



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PUBLIC URGED TO LIVE WITHIN SAFETY RULES

The Director of Fire Services, Mr. A.E.H. Wood, said today Hong Kong has now developed into a high-rise environment with "vertical townships" being formed by many single buildings, and he urged the public to recognise this fact and learn to live within the safety rules.

He pointed out that fireman's ladders do not exceed 150 feet maximum height, and it is very unlikely that they will ever be developed to reach a greater height.

"Hong Kong's buildings are constructed in accordance with a high standard of fire-resisting construction and compartmentation, all designed to keep inevitable outbreaks of fire to a minimum size and provide adequate safe escape routes," he said.

Mr. Wood stressed that people and goods must be able to move freely within a building and therefore openings are a necessity.

Where openings affect means of escape or compartmentation, they are required to be protected by self-closing fire doors to re-instate the fire compartmentation after passage of persons or goods and thus prevent spread of fire and smoke, he added.

"If these doors are propped open or otherwise interfered with, in the event of a fire it is inevitable that fire and smoke will spread further than the designed area.

"If goods are stacked in escape passages and staircases, the situation is made even more dangerous," he said.

/The Director

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The Director said smoke kills and blinds! "If firemen cannot see the fire, swift extinguishment is made more difficult. Time is of the essence."

He pointed out that the science of fire protection is a complicated one and not easily understood by laymen. "If you wish to make alterations or additions to a building, do not do so, however small or innocent it may appear, without first consulting the experts, the Fire Prevention Bureau. If they advise against, do not do it," he emphasized.

Lifts are not safe means of escape, he said. "In the event of fire, proceed to your nearest staircase and go to ground level. If everyone has obeyed the rules you will get there in safety. First know where the staircases are!"

Mr. Wood said it will never be possible for firemen to inspect every building daily. "Your life and your goods are at stake, you follow the rules and keep to protect yourself."

"Firemen are human too. Remember, when there is a fire, after you have left, they have to enter. Leave it safe for them too," he said.

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VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH PILOT METHADONE SCHEME

Mrs. Mary Wong, recently appointed Legislative Councillor and Chairman of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, said today young volunteers from the Association of Volunteers for Service would co-operate with the Medical and Health Department in its pilot methadone scheme.

She made this offer following a visit to the Department's Methadone Treatment Pilot Scheme Centre in Eastern Street in her additional capacity as Chairman of the Association. She was received at the Centre by Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, and shown around the premises.

Since the Centre opened on December 1, it has admitted 10 voluntary patients. Four have chosen not to continue the treatment, but six are now in-patients under observation. They are being put on methadone, taken orally, and when they are well-established on the drug, will be discharged from the Centre, with the treatment continuing on an out-patient basis.

Mrs. Wong thought the volunteers would not only help in the search for addicts who could be persuaded to prefer methadone to heroin, but would also assist in follow-up such as regular home visits to encourage out-patients to continue with the treatment.

The young volunteers from the Association would complement the work of the Medical Social Worker attached to the Centre, and would co-ordinate their efforts with him under the general guidance of the Medical Officer in charge of the Scheme.

/Also

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Also, perhaps social functions could be arranged by the volunteers within the Centre to enable the three-week stay of the in-patients to become more interesting.

"This is an area where I think the Association of Volunteers for Service can be effective," Mrs. Wong said. "We would like to work in such a way that beneficiaries of the Scheme will eventually contribute to society instead of being only at the receiving end."

Note to Editors:

Representatives of the Press, radio and TV are invited to visit the Medical and Health Department's Methadone Treatment Pilot Scheme Centre in Eastern Street at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12. Photographs of the premises and the in-patients will be permitted, but with regard to the latter, there should be no recognisable facial views out of respect for their privacy. An Information Officer will be on hand to assist the Press.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT COMMUNITY CHEST AGENCIES

Lady MacLehose, President of the Community Chest of Hong Kong, will visit three member agencies in Kowloon on Monday.

The agencies are the Children's Meals Society Kitchen, the Red Cross Princess Alexandra Residential School and the Margaret Trench Rehabilitation Centre of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

Lady MacLehose will tour the agencies and see for herself their daily activities.

She will be accompanied on the visit by Miss Jennifer Boyle, Social Secretary at Government House; Mr. Robert Ho, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and Third Vice President of the Chest; and Mr. Colin Morrison, Executive Director.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to have the visits covered. Transport will be provided to take the press to the agencies. Two nine-seater vans will leave the car park behind the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office at 2.30 p.m. on Monday. Background notes on the agencies will be provided.

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URBAN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONVENTIONAL DEBATE TO BE RESUMED

The annual conventional debate of the Urban Council will be resumed at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday (December 12) at the Council Chamber.

At the debate, six Official Members will be replying to points raised by Unofficial Members in the last two meetings.

The six Official Members who will be speaking are: the Commissioner for Resettlement, Mr. J.C.C. Walden; the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. F.K. Li; the Director of Public Works, Mr. J.J. Robson; the Deputy Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. J.K. Craig; the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C.C. Luddington; and the Chairman of the Urban Council, Mr. D.R.W. Alexander.

Simultaneous interpretation will be used during the debate.

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ISSUE OF SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin, in English and Chinese, tomorrow (Sunday).

Copies of the Sunday D.I.B. will be available for collection as from 3 p.m. tomorrow at the G.I.S. Press Room, sixth floor, Beaconsfield House.

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GRANT FROM LOTTERIES FUND FOR BLIND WORKSHOP

The Government has approved a capital grant of \$150,000 from the Lotteries Fund for the provision of a cargo lift by May next year at the Tokwawan Workshop for the Blind to facilitate the work carried out by blind workers.

At present, the blind workers are obliged to carry heavy loads from various workshop sections on upper floors to the stores on the ground floor.

This presents considerable difficulties, such as inefficiency, loss of working time and income, as well as risk of personal injury and damage to the premises and goods through accidents, to which the blind are particularly prone.

Earlier this year, a capital grant from the Lotteries Fund of \$519,544 was made to enable a major renovation of the workshop to be carried out.

The large-scale renovation which has just been finished, includes the maintenance of the premises, the installation of new equipments, the enlargement of the woodwork and paper product sections, the addition of stores, sewing section and shelves for drying chalks.

Now, the workshop has put on a new look, with electric fans and bulbs installed to improve the ventilation and lighting facilities.

Workers are each provided with a locker for storing their own tools and belongings.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE IN N.T.

A team from the Registration of Persons Department will conduct registrations at the Tai Po Rural Committee office from Monday (December 11) to Friday (December 15) and from December 18 to 22. Business hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The visit will enable parents or guardians to register their children from six to seventeen years of age for juvenile Identity Cards; and young persons 17 years of age and over and holding juvenile Identity Cards, to register for adult Identity Cards.

All persons living in the area are reminded of their responsibility to register themselves and their children for Identity Cards, and to report to the Registration of Persons Department any changes of employment or residential address, nationality or marital status or any other particulars which have changed since registering for their Identity Cards.

Children between six and seventeen years of age who have Hong Kong Birth Certificates or valid travel documents need not attend for registration, but children who do not have Birth Certificates or valid travel documents, must accompany their parents or guardians when registering.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of premises in Central District on Hong Kong Island will be interrupted for nine hours from 9 p.m. on Monday (December 11) to 6 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to complete a fresh water main connection at Kwong Yuen Street East.

The premises affected are Nos. 244 Wing Lok Street and Nos. 1-15 and Nos. 216 Kwong Yuen Street East.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.