



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1977

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MORE PEOPLE PAYING TAXES

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THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE SALARIES TAX FILES AT THE END OF LAST FINANCIAL YEAR STOOD AT 274,530, REPRESENTING A NET INCREASE OF 22 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WERE ACTUALLY ASSESSED TO TAX FOR THE CURRENT YEAR OF ASSESSMENT INCREASED BY 24.2 PER CENT FROM 175,761 TO 218,432.

TOTAL SALARIES TAX ASSESSED DURING 1976-77 AMOUNTED TO A RECORD \$622.1 MILLION WHICH REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 18 PER CENT COMPARED WITH \$526.9 MILLION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, ACCORDING TO INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT FIGURES.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE LARGEST NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS (72.4 PER CENT) FELL WITHIN THE INCOME RANGE OF \$1,000 TO \$3,000 PER MONTH.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR. R.V. GIDDY, ATTRIBUTED THE INCREASE TO RISING TREND OF SALARIES IN HONG KONG WHICH BROUGHT MORE PERSONS INTO THE TAXABLE BRACKET.

+ALTHOUGH THE INCREASE IN TOTAL TAX ASSESSED REFLECTS THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF EMOLUMENTS BEING PAID TO EMPLOYEES, THE AMOUNT OF TAX PER DEMAND NOTE SHOWED A REDUCTION FROM \$3,058 TO \$2,467.

+THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES COMING INTO THE TAX NET AT THE LOWER END OF THE INCOME SPECTRUM,+ MR. GIDDY EXPLAINED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EMPLOYERS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SALARIES TAX ASSESSING AS THEY WERE REQUIRED BY LAW TO SUBMIT EACH YEAR RETURNS OF EMPLOYEES' EMOLUMENTS.

THE TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED FROM ALL SOURCES OF TAXES, DUTIES AND FEES DURING THE YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$3,543.9 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 22.3 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES SHOWED THAT \$2,698.7 MILLION OF THE TOTAL NET REVENUE COLLECTED WAS DERIVED FROM EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAX -- A RISE OF 20.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE COLLECTION IN THE YEAR 1975-76.

THE REMAINDER CAME FROM ESTATE DUTY, STAMP DUTY, ENTERTAINMENT TAX, BETTING DUTY, BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX.

THE COLLECTIONS FROM THESE SOURCES OF REVENUE ALSO SHOWED INCREASES, WITH GROWTH RATES RANGING FROM 11.8 PER CENT FOR STAMP DUTY REVENUE TO 64 PER CENT FOR THAT COLLECTED FROM BETTING DUTY.

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POST OFFICE REJECTS STAPLED MAIL

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THE POST OFFICE TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER ACCEPT FOLDERS, CARDS OR ENVELOPED LETTERS WHICH ARE SEALED BY STAPLES BECAUSE THEY ARE CAUSING A +SERIOUS AND COSTLY+ PROBLEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID THAT ANY STAPLED ITEMS FOUND IN THE POST WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SENDERS.

THIS DECISION WAS MADE AS THE NUMBER OF STAPLED FOLDERS AND CARDS RECEIVED DAILY FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO THE POST OFFICE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STAPLED ITEMS HAD TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE NORMAL FLOW OF MAIL IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE POSTMARKED BY HAND AND DIVERTED FROM ANY SUBSEQUENT MACHINE HANDLING PROCESS.

+AN UNENVELOPED FOLDER IS USUALLY TOO FLIMSY TO PASS UNDAMAGED THROUGH POSTMARKING OR SORTING MACHINE. THE STAPLED ITEMS WOULD CAUSE JAMMING OF POSTAL MACHINERY AND DAMAGE THE ROLLERS AND OTHER PARTS OF THE MACHINES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

FURTHERMORE, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, ARTICLES OF MAIL WHICH HAVE BEEN SEALED BY STAPLING CAN CAUSE MINOR INJURIES TO THE HANDS OF SORTERS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE COURSE OF SORTING A QUANTITY OF SUCH ITEMS. MOREOVER, THESE ITEMS ARE UNACCEPTABLE FOR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE POST UNDER INTERNATIONAL POSTAL REGULATIONS.

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THREE MPS TO VISIT HONG KONG

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THREE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) FOR A WEEK-LONG OFFICIAL VISIT.

THEY ARE MR. DAVID HOWELL (SURREY, GUILDFORD), MR. PAUL CHANNON (SOUTHEND WEST) AND MR. JOHN NOTT (CORNWALL, ST. IVES).

THE MP'S , WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR WIVES, WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS AND URBAN COUNCIL, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE ICAC COMMISSIONER WHILE THEY ARE IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM VISITS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES' NEW TOWNS, HOUSING ESTATES, FACTORIES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS TO LEARN OF HONG KONG'S PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS, THE VISITORS WILL ALSO HAVE PLENTY OF FREE TIME TO MEET PEOPLE AND GO TO PLACES THEY WISH TO SEE ON THEIR OWN.

ON SEPTEMBER 26 (MONDAY) THEY WILL ATTEND A PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MRS. LI TO VISIT LEK YUEN HOSTEL
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MRS. EDITH LI, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR. F.K. LI, WILL VISIT THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' LEK YUEN HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO SEE THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE GROUP IN SHA TIN.

THE HOSTEL IS SITUATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF FOOK HOI HOUSE, LEK YUEN ESTATE. IT PROVIDES MORE THAN 30 ACCOMMODATION UNITS, SITTING ROOMS, RESTING ROOMS, DINNING HALLS AND KITCHEN FOR ABOUT 140 ELDERLY PEOPLE AGED OVER 60 WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER BY THE GENERAL STAFF, PROFESSIONAL WORKERS AND NURSES.

DURING THE VISIT, MRS. LI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. WILSON CHEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR. WILLIAM MA CHING-WAI, MR. STEPHEN YOW MOK-SHING, AND MR. RAYMOND TANG YEE-BONG, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT WHICH STARTS AT 11.30 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EASTERN STREET
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THE SECTION OF EASTERN STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND FIRST STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FROM 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) TO FACILITATE GAS MAINS LAYING WORK.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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