



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
OPENING OF METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CLINIC ADVANCED	1
NEW POST OFFICE OPENS ON MONDAY	2
HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS ON MONDAY	3
HONG KONG REGIMENT'S 122ND ANNIVERSARY	4
EMPLOYMENT UP IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES	4
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK — USEFULNESS BEYOND DOUBT	5

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976

- 1 -

OPENING OF METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CLINIC ADVANCED

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT ITS FIRST METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CLINIC WILL BE OPENED EARLIER THAN PLANNED +IN CASE A LARGE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS MAY REQUIRE TREATMENT+.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. G.H. CHOA, SAID THE DETOXIFICATION CENTRE, TO BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE VIOLET PEEL CLINIC IN WAN CHAI, WILL BE OPENED ON TUESDAY (JUNE 1) INSTEAD OF JUNE 7 AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION TO PUT FORWARD THE OPENING DATE WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MORE DRUG ADDICTS WOULD REQUIRE TREATMENT AS A RESULT OF RECENT SEIZURES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES OF VERY LARGE QUANTITIES OF NARCOTICES.

DR. CHOA SAID FACILITIES NOW AVAILABLE INCLUDE FOUR EXISTING METHADONE MAINTENANCE CENTRES AND THE NEW DETOXIFICATION CENTRE.

+WE SHALL, OF COURSE, CONSIDER OPENING MORE CENTRES SHOULD THE SITUATION WARRANT IT,+ HE ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR SAID EACH OF THE FOUR CENTRES -- EASTERN STREET CENTRE IN WESTERN DISTRICT, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE IN SAN PO KONG, HOMANTIN HEALTH CENTRE AT PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN TSUEN WAN -- IS CAPABLE OF TREATING 1,000 ADDICTS PER DAY.

THE NEW DETOXIFICATION CENTRE AT VIOLET PEEL WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO TAKE IN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER, BUT ONLY 40 NEW CASES WILL BE ADMITTED EACH DAY.

+THIS IS BECAUSE AN ADDICT MUST BE MEDICALLY EXAMINED AND CAREFULLY SCREENED BEFORE HE IS PUT ON THE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

ONCE THE ADDICT IS PUT ON THE PROGRAMME HE WOULD BE GIVEN A DAILY DOSAGE OF METHADONE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. THE DOSAGE IS GRADUALLY REDUCED UNTIL THE ADDICT IS COMPLETELY WEANED.

IF AN ADDICT RESPONDS FAVOURABLY AT THE END OF THE TREATMENT PERIOD, HE WILL BE ASKED TO COME BACK FOR CHECK-UPS ONCE A MONTH FOR A YEAR.

IF, HOWEVER, HE FAILS TO RESPOND SUCCESSFULLY TO THE DETOXIFICATION METHOD, HE WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR TRANSFER TO THE METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME.

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SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976

- 2 -

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE DETOXIFICATION SCHEME IS THAT FEMALE ADDICTS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION.

THE CENTRE WILL OPERATE FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. ON WEEK DAYS AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE FOUR METHADONE MAINTENANCE CENTRES ARE OPEN DAILY FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M. SOME 6,800 DRUG ADDICTS HAVE NOW BEEN REGISTERED ON THE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME.

NOTE TO EDITORS :

A TEA RECEPTION WILL BE HELD AT 3.30 P.M. ON MONDAY (JUNE 7) AT THE VIOLET PEEL METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRE TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE. THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. G.H. CHOA, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICES, MR. E.I. LEE, WILL SPEAK. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION AND TO HAVE THE OCCASION COVERED.

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NEW POST OFFICE OPENS ON MONDAY
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THE NEW LAM TIN POST OFFICE AT LAM TIN ESTATE, PING TIN STREET, KWUN TONG, WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (MAY 31).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POST OFFICE SAID ITS OPENING WOULD MARK A FURTHER STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

+IT ALSO BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES TO 71, INCLUDING A MOBILE POST OFFICE OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

A FULL RANGE OF POSTAL SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THIS NEW OFFICE, EXCEPT FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF INSURED LETTERS AND BOXES. ITS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 3-356285.

THE BUSINESS HOURS WILL BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND 2.15 P.M. TO 5 P.M. DURING WEEK DAYS, AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

A STAMP VENDING MACHINE PROVIDING 10-CENT STAMPS 24 HOURS A DAY HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED AT THIS OFFICE.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO MAIL DELIVERY ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 2) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY FOR THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL WHEN ALL POST OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED.

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976.

- 3 -

HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS ON MONDAY
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POLLING TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR THE 22ND TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY (MAY 31) AFTERNOON AT THE KUK'S HEADQUARTERS AT 47, CUMBERLAND ROAD, KOWLOON.

FIFTY SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL STAND FOR THE ELECTION. THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE KUK, WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE NEW TERRITORIES, IS MR. CHAN YAT-SAN AND THE VICE-CHAIRMEN ARE MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG AND MR. LAM SHU-CHUN.

ON MONDAY MORNING, AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD TO SELECT 15 ORDINARY MEMBERS FOR KUK'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM AMONG SPECIAL COUNCILLORS AND RURAL COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMEN.

