



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1977

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WATER SUPPLIES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS SUSPENDED

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WATER SUPPLIES FOR PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS AND DISPLAY FOUNTAINS ARE TO BE SUSPENDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT IN VIEW OF THE GROWING THREAT OF WATER RESTRICTIONS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE P.W.D.'S PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER, MR. TOM TOMLINSON SAID THAT AS THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE RESERVOIR STORAGE LEVELS, MAINS SUPPLY FOR NON-ESSENTIAL USES COULD NO LONGER BE MAINTAINED.

+FOR THE SAKE OF FURTHER ECONOMY, IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN DECIDED TO WITHDRAW SUPPLIES EXTENDED ON A CONCESSIONARY BASIS FOR SUCH FACILITIES AS PRIVATE POOLS, MODEL BOAT PONDS, DISPLAY FOUNTAINS AND GARAGES,+ HE SAID.

+THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE CONCESSIONS,+ HE SAID, +WILL NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE GENERAL PUBLIC.+

MR. TOMLINSON SAID THAT CONCESSIONARY SUPPLIES TO PUBLIC POOLS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT HE WARNED THAT THESE TOO COULD BE TERMINATED AT SHORT NOTICE DEPENDING ON THE OVERALL STORAGE POSITION.

+THE LITTLE RAIN WE'VE HAD IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS HAD VERY LITTLE IMPACT ON THE RESERVOIRS, AND IT IS VERY IMPORTANT NOW FOR EVERYONE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT NOW TO CUT DOWN ON CONSUMPTION AND AVOID WASTE,+ HE STRESSED.

AT NINE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING, THE RESERVOIRS HELD ONLY 31,097 MILLION GALLONS OR 46.2 PER CENT OF THEIR TOTAL CAPACITY, COMPARED WITH 42,550 MILLION GALLONS OR 63.2 PER CENT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

MR. TOMLINSON SAID CONCESSIONARY SUPPLIES FOR STREET WASHING WERE ALSO BEING CURTAILED FOR MAXIMUM ECONOMY.

+INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO SWITCH TO WELL AND STREAM WATER FOR WASHING STREETS AND TO CUT DOWN ON THE USE OF MAINS WATER FOR THIS PURPOSE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

MAINS WATER FOR CLEANSING OF PLAYGROUNDS, MARKETS, HAWKER BAZAARS AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WOULD ALSO BE DRASTICALLY CUT BACK WITH MORE USE BEING MADE OF WATER FROM WELLS AND STREAMS.

MR. TOMLINSON EMPHASISED THAT WHILE THESE MEASURES WOULD LEAD TO CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS, HONG KONG COULD NOT AFFORD TO RELAX ITS EFFORTS TO ECONOMISE ON WATER CONSUMPTION.

/+IN FACT

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+IN FACT EVEN GREATER VIGILANCE IS REQUIRED NOW TO AVOID WASTAGE. EVERY ONE HAS A PART TO PLAY. IT IS ONLY BY A TOTAL COMMUNITY EFFORT THAT THE THREAT OF SEVERE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE MINIMISED,+ HE SAID.

MR. TOMLINSON SAID STAFF OF THE P.W.D.'S WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ALERTED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO POSSIBLE LEAKAGES AND THE NEWLY EXPANDED PROSECUTIONS UNIT WAS STEPPING UP ITS ACTIVITIES TO CLAMP DOWN ON WATER WASTERS.

THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, ALSO OPERATED REPORTING CENTRES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR WHERE PEOPLE COULD REPORT INSTANCES OF WASTAGE OR LEAKS AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT SO THAT PROMPT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.

THE NUMBER TO CALL ON HONG KONG ISLAND IS 5-726311, AND 3-948261 FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MEANWHILE, VARIOUS OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE ALSO TAKING ACTIVE STEPS TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY BEGUN A CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE ITS TENANTS TO AVOID WASTAGE AND NOTICES AND POSTERS WERE BEING PUT UP AT ALL COMMUNAL WASH AREAS AND BATHROOMS IN OLDER ESTATES AS A FURTHER REMINDER TO RESIDENTS TO USE WATER SPARINGLY.

