



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1976

## IMPROVEMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED \*\*\*\*\*

THE WELFARE AND REHABILITATION OF MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED WHEN PROPOSALS IN THIS DIRECTION ARE APPROVED.

ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE REHABILITATION DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR. KHOO TAI-PIN, MANY PROJECTS ARE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE.

+AND PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN WILL, WHEN APPROVED, EFFECT STILL BETTER CO-ORDINATED DEVELOPMENT AND ENSHRINE IN POLICY FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR SERVICES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE REQUIRE A PROJECT BY PROJECT JUSTIFICATION AS HITHERTO,+ HE SAID.

REHABILITATION WORK FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN HONG KONG BEGAN AS EARLY AS 1955 WHEN THE THEN SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE FIRST SET UP A SMALL TRAINING CENTRE FOR 43 IN THE NORTH POINT RELIEF CAMP.

BY NOW, THE DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING A GREAT VARIETY OF SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN FOUR TRAINING CENTRES, FOUR PRE-VOCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES, TWO SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND FOUR RESIDENTIAL CENTRES TOTALLING 864 PLACES.

BESIDES PLACEMENT IN TRAINING OR VOCATIONAL CENTRES, DISABILITY ALLOWANCE IS GIVEN TO ANY MENTAL RETARDATE WHOSE DISABILITY IS CERTIFIED TO BE SUCH THAT CONSTANT CARE AND SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED.

MR. KHOO POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE SWD WAS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL TO PARENTS ON HOW TO HANDLE THEIR RETARDED CHILDREN AND TO ASSIST IN THEIR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, HE STRESSED, ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS FIELD.

ALTOGETHER, 880 PLACES ARE BEING PROVIDED BY VOLUNTARY BODIES IN 19 CENTRES FOR THE TRAINING AND CARE OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

TO MEET THE DEMAND OF MANY MORE YET TO BE SERVED, HE SAID FACILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPANDED

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+IT MATTERS LITTLE WHETHER THESE ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR VOLUNTARY SECTOR SO LONG AS THEY ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN TERMS OF A GENERAL DESIGN, AND SO COORDINATED AS TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION, AND EACH RETARDATE HAS ACCESS TO FACILITIES MOST SUITED TO HIS NEEDS, AND THE PROVIDERS HAVE THE EXPERTISE, AND ARE, FURTHERMORE, CAPABLE OF RUNNING THEM EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS EXIST IN THE OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND THESE ARE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE SOURCE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, DETERMINATION OF THE AREA OF WORK AND LOAD-SHARING AS BETWEEN THE TWO SECTORS AND AMONG THE AGENCIES THEMSELVES.

MR. KHOO CONTINUED THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT BOTH TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE A STATUTORY OBLIGATION OR IN WHICH IT IS PARTICULARLY COMPETENT, TO DECIDE ON PRIORITIES, AND TO EXERCISE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF AND EFFECTING COORDINATION WITHIN THE ENTIRE FIELD.

+BUT THE ASSERTION OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY NEEDS IN NO WAY DIMINISH OR ECLIPSE THE ACKNOWLEDGED SOCIALLY INVALUABLE ROLE OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS,+ HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 6,668 MODERATE GRADE MENTALLY RETARDED WAS KNOWN TO THE SWD AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR, BUT A CLOSE SCRUTINY REVEALED THAT ONLY 3,512 REQUIRED SERVICES OF A CARE, TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT NATURE. AS FOR THE ACTUAL NUMBER, IT MAY WELL FALL SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 6,668 AND 12,483 THIS YEAR.

+A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE PROBLEM,+ MR. KHOO SAID, +WILL CERTAINLY GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS PLANNING FOR THE LONG-TERM REQUIREMENT FOR BETTER TRAINING, SOCIAL SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT AND ACCOMMODATION.

+HOWEVER, PRESENT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE FUTURE TREND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SERVICES IS LIKELY TO BE THE PROVISION OF MORE FACILITIES SIMILAR TO EXISTING ONES, SUCH AS DAY CENTRES, SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, RESIDENTIAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.+

HE ADDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE SERVICES WOULD NATURALLY HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT FACILITIES AND THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL NEEDS AND CULTURAL FACTORS.

AND HE FELT THAT TRANSPLANTING AN ALIEN PATTERN WHOLESAL WITHOUT REGARD TO THE LOCAL SITUATION WOULD UNLIKELY PRODUCE THE BEST RESULTS.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE AND TRAINING OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED IS BEING SHARED AMONG THREE DEPARTMENTS, NAMELY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FOR INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THE SEVERE GRADES, SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE MODERATE GRADES, AND EDUCATION FOR SPEIAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES FOR THE MILD GRADES AND EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN.

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THIS DIVISION OF WORK WAS THE RECOMMENDATION BY A PSYCHIATRIST IN ENGLAND WHO WAS INVITED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO ADVISE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE SERVICES IN 1960.

MR. KHOO STRESSED THAT THE CONSTANT REVIEWS AND SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE DEPARTMENTS AND COORDINATION BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT HAD ENABLED THE SYSTEM TO WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS.

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NEW MOBILE COMMAND UNIT FOR F.S.D.  
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A NEW VEHICLE, WHICH WILL SERVE AS THE NERVE CENTRE OF OPERATIONS AT ANY MAJOR FIRE OR SPECIAL INCIDENT, WILL JOIN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S FLEET SHORTLY.

