DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, August 16, 1973

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Prison officers to receive one year's back pay	1
Plover Cove extension scheme virtually complete	2
Record number of new building plans approved	4
Recreation room for youths in Tai Hang Tung	5
Appointment of new puisne judge	6
Employment found for 16 disabled last month	7
Museum competition to stimulate children's interest in art..	9
Building in Western declared dangerous	10
Labour dispute in hosiery factory settled	11
Table tennis for youth in Tsuen Wan-Kwai Chung area	11
Labour Department intensifies industrial safety training ...	12

Issued by Government Information Services, Beaconsfield House, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-233191

Thursday, August 16, 1973

PRISON OFFICERS TO RECEIVE ONE YEAR'S BACK PAY

****

Some 230 assistant prison officers class II, who were regraded on August 1 last year from the old rank of warder, are to receive a year's back pay.

Announcing this today, a government spokesman said that the decision would benefit those officers who had earlier been unable to show proof of their primary 6 education standard. All other officers within the grade had already been paid from the effective date of their regrading.

"Those who could not produce the required proof of educational attainment were asked to sit for a departmental examination held in May this year," he recalled. "The examination was designed to assess their efficiency in carrying out responsibilities within the grade. All officers who passed the examination will now have their salaries readjusted from the effective date of regrading."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

BIG BOOST TO H.K.'S WATER RESOURCES

****

The $37-million Plover Cove extension scheme is now virtually complete.

Launched in June 1970 as part of the government's effort to ensure a continuous water supply for Hong Kong people, the project has increased the reservoir's storage capacity from 38;500 to 52,000 million gallons.

A spokesman for the Waterworks Office said today that work had proceeded smoothly, except for some minor delays due to adverse weather.

"All that remains to be done is surfacing the road on top of the main reservoir wall and turfing the area," he said. "This is expected to be completed within two months."

"Plans are also being drawn up for landscaping the surrounding area affected by the work," the spokesman added.

With the completion of the project Hong Kong's total water storage capacity has gone up from 54,000 to 67,500 million gallons.

And this will practically be doubled with the completion in 1977 of the High Island reservoir which will have a storage capacity of 60,000 million gallons.

In addition, the Castle Peak desalination plant will produce a further 40 million gallons of fresh water a day by 1976, to meet the increasing demand for water in the Seventies.

/The Plover Cove .....

The Plover Cove scheme involved the raising of the main and two subsidiary dams, the construction of a small saddle dam at the Tai Mei Tuk peninsula, and the installation of 64 concrete syphons on the existing spillway, thus increasing the maximum storage level from 27 to 44 feet.

Raising of the three dams comprised the majority of the work. The crest length of the main dam now measures 6,800 feet and that of the northern and southern subsidiary dams are 650 and 690 feet respectively.

The syphons, which work by suction to discharge excess flood water into the sea at a much higher rate than a conventional spillway, will reduce the amount of freeboard needed to contain flood water build up in the reservoir and thus reduce the cost and time of construction.

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the main dam are boxed for collection.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

RECORD NUMBER OF NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

****

A total of 163 new building plans was approved by the Buildings Ordinance Office in June this year -- the highest for any single month in the past 10 years.

More than half of the new plans were for residential or for combined apartment/commercial buildings, and included a 27-storey apartment block in King's Road and a 27-storey apartment/commercial building in Queen's Road West.

The new plans were among some 1,400 submissions and re-submissions dealt with by the office during the month. A spokesman explained that the high number of new building plans approved was the result of a new and faster checking system adopted in May this year to clear the backlog of building plans brought about by the June 1972 rainstorms, the lack of staff and the rapid growth in the building industry.

One of the aims of the new system is to clear the backlog of 1,923 plans outstanding on May 1, 1973. By the end of June, all but about 40 of such plans were processed.

While the new processing method is not as rigorous as the old, "strict attention is paid to the safety standards of proposed new buildings," the spokesman said.

"The safety aspects of new buildings are of paramount importance and no corners are being cut for the sake of speed," he stressed.

/In addition .....

In addition to the new plans approved, the Buildings Ordinance Office also certified 64 buildings for occupation. The declared construction cost of these buildings amounted to over $162 million.

The office also gave permission for construction to start on 57 building projects.

- - - - O - - - -

REST ROOM FOR ESTATE YOUTH

****

The Tai Hang Tung Community Centre has turned one of its rooms into a rest and recreation area for young children in the estate who have nowhere to go to in the evenings.

The move is part of the self-programming activities conducted by club members of the centre under the supervision of the centre's staff, according to Miss Lilian Wong, Warden of the Centre.

The new rest and recreation room will provide boys and girls of the estate with a place where they can relax in a pleasant atmosphere and take part in group activities such as folk songs and plays, among others.

Light music will also be provided during opening hours which is from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. every evening.

- - - - O - - - -

/6 .....

NEW PUISNE JUDGE APPOINTED

****

Mr. Commissioner Morley-John has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Justice Morley-John was educated at Wycliffe College and at Bristol University where he obtained his Bachelor of Laws Degree.

He was called to the Bar in 1950 by Gray's Inn and later practised on the Western Circuit until he joined the service of the Hong Kong Government as a Crown Counsel in July 1951.

He has acted as Deputy Registrar between 1952 and 1954 and sat as a Magistrate in 1956.

In 1961 he was appointed Principal Crown Counsel and later in the year became Director of Public Prosecutions.

He acted as Solicitor General in 1962 and again in 1966 until his appointment as a District Judge in October 1967.

He has also acted as a Temporary Additional Puisne Judge and a Commissioner of the Supreme Court on various occasions since 1968.

