



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1976

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BIRTHRATE IN HONG KONG FALLING

THE BIRTHRATE - HONG KONG'S PRINCIPAL WORRY - IS FALLING AND FERTILITY RATES IN ALL AGE GROUPS ARE COMING DOWN, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID THIS MORNING WHEN HE OPENED THE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SEMINAR OF THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

+IT IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE CRUDE BIRTHRATE HAS DROPPED FROM A LEVEL OF 19.7 PER THOUSAND IN THE PERIOD 1971-74 TO 18.3 PER THOUSAND IN 1975. IT WILL BE LOWER STILL FOR 1976 BASED ON BIRTH FIGURES RECORDED OVER THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID. +IN FACT ABOUT 17.3 THIS YEAR, VERY LOW INDEED.+

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE NET REPRODUCTION RATE DROPPED FROM JUST BELOW 1.7 IN 1970 TO THE PRESENT FIGURE OF BELOW 1.3.

+CONSCIENTIOUS MOTHERS ARE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT KEEPING DOWN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THEIR FAMILIES.

+THERE ARE FEWER FIFTH ORDER BIRTHS, THAT IS HAVING A FIFTH CHILD OR MORE IN THE FAMILY,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID. IN 1970 THE PERCENTAGE OF SUCH BIRTHS STOOD AT 23.2 PER CENT. BY 1975 THE PERCENTAGE HAD DROPPED TO 10.4.

WITHOUT DOUBT FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION HAD A REAL ROLE TO PLAY: TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A PARENT OR A SPOUSE AND TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF BEING A FATHER OR MOTHER.

IT AIMED TO PROMOTE HAPPY RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, HELPING THEM TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS. IT ALSO AIMED TO HELP MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY TO SHARE THEIR FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

+I THINK IT IS PRETTY CLEAR THAT IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION THERE IS ROOM FOR SEX EDUCATION,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

THIS WAS A TOPIC THAT HAS BEEN ALMOST TABOO IN HONG KONG. +BUT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND IT IS BEING OPENLY DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

THIS WAS EVIDENCED BY THE LONG QUEUES OF PEOPLE AT THE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL STAGED BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

MR. TOPLEY SAID: +A GOOD START IS BEING MADE IN OUR SCHOOLS TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR ADOLESCENTS IN HELPING THEM TO UNDERSTAND THEIR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH DURING THIS DIFFICULT STAGE OF LIFE.

/+SEX EDUCATION

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+SEX EDUCATION IS NOT A SUBJECT THAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT ON ITS OWN. APART FROM HEALTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL STUDIES LESSONS, SOME SCHOOLS INTEGRATE SEX EDUCATION ELEMENTS IN BIOLOGY, RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE, DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION LESSONS.+

THERE IS A PROBLEM IN FINDING TEACHERS TO DO THIS WORK WELL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TEACHERS ABLE TO DO IT AND WHO DO IT WELL.

+THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY LIFE AND SEX EDUCATION MUST BE AT THE PACE OF SOCIETY ITSELF. NOTHING IS WORSE THAN FOR AN EMBARRASSED TEACHER TO STAND HESITATING AND UNCOMFORTABLE BEFORE A CLASS OF PUPILS AND MUMBLING THROUGH HIS LINES,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS FOR JUNIOR FORMS WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING SELF-UNDERSTANDING, CONCERN FOR OTHERS AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP.

+EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE IN SCHOOL THROUGH THE VARIOUS SUBJECT DISCIPLINES WHEREBY CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO BE SUCCESSFUL HOMEMAKERS.

+THE ETV PROGRAMMES WHICH HAVE JUST STARTED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS INCLUDE PROGRAMMES ON SOCIAL STUDIES WITH SPECIAL TOPICS RELATED TO FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION. THIS MEDIUM IS A VERY USEFUL AID FOR TEACHERS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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HONG KONG'S TEXTILES QUOTA SYSTEM
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILES QUOTA SYSTEM.