KNOWN AS A MOBILE COMMAND UNIT, IT IS AIR-CONDITIONED AND CARRIES THE USUAL FLASHING WARNING LIGHTS AND SIREN.

MOUNTED ON A BEDFORD BUS CHASSIS, THE NEW MCU HAS AN OVERALL LENGTH OF 30 FEET - TEN FEET LONGER THAN THOSE BEING USED AT PRESENT.

THE VEHICLE LAYOUT WAS DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIRE SERVICES SPECIFICATIONS AND THE INTERIOR FITTINGS WERE CARRIED OUT IN FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOPS.

THE INTERIOR OF THE MCU IS DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF COMPARTMENTS SO AS TO ALLOW FOR THE MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF THE SPACE AVAILABLE.

THE FRONT AND CENTRE COMPARTMENTS CONSIST OF MOBILISING AREAS AND A CONFERENCE ROOM, TOGETHER WITH TOILET FACILITIES.

RADIO SETS, BOTH FIXED AND PORTABLE, AND A TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD WITH FIVE EXTENSIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES.

AN AERIAL AND A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ARE ALSO FITTED. THIS AERIAL CAN BE EXTENDED 34 FEET ABOVE THE VEHICLE IF IT PROVES TO BE NECESSARY IN AREA WHERE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ARE DIFFICULT.

TELEPHONE BOOTHS WITH THREE EXTENSIONS FORM THE REAR COMPARTMENT WHICH CAN BE USED BY LIAISON OFFICERS OF OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS POLICE, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE ARMY, AT THE SCENE OF MAJOR INCIDENTS.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW APPLIANCE, A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID: +THIS NEW VEHICLE IS A PROTOTYPE AND IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FULL FACILITIES FOR FIRE SERVICES CONTROL AND COMMAND AT THE SCENE OF FIRE, LANDSLIDES, FLOODING OR AIRCRASH.+

+AFTER SUCCESSFUL TRIAL, A FURTHER TWO WILL BE ORDERED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING OLD ONES,+ HE ADDED.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO INSPECT REHOUSING PROJECTS  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LADY MACLEHOSE WILL INSPECT THE SHEK KIP MEI AND TAI HANG TUNG REHOUSING SCHEMES TOMORROW (MONDAY) MORNING.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR. I.M. LIGHTBODY, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, SHE WILL SEE FOR HERSELF HOW THE OLD HOUSING BLOCKS AT LOWER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE ARE BEING CONVERTED AND VISIT A FAMILY IN BLOCK 13.

LATER, SHE WILL PROCEED TO THE FORMER TAI HANG SAI COTTAGE AREA SITE WHERE FIVE HOUSING BLOCKS ARE BEING BUILT IN CONNECTION WITH THE TAI HANG TUNG REHOUSING PROJECT.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE INSPECTION TOUR. LADY MACLEHOSE WILL ARRIVE AT BLOCK 13, CONVERTED LOWER SHEK KIP MEI AT 10 A.M. AND AT THE TAI HANG TUNG BUILDING SITE AT 11 A.M.

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WATER CUT  
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON TUESDAY (MAY 25) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

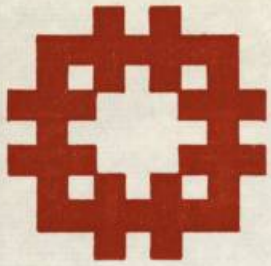
THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY EAST POINT ROAD, JAFFE ROAD, CANNON STREET, WATERFRONT ROAD, PERCIVAL STREET AND THE NORTH SIDE OF HENNESSY ROAD INCLUDING KELLETT ISLAND.

STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THE SAME DAY CERTAIN PREMISES IN CASTLE PEAK, NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR SEVEN HOURS.

THIS IS TO ENABLE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON FRESH WATER MAINS AT SAM SHING HUI NEAR THE CASTLE PEAK POLICE STATION.

ALL PREMISES AND VILLAGES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM TAI LAM CHUNG TO TSEUNG TAU SHEUNG TSUEN IN SAN HUI WILL BE AFFECTED.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS  
RELEASE

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Sunday, May 23, 1976

REDEVELOPMENT OF TAI WO HAU ESTATE

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Tai Wo Hau Estate in Tsuen Wan which houses 42,000 people is to be redeveloped, the Housing Authority announced today (Sunday).

The redevelopment scheme will be carried out in stages by the Housing Department with the first phase commencing next month.

It will involve the rehousing of 4,258 people or 803 families of Blocks 12 and 13.

These tenants will be offered new flats in the Tsuen Wan/Kwai Chung district, as most of them have strong socio-economic ties with the area.

A spokesman for the Housing Department stated that "the individual circumstances of the affected families will be investigated carefully in making arrangements for the rehousing of tenants. Also, a special committee will be set up to consider applications for financial assistance for removal and redecoration expenses in respect of tenants who are in genuine need of such help."

As details of the scheme are still being finalised, the Housing Department will be informing tenants officially by letter in mid-June.

The Tai Wo Hau Redevelopment project will follow an approach similar to the other projects undertaken by the Housing Authority at Lower Shek Kip Mei, Tai Hang Tung and Chai Wan West estates.

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