



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1978

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URBAN COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL

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FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1972, ALL DETAILS OF URBAN COUNCIL ELECTORS WILL BE TAKEN OFF THE ELECTORAL ROLL THIS YEAR TO PERMIT FORMERLY REGISTERED VOTERS TO CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE STILL QUALIFIED, AND NEW VOTERS TO ADD THEIR NAMES.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY MR. KUO KET-CHEN, REGISTRATION OFFICER FOR THE 1978 URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION REGISTRATION AND SEXENNIAL INQUIRY.

MR. KUO SAID: +EVERY SIX YEARS THE LAW REQUIRES THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMPLETE REVISION OF THE REGISTER THEREBY ENABLING THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO FIND OUT WHETHER ELECTORS ARE STILL ELIGIBLE TO REMAIN ON THE REGISTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO CHANGE THEIR POLLING STATIONS.

+THE REGISTRATION OFFICER WILL SEND PERSONAL LETTERS OF INQUIRY TO EACH OF THE ELECTORS ON THE CURRENT REGISTER WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 15, 1977.

+BY COMPLETING THE FORM AND RETURNING IT TO US, THEY WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES INCLUDED IN THE NEXT REGISTER OF ELECTORS. THIS WILL ENABLE THEM TO VOTE IN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR ANOTHER SIX YEARS,+ MR. KUO ADDED.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT STARTING FROM TOMORROW THE GOVERNMENT WILL MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE BOTH RE-REGISTRATION AND FIRST TIME REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR FUTURE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION AS ELECTORS, PEOPLE MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE, HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS AND BE QUALIFIED UNDER ONE OF THE 23 CATEGORIES IN THE FRANCHISE.

THE 23 CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE ENTITLED TO BE REGISTERED AS URBAN COUNCIL VOTERS INCLUDE SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS, UNIVERSITY GRADUATES AND STUDENTS, TAXPAYERS, RATEPAYERS, TEACHERS, DOCTORS, NURSES, MIDWIVES, CIVIL SERVANTS, AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL POST OFFICES, CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ALL OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS.

QUALIFIED ELECTORS MAY REGISTER BY POST UP TO JUNE 30, 1978 OR IN PERSON UP TO AUGUST 31, 1978.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGISTRATION PROCEDURES MAY BE MADE BY TELEPHONING THE ELECTORAL AND JURY SECTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS' OFFICE AT 5-765912.

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SNT TO HOST YAN YAT PARTY

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ABOUT 1,700 COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE ANNUAL YAN YAT PARTY WHICH WILL BE HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES AT OCEANIA RESTAURANT, OCEAN TERMINAL, TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (MONDAY) NIGHT.

THE PARTY - TO CELEBRATE WHAT IS TRADITIONALLY +EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY+ IN THE LUNAR CALENDER - HAS BECOME A FEATURE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY LIFE SINCE IT WAS FIRST STAGED AS A SMALL GARDEN PARTY FOR RURAL LEADERS AT ISLAND HOUSE 28 YEARS AGO.

THE PARTY WAS INTRODUCED IN 1950 AS A MARK OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE WORK PERFORMED BY COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THIS YEAR'S PARTY IS TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST ENTERTAINING.

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTION OF AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME BY NEW TERRITORIES YOUNGSTERS AT LAST YEAR'S PARTY, A SIMILAR BUT MORE STREAMLINED PROGRAMME HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED THIS YEAR BY ARTS PROMOTIONS ORGANISATIONS IN YUEN LONG, TAI PO, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

THE TWO-HOUR PROGRAMME FEATURES CHINESE MUSICAL AND CHORAL PERFORMANCES, CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCES AND A MODERN CHINESE OPERA.

ALL THE PERFORMERS ARE NEW TERRITORIES YOUNGSTERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF CULTURAL AND ARTS GROUPS WHICH HAVE MUSHROOMED IN THE DISTRICT IN RECENT YEARS. THE PERFORMANCES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DINNER RECEPTION.

THE GUEST LIST WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF UMELCO AND HEUNG YEE KUK, RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, REPRESENTATIVES FROM 651 VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MEMBERS OF THE SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, CHAIRMEN OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, HEADS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND MEMBERS OF OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH NEW TERRITORIES AFFAIRS WILL ALSO ATTEND.

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JOB FOR A DETERMINED WHEELCHAIR YOUTH  
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NOTHING COULD STOP HONG KING-MAN, A 26-YEAR-OLD YOUNG MAN FROM SEEKING A JOB, NOT EVEN HIS DISABILITY WHICH CONFINES HIM TO A WHEELCHAIR.

