



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1991

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TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST OFFENDING MARICULTURISTS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED MARICULTURISTS NOT TO DWELL ON FISH RAFTS AND TO RECTIFY THEIR OVERSIZED STRUCTURES ON THE RAFTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AFD'S SENIOR AQUACULTURE FISHERIES OFFICER, DR PATSY WONG, SAID AFD WOULD BE TOUGH WITH PERSISTANT OFFENDERS.

SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, 25 MARICULTURISTS WERE BROUGHT TO COURT FOR MAINTAINING DOMESTIC DWELLING AND OVERSIZED STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFTS.

THEY WERE FINED FROM \$200 TO \$1,000.

"DWELLING ON RAFTS IN FISH CULTURE ZONES IS MOST UNDESIRABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY REASONS WHILE OVERSIZED STRUCTURES COULD ALSO AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE FISH CULTURE ZONE," DR WONG STRESSED.

"TO PREVENT THIS WIDESPREAD PROBLEM OF STRUCTURES TO DRAG ON, CONVICTED MARICULTURISTS WILL BE GIVEN TWO MONTHS TO RECTIFY THEIR IRREGULARITIES.

"SHOULD THEY FAIL TO DO SO WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME, STRINGENT ACTION, INCLUDING THE REVOCATION OF MARICULTURE LICENCES, WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM."

DR WONG FURTHER REMINDED THAT A LICENCE REVOCATION MEANS THAT THEIR MARICULTURE OPERATIONS WOULD BE RENDERED ILLEGAL.

"FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL THEN BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM UNDER SECTION 6 OR 7 OF THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE, WHICH PROHIBITS UNLICENSED PERSONNEL TO ENGAGE IN FISH CULTURE IN HONG KONG WATERS.

"OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR, AND IN THE CASE OF A CONTINUING OFFENCE, TO A FURTHER DAILY PENALTY OF \$500."

SHE ADDED THAT AS A FINAL RESORT, ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN TO SEIZE AND DISPOSE OF THE RAFTS AND FISH CONSTITUTING EVIDENCE OF OFFENCES.

DR WONG EXPLAINED THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO PUT UP STRUCTURES ON A RAFT WHICH DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE FISH CULTURE ZONE LICENCE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

"SOME FORM OF STRUCTURES OF SPECIFIED AREA WERE PERMITTED ON RAFTS FOR MANAGEMENT AND KEEP-WATCH PURPOSES.

"HOWEVER, SOME OPERATORS EXPANDED THEIR STRUCTURES TO MEET THEIR OPERATIONAL NEEDS WHILE OTHERS MISUSED THEIR STRUCTURES FOR DWELLING PURPOSE," SHE CONTINUED.

/"TO MEET .....

"TO MEET ACTUAL NEEDS, THE DEPARTMENT REVISED IN JULY 1990 THE PERMITTED MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURES FOR FISH FARMS OF VARIOUS SIZES, RANGING FROM NINE SQUARE METRES FOR FARMS UNDER 200 SQUARE METRES TO 20 SQUARE METRES FOR FARMS OF 800 TO 1,000 SQUARE METRES.

"ALL THE 1,750 MARICULTURISTS AND NINE MARICULTURE ASSOCIATIONS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE NEW RULES ON RAFT STRUCTURES IN EARLY AUGUST LAST YEAR."

ACCORDING TO SURVEY RECORDS, 410 FARMS WERE IDENTIFIED TO HAVE STRUCTURES USED FOR DWELLING PURPOSE AND 137 FARMS HAD STRUCTURES ON RAFTS IN EXCESS OF THE AREA PERMITTED.

DR WONG SAID MARICULTURISTS WITH OVERSIZED STRUCTURE ON THEIR RAFTS WERE ASKED TO RECTIFY THEIR STRUCTURES BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 1990.

MEANWHILE, DWELLERS IN 252 FARMS WHO HAVE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION ON LAND WERE ADVISED TO CEASE DWELLING ON FISH RAFTS.

THE REMAINING DWELLERS ON RAFTS WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE NO OTHER ACCOMMODATION HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT (HD) FOR ACTION. THE HD OFFERED REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 131 OF THEM, BUT BY THE END OF JANUARY, ONLY 76 HAD ACCEPTED THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER.

DR WONG STRESSED THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD INITIATE PROSECUTION AGAINST THOSE STILL LIVE ON THE FISH RAFTS BY MARCH 19 THIS YEAR, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ACCEPT REHOUSING OFFER.

AFD'S ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST OFFENDING MARICULTURISTS STARTED IN LATE SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

BY EARLY FEBRUARY, 309 OUT OF THE 410 FARMS WITH DWELLING STRUCTURES WERE FOUND TO HAVE CEASED DWELLING ON RAFTS.

MOREOVER, 37 CASES HAVE BEEN REFERRED FOR PROSECUTION AND 13 OF THEM WERE PROSECUTED AND FINED.

AS FOR THE 137 FARMS WITH OVERSIZED STRUCTURES, 48 HAD BEEN RECTIFIED TO THE PERMITTED MEASUREMENTS, 28 HAVE BEEN REFERRED FOR PROSECUTION AND 12 WERE PROSECUTED AND FINED.

