



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXCO APPROVES LICENSING SYSTEM FOR GUESTHOUSES

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE A PLAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) TO OPERATE A LICENSING SYSTEM FOR GUESTHOUSES.

THE PLAN WAS DRAWN UP BY A PLANNING COMMITTEE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CNTA, THE SECURITY BRANCH, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

OUTLINING DETAILS OF THE PLAN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR K.K. FUNG, SAID THE CNTA WOULD CONSULT THE RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS AND DISTRICT BOARDS ON THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS BEFORE INTRODUCING RELEVANT LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ORGANISATIONS TO BE CONSULTED WILL MAINLY BE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG HOTELS ASSOCIATION, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG HOTEL OWNERS LTD. AND THE HONG KONG YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION.

THE VIEWS OF CERTAIN DISTRICT BOARDS, SUCH AS YAU TSIM, WAN CHAI AND ISLANDS, WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT.

IT IS HOPED THAT CONSULTATION WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF MARCH.

MR FUNG SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED LICENSING SYSTEM WAS TO ENSURE THAT GUESTHOUSES COMPLIED WITH EXISTING REQUIREMENTS IN RESPECT OF FIRE SAFETY, STRUCTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AND HYGIENE CONDITIONS UNDER THE RELEVANT ORDINANCES.

THE SCOPE OF CONTROL WOULD INCLUDE ALL GUESTHOUSES WHICH PROVIDED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION TO TOURISTS AND TRANSIENTS AND WOULD EXCLUDE ACCOMMODATION NORMALLY LET FOR PERIODS OF A MONTH OR MORE.

"THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL THEREFORE BE DRAWN MOSTLY FROM EXISTING LEGISLATION, INCLUDING THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE.

"GUESTHOUSES WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT IN A CLEAN AND HYGIENIC CONDITION AT ALL TIMES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE", HE SAID.

MR FUNG ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 2,500 EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD FALL WITHIN THE MEANING OF A GUESTHOUSE. THESE WERE GUESTHOUSES FOR BUDGET TOURISTS IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS; HOTELS; HOLIDAY FLATS, SUCH AS THOSE ON CHEUNG CHAU; GUESTHOUSES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS; LOW-RISE MOTELS AND YOUTH HOSTELS.

/HOWEVER, HE

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICABLE TO REQUIRE ALL OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO BE LICENSED AT ONE TIME DUE TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS FACING THEM.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAD THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT THE LICENSING SYSTEM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES. IT HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE FIRST PHASE SHOULD COVER ONLY GUESTHOUSES FOR BUDGET TOURISTS AND HOTELS.

"IN RECOMMENDING THE PRIORITY FOR LICENSING, THE COMMITTEE HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT GUESTHOUSES IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS POSE HIGHER RISK, PARTICULARLY TO TOURISTS WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS, AND THAT THE IMAGE OF HONG KONG AS A TOURIST CENTRE SHOULD BE PROTECTED," MR FUNG NOTED.

HE SAID THE LICENSING PROCEDURES WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE STAGES - NOTIFICATION, PROCESSING, AND COMPLIANCE.

THE NOTIFICATION STAGE WOULD LAST FOR THREE MONTHS, COMMENCING ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION FOR THE LICENSING SYSTEM. DURING THIS STAGE, THE OPERATORS OF ALL TYPES OF EXISTING GUESTHOUSES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY OF THEIR OPERATIONS.

THE OPERATORS WOULD THEN BE GRANTED EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES WHICH WOULD EXEMPT THEM FROM LICENSING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SUCH CERTIFICATES WERE REVOKED.

IN THIS REGARD, ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED BY PHASE I OF THE SCHEME WOULD HAVE THEIR EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES REVOKED 24 MONTHS AFTER THE END OF THE NOTIFICATION PERIOD.

DURING THIS 24-MONTH GRACE PERIOD, THE OPERATORS SHOULD OBTAIN A LICENCE FROM THE LICENSING AUTHORITY; OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE TO CEASE BUSINESS, MR FUNG SAID.

NEW GUESTHOUSES FOR BUDGET TOURISTS AND HOTELS TO BE OPENED AFTER THE NOTIFICATION PERIOD WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN A LICENCE BEFORE COMMENCING BUSINESS.

ESTABLISHMENTS NOT COVERED BY PHASE I WOULD BE GRANTED EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES. IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED, THE LICENSING AUTHORITY WOULD CONSIDER THE TIMING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II OR ANY FURTHER PHASES.

