



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1994

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION CRUCIAL TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVT

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TO REGISTER AS A VOTER AND CAST THE BALLOT IN ELECTIONS ARE TWO WAYS TO SHOW A CITIZEN'S CONCRETE SUPPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION DAY ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION (CPCE), MR SUEN SAID IT WAS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT CITIZENS WERE GETTING MORE INTERESTED IN BOTH CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

"THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION BODIES IN AROUSING CIVIC AWARENESS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED," HE SAID.

HE WAS ALSO GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN "CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT" AS ITS WORK EMPHASIS FOR THIS YEAR AS WELL AS FOR TODAY'S ACTIVITIES.

STRESSING THAT THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT HINGES ON CONTINUOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT, MR SUEN CALLED ON THE COMMITTEE AND ITS DISTRICT COUNTERPARTS TO CO-OPERATE AND WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF "HONG KONG PEOPLE RULING HONG KONG".

AT THE OPENING, CPCE CHAIRMAN DR DANIEL TSE ALSO CITED THE FINDINGS OF A VOTING BEHAVIOUR STUDY PUBLISHED LAST YEAR ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THE REPORT CONTAINED A SUGGESTION THAT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, MORE SHOULD BE DONE TO DEVELOP THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE OBJECTIVES OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"THIS IS THE PRIMARY AIM BEHIND TODAY'S EVENT," HE SAID.

TO PROMOTE THE THEME OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO HOLD A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS A COMPUTER SOFTWARE DESIGN COMPETITION, AN INTRA-SECONDARY SCHOOL QUIZ AND A CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME THROUGH CABLE TELEVISION.

HE SAID THE ORGANISATION OF THE LARGE-SCALE ANNUAL CIVIC EDUCATION DAY SHOWED THE COMMITTEE'S AIM TO SPREAD SUCH IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

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75 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN NOVEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 75 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THEM, 23 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 23 FOR KOWLOON AND 29 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 31 FOR APARTMENT AND APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, 14 FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND 13 FOR FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

IN THE MONTH, CONSENTS WERE GIVEN FOR WORK TO START ON 48 PROJECTS, WHICH INVOLVE 121,411 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 217,088 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

MEANWHILE, THE DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN THE SAME MONTH TOTALLED ABOUT \$1,697 MILLION.

OF THE BUILDINGS CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN THE MONTH, USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USE WERE 82,792 SQUARE METRES AND 74,635 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

IN NOVEMBER, THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED 31 OCCUPATION PERMITS - 11 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, NINE FOR KOWLOON AND 11 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 41 DEMOLITION CONSENTS INVOLVING 103 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 650 COMPLAINTS OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,669 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 1,026 REMOVAL ORDERS IN RESPECT OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT INSPECTED 883 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED FIVE EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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CAMPAIGN TO HELP MINIMISE NOISE HAZARDS

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL INSPECTION CAMPAIGN AGAINST NOISE HAZARDS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS HAS PROVEN TO BE USEFUL IN ENHANCING OWNERS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING WORKERS AGAINST SUCH HAZARDS.

DURING THE TWO-MONTH TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED IN DECEMBER, FACTORY INSPECTORS VISITED 55 RELATIVELY LARGE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS SELECTED FROM THE SEVEN NOISY INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIRING, CONSTRUCTION, TEXTILE, CLOCKS AND WATCHES, METAL, WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS.

/DEPUTY CHIEF .....

DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR KAN HON-SANG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY):

"DURING THE INSPECTIONS, OUR FACTORY INSPECTORS NOTICED THAT THE MAJORITY OF OWNERS WERE AWARE OF THE HEARING PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE SHOWN INITIATIVES TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYEES LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE NOISY WORKING ENVIRONMENT WERE WILLING TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS BY WEARING EAR PROTECTORS SUPPLIED BY THE EMPLOYER," HE ADDED.

ON THE ENFORCEMENT SIDE, MR KAN SAID 12 SUMMONSES WERE TAKEN OUT AGAINST OWNERS WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS.

