



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ALL PRISONERS ARE TREATED EQUALLY

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PRISONERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES ARE TREATED EQUALLY INSIDE PRISONS, THE ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR GARTH HYDES SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCH MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR HYDES SAID A CERTAIN SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY HAS RECENTLY BEEN RATHER VOCAL IN CRITICISING THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH FOREIGN PRISONERS ARE HELD AND THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT HONG KONG DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE SPECIAL AND LUXURIOUS FACILITIES FOR ITS EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY WHO MAY FIND THEMSELVES IN PRISON.

HE SAID: +FRIENDS OR FAMILIES OF THESE PEOPLE SENTENCED TO PRISON ARE OFTEN CONCERNED THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO MIX WITH THIEVES, BLACKMAILERS AND OTHER CRIMINALS. HOWEVER, THEY FORGET THAT ONCE THEIR FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER HAS BEEN SENTENCED BY A COURT, THEY BECOME A CRIMINAL THEMSELVES AND ARE IN NO WAY SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER PRISONERS WITH WHOM THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SHARE FACILITIES IN AN INSTITUTION.+

+IF ONE DOES NOT WISH TO BE DETAINED IN A HONG KONG PRISON, THEN ONE SHOULD NOT COMMIT A CRIME IN HONG KONG,+ HE REMARKED.

MR HYDES ALSO REFUTED ALLEGATIONS THAT PRISONS WERE DENS OF INEQUITY RUN BY TRIAD GANGS AND THAT PERSONS ADMITTED TO PRISON WERE RELEASED EVEN MORE CORRUPTED AND DEPRAVED, HAVING BEEN TAUGHT HOW TO COMMIT CRIMES BY FELLOW PRISONERS.

+THIS IS FAR FROM THE TRUTH,+ HE SAID. +WHILST MANY PRISONERS CLAIM TO HAVE TRIAD OR GANG AFFILIATIONS ON ADMISSION TO PRISON, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS NO TRIAD ACTIVITY IN THE INSTITUTIONS.+

HE SAID THE STAFF ARE WELL AWARE OF THE EVER PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACTIVITY AND ANY PERSON WHO TRIES TO INFLUENCE OTHERS IS IMMEDIATELY SEGREGATED AND MAINTAINED IN THAT SITUATION UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES ARE SATISFIED THAT HE WILL NOT TRY TO EXERT INFLUENCE OVER OTHER PRISONERS.

KNOWN TRIAD OFFICE-BEARERS ON ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION ARE SEGREGATED FOR THE GOOD OF THE REST OF THE PRISON COMMUNITY UNTIL THEY PROVE NOT TO BE A PROBLEM, AND, THERE IS NO DANGER OF THEM INFLUENCING OTHERS, HE ADDED.

TO FURTHER COUNTER THE MISBELIEF, MR HYDES REVEALED STATISTICS SHOWING MANY PERSONS WHO ENTER THE PRISON SYSTEM IN HONG KONG DO NOT COMMIT FURTHER CRIMES.

/FOR INSTANCE

FOR INSTANCE, OF THE PERSONS RELEASED FROM A DETENTION CENTRE, SOME 95 PER CENT DO NOT GET INTO TROUBLE AGAIN AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE AFTER-CARE SUPERVISION. IN TREATMENT CENTRES MORE THAN 66 PER CENT DO NOT RETURN TO DRUGS BUT IN THE CASE OF WOMEN THIS FIGURE IS OVER 73 PER CENT. IN TRAINING CENTRES, WHERE THE MORE DIFFICULT TYPE OF YOUTH IS SENT FOR TRAINING, MORE THAN 53 PER CENT FOR BOYS AND 90 PER CENT FOR GIRLS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THREE YEARS AFTER-CARE SUPERVISION. REGARDING PRISONERS IN GENERAL, MEANING THOSE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT, OVER 46 PER CENT OF THOSE RELEASED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN RE-ADMITTED.

+THIS, HOWEVER, IS AN AVERAGE FIGURE NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS TYPES OF PRISONS OR PRISONERS OR THE PETTY RECIDIVIST WHO RETURNS REGULARLY TO PRISON,+ HE POINTED OUT.

