



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, July 28, 1973

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FIRE PREVENTION A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary for Security, Mr. P.G. Lloyd, today (Saturday) emphasised that fire prevention was the responsibility of every member of the community.

Speaking at the opening of the new Yau Tong 'satellite' fire station in Kowloon, he said fires were not a natural phenomenon. "They result from human failings. Carelessness, selfishness and disregard for the safety of others are the principal causes."

In Hong Kong, he added, the dangers were so much greater because of its crowded, multi-storey environment. Everyone was therefore duty bound to ensure that fire hazards were cleared, employees instructed in fire drill and children educated to the risks and measures to be taken in the event of fire.

Mr. Lloyd noted that fire losses in Hong Kong, like in other cities, had grown "enormously" over the past few years, but he was convinced that the losses would have been far greater had it not been for the expertise and professionalism of the Fire Services which he described as "one of the finest in the world."

"It trains officers from other fire brigades overseas as well as many civilian bodies, and its training school at Pat Heung in the New Territories is certainly the best in Asia," he said.

Mr. Lloyd said the new satellite fire station at Yau Tong was typical of the government's new approach to the problem of fire control in densely populated urban areas.

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"This approach has been adopted because of the need for rapid access to the scene of a blaze despite the complexities of traffic congestion."

By siting satellite stations around the perimeter of large residential and industrial developments, he explained, prompt response from different directions could be ensured.

More such stations, as well as large divisional stations, were either being planned or already in the building programme, he added.

The Yau Tong fire station is the ninth of its type built under the Fire Services Department's expansion programme to provide increased fire cover to rapidly developing areas.

It provides covered parking spaces for four fire appliances on the ground floor, while the upper floors are reserved for living quarters.

Located at the junction of Ko Fai Road and Cha Kwo Ling Road, it will be responsible for most of the major industrial and commercial concerns in the area including Lei Yue Mun, Cha Kwo Ling and Yau Tong.

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LEGAL AID FOR LANTAU BUS ACCIDENT VICTIMS

The Legal Aid Department will give top priority to processing applications for legal aid in connection with possible claims for compensation by or on behalf of victims of the recent tragic Lantau bus disaster, the acting Director of Legal Aid, Mr. T.L. von Pokorny said today.

Applications for legal aid should be made by completing the necessary forms obtainable from the Legal Aid Department offices at Victoria District Court Building, Battery Path, or at the branch office, Rooms 702-705 D'Aguilar Place, 7th floor, D'Aguilar Street, Central, or at any City District Office.

Applicants for legal aid would be required to attend for interview by professional officers of the Department.

If for any reason, it was impracticable for an applicant to attend personally for interview he could authorise in writing some relative or other responsible person to apply on his behalf.

Mr. Pokorny added that legal aid would be granted to all those who were financially eligible to receive it and who could show that they had reasonable grounds for bringing proceedings to claim compensation.

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GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE ENTERTAIN

SUMMER YOUTH LEADERS

Twenty-one young people who have been busily working in connection with the summer youth programme took time off yesterday (Friday) to be guests of the Governor and Lady MacLehose.

Their unusual day out included lunch and swimming at the Governor's Fanling Lodge, and a three-hour walk through the scenic and unspoilt recreational areas of Sha Tau Kok peninsula.

The outing was specially arranged to enable Sir Murray to personally thank the group for their contribution to the welfare of thousands of youngsters in Hong Kong through the summer youth activities.

The group, representing a wide cross-section of young people aged between 16 and 21, included university students, voluntary workers, school students, and boy scouts and girl guides.

Their own "summer programme" began at the Kowloon Public Pier yesterday morning when they travelled in a coach to Fanling Lodge where they were greeted by Sir Murray and Lady MacLehose.

After being treated to lunch they spent some time in the swimming pool at the Governor's Lodge.

Accompanied by Sir Murray and Lady MacLehose, they later set off for the Sha Tau Kok peninsula for the afternoon walk.

Some of the party had not been to this part of the New Territories before; they commented afterwards on the fact that people living in urban areas are indeed fortunate to have such good country for weekend walking.

The informal and friendly atmosphere, the fresh air in the countryside and a bright sky after days of rain made it a perfect and enjoyable day for every member of the party.

