



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, November 3, 1972

PAY AND ALLOWANCE INCREASES FOR AUXILIARY FORCES

Government today announced details of substantial increases in pay as well as in the daily ration allowance and bounty pay for volunteer members of all the seven Auxiliary Forces.

Announcing this, a Government spokesman said these increases are back-dated to January 1 this year.

He said larger pay increases will be paid to members of the Auxiliary Police Force than the other Auxiliary Forces in an effort to attract more recruits to the Force.

The new pay scales for the other Auxiliary Forces represent an all-round increase of about 20 per cent in the pay, allowance and bounty pay. This is estimated to cost the Government an extra \$3.9 million this year.

The ration allowance and bounty pay increases are effected by Auxiliary Forces Pay and Allowances (Amendment) Regulations 1972, and the new pay scales for all the Auxiliary Forces are contained in a new Schedule, both published in today's Government Gazette.

The daily rate of ration allowance for all the Forces is raised from \$8 to \$10. The special flying allowance for pilots in the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force is increased from \$3 to \$3.60 per hour.

/Bounty

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Bounty pay for members of the Auxiliary Police is raised from \$215 to \$500, and for members of the other Auxiliary Forces, from \$215 to \$260.

The pay and allowance increases affect the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force, the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force, the Auxiliary Fire Services, the Auxiliary Medical Service, the Civil Aid Services and the Essential Services Corps.

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NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR P.W.D. OFFICIALS

Mr. A.S. Robertson, formerly Director of Water Supplies, has been appointed to a new post of Deputy Director of Public Works, and Mr. W.T. Knight, formerly Principal Government Water Engineer, appointed Director of Water Supplies.

Their appointments, effective from November 1, 1972, are published in today's (Friday) Government Gazette.

Government also announced that the service of the Director of Public Works, the Hon. J.J. Robson, who would normally be retiring next year, has been extended for another two years until July, 1975.

Mr. Robertson first joined the Public Works Department in March, 1953, and had been with the Waterworks Office since then.

He was appointed Director of Water Supplies in June, 1969, and has acted Director of Public Works on several occasions in the absence of Mr. Robson.

Mr. Knight has been with the Public Works Department for more than 20 years, and has acted on several occasions as Director of Water Supplies in the absence of Mr. Robertson.

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TAI PO ROAD TO BE WIDENED

Work will start early next year on the construction of a climbing lane on the existing Tai Po Road near the Chinese University of Hong Kong in the New Territories.

The project involves the widening of about 4,800 feet of the existing 22-foot-wide dual-lane carriageway in Tai Po Road into a 34-foot-wide three-lane carriageway.

Certain sharp bends along this length of the road will be improved while facilities for right-turning traffic into the Chinese University campus will also be provided.

Commenting on the project, a spokesman for the Public Works Department said: "The proposed road improvement will not only increase the capacity of Tai Po Road near the Chinese University, but also minimize the likelihood of accidents resulting from drivers trying to overtake slow-moving vehicles on a 'tortuous' road."

Construction work will start in January next year and should be completed in 18 months' time.

The estimated cost of the project is \$2.7 million.

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ON LANTAU ISLAND

The Ngong Ping Access Road, leading to the monasteries on Lantau Island, reduce the existing potential hazards for drivers.

The works to be carried out involve minimal widening of the more dangerous bends, improvement to the sight lines and the provision of passing places wherever necessary.

Repairs of damaged channels and provision of cross-road drains will also be carried out. Safety barriers and warning signs are to be erected at dangerous locations.

The improvement works are only interim measures to improve the existing access road, which traverses hilly terrain and is tortuous with sharp bends and very steep gradients.

These conditions are very dangerous for vehicular traffic, and a long-term solution to the problem of providing adequate access to Ngong Ping will be studied in more detail.

The interim improvement work is expected to begin next month, and will take about nine months to complete.

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WAYS TO PREVENT FIRES

The possibility of fires breaking out has now increased with the advent of cooler and dryer weather.

To remind residents of fire hazards, a warning system comparable to that of typhoons has been introduced by the Fire Services Department.

However, a Fire Services spokesman said residents themselves must take an active part to prevent fire outbreak.

