



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS AND OPTIONS

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HONG KONG IS FACED WITH A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF CHOICE IN HOW BEST TO APPLY THE CONSIDERABLE -- BUT LIMITED -- RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC SECTOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO A WHOLE GALAXY OF DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS.

ADDRESSING THE ZONTA CLUB AT A LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MR DEREK JONES ILLUSTRATED THE CHOICES AVAILABLE BY TAKING THREE EXAMPLES, EACH OF WHICH, HE ASSUMED, COULD ACCOMMODATE AN EXTRA TWO MILLION PEOPLE.

+THE FIRST IS THE BELT OF TERRITORY JUST BEYOND THE INNER HARBOUR STRETCHING FROM LANTAU, THROUGH TSUEN WAN, ACROSS TO SHATIN AND MA ON SHAN AND EXTENDING ROUND TO JUNK BAY,+ HE SAID. +PROPERLY DEVELOPED, THIS COULD ACCOMMODATE AN EXTRA TWO MILLION POPULATION.+

+THE SECOND IS THE OUTER BELT, MUCH CLOSER TO THE BORDER, STRETCHING FROM TUEN MUN AND PILLAR POINT IN THE WEST THROUGH THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, YUEN LONG AND ACROSS TO FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI AND THE NORTHEAST.+

+THE THIRD IS THE INNER,+ SAID MR JONES. +IT WOULD INVOLVE A SERIES OF MEASURES, INCLUDING MAXIMUM REDEVELOPMENT IN THE EXISTING URBAN AREA, KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT AND FURTHER RECLAMATIONS AROUND THE HARBOUR, INCLUDING POSSIBLY AROUND STONECUTTERS ISLAND.+

HE ADDED : +NONE OF THEM WILL NECESSARILY HAPPEN AND WE MAY END UP WITH BITS OF EACH, BUT THEY ILLUSTRATE THE CHOICES AVAILABLE.+

THERE ARE MORE AMBITIOUS OPTIONS, HE CONTINUED, THE KEYS OF WHICH ARE A POSSIBLE NEW AIRPORT TO REPLACE KAI TAK, AND A NEW CONTAINER PORT TO SUPPLEMENT KWAI CHUNG.

+THEY TAKE OUR HORIZON BEYOND THE EIGHTIES, AND SOMETIMES EVEN BEYOND THE NINETIES AND INTO THE NEXT CENTURY,+ SAID MR JONES.

HOWEVER, BY THE LATTER PART OF 1978 AND EARLY 1979 EXPENDITURE WAS RISING SO RAPIDLY THAT, WHEN ADDED TO AN EQUALLY RAPID GROWTH IN PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL SPENDING, IT WAS OVERSTRAINING THE ECONOMY -- PARTICULARLY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY -- AND WAS PRODUCING SERIOUS OVERHEATING.

THE RATE OF INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE, THEREFORE, HAD TO BE SLOWED DOWN.

THE TASK BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT, SAID MR JONES, WAS TO CHOOSE A PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD BE AFFORDED, THAT TOOK ACCOUNT OF ALL THE FACTORS AND ELEMENTS THAT NEEDED TO BE FITTED INTO THE JIGSAW AND WHICH YIELDED THE BEST OVERALL RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE INVESTMENTS INVOLVED.

+WE DO NOT NEED, AND CANNOT HAVE, THE WIDOW'S CRUSE, BUT THE EXPANDABLE PINT POT, EXPANDING WITH THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL INCOME, IS WITHIN OUR GRASP,+ MR JONES SAID.

ID CARD A PREREQUISITE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THEY MUST SHOW PROOF OF IDENTITY WHEN ATTENDING OUTPATIENT CLINICS OR OTHER HOSPITAL SERVICES.

ANYONE TURNING UP AT HOSPITALS OR CLINICS WILL BE ASKED TO PRODUCE IDENTITY CARDS OR OTHER ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF IDENTITY WHEN REGISTERING FOR MEDICAL CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT STRESSED.

+IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THIS MOVE WILL CAUSE ANY INCONVENIENCE AS ALL PEOPLE ARE NOW REQUIRED BY LAW TO CARRY THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AT ALL TIMES ANYWAY,+ HE ADDED.

NOTICES OF THE REQUIREMENT WILL BE PUT UP IN ALL THE DEPARTMENT'S OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS.

+IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAY, THOSE WITHOUT ANY FORM OF PROOF OF IDENTITY WILL SIMPLY NOT BE REGISTERED FOR SERVICES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF IDENTITY INCLUDE:

- * A FORM ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REGISTRATION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PERSON HAS APPLIED FOR REPLACEMENT OR TO BE REGISTERED FOR AN IDENTITY CARD,
- * A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT SUCH AS PASSPORT, CHINESE EXIT PERMIT, HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY, HONG KONG DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY, HONG KONG RE-ENTRY PERMIT,
- * A CURRENT HONG KONG DRIVING LICENCE,
- * SERVICE IDENTITY CARD (IF THE PERSON IS EMPLOYED IN HER MAJESTY'S REGULAR NAVAL, MILITARY OR AIR FORCES), AND
- * VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CARD (IF THE PERSON IS A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE).

