



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, November 1, 1973

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BIGGER PAY PACKETS FOR POLICE RANK AND FILE

Starting Pay For Some Recruit Constables Increased to \$1,025

Higher pay scales for the police rank and file, comparable to those of skilled tradesmen in the private sector came into effect today (Thursday).

The new salaries will be from \$950 to \$1,300 for Constables, \$1,340 to \$1,620 for Sergeants and \$1,670 to \$2,210 for Station Sergeants.

These represent increases of \$210 to \$240 for Constables; \$280 to \$305 for Sergeants and \$145 to \$275 for Station Sergeants.

At the same time, a new starting pay educational qualification scheme is being introduced which will mean that a recruit Constable with three passes in the Certificate of Education will start at \$1,025 per month.

The new pay rates are a result of a review by the Government Pay Investigation Unit which has introduced an arrangement whereby the pay of Constables is linked to that of skilled tradesmen in the private sector. The new procedure and the revised rates of pay have been agreed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

The extra cost of meeting the additional wage payments for the police rank and file will be about \$40 million a year.

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\$50 PAY RISE FOR BOTTOM SCALE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

Increase Backdated To April 1

Some 40,000 male civil servants will receive a \$50 monthly increase in take-home pay which will be back-dated to April 1 of this year.

The civil servants concerned are those in Model Scale 1, who range from cleaners, labourers and messengers to skilled tradesmen and junior foremen. Postmen and Assistant Postmen who are paid on a special scale will also receive this increase.

As part of the revised pay arrangements, the cost of living allowance being paid at April 1 this year has been incorporated into the basic pay scale and a new cost of living allowance table introduced.

The new basic pay scales are a result of a review by the Government Pay Investigation Unit which compared the April 1 pay and conditions of service in the civil service with April 1 pay and conditions of service of people in the private sector doing similar work. The new rates have been agreed by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

The extra cost of meeting the additional wage payments for Model Scale 1 staff will be about \$24 million a year.

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GOVERNOR UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The government is committed to a vast expansion of technical education in Hong Kong, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said today.

"I feel sure that in committing ourselves to the large scale provision of this type of education we will be filling the gap felt by many parents and many young people, as well as by industry and commerce, and that we are making the soundest possible investment for the future," he said.

Sir Murray was speaking at the first presentation of awards of the Hong Kong Polytechnic held in the City Hall.

He described technical education as "a first class form of education in its own right," and he believed that no parent in this modern age would consider that academic education conferred a higher status than technical education, or vice versa.

The Governor said he hoped to see a natural link developing between the pre-vocational schools, the secondary technical schools and the technical colleges, "with the Polytechnic at the apex."

"I am convinced that this new broad stream of technical education will greatly benefit our community in Hong Kong," he said.

Referring to the proposed expansion programme for technical education, he said it was envisaged that one-fifth of the places in three-year secondary courses would be in pre-vocational schools, and one-third of those in five-year courses would be in secondary technical schools.

/In addition

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In addition, by 1977 new technical institutions would have been opened in Kwai Chung, Kwun Tong, Cheung Sha Wan and San Po Kong for some 6,000 full-time students.

Sir Murray was encouraged by the work being done to expand the Polytechnic to cater for 8,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time students by 1978, and assured the Board of the government's total support.

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SPECIAL STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE ROYAL WEDDING

First Day Covers On Sale Tomorrow

Two special stamps to commemorate the wedding of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will be on sale at all post offices on November 14.

The main feature of the stamps is a reproduction of a colour photograph taken at the Press reception on the announcement of the couple's engagement. The stamps are in vertical format and will be issued in 50-cent and \$2 denominations.

Special first day covers at 20 cents each will be put on sale from tomorrow (November 2) at all post offices. The covers have been specially designed by the Information Services Department.

Members of the public are requested to obtain their requirements early to avoid disappointment.

Advanced orders for servicing of first day covers will be accepted at the General Post Office, Pedder Street; Kowloon Central Post Office, Nathan Road; and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Salisbury Road.

For this service, addressed first day covers must be handed in with an order form together with a remittance to cover the cost. The charge will be \$2.60 per cover which includes the cost of two stamps together with a service fee of 10 cents.

The covers must be fully addressed by the applicant and not less than 10 covers will be accepted with each order.

The order forms will be available at the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on Friday (November 2).

/Any person

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Any person ordering serviced covers addressed to a local destination may collect them on November 15 from the office where the order was placed.

Covers addressed overseas will be sent forward by ordinary post, surface mail, unless sufficient stamps are affixed to cover airmail and/or registration charges.

The latest acceptance date for advance orders of serviced covers will be noon on November 8.

A service will be provided on November 14 (Wednesday) at all post offices whereby first day covers will be accepted over the counter, impressed with the normal post office steel date stamp and handed back to the person presenting them.

No time type will appear in the postmark. The special conditions for the service are:-

- * only articles bearing an indication that they are 'First Day Covers' will be so treated.
- * the articles must be addressed to a local address.
- * the articles must not bear any other cancellation.
- * no registered items will be processed by this method.

Special posting boxes will also be available at the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on November 14 for those who wish to have first day covers carefully hand-postmarked before despatch to the address on the cover.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the stamps are boxed for collection.

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NEW INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS NOW IN FORCE

A set of new regulations to ensure greater safety for those required to work in confined spaces comes into effect today.

