



HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION SERVICES

# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, June 18, 1971

HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC

Legislation To Provide For Establishment

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Legislation to provide for the establishment, functions and administration of the Hong Kong Polytechnic will be presented to the Legislative Council on June 23.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic Bill 1971, published for general information in today's Gazette, seeks to provide for the establishment of the Polytechnic and states its objects which are to provide for studies, training and research in technology, science, commerce, arts and other subjects of learning.

One clause in the Bill establishes a Board of Governors and constitutes it a body corporate with the usual powers which are enjoyed by such bodies at law, including the power to acquire property, enter into contracts, erect buildings, approve expenditure, invest funds, borrow money and apply for grant-in-aid.

The Bill makes it clear that the Governor in Council may give directions to the Board with regard to the performance of its functions and that the Board must comply with any such directions.

The Board of Governors shall consist of the Director of Education; the Director of the Polytechnic; three members who shall be public officers, appointed by the Governor; and eight members, other than public officers, appointed by the Governor of whom four shall have experience in commerce and industry in Hong Kong. Furthermore, the Governor may appoint two additional members if he so decides.

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The Board must submit an annual report on the activities of the Polytechnic and of the auditors' report of its accounts for the previous year. These reports and statements will be tabled in the Legislative Council.

It may delegate some of its powers to the Director of the Polytechnic as well as fix fees for courses of study and other services and reduce or waive the fees generally or in any particular case.

The Bill also provides for the Board to make rules to regulate its proceedings and those of its committees it is empowered to appoint, and rules to provide for the discipline of employees of the Polytechnic and of the students attending it.

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KOWLOON TSAI SWIMMING POOL CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE

On Sunday, June 20

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The Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool will be closed to public use on Sunday, June 20, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

During this period, the Royal Life Saving Society (Hong Kong Branch) will be using the pool to hold a swimming party.

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ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS BILL, 1971

Covering Discovery Of Relics In Hong Kong

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The draft Antiquities and Monuments Bill 1971 is published in today's Government Gazette for the information of the public.

The purpose of the Bill is to establish control over archaeological discoveries in Hong Kong and to ensure that items of historical interest are preserved for the enjoyment of the community.

The Bill proposes that two Authorities should be created, one, the Secretary for Home Affairs, for the urban areas and one, the District Commissioner, New Territories, for the New Territories. Subject to the advice of an Advisory Board these Authorities will have the power to declare sites and buildings to be monuments, subject to the rights of property owners and with the approval of the Governor.

All relics discovered in Hong Kong after the commencement of the proposed legislation will belong to the Government, although in practice it would retain only those objects of interest to the public for display in local museums.

Various clauses in the Bill relate to the payment of awards for finds retained by the Government. Other clauses deal with permitted excavations and the control, maintenance and protection of monuments.

A provisional Advisory Board will be appointed soon. Its first task will be to consider in detail the practical implications of the legislation and to assess the views of the general public before the draft bill is considered in Legislative Council.

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FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE AND HOSTEL

Inauguration of Members' Council

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Mr. Robert Choa, Incoming District Governor of Rotary International's District 345, will preside at a swearing-in ceremony of office bearers of the Fanling Rotary Youth Centre and Hostel's new Members' Council on Sunday, June 20.

The Centre was formerly the Three Nines Club. It was rebuilt with funds provided by Rotary, then handed over to the Social Welfare Department, and opened as a centre and hostel for the young in June, 1967.

Ceremonies on Sunday will also mark the Centre's fourth anniversary. The former will include a stage performance, a demonstration of Chinese calligraphy, and a fun fair.

Before the swearing-in of office bearers of the Centre's new Members' Council, Mr. Kwok Ka-chi, Principal Social Welfare Officer (Group and Community, Operations) will welcome Mr. Choa and deliver a short speech.

Then prizes won at a recent handicraft and calligraphy competition will be distributed jointly by Mr. H.S. Grewal, District Officer, Tai Po; Mr. Tang Yan, Senior Education Officer; and Mr. Law Chak-tong, chairman of the Fanling Rural Committee.

The Centre's activities include study and interest groups working at tailoring, judo, and community services along with voluntary agencies in the area.

The hostel section has accommodation for 60, a common room and a study room. Last year, these services were used by 3,189 young people.

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Note to editors: You are invited to have the swearing-in ceremony covered.

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POLYTECHNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tribute to Hon. P.Y. Tang

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A tribute to the late Hon. P.Y. Tang Chairman of the Polytechnic Planning Committee, was paid today by Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung, Deputy Chairman, on behalf of all members of the Committee.