Mr. Justice Morley-John (50) is married with two children, and is the holder of the Naval Reserve Decoration.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

EMPLOYMENT OF HANDICAPPED LAST MONTH DISAPPOINTING

****

July was a disappointing month for placing handicapped people in jobs, Mr. Chan Shiu-wing, officer-in-charge of the Social Welfare Department's Job Placement Unit, said today.

"There are two reasons for this. First, we faced the seasonal factor where summer student workers were again given jobs which could rightly have been filled by disabled people. Then, there was a slow down in production by some factories because of the shortage and increasing cost of raw materials," Mr. Chan said.

During the month, his Unit was only able to place 16 disabled in jobs -- a discharged mental patient, a cured tuberculosis patient, three mentally retarded, three deaf and eight crippled.

Of these, two were taken on by the government as key punch operators and another by a hotel as a storekeeper. Of the remainder, six were found jobs as machine sewers, five as general workers and two as watchmen.

Despite the difficulties, officers of the Unit continued their efforts to find employment for the disabled. They held discussions with the Hong Kong Telephone Company, and following visits to its workshop, exchange building and training school, recommended 10 persons for employment with that company.

/The Unit .....

The Unit also arranged interviews for two blind telephone operators for possible employment to fill a vacancy in a government department.

Mr. Chan said one of the most difficult problems facing his Unit was still the attitude of employers towards handicapped people though it had considerably improved of late.

"Many employers think that because someone is physically disabled, he is unable to work, or to do a job properly. This is totally untrue. In fact, many disabled persons have proven to be much better than those without any disabilities in selected placements.

"Fortunately, this attitude is gradually changing and I am glad to say that more employers are beginning to realise that disabled persons when fully trained and placed in a job appropriate to their training, aptitude and residential capacity can make a contribution equal to and, we like to think, at times better than an average person," Mr. Chan said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

SECOND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM COMPETITION

****

Reproductions of famous paintings and Chinese antiquities are some of the attractive prizes to be won in the second children's museum competition organised by the City Museum and Art Gallery.

The competition, which starts tomorrow (Friday), aims at encouraging children to visit the museum and art gallery and stimulate their interest in Chinese art.

It is open to everyone under 17 and is divided into two sections -- senior for children over 13, and junior for those aged 13 and under.

The competition will continue until September 30 and will be held daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Thursdays and Sundays when the museum will be closed.

Children entering the competition will be required to study the exhibits and captions in the museum, and then answer some simple questions on Chinese art and antiquities.

The questions are intended to develop their power of observation, logical thinking, imagination, and written and pictorial expression.

A list of the winners will be published on October 22.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

WESTERN BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

****

The Building Authority today declared No. 74 Wing Lok Street in Western District to be in a dangerous condition and No. 76 liable to become dangerous.

These four-storey pre-war buildings were inspected following a report of damage in the aftermath of Typhoon Dot.

Severe fractures were found in the arches spanning the rear main wall of No. 74 at all levels. In view of the type of construction it is considered that there is a risk of failure leading to a collapse. A number of badly decayed timbers were also discovered.

The construction of No. 76 is similar and fractures were also observed in the arches at the rear. It may therefore become dangerous during or after the demolition of No. 76.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on the buildings today. Hearing will be in the Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 14.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11 .....

LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

****

Officers of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department today helped settle a labour dispute involving 47 redundant workers of the First Hong Kong Seamless Nylon Stockings Factory Limited.

The workers were rendered redundant on August 8.

Under the agreement, each worker will receive seven days' wages in lieu of notice; six days ex-gratia payment; and annual bonus at the rate of 2.17 days' wages for each month of completed service in 1973. The total amount involved is about $15,000.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT FOR JUNIORS

****

The Princess Alexandra Community Centre in Tsuen Wan has organised a junior team table tennis tournament for youngsters living in the area.

The competition opens tomorrow (Friday) and will be held at the centre each weekday between 2 and 5 p.m. It is open to boys and girls under the age of 14.

Applications should be made to room 213, second floor, Princess Alexandra Community Centre, Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 .....

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMME INTENSIFIED

****

The Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre is intensifying its training of workers and supervisory staff in accident prevention.

Mr. Chan Wing Kai, Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, revealed this when he was addressing the Castle Peak Lion's Club dinner this evening.

In the last financial year, he said,the Centre had organised 40 courses on basic and advanced accident prevention; 74 on safety in specialised processes such as power press operation and woodworking; and a special course to train industrial safety officers for individual factories.

Officers of the Centre had also given safety talks to some 5,700 technical students during the same period.

"In the current financial year, the Centre is offering a total of 150 courses, and will give talks to an estimated 6,500 technical students," Mr. Chan said.

In addition to conducting training courses, the Centre has organised two seminars on safety in the construction industry.

Mr. Chan said the training courses and seminars not only helped participants gain a deeper understanding of industrial hazards, but also helped change some of their basic attitudes towards industrial safety.

/He said: .....

He said: "All training courses are offered free of charge as part of the Labour Department's services to industry. Course programmes have recently been sent to 3,638 factories inviting them to take part."

"Apart from the comparatively minor cost of releasing the staff from work, this is a free investment for employers in industrial safety - and I am sure that the dividends will be more than handsome for both employers and workers," Mr. Chan said.

In accident prevention, he stressed, management must take the same kind of leadership as it does in production and marketing.

"It is only by applying to accident prevention the basic principles of management - planning, organising, directing and controlling -- that there will be any reduction in the waste of human and financial resources caused each year by accidents," Mr. Chan said.

- - - - O - - - -

Release Time: 7.30 p.m.