



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LANDS DEPARTMENT DUTIES ANNOUNCED

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THE NEW LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FROM APRIL 1.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SUNDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, MR JOHN TODD, WOULD BECOME THE LAND AUTHORITY FOR BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE A HEADQUARTERS AND 12 DISTRICTS -- FOUR IN THE URBAN AREA AND EIGHT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE HEADQUARTERS, BASED IN MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, WILL HAVE THREE MAIN FUNCTIONAL DIVISIONS: LANDS, SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING, SUPPORTED BY AN ADMINISTRATION DIVISION.

THE DUTIES OF THESE DIVISIONS WILL BE:

LANDS: TO UNDERTAKE THE DISPOSAL, ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND TO KEEP LAND ADMINISTRATION POLICY UNDER REVIEW.

SURVEY: TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAND SURVEY, MAPPING AND DRAWING OFFICE SERVICES.

TOWN PLANNING: TO UNDERTAKE STRUCTURE PLANNING, STATUTORY PLANNING AND PLANNING STUDIES- TO PROVIDE PLANNING DATA AND TO CO-ORDINATE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TOWN PLANNING.

ADMINISTRATION: TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL AND OFFICE MANAGEMENT SERVICES- FINANCE- SUPPLIES AND TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.

THE FOUR DISTRICTS IN THE URBAN AREA ARE HONG KONG ISLAND NORTH, HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH, KOWLOON EAST AND KOWLOON WEST.

IN EACH DISTRICT, THE SURVEY DIVISION WILL CARRY OUT SURVEY WORK AND CONTROL DRAWING OFFICES. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL WILL PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES. THIS WILL BE DONE ON A DISTRICT BASIS, EXCEPT FOR LAND REGISTRATION, WHICH WILL BE HANDLED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL THROUGH THE LAND OFFICE IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING).

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE EIGHT DISTRICT OFFICES WILL BE: TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, NORTH, TAI PO, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

SURVEY AND LEGAL WORK WILL BE DONE ON A DISTRICT BASIS, AS IN THE URBAN AREA. EACH DISTRICT WILL HAVE ITS OWN LAND REGISTRY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD CARRY OUT THE DISTRICT ACTION PLANNING. IN THE URBAN AREA, THIS WOULD INITIALLY BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, BUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WOULD TAKE OVER THIS TASK.

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ICAO ADVANCED REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES

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TWO SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE TECHNICAL AND PLANNING DIVISION OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT ARE NOW IN MANILA, ATTENDING ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES SPONSORED BY THE ICAO (INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION) UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THEY ARE MR THOMAS M.C. KWAN AND MR JOSEPH C.P. TANG, SENIOR PLANNING OFFICERS. THE COURSES ARE ON AVIATION SECURITY AND AIRSPACE PLANNING IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

THE THREE-WEEK ADVANCED REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES, BEING CONDUCTED AT THE CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING CENTRE IN MANILA, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL STAFF WITH SPECIALISED KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CIVIL AVIATION PLANNING AND OPERATION.

MR TANG IS AT PRESENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS AND THE ORGANISATION OF AIRSPACE WITHIN THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION OF HONG KONG.

MR KWAN HAS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPING TERMINAL FACILITIES AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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STUDY ROOMS OPEN DURING EXAMINATION PERIOD

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TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS WILL BE OPENED IN THE EVENING IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30 FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

+THESE STUDY ROOMS WILL BE OPEN DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD TO PROVIDE STUDENTS LIVING IN CROWDED AND NOISY ENVIRONMENT WITH ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND PRIVATE STUDY,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

A TOTAL OF 6 400 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED IN 69 STUDY ROOM CENTRES.

STUDY ROOM FACILITIES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM EACH EVENING, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND THESE WILL BE STRICTLY FOR THE USE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FACILITIES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 PM TO 9 PM, AND WILL CATER FOR BOTH SECONDARY AND PRIMARY STUDENTS.

STUDY ROOMS WILL BE CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

POSTERS SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY ROOM CENTRES AND STUDENT ADMISSION CARDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS.

SUPERVISORS WILL BE APPOINTED TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN STUDY ROOMS, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE GIVING TUITION TO THE STUDENTS.

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'AFTER HOURS' SERVICE OFFERED BY LABOUR DEPARTMENT
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A SPECIAL +AFTER HOURS+ SERVICE IS BEING OFFERED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO REQUIRE URGENT ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES OR ACCIDENTS, OR OTHER MATTERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NEEDING SUCH SERVICES CAN MAKE USE OF SEVERAL SPECIAL TELEPHONES.

