



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1980

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RESULTS OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY
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THE RESULTS OF A SAMPLE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY CONDUCTED LAST SEPTEMBER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THERE WERE AT THAT TIME 74 600 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN HONG KONG REPRESENTING 3.4 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE, COMPARED WITH 55 600 OR 2.7 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 1978 AND 48 200 OR 2.3 PER CENT IN MARCH 1979.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THE INCREASE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 1.1 PER CENT (OR 26 400 PERSONS) OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS WAS TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE DUE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS.

THERE ARE USUALLY SUBSTANTIALLY MORE FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN MARCH.

THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS ESTIMATED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1979 SURVEY WAS 18 600 AS COMPARED WITH 4 500 IN THE MARCH 1979 SURVEY (AN INCREASE OF 14 100 PERSONS).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +IF THE SEPTEMBER 1979 RATE IS ADJUSTED FOR THIS SEASONAL INFLUENCE TO PUT IT ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE MARCH 1979 RATE, IT BECOMES 2.8 PER CENT.

+THE CORRECTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FIGURE AND THE MARCH 1979 RATE OF 0.5 PER CENT IS STILL STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

+ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN ACTUAL INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES TAKEN UP BECAUSE THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE ROSE BY 98 000.+

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, PERSONS AGED BETWEEN 14 - 64 WHO WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, OR WHO HAD WORKED FOR LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SURVEY DATE, BUT WERE LOOKING FOR WORK, WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT USED BY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN HONG KONG 'UNEMPLOYED' INCLUDED PEOPLE WHO HAD JUST LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO REALLY HAD NOT HAD MUCH CHANCE TO FIND A JOB- OR WHO HAD JUST, BUT ONLY JUST, TAKEN UP WORK- OR WHO HAD TEMPORARILY BEEN LAID OFF WORK (WORKING LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS)- OR WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE OR BECAUSE THEY WERE TEMPORARILY SICK.

HE SAID A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SURVEY WAS NOW AVAILABLE AND COPIES COULD BE OBTAINED ON REQUEST FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT WAS SOUGHT AT REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INTERVALS. THE NEXT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY WOULD BE HELD IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

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FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR SAI KUNG SCHOOL
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THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR +ONE OF THE FINEST NEW SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG+ WAS LAID TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES.

THE SCHOOL IS THE CO-EDUCATIONAL SAI KUNG HANG HAU SECONDARY SCHOOL AND IS NAMED AFTER PHILANTHROPIST, MR. CHENG CHEK-CHEE, WHO DONATED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION TOWARDS THE PROJECT.

SITUATED CLOSE TO THE JUNCTION OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY AND CLEARWATER BAY ROAD, THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE 24 CLASSROOMS CATERING FOR 1 350 STUDENTS IN FORMS I - VI.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED A CAPITAL SUBSIDY OF \$12.254 MILLION, WITH THE BALANCE OF \$1.618 MILLION COMING FROM MR. CHENG AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING SOME WHO ARE LIVING OVERSEAS.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE SCHOOL WAS DESIGNED TO THE MOST MODERN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND ENJOYED UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE SURROUNDINGS. +IT WILL BE ONE OF THE FINEST NEW SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+THESE ADVANTAGES, COMBINED WITH THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THE TEACHING STAFF, WILL ENSURE THE BEST EDUCATION AVAILABLE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU.+

MR. AKERS-JONES PRAISED THE SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU COMMUNITIES FOR THE ENERGY AND GENEROSITY WITH WHICH THEY HAD SUPPORTED THE PROJECT.

THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL WAS ALSO THE RESULT OF THE FORESIGHT AND ENERGY OF HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR. YAU KEI, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE OTHER DIRECTORS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WHO TOGETHER FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS HAD WORKED VERY HARD TO MAKE THE PROJECT A SUCCESS.

THE NEW SCHOOL, THE BUILDINGS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, WILL TAKE IN ITS FIRST STUDENTS NEXT SEPTEMBER. SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER, STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING IT HAVE BEEN HAVING LESSONS IN THE NEARBY SENG KUNG WUI YAT SHAU PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOL WILL BE OPERATED BY THE CHENG CHEK-CHEE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU DISTRICT LIMITED.

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REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS

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RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980 MUST BE PAID BY JANUARY 31.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) DEMAND NOTES HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO RATEPAYERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THEM SHOULD APPLY FOR A COPY AT THE RATES SECTION OF THE TREASURY, ROOM 203, HANG CHONG BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

+NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES SHOULD BE PAID BY THE DUE DATE,+ HE SAID.

TO AVOID QUEUING, RATEPAYERS ARE ADVISED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER BY POST, OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT WOULD BE IMPOSED ON LATE PAYMENTS. A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNT, INCLUDING THE INITIAL FIVE PER CENT, IF LATE PAYMENTS WERE STILL NOT PAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PREMISES BUT REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE RATING ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THERE WOULD BE NO REFUND IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED, OR INTENDED TO BE USED, WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

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NEW SERVICE RESERVOIR FOR TAI O

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD A NEW SERVICE RESERVOIR AND TO EXTEND THE EXISTING WATER TREATMENT WORKS AT TAI O, LANTAU ISLAND TO FURTHER IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY TO THE AREA.

