



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1979

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FORM TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM RATEPAYERS PUBLISHED

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A FORM WHICH THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT WILL USE TO OBTAIN FROM RATEPAYERS INFORMATION ON RENTS AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF PROPERTY, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE FORM (FORM R1A) WOULD BE SENT EARLY NEXT MONTH (OCTOBER) TO ALL RATEPAYERS, WHO ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO RETURN IT TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 28 DAYS. THE FORM, WHICH IS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, MAY BE COMPLETED IN EITHER LANGUAGE.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF SENDING OUT THE FORM NOW, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN DETERMINING TO WHAT EXTENT EXISTING RATEABLE VALUES ARE OUT OF DATE. HE EMPHASISED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE SPENDING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME IN 1980 PREPARING FOR A REVISION OF RATEABLE VALUES, NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR WHEN SUCH UPDATED VALUES SHOULD BE USED.

BEFORE NEW VALUATION LISTS CAN BE PREPARED AND BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNOR TO GIVE A DIRECTION UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE AND NO SUCH DIRECTION HAS YET BEEN GIVEN.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH EARLIER THIS YEAR SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE INTENDED DEFERRING REVIEWING RATEABLE VALUES FOR THE TIME BEING, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE CARRYING OUT OF SUCH AN EXERCISE IN 1980 WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN DURING THE YEAR. FORMERLY, REVIEWS OF RATEABLE VALUES WERE CARRIED OUT FAIRLY FREQUENTLY (12 TIMES FROM 1950 TO 1969), BUT WITH THE GROWTH OF THE VALUATION LISTS IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO BRING NEW LISTS INTO EFFECT ON ONLY TWO OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF UP-DATING RATEABLE VALUES IS TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE TAX BASE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE INCIDENCE OF THE TAX IS FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RELATIVE CHANGES IN VALUES OF DIFFERENT PREMISES. IT IS NOT A REVENUE RAISING EXERCISE SINCE THE BURDEN OF THE TAX IS DETERMINED BY THE PERCENTAGE CHARGES SET EACH YEAR BY RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE RECALLED THAT, ON THE LAST TWO OCCASIONS WHEN RATEABLE VALUES WERE REVISED, THE INCREASED VALUES HAD LARGELY BEEN OFFSET BY REDUCTIONS IN THE PERCENTAGE CHARGES, WHICH DETERMINED RATEPAYERS' BILLS.

ANYONE IN DOUBT AS TO HOW TO COMPLETE THE FORM SHOULD CALL ON, OR TELEPHONE, THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT AT 1 GARDEN ROAD (TEL. 5-249021) OR AT 22 FENWICK STREET (NEW MERCURY HOUSE, TEL. 5-281424) OR AT 24-34 HENNESSY ROAD (TAI SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, TEL. 5-284037) WHERE ASSISTANCE WILL GLADLY BE GIVEN. ASSISTANCE MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED AT ANY OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES OR DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT CANADA
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30) FOR A SHORT VISIT TO CANADA VIA THE UNITED STATES. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY MACLEHOSE.

AT THE INVITATION OF LORD CROMER, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, THE GOVERNOR WILL PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL IN TORONTO BETWEEN OCTOBER 3 AND 5. THIS COUNCIL IS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP WHICH MEETS PERIODICALLY TO DISCUSS TOPICAL SUBJECTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IT IS NORMAL FOR IT TO INVITE OUTSIDE EXPERTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROCEEDINGS.

BEFORE THE MEETING, SIR MURRAY WILL VISIT OTTAWA WHERE HE WILL CALL ON CANADIAN MINISTERS AND DISCUSS WITH THEM MATTERS CONCERNING IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND TRADE.

SIR MURRAY AND LADY MACLEHOSE ARE DUE TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 7.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE WILL LEAVE ON FLIGHT NO. PA 02 FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30), E.T.D. 1345 HOURS.

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WISHING TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S DEPARTURE ARE ADVISED TO ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING AT LEAST 50 MINUTES BEFORE THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEPARTURE. G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST. THOSE COVERING THE FUNCTION ARE ALSO ADVISED TO BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS OR PASSPORTS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT'S RESTRICTED AREA.

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APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS HAS APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. ROBERT STRONG SUN YUAN-CHUANG AS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

MR. SUN PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT. HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN MARCH 1957 AS AN ASSISTANT PRESS OFFICER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO INFORMATION OFFICER IN JULY 1959, TO SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER IN APRIL 1963 AND TO PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER IN JULY 1965. HE WAS APPOINTED ACTING CHIEF PRESS OFFICER IN 1967 AND IN AUGUST THE SAME YEAR WAS SECONDED TO THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 1970.

MR. SUN HAS SERVED AS THE COUNCIL'S DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE AND LATER REPRESENTATIVE IN NORTH AMERICA AND FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS HAS BEEN SENIOR MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNCIL'S PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS BOTH IN HONG KONG AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

MR. SUN WILL TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR.

