



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1990

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AC MEMBERS URGED TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE (AC) MEMBERS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

SPEAKING AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT JOINT AREA COMMITTEE DAY CAMP AT BAPTIST ASSEMBLY, FANLING, MR LAN SAID A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN LAUNCHED IN THE DISTRICT TO PUBLICISE THE THREE-TIER ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

"THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE HOUSEHOLD VISITS, DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND A LARGE-SCALE VOTER REGISTRATION DAY," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT HAD MORE THAN 110,000 REGISTERED VOTERS OR ABOUT 44 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S ELIGIBLE VOTERS.

"SINCE THE START OF THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE, FEEDBACK HAS BEEN GOOD WITH A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 13,000 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS RETURNED.

"I SINCERELY HOPE THAT AC MEMBERS AS COMMUNITY LEADERS, WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT THESE MEANINGFUL ELECTION ACTIVITIES," MR LAN SAID.

EARLIER, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY PRAISED THE AC MEMBERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING TERRITORY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS' WELFARE.

HE SAID THE AC'S HAD BEEN SERVING AS AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS BY CLOSELY MONITORING AND PARTICIPATING IN DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG IS IN A NEW HISTORIC STAGE OF POLITICAL TRANSITION TOWARDS A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, MR LAN SAID THERE WAS AN EVEN STRONGER NEED FOR DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY REFLECT PUBLIC OPINIONS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TODAY'S EVENT REFLECTED THE SPIRIT OF CLOSE CO-OPERATION, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND PLANNING OF AC MEMBERS.

SHARING HIS VIEWS, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DUNCAN PESCOD, SAID: "THROUGH REGULAR MEETINGS, AC MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO VOICE THE VIEWS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND HELP IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

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"THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY AC'S HAVE ALSO BROUGHT FUN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS."

ABOUT 250 MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT'S EIGHT AC'S TOOK PART IN THE DAY CAMP ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENHANCE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG AC MEMBERS.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED GAMES, BARBECUE, A KARAOKE COMPETITION AND SPORTING EVENTS. THE WINNERS WERE PRESENTED PRIZES BY MR LAN.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVT
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS VITAL IN THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH ARE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, SAID THIS WHEN ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "VOTING IS OUR RIGHT" VARIETY SHOW AND GAMES DAY IN TSEUNG KWAN O TODAY (SUNDAY).

"DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC MEANS REGISTERING AS VOTERS, SHOWING CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY, GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION CANDIDATES AND THEIR PLATFORMS, VOTING IN THE ELECTIONS AND MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE ELECTED.

"THEREFORE, SIGNING UP AS A VOTER IS THE START AND AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE WHOLE PROCESS."

MR TONG SAID SO FAR OVER 26,000 OF THE 64,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN SAI KUNG HAD REGISTERED.

"THE FIGURE IS LIKELY TO INCREASE IN VIEW OF THE GROWING POPULATION OF TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN," HE SAID.

"THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS BEEN RECEIVING MORE THAN 200 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS EACH DAY SINCE THE TERRITORY-WIDE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN STARTED IN MID-AUGUST," HE ADDED.

THE VARIETY SHOW AND GAMES DAY WAS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AS PART OF THE PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISTRICT'S VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS, A KARAOKE SESSION, STALL GAMES AND A CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION.

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THE STALL GAMES CARRIED THE THEMES OF VOTER REGISTRATION, WORK OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND NEXT YEAR'S THREE-TIER ELECTIONS.

SPECIAL VOTER REGISTRATION COUNTERS WERE SET UP AT THE VENUE TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN UP. TELEVISION ARTISTES WERE PRESENT TO ASSIST THE FILLING IN OF REGISTRATION FORMS.

A BROADCASTING VAN TOURED THE DISTRICT TO CALL ON RESIDENTS TO SIGN UP. REGISTRATION FORMS, INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND SOUVENIRS WERE DISTRIBUTED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE SHOW'S OPENING WERE THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE, MR LAWRENCE LOUR.

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BLITZ ON UNSAFE WORK SITES

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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE IS TAKING VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION ON SELECTED CONSTRUCTION SITES IN A BID TO RECTIFY UNSAFE PRACTICES OF BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

THE SPECIAL OPERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH MAINLY ON SITES WITH POOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE OR HIGH ACCIDENT RECORDS.

"UNDER THE THIRD PHASE OF THE FOUR-AND-A-HALF MONTH OPERATION, TASK FORCE TEAMS WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE HIGH-RISK AREAS INCLUDING PLACES LIABLE TO CAUSE FALLS OF PERSONS OR OBJECTS, WOODWORKING MACHINERY, WEARING OF SAFETY HELMETS AND THE USE OF LIFTING APPLIANCES SUCH AS GONDOLAS," THE DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF THE CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION WHICH BEGAN IN JULY, SOME CONTRACTORS WERE FOUND INDIFFERENT TO OUR CALL FOR SAFETY.

"MANY CONSTRUCTION FIRMS HAD NO SAFETY POLICY OR SAFETY OFFICERS, AND SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN PREVENTING INJURIES TO THEIR OWN WORKERS OR TENDED TO SHIFT THE BLAME FOR UNSAFE ACTS ON TO WORKERS.

"GIVEN THE SOARING ACCIDENT TOLL IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN RECENT MONTHS, WE CANNOT TOLERATE SUCH AN APPALLING SITUATION," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID PROSECUTION WOULD BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST CONTRACTORS WHO FLOUTED SAFETY LAWS, ADDING THAT 167 SUMMONSES HAD SO FAR BEEN RECOMMENDED AGAINST 110 SITES BY THE TASK FORCE DURING THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE OPERATION.

"THE TASK FORCE MAY TAKE EVEN MORE DRASTIC ACTION IF CONTRACTORS WHO WERE INDIFFERENT TO SITE SAFETY MANAGEMENT DO NOT MAKE IMPROVEMENT," HE ADDED.

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MORE OPEN SPACE FOR TAI PO

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S NORTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OPEN SPACE NEAR TING KOK ROAD IN AREA 2 AND SOUTHEAST OF FU SHIN ESTATE IN AREA 17, TAI PO.

THE PROJECTS ARE PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO NEW TOWN.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND SITTING-OUT AREAS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 28.

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