"AMONG THEM, SIX WERE ON FAILURE TO CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF NOISE EXPOSURE, TWO RELATED TO FAILURE TO DEMARCAT E AR PROTECTION ZONES, TWO ON FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUITABLE APPROVED EAR PROTECTION EQUIPMENT," MR KAN SAID.

"ONE OF THE REMAINING SUMMONSES WAS ON FAILURE TO LABEL THE NOISY MACHINES OR TOOLS TO SPECIFY THE DISTANCE WITHIN WHICH SUITABLE APPROVED EAR PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN AND THE OTHER ON FAILURE TO ENSURE THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE WEARS SUITABLE APPROVED EAR PROTECTOR."

MR KAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (NOISE AT WORK) REGULATION WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT IN JULY LAST YEAR, OWNERS OF ALL INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST NOISE HAZARDS.

"THESE MEASURES INCLUDE APPOINTING OF COMPETENT PERSONS TO CONDUCT NOISE ASSESSMENTS AND DEMARCAT AREAS AFFECTED BY EXCESSIVE NOISE AS EAR PROTECTION ZONES WITHIN WHICH OWNERS MUST PROVIDE AND EMPLOYEES MUST WEAR SUITABLE APPROVED EAR PROTECTORS," HE SAID.

WHERE DEMARCAT ION IS IMPRACTICABLE, FOR EXAMPLE ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE WHERE NOISY MACHINES ARE BEING MOVED AROUND QUITE FREQUENTLY, THE REGULATION REQUIRES OWNERS TO LABEL THE NOISY MACHINES INDICATING THE DISTANCE WITHIN WHICH EAR PROTECTORS MUST BE WORN.

OWNERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN MACHINES PROPERLY AND IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO REDUCE NOISE LEVEL.

"IN ADDITION, EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS, AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED," MR KAN ADDED.

HE SAID EMPLOYEES MUST, UNDER THE REGULATION, CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS IN USING THE SUITABLE APPROVED EAR PROTECTORS PROVIDED TO THEM AND REPORT ANY DEFECTS IN THE MACHINE TO THE OWNER.

"OWNERS WHO CONTRAVENE THE PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATION WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 WHILE EMPLOYEES WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000," HE ADDED.

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FLAT OWNERS FINED FOR DEFYING DEMOLITION ORDERS

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REITERATED THAT FLAT OWNERS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH DEMOLITION ORDERS ON UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES MAY FACE HEAVY FINES.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH TWO FLAT OWNERS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$86,000 FOR IGNORING THE DEMOLITION ORDERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO REMOVE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN THEIR FLATS IN TSUEN WAN CENTRE, TSUEN WAN.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT ON JULY 15, 1992 WHEN STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT ACTED ON A COMPLAINT TO INSPECT THE PREMISES. THEY FOUND METAL FRAME STRUCTURES COVERED BY CORRUGATED SHEETS.

DEMOLITION ORDERS WERE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 4, 1992 AND MARCH 24, 1993 REQUIRING THE OWNERS TO REMOVE THE UNAUTHORISED WORKS AND TO REINSTATE THE AFFECTED PARTS OF THE BUILDING WITHIN 30 DAYS.

FURTHER WARNING LETTERS WERE ISSUED TO THE OWNERS ON MAY 11 AND AUGUST 9 LAST YEAR SAYING THAT PROSECUTION ACTION WOULD BE INITIATED IF THE ORDERS WERE NOT COMPLIED WITH WITHIN FOUR WEEKS.

THE DEFENDANTS WERE TAKEN TO COURT AFTER SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION REVEALED THAT STATUTORY ORDERS HAD BEEN IGNORED.

THEY WERE CONVICTED AND FINED \$25,500 AND \$60,500 RESPECTIVELY ON JANUARY 5 THIS YEAR AT TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE COURT. THE FINES INCLUDED A DAILY FINE OF \$500 FOR 21 DAYS AND 91 DAYS RESPECTIVELY.

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1,000 SISTER SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR NATURE STUDY CENTRE

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MORE THAN 1,000 STUDENTS WILL BE MAKING FRIENDS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE NATURE AT THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE, SAI KUNG, ON FEBRUARY 5.

