



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1980

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
\$122.7 MILLION LOANED TO FARMERS .....	1
STUDENTS RESPOND WELL TO PILOT READING SCHEME .....	2
BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS .....	3
JOBS FOR LIFE SAVERS .....	3
WATER CUT .....	4

\$122.7 MILLION LOANED TO FARMERS

\* \* \* \* \*

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN \$122.7 MILLION IN LOANS FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THREE LOW-INTEREST LOAN FUNDS -- THE KADOORIE AGRICULTURAL AID LOAN FUND, THE J.E. JOSEPH TRUST LOAN FUND AND THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION LOAN FUND -- ARE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS TO HELP THEM INCREASE OUTPUT.

THE LOANS ENABLE FARMERS TO BUY IN BULK SEEDS, FERTILISERS, LIVESTOCK, FEED, INSECTICIDES AND EQUIPMENT.

+THE FUNDS CAN ALSO BE USED TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FARM STRUCTURES, THE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFICIENT FARMING TECHNIQUES,+ SAID MR T.C. CHAU, THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, 2 046 FARMERS RECEIVED LOANS TOTALLING \$11.6 MILLION, HE SAID.

+THERE IS NO CEILING FOR THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT. LAST YEAR'S AVERAGE WAS \$5 600,+ MR CHAU EXPLAINED.

MR CHAU SAID THE LARGEST LOAN GRANTED WAS \$90 000 FOR PART OF THE PURCHASE PRICE FOR A FARM WITH 16 000 CHICKENS.

+WITHOUT THE LOAN, THE FARMER WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ABANDON THE FARM BECAUSE THE LANDLORD WANTED TO SELL THE LAND,+ SAID MR CHAU.

THE AVAILABILITY OF LOW-INTEREST LOANS HELPED MANY FARMERS TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES.

MORE THAN 70 PER CENT OF CHICKENS, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF VEGETABLES AND 20 PER CENT OF PORK CONSUMED IN HONG KONG ARE OF LOCAL ORIGIN.

+OBVIOUSLY, THE LOANS ARE IMPORTANT FOR FARMERS TO COPE WITH PUBLIC DEMAND FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED MEAT AND VEGETABLES,+ MR CHAU SAID.

THE FUNDS, WITH A COMBINED CAPITAL OF \$10 MILLION, ARE AVAILABLE AT LOW INTEREST RATES RANGING FROM 3.6 PER CENT TO SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM.

+A LOAN OF UNDER \$1 000 IS INTEREST-FREE,+ MR CHAU SAID.

/APPLICATION FOR .....

APPLICATION FOR LOANS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S AGRICULTURAL LIAISON OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OR ITS HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON.

+LOANS ARE GENERALLY ISSUED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER ASSESSING THE APPLICANT'S NEEDS, REPAYMENT ABILITY AND PRACTICALITY OF THE PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED,+ HE EXPLAINED, ADDING THAT REPAYMENT TERMS VARY, DEPENDING ON THE PURPOSE OF THE LOAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STUDENTS RESPOND WELL TO PILOT READING SCHEME  
\* \* \* \*

THE PILOT ENGLISH READING SCHEME CONDUCTED IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WAS WORTHWHILE, MRS LOUISE MOK, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS) SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF PUPILS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PILOT SCHEME.

INSPECTORS FROM THE ENGLISH SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGULARLY SUPERVISED DISCUSSION SESSIONS ON THE SCHEME AND FOUND THAT STUDENTS RESPONDED WELL.

TEACHERS OF PARTICIPATING CLASSES AGREED THAT PUPILS EVENTUALLY COULD READ FASTER AND WITH BETTER COMPREHENSION, MRS MOK SAID.

THE SCHEME AIMS AT ENCOURAGING PUPILS TO FORM A HABIT OF WIDE READING FOR PLEASURE, SHE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL, MR RAY TONGUE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISER TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SAID THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL ROUTE TO GREATER SUCCESS IN LEARNING ENGLISH FOR THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS IS THROUGH WIDER SUPPLEMENTARY READING.

+IN A SITUATION LIKE HONG KONG WHERE THE MAJORITY OF PUPILS HAVE LITTLE NEED TO USE ENGLISH OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, READING CAN SERVE AS THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER PROFICIENCY IN THE USE OF THE LANGUAGE,+ HE SAID.

FOR MANY COMPETENT SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE READING SKILL WAS THE BASIS ON WHICH THEIR ALL-ROUND PROFICIENCY IN THE LANGUAGE WAS BUILT ON, MR TONGUE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3 .....

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1980

- 3 -

BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (TUESDAY) DECLARED NO. 2 SUTHERLAND STREET TO BE DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THAT THE THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTED WITH LOAD-BEARING BRICK WALLS AND TIMBER FLOORS HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE SINCE 1971.

A BRICK ARCH OVER A REAR WINDOW HAD RECENTLY COLLAPSED AND THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF EROSION TO THE BRICKWORK. SOME STRUCTURAL TIMBERS WERE ROTTEN AND DETERIORATING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 AM ON AUGUST 12 WERE POSTED TODAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JOBS FOR LIFE SAVERS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR 72 BEACH AND SWIMMING POOL ATTENDANTS ON BEHALF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE POSTS ARE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE A PRIMARY SIX EDUCATION, A BRONZE MEDALLION CERTIFICATE OF THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY, AND A FIRST AID CERTIFICATE.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LOOK AFTER SWIMMERS AT GAZETTED BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS RUN BY THE USD, ADMINISTERING FIRST AIDS AND MAINTAINING ORDER.

OTHER DUTIES INCLUDED CLEANSING AND SUPERVISING LABOURERS.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO WORK SHIFT DUTIES AND MAY HAVE TO WORK AND LIVE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE POST STARTS WITH A MONTHLY SALARY OF \$1 435, RISING TO \$1 705.

THOSE INTERESTED MAY CALL AT ONE OF THE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OR TELEPHONE 3-683764 OR 3-666615.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1980

- 4 -

WATER CUT  
\* \* \*

WATER SUPPLY TO SOME AREAS IN SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAIN DIVERSION WORK.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE FO TAN, LOK LO HA VILLAGE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE AND THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

- - - - 0 - - - -