



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1981

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WELFARE +HOTLINE+ HANDLES 20 000 CALLS IN TEN MONTHS
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PEOPLE WITH PERSONAL, FAMILY OR OTHER WELFARE PROBLEMS ARE URGED TO MAKE MORE USE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S +HOTLINE+ SERVICE, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN OPERATING FOR TEN MONTHS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SINCE THE HOTLINE -- NO: 3-432255 -- WAS INTRODUCED LAST OCTOBER, MORE THAN 20 000 CALLS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM PEOPLE SEEKING QUICK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR SUCH A SERVICE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE HOTLINE WAS INTRODUCED TO BACK UP THE VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FIELD UNITS. IT HAS PROVED TO BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS, AT WEEKENDS AND DURING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.+

MOST OF THE CALLS CONCERNED FAMILY MATTERS, YOUTH PROBLEMS, REHABILITATION AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

+SOME OF THE CALLERS WERE VERY DEPRESSED AND ALL THEY WANTED WAS SOMEONE TO TALK TO,+ HE SAID.

+STAFF MANNING THE HOTLINE WOULD ALWAYS TRY THEIR BEST TO HELP BY MAKING USE OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE.+

FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, SOME OF THE CALLERS COULD NOT BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE. THEIR CASES WERE REFERRED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

+FOR CALLS THAT CONCERN SERVICES NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, OUR HOTLINE STAFF WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO DIRECT THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A NUMBER OF CALLS CONCERNED SUSPECTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND THESE WERE QUICKLY FOLLOWED UP BY CASE WORKERS IN THE FIELD OFFICES.

FOR EXAMPLE, A HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBER AT SHUN LEE ESTATE RECENTLY REPORTED THAT THREE GIRLS, AGED BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX, WERE OFTEN LEFT ALONE AT HOME IN ONE OF THE FLATS IN THE ESTATE, AND THAT THEIR FATHER APPEARED TO BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE FOR THEM.

THE CASE WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN UP BY CASE WORKERS IN THE FIELD WHO DISCOVERED THAT THE GIRLS' MOTHER HAD DESERTED THE FAMILY TWO YEARS AGO, AND THE FATHER HAD TO WORK LONG HOURS.

ARRANGEMENTS WERE IMMEDIATELY MADE TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE GIRLS.

THE +HOTLINE+, WHICH OPERATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, IS MANNED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 10 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS, AND FROM 1 PM TO 10 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

OVERNIGHT CALLS ARE MACHINE-RECORDED FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION THE NEXT DAY.

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PUBLIC PIER FOR SAI KUNG TOWN
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BUILD A PUBLIC PIER AND EXTEND THE EXISTING SEAWALL AT SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE PROJECT, TENDERS FOR WHICH ARE BEING INVITED, FORMS PART OF AN OVERALL SCHEME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE NEW PIER WILL ENABLE EASY ACCESS TO BEACHES AND ISLANDS WITHIN THE INNER PORT SHELTER (SAI KUNG HOI).

RECLAMATION BEHIND THE NEW SEAWALL WILL PROVIDE SITES FOR THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS TERMINUS, A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND A MINI-FOOTBALL PITCH.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A COVERED PUBLIC PIER, DREDGING OF THE APPROACH TO THE PIER, EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING SEAWALL AND CONSTRUCTION OF A BOX CULVERT EXTENSION TO REPLACE THE EXISTING NULLAH.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE AND THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, PWD.

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HELPING DISABLED OVERCOME TRANSPORT PROBLEMS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMULATED A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES THEY FACE IN USING TRANSPORT FACILITIES, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING AT THE KWUN TONG RECREATION GROUND OF THE +TRAFFIC CARNIVAL DAY FOR THE DISABLED,+ A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE PENINSULA JAYCEES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE,+ MR LAW SAID.

/+LIKE EVERYBODY

+LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, THE DISABLED SHOULD ENJOY THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING AND TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY.+

THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF MONEY FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ASSISTS SPECIAL SCHOOLS, TRAINING CENTRES AND SHELTERED WORKSHOPS RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN PURCHASING VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF DISABLED PEOPLE TO AND FROM WORK.

THE DEPARTMENT SUBVENTS THE REHABUS SCHEME, UNDER WHICH 11 BUS SERVICES ARE RUN TO HELP DISABLED PEOPLE TO GET TO WORK, TO GO TO SCHOOL OR TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

+WE HOLD REGULAR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BUS, FERRY AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING STEP BY STEP FACILITIES ON THESE SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED,+ MR LAW SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A TRANSPORT AND ACCESS SUB-COMMITTEE, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND PUBLIC SPIRITED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

+ON THE BASIS OF PROPOSALS BY THIS COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED MODIFYING FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SWIMMING POOLS AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THAT THEY BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED USERS,+ MR LAW SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, TRAFFIC LIGHTS WITH A SOUND SYSTEM ARE GRADUALLY BEING INSTALLED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY TO HELP THE BLIND CROSS ROADS.

