



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

PRIMARY ONE ENTRANTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SIT FOR A FORMAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION	1
SPECIAL PAY-IN CENTRES FOR WATER FEES BEING SET UP FOR CONVENIENCE OF N.T. RESIDENTS	2
PARENTS ADVISED TO BE CAREFUL IN SELECTING A NURSERY FOR THEIR CHILDREN	3
MORE RESIDENTS TRAVELLED TO CHINA DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD THIS YEAR	4
EDUCATION WORKING PARTY CALLS FOR PUBLIC VIEWS ON REPLACEMENT OF S.S.E.E.	4
PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES HANDLED A RECORD 1.6 MILLION ENQUIRIES LAST YEAR	5
TEMPORARY WATER INTERRUPTION IN WONG TAI SIN	5

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NO ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY ONE

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED THE SUPERVISORS OF ALL AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO INVITE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 1 ON MARCH 15.

IN A CIRCULAR TO THE SUPERVISORS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PRIMARY), MR. LAM TAT-LAU STATED THAT SELECTION OF PUPILS SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE MONTH SO THAT AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR PRIMARY CLASSES FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR COULD BE MADE.

HE EMPHASISED THAT IN SELECTING PUPILS THE SCHOOLS HAD BEEN ASKED TO ABANDON FORMAL TESTS IN ATTAINMENT INCLUDING THOSE FOR CHINESE, ARITHMETIC OR ENGLISH SUBJECTS.

THE SCHOOLS COULD SEND LETTERS TO SUITABLE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS INVITING THEM TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW. THE CHILDREN APPLYING FOR ADMISSION SHOULD BE SIX YEARS OLD OR UNDER EIGHT YEARS OF AGE BY WESTERN RECKONING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1975.

MR. LAM SAID IT WAS NOT CORRECT AS REPORTED IN A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS THAT THESE CHILDREN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 1.

HE DENIED THAT SUCH AN EXAMINATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED THIS YEAR. IN FACT, MR. LAM SAID, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF FORMAL TESTS FOR THE ADMISSION OF THESE CHILDREN.

IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL STRINGENCY AND OF THE COMPETING CLAIMS FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ASSESSING THE NEED FOR PRIMARY CLASSES FOR THE 1975-76 SCHOOL YEAR, MR. LAM SAID.

TO ASSIST WITH THE ESTIMATE, APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 1 IN ANY GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOL WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE THE NAMES OF ANY OTHER SCHOOLS TO WHICH THEY HAVE ALSO APPLIED.

THE SUPERVISORS AND HEADS OF THE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEND LISTS OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF THE CANDIDATES' APPLICATION FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICERS AT THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON SUB OFFICES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY APRIL 15. THE SCHOOLS WILL RETAIN THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION FORMS.

MR. LAM ALSO ASKED THE SCHOOLS TO INVITE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 2 AND OTHER CLASSES AS SOON AS PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT WAS COMPLETED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

- 2 -

A LIST OF THE PROPOSED CLASS ORGANISATION SHOWING THE ACTUAL ENROLMENT FOR EACH CLASS TOGETHER WITH STAFFING REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER CONCERNED SO THAT ADMISSION OF PUPILS WOULD BE FINISHED BY MAY 15.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REMINDED THE SUPERVISORS AND HEADS THAT APPROVAL OF CLASS ORGANISATION WAS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF THE ACTUAL ENROLMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

HE TOLD THEM THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO COMMITMENT IN THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW TEACHERS BEFORE APPROVAL HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THESE MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN NOT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT PRIMARY CLASSES WERE FULLY UTILISED BUT ALSO TO SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MONEY WAS NOT WASTED.

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SPECIAL PAY-IN CENTRES FOR WATER FEES
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TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES FOR WATER FEES FOR THE THIRD PERIOD LAST YEAR WILL BE SET UP AT SHEUNG SHUI AND FAN LING FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS THERE.

THE SHEUNG SHUI COLLECTION CENTRE WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE AT SHEK WU HUI AND WILL BE OPEN ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY (MARCH 11 AND 12) NEXT WEEK.

THE FAN LING CENTRE WILL BE SET UP AT THE FAN LING RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AT LUEN WO HUI ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (MARCH 13 AND 14).

BUSINESS HOURS ON ALL THE FOUR DAYS WILL BE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

THESE TEMPORARY COLLECTION CENTRES ARE OPERATED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE.

A SPOKESMAN TODAY STRONGLY URGED RESIDENTS IN THE TWO DISTRICTS TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES WHICH ARE SPECIALLY PROVIDED FOR THEM.

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13

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

- 3 -

ADVICE TO PARENTS ON NURSERY PLACEMENTS

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PARENTS SHOULD EXERCISE CARE WHEN CHOOSING A NURSERY IN WHICH TO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, ADVISED TODAY.

EVEN THOUGH THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE 1975 WHICH SPECIFIES THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SERVICE AND THE MINIMUM PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED IN A CHILD CARE CENTRE, HAD BEEN PASSED, HE SAID, IT HAD YET TO COME INTO EFFECT.

