



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1992

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2,300 GET IMPROVED HOUSING

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MORE THAN 2,300 PEOPLE HAVE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT IMPROVED IN THE PAST 10 MONTHS THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SCHEME, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

CHIEF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MRS KATHERINE SHIN, SAID A TOTAL OF 1,336 CASES HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED TO HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST 10 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY.

"COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING IS AIMED TO HELP INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH GENUINE, IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM HOUSING NEED BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND PERSONAL FACTORS," SHE SAID.

MRS SHIN SAID IN THE COURSE OF DAILY WORK, SERVICES UNITS OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND SOME NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS MAY IDENTIFY CASES AND RECOMMEND THEM FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING.

"NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES MAY ALSO MAKE DIRECT ENQUIRIES OF SERVICES UNITS OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"CASES RECOMMENDED FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE FINANCIAL MEANS COMPARABLE TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND FULFIL THE RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION LAID DOWN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT," MRS SHIN ADDED.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT PERSONS WITH POOR HEALTH AND DISABILITIES WITH RECOMMENDATION FROM MEDICAL PERSONNELS AND SOCIAL WORKERS THAT IMPROVED HOUSING WAS ESSENTIAL TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OR TO RE-INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING.

ALSO SOCIAL HANDICAPPED PEOPLE WHO WERE FACING PRESSURES BECAUSE OF UNSUITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND WHO MAY FACE SERIOUS AND LONG-TERM DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR SUCH RECOMMENDATION.

IN ADDITION, ELDERLY PUBLIC-ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS LIVING IN CROWDED BEDSPACE APARTMENT OR A LOW-INCOME SINGLE PARENT WITH YOUNG DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND PERSONS SUFFERING FROM DISABILITIES REQUIRING IMPROVED LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR REHABILITATION MIGHT BE INCLUDED.

"COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING IS ONLY ONE OF THE VIABLE SOLUTIONS TO HOUSING PROBLEMS. OTHER SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE SUCH AS HOMES OR HOSTEL PLACEMENT AND RELEASE OF FINANCIAL GRANTS ARE ALSO APPLICABLE AND WOULD BE ARRANGED IF APPROPRIATE," MRS SHIN STRESSED.

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MORE VIDEOS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT AVAILABLE

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAS RECENTLY PRODUCED TWO VIDEOS TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

THESE VIDEOS - "THE ROLE OF CARETAKER" AND "BUILDING INSURANCE" TOGETHER WITH THE ONE ON THE FORMATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS OF BUILDINGS WHICH WAS PRODUCED BY THE CNTA LAST YEAR, FORMED A SERIES OF USEFUL AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES AND SEMINARS, A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"THE ROLE OF CARETAKER", WHICH LASTS FOR 13 MINUTES, ADOPTS AN INDUCTIVE APPROACH TO ILLUSTRATE THE NORMAL SCOPE OF DUTIES AND CONDUCT OF A RESPONSIBLE CARETAKER IN THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE FREQUENT SECURITY PATROLS, DUE ATTENTION TO WATER AND POWER SUPPLY AS WELL AS THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF COMMON FACILITIES.

THE SEVEN-MINUTE VIDEO ON BUILDING INSURANCE EMPHASISES THE NEED AND VALUE-FOR-MONEY ASPECT OF THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF INSURANCE.

IT FEATURES THE COMMON CATEGORIES OF INSURANCE ADOPTED BY OWNERS CORPORATIONS (OC'S) AND BUILDING MANAGERS: EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION INSURANCE, FIRE RISKS AND OTHER PERILS INSURANCE AND PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE.

SOME USEFUL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AFTER THE PURCHASE OF INSURANCE, SUCH AS THE DISPLAY OF A COPY OF THE POLICY IN THE BUILDING, REGULAR REVIEW OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE INSURED AMOUNT AND RENEWAL OF POLICY ARE ALSO STRESSED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COPIES OF THE VIDEOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR LOAN, FREE-OF-CHARGE, AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES BY THE OC'S, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, LOCAL BODIES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIE, AND RESIDENTS GROUPS.

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ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE METRICATION

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THE METRICATION COMMITTEE IS ORGANISING A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES IN 1992/1993 TO PROMOTE METRICATION IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THESE ACTIVITIES WERE TO PROMOTE THE USE OF METRIC UNITS AT THE RETAIL LEVEL, AND TO EDUCATE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE METRIC SYSTEM.