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**\$44.7 MILLION PAID IN SOCIAL SECURITY IN SEPTEMBER
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THE 22 PER CENT INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENT RATES EFFECTIVE LAST MONTH HAS BOOSTED THE TOTAL PAYMENTS IN SEPTEMBER TO A RECORD HIGH OF \$44.7 MILLION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THE AMOUNT WAS \$8 MILLION MORE THAN IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND REPRESENTED AN AVERAGE DAILY PAYOUT OF \$1.5 MILLION.

IT BROUGHT TO \$351 MILLION THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY CASH BENEFITS PAID OUT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

THE PAYMENTS WENT TO 300 000 PEOPLE. OF THE AMOUNT PAID OUT, \$17.9 MILLION WERE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, \$19.9 MILLION FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND \$6.9 MILLION FOR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME PROVIDES MONTHLY CASH PAYMENT TO HELP MAINTAIN THE INCOME OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A HOUSEHOLD IN NEED UP TO A LEVEL WHERE BASIC LIVING CAN BE MET. THE SCHEME IS ALSO BUILT IN WITH SUPPLEMENTS TO PROVIDE EXTRA GRANTS FOR THOSE RECIPIENTS AGED 60 OR OVER, OR PARTIALLY DISABLED.

IN ADDITION, AN ANNUAL PAYMENT IS MADE TO LONG-TERM RECIPIENTS.

OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES ARE NON-MEANS-TESTED, AND PROVIDE A MONTHLY CASH GRANT, ON TOP OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING OUT OF OLD AGE AND DISABILITY.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT'S 26 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS HANDLED 45 000 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 150 000 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES AND 24 300 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CASES.

THE CURRENT PAYMENT RATES FOR SINGLE PERSONS ARE \$280 A MONTH AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR DISABILITY ALLOWANCE= \$140 A MONTH AS OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT OR DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT= AND \$355 A YEAR AS LONG-TERM SUPPLEMENT (OR \$700 A YEAR FOR A FAMILY).

INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WITHOUT INCOME OR UNABLE TO EARN ENOUGH FOR BASIC LIVING, OR THOSE IN NEED OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE, CAN APPLY AT THE NEAREST FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE, OR SOCIAL SECURITY FILED UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICTS.

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WAN CHAI WELFARE SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS GROUPED UNDER ONE ROOF ITS WELFARE UNITS IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT TO PROVIDE BETTER COORDINATED SERVICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THOSE APPLYING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS OR SEEKING FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES CAN NOW DO ALL IN A NEW SUB-OFFICE OF THE EASTERN-WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE PREVIOUSLY SCATTERED SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT, FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE, AND COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT HAVE MOVED INTO THE SUB-OFFICE AT TUNG SUN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 2ND AND 3RD FLOORS, 200 LOCKHART ROAD.

THE MOVE IS A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONALISATION SCHEME AIMED AT BETTER COORDINATION AND MORE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF WELFARE SERVICES AT A DISTRICT LEVEL.

THE WAN CHAI SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT AT PRESENT HANDLES 1 582 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 8 521 OLD AGE ALLOWANCE CASES AND 901 DISABILITY ALLOWANCES CASES.

THE DISTRICT'S FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE IS PROVIDING HELP IN 872 CASES, WHILE THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE COORDINATES A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE.

TO INTRODUCE ITSELF TO WAN CHAI RESIDENTS, THE NEW SUB-OFFICE WILL HOLD AN +OPEN DAY+ TOMORROW (THURSDAY) BETWEEN 3 PM AND 6 PM.

THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF THE SERVICES AND WORK OF THE THREE WELFARE UNITS, AS WELL AS THE DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE SERVICES BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OPERATING IN WAN CHAI DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE +OPEN DAY+ OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S WAN CHAI SUB-OFFICE AND A SERVICES DISPLAY, WHICH WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) BETWEEN 3 PM AND 6 PM AT TUNG SUN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 3RD FLOOR, 200 LOCKHART ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING
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A NEW DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL FOCUS GOVERNMENT ATTENTION ON LOCAL PROBLEMS, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY.

+THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS THE SECOND SET UP IN THE URBAN AREA AFTER KWUN TONG,+ SAID ITS CHAIRMAN, MR IAN STRACHAN, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, WONG TAI SIN.

+WE HOPE THAT BY BRINGING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, WE CAN IMPROVE OUR CO-ORDINATION AT A LOCAL LEVEL,+ HE SAID.

DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE ARE PUBLIC WORKS, URBAN SERVICES, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, LABOUR, POLICE, RECREATION AND SPORT, TRANSPORT, FIRE SERVICES AND HOME AFFAIRS.

ONE OF ITS FIRST TASKS WILL BE TO REASSESS LOCAL NEEDS AND SHORTFALLS, AND RECOMMEND A DISTRICT PROGRAMME TO DEAL WITH THEM.

MR STRACHAN STATED THAT IN THIS PROCESS, THE VIEWS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATIONS WILL BE SOUGHT.

