



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SWD CENTRES HELP SOLVE FAMILY PROBLEMS
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AS STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN 26 FIELD UNITS LOOK AFTER 231 000 SOCIAL SECURITY CASES, THEIR COLLEAGUES IN 19 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES ARE JUST AS BUSY WITH 19 000 CASES INVOLVING FAMILY AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

EACH MONTH, ABOUT 1 000 FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS ARE GOING TO THEIR NEAREST CENTRES DIRECTLY OR ON REFERRAL TO SEEK HELP ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS RANGING FROM CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR TO MARITAL BREAKDOWNS.

AND FAMILY SERVICES CASEWORKERS USE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK KNOW-HOW AND EXPLORE WELFARE RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE GROUND TO HELP SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

THEY INTERVIEW CLIENTS AT HOME OR IN OFFICE TO LOOK AT THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND, ASSESS THE PROBLEMS AND FIND SUITABLE SOLUTIONS.

MOST OF THE PROBLEMS REQUIRING FAMILY SERVICES CONCERN BEHAVIOUR AND EMOTION OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS, PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, MARITAL DISCORD, FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, OLD AGE AND DISABILITY.

OTHERS INCLUDE STRAINED IN-LAW RELATIONSHIP, EMPLOYMENT, ACCOMMODATION, ILL HEALTH, UNWED PARENTS, AND CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION.

THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SERVICES RANGING FROM COUNSELLING, REFERRALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENTS, SCHOOLING, REHOUSING, MEDICAL CARE AND EMPLOYMENT, TO CASH ASSISTANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT IN 1980, THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG CHALKED UP A RECORD OF 230 000 CASEWORK ACTIVITIES, OF WHICH HOME VISITS AND INTERVIEWS FORMED THE LARGEST BULK.

HE SAID CASES REQUIRING HELP WERE FOLLOWED THROUGH BY SOCIAL WORKERS FROM THE START AND CONTACTS WERE KEPT WITH THE CLIENTS.

+APART FROM THE CONVENTIONAL ONE-TO-ONE CASEWORK APPROACH, DISCUSSIONS AND TALKS OFTEN TAKE PLACE FOR GROUPS OF CLIENTS WITH SIMILAR PROBLEMS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+MOST CLIENTS DIRECTLY APPROACH THE CENTRES FOR HELP, BUT CASEWORKERS ALSO ACT ON MEDIA REPORTS AND REACH OUT TO HARDSHIP CASES,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT FAMILY SERVICES WERE IN ESSENCE REMEDIAL WORK AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD IN RECENT YEARS ACTIVELY DEVELOPED PREVENTIVE SOCIAL WORK.

+THIS INCLUDES FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TO FOSTER STRONG FAMILY TIES, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK TO HELP STUDENTS WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS, AND OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

PEOPLE REQUIRING HELP ON PERSONAL OR FAMILY PROBLEMS ARE WELCOME TO APPROACH THEIR NEAREST FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES OR TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE - 3-432255.

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TIN HAU FESTIVAL IN YUEN LONG

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND HIS WIFE WILL OFFICIATE AT THIS YEAR'S YUEN LONG TIN HAU FESTIVAL PROCESSION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 27.

THE EVENT, ORGANISED BY YUEN LONG SHAP PAT HEUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, CELEBRATES THE BIRTHDAY OF TIN HAU, THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

ABOUT 40 ORGANISATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE PROCESSION WHICH WILL INCLUDE LION, DRAGON AND UNICORN DANCES, CHIU CHAU GONGS AND DRUMS, FLOATS, ACROBATIC DISPLAYS AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE FOLK DANCES AND MUSIC.

THE TWO-HOUR PROCESSION WILL START AT 10.30 AM FROM YUEN LONG EASTERN BUS TERMINUS AND PASS IN FRONT OF 4 000 INVITED GUESTS IN YUEN LONG STADIUM.

AFTERWARDS, IT WILL MAKE ITS WAY TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE AT TAI SHUE HA WHERE RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES WILL BE STAGED.

LARGE CROWDS, ATTRACTED BY THE BELIEF THAT BLESSINGS WILL RESULT, ARE EXPECTED AT THE +FA PAU+ DRAW WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3 PM.

