



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1977

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APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS MAKING PREPARATION TO DEAL WITH APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUBMITTED AFTER THE EXTENDED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME COMES INTO OPERATION ON APRIL 1.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, AT A DINNER RECEPTION OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT KAIFONG ASSOCIATION TONIGHT.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE EXTENDED SCHEME WAS TO HELP ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE BETWEEN 15 AND 55, WHO WERE WITHOUT WORK, TO QUICKLY BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AGAIN AND TO PREVENT THEM FROM DEVELOPING A SENSE OF DEPENDENCY.

HE LISTED THE GENERAL PROCEDURES TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM NEXT MONTH.

THEY ARE:

- * APPLICANTS MUST HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR TWO YEARS AND APPLY IN PERSON AT THEIR LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT.
- * APPLICANTS MUST REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF APPLICATION FOR PA.
- * APPLICANTS MUST BE FOUND TO BE GENUINELY IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND THEY SHOULD NOT REJECT JOBS ARRANGED FOR THEM BY THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WITHOUT REASONS.
- * IF APPLICANTS FAIL TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE OF APPLICATION, THEIR MONTHLY ENTITLEMENT WILL START FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH. HOWEVER, ENTITLEMENT OF ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES WILL BEGIN FROM THE DATE OF APPLICATION.
- * APPLICANTS MUST RE-AFFIRM THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS AT THE LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT EVERY MONTH AND RE-REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR EMPLOYMENT EVERY THREE MONTHS.

THE DIRECTOR ALSO DISCLOSED THAT A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM WOULD BE SET UP IN THE DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT THOROUGH AND REGULAR INVESTIGATION ON SOME OF THE CASES IN ORDER TO PREVENT ABUSES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENDED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAD BEEN DEvised NOT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT FAMILIES WOULD NOT FALL BELOW A LEVEL NECESSARY FOR BASIC SUBSISTENCE BUT ALSO TO STRENGTHEN THE SAFEGUARD AGAINST ABUSES.

/+AT PRESENT

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+AT PRESENT, ABOUT 50,000 FAMILIES TOTALLING 130,000 PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE EVERY MONTH, THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE 70,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING THE INFIRMITY AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES,+ HE SAID.

THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAD, DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS, FULLY DEMONSTRATED ITS VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS IN HELPING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY IN HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN H.K. FASHION SHOW IN TOKYO
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG BY AIR THIS SUNDAY (MARCH 13) FOR TOKYO TO OPEN THE +HONG KONG FASHION COLLECTIONS 1977+ SHOW THERE ON MARCH 14. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY MACLEHOSE.

THE FASHION SHOW, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, WILL BE STAGED AT TOKYO'S IMPERIAL HOTEL AND IS AIMED AT SHOWING THE VERY BEST OF HONG KONG'S TOP FASHION DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING TALENT.

ATTENDING THIS MAJOR FASHION PRESENTATION IN TOKYO WILL BE A DELEGATION OF HONG KONG'S LEADING GARMENT MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS WHO WILL SHOW THEIR NEW SAMPLE RANGES DURING THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL.

SIR MURRAY AND LADY MACLEHOSE WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 15.

THE SHOW IN TOKYO FOLLOWS THE CURRENT READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL IN HONG KONG, WHICH NOW IN ITS TENTH YEAR, HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS ONE OF THE MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR FASHION GARMENTS. THE LARGEST CONTINGENT OF OVERSEAS BUYERS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL HERE HAS NORMALLY BEEN FROM JAPAN. IT IS THEREFORE DECIDED TO EXTEND THE FESTIVAL TO JAPAN THIS YEAR.

JAPAN IS THE NINTH LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG EXPORTS OF NON-FUR CLOTHING WITH PURCHASES LAST YEAR TOTALLING MORE THAN \$318 MILLION. MOREOVER, IT IS THE TOP BUYERS OF LOCALLY MANUFACTURED FUR PRODUCTION WITH LAST YEAR'S PURCHASES AMOUNTING TO ABOUT \$97 MILLION.

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PREPARATIONS FOR MACHINERY GUARDING EXHIBITION NEARING COMPLETION
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PREPARATIONS FOR THE MACHINERY GUARDING EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT THE KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS, HUNG HOM ARE WELL IN HAND.

THE EXHIBITION, DUE TO OPEN ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, WILL LAST UNTIL MARCH 20 (SUNDAY).

