BY THE DUE DATE.

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NO DECISION ON TAXI FARE INCREASES

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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALTHOUGH VARIOUS TAXI TRADE ORGANISATIONS HAD SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR FARE INCREASES, NO DECISION WOULD BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTING ITS ANNUAL SURVEYS ON THE UTILISATION AND OPERATION FINANCE OF TAXIS, FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS WOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH UNTIL AFTER THE SURVEY RESULTS WERE KNOWN AND ANALYSED.

THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD PROVIDE MORE UP-TO-DATE AND RELIABLE DATA ON THE OPERATION OF THE TRADE AND WILL BE USEFUL TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN PROCESSING THE FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS.

THESE ANNUAL SURVEYS WERE STARTED ON FEBRUARY 22 AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY END OF NEXT MONTH.

DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, TAXI OWNERS WERE REQUESTED TO PRESENT THEIR TAXIS TO A METER READING CENTRE FOR METER READING, AND TO COMPLETE A QUESTIONNAIRE ON THEIR OPERATING CONDITIONS.

THE SURVEYS COVERED ALL THREE CATEGORIES OF TAXIS OPERATING IN THE URBAN AREA, THE NEW TERRITORIES AND LANTAU ISLAND.

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56 LEGCO MEMBERS DEBATE BUDGET

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A TOTAL OF 56 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN IN THE DEBATE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993 AT A TWO-DAY MEETING THAT ENDED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL IS FURTHER ADJOURNED TO NEXT WEDNESDAY (MARCH 31) WHEN OFFICIALS WILL REPLY TO THE VARIOUS POINTS RAISED.

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BUILDING SAFETY EXHIBITION

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A TWO-DAY BUILDING SAFETY EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN HUNG HOM, STARTING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF A SERIES OF MOBILE EXHIBITIONS WHICH FORM A MAJOR PUBLICITY ITEM OF THE BUILDING SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE CAMPAIGN AIMS TO EDUCATE PROPERTY OWNERS THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROPERTIES IN GOOD CONDITION.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HUNG HOM SQUARE, 37-39 MA TAU WAI ROAD, HUNG HOM, KOWLOON FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM.

BOO STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP THE PUBLIC WITH ENQUIRIES ON BUILDING SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE.

THE BOO IS ALSO OPERATING A ROUND-THE-CLOCK HOTLINE, 848 2222, TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON BUILDING SAFETY.

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KAIFONG ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THE SHAU KEI WAN KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION WOULD BE PLACED IN AN IDEAL POSITION TO PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AFTER ITS NEW MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE WAS PUT INTO SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT A FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE CENTRE TODAY (THURSDAY), MR SUEN SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE A POPULAR ACTIVITY CENTRE AMONG THE RESIDENTS BECAUSE OF ITS CONVENIENT LOCATION, ADDING THAT THIS WOULD HELP ENHANCE THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING.

APART FROM THE HOUSING PROJECTS IN ALDRICH BAY RECLAMATION, HE NOTED, THE YIU TUNG ESTATE AND HING TUNG ESTATE, UPON THEIR COMPLETION IN 1996, WILL BOOST THE POPULATION INTAKE IN SHAU KEI WAN.

TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF PROMOTING A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG BOTH NEW AND OLD RESIDENTS, WHICH WOULD HELP FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR SUEN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE ORGANISATION TO DEVELOP CLOSE LINKS WITH THE NEW COMERS.

HE SUGGESTED INVITING AND ENCOURAGING NEW RESIDENTS TO JOIN THE GROUP WHICH WOULD IN TURN STRENGTHEN THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND GET NEW BLOOD AND IDEAS.

/THE TWO-STOREY

THE TWO-STOREY CENTRE, SITUATED ON A SITE BEHIND 233 TO 239A SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, IS FUNDED BY A ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DONATION OF \$6.56 MILLION AND IS SCHEDULED FOR OPENING IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE FACILITIES INCLUDE A MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, CLINICS, AND CLASSROOMS WHERE INTEREST CLASSES CATERING FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS WILL BE HELD.

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673 WIN MOST IMPROVED STUDENT AWARDS
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (THURSDAY) COMMENDED 673 JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE IN ACHIEVING ALL-ROUND IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST YEAR.

MR WONG ALSO COMMENDED THEIR POSITIVE ATTITUDE BOTH IN STUDY AND IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND BY DOING SO HAD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER STUDENTS TO FOLLOW.

SPEAKING AT THE MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, HE SAID IT WAS AN EVENTFUL DAY FOR THE STUDENTS AS THEIR PERSEVERANCE HAD BEEN RECOGNISED BY THEIR PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CLASSMATES.

MR WONG SAID THE SCHEME WAS SET UP TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN LEARNING AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE MORE CONFIDENT.

THE DIRECTOR ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THEIR PARENTS FOR GIVING CARE AND SUPPORT TO THEIR CHILDREN. ADDING THAT PARENTAL CONCERN AND ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD ULTIMATELY INFLUENCE CHILDREN'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT.

HE HOPED EVERY PARENT WOULD CLOSELY CO-OPERATE WITH SCHOOLS TO CREATE A BETTER AND CARING STUDY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY WAS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SING TAO CHINESE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING GROUP, MR HEUNG SHU-FAI, WHO REPRESENTED THE CO-SPONSOR, THE SING TAO FOUNDATION.

HE SAID THE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED THE AWARD WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL.

MORE THAN 2,000 STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED THE AWARDS SINCE THE SCHEME STARTED FOUR YEARS AGO. EACH OF THE 673 STUDENTS FROM 347 SCHOOLS RECEIVED A \$500 CASH AWARD AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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CHANGES TO TELECOM BRANCH OFFICES

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THE BUILDING WHERE THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICE IS HOUSED WILL BE RENAMED WING SHAN TOWER FROM MARCH 31.

THE MAIN OFFICE IS AT PRESENT LOCATED ON THE FIFTH AND 19TH FLOORS OF SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE LOCATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH'S MAIN OFFICE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THE PROJECTS SECTION AND INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION SUB-SECTION WILL MOVE FROM 19TH FLOOR OF SINCERE BUILDING TO 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI ON MARCH 27.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ADDRESSED TO THESE TWO SECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON 317 7088 FROM MARCH 29.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,825
REVERSAL OF LAF	+325
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-735
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,415
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.8 *+0.2* 25.3.93

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.54 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.28	3.48
1 MONTH	2.69 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.13	3.57
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.46	3.73
6 MONTHS	3.06 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.56	3.92
12 MONTHS	3.39 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,609MN

CLOSED 25 MARCH 1993

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