+THIS YEAR IS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS,+ MR LAW SAID.

+APART FROM STEPPING UP VARIOUS REHABILITATION SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PAID PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS FACED BY THE DISABLED.+

VARIOUS TRAFFIC AND BUILDING LAWS AND LEGISLATION GOVERNING PUBLIC TRANSPORT BODIES WERE AGAIN REVIEWED TO SEE HOW TRANSPORT FACILITIES COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED FOR THE DISABLED, HE ADDED.

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PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH MUSIC

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LOCAL COMPOSERS AND LYRICISTS ARE INVITED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO TAKE PART IN A SONG COMPOSITION CONTEST WITH MENTAL HEALTH AS THE THEME.

CASH PRIZES AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE AWARDED IN THE CONTEST, WHICH IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH.

THE MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION AND NEW LIFE PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF ORGANISING THE CONTEST IS TO AROUSE PEOPLE'S INTEREST THROUGH POPULAR MUSIC IN MAINTAINING SOUND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

SONGS FOR ENTRY SHOULD CARRY EITHER ONE OF THESE MESSAGES: +GOOD MENTAL HEALTH IS KEY TO A HAPPY SOCIETY+, A +TAKE-THINGS-EASY ATTITUDE PREVENTS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN+, OR AN +EASY-GOING WAY LEADS TO A CAREFREE LIFE+.

THE CONTEST IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS: SECTION ONE IS FOR ORIGINAL COMPOSITION OF MELODY AND LYRICS WHILST SECTION TWO IS FOR WRITING LYRICS FOR ADAPTATION INTO OLD OR POPULAR TUNES.

THE FIVE BEST ENTRANTS OF SECTION ONE WILL BE AWARDED CASH PRIZES OF \$1 000, \$700, \$500 AND TWO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS RESPECTIVELY. PRIZES FOR THE THREE WINNERS OF SECTION TWO ARE CASH AWARDS OF \$700, \$500 AND \$300.

TWO LOCAL COMPOSERS, MR JOSEPH KOO AND MR CHENG KWOK-KONG, WILL ADJUDICATE ALL ENTRIES.

ENTRIES WITH NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 181-185 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CENTRE POINT BUILDING, HONG KONG BEFORE SEPTEMBER 9.

PROSPECTIVE CONTESTANTS CAN OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REGULATIONS OF THE CONTEST AT ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, COMMUNITY CENTRES OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OR DIAL 5-720861 FOR DETAILS.

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BOAT RACE FOR HANDICAPPED AT TAI PO
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ABOUT 60 HANDICAPPED PERSONS, HALF OF THEM BLIND, PARTICIPATED IN A BOAT RACE AT TAI PO TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE EVENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE PAK TIN BLIND CENTRE AND THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH. IT WAS SPONSORED BY TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE.

THE RACE STARTED AT SAM MUN TSAI AND ENDED NEAR LI UK, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 700 METRES.

EACH BOAT WAS CREWED BY TWO PERSONS, ONE OF WHOM WAS BLIND.

PRIZES WERE PRESENTED TO THE FIRST THREE WINNING TEAMS BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICKY LO- THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE, MR HO YUNG-SANG- AND THE SUB-DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR OF TAI PO POLICE STATION, MR CHAN KIT-CHU.

MR LO SAID TODAY'S EVENT WAS ORGANISED AS A RESULT OF JOINT COMMUNITY EFFORT.

HE SAID THIS YEAR HAD BEEN DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS AND ITS SUCCESS DEPENDED UPON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT.

+TODAY'S EVENT HAS SHOWN THAT THE COMMUNITY IS WILLING TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS FACING THE HANDICAPPED,+ HE SAID.

+ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS IS THAT THE ABILITY OF THE HANDICAPPED IS NOT RECOGNISED BY PEOPLE GENERALLY, BUT TODAY THE HANDICAPPED HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY CAN DO AS WELL AS NON-HANDICAPPED PEOPLE.

+THIS EVENT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO REALISE THE ABILITY OF HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND AS A RESULT MAY GIVE THEM BETTER EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS,+ MR LO SAID.

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VILLAGERS GET MORE WATER SUPPLY
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THREE ADDITIONAL STANDPIPES, INSTALLED LAST MONTH AT TAI HOM WOR VILLAGE IN WONG TAI SIN HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED THE WATER SUPPLY SITUATION THERE.