He said some 42 per cent of the fires in Hong Kong are caused by the indiscriminate disposal of lighted cigarette ends, matches and joss sticks.

These fires can easily be prevented with a little more care, he added.

Another 18 per cent are sparked off by faults in electrical equipment and appliances, which is the second major cause of fires, and the number of such outbreaks is continually increasing.

In most cases, such faults can easily be traced - either the wires were improperly installed in the first place or incorrect fuses fitted, or they were worn out but not replaced. "Hong Kong's climatic conditions take a hard toll on all electrical equipment", the spokesman said.

It may also be that the wiring was altered without the advice of a qualified electrician, or the output sockets were subject to serious overloading due to several adaptors being fitted.

Fires are also caused by improper maintenance of kerosene stoves, by naked flames being exposed near inflammable substances, and by sparks from faulty engines and electric motors.

/Housewives

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Housewives can prevent fires by placing their cooking stoves securely in position to avoid being knocked over by children, animals or the wind.

They must never refuel their stoves while still lit. "Always extinguish the stove and allow it to cool down before fueling".

In factories, workers and supervisors should always keep their equipment or machinery in good clean condition and prevent the overloading of electrical circuits.

Inflammable goods must be placed well away from sources of fire or flame and when not in use should be kept in a Dangerous Goods Store.

A fire appliance will be displayed in this year's Agricultural Show next month where educational pamphlets on fire prevention will also be distributed to the visitors.

Should any member of the community at any time have any queries or require advice on fire prevention, they can ring the Fire Prevention Bureau H-222101.

The Bureau's motto is: "Help us to Help You". Its service is free and available 24 hours a day.

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CLEARANCE OPERATION IN KWUN TONG RESETTLEMENT ESTATE

The Resettlement Department today launched a clearance operation in Kwun Tong Resettlement Estate in which some 600 illegal hawker structures and scores of illegal shop extensions were demolished.

Apart from causing severe obstruction to tenants, these illegal structures had made cleansing work difficult and posed serious fire and health hazards.

As a result of years of misuse, the concrete surfaces on which the illegal structures stood, had deteriorated to such an extent that they have to be completely resurfaced.

All hawkers now trading in the clearance zone have been given temporary sites in a near-by bazaar to continue their trade.

Today's operation is yet another contribution by the Resettlement Department to the "Keep Hong Kong Clean" Campaign.

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BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared No. 168 Sai Yeung Choi Street to be in a dangerous condition and ordered demolition.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that this three storey pre-war building was inspected following collapse of a small portion of the roof subsequent to the June rainstorm.

The floors were opened up under order for examination when it was found that the structural timbers of the roof and both floors were extensively decayed and there is a possibility of further collapse.

In addition there are signs of settlement in the party wall adjoining No. 166 and spalling of reinforced concrete in the kitchen block.

Notice of intention to apply for a Closure Order in Kowloon District Court at 9.30 a.m. on December 14, 1972, was posted today.

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METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The Medical and Health Department's methadone maintenance programme, originally planned to start on November 1, is being delayed because renovation of premises in Sai Ying Poon is continuing, and is now expected to begin early next month.

The programme will be carried out in the former mental hospital in High Street.

The programme will be under the supervision of Dr. T.M. Teoh, who retired from government service seven years ago as a Principal Medical Officer, and who is giving up private practice in order to accept the responsibility.

The staff will comprise seven nurses, a number of medical social workers, laboratory technicians, clerks and other junior hands.

The programme is on a trial basis expected to last three years. One hundred and fifty patients will be accepted in the first year, increasing to 200 in the second and third years, making a total of 550 for the whole trial period.

It is expected that about ten patients will be admitted to the hospital at a time. They will comprise referrals from SARDA (The Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts), the central registry of drug addicts in the Secretariat for Home Affairs, government departments, and other voluntary agencies.

/The method is

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The method is to admit the patients who will stay in the hospital for a short while for clinical tests and assessments. After that, they will become out-patients, coming daily for a "blockade" dosage of methadone taken with orange juice, which is expected to block the craving for heroin.

The scheme is to cost an estimated \$2.1 million, including the cost of premises renovation.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.