+INITIALLY, THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL SET UP THREE SUB-COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. AS TIME GOES ON, AND MORE PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED, WE SHALL PROBABLY NEED TO SET UP MORE SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS,+ MR STRACHAN SAID.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS NOT JUST A TALKING-SHOP. +BESIDES BEING ABLE TO INITIATE ACTION BY DEPARTMENTS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, IT WILL BE ALLOCATED SOME GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO TACKLE LOCAL PROBLEMS AND CARRY OUT PROJECTS DIRECTLY,+ HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS HAVE IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN

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PARENTS AND TEACHERS EXERT EQUALLY POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR KENNETH TOPLEY SAID TODAY.

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS MRS WU YORK YU MEMORIAL COLLEGE IN KWAI CHUNG.

MAKING AN ANALOGY BETWEEN A SCHOOL AND THE FAMILY, MR TOPLEY SAID: +AS A FAMILY PREPARES A CHILD FOR ADULT LIFE, LIKEWISE A SCHOOL SHOULD BE CONCERNED NOT ONLY WITH IMPARTING INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO WITH HELPING PUPILS DEVELOP TO EMOTIONAL MATURITY, ENABLING THEM TO FACE THE VARIED CHALLENGES OF SOCIETY.+

BOTH PARENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE EQUALLY IMPORTANT EFFECTS ON THE CHILDREN BECAUSE FROM THEM THE CHILDREN PICK UP NOT ONLY KNOWLEDGE, BUT MORE IMPORTANT ABSORB IDEAS AND ATTITUDES WHICH COULD MOULD THEIR CHARACTERS AND ESTABLISH PATTERNS OF THINKING WHICH REMAIN WITH THEM THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.

+IN A COOPERATIVE, FAMILY-LIKE SETTING THE PUPILS LEARN MUCH BETTER AND ABSORB THE COOPERATIVE ATTITUDES, OBJECTIVITY, LOYALTY AND STABILITY EXEMPLIFIED BY THEIR TEACHERS,+ MR TOPLEY SAID.

IN THIS WAY COMPETITION IS MINIMISED, AND PUPILS WORK HARD TO GAIN COMPETENCE IN PARTICULAR SUBJECTS RATHER THAN TO OUTSHINE ONE ANOTHER, HE ADDED.

IN THE CASE OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP WHICH HAS A FAMILY OF SCHOOLS, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE SENSE OF FAMILY AND ABILITY TO IDENTIFY WITH THE GROUP MUST BE A GREAT SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUNNING OF THE SCHOOLS.

+IT MUST ALSO ENABLE THE TRANSMISSION OF A FEELING OF SECURITY DOWN FROM THE GROUP THROUGH THE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO THE PUPILS- IN SHORT THE FEELING OF SECURITY WHICH EXISTS IN A WELL-KNIT, WELL-RUN FAMILY,+ HE SAID.

THE TUNG WAH GROUP NOW RUNS TWO KINDERGARTENS, SEVEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SEVEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

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PRISON OFFICERS AWARDED NURSING CERTIFICATES
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SIXTEEN ASSISTANT PRISON OFFICERS RECENTLY COMPLETED A SIX-MONTH IN-SERVICE HOSPITAL TRAINING COURSE AND SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE FIRST AID AND HOME NURSING EXAMINATION CONDUCTED BY THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

AT A CEREMONY HELD IN THE SIU LAM PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE TODAY, THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CENTRE, DR RAYMOND TU, PRESENTED FIRST AID AND HOME NURSING CERTIFICATES TO THE OFFICERS.

THE COURSE PROGRAMME INCLUDED THEORETICAL, PRACTICAL AND FIELD TRAINING IN THE CENTRE'S HOSPITAL.

THE OFFICERS WILL BE POSTED TO PERFORM HOSPITAL DUTIES IN THE PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE.

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YUEN LONG TO HOLD FIRST TALENT CONTEST
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YUEN LONG DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE LOCAL TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT ARE HOLDING THE DISTRICT'S FIRST CONTEST TO UNCOVER LOCAL TALENT.

IT WILL BE HELD IN LATE NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER. IT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE AGED OVER 14 LIVING OR WORKING IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH INCLUDES YUEN LONG TOWN AND THE VILLAGES OF KAM TIN, SAN TIN, HA TSUEN, PAT HEUNG, SHAP PAT HEUNG AND PING SHAN.

THERE WILL BE FIVE CLASSES OF COMPETITION - FOLK SONG SOLO, FOLK SONG GROUP SINGING, POPULAR SONG SOLO, POPULAR SONG GROUP SINGING AND CLASSICAL SONG SINGING.

THE GRAND FINAL WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT THE HALL OF HEUNG YEE KUK SECONDARY SCHOOL.

THE FIVE CONTESTANTS OR TEAMS WITH THE HIGHEST SCORES IN EACH CLASS WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND PRIZES. WELL-KNOWN MUSICIANS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ADJUDICATE.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS NOVEMBER 20. APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE TOWN HALL.

THE TALENT CONTEST IS PART OF THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE TOWN HALL MANAGEMENT TO PROMOTE MUSIC AND ARTS IN THE NEW TOWN. OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING ORGANISED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDE A CHILDREN'S SINGING CONTEST AND A BALLET CLASS.

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