



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975

| CONTENTS | PAGE NO. |
|---|----------|
| THE COST OF PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG | 1 |
| SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL | 3 |
| COLONIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT YUEN LONG TOMORROW | 4 |
| LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AVAILABLE | 4 |
| WATER CUTS | 5 |
| DANGEROUS BUILDING | 5 |

THE COST OF PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG
* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. GERALD CHOA, SAID TODAY THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE OR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME THE EXISTING SERVICES IS THE BEST HONG KONG CAN OFFER UNDER THE PRESENT TAXATION SYSTEM.

TO THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD OPERATE A FREE SERVICE, OURS IS ALREADY AS NEAR A FREE SERVICE AS CAN BE WITH THE CHARGES KEPT AT A MINIMUM AND WITH GENEROUS FEE REMISSIONS, HE SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE COST OF PROVIDING THE EXISTING MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE ROTARY CLUB OF ISLAND EAST LUNCHEON MEETING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

DR. CHOA POINTED OUT THAT ALL NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES OR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEMES ARE CONTRIBUTORY.

IF WE EVER THINK OF INTRODUCING EITHER OF THESE IN HONG KONG THE FIRST CONSIDERATION WOULD BE TO MAKE EVERYBODY CONTRIBUTE, HE SAID.

I CANNOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE NO OPPOSITION, HE ADDED.

DR. CHOA CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN WHICH INCOME FROM CENTRAL INLAND REVENUE TAXATION IS APPLIED TO THE UP-KEEP OF HOSPITAL AND FAMILY DOCTOR SERVICES EITHER BY DIRECT OR INDIRECT GOVERNMENT GRANTS UNDER VARIOUS STATUTES AND REGULATIONS.

THIS MEANT THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE AND FURTHERMORE IN SPITE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THEY HAVE TO PAY CHARGES FOR SPECTACLES, DENTURES AND OTHER APPLIANCES, AND ALSO FOR FILLING A PRESCRIPTION, HE SAID.

THE NMS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER SOCIAL BENEFITS BESIDES MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES NOW ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN ONE-TENTH OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND HAVE CERTAINLY PROVED TO BE VERY EXPENSIVE TO ITS GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED.

IN HONG KONG, SAID DR. CHOA, THE GOVERNMENT HAD BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS A VERY COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE FOR THE COMMUNITY, WHICH BASICALLY CONSISTED OF THREE PARTS -- HEALTH SERVICE, AMBULATORY MEDICAL SERVICE, AND HOSPITAL AND SPECIALISTS SERVICE.

WE CAN CLAIM THAT THE FULL RANGE OF PREVENTIVE AS WELL AS CURATIVE MEDICINE IS AVAILABLE TO THE OVER FOUR MILLION POPULATION IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

TO PROVIDE SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO SPEND DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR A TOTAL OF NEARLY \$590 MILLION.

THIS IS ABOUT 8.9 PER CENT OF THIS YEAR'S TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE WHICH IS SOME \$6,600 MILLION. IN RECENT YEARS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS' SHARE OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATE IS BETWEEN NINE TO 10 PER CENT AND EVEN THIS YEAR WHICH IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS ONE OF RECESSION, THE PROVISION HAS REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME.

WITH \$590 MILLION, THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS 18 GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND 19 GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED HOSPITALS WHICH PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 14,903 BEDS, AND 59 GOVERNMENT CLINICS.

THE DIRECTOR WENT ON TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO INCREASE CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY.

FROM NOVEMBER 1, PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO PAY \$3 INSTEAD OF \$2 A DAY FOR A THIRD-CLASS BED, AND AT SOME FUTURE DATE THIS CHARGE WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED TO \$5.

DR. CHOA SAID HE CONSIDERED IT MORE APPROPRIATE NOT TO INCREASE THE HOSPITAL CHARGE RIGHTAWAY FROM \$2 TO \$5 FOR FEAR THAT IN SPITE OF THE FEE REMITTING SYSTEM, PEOPLE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND AND KEEP AWAY BECAUSE THE DIFFERENCE IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM.