IT WILL HIGHLIGHT THE NEW FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS WHICH COME INTO FORCE ON APRIL 1.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE A WIDE RANGE OF MACHINE GUARDS WORKING MODELS, DEMONSTRATIONS, FILMS AND SLIDE SHOWS.

THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF AN OVERALL CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE GUARDING FOR ALL DANGEROUS MACHINE PARTS IN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE CASUALTY FIGURES ARISING FROM INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND HON. PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES AT 3 P.M. ON FRIDAY (MARCH 11) AT THE KOWLOON RAIL TERMINUS IN HUNG HOM.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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BALANCED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR
LANTAU, PENG CHAU AND CHEUNG CHAU
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED A PLAN TO GIVE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR REDEVELOPMENT FACELIFT TO THE ISLANDS OF LANTAU, CHEUNG CHAU AND PENG CHAU.

THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. DAVID TSUI, SAID TODAY THAT WORK WAS TO BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY ON RESHAPING CHEUNG CHAU AND MUI WO AND TAI O ON LANTAU ISLAND AS BALANCED SELF-CONTAINED RURAL TOWNSHIPS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS WOULD NOT ENCROACH ON THE NATURAL, PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT OF THE ISLANDS BUT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE FOR THOSE IN THE URBAN AREAS +WHO WEARY OF LIVING IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS+.

MR. TSUI TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE VICTORIA LIONS CLUB THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EARMARKED MORE THAN \$60 MILLION IN THIS YEAR'S ESTIMATES TO COVER THE COSTS OF SITES AND THEIR FORMATION FOR THE PROGRAMME.

MR. TSUI GAVE THIS RUNDOWN ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS DRAWN UP BY GOVERNMENT CONSULTANTS.

LANTAU : AT MUI WO, WORK IS TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER ON A \$20 MILLION PROJECT TO PROVIDE THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH INCLUDES :-

- * A \$9 MILLION FERRY CONCOURSE INCORPORATING A BUS TERMINAL, TAXI AND PRIVATE CAR RANK, A CAR PARK AND NEW FERRY PIER TO ACCOMMODATE TWO TRIPLE DECK FERRIES.
- * COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SITES NEAR THE FERRY PIER AS WELL AS RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING FOR 1,200 PEOPLE.

MR. TSUI SAID THAT THE PLAN ALSO CALLED FOR PROVISION OF VILLAGE TYPE HOUSING AND WORK SHOP AREAS IN THE MUI WO VALLEY AS WELL AS ROADS AND FOOTPATHS FROM THE FERRY PIER TO THE VALLEY.

+AT TAI O,+ HE SAID, +WORK WILL BEGIN SOON TO PROVIDE A SITE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING TO GIVE NEW HOMES TO 3,000 PEOPLE - MOST OF THEM BOAT SQUATTERS AND LAND SQUATTERS LIVING IN UNHYGENIC AND UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS.

MR. TSUI SAID THAT THE COST FOR THE ENGINEERING WORKS WAS ABOUT \$22.5 MILLION.

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+APART FROM THESE, SITES WILL ALSO BE FORMED FOR PRIVATE VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT SO THAT TAI O CAN EXPAND NATURALLY.

+HAND IN HAND WITH PROVISION OF RURAL HOUSING IS THE NEED TO PROVIDE RELATED COMMUNITY FACILITIES LIKE SCHOOLS, MARKETS, COMMUNITY CENTRES, MINI-SOCCER PITCHES. ALL THESE FACILITIES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE TAI O DEVELOPMENT PLAN.+

CHEUNG CHAU : DEVELOPMENT WILL CATER FOR A POPULATION OF 38,000 COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT FIGURE OF ABOUT 30,000.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL PROVIDE :-

- * AN EXTENSIVE RATIONALIZATION OF THE WATERFRONT THROUGH RECLAMATION TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROMENADE AND A COASTAL ROAD.
- * THE SETTING UP OF GREEN BELT AREAS TO PREVENT OVER-DEVELOPMENT.
- * RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING OF THREE TO FOUR STOREYS FOR 5,000 PEOPLE NOW LIVING IN SUBSTANDARD CONDITIONS ON THE ISLAND.
- * THE PROVISION OF WORK SHOPS AND VILLAGE TYPE HOUSING AREAS SO THAT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED FOR.

