



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1982

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400 000 REGISTERED AS URBAN DB VOTERS

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UP TO YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), MORE THAN 400 000 PEOPLE HAD REGISTERED AS VOTERS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23 THIS YEAR, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR ALBERT LAM SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF LIONS CLUB OF BAY VIEW HONG KONG, MR LAM SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS AIMING AT NETTING 420 000 VOTERS DURING THE CURRENT REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN ENDING APRIL 30.

TOGETHER WITH THE 81 000 WHO HAD REGISTERED DURING THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EXERCISE LAST YEAR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS IN URBAN AREAS IS EXPECTED TO REACH HALF A MILLION.

MR LAM SAID ANYONE OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS QUALIFIES AS A VOTER. HE ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT TWO MILLION PEOPLE IN THE URBAN AREAS ARE ELIGIBLE.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS AND BRANCHES OF MAJOR BANKS.

+THE REGISTRATION FORM IS SIMPLE TO FILL IN,+ HE SAID. +ALL IT REQUIRES IS YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, ID CARD NUMBER, AND A DECLARATION THAT THE PARTICULARS ARE CORRECT AND THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN DISQUALIFIED FOR REGISTRATION.+

COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE MAILED BACK DIRECTLY TO THE REGISTRATION OFFICE, AND POSTAGE IS PRE-PAID.

MR LAM STRESSED THAT NOT ONLY THE HEAD OF A HOUSEHOLD CAN REGISTER, BUT ALL QUALIFIED ADULT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ARE ELIGIBLE.

VOTING, TOO, IS AN EASY PROCESS, MR LAM ASSURED. A TOTAL OF 174 POLLING STATIONS WILL BE SET UP IN THE 76 CONSTITUENCIES IN URBAN AREAS, AVERAGING TWO OR THREE STATIONS IN EACH.

BUT VOTERS CAN ONLY VOTE IN THE CONSTITUENCY WHERE THEY LIVE, MR LAM EMPHASISED.

HE SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO SITE THE STATIONS AT CONVENIENT LOCATIONS SO THAT THEY COULD BE REACHED WITHIN A FEW MINUTES' WALK.

IN URGING ALL QUALIFIED RESIDENTS TO COME FORWARD AND REGISTER, MR LAM EXPLAINED THAT DISTRICT BOARDS ARE SET UP TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND WORKERS, THE PROVISION AND USE OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES, THE ADEQUACY AND PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, AND THE USE OF FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

/-ALL THESE

+ALL THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH AFFECT THE DAILY LIVES OF RESIDENTS, THAT IS TO SAY, YOUR WELL-BEING AND MINE,+ HE SAID.

THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES HAVE CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING OF THE GOVERNMENT AT DISTRICT LEVEL, MR LAM POINTED OUT.

+A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MACHINERY ACTING ALONE IS NO LONGER ADEQUATE,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT A NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME WAS BROUGHT INTO BEING.

THE SCHEME INVOLVES THE SETTING UP OF A DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND A DISTRICT BOARD IN EACH OF THE 10 DISTRICTS IN URBAN AREAS AND EIGHT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

A DMC COMPRISES SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WORKING IN THE DISTRICT CONCERNED WHILE A DB CONSISTS OF BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

+BY INVOLVING PEOPLE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN THE DISTRICT, WE HOPE TO HAVE THE BEST ADVICE ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEPLOY ITS RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WHICH PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT CONSIDER DESERVE PRIORITY ATTENTION,+ MR LAM SAID.

IN THE URBAN AREAS, DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ALL THE 10 CITY DISTRICTS, BUT AT THE MOMENT THEY ONLY CONSIST OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, URBAN COUNCILLORS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE ELECTED MEMBERS HAVE YET TO BE ELECTED IN SEPTEMBER.

+THAT IS WHY WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A MAJOR REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN OF VOTERS,+ MR LAM SAID.

+ANY REGISTERED VOTER WHO HAS BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE IS ABLE TO STAND FOR ELECTION,+ HE ADDED.

TO DO SO, A CANDIDATE NEEDS 10 SIGNATURES ON HIS NOMINATION FORM, INCLUDING A PROPOSER AND A SECONDER, AND HE CAN RUN FOR ANY CONSTITUENCY.