WE HAVE ACHIEVED MUCH BY KEEPING THE CHARGES LOW AND IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY IF INCREASED CHARGES IN THE CLINICS AND HOSPITALS WOULD DETER PATIENTS FROM COMING TO US AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE STAGE OF THEIR ILLNESSES.

THIS IS ALSO THE MAIN REASON WHY HE DID NOT ADVISE INCREASING THE OUT-PATIENT CHARGE OF \$1.

DR. CHOA SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT AT PRESENT PRICES THE COST OF MAINTAINING A BED IN A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL TAKING ALL THREE CLASSES TOGETHER, IS \$161 A DAY AND AN OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCE COSTS THE GOVERNMENT \$9 EACH TIME.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COST OF THE DIET FOR A THIRD CLASS BED ALONE AMOUNTED TO \$4.63 A DAY.

IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO RECOVER EVEN A REASONABLE, LET ALONE A SUBSTANTIAL, PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE, HE SAID.

IN FACT, THE TOTAL REVENUE FROM THE COLLECTION OF CHARGES AND FEES IN ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IS ONLY ABOUT 6 PER CENT OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

.....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FULL TEXT OF DR. CHOA'S SPEECH IS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975

- 3 -

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
* * * * *

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND EXTRA PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES PROVIDED THIS WEEKEND IN CONNECTION WITH THIS YEAR'S MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY PARKING FACILITIES IN THE PEAK AREA ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE VERY LIMITED AND MOTORISTS ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

HE SAID THE METERED PARKING SPACES NEXT TO THE UPPER PEAK BUS TERMINUS WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 P.M. ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20) UNTIL 8 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES, PEAK +MAXI-CABS+ AND TAXIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS CAR PARK FROM 6 P.M. ON SATURDAY TO 2 A.M. ON SUNDAY. DURING THIS PERIOD, NO VEHICLES, EXCEPT RESIDENTS' CARS, WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER MOUNT AUSTIN ROAD.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SUBJECT TO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, SHING MUN ROAD IN TSUEN WAN FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WO YIP HOP ROAD MAY BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES.

TO CATER FOR PEOPLE GOING UP TO THE PEAK, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL BUS, PEAK TRAM AND MAXI-CAB SERVICES.

THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL RUN A SPECIAL ROUTE, NO. 15B, AT A FLAT FARE OF \$1 BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND THE PEAK FROM ABOUT 7 P.M. ON SATURDAY UNTIL ABOUT 2 A.M. THE NEXT DAY.

THIS SPECIAL ROUTE WILL OPERATE FROM PATERSON STREET VIA GLOUCESTER ROAD, PERCIVAL STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD, MORRISON HILL ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, STUBBS ROAD AND PEAK ROAD. RETURN JOURNEYS WILL TRAVEL VIA PEAK ROAD, STUBBS ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, MORRISON HILL ROAD, TIN LOK LANE, HENNESSY ROAD, GREAT GEORGE STREET AND PATERSON STREET, AND WILL CONNECT AT TIN LOK LANE WITH CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES NOS. 111 AND 112 WHICH WILL BE CORRESPONDINGLY EXTENDED UNTIL ABOUT 2 A.M. ON SUNDAY.

ROUTE NO. 15 FROM CENTRAL TO THE PEAK WILL OPERATE AT AN INCREASED FREQUENCY TO MEET DEMAND.

THE PEAK MAXICABS WILL RUN A SPECIAL SERVICE FROM 8 P.M. ON SATURDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY. DURING THIS PERIOD, A \$2 FLAT FARE WILL BE CHARGED ON JOURNEYS TO THE PEAK AND A \$1 FLAT FARE ON JOURNEYS TO CENTRAL, WHILE THE PEAK MAXICABS WILL NOT TRAVEL VIA MANSFIELD ROAD AND MOUNT KELLETT ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE PEAK TRAM COMPANY WILL RUN A SPECIAL FAST SERVICE ON THE EVENINGS OF FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 19) AND SATURDAY, AND THE SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO 2.30 A.M. ON SUNDAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975

- . 4 -

CS TO VISIT YUEN LONG TOMORROW

* * * * *

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, WILL VISIT YUEN LONG TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND BY MR. ADOLF HSU, DISTRICT OFFICER FOR YUEN LONG.

