



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, April 9, 1976

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CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE  
EFFECTIVE ON JUNE 1

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The Child Care Centres Ordinance providing for the registration, control and inspection of child care centres will come into operation on June 1 this year.

This was announced by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, today (Friday). He said: "Parents who need child care services should approach the centres that are registered with the Social Welfare Department where their children will be properly looked after."

All child care centres that are at present in operation must register within 12 months after the implementation of the Ordinance, that is, before May 30, 1977. However, they will be allowed sufficient time to comply with the full conditions of registration.

"A phased approach will be adopted whereby centres will be able to meet the requirements in stages over a period of three years," Mr. Lee noted.

Under the Ordinance, a child care centre is defined as any premises in which there are under care more than five children below the age of six and not of the same family.

"Before a centre is registered, certificates as to the suitability of the premises for use as a child care centre will be required from the Director of Fire Services and the Director of Public Works or the Housing Authority or the Building Authority," he said.

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Social Welfare Officers and Government Medical Officers will be appointed as inspectors and medical officers will be vested with the authority to enter and inspect any child care centre premises, examine records and require to be furnished with any information.

Mr. Lee noted that the standards which registered child care centres were expected to meet had been laid down in the Child Care Centres Regulations.

Centres are required to have on duty one staff member for every six resident children. For non-resident children, the ratio is one for every six children under two years of age and one for every 14 who are two years or older.

In day care, children under two must have 30 sq.ft of space each and those aged two or over 20 sq.ft. In the case of overnight care, it will be 35 sq.ft irrespective of age.

The Director said that regular fire drills were required. "Powers of entry into registered child care centre premises and adjacent premises are given to officers of the Fire Services Department to check on fire safety measures."

The regulations also cover health and sanitation matters including latrines and washing facilities, the proper preparation of food, furniture and equipment, and the medical examination of children and persons employed in child care centres.

Referring to the phased implementation of the Ordinance, Mr. Lee said the first stage would take place within one year of the enactment of

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legislation. "This involves compliance with all structural, fire safety and health requirements. During the year, some progress must also be made towards adequate training and staffing of the centres and a satisfactory dietary scale and programme of activities must be introduced.

"A year later, the ratio of staff to children and the floor area allotted to each child must be up to the standard prescribed and further progress must be made towards achieving a target of trained staff.

"Within three years, all staff must have obtained the required minimum academic qualifications."

A leaflet on the Child Care Centres Ordinance has been published for the guidance of the general public, especially parents who intend to send their children to these centres.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from all City District Offices in the urban area; District Offices in the New Territories; Family Health Clinics of the Medical and Health Department; and District Offices and Community and Youth Centres of the Social Welfare Department.

Detailed information on the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for child care centre operators are available at the office of the Child Care Centres Inspectorate, 21, Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun.

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AMENDMENTS TO CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE

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The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Ordinance is to be amended to enable a person involved in a corrupt or illegal practice to give evidence against another party without being regarded as an accomplice to the act.

The proposed amendments are contained in the Corrupt and Illegal Practices (Amendment) Bill 1976 which is published in today's gazette.

Under this Bill two new sections are to be added to the principal Ordinance, one relating to the corrupt and the other to the illegal practices covered by the Ordinance.

These new sections follow a similar provision of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, section 22, which provides that a person giving or receiving a bribe should not be regarded as an accomplice when action is being taken against the other person involved.

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H.K. CONGRATULATES NEW PRIME MINISTER ON APPOINTMENT

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, has sent a message to the new Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, congratulating him on his appointment.

The Governor was replying to a message from Mr. Callaghan on leaving the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Prime Minister sent his "warm appreciation of the services you and your administration have given and continue to give in the interests of the people of Hong Kong."

Mr. Callaghan added: "I am only sorry that as things have turned out I have not had the opportunity to visit Hong Kong as Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary."

