



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, October 2, 1972

## MORE PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL AID

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More people are qualified for legal aid following recent amendments to the Means Test for Civil Legal Aid Cases.

The amendments, which came into force on September 1, increase the limits below which a person becomes eligible for legal aid.

On the question of income, the Director of Legal Aid, Mr. O'Reilly Mayne, said the ceiling limit of income per month has been raised from \$500 to \$700 per month.

The Legal Aid Department also makes generous allowances in respect of all dependents of the applicant and it does not take into account the amount of rents and rates payable in respect of his dwelling house.

Accordingly, he said, people with incomes very much more than \$700 per month may well be eligible for legal aid.

Referring to capital, Mr. O'Reilly Mayne said, the disposable income of \$3,000 has now been increased to \$4,000.

He said the first \$20,000 of the value of an applicant's interest in his dwelling house after deduction of encumbrances were not counted.

Also not counted was the value of his household furniture and effects, personal clothing, tools and implements of trade.

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In addition, Mr. O'Reilly Mayne said the Legal Aid Department makes an allowance of \$1,500 in respect of each dependent of the applicant.

This means that people with a lot more capital than \$4,000 could also qualify for legal aid.

AIR PARCEL SERVICE TO SEYCHELLES

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The Post Office has introduced a twice weekly air parcel service to the Seychelles.

Parcels will be accepted for posting under the same general conditions as for surface parcels to the Seychelles and conveyed on direct flights from Hong Kong on Thursdays and Sundays.

The postage rate will be \$6.00 for each ½ lb. of weight.

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NEW ROAD BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND CASTLE PEAK

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Ground investigation work is to begin shortly along the proposed new road linking the satellite towns of Tsuen Wan and Castle Peak.

This work, which is expected to start this month, will take about five months to complete.

The new nine-mile road, to be constructed in two stages, is being planned in connection with the development of Castle Peak New Town.

At present, the Government is studying in detail recommendations made by the consulting engineers on the alignment of the first stage of the project.

It has been planned that the new road will first have a 33-foot-wide carriageway which will be operated initially as a two-way road. But the design standards chosen for speed and gradients are such that the road will provide a high capacity link between the two towns.

To maintain this high capacity, access will be strictly limited along the entire length of the road and interchanges will only be provided at Tsuen Wan, Sham Tseng, Tai Lam Chung and Castle Peak.

On completion of the whole project, the road will consist of dual three-lane carriageways. It will be of motorway standard with all interchanges grade separated and hard shoulders provided for each carriageway to accommodate break downs and other emergency stoppages.

Subject to the government's decision to proceed with the scheme, it is hoped that the initial plan of providing the 33-foot-wide carriageway can begin next year.

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JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIP OPEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS

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The Japanese Government is offering a Mombushu Scholarship to Form Lower Six students and those who have matriculated in Hong Kong, to study Japanese language at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

The candidates must be aged between 18 and 25.

The aim of the programme is to give opportunities to foreign students wishing to attend a Japanese university, and promoting international exchange in education and culture.

The scholarship is tenable for five years, during which time the recipient will receive 47,000 yen a month. He will also be provided with passages to and from Japan, field study allowances and accommodation.

The recipient must be able to arrive in Japan between October 1 and October 10, 1973, or the scholarship may be cancelled.

On arrival, he will be given a one-year course on the Japanese language and other courses preparing him for university studies. All classes will be conducted in Japanese.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Overseas Students and Scholarships Section of the Education Department, Lee Gardens, 3rd floor, Hong Kong.

Completed forms and relevant documents must be returned to the Education Department on or before October 7, 1972.

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ARRIVAL OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION EXPERT

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A British expert on technical education, Mr. J.W. Gailer, will arrive in Hong Kong tomorrow (Tuesday) evening to carry out a general survey of Hong Kong's technical education.

During his five day visit, Mr. Gailer will meet the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning and the Assistant Director of Education (Technical), Mr. N.E. Barnes, and discuss with them the planning of technical institutes.

He will also hold talks with the Director of the Polytechnic, Mr. C.L. Old, on the general staffing and development aspects of the Polytechnic.

Mr. Gailer was in Hong Kong during 1966-67, when he carried out an investigation of local technical education, and a report was submitted to the government in March, 1967. He has a special interest in the education of technicians at craft level.

Mr. Gailer, who is Adviser on Technical Education for the Council for Technical Education and Training for Overseas Countries, is currently in Korea.

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VISIT BY MRS. ROWE TO ST. JAMES' SETTLEMENT

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Mrs. G.T. Rowe, wife of the Director of Social Welfare, spent more than an hour this morning visiting the St. James' Settlement in Kennedy Road.

She was accompanied by the Principal Social Welfare Officer, West Kowloon District Office, Mrs. Evelyn Doe. They were met at the Settlement by Mrs. Lee Wai-ngan, the Warden.

The Settlement is run by the Church Body of the Chinese Anglican Church, and the Right Reverend Gilbert Baker, the Bishop of Hong Kong and Macau, is the Chairman of its Executive Committee.

It has been receiving a government subvention for many years, and the sum approved for the current financial year is \$330,000.

The Settlement was inaugurated at the end of 1949 to provide recreational, literacy, and practical training facilities for children in the Wan Chai district. From a small beginning, it was extended as the need arose and funds became available.

The workshops were completed in 1961, the main building in 1963, and the Stone Nullah Centre in 1969.

The objectives of the Settlement are to establish and run a centre to provide social service and practical training for the neighbourhood, to make possible training for people interested in social work, and to consider ways of promoting the welfare of the neighbourhood.

Activities include a day nursery, a children's play centre, clubs for boys and girls, youth clubs, clubs for mothers, a dental clinic, a club for old people and a library.

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FINES IMPOSED ON OPERATORS OF UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESSES

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The Urban Services Department today reiterated its determination to clamp down on unlicensed food businesses in urban areas to safeguard public health.

A spokesman said the department would continue to request the court to impose daily fines on illegal food business operators as a deterrent against this public health hazard.

He cited two recent cases in which the court imposed a daily fine, in addition to a lump-sum fine, on the convicted operator.

In one case, the offender was fined \$800 for failing to comply with a court order to close down his illegal restaurant, and another \$100 for running the business without a licence. In addition, the court imposed a daily fine of \$5 for 40 days.

The other offender was fined \$250 for running an illegal restaurant, plus a daily fine of \$5 for 71 days. He was also fined \$150 for failing to keep the food room clean.

The spokesman said that in order to discourage the continuous operation of unlicensed food business, it was necessary to impose heavy fines which really hurt the pockets of the offenders.

The Food Business By-laws stipulate that anyone found guilty of an offence under these by-laws is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and three months imprisonment.

If the offence is a continuous one, the offender is liable, in addition to the fixed penalty, to a fine of \$50 for each day during which the illegal business is found operating.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSIGNIA PRESENTATION

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Metered parking facilities in Upper and Lower Albert Roads and the slip road to the south of the American Consulate will be suspended from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday (October 4).

This is one of the special traffic arrangements being made for guests at the presentation of insignia ceremony at Government House.

All cars carrying guests may enter Government House by the main gate. Those bearing G.H. Labels may park in the forecourt or tennis courts as directed, or return at 11.40 a.m. to pick up the guests.

Vehicles bearing Blue Labels must exit at the east gate and park at the above mentioned parking spaces.

All cars parked inside Government House should leave by the east gate.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.