



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1976

COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION - VITAL IN REHABILITATION OF MINOR OFFENDERS

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THE COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION ARE VITAL IF THE REHABILITATION OF MINOR OFFENDERS IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING AND VALUE OF PROBATION SERVICES.

MR. MAK WING-HONG, HEAD OF THE PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SAID: +AFTER ALL, THE REAL AIM OF PROBATION SERVICE IS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT VARIANCE WITH THE LAW TO PROGRESS FROM DELINQUENCY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ORDER TO BECOME LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AGAIN.+

EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON PROBATION SERVICES TAKE IN THE FORM OF EXHIBITIONS, OPEN DAYS OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PARTICIPATION OF PROBATIONERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICES AS WELL AS TALKS AND LECTURES TO INTERESTED GROUPS, SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

+MOREOVER, WE ARE AT PRESENT TRYING OUT THE APPROACH WHEREBY WE SUPPLY TELEVISION AND FILM COMPANIES WITH LIVE SITUATIONS OF PROBATION CASES - WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ANY INDIVIDUAL - TO GIVE A REALISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND TO THEIR ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

+THROUGH THIS WAY, WE HOPE TO GIVE THE PUBLIC, IN AN ENTERTAINING WAY, A MORE REALISTIC IDEA OF THE BACKGROUND OF PROBATIONERS, HOW THEY ARE LED INTO CRIME, AND HOW SOME OF THEM CAN BE HELPED BY THE PROBATION SERVICE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MAK URGED EMPLOYERS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS TO BE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING TO THE PROBATIONERS SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE THE CHANCE TO START LIFE ANEW.

+TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS, OUR PROBATION OFFICERS OFTEN VISIT EMPLOYERS TO PURSUADE THEM TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE PROBATIONERS. NOWADAYS, MORE EMPLOYERS ARE BEGINNING TO ACCEPT PROBATIONERS BECAUSE, BEING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A PROBATION OFFICER, THEY OFTEN TURN OUT TO BE VERY WELL BEHAVED,+ HE SAID.

+THE WORK OF THE PROBATION OFFICERS IS FAMILY ORIENTATED. COUNSELLING IS GIVEN TO THE FAMILY AS A WHOLE DURING THEIR HOME VISITS SO THAT PARENTS CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR PROBLEM CHILDREN,+ HE ADDED. +VERY OFTEN, WE FIND THAT PROBLEM PARENTS YEILD PROBLEM CHILDREN.+

/HE SAID

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HE SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE A WRONG CONCEPT OF THE PROBATION SERVICE BECAUSE ONLY INDIVIDUAL CASES OF RECIDIVISM ARE REPORTED WHILE SUCCESSFUL CASES ARE SELDOM PUBLICISED BECAUSE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND THE CONFIDENTIALITY ENTRUSTED TO THE PROBATION OFFICERS.

+WE ONCE MADE A SURVEY OF A SELECTED GROUP OF EX-PROBATIONERS, AND FOUND THAT MORE THAN 70 PER CENT OF THEM WERE FOUND TO BE +CLEAN+ ONE YEAR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THEIR PROBATION ORDER,+ HE SAID.

+THOUGH THIS FIGURE CANNOT BE REGARDED AS AN ABSOLUTE REFLECTION OF OUR SUCCESS RATE, IT NEVERTHELESS SERVES AS AN ENCOURAGING REFERENCE FOR OUR PROBATION OFFICERS AND PROVES BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THE PROBATION SYSTEM DOES WORK,+ HE STRESSED.

MR. MAK SAID IT WAS TOTALLY WRONG TO THINK THAT AN OFFENDER IS SIMPLY SET FREE IF HE IS PUT ON PROBATION.

DURING THE PROBATION PERIOD WHICH USUALLY LASTS FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS, HE SAID, A PROBATIONER MUST OBEY THE PROBATION ORDER WHICH OBLIGES HIM TO WORK AND ENSURE HIS GOOD CONDUCT AND ABSTENTION FROM PUGNACIOUS ACTIVITIES.

+IN ADDITION, SUPPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE COURT TO INDICATE EXACTLY THE REQUIRED SCHOOL, JOB OR LODGING,+ HE SAID.

THIS SERVES AS A BOND TO THE OFFENDERS AND EXPERIENCES REVEALED THAT SOME PROBATIONERS WOULD RATHER PREFER TO SERVE A PRISON TERM WHICH MAY BE RELATIVELY SHORTER THAN THE PERIOD OF PROBATION SUPERVISION IN ORDER TO GET RID OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN. +IN FACT, IF THE PROBATION ORDER IS BREACHED THE PROBATIONERS CAN BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT AGAIN AND BE IMPRISONED,+ MR. MAK SAID.

