



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1993

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247 VR'S RESETTLED LAST MONTH

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A TOTAL OF 247 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LEFT HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS LAST MONTH (DECEMBER).

OF THOSE WHO LEFT FOR OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT, 16 DEPARTED FOR AUSTRALIA, 43 FOR CANADA, FIVE FOR FINLAND, 30 FOR FRANCE, 46 FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND 23 FOR U.S.A.

MEANWHILE, A TOTAL OF 84 REFUGEES LEFT FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSIT CENTRE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AWAITING RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

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BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

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THREE BRIEFING SESSIONS ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT THIS MONTH TO HELP FOREIGN WORKERS FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE RELEVANT ORDINANCES, REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRACTUAL LIABILITIES WHILE WORKING IN HONG KONG.

"THE SESSIONS ARE LINED UP AS MORE FOREIGN WORKERS HAVE ARRIVED UNDER THE CURRENT GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MR FUNG HOI-PING SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"SIXTEEN SESSIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN HELD SO FAR AND MORE THAN 1,600 WORKERS HAD BEEN TOLD OF THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE SESSIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN BOTH CANTONESE AND PUTONGHUA, AND NO PRIOR ENROLMENT IS NECESSARY, MR FUNG SAID: "WE HOPE FOREIGN WORKERS COULD ATTEND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE SESSION UPON THEIR ARRIVAL FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT."

"EMPLOYERS SHOULD MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKERS TO ATTEND," HE STRESSED.

MR FUNG POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE BRIEFING SESSIONS, LABOUR OFFICERS WILL EXPLAIN TO THE WORKERS THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE TERMS OF THE STANDARD CONTRACT.

"THEY WILL ALSO BE TOLD OF THE GENERAL LABOUR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS CHANNELS FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS REGARDING DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITION OF STAY," MR FUNG SAID, ADDING THAT A HANDY INFORMATION CARD WITH COMPLAINT HOTLINE NUMBERS WILL BE GIVEN AWAY TO THE WORKERS.

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HE NOTED THAT COPIES OF AN INFORMATION LEAFLET ENTITLED "WHAT AN IMPORTED WORKER SHOULD KNOW" AND PRINTED IN SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO WORKERS AT THEIR POINTS OF ENTRY.

"IN ADDITION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS OPERATING A 24-HOUR HOTLINE (815 2200) FOR FOREIGN WORKERS TO MAKE ENQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS," HE SAID.

"ALL INFORMATION GIVEN TO US IS KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL," MR FUNG ADDED.

DETAILS OF THE BRIEFING SESSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
JANUARY 7 (THURSDAY)	10 AM AND 11.30 AM	TSIM SHA TSUI KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, 131A NATHAN ROAD
JANUARY 8 (FRIDAY)	7 PM	WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE 104 CHING TAK STREET

ENQUIRIES ON THE BRIEFING SESSIONS CAN BE MADE ON 852 3506.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,480
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-100
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,400
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	

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MORE FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, TODAY (SUNDAY) APPEALED TO ELIGIBLE COUPLES TO JOIN THE TEAM OF FOSTER PARENTS.

ADDRESSING THE FOSTER FAMILY SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY CUM FOSTER FAMILY GAMES DAY, MRS GOODSTADT SAID THE EXISTING 240 FOSTER CARE PLACES PROVIDED BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE INCREASED TO 320 FROM THIS MONTH.

THE FOSTER PLACES WOULD BE INCREASED IN PHASES TO 600 IN THE COMING FOUR YEARS, SHE ADDED.

THE IDEAL FOSTER PARENTS SHOULD BE MARRIED COUPLES AGED BETWEEN 25 AND 60, AND ARE CARING TO CHILDREN.

"REFERRING TO THE OBJECTIVE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICE IN THE 1990'S, PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO FOSTER CARE AND SMALL GROUP HOMES INSTEAD OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE," SHE SAID.

"FOSTER CARE IS A FORM OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SERVICE WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE FAMILY FOR ORPHANS OR CHILDREN WHO LACK ADEQUATE FAMILY CARE BECAUSE OF NEGLECT, ILLNESS OF PARENTS OR OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS."

"THROUGH FOSTERING, CHILDREN CAN GROW IN A FAMILY SETTING AND THEIR BASIC NEEDS WOULD BE MET," SHE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT HAD RECRUITED MORE THAN 600 FOSTER FAMILIES IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

SHE STRESSED THAT THE PLANNED INCREASE OF FOSTER CARE PLACES WOULD REQUIRE NOT ONLY COMMITMENT AND FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY.

AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY,, 40 COUPLES WHO ARE FOSTER PARENTS FOR MORE THAN FIVE OR 10 YEARS, RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE NEEDY CHILDREN.

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PUBLIC SHOULD EXPRESS VIEWS ON POLITICAL REFORMS

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL REFORM PACKAGE PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SPEAKING AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL HELD AT THE VICTORIA PARK, HE SAID DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE COMING MONTHS ON THE NEXT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

"TO ENSURE THAT THESE DECISIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WHICH ORGANISED THE EVENT, MR BARCLAY SAID IT HAD PROVIDED A FORUM WHERE LOCAL LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THEM.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS FOR WORKING HARD AND EFFECTIVELY IN STAGING ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTING FIGHT CRIME MESSAGES IN THE DISTRICT.