MR. TSUI SAID THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CHEUNG CHAU DEVELOPMENT PLAN WOULD START LATER THIS YEAR WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING FOR 1,200 PEOPLE IN THE FIRST STAGE, RECLAMATION FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIES TO RE-ACCOMMODATE THE PRESENT BOAT-BUILDING AND REPAIRING YARDS, A CENTRAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLAN AND AN INCINERATOR FOR SOLID WASTE, A SECONDARY SCHOOL AND VILLAGE TYPE HOUSES.

HE SAID THE TOTAL COST OF THE SITE FORMATION WOULD BE AROUND \$18.4 MILLION WITH THE SITES READY IN TWO YEARS TIME.

MR. TSUI SAID THAT WHILE PLANS AND FUNDS HAD NOT BEEN FINALLY APPROVED FOR PENG CHAU DEVELOPMENT, IT WOULD BE ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO THAT IN LANTAU AND CHEUNG CHAU.

MR. TSUI SAID : +WHILST THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RURAL TOWNSHIPS CAN IN NO WAY BE COMPARED WITH THE NEW TOWNS OR MARKET TOWNS, THEY DO NEVERTHELESS OFFER A VERY ATTRACTIVE WAY OF LIFE WHICH CANNOT BE FOUND EASILY IN HIGHLY URBANISED DEVELOPMENT. THE RURAL TOWNSHIPS PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THOSE WHO WEARY OF LIVING IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.+

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OVER \$16 MILLION SUBSIDY FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR OVER \$16 MILLION TO SUBSIDIZE NON-PROFIT-MAKING CHILD CARE CENTRES IN ADDITION TO GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. JIMMY SWEETMAN, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HING WAH DAY NURSERY OPERATED BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

THE NEW DAY NURSERY, ACCORDING TO MR. SWEETMAN, IS THE 71ST GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED DAY NURSERY AND THE 92ND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRE.

+MORE SIMILAR CENTRES WILL BE OPENED IN THE YEARS AHEAD AS IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ALLOW 1,000 NEW DAY NURSERY PLACES TO BE OPENED EACH YEAR FOR FAMILIES WHO FOR FINANCIAL OR SOCIAL REASONS NEED TO HAVE THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER.+

MR. SWEETMAN STRESSED THAT CHILD CARE CENTRE WAS NOT A 'PARKING METER' FOR CHILDREN, NEITHER WAS IT A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN WERE STUFFED WITH FACTS AND FIGURES AND PREMATURELY FORCED TO PRACTISE WRITING CHARACTERS.

+THE MAIN PURPOSE, THEREFORE, IS TO FOSTER THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT NAMELY THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL ASPECTS OF THE VERY YOUNG CHILDREN. LEARNING THROUGH PLAY WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IS THE ESSENCE.+

MR. SWEETMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE LAST JUNE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN BASIC STANDARDS PERTINENT TO THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNDER SIX WOULD BE COMPLIED WITH IN CHILD CARE CENTRES.

+FROM NOW ON, ALL CENTRES THAT REGULARLY RECEIVE MORE THAN FIVE CHILDREN OF THE UNDER SIX FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARE MUST COME FORWARD TO REGISTER WITH MY DEPARTMENT.

+THIS SHOULD GIVE PARENTS MORE CONFIDENCE IN SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO CHILD CARE CENTRES NO MATTER THEY ARE SUBVENTED OR PRIVATE- WHETHER IT IS A CRECHE, NURSERY, PLAYGROUP OR PLAYCENTRE.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE ORDINANCE ALSO HELPS TO PROMOTE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MARCH 11) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, CHERRY STREET, TONG MEI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET, LIME STREET, LARCH STREET AND WALNUT STREET, INCLUDING ASH STREET, OAK STREET, PINE STREET, BEECH STREET, ELM STREET, IVY STREET AND ANCHOR STREET.

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NEW AEROGRAMMES ON SALE NEXT WEEK
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AEROGRAMMES BEARING A NEW STAMP DESIGN WILL BE PLACED ON SALE FROM TUESDAY (MARCH 15), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE DENOMINATION OF THE NEW STAMP DESIGN IS 60 CENTS, THE POSTAGE RATE FOR AEROGRAMMES TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND IT FEATURES A DRAGON IN LIGHT BLUE COLOUR ON A DARK BLUE BACKGROUND.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SPECIAL POSTING BOXES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICES ON THAT DAY FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE THE NEW AEROGRAMMES HAND POSTMARKED.

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