



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1993

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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1993

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EMSD LOOKS AFTER 15,000 TRAFFIC LIGHTS

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THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 15,000 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND SIGNALS AT 1,020 TRAFFIC JUNCTIONS, 8,400 BOLLARD LIGHTS ON "TRAFFIC ISLANDS" AND LIGHTING IN 250 PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS AND 219 FOOTBRIDGES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING A PROMPT AND EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE FOR THESE FACILITIES.

THE TASK OF MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING TRAFFIC LIGHTS OR SIGNALS FALLS ON A SPECIAL TEAM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORKSHOPS DIVISION.

THE TEAM WORKS ROUND-THE-CLOCK, RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY CALLS FOR REPAIR AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

TO ENSURE THAT TRAFFIC AIDS EQUIPMENT FUNCTION PROPERLY, MEMBERS OF THE TEAM MAKE REGULAR PATROLS TO LOOK OUT FOR FAULTY ONES.

IN VIEW OF THE GREAT NUMBER OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS, REPORTS OF MALFUNCTIONING ARE OF GREAT HELP TO THE TEAM.

TO REPORT FAULTS, THE PUBLIC MAY DIAL 765 1642 DURING OFFICE HOURS, AND 333 3762 AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF A FAULTY TRAFFIC LIGHT OR SIGNAL WILL HELP THE TEAM TO ATTEND WITHOUT DELAY.

"THE BEST WAY IS TO PINPOINT THE SERIAL NUMBER OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT PAINTED ON THE POST. THIS WILL AVOID DELAY AND CONFUSION," A GENERAL WORKS MANAGER OF THE EMSD, MR ERIC UY SAID.

"FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC, LABELS MADE OF REFLECTIVE MATERIAL SHOWING THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR REPORTING FAULTS AND FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR SERVICES ARE POSTED ON ALL TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND SIGNALS," HE ADDED.

MR UY SAID OF ALL THE FAULTS ATTENDED, THE MOST COMMON ONE REQUIRES ONLY THE REPLACEMENT OF LIGHT BULBS OR THE COVERING HOOD FOR LIGHTS.

AS FOR BOLLARD LIGHTS ON TRAFFIC ISLANDS, COMPLETE REPLACEMENT WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY WERE OFTEN KNOCKED DOWN OR BADLY DAMAGED BY VEHICLES.

"REGULAR REPLACEMENT OF LIGHT BULBS IS CARRIED OUT AS PART OF THE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME OF THE EMSD. THE LENSES OF LIGHTS ARE CLEANED FOUR TIMES A YEAR TO ENSURE THAT COLOUR SIGNALS ARE SEEN CLEARLY BY ROAD USERS," HE NOTED.

MR UY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ALSO SPECIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE PUBLIC TO REPORT FAULTY LIGHTS IN PUBLIC SUBWAYS AND FOOTBRIDGES.

/DURING OFFICE

DURING OFFICE HOURS, THE NUMBERS ARE 576 3125 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, AND 765 1633 FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. AFTER OFFICE HOURS, ALL REPORTS SHOULD BE MADE ON TEL 333 3762.

MR UY POINTED OUT THAT LABELS WITH TELEPHONE NUMBERS HAD BEEN POSTED AT ENTRANCES TO SUBWAYS AND ON THE STAIRCASES OF FOOTBRIDGES. SERIAL NUMBERS HAD ALSO BEEN PAINTED ON THE FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE PUBLIC.

"CORRECT INFORMATION ON THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS WOULD HELP MAINTENANCE STAFF TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY REPAIRS WITHOUT DELAY," HE ADDED.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT SOME FAULTY LIGHTS IN SUBWAYS WERE THE RESULT OF VANDALISM AND SERIOUS DAMAGE WOULD REQUIRE LONGER TIME FOR REPAIR OR MAY REQUIRE COMPLETE REPLACEMENT.

HE SAID TAMPERING WITH THE LIGHTS COULD LEAD TO ELECTROCUTION, APART FROM BEING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.

THE EMSD WAS USING STRONGER MATERIALS FOR LIGHTING PROTECTIVE COVERS TO STRENGTHEN THE DURABILITY OF THE LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS AS A MEASURE AGAINST DELIBERATE TAMPERING, MR UY ADDED.

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RETRAINING COURSES BENEFICIAL TO WORKERS

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WORKERS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED IN DECLINING INDUSTRIES COULD MASTER NEW SKILLS THROUGH ATTENDING RETRAINING COURSES ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE CHANGING THEIR JOBS.