In his message, Sir Murray said: "Your kind message has been appreciated by all concerned in the administration of Hong Kong. They join me in congratulating you on your appointment as Prime Minister and in wishing you and Mrs. Callaghan well in No. 10 Downing Street."

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WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB PRAISED

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The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, today commended the Western District Women's Welfare Club for the many services it provided for the community.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Club's 13th Term Office-Bearers at the City Hall, he said, the Club, since it was established 21 years ago, had been making outstanding achievements in the field of social welfare and education under the able guidance of its women leaders.

Mr. Lee noted that the services operated by the Club benefitted not only the housewives and working women in the district but also the young and old alike.

He said that the office-bearers of previous years had all been very enthusiastic in promoting the welfare of the public, contributing both money and efforts. He was sure the coming members would do the same.

Mr. Lee wished them every success and said the Social Welfare Department would do its best to support the Club in promoting welfare services.

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### AMS TO HOLD PROFICIENCY COMPETITION

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The Auxiliary Medical Service, with a membership now exceeding 6,000, will hold its biennial Competition Finals in the sports ground of Kowloon Hospital, Argyle Street on Sunday (April 11).

Events in the Finals will include inspection of uniform and equipment, squad drills, stretcher drills and first aid and nursing. The AMS sub-units which have won the Regional Competitions will take part in the Finals.

Regional Competitions started as early as October last year when 45 ambulance depot teams and 38 auxiliary nurses teams competed for many trophies awarded for various aspects of proficiency.

Trophies for both Regional and the Final Competitions were donated by the present and former Unit Controllers of the Service. These include the MacKenzie Shield presented by Dr. D.J.M. MacKenzie, the Teng Cup by Dr. P.H. Teng, and the Peggy Choa Shield by Dr. Gerald Choa.

Other trophies were also received from senior officers of the Medical and Health Department and other social dignitaries, including the Lady FUNG Ping-fan Cup, the Tse Long-chiu Cup and the K.C. Wong Cup.

Officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps will act as judges for all final events and the AMS Band will provide music for the occasion.

Dr. Gerald Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services and currently the AMS Unit Controller, will present the trophies.

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Note to Editors: The competitions will begin at 9 a.m. and last until 11.30 a.m. You are invited to cover the occasion.

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ARRAN STREET EYE CLINIC TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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Work has begun on building an additional floor on the existing Arran Street Eye Clinic in Kowloon, providing accommodation for various kinds of medical facilities.

The additional floor, when completed in about six months, will be used for a special clinic for assessing the physically and mentally disabled. It will also house an ear mould laboratory and a child development study clinic.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said today that because of the construction work the existing eye clinic sessions will be closed for about three months.

During this period, patients attending the Arran Street Eye Clinic will be seen at the Yau Ma Tei Polyclinic during the morning sessions.

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\$20,000 LIONS' DONATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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The Deputy Director of Education (Professional), Mr. Ho Nga-ming, will tomorrow receive contribution of \$20,000 from the District Governor, Lions International, District 303, Mr. Chauncey Ng, for two environmental studies projects to be carried out by pupils.

One of the projects, "Shore Watch", is to be launched later this month while the other, "Practical Aquatic Ecology", will begin in early May. The second project is a continuation of the "Clean Water Survey" in 1973.

The presentation of the Lions' contribution will take place at the Tung Koon District Society Fong Shu Chuen School in Tung Koon Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon.

It will be part of a ceremony during which prizes will be presented to winners of the Ninth School Vegetable Planting Competition sponsored jointly by the Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc. (Hong Kong) and Lions.

At the ceremony Lions gardening kits will be presented to 90 participating schools.

Prizes will also be distributed to winners of the School Children Flower Growing Competition, which was held in support of the recent Ninth Annual Urban Council Flower Show.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the ceremony, which will begin at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Among the Government officials taking part are two Assistant Directors of Education, Mr. Arthur Brown and Mr. Lam Tat-lau, also present will be the Director of Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc. (Hong Kong), Mr. Daniel Roth.

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