



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, January 10, 1976

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CO-OPERATION NEEDED IN EVALUATING WELFARE SERVICES

The Social Welfare Advisory Committee is consulting directly representatives of voluntary agencies and other interested parties on how evaluation of welfare services should be conducted in Hong Kong.

This was stated by Mr. Thomas Lee, Director of Social Welfare and Chairman of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, in his opening address at the seminar on evaluation this (Saturday) morning.

Mr. Lee stressed that any future evaluation exercise could only be successful with the co-operation of those who were directly involved in providing the services.

The Director noted that evaluation would frequently result in a change of the existing situation. "We must be prepared to accept that successful evaluation should result in a change for the better, and therefore in an improvement in the quality or effectiveness of our welfare services in Hong Kong," he said.

Mr. Lee outlined three possible approaches to evaluation in Hong Kong. He said: "One school of thought is that evaluation should be integrated with the planning and review process in order to provide more reliable basic data for planning purposes.

"Another view is that we should first seek to achieve some degree of rationalisation of our existing agency services. This approach would be designed to effect a more equitable distribution of resources towards the areas of greatest need.

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"A third view is that the first objective of evaluation should be to set minimum acceptable standards against which performance can be measured."

Turning to the objectives of evaluation in the local social welfare context, the Director said, "There appears to be general agreement that rather than continue on an agency-based approach to evaluation, evaluation in the future should take a broader perspective of services in order to establish: firstly, the need for a particular service and, possibly, differing categories of need in order of priority.

"Secondly, the relevance of the objectives of the group of agencies providing a service to the need for the service; thirdly, the extent to which agencies are meeting their objectives with regard to services."

"And fourthly, any gaps that exist in an area of service and the steps that are necessary to fill those gaps," he continued.

On the need for evaluation, Mr. Lee noted: "Government, as the main financier of the voluntary sector, is in effect 'buying' welfare services through subvention, and therefore has a duty to provide the means of ensuring that the resources expended on agency services are properly utilised.

"This has become particularly important in recent years as Government has become involved to an ever-increasing extent in the financing of voluntary welfare services."

Mr. Lee also mentioned other reasons why evaluation was desirable. "For example," he said, "the need to upgrade the quality of services for its own sake or to provide basic information for planning purpose. But the

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inescapable fact is that the need for evaluation stems primarily from government's responsibility to ensure that resources are used to the best possible advantage for the good of the community."

The seminar, arranged by the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, was to review the effectiveness of the initial evaluation exercise which was carried out last year covering five voluntary welfare agencies and one Social Welfare Department institution.

The initial evaluation exercise was undertaken jointly by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and the Social Welfare Department as a pilot project to enable them to gain some experience of evaluation and to establish guidelines for the conduct of future evaluation studies.

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EARLY PAY DAYS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

People receiving public assistance or disability and infirmity allowances the pay days of which fall within the Lunar New Year Holidays will be able to get their money earlier, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department announced today.

Mr. Stephen Ng, Deputy Secretary (Operations), said that as in previous years, arrangements had been made with the post offices, district offices in the New Territories and treasury offices, to enable recipients to cash their vouchers earlier.

Those whose pay days fall on January 31, February 1, 2, 3 will be able to get their money on January 27, 28, 29 and 30 respectively.

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CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN SHAM SHUI PO

Urban clearway restrictions will be introduced in Wong Chuk Street between Tai Nan Street and Lai Chi Kok Road in Sham Shui Po from 10 a.m. next Wednesday (January 14).

All motor vehicles, except franchised buses, will be prohibited from stopping in this section of Wong Chuk Street to pick up or set down passengers and to load and unload goods between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7pm daily.

From the same day, all public light buses will be prohibited from stopping in this section of Wong Chuk Street to set down or pick up passengers between the hours of 7 a.m. and midnight daily.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up to guide motorists.

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GRANT OF LAND ON TSING YI ISLAND TO OIL COMPANY

The Government intends to grant an area of about 20,180 square feet of foreshore and seabed off Sai Tso Wan on the west coast of Tsing Yi Island to the Peninsula Petroleum Company.

The proposed leased area, which includes the site of an existing pier and dolphins, is to provide the company with berthing facilities.

It is intended to grant the lease for the residue of a term of 99 years less the last three days beginning from July 1, 1898.

The extent of the area involved is described in a notice in the Government gazette.

In the notice, the Director of Public Works invites those who have objections to the proposal or claims of private right to submit them to him in writing within two months from today.

Plans of the area may be inspected at the P.W.D.'s Port Works Division, 5th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong, or at the Tsuen Wan District Office, New Territories.

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