TWO SUCCESSFUL CASES WERE FEMALE RETRAINEES, MISS NG WAI-FONG AND MISS FUNG NGOR.

BOTH IN THEIR MID-THIRTIES, THEY WERE AMONG THE FIRST BATCH OF WORKERS COMPLETING COURSES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME WHICH STARTED IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

ON COMPLETION OF A CLEANING SERVICE COURSE OF HOTEL HOUSEKEEPING LASTING FIVE WEEKS, MISS NG AND MISS FUNG WERE ABLE TO SECURE A JOB AS ROOM ATTENDANTS IN A HOTEL IN CENTRAL THROUGH SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

"WE ARE VERY HAPPY THAT WE COULD SWITCH TO THIS JOB," MISS NG WAI-FONG SAID.

"WE ARE NOT THAT OPTIMISTIC AT THE VERY BEGINNING BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS," MISS NG SAID.

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AND THEY HAVE NO WORKING EXPERIENCE IN OTHER FIELDS AT ALL.

"THOUGH WE HAD TO OVERCOME MANY OBSTACLES TO START ON THE PRESENT JOB, THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME DID MANAGE TO HELP US IN MAKING OUR FIRST STEP BY PROVIDING US WITH A BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF HOTEL SERVICES," MISS FUNG ADDED.

"NOW, WE FEEL MORE SECURED IN THE NEW JOB THAN IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

IN THOSE DAYS, THEY HAD TO FACE THE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE WORK.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN ASSISTING US TO FIND NEW JOBS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT, OTHERWISE, WE MAY NEVER GET THIS JOB SIMPLY BECAUSE HOTELS WOULD NORMALLY NOT TAKE IN NEW HANDS," THEY ADDED.

THEIR EMPLOYER, THE HOTEL FURAMA KEMPINSKI HONG KONG ALSO EXPRESSED GREAT SUPPORT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RETRAINING PROJECT.

"WE FEEL THAT IT IS OUR DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THAT BY SETTING A PRECEDENT, OTHER EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN EMPLOYING RETRAINED WORKERS," THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER OF THE HOTEL, MISS WINNIE CHOW SAID.

"MEANWHILE, WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE RECRUITED MISS NG AND MISS FUNG WHO ARE BOTH CONSCIENTIOUS AND WILLING TO LEARN," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE HOTEL IS PREPARED TO ORGANISE FURTHER TRAINING TO BETTER POLISH THEIR SKILLS.

THEIR PERFORMANCE HAVE GIVEN THEM CONFIDENCE IN RECRUITING OTHER RETRAINEES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME, SHE SAID.

"WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO TAKE ON OTHER SUITABLE RETRAINEES TO FILL THE VACANCIES IN THE HOTEL'S OPERATIONAL DEPARTMENTS," MISS CHOW ADDED.

MEANWHILE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT SERVICES), MR RAYMOND CHAN, SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) IS STILL HELPING 51 RETRAINEES IN FINDING JOBS.

AT THE END OF MARCH, 397 RETRAINEES HAVE COMPLETED RETRAINING. MORE THAN 200 HAVE FOUND WORK THROUGH ABOUT 540 REFERRALS MADE EITHER BY LES OR BY TRAINING BODIES, MR CHAN SAID.

"THE REMAINING 140 HAVE NOT REQUESTED FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND PRESUMABLY HAVE FOUND WORK," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID PROFILES OF THE RETRAINEES HAD SENT TO ALL POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS TO HELP THEM SELECT SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO FILL THEIR VACANCIES.

"OUR OFFICERS WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS TO MONITOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETRAINEES," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN ALSO CALLED ON EMPLOYERS TO TAKE ON RETRAINEES SO THAT SKILLS ACQUIRED BY THEM AFTER ATTENDING RETRAINING COURSES COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE.

HE SAID ENQUIRIES ON THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME OR LES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 852 4890 AND 606 2145 RESPECTIVELY.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND LOCATED IN KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE LOT, LOCATED AT AREA 10B, TAI WO HAU ROAD, HAS AN AREA OF 5,750 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS INTENDED FOR LANDSCAPE GARDENING, PLANT NURSERY AND/OR COMMERCIAL GARDENING INCLUDING GROWING GARDEN PRODUCTS, STORAGE AND SALE OF POTTED PLANTS AND OTHER ANCILLARY GARDEN PRODUCTS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 23.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING, 10TH FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT JOSS HOUSE BAY ON TUESDAY (APRIL 13) AND WEDNESDAY (APRIL 14) TO FACILITATE WORSHIPPERS GOING TO THE TEMPLE TO CELEBRATE THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

"SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION WILL BE MADE AT THE PIER ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF JOSS HOUSE BAY," SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (EAST REGION), MR KHIN HLA SAID.