TENDERS FOR THE WORKS WILL BE INVITED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE NEW SERVICE RESERVOIR WILL BE BUILT ON A SITE NEXT TO THE EXISTING ONE. IT WILL HAVE A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 490 CUBIC METRES.

THE EXTENSION TO THE WATER TREATMENT WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PRESSURE FILTER AS WELL AS UPGRADING CHEMICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES AND ENLARGING STORAGE AREAS.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARRACK ROOM ACCOMMODATION AND OFFICE FOR STAFF.

ON COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PROJECT, THE CAPACITY OF THE TREATMENT WORKS WILL BE RAISED FROM 910 TO 1 460 CUBIC METRES A DAY.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL BEGIN IN APRIL AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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CHEMISTRY TEACHERS TO DISCUSS SYLLABUS

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THREE HUNDRED CHEMISTRY TEACHERS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR THIS SATURDAY (JANUARY 5) TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT REVISED +CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS+ FOR FORMS IV AND V.

THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR IS TO INTRODUCE THE DRAFT SYLLABUS TO THE TEACHERS AND TO INVITE GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THEM.

THE CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS WAS RECENTLY REVISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHEMISTRY EXAMINATION SYLLABUS OF THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY.

+AFTER COLLATING COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES, THE DRAFT SYLLABUS WILL BE FINALISED THIS SUMMER,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE ILLUSTRATED TALKS, DISCUSSIONS AND AN EXHIBITION OF PRACTICAL WORK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL, HE SAID. A DISPLAY OF CHEMISTRY BOOKS WILL ALSO BE ARRANGED.

MRS. LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS WILL GIVE AN OPENING ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR, TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN INTRODUCTORY TALK BY MR. W.M. TANG, SENIOR INSPECTOR (CHEMISTRY).

TWO CHEMISTRY INSPECTORS, MR. W.S. CHAN AND MR. K.M. MOK WILL SPEAK ON THE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT OF THE REVISED SYLLABUS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON, FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON THE DRAFT REVISED +CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHEMISTRY SYLLABUS+. IT WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 5) AT THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL, ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON, FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.30 PM.

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OPENING OF LEGAL YEAR

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A CHURCH SERVICE TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR WILL BE HELD AT 4 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 7) IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, WILL INSPECT A MILITARY GUARD OF HONOUR AT EDINBURGH PLACE AFTER THE SERVICE.

THERE WILL THEN BE ADDRESSES IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL BY SIR DENYS= THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. JOHN GRIFFITHS= AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, MR. HENRY LITTON.

AFTER THE CEREMONIES, A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF CITY HALL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONIAL OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR COMMENCING WITH A SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AT 4 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 7).

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN INSPECTION OF A GUARD OF HONOUR BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS AT EDINBURGH PLACE AT 4.45 PM. SIR DENYS TOGETHER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION WILL GIVE SPEECHES AT 5 PM IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL WHERE SEATS WILL BE RESERVED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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HAPPY VALLEY TRAMS TO STOP EARLIER

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TRAM SERVICES FROM HAPPY VALLEY TO KENNEDY TOWN AND SHAU KEI WAN WILL STOP AT 11.30 PM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 5) AND AGAIN ON JANUARY 11 AND 12 TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER.

ON THESE DAYS THE LAST TRAM FROM HAPPY VALLEY FOR SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE AT 11.24 PM AND THAT FOR KENNEDY TOWN WILL LEAVE WITHIN SECONDS.

THE LAST TRAMS FROM SHAU KEI WAN AND KENNEDY TOWN FOR HAPPY VALLEY WILL BE AT 10.26 PM AND 10.46 PM RESPECTIVELY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO COMPLETE THE NIGHT WORK SO AS NOT TO CAUSE DISRUPTION TO THE NORMAL TRAM SERVICE IN HAPPY VALLEY ON THE FOLLOWING MORNINGS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRISON OFFICER RETIRING

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AN ASSISTANT OFFICER 1 OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, MR. MOHAMED SAFDAR IS RETIRING AFTER MORE THAN 28 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. SAFDAR IS THE LAST JUNIOR PRISON OFFICER ON EXPATRIATE TERMS TO LEAVE THE PRISON SERVICE. TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR. T.G. GARNER WILL PRESENT HIM A SOUVENIR ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES AT A CEREMONY AT THE PRISON OFFICERS' CLUB IN STANLEY AT NOON ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 5).

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED, LEAVING GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MURRAY BARRACKS CAR PARK

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE MURRAY BARRACKS OPEN AIR CAR PARK IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 5 PM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 5) TO 7 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 7).

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE IS TO MAKE THE SITE AVAILABLE FOR A FUN FAIR TO BE STAGED ON SUNDAY.

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