



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, January 25, 1973

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NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. P.C. Woo Appointed Chairman

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The Governor has appointed Mr. P.C. Woo, Senior Unofficial Member of Legislative Council, to be Chairman of the reconstituted Board of Education.

The Vice Chairman is Mr. J. Canning, Director of Education.

Other members are:

Dr. Rayson Lisung Huang,  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, or  
his representative;

Dr. Li Choh-ming,  
Vice Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong  
Kong, or his representative;

Mr. C.L. Old,  
Director of the Hong Kong Polytechnic, or his  
representative;

Mr. R.H. Lobo,  
Unofficial Member of Legislative Council;

Mrs. Joyce Symons,  
Unofficial Member of Legislative Council and  
Headmistress of the Diocesan Girls' School.

Mr. P.G. Williams,  
Unofficial Member of Legislative Council;

Right Rev. Gilbert Baker,  
Bishop of Hong Kong, or his representative;

Most Rev. Francis Hsu,  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong;

Rev. Peter Wong or his representative,  
Church of Christ in China, Hong Kong Council;

/Mr. Jack .....

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Mr. Jack C. Tang,  
Member of the Textiles Advisory Board and a member of  
the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Polytechnic; and

Mr. Liu Yun-sum,  
Chairman of the Sheung Shui Rural Committee and  
Supervisor of the Fung Kai Public School, Sheung Shui.

Secretary: Mr. G.G. Oakes, Secretary of the Education Department.

Last October the Governor stated in Legislative Council that during the rest of the 70's the main aim of our educational effort must be in secondary and technical education.

At the same time he emphasised the vital role of the Board of Education in advising on how this might best be achieved particularly as regards the acceptability of a degree of bi-sessionalism in the Government and aided sector.

Sir Murray MacLehose also referred to the need for the Board of Education to take a new look at Hong Kong's educational and examination system.

The Governor hoped that this task would be completed by the Board within six to eight months.

The terms of reference for a remit on secondary education to the Board of Education are as follows:

Having regard to the Government's objective of providing three years secondary education for all in the 12-14 year age group and doubling the percentage of places in the secondary schools for the full 5-year course leading to a Certificate of Education examination, to consider:-

- (1) any changes that should be introduced into the present type of secondary education offered;
- (2) the proportion of academic to vocational secondary education appropriate in the circumstances of Hong Kong;

/(3) any .....

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- (3) any changes in the present examination system that should be introduced;
- (4) the time scale in which it would be practical and desirable to implement the Government's policy, with particular reference to:
  - (a) the expansion of facilities for the training of teachers;
  - (b) the secondary school building programme in the urban areas, new towns and New Territories;
  - (c) the degree of bisectionalism that the Board considers appropriate in both the short and long term in secondary schools and teacher training colleges;
- (5) to what extent in the circumstances of Hong Kong secondary education should be provided free of charge.

The Board of Education is expected to furnish a report after completing its deliberations.

Commenting on the appointments, the Director of Education, Mr. Canning said: "I am very pleased that Mr. P.C. Woo has accepted the Chairmanship of the Board.

"I will be submitting papers to the Board to help them in this very important work and I have every confidence that the Board will be able to submit a report to the Governor within the time stated."

The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Woo, said: "It is indeed an honour to be appointed Chairman of this important Board.

"I am glad that the Director of Education, Mr. Canning, will soon be putting forward his proposals to the Board for consideration.

"I hope to call a meeting of the Board shortly."

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The Colonial Secretary, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, has sent letters of appreciation, on behalf of the Governor, to all retiring members of the former Board of Education.

Sir Hugh conveyed the Governor's sincere appreciation of their valuable services on the Board over the past years and thanked them for all the time and effort they had personally devoted to its deliberations.

He said these deliberations had "contributed substantially to the progress of education in Hong Kong."

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BULK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL FIRMS

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The government is buying more and more of its supplies from Hong Kong firms.

In the 1971-72 financial year, goods purchased locally amounted to \$114.6 million, representing about 75 per cent of the total expenditure of \$150 million on supplies.

This compares with 60 per cent in 1969-70, and 70 per cent in 1970-71.

The orders included miscellaneous items ranging from furniture, textiles and stationery to all sorts of office equipment.