MR HYDES SAID THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT MORE SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE WITH ADULT PRISONERS IF EITHER PAROLE OR AFTER-CARE IS INTRODUCED, WHICH CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, STIFFENS A SENTENCE CONSIDERABLY.

HE SAID: +AS HAS BEEN PROVEN, INTENSIVE AFTER-CARE SUPERVISION CAN KEEP A PERSON ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW AND THERE IS THE EVER PRESENT THREAT OF RECALL TO PRISON SHOULD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION TO BE CONTRAVENED. THE COMMITTING OF ANOTHER CRIME IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THIS MEASURE TO BE INVOKED.+

+WHILST THERE ARE SAFEGUARDS FOR PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, BREAKING THE RULES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AND I BELIEVE, THIS IS PART OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS WITH THE PRESENT AFTER-CARE SYSTEM,+ HE ADDED.

POINTING OUT THAT THE PRISONER POPULATION IN RECENT YEARS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY VIOLENT AND THE ATTITUDE OF MANY ON ADMISSION IS VERY ANTI-AUTHORITY, MR HYDES SAID: +THEREFORE CONSIDERABLE CARE MUST BE TAKEN BY THE STAFF TO MINIMISE THE POSSIBILITY OF TROUBLE.+

HE SAID LONG TERM PRISONERS, OR THOSE SERVING SENTENCES OVER SIX YEARS CAN BE PARTICULARLY VOLATILE- AND GREAT CARE, SELF CONTROL AND RESTRAINT MUST BE EXERCISED ON THE PART OF THE STAFF WHEN DEALING WITH PRISONERS SERVING LIFE, OR INDETERMINATE SENTENCES, AND WHO HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.

DESPITE PRECAUTIONS, HE REMARKED, ASSAULTS ON STAFF DO OCCUR AND THIS TREND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE.

MR HYDES ALSO COMMENTED ON A NEWSPAPER REPORT THIS MORNING WHICH SAID YOUNG PEOPLE WERE TERRIFIED OF GOING TO PRISON. HE SAID THE YOUNG ARE DEALT WITH QUITE SEPARATELY FROM THE REST OF THE PENAL POPULATION AND ARE HOUSED IN INSTITUTIONS SET ASIDE FOR THEM.

+IN FACT, HONG KONG HAS ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND INDIVIDUALISED PENAL SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

THE YOUNG AGED 14 TO 21 WERE USUALLY DEALT WITH EITHER IN A TRAINING OR DETENTION CENTRE AND OTHERS IN A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (A PART OF WHICH INCLUDES A PRISON) WITH PROGRAMMES ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THEM.

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PROVISION IS ALSO MADE FOR THOSE YOUNG PERSONS WHO ATTAIN THE AGE OF 18 AND WHO ARE SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT BUT ARE TOO SOPHISTICATED OR A BAD INFLUENCE ON OTHERS TO BE CLASSIFIED AS ADULTS AND TRANSFERRED TO AN ADULT PRISON.

+THIS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE REST OF THE YOUNG PERSONS IN CUSTODY,+ HE SAID. +FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE VERY FEW SUCH CASES.+

+WHILST IT MAY BE NORMAL FOR THE YOUNG TO BE TERRIFIED OF GOING TO PRISON AND PROBABLY A PHILOSOPHY WHICH SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THEY ARE PROPERLY CARED FOR ONCE IN CUSTODY,+ MR HYDES WENT ON.

+NEVERTHELESS, TERROR OR PERHAPS CONCERN, WHICH WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE WORD, SHOULD EXIST BEFORE A CRIME IS COMMITTED,+ HE ADDED.

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CARNIVAL FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED * * * *

MORE THAN 1 500 ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE IN SHA TIN TODAY (THURSDAY) TOOK PART IN A CARNIVAL ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL.

THEY WERE TREATED TO A VARIETY OF GAMES AND PERFORMANCES SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THEM.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID THE CARNIVAL WAS A WELCOME FIRST STEP TOWARDS A COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORT.

+THE COMING TOGETHER OF RESIDENTS AND THE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS OF ALL THOSE HERE TODAY WILL HELP TO DEVELOP A STRONGER COMMUNITY SPIRIT,+ HE SAID.