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"IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO REALISE THAT IT IS THE WORLD TREND TO ADOPT THE METRIC SYSTEM. AND HONG KONG, AS A LEADING TRADE CENTRE, SHOULD KEEP PACE WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND TO SOLICIT MORE FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THE COMMITTEE HAS PLANS TO APPEAL FOR PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

"THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT WITH THE SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEED OF THE PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FIRST PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY IS A POSTER AND SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION WITH "LET US GO METRIC" AS THE THEME.

"THROUGH THE COMPETITION, THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO STIMULATE NEW IDEAS FROM THE YOUNGER GENERATION ON THE PROMOTION OF METRICATION," HE ADDED.

LETTERS WERE SENT TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS LAST MONTH TO INVITE STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY FOUR TO FORM SEVEN TO TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION.

ENTRIES TO THE COMPETITION SHOULD REACH THE METRICATION COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT THROUGH RESPECTIVE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 17.

PRIZES OF THE COMPETITION, WHICH AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$20,000, ARE SPONSORED BY THE WINNER FOOD PRODUCTS LIMITED.

A MEMBER OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, MRS BETTY LAM SAID: "WE WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY-CONSCIOUS BUSINESS SECTOR TO PROMOTE METRICATION."

SHE URGED THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IN PARTICULAR, THE RETAILERS, TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE METRICATION COMMITTEE IN ORGANISING PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS TO HELP CUSTOMERS WITH METRICATION.

LATER IN THE YEAR, THE COMMITTEE WILL SET UP METRIC SCALE COUNTERS AT MAJOR PUBLIC MARKETS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO USE METRIC UNITS.

ENQUIRIES ON THESE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, MS TITANIA KWAN, ON TEL. 810 2869.

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COURSES ON COMMUNICATION SKILLS WITH TRADE UNIONS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL RUN THREE LABOUR RELATIONS COURSES BETWEEN MAY AND JULY TO ENHANCE COMPANY MANAGERS' UNDERSTANDING OF TRADE UNIONS AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH SKILLS IN DEALING WITH TRADE UNION OFFICIALS.

THE THREE COURSES, EACH COMPRISING SIX EVENING SESSIONS, ARE DESIGNED PARTICULARLY FOR MANAGERS ENGAGED IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, STAFF DISCIPLINE, OR WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE COURSES WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, WITH THE FIRST CLASS STARTING ON MAY 5.

THE TOPICS TO BE COVERED WILL INCLUDE MANPOWER CHARACTERISTICS IN HONG KONG, WORKERS' ATTITUDE AND RESPONSE TOWARDS WORK AND THE ROLE OF A TRADE UNION.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SESSIONS ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF TRADE UNIONS, ANALYSIS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONAL SCOPE AS WELL AS THE METHODS AND SKILLS IN NEGOTIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, THE ART OF COMPROMISE, AND THE HANDLING OF CONTINGENCY ISSUES AND CRISIS SITUATION.

THE SPEAKER WILL BE MR CHEUNG LUN, SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CEMENT AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION TRADE WORKERS' UNION AND MEMBER OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THE COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AND THE ENROLMENT FEE IS \$350.

EACH CLASS WILL HAVE 20 PLACES AND ENROLMENT IS ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

DETAILS OF THE COURSES AND ENROLMENT LEAFLETS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF OTB BUILDING, 160 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI AND FROM ALL LABOUR RELATIONS BRANCH OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 834 9311.

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METROPLAN EXHIBITION EXTENDED

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO MISSED THE CHANCE TO SEE THE METROPLAN EXHIBITION EARLIER WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO NOW AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXTENDED THE EXHIBITION OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

THE ONE-MONTH EXHIBITION, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR CONCLUSION LAST FRIDAY, HAS NOW MOVED TO THE ENTRANCE HALL ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF QUEENSWAY PLAZA IN CENTRAL FOR PUBLIC VIEWING UNTIL APRIL 20.

THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE VARIOUS PLANNING CONCEPTS AND PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE METROPLAN SELECTED STRATEGY SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO VISUALISE THE FUTURE TRANSFORMATION OF HONG KONG'S METRO AREA.

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN MARCH, THE EXHIBITION HAS BEEN STAGED ON A ROVING BASIS AT VARIOUS CITY HUBS WHICH FALL UNDER THE METROPLAN STRATEGY AND HAS BECOME AN INSTANT ATTRACTION TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

APART FROM INTRODUCING THE AIMS AND APPROACHES ADOPTED FOR RESTRUCTURING THE CITY THROUGH DISPLAY PANELS AND AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATIONS, THE EXHIBITION ALSO FEATURES A CLUSTER OF LIGHTWALLS OF THE NEW CITY FORM IN FUTURE AS WELL AS SOME MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS.