THOSE SEEKING CONSULTATIONS ON URGENT LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND CAN CONTACT THE CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR RELATIONS), MR DONALD CHAN, ON TELEPHONE 5-764720.

URGENT MATTERS IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CAN BE REFERRED TO THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR RELATIONS), MR JAMES YEUNG, ON TELEPHONE 5-221952.

REPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CAN BE MADE ON A SPECIAL HOTLINE, 3-688756, WHICH IS MANNED BY STAFF DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS. REPORTS OR COMPLAINTS MADE OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS THROUGH THIS HOTLINE ARE AUTOMATICALLY RECORDED.

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS ARE ATTENDED TO BY A DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR ON CALL THROUGH A PAGING SYSTEM.

URGENT COMPLAINTS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS CAN BE MADE ON ANOTHER HOTLINE, 3-684242, WHICH OPERATES IN A SIMILAR MANNER.

OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS, URGENT ENQUIRIES RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS CAN BE MADE TO ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICER, MR LAM YUK-KEUNG, ON 5-435553.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THOSE OFFICERS REQUIRED TO WORK OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS IF NECESSARY ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY'S ENGLISH AND CHINESE DIRECTORIES.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT THESE TELEPHONES SHOULD ONLY BE USED FOR URGENT MATTERS OUTSIDE NORMAL OFFICE HOURS. DURING OFFICE HOURS THE MATTERS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DIVISIONS CONCERNED.

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WARNING ABOUT UNSCRUPULOUS EXHUMATION SERVICES
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PEOPLE VISITING PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SHOULD BE CAREFUL OF UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS OFFERING EXHUMATION SERVICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE ADVICE WAS GIVEN WITH THE APPROACH OF THE CHING MING FESTIVAL AND AFTER COMPLAINTS WERE RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT EXORBITANT CHARGES LEVIED BY UNDERTAKERS.

AS BURIAL IN WO HOP SHEK, SANDY RIDGE AND CHEUNG CHAU PUBLIC CEMETERIES ARE NOT PERMANENT, ALL HUMAN REMAINS INTERRED IN 1975 ARE NOW DUE FOR REMOVAL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH A FUNERAL PARLOUR OR AN UNDERTAKER TO HAVE THE REMAINS EXHUMED BEFORE APRIL 30, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD SAID.

AFTER EXHUMATION, THE REMAINS CAN BE BURIED IN A PERMANENT URN GRAVE IN WO HOP SHEK AND CHEUNG CHAU PUBLIC CEMETERIES, WHILE THE CREMATED ASHES CAN BE KEPT IN A NICHE AT ANY COLUMBARIUM.

HOWEVER, NO CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE NTSD TO OPERATE A SERVICE FOR PRIVATE EXHUMATION IN PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE IS AT PRESENT NO REGULATION GOVERNING THE SCALE OF FEES CHARGED BY ANY PRIVATE CONTRACTOR.

THE NTSD DOES NOT OPERATE ANY SERVICE FOR EXHUMATION OF HUMAN REMAINS AT PUBLIC CEMETERIES.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO OFFER ANY SUCH SERVICE, AND IT IS IN FACT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE FOR A CIVIL SERVANT TO SOLICIT OR ACCEPT ANY ADVANTAGE, THE NTSD SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

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CONTESTS ON NEEDS OF DISABLED

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A DESIGN COMPETITION AND AN ESSAY CONTEST ON HOW TO IMPROVE ACCESS MEANS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, SAID IT WAS HOPED TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL AWARENESS OF THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM AND STIMULATE INTERESTS IN BETTER DESIGNS OF BUILDINGS, PUBLIC AREAS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED.

THE CONTESTS WILL BE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN.

DR HASE HAS CIRCULATED A LETTER TO LOCAL BODIES, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, YOUTH CENTRES, COMMUNITY HALLS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, INVITING ENTRIES BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON APRIL 6.

WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION NEXT MONTH ON THE PROBLEMS OF ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION, BEGINNING ON APRIL 24, WILL FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS, FILMS, +REHABUS+, SPECIALLY CONVERTED CARS FOR USE BY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND A MODEL ILLUSTRATING THE ACCESS PROBLEMS FACING HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

THE HANDICAPPED ACCESS EXHIBITION IS BEING ORGANISED BY A SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AS A PRELUDE TO THE THIRD FAR EAST AND SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

MORE THAN 500 HANDICAPPED ATHLETES FROM 30 FAR EASTERN AND SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPORTS MEETING.

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