



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
INMATES WIN AWARDS IN PUBLIC EXAMS	1
IMPORTED WORKERS EQUALLY PROTECTED BY LABOUR LAW	2
TAPED MESSAGE ON OLD AGE ALLOWANCE INTRODUCED	3
NEW COUNTRYSIDE MAP FOR LANTAU ON SALE	4

INMATES WIN AWARDS IN PUBLIC EXAMS
* * * * *

STUDYING BEHIND THE BARS IS NO EASY TASK.

BUT FOR AH MING AND AH KEUNG, TWO INMATES AT THE STANLEY PRISON, PRISON LIFE CAN HARDLY DAMPEN THEIR LEARNING SPIRIT AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

THEY WERE RECENTLY AWARDED BRONZE MEDALS BY THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXAMINATIONS.

BRONZE MEDALS ARE AWARDED BY THE INSTITUTE TO THE BEST CANDIDATES IN EVERY SUBJECT OF THE CITY AND GUILDS EXAMINATIONS ON A GLOBAL BASIS.

BOTH INMATES WON THE AWARD FOR THEIR EXCELLENT RESULTS IN MATHEMATICS (LEVEL 2) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION FOR WHICH THEY SAT IN DECEMBER 1990.

BESIDES THE BRONZE-MEDAL AWARD, 31-YEAR-OLD AH MING ALSO ATTAINED DISTINCTIONS IN SEVEN OTHER SUBJECTS, INCLUDING PHYSICAL SCIENCE, ELECTRICAL PRINCIPLES, ELECTRONICS, COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND MICROELECTRONICS SYSTEMS.

28-YEAR-OLD AH KEUNG ALSO OBTAINED THREE DISTINCTIONS AND A CREDIT IN OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE EXAMINATIONS.

AH MING IS SERVING A JAIL SENTENCE IN THE STANLEY PRISON, BUT AH KEUNG WAS RELEASED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

RECEIVING THE AWARD WITH JOY, AH MING SAID THE MEDAL WAS A WINDFALL AND AN INVALUABLE GIFT TO HIM.

"NO DOUBT THE PRIZE HAS HELPED RESTORE MY CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTHEN MY DETERMINATION TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF," AH MING SAID.

HE SAID STUDYING INSIDE A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WAS NOT AN EASY MATTER. IN PARTICULAR, HE HAD TO OVERCOME EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS THAT AN INMATE WOULD EXPERIENCE IN A PRISON ENVIRONMENT.

"FORTUNATELY, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TIDE OVER THE DIFFICULTIES, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN BY MY FAMILY MEMBERS AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S TEACHING STAFF," AH MING SAID.

HE BEGAN THE FIVE-YEAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS COURSE IN 1988 AND HOPED TO COMPLETE IT BEFORE HIS RELEASE.

INTRODUCED TO THE STANLEY PRISON IN 1982, THE COURSE IS NOW CONDUCTED BY AN ASSISTANT LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR WOO HUNG-KIT.

MR WOO SAID MORE THAN 70 PRISONERS HAD TAKEN THE COURSE AND HAD SAT FOR A TOTAL OF 243 PAPERS. TOTALLY, THEY ACHIEVED 180 DISTINCTIONS AND 51 CREDITS WITH A 100-PER-CENT PASS RATE.

HE NOTED THAT THE AWARD OF MEDALS SIGNIFIED THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE INMATES' PERFORMANCE IN THE EXAMINATIONS AND WOULD DEFINITELY BE A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO INMATES STUDYING BEHIND THE BARS.

HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS THE THIRD TIME PRISONERS UNDER THE CARE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE AWARDED BRONZE MEDALS BY THE INSTITUTE.

THE FIRST ONE WAS AWARDED IN THE SUBJECT OF COMPUTER IN 1984 AND THE SECOND IN ELECTRICAL PRINCIPLES IN 1989.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE MORE THAN 600 PRISONERS TAKING PART IN VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE STANLEY PRISON.

THE PROGRAMMES INCLUDE EVENING EDUCATION CLASSES, SELF-STUDY COURSES, CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND DEGREE COURSES OFFERED BY THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG AND THE EAST ASIA OPEN INSTITUTE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPORTED WORKERS EQUALLY PROTECTED BY LABOUR LAW

* * * * *

IMPORTED WORKERS ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS UNDER THE LABOUR LAW AS THEIR LOCAL COUNTERPARTS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR MAK REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT ALL PROVISIONS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE APPLIED TO ALL WORKERS, BE THEY LOCAL OR IMPORTED.

"IN PARTICULAR, WE TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IMPORTED WORKERS' IGNORANCE OF THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS," HE STRESSED.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, IN ITS SUSTAINED EFFORT TO PROTECT THE STATUTORY RIGHTS OF IMPORTED WORKERS, CONTINUES TO TAKE MORE OFFENDING EMPLOYERS TO COURT.