TIN HAU FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN YUEN LONG GO BACK TO THE 17TH CENTURY, WHEN IT WAS A COASTAL FISHING VILLAGE.

THE FESTIVAL IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO BOAT PEOPLE WHO PRAY TO TIN HAU FOR GOOD FISHING AND FAIR WEATHER.

EVEN THOUGH YUEN LONG IS NOW A NEW TOWN AND FEWER LOCAL PEOPLE EARN THEIR LIVING FROM THE SEA, THE TRADITION IS STILL MAINTAINED.

THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL IS ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST COLOURFUL FESTIVALS AND IS CELEBRATED BY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

EVERY YEAR, TIN HAU CELEBRATIONS ARE ALSO HELD AT JOSS HOUSE BAY AND THE MANY TIN HAU TEMPLES BUILT IN AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH FISHING.

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SCHOOL HEADS TO DISCUSS MORAL EDUCATION

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THE PRINCIPALS OF SOME 200 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL ATTEND A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON MORAL EDUCATION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 14 AT NORTHCOLE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ENGAGE IN GROUP AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND LISTEN TO SPEECHES BY PANELISTS.

THEY WILL DISCUSS THE TERM +MORAL EDUCATION,+ AND WHETHER A SEPARATE SUBJECT SHOULD BE SET UP IN SCHOOLS OR BE INTEGRATED INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

/THEY WILL

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THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOME, THE SCHOOL AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN INFLUENCING PUPILS' MORAL CONDUCT AND WILL BE INVITED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEANS OF PROMOTING MORAL EDUCATION.

MR COLVYN HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WILL ADDRESS THE OPENING AND MR MICHAEL LEUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WILL CHAIR THE PANEL DISCUSSION AND DELIVER THE CLOSING REMARKS.

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VILLAGE GARDEN FOR SHAU KEI WAN
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RESIDENTS IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL HAVE A NEW CHINESE-STYLE VILLAGE GARDEN EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE GARDEN, SITUATED AT TSIN SHUI MA TAU VILLAGE, WILL HAVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 3 700 SQUARE METRES.

IT WILL INCLUDE A TRADITIONAL ENTRANCE ARCH, PAVILIONS, COVERED WALKWAYS, BENCHES, A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, PLANTING AREAS AND TOILETS.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WORK WILL START IN MAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

ON COMPLETION, THE GARDEN WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CLOSURES
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A 300-METRE SECTION OF STUBBS ROAD NORTH OF ITS ROUNDABOUT WITH TAI HANG ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 0.30 AM AND 5.30 AM DAILY ON APRIL 8 - 11, 14 - 16, AND 22 - 23 TO FACILITATE FLYOVER CONSTRUCTION WORK.

MOTORISTS GOING TO TUNG SHAN TERRACE AND CRAIGMENT WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND STUBBS ROAD.

OTHER TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TAI HANG ROAD.

AND FROM 2.30 PM TO 3.15 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 8), THE FLYOVER FROM MAGAZINE GAP ROAD TO GARDEN ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ROAD WORKS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN LEI YUE MUN

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN LEI YUE MUN VILLAGE AND LING NAM SAN TSUEN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 11 HOURS FROM 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 8) TO 7 AM ON THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

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MAMMOTH CLEAN-UP AT KWAI CHUNG

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THERE WILL BE A MAMMOTH CLEAN-UP OF A HEAP OF REFUSE AND BULKY DISCARDED ITEMS ACCUMULATING AT AN OPEN SPACE AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI LOONG STREET AND WO YI HOP ROAD, KWAI CHUNG.

THE OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK TO REMOVE ABOUT 150 TONNES OF RUBBISH BEING DUMPED THERE BY THE RESIDENTS OF A NEARBY SQUATTER AREA AND HAWKERS TRADING IN THE SURROUNDING AREA, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE REFUSE HAS BEEN A HEALTH HAZARD TO RESIDENTS AND CAUSED ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TWO SPECIAL CLEANSING TEAMS OF THE KWAI CHUNG URBAN SERVICE OFFICE AND THREE TIPPER LORRIES WILL BE USED IN THE CLEAN-UP WHICH WILL LAST FOR ABOUT A MONTH.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN WARNED RESIDENTS TO USE THE REFUSE CONTAINERS PLACED IN THE SQUATTER AREA.

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