MR ALLEYNE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN ORGANISING THE EVENT.

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GREEN BELT FOR BARREN BEACH IN CHEUNG CHAU
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MORE THAN 150 STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY) CARRIED OUT A JOINT EFFORT TO TURN THE BARREN TUNG WAN BEACH ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND INTO A GREEN BELT.

THEY PLANTED 50 TREES INCLUDING HIBISCUS TILIACEUS AND MACARANGA TAXARIUS ALONG THE BEACH OF TUNG WAN DURING THE TREE PLANTING DAY FOR THE ISLAND DISTRICT.

OFFICIATING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOUTH REGION) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JAMES WILSON, SAID THE MEANINGFUL EVENT WAS AIMED AT BEAUTIFYING THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDING A BETTER REST AREA AND SHADE IN THE POPULAR SUMMER HOLIDAY RESORT.

MR WILSON SAID THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL PLANT 500 TREES OF VARIOUS SPECIES AT AMENITY PLOTS THROUGHOUT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

HE HOPED TODAY'S EXERCISE COULD AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEED OF TAKING CARE OF TREES AND REFRAINING FROM VANDALISM.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE TREE PLANTING EVENT WERE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF ISLANDS, MR M.J.T. ROWSE, THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF ISLANDS, MR YUNG CHING-FONG, THE CHAIRMAN OF CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE, MR FUNG PAK-TAI AND HIS DEPUTY, MR HO YUN-LAM.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON
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WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (APRIL 25), ALL VEHICLES OVER 2-1/2 TONS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING SHA TIN PASS ROAD FROM A POINT OF ABOUT 150 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD- JATS INCLINE- AND FEI NGO SHAN ROAD FROM A POINT OF ABOUT 800 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH OLD CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ALSO STARTING FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY, KWEI CHOW STREET BETWEEN TO KWA WAN ROAD AND MEI KING STREET IN KOWLOON WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY.

FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 29), THE EAST SIDE OF THE SECTION OF JUNCTION ROAD BETWEEN DUMBARTON ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD- AND THE SECTION OF NGA TSIN WAI ROAD BETWEEN GRAMPAN ROAD AND FUK LO TSUEN ROAD WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS.

WITHIN THESE CLEARWAYS, ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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RESULTS OF LATEST TENDER FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 397 TENDERS SEEKING 500 URBAN TAXI LICENCES WHEN THE OFFER FOR 331 LICENCES CLOSED ON APRIL 3.

THE HIGHEST TENDER WAS \$281 000 AND THE LOWEST ACCEPTABLE BID WAS \$261 000.

NAMES OF THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE AVERAGE PREMIUM IN THE LATEST TENDER EXERCISE WAS \$267 957, COMPARED WITH AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$244 066.29 IN JANUARY 1981, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 9.79 PER CENT.

HE ADDED THAT LETTERS WOULD BE GOING OUT TOMORROW TO SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THAT THE FIRST OF THE 331 TAXIS COULD BE INSPECTED IN JUNE 1981.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

KWUN TONG DB TO VISIT TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN

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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL TOUR THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN ON SATURDAY (APRIL 25).

THEY WILL VISIT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, THE TEMPORARY CLUB HOUSE OF THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION AND THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S TEMPORARY SPORTS GROUND.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE VISIT. A COACH WILL LEAVE THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING CARPARK, TUNG YAN STREET, KWUN TONG AT 9 AM SHARP. STAFF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (KWUN TONG) WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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SAI KUNG BROWNIE PACKS FORMED

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SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU WILL FORM TWO BROWNIE PACKS IN JUNE TO PROVIDE MORE ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND 11.

THE PACKS ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION WITH SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD SPONSORSHIP.

EACH PACK WILL CONSIST OF 38 MEMBERS.

THEY WILL HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS AT HANG HAU KWONG PUI SCHOOL AND ST. VINCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, DURING WHICH ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE FOLK-DANCING, SINGING AND ART WORK.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE. CHILDREN INTERESTED MUST SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY MAY 10.

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