The regulations, entitled the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulations 1973, prescribe certain safety measures to be observed by both proprietors and workers.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. David Lin, said that working in confined spaces such as chambers, tanks, wells, vats pits, tunnels, pipes, flues, boilers and pressure receivers was hazardous because workers were known to have been overcome by dangerous fumes in such places.

Under the regulations, every confined space in an industrial undertaking, unless there are other exits, must be provided with a manhole of adequate size.

Anyone entering a confined space must be authorized by the proprietor and must wear an approved breathing apparatus. Where practicable, he should also wear a belt with a rope securely attached.

These requirements do not apply if a confined space has been certified safe for entry without breathing apparatus by the proprietor who, before making such a certification, must take steps to test for, and to prevent, the presence of dangerous fumes.

/Proprietors

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Proprietors are also required to keep a sufficient supply of approved breathing apparatus, suitable reviving apparatus, vessels containing oxygen, belts and ropes. These items must always be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The regulations further stipulate that proprietors must not permit any person to enter or remain in any boiler-furnace or boiler-flue until it has been cooled by ventilation.

Contravention of the regulations will result in fines up to \$2,000 for proprietors and \$500 for any person other than proprietor.

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DRIVE TO REGISTER 11-YEAR-OLDS BEGINS

New Juvenile Identity Card System Effective From Today

Mobile teams from the Registration of Persons Department this morning began registering 11-year-old school children for the new type of juvenile identity card which came into effect today.

The two mobile teams will call at selected schools in both urban and rural areas to facilitate the registration of children born between November 2, 1961 and November 1, 1962. It is estimated that there are about 120,000 in this group.

Today, the teams visited the Methodist School and Yaumati Kaifong Association's Primary School in Kowloon and the Tai Po Government Primary School in the New Territories. A total of about 400 school children were registered.

A spokesman for the Registration of Persons Department explained that the visits were being made for the convenience of children attending school, thereby saving them the trouble of calling at the department's offices.

He urged parents and guardians to make good use of the special facilities for their children so as to avoid congestion and delays at the department's branch offices.

Those who have returned their completed initial application for a new juvenile identity card on behalf of their children will be notified when and where to complete the registration formalities, the spokesman said.

/Children

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Children who call at the mobile registration centres are reminded that they must bring along their birth certificate and school documents such as 'student handbook' or 'school record card.'

"They should also bring with them their previous juvenile identity cards, if available," the spokesman said.

Parents and guardians should also produce their identity card at the time they call at the designated centre with their children.

Eleven-year-old children who are not attending school, should call at any of the department's branch office or sub-office with their parent or guardians.

Four offices run by the department are situated at Causeway Bay Magistracy Building in Electric Road, Canton Road Government Offices in Yaumati, San Po Kong Government Offices at San Po Kong, and the Far East Building at Castle Peak Road in Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

The spokesman also urged all children between the ages of 11 and 17 who do not possess any juvenile identity cards to register for a card immediately.

Parents and guardians may seek advice at any of the offices of the department or call at their nearest City District Office or New Territories District Offices.

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Note to Editors: Copies of two photographs of today's visit to the Methodist School in Kowloon are distributed separately in the press box this evening.

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NEW YEAR VISITORS TO CHINA AND MACAU

Urged To Apply For Re-entry Permits Now

People, who plan to travel to China or Macau over the Christmas and Chinese New Year holidays, are urged to apply for their Hong Kong re-entry permits now.

In making the appeal, the Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, said that over 300,000 local residents visited China and Macau during the holidays last year, and the figure might well be much higher this year.

Mr. Collard pointed out that this was the best time to apply for re-entry permits as business in Immigration Department offices was relatively quiet.

Those who wait until January or early February, he warned, would face the inevitable delays.

Mr. Collard compared the advantages and disadvantages between a single and a multiple journey re-entry permit.

He said: "A single journey re-entry permit, costing only \$2, is valid for one journey to Macau or China and return to Hong Kong within six months of the date of issue.

"A multiple journey permit, costing \$10, is valid for any number of journeys within five years from the date of issue."

/Mr. Collard

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Mr. Collard added that the multiple journey permit "is cheaper in the long run, and eliminates the need to queue, and to obtain fresh photographs and a document for every single journey."

Re-entry permits can be obtained now from all Immigration branch offices and from the mobile Immigration Office which calls daily at remoter parts of the New Territories.

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AUTUMN FAIR

Note to Editors: The annual Autumn Fair of the Prisons Department Sports Association will be held on Saturday (November 3) at the football ground east of Stanley Prison.

The fair will be opened at 2 p.m. by Mrs. M.D.A. Clinton, wife of the Deputy Colonial Secretary. Music will be provided by the Police Band.

You are invited to have the event covered.

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"LUCKY" CAR NUMBERS FOR SALE

Twenty more special vehicle registration numbers will be put on sale by auction on Saturday (November 3) at the City Hall theatre, Low Block, at 11 a.m.

The numbers to be auctioned are:

665	915	1010	HK27	HK1188
HK6000	AA19	AA1111	AA3000	AB90
AB2332	AC8989	AK77	BC1	BC2
BC66	BC222	BC678	BC999	BC5555

Proceeds of the auction will go to the Government Lotteries Fund for charitable purposes.

Successful bidders at the auction will be required to pay in cash or cheque immediately after the bidding.

The vehicle registration mark will be assigned only to a vehicle which is registered in the name of the successful bidder within 12 months of the date of auction.

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POST OFFICE HOURS EXTENDED

The opening hours of the Des Voeux Road Post Office will be extended from Monday (November 5).

The new business hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.