IN BOTH ELECTIONS; THE ELECTORATE WILL BE THE 110 MEMBERS OF THE FULL COUNCIL OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, CONSISTING OF SPECIAL COUNCILLORS, RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, AND NEW TERRITORIES UNOFFICIAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BY SECRET BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK ORDINANCE. MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE THE RETURNING OFFICER.

THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL BE ELECTED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT BELONG TO THE SAME ELECTORAL DISTRICT AS THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN= THE SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL BE ELECTED BY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT BELONG TO THE SAME ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AS THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE ELECTION ROOMS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR. DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL BE AT THE HEUNG YEE KUK HEADQUARTERS TO ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO MUST PRODUCE DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE BONA FIDE JOURNALISTS AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ELECTION ROOM.

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SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1976.

- 4 -

HONG KONG REGIMENT'S 122ND ANNIVERSARY

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MEN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) MOUNTED GUARD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TODAY (SATURDAY) AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 122ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE REGIMENT IN 1854.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, INSPECTED THE GUARD AT 9 A.M. TODAY.

THE MAJOR EVENT TO MARK THE FOUNDATION DAY OF THE REGIMENT WILL BE A DINNER AT THE OFFICERS' MESS IN BEACONSFIELD HOUSE ON MONDAY (MAY 31) EVENING.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE DINNER AND THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, LIEUT. GENERAL JOHN ARCHER, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE FUNCTION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT BEACONSFIELD HOUSE AT 8.15 P.M. ON MONDAY. PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE WELCOME TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL.

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EMPLOYMENT UP IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES

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A TOTAL OF 254,377 PEOPLE WAS ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES IN MARCH 1976, AN INCREASE OF 387 OR 0.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1975.

ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 123,439 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER ENGAGED WERE IN THE RETAIL SECTOR, 73,205 IN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESSES AND 21,354 IN THE WHOLESALE SECTOR.

THE OTHER 36,379 PEOPLE WERE ENGAGED IN A COMBINATION OF IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ACTIVITIES.

THE SURVEY ALSO RECORDED 102,507 PEOPLE BEING ENGAGED IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THE FIGURE WAS HIGHER BY 2,736 OR 2.7 PER CENT.

OF THESE 102,507 PEOPLE, 86,004 WORKED IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS, AND 16,503 IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

DETAILED FIGURES OF EMPLOYMENT BROKEN DOWN BY COMMODITY GROUPS OR NATURE OF BUSINESS ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK — USEFULNESS BEYOND DOUBT
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THE USEFULNESS OF PREVENTIVE SOCIAL WORK FOR YOUTH SUCH AS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, OUT-REACH PROGRAMMES AND YOUTH GUIDANCE IS 'BEYOND DOUBT' AND THESE SERVICES SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY AND EXPANDED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, EMPHASISED THIS IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR ON SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

MR. LEE DESCRIBED SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AS A FORM OF 'PREVENTIVE AND POSITIVE' SOCIAL WORK.

+IF IT IS OUR AIM TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SERVICES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS IN HELPING THEM SOLVE THEIR MANY SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL NOT DEVELOP BAD HABITS, BAD BEHAVIOUR AND BECOME DELINQUENT, THEN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK DEFINITELY HAS ITS VALUE AND CAN BE THE MOST PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE FORM OF FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICE.+

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED SHOULD THEREFORE FURTHER EXAMINE THE APPROACHES AND METHODS WHICH THEY NOW EMPLOY, THE CLIENTELE THEY SERVE AND THE PROGRAMMES USED IN CARRYING OUT THE PRESENT WORK, AND MUST NOT JUST STICK TO THE CONVENTIONAL WAY OF DELIVERING THEIR FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES.

THE DIRECTOR NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED IN A SIMILAR SEMINAR RECENTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR MORE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND THAT THE PREVENTIVE ASPECT OF THE WORK SHOULD BE EMPHASISED.

+IN THIS WAY, WE CAN WORK WITH HEADMASTERS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO SOLVE THE MANY EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN SO THAT THEY CAN CONCENTRATE ON THEIR STUDIES AGAIN.+

THIS CHANGE OF EMPHASIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORT ON THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF CRIME, HE ADDED.

MR. LEE CONTINUED THAT THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PROJECT LAUNCHED IN LATE 1974 HAD INCREASED FROM FIVE TO TEN SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AND OVER 11,800 SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD BEEN ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THIS SERVICE. HE HOPED THAT, BY THE CLOSE OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR, THE SERVICE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO MORE SCHOOLS.

+SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK IS ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID, +SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED OF THIS SERVICE ARE BEING REFERRED BY THE SCHOOLS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT OFFICE OR FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE IN THEIR DISTRICT FOR ASSISTANCE.+

FINALLY, MR. LEE STRESSED THAT A SOCIAL WORKER, WHETHER IN A FAMILY AGENCY OR A YOUTH SERVING AGENCY COULD NOT WORK ALONE. +HE NEEDS THE CO-OPERATION FROM THE HEADMASTERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN THEMSELVES IF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK IS TO SUCCEED.+