AND IT DID NOT TAKE LONG TO HAVE HIS PLAN MATERIALISED WHEN HE PUT IT INTO ACTION BY WRITING TO THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT LAST NOVEMBER EXPRESSING HIS WISH TO WORK.

WITHIN A WEEK, HE RECEIVED A REPLY OVER THE TELEPHONE FROM THE JOB PLACEMENT OFFICER, WHO, IN LEARNING HIS DIFFICULTY IN WALKING, TRAVELLED FROM HIS OFFICE IN KWUN TONG TO KING-MAN'S FOURTH FLOOR HOME IN TAI WOR HAU ESTATE TO INTERVIEW HIM AND ASSIST HIM IN FILLING THE APPLICATION FORM.

THE INTERVIEW REVEALED THAT KING-MAN HAD A GENUINE DESIRE TO WORK DESPITE HIS DISABILITY BROUGHT ABOUT BY A SERIOUS ILLNESS AT THE AGE OF TWO AND RATED BY A SPECIALIST AS 70 PER CENT DUE TO HIS FEEBLE LEGS AND A PARTIALLY NUMB HAND.

HE HAD IN THE PAST OPERATED A SECOND-HAND BOOK STALL NEAR THE ESTATE BLOCK WHERE HE IS STILL LIVING WITH HIS PARENTS WHO BOTH WORK IN FACTORIES.

BUSINESS WAS QUITE BRISK, BUT IT WAS ILLEGAL BEACUSE HIS STALL CAUSED OBSTRUCTION. POLICE LATER ACTED ON COMPLAINTS TO ARREST HIM AND BRING HIM BEFORE COURT.

THIS PUT AN END TO HIS SMALL BUSINESS. IDLE AT HOME, HE WAS TOLD BY A DISABLED FRIEND THAT HE COULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT, AND THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT HE DID.

+I KNEW I DID THE RIGHT THING, BECAUSE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP,+ KING-MAN SAID.

+THROUGH THEIR ASSISTANCE I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A DISABILITY ALLOWANCE OF \$200 A MONTH,+ HE ADDED.

HIS CALL FOR HELP IN LOOKING FOR A JOB WAS ANSWERED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE FIRST INTERVIEW.

IT WAS QUITE A TASK FOR THE OFFICER CONCERNED WHO FIRST WENT THROUGH THE NORMAL LIST OF EMPLOYERS WISHING TO TAKE DISABLED WORKERS.

BUT NONE OF THESE JOBS AVAILABLE WERE SUITABLE BECAUSE EITHER THE PLACE OF WORK WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM KING-MAN'S HOME MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO TRAVEL TO WORK, OR THE JOB DID NOT SUIT HIM WHO ONLY HAS ONE HAND FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.

THIS PROMPTED THE OFFICER TO LAUNCH A SPECIAL JOB HUNT FOR HIM BY KNOCKING THE DOORS OF MANUFACTURERS IN THE VICINITY OF HIS HOME.

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THE OFFICER WHO IS AS DETERMINED AS KING-MAN, TOOK THREE DAYS TO FIND AN EMPLOYER WHO NODDED HIS HEAD.

HE IMMEDIATELY PASSED THE GOOD NEWS TO KING-MAN AND DROVE HIM TO SEE THE EMPLOYER THE NEXT DAY.

KING-MAN GOT THE JOB AND IS NOW WORKING AS AN ASSEMBLING WORKER IN AN ELECTRONIC FACTORY ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM HIS HOME.

HE EARNS \$26 A DAY AND IS ENTITLED TO ALL FRINGE BENEFITS JUST LIKE OTHER WORKERS IN THE FACTORY.

+I CERTAINLY OWE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT A LOT IN PARTICULAR THE JOB PLACEMENT OFFICER WHO MADE SO MUCH EFFORTS IN FINDING ME A JOB,+ SAID KING-MAN.

HONG KING-MAN IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY DISABLED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SECURED EMPLOYMENT BY THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT WHICH WAS SET UP IN APRIL 1967 TO HELP THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, THE DEAF, THE BLIND, THE MENTALLY-RETARDED, AND FORMER LEPROSY AND TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT, MR. CHAN SHIU-WING SAID EMPLOYERS NOW BECOME LESS SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THESE WORKERS WHO HAVE PROVED THAT THEY CAN WORK AS WELL AS ANY ABLED PERSON.

+THIS TREND CAN BE REFLECTED BY THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS SECURED FOR THESE PEOPLE BY THE UNIT - RISING FROM 306 IN 1975/76 TO 526 IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR - AN INCREASE OF 220 JOBS OR 71.9 PER CENT.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1977/78, THE UNIT HAS FOUND JOBS FOR 344 PEOPLE, BRINGING TO 2,977, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS SECURED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE UNIT.

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