



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Rooftop occupants urged to co-operate

The Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, today (Saturday) appealed again to rooftop occupants of Kingland Apartments affected by the Buildings Department's enforcement action to co-operate with the Housing Department on rehousing arrangements.

"Clearly, it is in the interests of the rooftop occupants to accept the type of rehousing for which they are eligible. To do otherwise will only delay the rehousing process, and in any case will not change their eligibility status. We already have well established procedures to rehouse those affected by the Buildings Department's demolition action," he said.

"It is the Government's policy to offer rehousing to those in need prior to any clearance or demolition. Under the policy, no one would be made homeless," Mr Wong reiterated.

The Buildings Department had issued a Notice of Intention last December for demolition of unauthorised rooftop structures in Kingland Apartment.

"Over the past four months, the Housing Department, the Social Welfare Department and the Yau Tsim Mong District Office have been liaising with the residents concerned with a view to rehousing them before the Buildings Department enforces the Closure Order," said Mr Wong.

"Staff of the Housing Branch and the Housing Department have met the residents nine times since mid-January to explain the rehousing policy and to discuss their rehousing arrangements. The residents concerned are well aware of their entitlements and the arrangements made for them under the existing rehousing policy.

"The existing rehousing criteria are reasonable and fair, and should not be changed in favour of a particular group. We do not consider it reasonable to provide immediate rehousing in public rental flats for rooftop occupants who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria. To do so will lead to accusations of 'queue jumping', which is unfair to eligible households now on the Waiting List."

Of the 39 families involved, six have moved out voluntarily, 22 have accepted the Government's rehousing offers and two are considering the Government's offers. The remaining nine families refuse to accept the Government's offers to rehouse them in urban Temporary Housing Area.

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Building contractor fined \$185,000

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Building contractors should ensure that their construction sites are safe, otherwise they will be liable to heavy fines or even imprisonment.

Manfield Building Contractors Limited at Harbour Road, Wan Chai, was recently fined \$185,000 at Sha Tin Magistracy for committing four offences under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations.

The contractor failed to fence the floor edge, lift shaft openings and a working platform on a construction site in Sha Tin. Moreover, one worker not wearing a safety helmet was allowed to remain on the site.

The Chief Factory Inspector of the Labour Department, Mr Chan Tat-king, said today (Saturday) that the irregularities were discovered by the department's special task force during a special campaign in September last year to inspect construction sites with poor safety records.

He reminded building contractors that they were required by law to provide a safe system of work, safety training and instructions and suitable personal protective equipment such as safety helmets for the workers.

"Most contractors know that they should provide safety helmets for workers on the sites. However, some fail to realise that it is also their responsibility to train workers on the proper use of such helmets and ensure that they wear the helmets on the sites. Site supervision is generally weak in this area," he said.

Any contractor who allows a worker to remain on a construction site without wearing a safety helmet is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000.

Failure to fence the floor edge, lift shaft openings and working platform on a construction site without reasonable excuse will each incur a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for one year.

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Training course for health workers

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) is inviting serving health workers who have received medical or nursing training outside Hong Kong to apply for a local training course.

The 11-week training course, which is scheduled to start on June 26, aims at improving the quality of service of personnel in residential homes for the elderly, a spokesman for the department said today (Saturday), adding that applications should reach the department on or before May 25.

"Under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, all health workers are required, among other things, to complete training approved by the Director of Social Welfare before being qualified for registration.

"The course helps to improve the quality of service and give due recognition to the profession," the spokesman said.

The training course for health workers is jointly organised by the SWD and the College of Nursing, Hong Kong. A total of 10 training courses have been organised since 1989.

"The course includes basic skills in rendering health care to the elderly, with emphasis on the psychological and physical changes of the elderly," the spokesman said.

Applicants are required to provide documentary proof of their qualification. Priority will be given to those recommended by the elderly homes in which they are serving. The course fee is \$1,600 per trainee.

Copies of invitation have already been sent to elderly home operators, inviting them to recommend suitable candidates for the course.

Those interested to take up a job in elderly homes may also forward their applications to the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

For enquiries, please call the licensing office on 2961 7211 or 2834 7414.

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Good example important for children's language proficiency

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Education provides children with formal language training. But it is important also for parents, teachers, friends and neighbours to provide a good example when speaking to children.

Mrs Patten said this at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Children's Month today(Saturday).

"We all have a role to play in contributing to their development and learning through our conversation with them," she said.

Mrs Patten said she was pleased to see the organiser, the Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education and Services had chosen "Language Proficiency" this year as the theme for the event.

"Language is one of the most important ways by which children learn about the world."

Mrs Patten said whatever language one spoke, one should learn to use it clearly and with meaning. She said clear language understood by all is "a must" in academic work or in business.

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Residents urged to register as voters

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The Tai Po District Officer, Mr Danny Tsui, today (Saturday) called on residents to support the Government's voter registration drive for the September Legislative Council elections.

Speaking at a reception of the Tai Po Residents' Association, Mr Tsui expressed hope that residents would exercise their rights to register as voters and participate in the 1995 poll.

He said employees should be encouraged to register as electors in the nine functional constituencies.

Meanwhile, Mr Tsui also paid tribute to the association for its efforts in serving the community.

End/Saturday, May 6, 1995

Fresh and flushing water cut in the Southern district

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in the Southern district will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (May 8) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at Chung Hom Kok Road, Horizon Drive, Ching Sau Lane, Cape Drive as well as 8-32 and 11 Cape Road.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	1,965	0930	+500
Closing balance in the account	1,205	1000	+500
Change attributable to :		1100	+500
Money market activity	+500	1130	+500
LAF today		-1,260	1500
			1600

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *+0.1* 6.5.95

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