Dr. Chung said "It was characteristic of the late Mr. P.Y. Tang that he allowed himself no respite until the tasks which he had voluntarily undertaken in the public service had been completed."

"As Chairman of the Committee," Dr. Chung continued, "Mr. Tang devoted himself tirelessly to laying the foundations of a Polytechnic which would help close the technology-gap between Hong Kong and the world's most developed countries and which would provide the youth of the Colony with educational opportunities which were relevant to the Seventies.

"Mr. Tang was a visionary who pursued his objectives with a selfless dedication which inspired all those who knew and worked with him to greater efforts.

"He gave unstintingly of his time, his energy, his financial resources and ultimately his health in the service of the community. Without his leadership on the Planning Committee, the foundations of the Polytechnic would never have been so truly or so quickly laid.

"All members of the Committee offer their sincere condolences to Mr. Tang's family, to his many friends and associates, and to the people of Hong Kong, whose well-being was always his paramount concern."

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RECLAMATION AT AP LEI CHAU  
For Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant

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Today's Gazette contains a notice under the Public Reclamations and Works Ordinance of Government's intention to reclaim an area of approximately 13,700 sq. ft. of Crown foreshore and sea bed off the south west coast of Ap Lei Chau, in connection with a proposed sewage treatment plant.

As a result of an agreement between Government and the Shell Company of Hong Kong Limited, the formation of this reclamation will be carried out by the Company, which is currently involved in the construction of major roadworks and site formation for its proposed oil storage depot on Ap Lei Chau.

The boundaries of the proposed reclamation are fully described in the notice which also stipulates that all persons having any objections to the proposed reclamation or any claims of private right in the matter should submit such objections and or claims in writing to the Director of Public Works within two months of the date of the notice.

This notice, in English and Chinese can also be seen on the notice boards posted on the site.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND TSUEN WAN

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Water supply to a number of houses in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, and in Tsuen Wan, New Territories, will be interrupted for five hours tomorrow June 19 starting from 1 a.m.

The temporary water stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out leakage tests.

The houses affected in the Tsim Sha Tsui area will be those bounded by Kimberley Road, Carnarvon Road and Nathan Road, while those premises affected in Tsuen Wan will be those in the area bounded by Castle Peak Road, Tai Ho Road, Sha Tsui Road and Heung Chi Street.

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## STEEP RISE IN INDUSTRIAL WAGES

### And Better Standards Of Living

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Industrial wages have nearly doubled and the standard of living has risen by nearly 50 per cent in the last seven years. These significant facts are revealed in statistics released today by the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. R.M. Hetherington.

The statistics also showed that there was a record steep rise in wages between March 1970 and March 1971. Between 1964 and 1970, the average yearly increase was about 9 per cent. The increase for the past year was about 18 per cent. These are reflected in the following indices:

March 1964	100
March 1970	163
March 1971	192

Because the cost of living did not rise proportionally, the result was that the standard of living appreciably improved. Between 1964 and 1970, the average yearly increase in real wages was about 5 per cent. The increase for the past year was a record 10 per cent. The relevant indices are as follows:

March 1964	100
March 1970	132
March 1971	145

Mr. Hetherington said that he expected this information would be challenged.

He went on, "Unless the methods used by the Labour Statistics Unit are studied, misunderstandings will inevitably arise. An important point is that the indices are based on conditions in 1964. Few people can realistically think back to conditions which existed seven years ago. Recollections of standards of living in 1964 fade and are overlaid by more recent memories with higher aspirations and greater expectations."

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Mr. Hetherington said that another important point was that the indices showed over-all averages in selected but key industries and utilities. Wages had risen in them at different rates. He thought that it was highly unlikely that the indices would reflect exactly the position of any single employee.

"Nonetheless," he went on, "it is clear that, in recent years, there has been a steady material improvement in the standard of living of the community and that this accelerated noticeably during the past twelve months."

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RICE QUOTA  
For Third Quarter Of 1971

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The Commerce & Industry Department announced today that the rice import quota for the third quarter of 1971 had been provisionally fixed at 83,600 metric tons (i.e. 95 per cent of the basic quota of 88,000 tons).

Commenting on the quota, a spokesman for the Department said that rice consumption is usually lower than average in the third quarter of a year because of the warm weather. The slight reduction in the quota takes account of these circumstances.

The Department would keep developments in the rice trade under close review, and might issue a supplementary quota during the quarter should circumstances so warrant, the spokesman said.

In the five months of this year, Hong Kong imported 141,300 metric tons of rice. Of this amount, Thailand supplied 61 per cent and China 31 per cent. The remainder came mainly from Australia, Burma, Cambodia and the U.S.A.

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Release time : 5:00 p.m.