AS THERE ARE NOW FIVE STANDPIPES FOR THE 2 500 VILLAGERS, THE RATIO OF PEOPLE TO STANDPIPES HAS BEEN REDUCED, RESULTING IN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE WATER SUPPLY SITUATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

AFTER THE FIRE THAT OCCURRED IN THE VILLAGE IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, THE 2 500 VILLAGERS WHO REMAINED BEHIND IN THE UNAFFECTED AREA SHARED ONLY TWO STANDPIPES AMONG THEM.

THE IMPROVEMENT IN WATER SUPPLY TO THE VILLAGE HAS RESULTED FROM THE JOINT EFFORTS OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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NEW FERRY PIER TO REPLACE PONTOON
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A NEW FERRY PIER IS TO BE BUILT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN TSUEN WAN TO REPLACE THE EXISTING TEMPORARY PONTOON.

THE PIER WILL PROVIDE A NEW AND IMPROVED FACILITY AT THE NEW SEAWALL NOW BEING BUILT IN TSUEN WAN BAY.

THE WORK IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN, WHICH INCLUDES RECLAMATION OF PART OF TSUEN WAN BAY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STAGE TWO OF THE TSUEN WAN BYPASS.

CONSTRUCTION WILL INCLUDE A FOUR-BERTH DOCKING FACILITY, A PUBLIC OUTLOOK PROVIDING A PANORAMIC VIEW OF TSUEN WAN BAY AND TSING YI ISLAND AND ACCOMMODATION ON TWO LEVELS FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

WORK IS DUE TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND TAKE 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE PROJECT WILL BE LINKED TO A NEW BUS TERMINUS TO BE BUILT ON PART OF THE RECLAIMED LAND.

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PWD IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT IN FRIDAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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BIG CLEAN UP AT MOUSE ISLAND
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A MAMMOTH, TWO-WEEK LONG CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN HAS CLEARED THE HUGE AMOUNTS OF RUBBISH FROM MOUSE ISLAND IN TUEN MUN.

IN THE BIG FACELIFT OPERATION, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT REMOVED SOME 230 LORRY LOADS OF REFUSE, JUNK, OYSTER SHELLS, BUILDING RUBBLE AND BULKY ARTICLES FROM THE BREAKWATER AND WATERFRONT AREA OF THE CASTLE PEAK BAY.

THIS NOW MEANS THAT RESIDENTS OF MOUSE ISLAND, PREVIOUSLY THREATENED WITH A HEALTH HAZARD AS A RESULT OF THE INSANITARY REFUSE ACCUMULATION, CAN NOW ENJOY A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD SAID.

TO HELP THE BOAT PEOPLE IN PROPERLY DISPOSING OF THEIR DOMESTIC REFUSE, THE NTSD HAS SET UP SIX TEMPORARY BIN SITES AT THE ENTRANCE OF FOUR JETTIES.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, A CALL HAS BEEN MADE TO RESIDENTS AND BOAT PEOPLE TO PLAY THEIR CIVIC ROLE BY MAKING FULL USE OF THE REFUSE COLLECTION BINS AND THEREBY HELP IMPROVE THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT.

AND, AS FOR THOSE NOT HEEDING THE CALL, THE NTSD WILL STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO PROSECUTE LITTER OFFENDERS.

TO THIS END, ANTI-LITTER SIGN BOARDS HAVE BEEN ERECTED AT THE BIN SITE TO WARN AGAINST INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF REFUSE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PEOPLE CAUGHT LITTERING WILL FACE A FINE OF \$1 000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND \$2 000 ON THE SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS, HE POINTED OUT.

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WINTER SWIMMING CLUB EXECUTIVES INAUGURATED
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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE CLEAR WATER BAY WINTER SWIMMING CLUB WERE INAUGURATED THIS EVENING (SUNDAY) BY SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHAN SUI-JEUNG.

ELECTED PRESIDENT WAS MISS LEUNG KWAI-FONG, PREVIOUSLY VICE-PRESIDENT, WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER SINCE THE CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1973.

TEN VICE-PRESIDENTS WERE ALSO ELECTED AND ABOUT 40 OTHER OFFICERS WERE APPOINTED FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM.

THE CLUB WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED BY SEVEN AMATEUR SWIMMERS WHO FOR MANY YEARS PREVIOUSLY HAD SWUM TOGETHER ALL YEAR ROUND. IT HAS NOW EXPANDED TO MORE THAN 150 ACTIVE MEMBERS FROM SAI KUNG, HANG HAU AND KOWLOON.

BESIDES PROMOTING WINTER SWIMMING, THE CLUB ALSO PROVIDES ITS MEMBERS WITH FACILITIES SUCH AS BEACH HUTS, AND ORGANISES LAUNCH PICNICS, CAMPING AND BARBECUES.

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT AT TODAY'S INAUGURATION INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEES, NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES AND OTHER PROMINENT SWIMMING CLUBS.

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