



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1976

APPLICATIONS FOR CHILD ADOPTION BACKLOG VIRTUALLY CLEARED * * * * *

THE ADOPTION UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS VIRTUALLY CLEARED THE BACKLOG OF APPLICATIONS FOR CHILD ADOPTION.

THE WAITING PERIOD OR THE TIME IT TAKES FOR A CASE TO BE CONSIDERED AND PROCESSED HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO THREE TO SIX MONTHS AS AT PRESENT.

THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE ADOPTION UNIT, MRS. KWOK LUI SHUK-YING, SAID THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WAS COMPARATIVELY HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS.

THERE WERE 67 CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IN 1973-74 AND 53 IN 1974-75. THE FIGURE ROSE TO 83 IN 1975-76.

THESE CHILDREN, MAINLY ILLEGITIMATE, ARE BETWEEN EIGHT AND 18 MONTHS OLD.

IN VIEW OF THIS INCREASE, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED THROUGH THE HELP OF THE UNIT WENT UP SLIGHTLY.

IN 1973-74, 38 CHILDREN WERE ADOPTED LOCALLY COMPARED WITH 40 IN 1974-75 AND 49 IN 1975-76.

EXPLAINING THE ADOPTION PROCEDURES, MRS. KWOK SAID, +INTENDING APPLICANTS MUST BE LEGALLY MARRIED COUPLES AND PRIORITIES ARE GIVEN TO THOSE WITHOUT A CHILD OF THEIR OWN.+

THE APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED BY THE ADOPTION WORKERS OF THE UNIT WHO WILL ASSIST THE APPLICANTS TO UNDERSTAND THE LAW AND PROCEDURES OF ADOPTION.

THE ADOPTION WORKERS WILL MAKE A DETAILED STUDY OF THE APPLICANTS THROUGH INTERVIEWS AND HOME VISITS, AND THE RECORD OF THE CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION IN ORDER TO MAKE A SUITABLE MATCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICANTS' WISHES.

+APPLICANTS WILL FIRST BE FULLY INFORMED OF THE CHILD'S BACKGROUND AND MEDICAL HISTORY,+ MRS. KWOK SAID.

THEY WILL THEN MEET THE CHILD A FEW TIMES AT THE CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE OR THE INSTITUTION WHERE THE CHILD IS RESIDING. BUT FOR SPECIAL CASES AND FOR OLDER CHILDREN THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE MORE PREFERRABLY ARRANGED IN A PARK.

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AFTER THE APPLICANTS HAVE DECIDED ON ADOPTING A SPECIFIC CHILD, THE UNIT WILL GIVE THEM AN AUTHORISATION WHICH ENABLES THEM TO BRING THE CHILD HOME UNDER THEIR TEMPORARY CARE AND CUSTODY FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE ADOPTION WORKER WILL VISIT THE APPLICANTS' FAMILY, GIVE THEM ADVICE ON CHILD CARE AND SEE THE PROGRESS OF ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

+ALL ADOPTION APPLICATIONS,+ MRS. KWOK SAID, +MUST GO THROUGH THE SUPREME COURT. THE ADOPTION WORKER WILL PREPARE A GENERAL REPORT TO THE COURT AND IT WILL BE ENTIRELY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE AS TO WHETHER AN ORDER WILL BE GRANTED.+

FOR EACH APPLICATION A FEE OF \$100 IS CHARGED. SHE POINTED OUT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE IF THE CHILD WERE TOLD ABOUT THE ADOPTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY MISUNDERSTANDING.

THE ADOPTED CHILD, SHE ADDED, MIGHT SOONER OR LATER FIND OUT THE TRUTH FROM EITHER THE ADOPTION ORDER OR THE ENTRY FORM IN THE ADOPTED CHILDREN REGISTER WHICH INDICATED THAT THE CHILD IS ADOPTED.

MRS. KWOK SAID THE UNIT ALSO HANDLED OTHER ADOPTION APPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FORMALISING ADOPTIONS BY PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS.

IN 1975-76, THE UNIT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 422 APPLICATIONS, WHILE THE COURT GRANTED 370 ADOPTION ORDERS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CHUNG HOM KOK

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CHUNG HOM KOK ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 23).

STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SECTION OF CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ROAD LEADING TO CHUNG HOM WAN.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD PASSING THROUGH THE CHESHIRE HOME WILL BE A PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY ZONE.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CARRYING OUT A FULL-SCALE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES ON ALL ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES, AND RESTAURANT AND HOTEL BUSINESSES.

SURVEY CARDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SOME 65,000 ESTABLISHMENTS, AND THE MANagements ARE ASKED TO COMPLETE THE CARDS WITH THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THEM AND THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES THEY HAVE AS AT JUNE 15, 1976.

THEY ARE ALSO ASKED TO RETURN THE COMPLETED CARDS PROMPTLY TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT USING THE POSTAGE-PAID REPLY ENVELOPE ATTACHED.

THE SURVEY WILL PROVIDE NOT ONLY DETAILED STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE AND TREND IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND CATERING SECTORS, BUT ALSO A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE DIRECTORY FOR SUBSEQUENT SAMPLE ENQUIRIES.

MEANWHILE, ENQUIRIES ARE ALSO BEING MADE OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES IN SOME 15,000 SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AND 16,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN A VARIETY OF OTHER TRADES AND SERVICES.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS TODAY APPEALED TO MANagements FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION IN SUPPLYING THE DATA REQUIRED.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT PROMPT RETURN OF SURVEY CARDS TO THE DEPARTMENT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR EARLY RELEASE OF SURVEY RESULTS.

+THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, AND WILL BE USED SOLELY FOR COMPILING STATISTICAL TABLES,+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 P.M. ON TUESDAY (JUNE 22) TO 6 A.M. THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE THE DIVERSION OF A FRESH WATER MAIN AT TAI PO ROAD.

ALL PREMISES ALONG TAI PO ROAD, BETWEEN LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND MA LIU SHUI, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY UNIVERSITY STATION, INCLUDING SHA TIN NEW TOWN, LEK YUEN ESTATE, FO TAN ROAD, JARDINE DYEING AND FINISHING CO. LTD., KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WORKSHOP AND QUARTERS AND CHUNG CHI COLLEGE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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