MAINTENANCE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WERE MAKING SYSTEMATIC CHECKS OF ALL COMMUNAL TAPS TO ENSURE THAT ANY DEFECTS WERE REPAIRED IMMEDIATELY.

ESTATE STAFF WERE ALSO CONDUCTING FREQUENT PATROLS OF WASH AREAS TO EDUCATE TENANTS AND TO ENSURE THERE WAS NO WASTAGE OR ILLEGAL TAPPING.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CUTTING DOWN ON CONSUMPTION OF MAINS WATER BY SWITCHING TO WELL AND STREAM WATER FOR WATERING OF PUBLIC GARDENS AND AMENITY AREAS, AS WELL AS FOR STREET WASHING.

MAINS WATER TO MODEL BOAT PONDS IN RECREATIONAL AREAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN STOPPED, AND ALL FOUNTAINS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTROL WILL STOP PLAYING FROM MAY 25.

CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE ALSO BEEN DRAWN UP TO MOVE SEEDLINGS TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS FROM NURSERIES DEPENDING ON MAINS WATER TO NURSERIES WATERED FROM WELLS AND STREAMS.

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MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY F.S.D.
IN CASE OF WATER RESTRICTION
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT FIRE PARTICULARLY DURING THE CURRENT DRY SPELL.

THE APPEAL CAME AFTER A RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WATER RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED FROM JUNE 1 IF THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL RAINFALL BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH.

A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID : +ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO USE SEA WATER WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN FIRE-FIGHTING OPERATIONS IN CASE THERE IS WATER RESTRICTION.+

+SPECIAL UNITS CONSISTING OF A MAJOR PUMPING APPLIANCE AND A HOSE-LAYING LORRY WILL BE SET UP TO RELAY WATER FROM THE NEAREST SUPPLY POINT, SUCH AS THE SEAFRONT, TO THE FIRE SCENE,+ HE SAID.

FIRE BOATS WILL BE MOBILISED TO PUMP SEA WATER INTO LAND PUMPS SO THAT WATER CAN BE RELAYED TO THE SCENE OF FIRE.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST OF WATER MAINS WHICH WILL BE ON 24-HOUR SUPPLY IN CASE FRESH WATER HAS TO BE USED.

+AT THE SAME TIME,+ THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, +MINIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER WILL BE SPENT IN MAINTAINING AND TESTING OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT SO AS TO AVOID WASTAGE.+

IN ORDER TO KEEP UP THE EFFICIENCY OF FIREMEN, ONLY SEA WATER WILL BE USED FOR THE DAILY FIRE DRILLS IN STATIONS.

+THE PRESENT DRY WEATHER MEANS THERE IS A GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF FIRE UNLESS THE PUBLIC IS PREPARED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS,+ HE STRESSED.

HE REITERATED THAT CARELESSLY DISCARDED LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES WERE MAJOR CAUSES OF FIRE IN HONG KONG AND ASKED THE PUBLIC TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE WERE PROPERLY OUT BEFORE DISPOSING OF THEM.

+LESS FIRE SAVES MORE WATER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +EVERY GALLON OF WATER USED IN FIRE-FIGHTING IS A GALLON LESS IN THE RESERVOIRS.+

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WORK ON MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS CALLED TENDERS FOR AN EIGHT-STOREY COMPLEX IN MORRISON HILL, WAN CHAI, WHICH WILL BECOME THE NERVE CENTRE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S DENTAL SERVICE.

THE MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE, AS IT IS TO BE CALLED, WILL BE SITUATED BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND OI KWAN ROAD ADJACENT TO THE TANG CHI NGONG SPECIALIST CLINIC.