PARENTS SHOULD THEREFORE CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT, HYGIENIC CONDITIONS AND FIRE PRECAUTION MEASURES OF NURSERIES BEFORE DECIDING IN WHICH ONE TO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN. IT WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL, HE STRESSED, TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE SUFFICIENT STAFF TO CARE FOR THE CHILDREN.

MR. LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE PO LEUNG KUK'S NEW NURSERY ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BLOCK 8 IN THE VALLEY ROAD HOUSING ESTATE IN KOWLOON. THIS NURSERY, WHICH HAS PLACES FOR 80 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWO AND SIX, WILL CATER TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN THE AREA.

WITH ITS OPENING, HE NOTED, THE KUK NOW HAD SEVEN NURSERIES AND A CRECHE WHICH TOGETHER CAN LOOK AFTER SOME 700 CHILDREN.

MR. LEE SAID THESE NON-PROFIT-MAKING NURSERIES HAD BEEN SET UP BY THE KUK IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR SUCH PLACES TO HELP PARENTS WHO BOTH HAVE TO WORK OR WHO HAVE TO RAISE TOO LARGE A FAMILY OF CHILDREN.

HE SAID THE KUK WAS WELL AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE THAT PRE-SCHOOL YEARS MAY HAVE ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF THE YOUNG AND HAD DONE ITS BEST TO RECRUIT FULLY-TRAINED STAFF FOR ITS NURSERIES.

+ITS EFFORTS ARE REFLECTED IN THE RISING STANDARD OF THE SERVICE BEING PROVIDED. I AM SURE THAT IN FUTURE, WITH THE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE YEARS TO RELY ON AND THE PUBLIC MINDEDNESS AND DEDICATION OF THE DIRECTORS TO GIVE IT ENCOURAGEMENT AND DRIVE, THE PO LEUNG KUK WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND ITS CHILD CARE SERVICES.+

HOWEVER, MR. LEE POINTED OUT, CHILD CARE WAS ONLY ONE OF THE AREAS IN WELFARE SERVICES IN WHICH THE KUK HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN THE 100 YEARS SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

- 4 -

MORE TRAVEL TO CHINA DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR

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A TOTAL OF 133,642 PEOPLE TRAVELLED BY TRAIN TO CHINA DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD. THIS IS 1,484 MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2 AND 26, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER ON ANY ONE DAY WAS 18,941, AN ALL TIME RECORD. IT EXCEEDED LAST YEAR'S RECORD OF 13,948 BY NEARLY 5,000.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, ORIGINAL FORECASTS WERE THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE GOING TO CHINA THIS YEAR WOULD DROP BY SOME 20 PER CENT.

HOWEVER, DURING THE EARLIER DAYS OF THE PERIOD THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS TURNED OUT TO BE MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT OF LAST YEAR ALTHOUGH IT LOWERED SOMEWHAT IN THE LATER DAYS.

THE SPOKESMAN ATTRIBUTED THE BETTER RESULT TO THE ADDITIONAL COACHES, INCREASED FREQUENCY OF TRAINS AND IMPROVED IMMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS AT LOWU.

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VIEWS ON REPLACEMENT OF S.S.E.E. WANTED

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THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TODAY REMINDED EDUCATIONAL BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT OR MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DO SO BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE WORKING PARTY, WHICH WAS SET UP BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION LAST NOVEMBER, DECIDED AT ITS FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER TO INVITE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EDUCATION AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS HEADS AND TEACHERS OF GOVERNMENT, AIDED AND PRIVATE SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, WORKING PARTY ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, C/O EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 3RD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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/5

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1975

- 5 -

RECORD NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED BY PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES
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A NEW RECORD OF 1,616,729 ENQUIRIES AND CASES WERE HANDLED BY THE 23 PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 124,578 AGAINST THE 1973 FIGURE OF 1,492,151, ACCORDING TO THE 1974 STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, MOST OF THE ENQUIRIES WERE CONNECTED WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (110,547 CASES), THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT (93,669 CASES), THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT (75,600 CASES) AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT (61,181 CASES).

THE DEMAND FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND PAMPHLETS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD ALSO INCREASED FROM 577,528 IN 1973 TO 670,100 IN 1974.

THE REPORT NOTED THAT MOST OF THE APPLICATION FORMS WERE FOR GOVERNMENT VACANCIES, GOVERNMENT HOUSING ESTATES, RENT INCREASES, APPLICATION AND ENTRY FORMS OF THE TWO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES. LEAFLETS AND BOOKLETS CONCERNING PROCEDURES AND FUNCTIONS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WERE ALSO VERY POPULAR.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC, THREE MORE ENQUIRY CENTRES WERE RECENTLY SET UP AT NGAU TAU KOK, YAU TONG AND HOMANTIN AT THE SAME TIME, NEARLY ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES ARE PROVIDING PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE THROUGHOUT LUNCH HOURS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO VISIT THE CENTRES DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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WATER CUT
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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR FIVE HOURS AS FROM 1 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 7) WHEN WATERWORKS STAFF WILL BE CARRYING OUT A TEST FOR LEAKAGE IN THE AREA.

AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHEUNG TAK STREET, SHA TIN PASS ROAD AND CHOI HUNG ROAD, INCLUDING LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE BLOCKS 1 TO 2, 20 TO 25, AND KAI MING LAU.

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