



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, February 17, 1973

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GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER FANLING HOSPITAL

From Lutheran World Federation On April 1

On April 1, the Government will take over the 54-bed Fanling Hospital at present administered by the Lutheran World Federation.

The Hospital was opened in 1960 by the Federation, and built with funds provided by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and from the United States of America.

Commenting on the move, the Director of the Federation in Hong Kong, the Reverend Karl Stumpf said today: "The Fanling Hospital came into being in the New Territories 12 years ago when there was a shortage of medical facilities in that area.

"Those were difficult years for Hong Kong, and the Federation was happy to contribute to the general welfare.

"Now that these difficulties are happily over, and the original aims have been fulfilled, we feel the time has come for the Government to assume the Federation's responsibility in this area of service, bearing in mind the need for continuing development which, financially, the Federation believes Hong Kong can now carry out on its own."

Commenting on the take-over, Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services, said: "It is proposed to develop the Fanling Hospital on the same lines as the Pok Oi Hospital.

"We will make use of it as a district hospital for Fanling and Sheung Shui. We will also increase its staff so as to maintain a 24-hour duty roster, and we plan to hold specialist **clinics** besides the general out-patient clinics."

The Hospital at present deals with about 100 out-patients a day.

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FOUR NEW FIRE STATIONS FULLY OPERATIONAL

More Are Being Planned

Four new fire stations, which were completed towards the end of last year, are now in full operation.

They are in Fanling, Cheung Sha Wan, King's Park (Yau Ma Tei) and Kwai Chung.

Two more stations in Yau Tong and Chung Hom Kok are expected to go into operation soon following their completion later this month.

With the completion of these two new stations, Hong Kong will have a total of 37 fire stations -- 13 on Hong Kong Island, 12 in Kowloon and 12 in the New Territories.

Some 10 others are being planned.

Meanwhile, work on the new Airport Fire Station, which is to replace the existing one, will begin shortly.

It is expected to be completed in November.

The resiting of the present station is necessary because it would be cut off from the rest of the airport by construction works on the airport tunnel road.

A spokesman for the Fire Services Department said today that all these new fire stations formed part of an expansion plan designed to reduce to six minutes the interval between the raising of an alarm and the arrival of fire engines at the scene anywhere.

/The spokesman

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The spokesman recalled that fire losses during the last financial year proved to be the costliest in the history of Hong Kong.

Two hundred and fifty people died and more than 1,400 others were injured in fires and other emergencies during that period.

Direct financial losses from fires amounted to over \$85 million.

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ANIMAL POUND IN POKFULAM

The Government is to build an animal pound in Pokfulam to increase existing quarantine accommodation and to provide better facilities to deal with stray animals.

The new pound will replace the existing kennels in Kennedy Town, and will be situated in a site off Victoria Road.

It will have four single-storey blocks providing 60 kennels for various types of animals.

Work is expected to begin next April and will take about eight months to complete.

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BATHING SHEDS IN N.T. BEACHES

To Be Made Available To Public

Fifty-two bathing sheds on beaches along Castle Peak Road in the New Territories will be made available to the public through a ballot next month.

Comprising 42 private bathing sheds and 10 club sheds, these will be allocated to the public on permit from April 1 to March 31 next year.

The ballot will be held on March 9 in the Lecture Room on the 4th floor of the Urban Services Department's Sai Yee Street Depot in Kowloon.

Ballot application forms, costing \$10 each, may be obtained either in person or by letter from the U.S.D. Pay Office at Central Government Offices, West Wing, 13th floor, Hong Kong, from February 19 to 23.

Completed application forms must be returned to the Assistant Secretary (New Territories) of the Urban Services Department, on or before March 2.

Following the ballot, a list of the successful applicants will be published in the press.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning 3-942597 during office hours.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO VISIT STANLEY

A mobile team from the Registration of Persons Department will be stationed at the Stanley Kai Fong Welfare Association Office next week.

It will be there from Wednesday (February 21) to Saturday (February 24).

Business hours will be from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. between Wednesday and Friday and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday.

During the four-day visit, parents can register their children for juvenile identity cards.