THE "GETTING TO KNOW YOU" PARTY IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED UNDER THE SISTER SCHOOLS SCHEME.

THE STUDENTS FROM 48 SPECIAL AND 63 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO STUDY LIVING SPECIMENS AND STATIC DISPLAYS IN THE CENTRE. THIS WILL HELP THEM UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE HONG KONG'S WILDLIFE, VEGETATION, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

THE EVENT, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, IS TO MARK THE START OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SISTER SCHOOLS SCHEME.

/OFFICIATING WILL .....

OFFICIATING WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, WHO WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A CHEQUE FOR \$395,125 FROM THE GOVERNOR OF THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR CHENG WAI-CHUEN, IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

THE SISTER SCHOOLS SCHEME WAS INITIATED AT THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE DISABLED IN 1981 AS A SOCIAL PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN TIES AND INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS OF SPECIAL AND ORDINARY SCHOOLS.

UNDER THE SCHEME, A SPECIAL SCHOOL IS TEAMED UP WITH ONE TO THREE ORDINARY SCHOOLS IN ORGANISING RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF THE MATCHED SISTER SCHOOLS ORGANISE ABOUT FIVE ACTIVITIES EVERY YEAR. THESE ACTIVITIES ARE FINANCED BY THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 WHICH HAS DONATED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, INCLUDING ABOUT \$400,000 IN 1993/94.

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NEW YEAR POSTERS TO SPREAD KEEP CLEAN MESSAGE

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THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE WILL DISTRIBUTE LUNAR NEW YEAR POSTERS FROM TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 1).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THE POSTER HIGHLIGHTED AUSPICIOUS CHINESE GREETINGS: "BE THE HOUSE FILLED WITH RICHES".

PRINTED IN BRIGHT RED COLOUR, THE POSTER INCLUDES VARIOUS TRADITIONAL FESTIVE ITEMS TO WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE DOG, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE POSTER ALSO FEATURES THE "FAMILY OF THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS" TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE THAT "HONG KONG IS OUR HOME AND DON'T MAKE IT DIRTY."

"THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POSTERS ALSO COINCIDES WITH OUR ANNUAL YEAR-END CLEAN-UP FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR," HE SAID.

FREE COPIES OF THE POSTER CAN BE COLLECTED FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES, URBAN SERVICES AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENTS.

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FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY  
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A TOTAL OF SEVEN ORGANISATIONS WERE GRANTED PERMISSION TO RAISE FUNDS IN PUBLIC PLACE NEXT MONTH, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL EITHER SELL FLAGS OR TOKENS OR SIMILAR ITEMS, OR PLACE DONATION BOXES IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ON TEL 866 8123 IN CASE OF ANY DOUBTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO APPEALED TO ORGANISERS TO ADOPT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST FRAUD.

"SELLERS SHOULD DISPLAY THE PERMIT OR CARRY COPIES OF THE PERMIT IF THE FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY MOVES FROM PLACE TO PLACE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ADVISED ORGANISERS TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, FIX THE PLACES AND THE TIME FOR SELLING AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND SEEK THEIR HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND, HE SAID.

DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\* FOR FLAGS

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EVENT DATE

PERMITTEE  
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FEBRUARY 5

THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY KOWLOON

FEBRUARY 19

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (CHARITY) LTD

FEBRUARY 26

MONG KOK KAIFONG ASSOCIATION LTD

/\* FOR PUBLIC .....

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\* FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION  
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EVENT DATE  
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PERMITTEE  
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FEBRUARY 6  
FEBRUARY 13

THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF JESUS  
CHRIST,  
THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME,  
ADMINISTRATOR, INC.

FEBRUARY 13

SOWERS ACTION

FEBRUARY 26

LAND OF VIRTUE CENTRE LTD

FEBRUARY 5  
FEBRUARY 6  
FEBRUARY 19  
FEBRUARY 20

THE COMMUNITY CHEST

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