



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1992

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SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1992

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GOVERNOR MEETS HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY FIRST THING ON SATURDAY MORNING OF HAVING AN EARLY MEETING WITH HIS KEY GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ALL THE POLICY SECRETARIES.

AT THE START OF THE MEETING, MR PATTEN SAID: "I WANTED TO HAVE AN EARLY MEETING WITH YOU ALL. THE GOVERNMENT I HEAD WILL BE A TEAM GOVERNMENT, AND I WILL BE WORKING EXTREMELY CLOSELY WITH MY POLICY SECRETARIES AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

"WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO, AND I LOOK FORWARD IMMENSELY TO TACKLING THE ISSUES WE FACE TOGETHER."

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CALL FOR VILLAGE VEHICLES TO COMPLY WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS

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MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF THE 58 VILLAGE VEHICLES OPERATING IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WERE FOUND TO HAVE MECHANICAL DEFECTS OR SHOW NON-COMPLIANCE WITH VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT CONDITIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID FOUR VILLAGE VEHICLES WERE INSPECTED ON LAMMA ISLAND AND 54 VEHICLES ON CHEUNG CHAU DURING A SERIES OF SPOT CHECKS CARRIED OUT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

ONLY FIVE WERE FOUND TO BE IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION AND THE REMAINING 53 WERE FOUND TO HAVE MECHANICAL DEFECTS OR SHOW NON-COMPLIANCE WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS.

A TOTAL OF 39 VEHICLES OR 73.6 PER CENT WERE FOUND TO BE FITTED WITH MORE THAN ONE FORWARD OR REVERSE GEAR. ANOTHER 15 VEHICLES OR 28 PER CENT HAD DEFECTIVE BRAKES AND 10 VEHICLES OR 19 PER CENT HAD FAULTY STEERING.

THERE WERE VARIOUS OTHER MECHANICAL FAULTS, INCLUDING DEFECTS IN EXHAUST SYSTEM AND WARNING INSTRUMENTS, AND INCORRECT ENGINE IDENTITY.

"EACH OWNER OF VILLAGE VEHICLES THAT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS HAS BEEN ISSUED WITH A WARNING LETTER SETTING OUT THE DEFECTS AND NON-COMPLIANCE AREAS. REMEDIAL MEASURES HAVE TO BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY OR OWNERS WILL HAVE THEIR PERMIT CANCELLED OR NOT TO BE RENEWED.

"THE DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FOLLOW-UP CHECK ON ALL VILLAGE VEHICLES ON CHEUNG CHAU LATER THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/"THE DEPARTMENT

"THE DEPARTMENT WILL CHECK AGAINST ANY WARNINGS AND OFFENCES COMMITTED BY THE APPLICANT BEFORE GRANTING THE PERMIT. EACH VILLAGE VEHICLE OWNER IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A FRESH APPLICATION EVERY TIME THE VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT IS DUE FOR RENEWAL," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR VILLAGE VEHICLES HAD BEEN REVISED SINCE JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR TO ENSURE BETTER CONTROL AND SAFETY OF BOTH OPERATORS AND PEDESTRIANS.

PERMIT HOLDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A ONE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW CONDITIONS. THE GRACE PERIOD EXPIRED ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 600 VILLAGE VEHICLES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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NEW COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT MR NIGEL SHIPMAN HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO SUCCEED MR DEREK SULLIVAN AS COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE.

MR SHIPMAN, AGED 47, IS AT PRESENT ON LEAVE AND WILL ASSUME DUTY ON AUGUST 10.

HE WAS FIRST SECONDED FROM THE SCOTTISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1975.

HE WAS APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN 1980 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 LAST YEAR.

MR SHIPMAN HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSTS DURING HIS CAREER TO DATE. MOST RECENTLY, HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING.

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FOSTER-CARE PLACES TO DOUBLE BY 1995-96

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE EXISTING 240 FOSTER-CARE PLACES PROVIDED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT TO 500 BY 1995-96, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF A TOURING EXHIBITION ON FOSTER-CARE SERVICE ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT, MR CARTLAND SAID ULTIMATELY IT WAS INTENDED TO CONTINUE THE EXPANSION OF FOSTER CARE UNTIL IT REPLACED INSTITUTIONAL CARE AS THE MAIN FORM OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN IN HONG KONG.

THIS WOULD REQUIRE NOT ONLY FUNDING RESOURCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO THE CONTINUING CO-OPERATION OF FOSTER-CARE AGENCIES, AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT OF RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER TO BECOME FOSTER PARENTS, HE SAID.

"SOCIAL WORKERS ARE GIVING MORE PREFERENCE TO THE PROVISION OF FOSTER HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE," MR CARTLAND ADDED.

SINCE THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL FOSTER-CARE UNIT WAS SET UP NINE YEARS AGO, MORE THAN 500 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES AND ABOUT 600 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN RECRUITED TO SERVE AS FOSTER PARENTS.

TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF FOSTER CARE AND TO APPEAL TO MORE FAMILIES TO OFFER FOSTER HOMES, HE SAID ABOUT \$250,000 HAD BEEN ALLOCATED FOR A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED OVER THE COMING SIX MONTHS.

"THE EXHIBITION, BEGINS IN CITYPLAZA TODAY, MARKS THE START OF THE CAMPAIGN. IT WILL TRAVEL TO SEVEN BUSY AREAS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," MR CARTLAND SAID.

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CO-OPERATION WITH LABOUR INSPECTORS URGED

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PROPRIETORS AND EMPLOYEES OBSTRUCTING LABOUR INSPECTORS FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR PUBLIC DUTY WILL BE PROSECUTED, SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

IN A RECENT CASE, AN EMPLOYEE OF WAI FAI GARMENT FACTORY WAS GIVEN THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1,000 BY A NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRATE FOR OBSTRUCTING TWO LABOUR INSPECTORS FROM OBTAINING INFORMATION ON AND CHECKING THE IDENTITY CARDS OF FIVE WOMEN WORKERS WORKING OUTSIDE THE EMPLOYMENT PERIOD.

/"OFFENDERS CONVICTED

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1992

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"OFFENDERS CONVICTED UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$1,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS," MR CHAN SAID.

"A LABOUR INSPECTOR IS EMPOWERED TO ENTER AND INSPECT ANY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND TO MAKE INQUIRY AND OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM ANY WOMAN, YOUNG PERSON OR CHILD EMPLOYED IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING," HE SAID.

"UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, A LABOUR INSPECTOR IS ALSO EMPOWERED TO CHECK THE IDENTITY CARD OF ANY EMPLOYEE IN ANY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT," HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,788
REVERSAL OF LAF	-800
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+350
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,338
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	

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