Young people 17 and over and holding juvenile identity cards can register for adult identity cards.

Children between six and 17 who have Hong Kong Birth Certificates or valid travel documents need not attend for registration.

When registering their children, parents must produce their own identity cards for inspection.

Young people registering for adult identity cards must surrender their juvenile identity cards. They must at the same time produce their parents' identity cards, a Hong Kong Birth Certificate or evidence of their residence in Hong Kong during the past two years.

Those who do not possess any of these documents must register at the Registration of Persons Branch Office in the Causeway Bay Magistracy.

They can also do so at the Canton Road Government Offices in Kowloon or at the Far East Bank Building, ground floor, in Tsuen Wan.

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GREAT DEMAND BY SCHOOLS TO USE "SAFETY TOWN"

For Road Safety Courses

The Urban Council's "Safety Town" at Sau Mau Ping will again be full of primary school pupils when it re-opens on Monday to educate children in all aspects of road safety.

"The town is fully booked up until the end of March," a spokesman for the Education Department said today. "Many schools have applied for the use of the 'town' following a recent circular issued by our department. We expect to receive many more applications in the next few months before the summer holidays."

Some 2,700 pupils from 19 schools will be using the "town" from February 19 to March 9.

There are two one-hour sessions each morning and another two sessions in the afternoon from Monday to Friday.

The Kowloon Junior School has taken over 12 morning sessions from February 19 to 26 while the Holy Angels Canossian P.M. School has booked 12 afternoon sessions from February 27 to March 6. The other 17 schools have each booked one or two sessions during the first 15-day period.

Children attending the courses at the "town" are given a 15-minute lecture on road safety by two officers of the Royal Hong Kong Police. The pupils are then taken on an observation tour and take part in group activity on bicycles, tricycles and pedal cars followed by a discussion and review on road safety.

/The "town"

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The "town" has streets intersecting one another at right angles, a roundabout, zebra crossings, a major road junction, traffic lights, traffic signs and pavements.

In 1972, when the "town" was open from March 1 to June 29, more than 11,400 children from 125 schools used the facilities there.

The "town", which was planned by the Urban Council in conjunction with the Police and the Road Safety Association, was officially opened in 1970.

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SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies of this edition will be available for collection from the G.I.S. press room at 3 p.m.

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BAN ON MINIBUSES IN SHAU KEI WAN

Public light buses will be prohibited from picking up or setting down passengers on a section of Shaukiwan Road from 10 a.m. on Tuesday (February 20).

This section of road lies between Nam On Lane and Aldrich Street.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Transport Department said that the restriction was necessary to improve traffic flow along Shaukiwan Road.

At the same time, the tram stop outside No. 365 Shaukiwan Road will be resited westward to outside No. 343 Shaukiwan Road.

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STATEMENT BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The following is a statement issued by the Financial Secretary, Mr. C.P. Haddon-Cave, today (Saturday):

"I have seen reports in the press that a fifth stock exchange is about to be opened.

"The Government's attitude to the formation of any more stock exchanges in Hong Kong was clearly explained in my statement to the Legislative Council on 15th November, 1972 when I said:

The Government cannot at present prevent the establishment of any more stock exchanges in Hong Kong. The fact is no statutory powers exist to forbid the formation and operation of stock exchanges, but only to withhold recognition under Section 2A of the Companies Ordinance.

Under the Bill dealing with securities, which I hope to introduce into this Council within a few months, only those stock exchanges approved by the Financial Secretary will be allowed to operate in Hong Kong after the Bill goes into force. I intend to approve only those which are recognised for the purposes of Section 2A of the Companies Ordinance. It follows that any exchange which is not recognised cannot continue to operate; and any new stock exchange which may be established between now and the date of the enactment of the Securities Bill will not be recognised. In other words, it is our intention to restrict the number of exchanges allowed to operate and this will be coupled with a system of registration of all dealers.

"I would reiterate now that the Government's position and intentions on this matter have not changed in any way since I made that statement. In other words, any new stock exchange established between now and the enactment of the Securities Bill will be required to cease operations at that time."

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Release Time: 2.30 p.m.