THE P.W.D.'S CHIEF ARCHITECT, MR. EDWIN WONG, SAID TODAY: +THE BUILDING WILL ACCOMMODATE A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DENTAL NURSES, A SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC, DENTAL SURGERIES AS WELL AS FACILITIES TO REPROVISION THE EXISTING DENTAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE WAN CHAI DENTAL CLINIC AT KENNEDY ROAD.+

+CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED TWELVE MONTHS LATER.+

+THE SUBSTRUCTURE CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT IS NOW ALMOST COMPLETE, AND THE TENDERS WE ARE NOW INVITING ARE FOR THE SUPERSTRUCTURE,+ MR. WONG SAID.

WHEN THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE BUILDING EARLIER THIS YEAR, HE SAID IT HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN HONG KONG'S DENTAL CONSERVATION SERVICE WHICH IS JUST GETTING INTO ITS STRIDE.

THIS CENTRE, SIR MURRAY SAID WILL TRAIN THE DENTAL NURSES AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS WHO WILL STAFF THE DENTAL CONSERVATION SCHEME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

SIR MURRAY ALSO PRAISED THE PHILANTHROPY OF SIR SHIU-KIN TANG WHO HAD GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE COST OF THE CENTRE.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIR SHIU-KIN TANG'S DONATIONS THE DENTAL NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DENTAL CLINIC WILL BE NAMED AFTER HIM.

MEANWHILE, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO CALLED TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF QUARTERS AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

THE P.W.D.' CHIEF ARCHITECT, MR. P. CHUNG, SAID THE NEW BLOCK WOULD BE BUILT IN THE HOSPITAL COMPOUND, IN THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF THE SISTERS' QUARTERS BLOCK.

+THE NEW 20-STOREY BUILDING WHICH WILL BE OVER A FOUR-FLOOR CAR PARKING PODIUM, WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF EIGHTY QUARTERS FOR MARRIED STAFF.+

MR. CHUNG SAID WORK ON THIS PROJECT WOULD START IN MID-JULY AND WOULD TAKE 20 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SWIMMERS URGED TO OBSERVE BASIC SAFETY RULES

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SWIMMERS ARE URGED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO BASIC SAFETY RULES WHEN BATHING AT BEACHES.

THE PLEA FOLLOWS TWO DROWNING INCIDENTS LAST WEEKEND.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY: +ONE OF THESE BASIC RULES IS NOT TO RELY ON SWIMMING AIDS SUCH AS RUBBER DINGHIES AND FLOATS, PARTICULARLY IF YOU ARE NOT A STRONG SWIMMER.

+ONE NEVER KNOWS WHETHER OR WHEN THE DINGHY WOULD LOSE ITS BOUYANCY. AND SHOULD IT SLIP OUT OF GRASP OR FLOW OUT OF REACH, THE SWIMMER MAY SUDDENLY FIND HIMSELF IN DEEP WATER AND HAVING TO STRUGGLE BY HIMSELF TO SHORE.+

OTHER PRECAUTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN ARE:

- * TRY NOT TO ENTER WATER UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY SOMEONE ELSE, PARTICULARLY IN PLACES WHERE THERE ARE NO LIFE-GUARDS=
- * NEVER ENTER WATER IF THE RED FLAG IS HOISTED=
- * NEVER ENTER WATER ON A FULL OR EMPTY STOMACH OR WHEN TIRED=
- * NEVER GO OUT OF DEPTH UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE DISTANCE IN SAFETY= AND
- * NEVER WEAR MASKS OR SNORKELS UNLESS YOU ARE TRAINED TO USE THEM.

LAST YEAR, 26 PEOPLE WERE DROWNED AT GAZETTED BEACHES AND SWIMMING POOLS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT MA LIU SHUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE RAILWAY LEVEL-CROSSING AT MA LIU SHUI WILL BE CLOSED FROM TIME TO TIME BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5 A.M. FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY (MAY 24 - 27) NEXT WEEK.

THE ARRANGEMENTS AIM TO FACILITATE THE DEMOLITION OF THE TEMPORARY STEEL OVERHEAD BRIDGE IN THE AREA.

TRAFFIC POLICE WILL BE ON THE SPOT TO DIRECT TRAFFIC.

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