



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, May 26, 1973

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CHANGE IN POSITION REGARDING THE RIGHT TO DRIVE
IN HONG KONG ANNOUNCED

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. B. D. Wilson, today announced that with effect from Monday (May 28) there will be a considerable change in the position regarding the right to drive in Hong Kong.

The change affects holders of overseas driving licences who are currently allowed to drive in Hong Kong for up to a year on the strength of that licence and who are thereafter required to pass a local test for a Hong Kong driving licence.

Mr. Wilson said legal advice now made it clear that the only persons who may drive in Hong Kong at any time on an overseas driving licence "are visitors who satisfy the Commissioner for Transport that they will stay in Hong Kong for less than a year."

"Such visitors must apply individually to the Transport Department with the necessary proof," he added.

Holders of international driving permits are not affected and may continue to drive in Hong Kong during the validity of the permit.

To meet the difficulties that the change may cause, the Transport Department is prepared to issue a Hong Kong driving licence, without a Hong Kong test, to holders of overseas driving licences issued by Commonwealth countries and by those countries which are signatories to the 1926 and 1949 Conventions on international circulation of motor traffic.

However, this concession will not apply in the case of international driving permits nor to persons who are unable to produce a travel document issued by a territory other than Hong Kong.

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They will still be required to pass a Hong Kong test to obtain a Hong Kong driving licence, even if they already hold an overseas driving licence.

"This distinction is drawn because eligibility for a HK driving licence in exchange for an overseas one is intended only as a means of meeting HK's obligations for reciprocal concessions to overseas drivers under international Conventions." Mr. Wilson said.

"It is not intended as a means of making it easier for a HK resident to obtain a HK driving licence."

Eligible holders of overseas driving licences may apply at once, in person or by post, to the Transport Department licensing offices at Rumsey Street, HK, or Pui Ching Road, Kowloon, for the immediate issue of a HK driving licence.

They will be required to pay a fee of \$50 for one year (or \$150 for three years) and supply three passport-sized photographs and their non-Hong Kong ~~travel~~ document.

Anyone who has any doubt may telephone 5-432617 for information before applying.

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SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME

As part of the Government's efforts to fight violent crime, a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr. P.B. Williams, Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary/Social Services, has been established to consider social causes of crime and long term measures to combat them.

The sub-committee, which met for the first time this morning, comprises representatives of the Education and Social Welfare Departments, the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, the Secretariat for Home Affairs and the Census & Statistics Department.

In addition to the permanent members, the sub-committee will also invite the views of organisations in the private sector.

Mr. Williams said that his sub-committee would submit an interim report within three months.

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SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies will be available for collection at 2.30 p.m. from the G.I.S. Press room on the 6th floor of Beaconsfield House.

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TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER SCHEME

Plans are in hand to improve traffic conditions at the busy junction of Tai Hang Road and Tung Lo Wan Road in Causeway Bay by means of a two-way flyover.

The flyover will connect Tai Hang Road and Waterfront Road over Moreton Terrace, Causeway Road and the south-west corner of Victoria Park to provide a direct road link for through traffic.

To improve traffic circulation, access ramps will be provided in Moreton Terrace, and grade-separation for pedestrians will also be included wherever justified.

An item for the project has been included in Category B of the Public Works Programme to enable detailed designs to be drawn up.

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BLOOD DONATIONS

Officers of the Auxiliary Medical Service and members of the Hong Kong Island teams will donate blood on Sunday (May 27) in support of the Red Cross Blood Bank.

More than 600 members of the AMS are blood donors and it is hoped that some 200 pints will be collected.

The blood donations will take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Primary School, Wood Road, Wanchai.

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Note to Editors: Photographers wishing to cover the occasion will be made welcome.

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NEW AMBULANCE DEPOT

A new ambulance depot will soon be built at Smithfield Road to meet the increasing demand for ambulance service in the Pokfulam and Mid-Level areas.

Work on the project, which will cost about \$3 million, is scheduled to start towards the end of this year and will take about 12 months to complete.

The depot will be 10 storeys high with accommodation for four to six ambulances on the ground floor. Offices and barrack quarters will be housed on the mezzanine and first floors.

The first floor will also contain recreational and dining facilities as well as a rest room for officers on stand-by duty.

Quarters for married officers will occupy the second and third floors while those for the rank and file will be located on the upper six floors.

The depot will be suitably equipped to cope with the rising demands for ambulances in the crowded Pokfulam and Mid-Level districts.

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WATERWORKS INSPECTOR TO RETIRE

Mr. Lau Kam-ming, Waterworks Inspector I, will be retiring shortly after 31 years of service.

To mark his retirement, the Director of Water Supplies, Mr. W.T. Knight, will present him with a gift on Monday (May 28) on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr. Lau, who is 55, first joined the Public Works Department as Assistant Foreman in the Waterworks Office in 1938, three years before the Japanese Occupation.

After the War, he resumed his post in the Department in 1945 since then he served in a number of posts. In 1970 he was promoted to his present position of Waterworks Inspector I.

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Note to Editors: The presentation ceremony will take place at 11.00 a.m. in the Public Works Department's conference room, 21st floor, Murray Building.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.