



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1981

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**MORE WORKING MOTHERS TO GET PAID MATERNITY LEAVE
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE PAID MATERNITY LEAVE FOR WOMEN EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THAT DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE CONTAINED IN THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

HE SAID THAT IF THE BILL IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MATERNITY LEAVE PAY WILL APPLY TO ALL WOMEN MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE WOMEN NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING UP TO \$6 000 A MONTH.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE PRESENT PROVISION FOR 10 WEEKS MATERNITY LEAVE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED BUT THAT IN FUTURE EMPLOYEES WHO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE SHOULD BE PAID BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

EMPLOYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PAY WAGES IN LIEU OF MATERNITY LEAVE, NOR MAY IT BE COUNTED AS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE.

THE PROPOSED RATE OF MATERNITY LEAVE PAY IS, FOR MONTHLY PAID EMPLOYEES, TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR MONTHLY WAGES OR FOR DAILY PAID EMPLOYEES, TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR AVERAGE DAILY WAGE DURING THE PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THEIR MATERNITY LEAVE.

A WOMAN EMPLOYEE MAY FORFEIT HER ENTITLEMENT TO MATERNITY LEAVE PAY IF, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF HER EMPLOYER, SHE WORKS FOR ANOTHER EMPLOYER DURING HER MATERNITY LEAVE.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT MATERNITY LEAVE PAY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THREE SURVIVING CHILDREN.

+IN OTHER WORDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, +TO QUALIFY FOR MATERNITY LEAVE PAY, A WOMAN EMPLOYEE MUST NOT HAVE MORE THAN TWO CHILDREN ALREADY.+

TO PROVE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN SHE HAS, A WOMAN EMPLOYEE MUST MAKE A STATUTORY DECLARATION BEFORE A COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS EITHER IN THE SUPREME COURT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, A CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION. ANYONE MAKING A FALSE DECLARATION IS LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$2 000.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR MATERNITY LEAVE PAY ARE A MINIMUM OF 40 WEEKS' CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO TAKING MATERNITY LEAVE AND THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE THE LEAVE WITHIN 12 WEEKS BEFORE THE EXPECTED DATE OF CONFINEMENT.

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT DAYS OFF FOR PREGNANCY CHECK-UPS OR POST-CONFINEMENT MEDICAL TREATMENT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SICK LEAVE. THE SAME WILL APPLY TO ABSENCE FROM WORK DUE TO A MISCARRIAGE WHICH OCCURS DURING THE FIRST 28 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY.

AN EMPLOYEE ON SICK LEAVE IS ENTITLED TO SICKNESS ALLOWANCE AT TWO-THIRDS OF HER WAGES UP TO A MAXIMUM ACCUMULATION OF 36 DAYS.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO TERMINATE THE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE AFTER SHE HAS GIVEN NOTICE OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE.

+NO EMPLOYER SHALL DISMISS AN EMPLOYEE FROM THE DATE SHE GIVES NOTICE OF TAKING MATERNITY LEAVE TO THE DATE SHE IS DUE TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER THE LEAVE,+ HE EXPLAINED, ADDING THAT A BREACH OF THIS SECTION WILL BE AN OFFENCE CARRYING A FINE OF \$5 000.

IN THE EVENT AN EMPLOYEE BEING DISMISSED AFTER GIVING NOTICE OF HER INTENTION TO TAKE MATERNITY LEAVE, HER EMPLOYER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY HER MATERNITY LEAVE PAY FOR 10 WEEKS, IF SHE IS ENTITLED TO IT.

AN EMPLOYER WILL ALSO BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5 000 IF HE FAILS TO GRANT MATERNITY LEAVE, MATERNITY LEAVE PAY, OR SICKNESS ALLOWANCE.

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DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES BILL PUBLISHED

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A BILL AIMED AT EMPOWERING THE GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE TO REGISTER ANY COMPANY AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY.

UNDER THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE, THE ONLY GROUNDS ON WHICH THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CAN REFUSE AN APPLICATION BY A COMPANY ARE:

- * THAT ITS ISSUED OR ITS PAID-UP CAPITAL ARE LESS THAN \$5 MILLION OR \$2.5 MILLION RESPECTIVELY (OR THE EQUIVALENT IN A FOREIGN CURRENCY)-
- * THAT THE OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY DO NOT INCLUDE A BUSINESS OF TAKING DEPOSITS-
- * THAT THE NAME OF THE COMPANY CONTAINS ANY WORD IN CONTRAVENTION OF ANY OTHER ORDINANCE- OR THAT IT APPEARS TO THE COMMISSIONER THAT, BY REASON OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER, THE COMPANY IS NOT A FIT AND PROPER BODY TO BE REGISTERED.

THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 PROPOSES TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR TO DIRECT THE COMMISSIONER TO SUSPEND OR REFUSE THE REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, EITHER GENERALLY OR IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE.

IT ALSO GIVES LEGAL EFFECT TO A DECISION BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ON MARCH 17 TO AUTHORISE THE COMMISSIONER TO SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNTIL THE AMENDING LEGISLATION COMES INTO FORCE.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY, WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL STATE THE FUTURE POLICY RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

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RECLAMATION PLANNED OFF TAI KOK TSUI

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RECLAIM ABOUT 41 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED OFF TAI KOK TSUI.