THE PERIOD FOR NOMINATION WILL BE IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

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HEALTH SERVICE FOR ELDERLY TO BE IMPROVED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION IN HONG KONG WHICH WILL SEE GERIATRIC BEDS IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS MORE THAN TREBLED DURING THE DECADE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE KOWLOON REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR LAWRENCE LAI, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THIS AFTERNOON AT A SEMINAR TO MARK THE WORLD HEALTH DAY.

THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT AND WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE 365 GERIATRIC BEDS IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS PROVIDING ACUTE AND CONTINUING MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

BY THE END OF THE DECADE ANOTHER 800 OR MORE BEDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS PUBLIC HOSPITALS, SAID DR LAI.

HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED GERIATRIC HEALTH CARE, EXPANSION IN OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT AREAS, SUCH AS REINFORCEMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE, COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE, GERIATRIC OUTPATIENT SERVICE AND ADDITION OF GERIATRIC DAY HOSPITAL PLACES, WAS ALSO BEING PLANNED.

DR LAI POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG IS EXPERIENCING A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF AGED POPULATION COMPELLED TO RELY MORE AND MORE ON GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORT.

THE SIZE OF THIS SECTOR OF THE POPULATION IS GROWING DUE TO THE LONGER LIFE EXPECTANCY AND FALLING FERTILITY RATE.

ALSO, WITH INCREASING URBANISATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS AND WESTERN INFLUENCES, THE TRADITIONALLY TIGHTLY KNITTED CHINESE FAMILY TIE IS GRADUALLY BREAKING DOWN, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DR LAI POINTED OUT THE SITUATION COULD BE ALLEVIATED PARTLY BY GOVERNMENT'S EXPANSION OF GERIATRIC SERVICE AND PARTLY BY A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HEALTH PROBLEMS OF OLD AGE.

HE FURTHER STRESSED THAT TO BE ADVANCING IN YEARS DID NOT, AS MANY PEOPLE THINK, MEAN ILLNESS AND NON-PRODUCTIVITY.

+ONE CAN REMAIN HEALTHY AND ACTIVE IF ONE UNDERSTANDS THE COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS IN OLD AGE,+ HE ADDED.

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CLOSING OF ARGENTINE CONSULATE IN HONG KONG

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HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAVE INFORMED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR CONSULATE-GENERAL IN HONG KONG MUST CLOSE. THE ARGENTINE CONSUL-GENERAL HAS BEEN TOLD TO CLOSE HIS OFFICE AND TO LEAVE HONG KONG BY APRIL 14.

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REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS

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RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1982 MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON APRIL 30.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT LATE PAYMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE AND A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT ON ACCOUNTS STILL OUTSTANDING SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

HE SAID RATEPAYERS SHOULD HAVE BY NOW RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES. THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES SHOULD APPLY FOR A COPY AT THE RATES SECTION OF THE TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), NINTH FLOOR, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

+WHETHER OR NOT THE DEMAND NOTE IS RECEIVED, IT DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES SHOULD BE PAID BEFORE THE DUE DATE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT RATES WERE PAYABLE ON VACANT PREMISES BUT WERE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE RATING ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE NO REFUNDS IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES, UNLESS IT IS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TO AVOID QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR AUTOPAY FORMS SHOULD READ THEIR DEMAND NOTES CAREFULLY TO SEE IF THEY CONTAIN THE WORDING +PAYMENT BY AUTOPAY AS AUTHORISED+. THE ABSENCE OF SUCH WORDING MEANS THEIR FORMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PROCESSED, IN WHICH CASE THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY THEIR RATES IN THE NORMAL WAY, I.E. IN PERSON OR BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER.

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CO-OPERATION BRINGS BETTER LIFE FOR VILLAGERS

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THE EXTENSION OF THE SAI WAN C.A.R.E. VILLAGE ON CHEUNG CHAU HAS VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF CO-OPERATION AND SELF-HELP WITHIN A COMMUNITY, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, HE SAID THE JOINT EFFORTS AND DETERMINATION OF THE VILLAGERS HAD ENABLED THE IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

LOCATED AT THE WESTERN TIP OF CHEUNG CHAU, THE VILLAGE WAS FIRST BUILT IN 1968 WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN RELIEF EVERYWHERE (C.A.R.E.) AND A LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST TO ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 300 FISHERMEN IN 50 SINGLE-STOREY HOUSES.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING THE C.A.R.E. VILLAGE WAS TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS AND TO BRING PROSPERITY AND CONTENTMENT TO ITS INHABITANTS.