"OFFICERS FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND MARINE POLICE WILL BE ON PATROL IN THE AREA TO HELP OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL CRAFT TRANSPORTING WORSHIPPERS.

"ALL OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL CRAFT HEADING TO AND FROM JOSS HOUSE BAY SHOULD PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MARINE SAFETY AND NOT OVERLOAD THEIR VESSELS.

"THEY SHOULD EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHER USERS."

WORSHIPPERS SHOULD TAKE CARE WHEN BOARDING AND ALIGHTING ALL VESSELS INCLUDING THOSE OF THE HONG KONG FERRY COMPANY WHICH WILL OPERATE SERVICES BETWEEN JOSS HOUSE BAY AND NORTH POINT ON TUESDAY (APRIL 13) AND WEDNESDAY (APRIL 14).

MR HLA ALSO ADVISED MASTERS OF ALL OTHER VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE TATHONG CHANNEL OVER THE FESTIVAL PERIOD TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION DUE TO THE NUMEROUS LOCAL CRAFT THAT WILL BE SAILING THROUGH LEI YUE MUN TO JOSS HOUSE BAY.

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SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT

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A PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL SPEAK ON PROPER BUILDING MANAGEMENT AT A PUBLIC SEMINAR AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE ON MAY 15 FROM 2 PM TO 5.30 PM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE "BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR - PERSPECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION" WILL BE THE FOURTH IN A SERIES TO BE PRESENTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

HE SAID THE SEMINAR WAS TARGETED AT MEMBERS OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS COMMITTEES, BUILDING MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS, FLAT OWNERS AS WELL AS INTERESTED PEOPLE.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

PANELISTS WILL INCLUDE A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL, MR MA HO-FAI; A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, MR FAN SAI-YEE; A SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR JOSEPH LEE; A SENIOR OFFICER FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, MR LESTER LEUNG; AND A CHAIRMAN OF AN OWNERS COMMITTEE, MR PAUL LEUNG.

TOPICS SUCH AS BUILDING MANAGEMENT, TENDERING PROCEDURES, FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL AS THE ROLES OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS/COMMITTEES AND HOUSING MANAGERS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED.

THE EFFECTS OF LAW COVERING THE DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANTS WILL ALSO BE COVERED.

THERE WILL BE AN OPEN DISCUSSION TO BE CHAIRED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF HOUSING'S PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE, MR MINGO KWAN.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, AND THE DEADLINE FOR ENROLMENT IS APRIL 23.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SECTION, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON REGION HEADQUARTERS, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, 29TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 835 1496 AND 835 1497.

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PLEA ON CHILD CARE

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PARENTS SHOULD NOT, FOR ANY REASON, ABANDON THEIR CHILDREN.

THEY SHOULD SEEK HELP FROM SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IF THEY ENCOUNTER ANY FAMILY OR CHILD CARE PROBLEMS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SUNDAY) MADE THE PLEA AFTER A VISIT BY A 27-YEAR-OLD WOMAN TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CHUK YUEN CHILDREN'S RECEPTION CENTRE OF WHICH SHE ONCE CALLED HOME.

THE WOMAN HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM CANADA TO LOOK FOR HER NATURAL PARENTS.

SHE WAS ABANDONED IN A TSUEN WAN STREET WHEN SHE WAS A BABY IN NOVEMBER 1965.

SHE WAS LATER PLACED UNDER THE CARE OF THE CENTRE FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE SHE WAS ADOPTED OVERSEAS.

SHE WAS NAMED WU PIK DURING HER STAY IN THE CENTRE, HE ADDED.

THE CENTRE, BUILT IN 1964, PROVIDES TEMPORARY CARE, NORMALLY FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, TO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHT.

FOR THE HOMELESS, ABANDONED OR ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN GIVEN UP BY THEIR PARENTS, THE ADOPTION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT MAKES ARRANGEMENT FOR THEM TO BE ADOPTED EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS.

TOURING HER ONE-TIME "HOME", WU PIK THANKED THE CENTRE STAFF FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO DUTY.

"THEY ARE SO KIND TO THE UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN WHO ALL LOOKED SO WELL-CARED FOR," WU PIK SAID.

PARENTS SHOULD NOT, IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHRUG THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BY ABANDONING THEIR CHILDREN, SHE URGED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED ON PARENTS TO SEEK HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, WHEN THEY HAVE FAMILY OR CHILD CARE PROBLEMS.

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