+IT IS UP TO OUR PROBATION OFFICERS TO EXERCISE THEIR PATIENCE, PROFESSIONALISM AND HUMANITY TO SLOWLY WIN THEM OVER AND IT IS A GREAT CREDIT TO OUR OFFICERS THAT A LOT OF EX-PROBATIONERS STILL COME BACK TO THEM FOR ADVICE LONG AFTER THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BEEN INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE VALUE OF THE PROBATION SERVICE, MR. MAK SAID THAT MINOR OFFENDERS WHO NURSE PENITENT FEELINGS AND HAVE THE STRENGTH TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN JAIL WHERE THEY WOULD BE OPEN TO THE ADVERSE INFLUENCE OF HARDENED CRIMINALS.

+BY PUTTING THEM ON PROBATION, THEY ARE GIVEN A CHANCE TO START AGAIN AND THEIR CRIMINAL RECORDS WILL BE DISREGARDED ON THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THEIR PROBATION ORDER UNLESS THEY COMMIT A CRIME AGAIN. SO THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE PROBATION SERVICE IS THE WELFARE ON REHABILITATION OF THE MINOR OFFENDERS.

+WE TAKE CARE OF AN AVERAGE OF 2,800 PROBATIONERS A MONTH AND BY RELEASING THIS LARGE WORKFORCE BACK INTO SOCIETY WHERE THEY CAN DO PROPER JOBS, THE SYSTEM IS INDIRECTLY HELPING HONG KONG'S PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,+ MR. MAK ADDED.

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BIGGER DEMAND FOR PRIVATE RADIO CHANNELS
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THE DEMAND FOR FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS (RADIO CHANNELS) BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONTINUED TO RISE LAST YEAR DESPITE THE ECONOMIC RECESSION.

DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, 1975-76, A TOTAL OF 120 ASSIGNMENTS (SOME ON A SHARING BASIS) WERE ISSUED RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MOBILE RADIO SYSTEM. FIXED STATION LICENCES INCREASED BY ABOUT 16 PER CENT TO 676 WHILE MOBILE STATION LICENCES WENT UP BY OVER 20 PER CENT TO 2,992.

THE USAGE OF THE TELEX SERVICE ALSO CONTINUED TO GROW AND THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE NET INCREASE OF ALMOST 30 PER CENT IN PRIVATE TELEGRAPH LICENCES.

THE NUMBER OF LICENCES IN FORCE DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW WAS PRIVATE TELEGRAPH (RECEPTION) (1,115), PRIVATE TELEGRAPH (TRANSMISSION) (168) AND PRIVATE TELEGRAPH (TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION) (4,446).

ANOTHER AREA OF GROWING POPULARITY WAS THE USE OF RADIO TO CONTROL MODEL AIRCRAFT AND BOATS. THERE WERE 758 SUCH LICENCE HOLDERS LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 608 IN THE PRECEDING YEAR.

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MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT HOI SHAM PARK
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WORK ON THE SECOND AND FINAL STAGE OF THE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT HOI SHAM PARK IN JO KWA WAN, KOWLOON, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 5,000 SQUARE METRES, IS ON THE SOUTH-WESTERN SIDE OF STAGE 1 OF THE PARK, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1972.

AMONG THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ARE A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PROMENADES, AND SITTING-OUT AREAS WITH PARK BENCHES, ARBOURS AND FLOWER-BEDS.

THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Sunday, 12th September, 1976.

HAPPINESS IS A NEW HOME

Moving to a better flat, of course with a higher rental, is commonplace in Hong Kong. But one family which recently moved into new accommodation is happily paying 86 times their previous rental.

Even in Hong Kong, where astronomical rents are not unheard of, such an increase normally would be crippling to most tenants.

But Mr Wong Bing-sun is one tenant who has recently made such a move and is still smiling. Mr Wong and his family have moved into one of the Housing Authority's newest estates, Lai King at Tsuen Wan.

A few months ago Mr Wong, his wife and three children were living in one of the Authority's licensed areas and was paying \$3 a month. Now at Lai King the rent for a seven-person unit is \$264, plus electricity and water charges.

But, Mr Wong, a \$850 a month clerk, is more than happy with the new arrangement.

"Two years ago we were living in a squatter hut, before moving to the licensed area. Our standard of living has gone up rapidly since then," he said.

"Of course the rent is much higher than before, but it's worth it. The flat is spacious and has a beautiful view of Teing Yi Island and the Harbour."

Mr Wong's wife has a part-time job which pushes the family's income to more than \$4,000 each month. The seven-person unit gives them more than 300 square feet.

In the same block as the Wongs is the Chu family. Mrs Chu Lee-yin, her husband and five children occupy an eight-person unit, which has a monthly rent of \$286.

Before moving to Lai King the Chu family shared a pre-war tenement building in Western District, Hong Kong, paying \$35. But the Chu family is not complaining about the higher rent. They are delighted with the extra facilities and privacy their new home has given them.



Mrs Chu's eldest son recently married and moved to private accommodation at Mong Kok.

"The rent there is much higher," he said.

"My flat has similar facilities to this one but the rent is more than 3500 each month."

However, some tenants do have one complaint about their new home at Lai King, a shortage of transport. Construction of Lai King is now complete but the estate is still only about 30 per cent occupied. When the estate is full it is expected transport facilities will greatly improve.
