



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, August 11, 1973

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ASSISTANCE FOR LAST YEAR'S RAINSTORM VICTIMS STILL AVAILABLE

Victims of the June 1972 rainstorm disasters who have not yet applied for assistance from the money donated by the public, are urged to do so now.

They can still apply in writing to the Director of Social Welfare, but no claims for assistance will be considered after August 31 this year.

The members of the Community Relief Trust Fund Committee, who have been acting as trustees for the donations, have decided to use the balance -- amounting to about \$5.5 million -- of the donations still held to establish two funds to assist registered victims of the disasters.

It is proposed to use \$1.5 million for a rehabilitation fund and the rest for an orphans' fund.

Earlier this month, the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. F.K. Li, told the Legislative Council that the rehabilitation fund would be used to provide additional help for families who had already received assistance but who may still need it. Their cases will be followed up by officers from the Social Welfare Department.

He said that the orphans' fund would be allocated to 49 orphans or semi-orphans on a variable scale, depending on age and which parent was killed in the disaster.

The money would be held in trust to be used for their maintenance, education or welfare with the balance being handed to them when they reached an appropriate age.

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"After considering the position carefully, the conclusion of the members of the Community Relief Trust Fund Committee is that it is right that the balance of donations should also go to victims of the June rainstorm disasters," Mr. Li said.

Donations received from the public amounted to just over \$17.3 million, of which \$11.8 million had been distributed to 24,355 families.

A public notice will be published in Monday's newspapers informing those victims who have not yet made any claims for payments that new claims will not be entertained after August 31 this year.

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CLEANSING OPERATION IN CHAI WAN ESTATE

A massive tidy-up and hawker resiting operation is to be launched next week at Chai Wan Estate to make it a better and healthier place to live in.

The first phase of the operation involving blocks 16 and 19 and the areas around them will begin on Monday (August 13).

Over 100 illegal structures in the area will be demolished. Illegal extensions such as oversized sunshades protruding from ground floor shops will also be removed.

About 40 hawkers trading in the vicinity will be moved into a temporary resite area at block 17.

The ground between block 16 and 19 will then be resurfaced. All eligible hawkers will move back to the original trading area in about six weeks when it has been properly marked out into a hawker bazaar.

Mr. Lo Chi-yuen, District Estate Manager (South) of the Housing Department said the operation was aimed at improving the living condition of the tenants of the old estates.

"Apart from causing obstructions to tenants, the illegal hawker stalls and other structures have made cleansing work difficult and at the same time they pose a serious fire and health hazard to the estate tenants," he said.

"The estate would be turned into a slum area if no determined action was taken in time."

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GUIDANCE SCHEME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

A guidance scheme for primary school graduates in West Kowloon district is to be inaugurated on Sunday (August 12).

The scheme is one of the projects organised by the recently established Children and Youth Guidance Council in the area, which represents 76 schools, church groups and organisations in Tai Hang Tung, Tai Hang Sai, Shek Kip Mei and Yau Yat Chuen.

According to Miss Lilian Wong, Warden of the Social Welfare Department's Tai Hang Tung Community Centre from where the scheme will operate, 300 primary school graduates have registered to participate.

Explaining the objectives of the scheme, Miss Wong said the aim was to help those students who could not get a place in aided schools and who were too young for jobs.

"If any wanted to continue studying they would be helped with scholarships and advice on the best ways of going about it," she said.

For those who do not, the scheme will provide counselling on questions of employment such as pre-vocational or apprenticeship training.

Another group for which help will be provided is those students who will be going into English secondary schools from Chinese primary schools.

"These children will have to adjust to a new environment and the scheme will help them to overcome any problems they may face," Miss Wong said.

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Tied in with all this will be the development of group life through stimulating their interests in other activities.

The first phase of the scheme will begin after the inauguration ceremony on Sunday and will last until the end of the year. The second phase will start after an evaluation of the programmes of the first phase.

A group of 70 youth volunteers of Form 4 standard and above have been trained by the community centre to conduct the scheme. They will be closely supervised and guided by the executive committee of the council.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the inauguration ceremony on Sunday (August 12) at the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre, Kowloon. The event begins at 2.30 p.m.

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YAN CHAI HOSPITAL RECEPTION

Note to Editors: A luncheon reception will be held on Tuesday (August 14) at the Yan Chai Hospital, Yan Chai Street, Tsuen Wan to introduce to the press and local residents the medical services provided by this general hospital.

Mr. I.F.C. Macpherson, District Commissioner, N.T., Dr. G.H. Choa, Director of Medical and Health Services and Mr. Beacon Chiu, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Yan Chai Hospital will be present.

Your representatives are welcome to attend. Reporters and photographers assigned to cover the function should assemble, not later than 12.15 p.m., at the Tsim Sha Tsui Ferry Pier (near the railway station) where a bus will be waiting to transport them to the hospital and back.

The hospital is expected to open later this year. Initially it will provide 100 beds for in-patients, a casualty ward and an out-patient clinic.

The building costs amounted to some \$3.5 million. The government contributed about \$1.7 million while the rest came from a group of Tsuen Wan community leaders.

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TEMPORARY EXCO APPOINTMENTS

Two members of the Legislative Council have been appointed on a temporary basis to the Executive Council.

Mr. Wilson Wang Tze-sam, whose appointment took effect on August 8, will serve as an Unofficial Member until about September 15 during the absence of Sir Yuet-keung Kan.

Mr. P.G. Williams' appointment was effective from August 9. He will serve as an Unofficial Member until September 4 during the absence of Mr. G.R. Ross.

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VISIT TO MA TAU CHUNG CENTRE

Note to Editors: The Chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee and the President of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children, have organised a press visit to the HKSPC's Ma Tau Chung Centre on Monday (August 13).

Four well-known HKTVB personalities, Miss Lee Heng Kam, Miss Lisa Wang, Miss Sum-Sum and Miss Margaret Miller, will also join the press party.

Press representatives assigned to cover the event are requested to assemble at Queen's Pier, Hong Kong, not later than 10.50 a.m. on Monday. Transport will be provided.

The Centre which is located at 107 Ma Tau Chung Road, Kowloon City, provides accommodation to children suffering from malnutrition and day care service to babies whose mothers have to work to help support their families.

A grant from the Lotteries Fund has been approved to the HKSPC towards the purchase and installation of laundry equipment for the centre in November last year.

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Release Time: 2.30 p.m.