



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, March 15, 1974

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Release time: 8.15 p.m.

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TAC TO BE REORGANISED

The Transport Advisory Committee is to be reconstituted, so that its responsibilities may be more closely related to Hong Kong's general environmental problems.

Under its new structure, the committee will be chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, Mr. James Robson, and will advise the Governor in Council on broad issues of transport policy, with a view to improving the movement of people and freight.

Other members of the committee will be:-

(Unofficial)	(Official)
The Hon. G.R. Ross	Director of Public Works
Mrs. Elsie Elliott	Commissioner of Police
Mr. Stephen Wong	Secretary for Economic Services
Mrs. Grace Ho	Commissioner for Transport
Mr. Alan McFarlin	District Commissioner, New Territories

Commenting on the re-organisation, Mr. Robson said it resulted from the many changes that had taken place - both in the scope of transport and in policies for dealing with it - since the original committee was set up in 1965.

Since then the severity and complexity of Hong Kong's transport problems have increased and the rising volume of traffic and the demand for improved transport services have made it necessary to devise solutions of an increasingly technical nature.

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"When the original committee was appointed we had no Transport Department as we have today," Mr. Robson added. "Nor did we have a Secretary for the Environment responsible for the co-ordination of all transport matters".

"The re-organisation of the Transport Advisory Committee is intended to take these changed circumstances into account, relieving the committee of the more technical and detailed aspects of transport planning and leaving it free to consider matters of principle and general transport policy."

"The old terms of reference required the committee to advise the Governor. Because more of its work will affect major policy decisions in its new role, it is considered more appropriate for the committee in future to advise the Governor in Council."

"The groundwork for this new role has been very firmly laid by the outgoing committee, the sound counsel of which was invaluable in formulating our transport policy in the past. As their successors, we are very conscious of the debt we owe to its members. No city finds easy, ready made solutions to its transport problems. In Hong Kong these are worsened by the density of our urban development, which is the highest in the world."

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WARNING AGAINST IMPOSTORS POSING AS P.W.D. INSPECTORS

The Director of Public Works and the Commissioner of Police today warned the public that several complaints have recently been made about a person (or persons) who has been visiting several buildings where he has been soliciting money from owners or occupants of alleged unauthorized structures, mostly on the main roofs of buildings.

This impostor (or impostors) has been presenting himself as a "P.W.D. Inspector" and threatens to have such structures demolished by the government unless he is paid. It has been reported in some cases that he says his name is Mr. Wong (or Paul Wong or Wong Po-lor) and he shows on occasions what purports to be a P.W.D. identity card authorizing him to inspect private buildings.

The public is advised that there are absolutely no circumstances where money has to be paid to anyone in return for permission to retain a structure in a private building, whether unauthorized or not.

The public is also advised that the Public Works Department at present will not take statutory action to have any unauthorized structure altered or demolished, unless it represents a real danger to the life of the occupants - for example, is structurally unsafe or is a serious fire hazard.

Anyone who suspects that a caller may be an impostor should immediately telephone or report, preferably in person, to a police station, when steps will be taken immediately to determine if the visitor is an impostor and if so attempt to apprehend him.

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The public is advised that anyone purporting to be an Inspector from P.W.D. should be asked to show his P.W.D. card, which states in both English and Chinese the name of the Inspector and that he is authorized to enter and inspect private building works. The card is signed either by or on behalf of the Director of Public Works and also carries a photograph of the Inspector.

A government spokesman added in an appeal to the public: "Without public support it is very difficult to stop this sort of swindle, so please report without delay any suspect persons to the nearest police station and please give your own name and address, which will be kept confidential as far as possible. Anonymous reports provide little help to the police who need every assistance available if this impostor's activities are to be stopped."

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GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN TO PUBLIC

As in past years, the gardens and grounds of Government House will be open to members of the public to enable them to see the azaleas in full bloom.

The grounds will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Sunday (March 17).

Visitors are requested to enter the garden by the main gate, and leave by the east gate, so that all can enjoy the gardens without causing inconvenience to themselves and others.

Scouts and policemen will be present, and visitors are asked to cooperate with them to avoid overcrowding.

Only the grounds will be opened to the public, and visitors should refrain from entering the house.

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NEW BANKING COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Mr. Anthony Ockenden has been appointed Commissioner of Banking. He will succeed Mr. James Paterson.