MOREOVER, HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT CRIME AND COME FORWARD AS WITNESSES ASIDE FROM TAKING MEASURES TO PREVENT CRIME.

HE SAID ASSISTANCE FROM THE PUBLIC WAS INDISPENSABLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

AT THE CARNIVAL, EIGHT CIVIC-MINDED RESIDENTS, ALL MALES AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 61, WERE PRESENTED WITH GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS.

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PUBLIC ASKED TO STUDY GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO STUDY CAREFULLY THE GOVERNOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROPOSALS.

MR LEUNG MADE THE REMARKS AT THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES' (AMS) TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT ANNIVERSARY PARADE.

HE SAID PEOPLE SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES BY SPEAKING OUT ON THE REFORM PACKAGE BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DISCUSSES THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN FEBRUARY.

THEY COULD PLAY A PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THAT IS FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, MR LEUNG SAID, HAS REVIEWED REGULARLY THE COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARDS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN THE EARLY 1980'S TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY.

HE ADDED THAT AS THE CONCEPTS OF "ONE-COUNTRY, TWO-SYSTEMS" AND "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG" AFTER 1997 ARE ENSHRINED IN THE BASIC LAW, THERE SHOULD NOW BE FURTHER TRANSFORMATION OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO ACCOMMODATE THE PENDING CHANGES.

MR LEUNG SAID THE REFORM PACKAGE WAS BASED ON A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH DERIVED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE AND WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS.

TURNING TO THE AMS, MR LEUNG SAID SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1950, THE AUXILIARY FORCE HAD PROVIDED VALUABLE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PAST 30 YEARS WERE THERE FOR EVERYONE TO RECOGNISE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE AMS MEMBERS WERE VOLUNTEERS WHO SPENT THEIR SPARE TIME TO RECEIVE BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING AND IN SERVING THE PUBLIC.

HE NOTED THAT IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, THE AMS WAS INVOLVED IN THE RUNNING OF TWO METHADONE CLINICS, PROVIDING ROUND-THE-CLOCK MEDICAL CARE IN THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE AND OFFERING FIRST-AID SERVICE IN NUMEROUS MAJOR DISTRICT EVENTS.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER ALSO SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION OF 17 AMS MEMBERS WHO WERE COMMENDED TODAY FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY WORK DURING THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE RIOTS IN THE LAST LUNAR NEW YEAR.

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COMMUNITY BODIES' CONTRIBUTIONS RECOGNISED

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MORE THAN 1,000 RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE KOWLOON CITY FAMILY HEALTH FUN DAY THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT RESIDENT ASSOCIATION AND THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE, WAS AIMED AT ENHANCING PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF HEALTH CARE AND HOME SAFETY.

THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED FIRST-AID DEMONSTRATIONS, MEDICAL CHECKS FOR THE ELDERLY, LION DANCES, MARTIAL ART PERFORMANCES, SINGING AND GAME STALLS.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, PRAISED THE TWO SPONSORS FOR ORGANISING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAD STATED IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS THAT THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY WAS TO PROTECT THE WAY OF LIFE HERE.

AS A RESULT OF ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, HONG KONG HAD ALSO STARTED A NEW ERA IN ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

THEREFORE, IF RESIDENTS CAN GIVE MORE VIEWS ON THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR WISHES AND THEN FORMULATE A REFORM PACKAGE THAT IS FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, MR YAP ADDED.

HE ALSO URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PUT FORWARD MORE PROPOSALS ON THE ISSUE.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR CAR NUMBER AUCTION

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A TOTAL OF 20 CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS ARE TO BE PUT UP FOR SALE AT A LUNAR NEW YEAR "LUCKY" VEHICLE NUMBER AUCTION ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 9).

CAR OWNERS WHO WISH TO GRACE THEIR VEHICLES WITH SPECIAL LUCKY NUMBERS TO GREET THE YEAR OF THE COCK SHOULD NOT MISS THIS AUCTION ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE NUMBERS ARE:

286	CN8	5	900
AC9	3383	DC88	HK12
883	HK90	289	AA3
CF33	48	HK818	AB38
AA2	AE1	CL28	119

THE NUMBERS ARE NOT TRANSFERRABLE.

WITH AN EXPECTED LARGE TURNOUT, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD THIS AUCTION AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE AT 10 AM.

PREVIOUS LUNAR NEW YEAR AUCTIONS SAW THE AUSPICIOUS NUMBER "8" FETCHED A RECORD HIGH OF \$5 MILLION IN 1988 AND "7" WAS SOLD FOR \$4.8 MILLION THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

SINCE MAY 1973, A TOTAL OF 184 AUCTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT, RAISING ABOUT \$154 MILLION FOR THE LOTTERIES FUND.

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