HOWEVER, THE HOUSES HAD BECOME OVERCROWDED OVER THE YEARS AS THE ORIGINAL POPULATION HAD GONE UP TO NEARLY 500, AND ADDITIONAL STOREYS WERE NEEDED FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

AS A RESULT, FAMILIES IN THE VILLAGE CONTRIBUTED \$35 000 EACH TOWARDS THE EXTENSION PROJECT, WITH THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE PROVIDING WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INSTALLATIONS, AND IMPROVING ACCESS ROADS, FOOTPATHS, RETAINING WALLS AND THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

MR FUNG SAID THIS SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION DESERVED TO BE ENCOURAGED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE: THE DIRECTOR OF CHEUNG CHAU SAI WAN DWELLERS' DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED, MR YIU KAI-HANG- THE CHAIRMAN OF CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE, MR KWONG PING-YAU- AND ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MR FUNG CHI-KANG AND MR WONG WAI-KWAN.

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RESULTS OF LATEST TAXI TENDERS

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RESULTS OF THE LATEST TAXI LICENCE TENDERING EXERCISE WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ALTHOUGH 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES WERE PUT UP, A TOTAL OF 923 TENDERS SEEKING 1 238 LICENCES HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON MARCH 5, 1982.

THE HIGHEST BID ACCEPTED WAS \$191 630 AND THE LOWEST \$172 589.

THIS GAVE AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$178 646.77 FOR THE 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 4 PER CENT OVER THE LAST TAXI TENDERS.

AS FOR THE 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 1 524 TENDERS WERE LODGED FOR 1 679 LICENCES.

SUCCESSFUL BIDS RANGED FROM \$56 830 TO \$45 188, GIVING AN AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$47 796.57.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 16.17 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS EXERCISE.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS FOR TAXI LICENCES, AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES ON TAPE

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A SERIES OF 20 UNITS OF LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES ON TAPE FOR UPPER FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR DUBBING BY SCHOOLS AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE CENTRE HAS PREPARED A LISTENING PASSAGE, A SYNOPSIS, A WORK-SHEET AND AN ANSWER KEY FOR EACH OF THE UNITS.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO OBTAIN THESE RECORDINGS AND ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTS ARE INVITED TO MAKE USE OF THE FREE DUBBING SERVICE.

TEACHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE INSPECTORS THERE TO DISCUSS THE HANDLING OF THE MATERIALS WITH A CLASS.

SCHOOLS SHOULD SEND APPROPRIATE BLANK TAPES TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION FORMS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE CENTRE AT 5-482537.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAU KEI WAN
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN SHAU KEI WAN FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 9) FOR THE RENEWAL OF TRAM TRACKS.

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * TAI LOK STREET SECTION BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.
- * SAI WAN HO STREET SECTION BETWEEN TAI FOO STREET AND TAI CHEONG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.
- * TAI HONG STREET SECTION BETWEEN HONG CHEUNG STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- * TAI CHEONG STREET SECTION BETWEEN HONG CHEUNG STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND AND
- * HONG CHEUNG STREET SECTION BETWEEN TAI HONG STREET AND TAI CHEONG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.
- * THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY-LANE ON THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN TAI CHEONG STREET AND HOUSE NO. 39 WILL BE EXTENDED TO HOUSE NO. 49 FOR A LENGTH OF 16 METRES.
- * THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY-LANE ON SHAU KEI WAN ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH TAI CHEONG STREET WILL BE SHORTENED BY A LENGTH OF 20 METRES WEST OF THAT JUNCTION.

SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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ROAD SURFACING AT POK FU LAM ROAD
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SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG POK FU LAM ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY PROHIBITED FROM MAKING RIGHT TURNS INTO POKFIELD ROAD FROM 8 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 9) FOR ABOUT TWO DAYS FOR ROAD SURFACING WORKS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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