A spokesman for the government supplies department explained that goods supplied locally were more readily available and usually more economical.

The Government also buys from about 20 other countries through Crown Agents in London, Washington, Sydney and Tokyo.

One source of supplies is China, where pharmaceuticals and bamboo wares are purchased.

At the end of 1972, the Supplies Department had in stock over 80,000 items worth about \$38 million.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER

Increases In Exports And Imports Shown

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The value of domestic exports for last month, amounting to \$1,213 million, represents an increase of \$114 million or 10.3 per cent over the same month in 1971.

The value of imports, according to provisional trade figures published by the Census and Statistics Department today, was \$1,980 million, an increase of \$255 million or 14.8 per cent.

For re-exports, the figure stood at \$391 million which is a rise of \$98 million or 33.3 per cent when compared with December, 1971.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said that during the three-month period from October to December, 1972, domestic exports totalled \$4,044 million, imports \$5,796 million and re-exports \$1,201 million.

Compared with the corresponding period in the previous year, these figures represent increases of 13.5 per cent, 10.1 per cent and 24.1 per cent respectively.

Figures for the whole of last year show increases over the same period in 1971 of 10.9 per cent for domestic exports, 7.4 per cent for imports and 21.7 per cent for re-exports.

The much improved figures for the second half of the year were most gratifying, the spokesman said.

"Increases in imports and exports indicated that commerce and industry had substantially recovered from the slow down in trade experienced earlier in the year.

"The re-export trade during the year also showed encouraging growth and significant improvement with the increase of nearly 22 per cent over 1971," he said.

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### INCREASE IN SUPPORT FOR DAY NURSERIES

Government's Contribution Doubles From \$20 to \$40 Per Child

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With effect from April 1, the Government's contribution for services in supported day nurseries will, on the average, be doubled from \$20 to \$40 a month per child.

Mr. F.K. Li, Director of Social Welfare, says a recommendation to this effect, recently made to the Government by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, has now been approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Since May 1, 1971, the Government's contribution has been \$20 a month per child. The assumed the average cost per child at a nursery to be \$60 a month, met \$20 from the Government, \$20 from the voluntary agency running the nursery, and \$20 from fees. In other words, the Government bore one-third of the cost.

Mr. Li explains that the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, of which he is chairman ex officio, had for some time "been concerned that this formula of bearing one-third of the cost per child has not provided a sufficient, or realistic, measure of Government support."

The Committee had therefore advised the Government that since approved costs had now risen to an average of \$80 per child per month, and this increase "could not, in most cases, be borne either by the agencies or from fees," the average Government contribution per child per month should be doubled from \$20 to \$40 -- with the present formula for apportioning the total cost revised to \$40 for the Government, \$20 for the agency, and \$20 from fees.

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"In other words, " Mr. Li says, "this means increasing the Government's support per child per month, on the average, from one-third to one-half."

About 5,000 children attend supported non-profit-making day nurseries, and the Government subvention for the financial year 1973-74 will total approximately \$2.5 million.

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#### NEW ACCESS ROAD TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

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A new road will soon be built in the Kwai Chung area to provide access from Kwai Chung Road to the new Princess Margaret Hospital in Lai Chi Kok.

The 34-foot-wide road, linking Ha Kwai Chung and Lai Chi Kok, will run along the existing terraces to the northeast of Kwai Chung Road.

Site formation for the road and a 12-foot-wide footpath has been completed.

The surfacing of the 5,200-foot carriageway and drainage work are expected to begin in March and will take about 18 months to complete.

Referring to the surfacing of the footpath, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said that it would be carried out later in conjunction with development in the area.

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TOM JONES IN HONG KONG

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Tom Jones fans in Hong Kong will have an opportunity to see and listen to the world-renowned singer at a giant open-air concert to be held at the Government Stadium next month.

The "Tom Jones in Hong Kong" show, to be staged jointly by the Urban Council and the Fee Lun Radio Service (T.W.), will take place on Sunday (February 25) at 8.30 p.m.

The two-hour performance is being organised because of the great success of several similar musical shows held in previous years.

Performing with the singer will be his 40-piece band.

A spokesman for the Urban Services Department said: "A total of 32,000 tickets, ranging in price from \$10 to \$200 each, will be on sale, and we are expecting a full house this time."