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN, WILL ANNOUNCE THE RESULT OF THIS REVIEW AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE G.I.S. THEATRE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR, AT 11.30 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

TV AND RADIO CREWS ARE KINDLY ASKED TO ARRIVE EARLY SO THAT THEY MAY SET UP THEIR CAMERAS AND OTHER RECORDING EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE COMMENCES.

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WAYS TO HELP DISABLED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ARE GIVING A SERIES OF TALKS TO STAFF OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES THIS WEEK ON HOW THEY CAN HELP THE DISABLED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

THIS IS TO ENABLE THE DISABLED TO INTEGRATE MORE EASILY INTO THE SOCIETY.

THE TALKS WILL BE ATTENDED BY SUPERVISORS AND REGULATORS OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY, CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND HONG KONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

THE SUBJECTS OF THE TALKS, TO BE GIVEN BY OFFICERS OF THE REHABILITATION DIVISION, INCLUDE THE CLASSIFICATION OF DISABILITIES, THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY DISABLED PEOPLE IN USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AND HOW THE OPERATING STAFF OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES CAN HELP THESE PEOPLE TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM USE OF THE FACILITIES.

A DEMONSTRATION HAS ALSO BEEN ARRANGED FOR STAFF OF THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) TO SHOW HOW THEY CAN HELP THE BLIND, PHYSICALLY DISABLED AND MENTALLY-RETARDED TO BOARD AND TO GET OFF THE VEHICLES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) AT THE LAM TIN BUS TERMINUS, LAM TIN ESTATE, AT 11 A.M.

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WATER CUT

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE STAFF TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, NGA TSIN LONG ROAD AND NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, INCLUDING NAM KOK ROAD, LUNG KONG ROAD AND SOUTH WALL ROAD.

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BUSY YEAR FOR PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS
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THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES AND CASES HANDLED BY THE 22 PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REACHED 1,671,867 IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 7.9 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR.

THIS TOTAL WAS MADE UP OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF 748,499 FORMS/PAMPHLETS AND BOOKLETS AND THE HANDLING OF 786,224 ENQUIRIES AS WELL AS 137,144 PERSONAL OR GROUP CASES.

OF THE ENQUIRIES AND CASES, SOME 33,000 WERE ABOUT JOBS AND VACANCIES, ABOUT 29,000 CONCERNED APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WHILE 28,000 WERE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AIDS.

AMONG THE TEN SUBJECTS ON WHICH MOST QUESTIONS WERE ASKED WERE LOCATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES, REGISTRATION AND POST REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGE, RENT INCREASES, EXAMINATIONS, TECHNICAL EDUCATION, ASSISTANCE/RELIEF/COMPENSATION AND ADULT AND EXTRA-MURAL COURSES.

AS FOR THE FORMS AND BOOKLETS DISTRIBUTED, THE FORMS IN DEMAND MOST WERE ENROLMENT FORMS FOR THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES (141,171) - APPLICATION FORMS FOR GOVERNMENT POSTS (121,920) AND APPLICATION FORMS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE (79,933). OTHER POPULAR ITEMS INCLUDED REGISTRATION FORMS FOR VARIOUS EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, FORMS ON TENANCY MATTERS AND +WALK FOR A MILLION+.

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PUBLIC DUMP AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION TO BE CLOSED TOMORROW
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DUMPING AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE MOVE IS TAKEN AS A STAGE HAS NOW BEEN REACHED IN THE RECLAMATION WORKS WHERE NO FURTHER DUMPING CAN BE ACCEPTED UNTIL CURRENT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON MAJOR STORMWATER DRAINS IS COMPLETED.

IN THE MEANTIME, CONTRACTORS WISHING TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS EXCAVATION MAY APPLY FOR LICENCES TO DISPOSE OF THEIR SPOILS AT SHA TIN.

THESE LICENCES MAY BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE BY WRITING TO THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL, SHA TIN.

ANOTHER PUBLIC DUMP WOULD BE OPENED AT LAI CHI KOK BAY LATER IN THE YEAR.

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