



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STUDENTS SHOULD BE HELPED TO FORM OWN POLITICAL OPINION: ED

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE VIEWS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON TEACHERS BEING URGED TO DISCUSS THE DIAOYUTAI ISLANDS ISSUE WITH THEIR STUDENTS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE GUIDELINES ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR CONCERNING THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OR EXPRESSION OF OPINION OF A POLITICAL NATURE IN SCHOOLS.

THESE GUIDELINES WERE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE EARLIER AMENDMENT OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS.

HE SAID THAT WHILST THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OR IN TOPICAL ISSUES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TEACHERS SHOULD ADOPT AN OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED APPROACH WHEN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES.

"THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE SHOULD ALWAYS BE TO HELP STUDENTS FORM THEIR OWN OPINIONS ON MATTERS DISCUSSED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IF TEACHERS CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS THEIR PERSONAL OPINIONS, THEY SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS A PERSONAL OPINION THAT IS BEING EXPRESSED AND THAT STUDENTS SHOULD FORM THEIR OWN VIEWS.

"THESE POINTS, AMONGST OTHERS, ARE CLEARLY SET OUT IN THE GUIDELINES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS TO FOLLOW," HE ADDED.

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NEW APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF MR STEVEN POON KWOK-LIM AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

MR POON WAS A DIRECTOR AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE HAS WIDE COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND IS A MEMBER OF THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BOARD AND THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

MR POON ALSO SERVES ON THE CHINA COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND IS A COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED.

HE WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT ON NOVEMBER 1, 1990.

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URBAN TAXI LICENCES FOR 1990
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON WHEN URBAN TAXI LICENCES WOULD BE ISSUED FOR 1990, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE PUBLICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON NOVEMBER 2, 1990 THE TENDERING OF THE 150 URBAN TAXI LICENCES.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS BASED ON A DECISION BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN ITS MEETING ON JUNE 21, 1990 THAT 150 URBAN TAXI LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED FOR 1990.

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1989 PILOT CENSUS DATA BURNT
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QUESTIONNAIRES CONTAINING INDIVIDUAL DATA COLLECTED IN THE 1989 PILOT CENSUS WERE BURNT TO ASHES THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING AT THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR UNDER THE CLOSE SUPERVISION OF STAFF OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT AS STIPULATED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE, PARTICULARS OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS OBTAINED FROM A POPULATION CENSUS MUST BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. ALL QUESTIONNAIRES CONTAINING SUCH PARTICULARS MUST BE DESTROYED WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE CENSUS.

HE STRESSED THAT AT ALL STAGES OF THE OPERATION OF THE PILOT CENSUS, STEPS WERE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT CONFIDENTIALITY OF INDIVIDUAL DATA WAS STRICTLY MAINTAINED.

"OTHER THAN THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CENSUS OPERATION, NO ONE WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT CAN HAVE ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL DATA. THE CENSUS OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO DECLARE NOT TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW ARRANGED TO HAVE ALL THE QUESTIONNAIRES DESTROYED SO THAT THE PUBLIC WILL NOT HAVE TO WORRY THAT THE QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE USED FOR OTHER MEANS," HE ADDED.

THE 1989 PILOT CENSUS WAS CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER 1989 TO TEST THE DESIGN OF THE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS TO BE HELD IN NEXT MARCH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PICTURE TAKEN AT THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR WILL BE BOXED.

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FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR GRAVE-SWEEPERS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADVISED GRAVE-SWEEPERS TO TAKE EXTRA CARE IN HANDLING FIRES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LAY, SAID AS THE DRY SEASON HAS SET IN, ANY CARELESS HANDLING OF WORSHIPPING ITEMS COULD EASILY SET THE COUNTRYSIDE ABLAZE.

"IN THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL DAY LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 64 HILL FIRE REPORTS WERE RECEIVED. AMONG THEM, 13 OCCURRED IN COUNTRY PARKS, DAMAGING 35 HECTARES OF PLANTATION AND 540 TREES," HE SAID.

HE SAID ALL THESE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY HUMAN NEGLIGENCE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF PEOPLE OBSERVED A FEW SIMPLE RULES.

THESE RULES ARE:

- * BURN WORSHIPPING ITEMS ONLY IN METAL CONTAINERS;
- * DO NOT LEAVE LIGHTED CANDLES, JOSS STICKS AND PAPERS UNATTENDED;
- * MAKE SURE ALL WORSHIPPING ITEMS ARE EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE GRAVE SITES.

MR LAY ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD, IN FACT, PROVIDED FOR THESE PEOPLE METAL CONTAINERS IN VARIOUS PROMINENT LOCATIONS INSIDE THE COUNTRY PARK.

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BE CAREFUL WITH BURNING TRIBUTES IN CHUNG YEUNG: FSD REMINDED

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PEOPLE ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH BURNING JOSS STICKS AND PAPER TRIBUTES WHEN WORSHIPPING THEIR ANCESTORS DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL.

A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE NUMBER OF FIRES RESULTING FROM CARELESS BURNING OF JOSS STICKS AND PAPER TRIBUTES WAS ALWAYS HIGHER DURING THE GRAVE-SWEEPING PERIODS IN APRIL AND OCTOBER.

SEVEN OUT OF 80 FIRES OF THIS NATURE IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR OCCURRED IN APRIL ALONE. LAST YEAR, 16 SUCH FIRES OCCURRED IN APRIL AND 54 OCCURRED IN OCTOBER, AGAINST A TOTAL OF 209.

/"WORSHIPPERS MUST

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"WORSHIPPERS MUST NOT LEAVE BURNING TRIBUTES UNATTENDED AND THEY SHOULD EXTINGUISH THEM BEFORE THEY LEFT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO URGED PEOPLE TO EXERCISE EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT FIRES IN THE DRY SEASON.

THERE WERE 14,491 FIRE CALLS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR COMPARING WITH 17,367 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989, HE SAID.

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YOUTH CAMP TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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ABOUT 200 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS AND CIVIL AID SERVICES CADETS WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY CAMP AT YUEN TUN, TSING LUNG TAU FROM FRIDAY (OCTOBER 26).

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MRS C.H. KONG, AND CAS CADETS COMMANDANT, MR LAU SHIU-NIN, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE FIRST JOINT CAMP AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

WITH THE THEME "TO CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO FOSTER FRIENDSHIP", THE CAMP IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPANTS' AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TO INVOLVE THEM IN CONSERVATION WORK, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMP WILL INCLUDE FORUMS, EXHIBITION, ENTERTAINING PERFORMANCES, BALL GAMES AND ORIENTEERING COMPETITION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE JOINT CAMP AT YUEN TUN, TSING LUNG TAU, NEW TERRITORIES AT 4 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 26).

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