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ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR UNHCR

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE AN ADDITIONAL 200 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR USE BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE ADDITIONAL SPACE WAS NEEDED FOR THE UNHCR TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 44 MORE STAFF TO ENHANCE THE UNHCR'S ROLE IN LEGAL COUNSELLING AND IN PROCESSING THE CASES OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXISTING UNHCR OFFICE WAS IN YAU MA TEI. THE PROVISION OF THE ADDITIONAL 200 SQUARE METRES, IN CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE. THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION ON A VACANT SPACE NEXT TO THE EXISTING UNHCR OFFICE AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE UNHCR TO OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE ADDITIONAL 200 SQUARE METRES OF ACCOMMODATION WAS HANDED OVER TO THE UNHCR ON JANUARY 31.

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TWO NT GOVT LOTS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 11).

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 25, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING.

WITH AN AREA OF 2,559 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE AND GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,850 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

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STUDENTS SHOULD ENCOURAGE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO VOTE  
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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED STUDENTS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS BY CASTING THEIR VOTES IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.

SPEAKING AT A TERRITORY-WIDE YOUTH DEBATE COMPETITION, MR LAN SAID THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 3 WHILE ELECTIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE LATER.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STUDENTS WILL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PLATFORMS.

HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE CANDIDATES' PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING SKILLS.

"YOU CAN LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM THEM," MR LAN SAID.

"I ALSO HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS BY CASTING THEIR VOTES ON POLLING DAY SO THAT THE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR WILL BE MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN PREVIOUS ONES," HE ADDED.

EARLIER, MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEBATE COMPETITION WAS ORGANISED TO ENHANCE SECONDARY STUDENTS' LANGUAGE SKILLS AND A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AFFAIRS.

"THE COMPETITION WILL ALSO INCREASE THE STUDENTS' CIVIC AWARENESS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT GOOD DEBATING SKILL WILL GREATLY BENEFIT STUDENTS IN THEIR FUTURE CAREERS.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY," HE STRESSED.

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WAN CHAI ELECTORS URGED TO VOTE  
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WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE DISTRICT TO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 3.

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S "GREENING FOR THE CHEST CAMPAIGN", MR MANN NOTED THAT THE VOTING RATE IN THE DISTRICT HAD ALL ALONG BEEN COMPARATIVELY LOW.

HE URGED LOCAL ELECTORS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT AND GO TO THE POLLING BOOTHS ON THE ELECTION DAY.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR DOMINIC CHAN, SAID THE CAMPAIGN WOULD SERVE A DUAL PURPOSE.

"ON THE ONE HAND, IT CAN PROMOTE GREENERY AND PUBLIC HYGIENE IN THE DISTRICT AND ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CAN RAISE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND HELP THE NEEDY IN OUR SOCIETY," HE SAID.

SPONSORSHIP FORMS FOR THE CAMPAIGN ARE AVAILABLE FROM NOW UNTIL MARCH 15 AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE IN SOUTHERN CENTRE.

MR CHAN SAID ALL SPONSORS WHO HAVE DONATED \$100 OR MORE WILL EACH BE AWARDED AN APPRECIATION CERTIFICATE WHILE THE MOST GENEROUS SPONSOR WILL RECEIVE A GRAND PRIZE AS WELL.

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#### EXHIBITION ROUNDS OFF CLEANING CAMPAIGN ON ISLANDS

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AN EXHIBITION ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WAS HELD TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE PAK TAI PLAYGROUND ON CHEUNG CHAU AS A FINALE TO THE "CLEANING FORTNIGHT" EXERCISE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

THE EXERCISE, A MAJOR PROGRAMME OF THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, INCLUDED CLEANING ACTIVITIES IN THE EIGHT RURAL AREAS OF THE DISTRICT, A FISHING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION ON CHEUNG CHAU AND A CLEAN-UP EXERCISE ALONG TAI O CREEK ON LANTAU.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXERCISE WERE AWARDED SOUVENIRS AND WINNERS OF THE FISHING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION WERE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY TODAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG, AND ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD.

A TEAM OF 'CLEAN HONG KONG' CAPTAINS FORMED BY YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WERE ALSO STATIONED AT THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AND LITTERING BLACK SPOTS ON CHEUNG CHAU TODAY TO ADVISE RESIDENTS THE PROPER WAYS TO DISPOSE RUBBISH.

THE 'CLEANING FORTNIGHT' EXERCISE, ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND EIGHT RURAL COMMITTEES, HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO COINCIDE WITH THE CHINESE CUSTOM OF CLEANING UP HOMES TO WELCOME IN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1991

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1,293 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JANUARY

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A TOTAL OF 1,702 CASUALTIES WAS REPORTED IN 1,293 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST MONTH.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT 315 OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 675 IN KOWLOON AND 300 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR JANUARY SHOWED THAT 16 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 396 PEOPLE WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 1,290 SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ONE PER CENT AND 8.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990:

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