SIR DENYS WILL BEGIN HIS VISIT AT 2.30 P.M. FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER IT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ADMISSION TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

* * * * *

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT SELECTION BOARD OF THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ISSUED A REMINDER TODAY THAT LISTS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE 2-YEAR COURSE OF THE COLLEGES WOULD BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO EXAMINE THE LISTS CAN DO SO AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT LEE GARDENS, AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1975

- 5 -

WATER CUTS

* * *

A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG WILL BE WITHOUT WATER BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WHEN TESTS FOR LEAKAGE WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE WATERWORKS OFFICE.

ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 19), THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY CHERRY STREET, WONG TAI STREET, CHUNG WUI STREET, AND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD TO BOUNDARY STREET IN MONG KOK, AND PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN ALONG LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING TAK STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 11-13 AND BLOCKS 28-33 OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE.

ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20), THE AREA IN WESTERN DISTRICT ON THE ISLAND BOUNDED BY SMITHFIELD ROAD, CADOGAN STREET AND FORBES STREET TO NEW PRAYA WILL BE AFFECTED.

----- 0 -----

DANGEROUS BUILDING

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DECLARED WO SANG MATTING FACTORY, VICTORIA ROAD, HONG KONG LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THE MASONRY RETAINING WALLS SUPPORTING THIS SINGLE STOREY BUILDING WERE FRACTURED AND SUNKEN, AND INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT FAILURE COULD OCCUR, WITH CONSEQUENTIAL RISK OF PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF THE BUILDING.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON OCTOBER 29, 1975 WAS POSTED TODAY.

----- 0 -----



HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Wednesday, September 17, 1975

PUBLIC HOUSING: TEMPORARY PRIORITY ALLOCATION SCHEME
FOR N.T. RESIDENTS

The Housing Authority will introduce a temporary priority allocation scheme for public housing applicants who have been living in the New Territories for over four years.

This scheme, which will be reviewed at a later date, will apply to all New Territories residents other than those living in the layout areas in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi.

Eligible applicants who have been living in the New Territories for over four years can apply to his particular district office for a "certificate of priority" beginning October 1, 1975.

"This certificate will entitle him for priority of allocation for public housing in the New Territories outside those layout areas," the spokesman said.

"However," he added, "the original application reference numbers will continue to be the guiding priority for investigation and all eligibility rules for waiting list applicants will apply."

The intention of the scheme is to ensure that N.T. applicants will get 10 per cent of the overall waiting list quota as decided each year by the Authority. For example, 100 flats will go to the N.T. residents if the year's quota for waiting list applicants is 1,000 flats.

/Commenting



Commenting on the scheme, a spokesman for the Housing Authority said the idea was to give a fair chance to the many people living in the New Territories, particularly in Tuen Mun and Sha Tin.

"These people had not previously applied as they were unaware until relatively recently of plans to build public housing in these areas," he said.

The Housing Authority will introduce a temporary priority scheme for public housing for people who have been living in the New Territories for over 10 years. This scheme, which will be reviewed at a later date, will apply to all New Territories residents other than those living in the former areas in Yuen Long, Kwan Chung and Tai Po. Eligible applicants who have been living in the New Territories for over 10 years can apply to the public housing department office in their area of abode. The scheme will be for priority allocation for public housing in the New Territories outside these former areas. However, it is noted that the priority and selection criteria will continue to be the general policy for investigation and allocation. The intention of the scheme is to ensure that N.T. applicants will get 50 per cent of the overall waiting list places as decided each year by the Authority. For example, 500 places will go to the N.T. residents in the waiting queue for waiting list applicants of 1,000 places.