ALL LICENCES AND EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES WOULD BE RENEWED ANNUALLY, AND LICENSED GUESTHOUSES WOULD BE INSPECTED TO ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUED TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

MR FUNG SAID IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED THAT THE LICENSING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO SUSPEND OR REVOKE A LICENCE IF LICENSING CONDITIONS WERE NOT COMPLIED WITH, AND THAT OPERATING A GUESTHOUSE WITHOUT A LICENCE, AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS FOR OBTAINING A LICENCE SHOULD BE CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

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NO NEW AIDS CASES REPORTED

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) CASES IN HONG KONG REMAINS AT 32 TO DATE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HOWEVER, ONE OF THE AIDS PATIENTS, WHO WAS CONFIRMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE IN 1988, DIED THIS MONTH.

THIS BRINGS TO 18 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY WHILE 14 OTHER PATIENTS ARE STILL ALIVE AND ARE UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT.

RELEASING THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER LAST YEAR, FIVE MORE PERSONS WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER TO 171.

AMONG THE INFECTED PERSONS, WHO WERE ALL MALE, ONE WAS AN INTRAVENOUS DRUG ABUSER AND WAS CONFIRMED TO BE AN AIDS PATIENT IN DECEMBER.

OF THE 171 CARRIERS, 55 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, ONE WAS AN INTRAVENOUS DRUG ABUSER, 18 WERE PERSONS WHO ATTENDED SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS, 57 WERE PATIENTS FROM GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AND 40 WERE REFERRALS FROM PRIVATE DOCTORS AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

UNDER THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME STARTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 148,000 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS.

MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO DECEMBER, 658,574 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 10 WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

/AIDS VIRUS

愛滋病 抗體 檢驗
AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing

衛生署
Department of Health

病毒組
Virus Unit

	Apr 85 - Nov 89		December 89		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve	No. tested*	No. +ve
經由政府醫院及診所介紹 Referrals from Govt. hospitals and clinics	9 499	53	184	4	9 683	57
經由私家醫生及補助醫院介紹 Referrals from private practitioners and subvented hospitals	1 853	39	9	1	1 862	40
到社會衛生科診所人數 Attendances at social hygiene clinics	129 219	18	2 126	0	131 345	18
血友病患者 Haemophiliacs	405	55	6	0	411	55
濫用注射藥物者 IV drug abusers	3 782	1	69	0	3 851	1
經由家庭計劃指導會介紹 Referrals from Family Planning Association	200	0	1	0	201	0
健康護理人員 Health care personnel	636	0	11	0	647	0
總數 TOTAL	145 594	166	2 406	5	148 000	171

*This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals

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	Aug 85 - Nov 89		December 89		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve	No. tested	No. +ve
香港紅十字會輸血服務 Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	646 051	10	12 523	0	658 574	10

PUBLICATION ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS ON SALE
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED THE HONG KONG SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS 1978-1988, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER THE MAIN STATISTICAL SERIES DESCRIBING HONG KONG'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING THAT TIME.

THE PRESENT EDITION IS THE SEVENTH IN THE SERIES. IT PRESENTS KEY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS GOING BACK TO 1978, WHERE AVAILABLE, BUT ITS MAIN EMPHASIS IS IN THE YEARS 1983-1988.

SUCH ANALYTICAL STATISTICS AS RATES, INDEXES AND RATIOS ARE INCLUDED, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO FACILITATE COMPARISONS.

THE PUBLICATION COVERS STATISTICS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS, LABOUR, NATIONAL INCOME, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE, DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICES, EXTERNAL TRADE, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM, CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, MONEY, BANKING AND FINANCE, PUBLIC FINANCE, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE AND REPORTED CRIME.

ALTOGETHER, THERE ARE 65 TABLES AND 35 CHARTS IN 16 SECTIONS.

THE PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE AT \$46 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALE COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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PUBLIC URGED TO JOIN COUNTRYSIDE TREE COMPETITION
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE LOCATED THE BEST TREE IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE WHILE VISITING THE COUNTRY PARKS DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS SHOULD NOT MISS THE CHANCE OF TAKING PART IN THE "BEST COUNTRYSIDE TREE COMPETITION".

THE COMPETITION, ONE OF THE EVENTS IN THE CURRENT "CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME" ORGANISED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, UNDER THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TREES AND TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THIS NATURAL ASSET OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

/THE SENIOR

THE SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR MARTIN LEUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTENDING TO TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF FEBRUARY 28.

PARTICIPANTS HAVE SIMPLY TO IDENTIFY A TREE WHICH THEY THINK IS THE BEST IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRYSIDE, TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH (3R SIZE) OF IT, AND RETURN THE PHOTOGRAPH, TOGETHER WITH A SIMPLE LOCATION MAP OF THE TREE AND A DULY COMPLETED ENTRY FORM, TO THE ORGANISER.