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CALL FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OLD PEOPLE

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR OLD PEOPLE.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY RUN BY THE WESTERN DISTRICT WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB, MR. LEE SAID OLD PEOPLE SHOULD BE HELPED IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO FACE AND OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF OLD AGE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOCIETY AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING THEIR YOUNGER DAYS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

+WE MUST TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THEM, AND ENABLE THEM TO LIVE AN ENJOYABLE LIFE AFTER THE MANY YEARS OF HARD WORK,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE SAID OLD PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS HAD BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY A GENERATION GAP, A GRADUAL DISINTEGRATION OF THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE FAMILY CONCEPT, AND AN INCREASING ELDERLY POPULATION.

SOME PEOPLE, HE SAID, MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FACE OLD AGE WHICH IS AN INEVITABLE STAGE OF LIFE, AND WHEN THEY LOOK BACK INTO THE PAST, THEY MAY FEEL DISGRUNTLED.

+A GENERATION GAP ARISES IF THE YOUNGER GENERATION DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELING,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE PRAISED THE WESTERN DISTRICT WOMEN'S WELFARE CLUB FOR ITS WORK IN THE FIELDS OF CHILD CARE AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE NEW SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, IN BRIDGES STREET, CENTRAL, OPENS FIVE DAYS A WEEK PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR 100 OLD PEOPLE FROM THE DISTRICT.

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GALA CONCERT FOR PARENTS

THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE WILL PRESENT A GALA CONCERT THIS SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 29) IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL, KOWLOON.

THE CONCERT WILL BE PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRAS, BANDS AND CHOIRS TRAINED BY THE OFFICE'S STAFF, AND TRAINEES OF ITS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING CLASS STARTING AT 8 P.M.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE CONCERT WAS ORGANISED IN ORDER TO +SHARE THE FRUITS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS' EFFORTS OF THE OFFICE WITH PARENTS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES IT HAD PROGRAMMED.+

+BECAUSE OF THIS, WE EXPECT THE CONCERT ATTENDANCE TO COMPRISE MAINLY PARENTS AND TRAINEES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ATTEND THE CONCERT CAN ALSO APPLY FOR FREE TICKETS BY CALLING 5-283257.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GALA CONCERT TO BE HELD AT 8 P.M. ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 29) IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL, KOWLOON. THOSE WISHING TO COVER THE CONCERT ARE REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THEIR RESERVATION BY CALLING MISS BETTY AU AT 5-283257 NOT LATER THAN NOON ON SATURDAY.

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HONG KONG STUDENTS COMMENDED IN ESSAY COMPETITION
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ESSAYS WRITTEN BY FOUR HONG KONG STUDENTS HAVE BEEN COMMENDED IN THE 1978/79 ESSAY COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY.

MISS PATRICIA FRANCES VANN OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE HAS BEEN +HIGHLY COMMENDED+ FOR HER ENTRY TO CLASS C OF THE COMPETITION, WHILE MISS ANGELA WANG OF THE SAME COLLEGE WAS +COMMENDED+ FOR HER ENTRY TO THE SAME CLASS.

IN CLASS A, TWO STUDENTS WERE +COMMENDED+ FOR THEIR ESSAYS. THEY ARE MISS ATHENA KWAI MAN-HA OF ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE AND MISS REBECCA WONG OF SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE.

A TOTAL OF 175 SCHOOLS FROM 31 COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN THE COMPETITION, WHICH IS HELD ANNUALLY BY THE SOCIETY WITH A VIEW TO ENCOURAGING COMMONWEALTH STUDIES IN SCHOOLS.

CLASS A IS FOR CANDIDATES AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 19, WHILE CLASS B IS FOR STUDENTS OF 14 AND UNDER 16, AND CLASS C FOR THOSE UNDER 14.

THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS BOOK PRIZES TO THE BEST THREE COMPETITORS IN EACH CLASS OF THE PRELIMINARY ROUND HELD LOCALLY.

HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY SIR DOUGLAS CLAGUE, THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY IN HONG KONG.

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SUSPENSION OF TRAM SERVICES IN HAPPY VALLEY
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TRAM SERVICES BETWEEN HAPPY VALLEY AND KENNEDY TOWN, AND HAPPY VALLEY AND SHAU KEI WAN WILL STOP AT 11.30 P.M. ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 29) AND AGAIN ON OCTOBER 13 TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE CANAL ROAD EXTENSION.

THE LAST TRAMS TO DEPART FROM HAPPY VALLEY FOR SHAU KEI WAN AND KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE AT 10.24 P.M., ON THOSE TWO DAYS, WHILE THE LAST TRAMS FROM SHAU KEI WAN AND KENNEDY TOWN FOR HAPPY VALLEY WILL BE AT 10.26 P.M. AND 10.46 P.M.

EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO COMPLETE THE WORKS SO AS NOT TO CAUSE ANY DISRUPTION TO THE NORMAL SERVICE AROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY LOOP ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30) AND SUNDAY (OCTOBER 14).

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