IN A RECENT CASE, THE APTEX GARMENT MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED IN KWAI CHUNG WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$6,000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO GRANT A STATUTORY HOLIDAY TO THREE IMPORTED WORKERS.

THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT ALL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING IMPORTED WORKERS, ARE ENTITLED TO STATUTORY HOLIDAYS AND MUST BE GIVEN HOLIDAY PAY IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR LONGER.

/EMPLOYERS WHO

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992

- 3 -

EMPLOYERS WHO BREACH THE REQUIREMENT ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000.

IN ANOTHER CASE, AN EMPLOYER ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND WAS FINED \$2,000 BY A WESTERN MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES FOR HIS EMPLOYEES AS REQUIRED UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

DURING A VISIT TO THE CHEUNG CHAU CONVALESCENT HOME IN KO SHAN VILLAGE, LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND THAT THE PROPRIETOR, LI PUI-WAI, HAD FAILED TO INSURE FOR HIS FOUR EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING TWO IMPORTED WORKERS.

THE LAW REQUIRES ALL EMPLOYERS TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES TO COVER THEIR FULL LIABILITIES TO COMPENSATE WORKERS INJURED AT WORK UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND UNDER COMMON LAW.

OFFENDER ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR ON SUMMARY CONVICTION.

"OUR LABOUR INSPECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO VISIT EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED WORKERS TO ENSURE THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDINANCES," MR MAK SAID, ADDING THAT PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN OUT WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE.

"WORKERS WISHING TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS MAY EITHER APPROACH OUR LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICES OR DIAL 815 5066," HE SAID.

MR MAK ALSO APPEALED TO IMPORTED WORKERS TO COME FORWARD TO REPORT MALPRACTICES OF UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TAPED MESSAGE ON OLD AGE ALLOWANCE INTRODUCED
* * * * *

A TAPED MESSAGE ON OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WILL BE PUT INTO USE ON THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 STARTING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE MESSAGE, OUTLINING THE CRITERIA, AMOUNT AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, IS INTRODUCED WITH AN AIM TO IMPROVE WORKING EFFICIENCY, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"AT PRESENT, THE HOTLINE RECEIVES AN AVERAGE OF 1,960 CALLS EVERY MONTH, ABOUT 15 PER CENT OF WHICH ARE ENQUIRIES ON OLD AGE ALLOWANCE," HE SAID.

"STARTING FROM TOMORROW, CALLERS ENQUIRING ABOUT THE ALLOWANCE WILL BE REFERRED TO THE TAPE AND THE DEPARTMENTAL HOTLINE WILL THEN BE RELEASED TO ANSWER OTHER CALLS.

/"SHOULD THE

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1992

- 4 -

"SHOULD THE SYSTEM WORK WELL, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE SERVICE TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME," HE ADDED.

THE 24-HOUR HOTLINE, WHICH IS MANNED BY FOUR SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS, SERVES TO ANSWER PUBLIC ENQUIRIES ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES, DIRECT CALLERS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICES FOR HELP AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICE, AND PROVIDE IMMEDIATE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING OR ADVICE WHEN NECESSARY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW COUNTRYSIDE MAP FOR LANTAU ON SALE
* * * * *

A NEW COUNTRYSIDE MAP FOR LANTAU ISLAND IS NOW ON SALE.

THE MAP, PRODUCED BY THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, IS ONE OF THE SEVEN IN ITS POPULAR COUNTRYSIDE SERIES.

THE 1:25 000 SCALE MAP IS PRINTED IN FULL COLOUR WITH RELIEF SHADING AND CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

IT FEATURES PICTURES AND BRIEF NOTES OF SELECTED SCENIC SPOTS ON THE ISLAND.

THE LANTAU TRAIL AND FOOTPATHS ARE SHOWN IN PROMINENT COLOUR AND WITH INDICATIONS ON THEIR CONDITIONS FOR TREKKING AS A GUIDE TO HOLIDAY-MAKERS.

THERE ARE ALSO INFORMATION ON TRAFFIC, MAP NOTES AND A DIRECTORY TO PLACES OF GENERAL INTEREST AND HISTORIC SITES.

COPIES OF THE MAP, AT \$25 EACH, ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAP SALES OUTLETS OF THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AND LEADING BOOKSHOPS.

MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE SAID IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING INTEREST BY THE PUBLIC ON MAPS AND RELATED ITEMS PRODUCED BY THE OFFICE, THE PUBLIC WERE REMINDED THAT THESE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS ARE COPYRIGHT PROTECTED.

HE SAID INFORMATION REGARDING PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THESE PRODUCTS COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 848 6267.

- - - - 0 - - - -