



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, February 23, 1974

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.

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STARTING A CAREER

Labour Department Ready To Help

Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Lao Mou-chi, today urged Hong Kong students to make greater use of the services offered by the Labour Department in beginning their working life.

Mr. Lao was speaking while officially opening a two-day careers seminar being held at the Kwun Tong Government Technical Secondary School.

The seminar, jointly organised by the Ngau Tau Kok Caritas, careers teachers from seven major secondary schools in the Kwun Tong District, and the Labour Department, is being attended by some 800 students - many of them in their final year at school.

Mr. Lao urged the students to think more positively of careers in industry through apprenticeship training schemes. He told them to approach the Industrial Training Division of the Labour Department for free assistance and advice on the growing career opportunities opening up through such schemes.

Mr. Lao also said more school leavers should take advantage of the department's Local Employment Service, which provides a free service aimed at bringing prospective employees in touch with employers with suitable job vacancies.

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The Assistant Commissioner, praising the efforts of the Kwun Tong careers teachers in organising the seminar, urged schools to play a greater part in preparing young people for a career. He said more schools could include careers content in their curricula, disseminate available careers information, and release students to attend careers talks and seminars.

"And the Youth Employment Advisory Service of the Labour Department is always ready to help by way of co-ordinating careers programmes and organising careers activities," Mr. Lao said.

"One very encouraging start has been made at this seminar, for this is the first seminar in which careers teachers at schools have been actively involved in planning and preparation. Let us hope that this is the first of many such activities."

The seminar's two-day programme of careers talks and panel discussions covers such subjects as work with computers; social work; nursing; apprentice training; government jobs for secondary school leavers; and employment and further studies.

There will also be special panel discussions on the tourist industry and three major manufacturing industries - textiles, electronics and electrical products.

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DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The total work force last December in industrial undertakings registered with or recorded by the Labour Department was 627,230, according to a survey by the Census and Statistics Department.

This represented an increase of 7,993 as compared with September 1973, and 2,143 compared with June last year.

The total number of such undertakings surveyed was 22,533, which was 923 more than in September 1973.

The survey indicated an increase in employment in a number of industries, including garments (+2,112), bleaching and dyeing (+1,202), cotton spinning and weaving (+911), metal products (+832) and glove making (+824).

On the other hand, there were drops in the work force of the plastics industry (-2,545), knitting industry (-1,346) and wigs industry (-744).

The survey also recorded a total of 7,203 vacancies. The main vacancies were: garments 2,318, electronics 1,747, metal products 374 and plastics 391.

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PRISON SERVICES UP TO STANDARD

Hong Kong's prisons services compare favourably with the best penal institutions in Britain, according to the newly appointed Inspector of Prisons, Mr. David Hampton.

Addressing new recruits at their passing out parade at the Prisons Department Staff Training Institute this (Saturday) morning, Mr. Hampton said: "Recently having been to the United Kingdom and visited numerous prison establishments, by comparison I can assure you that, as a discipline service, you can be rightly proud."

However, there were problems within the department, especially at Stanley Prison, he said, "and these problems have got to be squarely faced."

To indicate the importance that is attached to this, all the new graduates would be posted at Stanley.

Mr. Hampton told the officers that one of the greatest problems at Stanley is overcrowding. Plans are in hand to reduce this, he said, but in the meantime the officers must be vigilant and aware of the difficulties that overcrowding brings.

He noted that the department was going through a tremendous amount of reorganisation, changes in handling prisoners and a change in institutional roles.

But the uniformed officer, he stressed, "is still the backbone of the prison service."

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Hampton's speech are boxed for collection.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

A temporary timber footbridge will be erected on Monday night (February 25) at the Waterloo Road-Prince Edward Road junction to improve pedestrian crossing facilities during the construction of the Waterloo Road Flyover.

Motorists are advised that traffic diversions will be in operation for short periods between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. while the two main spans of the bridge are put up.

A Transport Department spokesman said some delay to traffic in Waterloo Road was inevitable and he advised drivers to avoid the area during the hours of work on the bridge.

Meanwhile, Stafford Road will be re-routed to allow only east-bound traffic as from 10 a.m. on Tuesday (February 26). At the same time, Cambridge Road will be re-routed one-way for east-bound traffic.

These arrangements are intended to improve traffic circulation on both sides of Waterloo Road.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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PARTY FOR ELDERLY

Three welfare organisations in the Shek Lei Public Housing Estate in Tsuen Wan will be hosting a party for elderly people of the estate tomorrow (Sunday).

The party, which is for 70 people who are aged 75 or over, will be held at the estate's welfare building beginning at 2.30 p.m.

It is being organised jointly by the Shek Lei Youth Centre, the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Social Welfare Department's Community Work Office.

A variety of entertainment has been planned for the old people who will also be given a gift parcel each.

Some 25 youth volunteers will be helping out at the party.

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ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN

A total of 12,006 doses of vaccine was administered during the three weeks ending on February 9 in the first phase of this year's anti-poliomyelitis campaign, according to statistics issued today by the Medical and Health Department.

During the period, 4,933 first-dose, 4,172 second-dose, and 2,901 booster-dose of the vaccine were administered. Of these, 3,406 were administered among children on the Island, 5,991 in Kowloon, and 2,609 in the New Territories.

The first phase of the campaign began on January 2 ended on February 16. The second phase will be carried out between March 18 and the end of April.

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