He added that a sum of at least \$20,000 from the proceeds of the show would be donated to the Community Chest.

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Note to Editors: A press conference for the show will be held at the Banquet Suite, Section 2, first floor, Excelsior Hotel, Causeway Bay, tomorrow (Friday) at 3 p.m.

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URBAN COUNCIL ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

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The Sixth Urban Council Annual Flower Show will be held from March 23 to 25 in the Memorial Garden and the Exhibition Hall of the City Hall.

There will be six competitive section: cut flowers, pot plants, orchids, bonsai type plants, floral arrangements and floral arrangements by children.

There will be separate classes in each section, and cash prizes will be awarded to the first three winners in each class.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of each section. The Urban Council Trophy will be awarded to the best exhibit in the show.

Entry forms and conditions of the Show can be obtained from the Public Enquiry Counter, Central Government Offices, West Wing, Ground Floor, Hong Kong. They are also available from the Government Publications Centre, Star Ferry Concourse, Hong Kong or from the Kowloon Park Office, Haiphong Road, Kowloon.

The closing date for entries is March 13.

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#### THE VALUE OF THE PROBATION SERVICE

#### Chief Justice Says Probation Does Significant Work

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When there is a chance that probation, and not a prison sentence, will help to reform a young offender, "it is surely the best way of trying to save potential victims from being wronged in the future."

This, said Sir Ivo Rigby, the Chief Justice, was "even more important than helping the offender himself."

He was speaking today at the first joint Open Day of the Social Welfare Department's probation service and correctional institutions in the Begonia Road Boys' Home.

Sir Ivo said the occasion gave him the opportunity to make some "general observations on punishment and sentencing" as he saw it.

He had no doubt the public was understandably concerned over the increase in crimes of violence by young persons, and he supported heavy prison sentences in appropriate cases, even when offenders were young and doing wrong for the first time.

"Manslaughter, robbery with violence, and in particular, repeated and successive acts of rape of a young girl by a gang of hooligans, are all offences that require severe and exemplary punishment," he said.

"It is a fact, even though the public may not be aware of it, that heavy sentences are no rarity in the courts."

In his view, sentences should protect the public, show disapproval to the offender, deter him from offending again, deter others, reform the offender and ensure that crime did not pay. But many of the problems of sentencing were insoluble.

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There were cases where what the offender deserved was one thing, and what was most likely to prevent him from doing it again was another thing.

Prison meant shutting him up with other criminals. If this confirmed the offender in a life of crime, it was the very reverse of the probation service which sought both to keep him out of trouble and protect the public.

Sir Ivo disagreed with the views of some people who wrote letters to the press saying that to reform the offender was "a soft" alternative to protecting the public. Instead, it was "the very best way of protecting the public."

He recalled that during the last three years, he had had some opportunity of seeing the work of the Probation and Corrections Division of the Social Welfare Department, and he was convinced its dedicated officers were playing "a large and significant role" in helping problem children who had committed some offence, and who, if unchecked and unrestrained, and all too often neglected, were likely to get into further trouble.

#### Rehabilitation Of Offenders

He commended these officers, and he assured them of the "support, trust and confidence of the Judiciary."

Sir Ivo and Lady Rigby were welcomed by Mr. F.K. Li, Director of Social Welfare; Miss Annie Chan, Assistant Director (Social Work); and Mr. S.M. Lee, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and head of the Probation and Corrections Division.

In a short speech, Mr. Li said the general objective of the probation and correctional services should be the protection of society through the rehabilitation of offenders.

"The interests of the community are best met by eliminating future delinquency on the part of the offender," he commented. "The rehabilitation of the individual is best accomplished by restoring him to a full and rewarding role in the community."

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INCREASE IN RICE IMPORT QUOTA

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The Commerce and Industry Department has announced an increase in the rice import quota for the first three months of this year.

The increase amounts to 6,600 metric tons or 7½ per cent of the basic quarterly quota.

Commenting on the increase, a spokesman for the Department said the cooler weather had produced an increased demand for rice.

"The quota increase authorised will also serve to stem rising prices and has taken into account rice supplies presently available on overseas markets," he said.

The spokesman added that the current supply position was good and importers should have no difficulty in importing the additional amount.

Nevertheless, the Department would continue to keep a careful watch over developments.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.