Note to Editors:
Copies of a photograph on the outing are boxed this evening.

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PRESENTATION OF PROFICIENCY AWARDS

The Urban Council's first series of learn-to-swim courses has now ended and a presentation of proficiency awards will be held at Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool tomorrow (Sunday).

Mr. Peter P.K. Ng, Chairman of the Entertainment and Advertising Select Committee of the Urban Council, will present the awards to successful candidates.

Attendance certificates will also be issued to all those who completed the courses.

The presentation will be followed by a demonstration of four swimming strokes -- the crawl, breast stroke, back stroke and butterfly. A commentary on each will be given by an inspector of the Education Department.

The highlight of the day will be a freestyle relay race. Eight teams from the beginners swimming course from the Lei Cheng Uk, Kwun Tong, Kowloon Tsai and Victoria Park swimming pools will participate.

Prizes will be presented to the winning teams after the competition.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the ceremony.

It will begin at 6 p.m.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YUEN LONG

In order to make way for a temporary hawker bazaar, the section of Pau Cheung Street south of Fuk Tak Street in Yuen Long will be closed to all vehicular traffic for about four months as from 10 a.m. on July 30 (Monday).

The closed section will be used to accommodate hawkers during the construction of a new market at Pau Cheung Street.

New traffic arrangements will also be introduced in Yau Yat Tsuen to improve traffic flow in the area.

Starting from 10 a.m. on July 31, Tseuk Kiu Street will be re-routed one way from Fa Po Street to Tat Chee Avenue and Fa Po Street will be re-routed one-way from Tat Chee Avenue to Tseuk Kiu Street.

Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Tsim Sha Tsui district will be interrupted from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Tuesday (July 31) to allow a leakage test to be carried out.

The area affected is bounded by Austin Road, Chatham Road, Austin Avenue, Hillwood Road and a section of Nathan Road between Haiphong Road and Austin Road.

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MEMBERS OF COMPENSATION BOARDS APPOINTED

The government has announced the formal appointment by the Governor of 37 members of the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Boards for two years with effect from June 19, 1973.

The members, all unofficials, represent a wide variety of professions and include lawyers, doctors, social workers, businessmen and community leaders.

Also announced were the appointments of Mr. Oswald Cheung as Chairman of the Boards and Mr. W.I. Cheung as acting Chairman during his absence.

The Boards have actually been functioning since June 1 when the scheme to compensate victims of crimes of violence was implemented.

The Boards are responsible for the administration of the scheme and are served by a secretariat at the Social Welfare Department. Members will take turns to serve on the Boards to consider claims for compensation. They will also hear appeals.

Commenting on the composition of the Boards, Mr. Stephen Chau, Principal Social Welfare Officer (Accident Compensation) said: "It is the pride of Hong Kong to have such a big but effective group to serve the community on an entirely voluntary basis.

"This is unique when compared with similar schemes in other countries," he said.

Mr. Chau, who is also the Secretary to the Boards, revealed that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has been meeting weekly to consider claims.

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He emphasised the need for more people to be aware and make use of the compensation scheme.

The scheme is non-means tested which means that anyone, rich or poor, can claim compensation for any personal injuries, disability or fatality resulting from a violent crime, preventing a crime or the use of weapon by a law enforcement officer in the execution of his duty.

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SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies will be available for collection at the G.I.S. Press room, 6th floor, Beaconsfield House, at 2.30 p.m.

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PROMOTION FOR FOURTH GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

Four well-known personalities from Commercial Radio will sell government lottery tickets at a temporary ticket selling booth in Statue Square on Monday (July 30) between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

They are Miss Leung Siu-yung, Miss Yan Wai-yee, Miss Conita Chan Hoi-see and Miss Wan Fong-ling.

At the same time, another four comedians of Commercial Radio will give a performance on an open-air stage next to the selling booth to help promote the sale of lottery tickets.

The winning numbers for the fourth government lottery this year will be drawn by the four personalities on August 4, at the City Hall Concert Hall.

By 12.00 noon today a total of 500,000 tickets had been sold. Sales will close at 9.00 p.m. on Friday (August 3) at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club ticket booth at the Star Ferry Concourse and all Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry piers.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event on Monday afternoon at Statue Square, next to the Prince's Building.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.