PART OF THE RECLAMATION WILL BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO BREAKWATER ARMS WHICH WILL ENCLOSE A NEW TYPHOON SHELTER. THE REMAINING AREA WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR CARGO HANDLING AREAS, GODOWNS, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS, OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY. ANY PERSON HAVING OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL OR ANY CLAIM OF PRIVATE RIGHT SHOULD SUBMIT THESE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM NOW.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY ALSO BE SEEN AT THE PORT WORKS DIVISION, 1ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION OFF NE LANTAU

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO RECLAIM AND GRANT CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF APPROXIMATELY 19.5 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA BED AT NE LANTAU, WHICH WILL BE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

THE AREA INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTIFICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY. ANY PERSON HAVING OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL OR ANY CLAIM OF PRIVATE RIGHT SHOULD SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS FROM TODAY.

THE NOTICE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE. THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF FORESHORE AND SEA BED INVOLVED MAY ALSO BE SEEN AT THE PORT WORKS DIVISION, 1ST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, OR THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, 2ND FLOOR, FOU WAH CENTRE, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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JANUARY'S ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR INDUSTRIES

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED THE FOLLOWING ORDERS-ON-HAND STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1981 :

<u>INDUSTRY GROUP</u>	<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS</u>		
	<u>JAN 1980</u>	<u>DEC 1980</u>	<u>JAN 1981</u>
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	5.0	4.8	4.6
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	2.9	2.2	2.3
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	4.7	3.8	3.6
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	4.2	3.7	3.6
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC MACHINERY, APPARATUS, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES	5.0	5.0	4.9
OTHERS	4.0	3.8	3.7
ALL MANUFACTURING	4.5	4.2	4.1

THE GENERAL DECREASE IN ORDERS-ON-HAND COMPARED WITH THE POSITION TWELVE MONTHS AGO MAY NOT SUGGEST A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN BUSINESS VOLUMES BUT RATHER A TENDENCY FOR ORDERS RECEIVED BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED TO HAVE BECOME SHORTER AND MORE FREQUENT.

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE BASED ON AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SELECTED BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979. AS THE PANEL IS NOT A SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED SAMPLE, RESULTS OBTAINED WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE COMPANIES INCLUDED IN THE PANEL, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL GENERALLY INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE.

THIS SURVEY, WHICH IS CONDUCTED MONTHLY, ALSO ASKS QUESTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL AND COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS BESIDES THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1981 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1 PER COPY. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-274203.

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PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE BEING SET UP IN SHA TIN
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THE FIRST PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE IN SHA TIN IS BEING SET UP AT LEK YUEN ESTATE.

THE CENTRE IS ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SAU CHUEN HOUSE, AND WILL ALSO BE USED AS THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARIAT AND AS AN AFTER OFFICE HOURS READING ROOM.

OFFICERS OF SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE HAVE BEEN ON DUTY AT THE CENTRE SINCE EARLY MARCH TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT SERVICES, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT DUE TO BE OFFICIALLY OPENED UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

SERVICES PROVIDED WILL BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ADMINISTERING STATUTORY DECLARATIONS AND DISTRIBUTING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT PAMPHLETS AND FORMS AFTER THE OFFICIAL OPENING.

A FREE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE EVERY MONDAY EVENING WHEN LAWYERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY WILL SEE RESIDENTS AND HELP THEM WITH LEGAL PROCEDURES.

A SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID SETTING UP THE CENTRE WOULD MAKE ITS SERVICES MORE CONVENIENT TO THE 50 000 RESIDENTS OF LEK YUEN AND WO CHE ESTATES, WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD TO TRAVEL TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT TUNG LO WAN.

THE CENTRE OPENS FROM 8.30 AM TO 5 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 8.30 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

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HELPING CHILDREN WITH HEARING PROBLEMS
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A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATING CHILDREN WITH HEARING PROBLEMS INTO ORDINARY SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 24 FOR TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

+TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WHO HAVE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN INTEGRATED INTO THEIR CLASSES OR CHILD CARE CENTRES WILL FIND THIS SEMINAR PARTICULARLY USEFUL BECAUSE IT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH GUIDELINES FOR TACKLING SOME LEARNING AND BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS OF THESE CHILDREN,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL, IN NORTH POINT AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. IT WILL CONSIST OF TALKS, A FILM SHOW AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

TALKS WILL FOCUS ON BASIC CONCEPTS ABOUT HEARING IMPAIRMENT, REMEDIAL SERVICES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND INTEGRATION PROBLEMS AND MANAGEMENT OF HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN.

/TEACHERS AND

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TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR SHOULD APPLY BEFORE APRIL 3 THROUGH THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOLS OR CHILD CARE CENTRES TO THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER, SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, HONG KONG.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MRS EVA KWAN OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION ON 5-7904679 EXT. 14.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN CENTRAL

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN MURRAY ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 24).

EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES, MOTOR VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE CLEARWAY FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

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THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM GLOUCESTER ROAD TO MARSH ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC ON MARCH 22 AND 29 FROM 8 AM TO 9 PM, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE LAYING OF TELEPHONE DUCTS.

TRAFFIC REQUIRING ACCESS TO THE CARGO HANDLING AREA WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TONNOCHY ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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FIRING PRACTICE

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE DAYS NEXT MONTH (APRIL).

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE: FROM 8 AM TO 4 PM ON APRIL 7 AND FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM ON APRIL 15, 28, 29 AND 30.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

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