ALSO, THREE PURPOSE-BUILT MODELS HIGHLIGHTING HOW THE CITY WILL BE RE-SHAPED ARE ALSO ON DISPLAY. THIS FORMS THE MAIN ATTRACTION OF THE EXHIBITION PROVIDING THE PUBLIC A THREE-DIMENSIONAL VISION OF HOW THE CITY IN FUTURE WILL LOOK LIKE UNDER THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK OF THE METROPLAN STRATEGY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE DECISION TO EXTEND THE EXHIBITION PERIOD WAS MADE FOLLOWING ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC RESPONSE NOT ONLY IN THE INNOVATIVE DESIGN OF THE EXHIBITS ITSELF.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WAS AN ANSWER TO THE PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT IN THE FORWARD PLANNING OF THE CITY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT EVER SINCE THE EXHIBITS WENT ON DISPLAY, THEY HAD GENERATED IMMENSE INTERESTS FROM THE MEDIA AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS COULD BE JUDGED BY THE VOLUME OF ENQUIRIES RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE DISPLAY ITEMS HAD ALREADY BEEN BOOKED FOR DISPLAY BY ORGANISERS OF THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AS ONE OF THE SHOWPIECES FOR OVERSEAS VISITORS ON HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENTS, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF EXHIBITIONS.

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PUBLIC ADVISED NOT TO BRING IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC VISITING CHINA AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS ARE ADVISED NOT TO BRING BACK WITH THEM ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES ON THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG.

THE ACTING SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR RICHARD CHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT BOTH THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD STEPPED UP CONTROL MEASURES AT ALL ENTRY POINTS TO CHECK ON TRAVELLERS AND GOODS VEHICLES DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

"ANYONE WHO TRIES TO ILLEGALLY BRING IN ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES INCLUDING LIVE AND STUFFED SPECIMENS AS WELL AS PARTS AND DERIVATIVES, WILL BE PROSECUTED," MR CHAN SAID.

ACCORDING TO MR CHAN, THERE HAD BEEN 102 SEIZURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ILLEGAL IMPORT, EXPORT AND POSSESSION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES UP TO THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES INVOLVED WERE MAINLY STUFFED SEA TURTLES, CORAL SKELETONS, MOUNTED BUTTERFLIES, PANGOLINS AND PARROTS.

IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE TO IMPORT, EXPORT AND POSSESS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHOUT THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

"FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS MAY RESULT IN A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 ON THE FIRST OFFENCE AND \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE," MR CHAN ADDED.

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YUEN LONG RESIDENTS' HANDBOOK AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION

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THE "YUEN LONG RESIDENTS' HANDBOOK 1992" IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE (PESC), GROUND FLOOR, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT COPIES OF THE HANDBOOKS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS OF LONG PING ESTATE, SHUI PIN WAI ESTATE AND YUEN LONG ESTATE.

THE INFORMATIVE BOOKLET CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT'S RURAL COMMITTEES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SOCIAL SERVICES, PUBLIC HOUSING, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, RECREATION AND SPORTS, TOURIST SPOTS, AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

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"SOME COPIES WILL BE RESERVED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO RESIDENTS OF THE SOON-TO-BE-COMPLETED TIN YIU ESTATE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE HANDBOOK IS PUBLISHED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICE AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP 1991-92.

"RESIDENTS CAN ALSO GET A COPY OF THE HANDBOOK BY MAIL BY SENDING A RETURN ADDRESS ENVELOPE MEASURING NOT LESS THAN 18 CM x 25 CM WITH A \$3 STAMP DIRECTLY TO THE PESCS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE TO THE PESCS ON TEL. 479 2261," HE ADDED.

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REMOVAL OF DISTRICT SHROFF OFFICE

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE'S ACCOUNTS AND SHROFF OFFICES WILL BE MOVED TO FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, STARTING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN MAKE USE OF THE ENTRANCE FACING TSUEN FUNG CENTRE.

HE ADDED THAT THE HOURS OF BUSINESS OF THE SHROFF OFFICE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:	9 AM TO 1 PM 2 PM TO 4 PM
SATURDAY:	9 AM TO 11.30 AM
SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	CLOSED

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