Mr. Paterson is returning to London at the end of this month after serving as Commissioner of Banking for nearly three years. Prior to that he served as Exchange Controller.

Mr. Ockenden was seconded to the government from the Bank of England a year ago and has since been working in the Economic Branch of the Secretariat as Principal Assistant Economic Secretary with responsibilities for foreign exchange and monetary matters.

He is 46 and has served with the Bank of England in London since 1944, with the exception of a three year period from 1964 when he was seconded to Sierra Leone as the first General Manager of the central bank there.

The new Principal Assistant Economic Secretary will be Mr. J.I. Mutch who arrived in Hong Kong recently, also on secondment from the Bank of England.

Aged 46, Mr. Mutch has spent many years in the Economic Intelligence Department of the Bank of England. From 1968-1970 he was seconded to HM Treasury where he worked in the Overseas Finance Division.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Ockenden's photograph are boxed for collection.

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ANOTHER BOX JUNCTION IN CENTRAL

A box junction is to be introduced in Central District to improve the flow of traffic at the Pedder Street-Des Voeux Road Central intersection, particularly during peak hours.

The marking of the junction will be carried out over the weekend in preparation for the system to become operative on Monday (March 18).

Several other box junctions are already in operation and are easily identifiable by yellow criss-cross markings on the road surface and appropriate warning signs.

A Transport Department spokesman explained today that once the new box junction becomes operative it will be an offence for a motorist to drive into the marked area unless he can clear the entire junction.

If his exit from the junction is blocked, then the motorist must wait even if the green traffic signal is showing.

"The object is to prevent road junctions being blocked in all directions by vehicles which cannot get out of the intersection during a green phase of the signals controlling traffic approaching the junction," the spokesman explained.

The box junction at the intersection of Pedder Street and Des Voeux Road Central is needed because of the tendency, during peak hours, for motorists travelling down Pedder Street to block the Des Voeux Road carriageway while waiting to cross Connaught Road Central.

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DEADLINE FOR REFUNDS OF UNUSED 15-CENT RECEIPT STAMPS

Claims for cash refunds in respect of unused 15-cent receipt stamps should be made before the end of this month.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Post Office said that the cash refund arrangement will cease on March 30, after which date no further refunds will be made.

The refund resulted from amendments introduced last year to the Stamp Ordinance, which included the abolition of the 15 cents stamp duty receipts.

Claims in respect of unmarked stamps of face value not exceeding \$500 may be made at the General Post Office, the Kowloon Central Post Office, or the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office.

In cases where refunds exceed \$300, or where the stamps have been chopped or overprinted by the holder for security or identification purposes, claims should be addressed to the Accounts Division, Post Office Headquarters, Pedder Street, Hong Kong.

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ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

A total of 4,111 children was inoculated against measles during the first two weeks of the 1974 anti-measles campaign which began on February 18.

Of these, 1,415 were inoculated on Hong Kong Island, 1,397 in Kowloon, and 1,299 in the New Territories.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said today that the figures compared favourably with last year's two measles campaigns.

A total of 8,807 children was immunised during the first nine-week campaign ending on June 2, and 5,023 inoculated during the second campaign in December.

The spokesman said that while the total showed a better response by parents to having their offspring inoculated, there was still "no room for complacency."

More children should be brought for free inoculation at the department's maternal and child health centres throughout Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories.

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CIVIC EXHIBITION BY 12 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School Forum On "Knowing Your Government"

Members of the public will have an opportunity to see models, charts, drawings, illustrations and sketches on various public affairs topics by pupils of 12 secondary schools at a five-day exhibition which opens on Monday.

This exhibition will be highlighted on the last day, March 22, by a school forum on "Knowing Your Government".

Both the exhibition and forum are being organised by the Economic and Public Affairs Section of the Education Department in collaboration with the City District Office, Wong Tai Sin.

The exhibition, which is part of the "Second Civic Week", will be held in the covered playground of Ho Lap College, 15, Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. On the first day the public will be admitted from 11.45 a.m.

The "First Civic Week" was held at Cognitio College in San Po Kong last year.

Before the opening of this year's exhibition, the entries will be judged on Monday morning by Mr. Alex Wu, Urban Councillor, and Mrs. Louise Mok, Principal Curriculum Planning Officer (Secondary), of the Education Department.