THE ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRES AND THE AFD'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION SECTION. EACH FORM MAY BE USED FOR ONE ENTRY ONLY.

"ATTRACTIVE PRIZES, INCLUDING A CAMERA SET, CAMPING EQUIPMENT, HIKING EQUIPMENT AND SPORTING GOODS GIFT COUPONS ARE OFFERED TO WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION," MR LEUNG SAID.

ALTOGETHER, THERE ARE 10 PRIZES AND THEY ARE SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB, HONG KONG HARBOUR.

"THE CRITERIA ON ADJUDICATION WILL BE BASED ON THE SPECIES, SIZE, HEALTH AND FORM OF THE TREE. THE PANEL OF JUDGES INCLUDE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD MEMBERS DR JIM CHI-YUNG AND DR JOHN HODGKISS AS WELL AS THE AFD'S ECOLOGIST, MR ANTHONY LEUNG. THE PANEL'S DECISION WILL BE FINAL.

"IF THE TREE SELECTED AS THE BEST IS NOMINATED BY MORE THAN ONE PARTICIPANT, THE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED BY A LUCKY DRAW," MR LEUNG SAID.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CONSERVATION EDUCATION SECTION, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, OR ANY COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE COMPETITION MAY BE MADE ON 4200529 OR 7332121.

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CREATIVE PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN ON SUNDAY

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A CREATIVE PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN, KNOWN AS "PAINT AND PLAY DAY", WILL BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 4).

THE CHILDREN WILL TAKE PART IN MORE THAN 20 CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING WOODWORK, SANDWICH MAKING, WATER-COLOUR PAINTING, DOUGH MODELLING, CLAY-DOLL MAKING AND A BUBBLE GAME.

/A SPOKESMAN

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID THAT THROUGH SUCH PARTICIPATION THE CHILDREN WOULD LEARN HOW TO ORGANISE THEIR WORK, MAKE DECISIONS ON THEIR OWN, AND BUILD UP CONFIDENCE.

"IT WILL ALSO BE AN EYE-OPENER FOR PARENTS ACCOMPANYING THEIR CHILDREN AS THEY WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE IN HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP THEIR CREATIVITY," HE ADDED.

THE PROJECT IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CHUNG WAN AREA COMMITTEE, PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

IT WILL BEGIN AT 12.30 PM AND END AT 4.30 PM. ALL CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SEVEN ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 8523487 DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS.

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ENTRIES INVITED FOR NORTH DISTRICT COUNTRY RACE

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AMATEUR SPORTSMEN AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 60 ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A CROSS COUNTRY RACE TO BE HELD IN NORTH DISTRICT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

THE RACE WILL BE DIVIDED INTO WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SECTIONS, COVERING EIGHT KILOMETRES AND 10 KILOMETRES RESPECTIVELY.

THE EVENT WILL BE OPEN TO COMPETITORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. ENTRIES SHOULD BE MADE BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

ORGANISED BY THE SHEUNG SHUI DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION WITH SPONSORSHIP BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD, THE RACE IS HELD ANNUALLY TO PROMOTE SPORTS AND TO HELP BODY-BUILDING.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES RUN BY THE 19 DISTRICT OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE IN CHOI YUEN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI; THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES IN CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING; AT SAN FUNG AVENUE AND IN TIN PING ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI; OR THE SHEUNG SHUI DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION AT 47 FU HING STREET, SHEUNG SHUI.

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REDUCED SERVICES AT HO MAN TIN ENQUIRY COUNTER
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THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTER OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE'S HO MAN TIN SUB-OFFICE WILL OPERATE ON A REDUCED BASIS FROM THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 1).

THE SUB-OFFICE, SITUATED AT ROOMS 123 - 126, BLOCK 8, HO MAN TIN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHING STREET, WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT STANDARD FORMS, POSTERS AND LEAFLETS, BUT IT WILL NOT HANDLE GENERAL ENQUIRIES OR STATUTORY DECLARATIONS.

FOR THESE SERVICES MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO APPROACH THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR ITS TWO OTHER SUB-OFFICES AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE,
141 - 143, KAU PUI LUNG ROAD,
TO KWA WAN;
- HUNG HOM SUB-OFFICE,
81 - 85, BULKELEY STREET,
BERKELEY BUILDING,
HUNG HOM; AND
- LUNG SHING SUB-OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR,
68 - 74, JUNCTION ROAD,
KOWLOON CITY.

THESE SERVICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH THE YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 39.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 230.129 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 220.188 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 37.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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