The exhibits cover a number of topics including the fuel crisis in Hong Kong, transport problems, social services and housing.

/The school

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The school forum at Ho Lap College on March 22 will be opened by it
Mr. **Hilton** Cheong-Leen, Unofficial Member of Legislative Council, Mr. Ho
Nga-ming, Deputy Director of Education (Professional), Mr. Arthur Brown,
Assistant Director of Education (Chief Inspector of Schools), and Mr. Ian
Strachan, City District Officer, Wong Tai Sin.

One of the aims of the forum is to enable pupils to understand how
public opinion can assist the Government in policy-making.

During the forum, the Deputy Director of Home Affairs, Mr. Augustine
Chui, will speak on "Public Opinion", the Dean of Students and Lecturer in
Public Administration of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mr. Andrew
W.F. Wong, will deal with the "Structure of Government in Hong Kong," the
Principal Oil Supplies Officer, Mr. Dominic S.W. Wong on the "Energy Crisis"
and the City District Officer, Kowloon City, Mr. Anthony Neoh, on the "Community
Involvement Scheme."

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send representatives at
9 a.m. on Monday to cover the opening and judging of
the Second Civic Week's Project Exhibition and the
School Forum on "Knowing Your Government" on March 22
at 10.30 a.m.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON MEDICAL GREEN PAPER

Will Be Carefully Studied

Full consideration will be given to the public's views on the report of the Medical Development Advisory Committee before government policy is finally determined later this year and set out in a White Paper.

This assurance was given today by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Denys Roberts, when he officially opened the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' Centenary Block in Western District, which marks the Group's 100th anniversary.

As was hoped, the green paper on the report provoked widespread public comment and reaction, Mr. Roberts noted. "Indeed, it is a sign of the healthy development of our society that it has aroused so much interest and been so keenly debated."

He emphasised that the government is not complacent about the standard of medicine in Hong Kong, and although standards are good and compare favourably with most countries, "we are determined to improve it."

The government, he added, accepted that its responsibility, as representative of the people as a whole, "is to care for the destitute, the old and the infirm and to ensure that everyone is adequately fed, housed and cared for when ill."

He was confident that Hong Kong would continue to provide medical facilities which compare well with other countries and are the envy of many.

The Colonial Secretary noted, however, that without the devoted efforts of charitable bodies, such as the Tung Wah Group, the medical facilities available in Hong Kong would be completely inadequate.

/He praised

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He praised the record of the Tung Wah Group as a fine example of the way in which more affluent citizens of Hong Kong have always been willing to give generously of their time and money for the betterment of the less fortunate.

Thanks to buildings like the Centenary Block, "nobody need lack for medical care of a high standard by reason of his poverty," he said.

The \$7.4 million Centenary Block will provide 424 beds, as well as an out-patients department, a casualty department, an X-ray department, operating theatres and nurses' quarters.

It is a joint venture, with half the cost being met from a capital subvention by the government and the other half being equally shared by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Tung Wah Group.

Construction is due for completion before the end of this month.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Friday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
		<u>Average</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		
See Mow -- old crop	-	-
-- new crop		
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.94
Po Ngai	-	-
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	-	-
10-15% Brokens	Good	1.89
A1 Super Extra	-	-
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	-	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.80
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.60

/Supplies and

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.5	2.5	3.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.6	0.7	1.8
Squid	Limited	5.8	3.0	4.5
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.8	1.2	1.8
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.9	1.2	2.0
Croakers	Limited	2.3	0.7	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.8	1.9	2.6
Melon Coat	Good	2.1	1.1	1.8
Breams	Normal	4.8	3.0	4.0
Yellow Belly	Good	2.2	0.8	1.5
Mackerels	Normal	3.8	3.0	3.5
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.5	0.7	1.2
Fork-Tail	Limited	1.4	1.0	1.1
Horse-Head	Normal	6.2	3.5	4.5
Melon Seed	Limited	2.4	1.8	2.2
Pomfrets	Scarce	9.0	7.0	8.0
Groupers	Normal	6.5	5.0	6.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.4	1.0	1.6
White cabbage	Limited	1.0	0.5	0.7
Chinese Lettuce	Limited	1.0	0.3	0.6
Chinese Kale	Limited	1.6	0.6	1.2
Spring onion	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Spinach	Limited	1.4	0.5	1.0
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.8	0.3	0.5
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.6	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300

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