

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Sunday, June 18, 1972

THIRD GOVERNMENT LOTTERY THIS YEAR

Tickets Now On Sale

Tickets for the third Government lottery this year, the 49th in the series, are now on sale.

The tickets, still at \$2 each, are on sale at all Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club selling booths and at ferry piers of the Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company.

They can also be bought at the head offices and branches of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank, the Dao Heng Bank, the Hang Seng Bank, the Hong Kong Chinese Bank, the Kwong On Bank, the Overseas Trust Bank, the Shanghai Commercial Bank, the Wing On Bank, the Bank of East Asia, the Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank, the Liu Chong Hing Bank, the Commercial Bank of Hong Kong, the Wing Lung Bank, and the Ngau Kee Money Changers.

Winning numbers will be drawn at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Race Course, Happy Valley, at 10 a.m. on Saturday (July 1).

As in the past, there will be a total of 56 prizes and a number of special prizes. The first prize will comprise 30 per cent of the total proceeds. Five second prizes will each make up 2 per cent. There will also be 50 third prizes, each of 0.3 per cent.

/A number

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A number of special prizes, each of \$100, will be paid to holders of tickets the last three digits of which correspond to a special number to be drawn.

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Note to Editors: The Government Lotteries Management Committee will hold a news conference at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 19, at the City Hall Restaurant, when details of the 49th Government lottery will be announced.

You are cordially invited to have the conference covered.

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THE SUCCESS OF PROBATION

How Treatment And Counselling Saved One Boy

Social Welfare Department probation officers are encouraged by the success of one of their colleagues attached to the South Kowloon Magistracy who was able to persuade one boy to return to the right path after the drug habit had twice taken hold of him.

They feel the case deserves to be reported, not because it has ended finally in success, but because there is one ingredient in the case that makes the boy untypical.

It is that he actively helped in his own cure.

"He is not the only victim of circumstances that collectively induced him to go wrong," says Mr. Lee Sun-man, Principal Social Welfare Officer (Probation Services), "but it is possible that a wider knowledge of the ultimate decision taken by the boy himself, at a critical moment in his life, will induce others similarly placed to do the same."

Mr. Lee says the "ultimate decision" was the boy's willingness to spend five months in Shek Kwu Chau for treatment, after he had already been before the court and was on a year's probation, but had begun once again to revert to drugs.

Persistent counselling had managed to imprint Shek Kwu Chau on the boy's mind as a hope, not a degradation -- and this is the kind of "breakthrough" Mr. Lee believes probation officers want to see become more commonplace.

/The boy

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The boy is the third child in a working-class family of nine. The father's earnings as a barber, and the mother's in a paper factory, are supplemented by wages brought home by other working members of the family, with the result that there has been, for some time now, sufficient money for a fairly decent living in two resettlement units converted into one.

The boy was sent to school at about eight, but family members were so engrossed in their own affairs that it was scarcely noticed how often he played truant.

The first shock arrived when he was dismissed from Primary V, and the second came when it was realised that he had cultivated disreputable company. He was introduced to a job as an apprentice welder by an elder brother, at \$17 a day, but he was so far gone in extravagance and drugs that this money was not enough.

Money

He later told the probation officer that at this time he needed \$12 a day for opium alone. Absence of money, added to a growing need for the drug, brought along a crisis at the factory, and he was fired. This in turn made his family turn against him, and eventually he stole from his father, and ran away, giving the "old man" a grudge against him.

Life became for the boy a one-night stand with friends, with pick-pocketing the only source of income. Eventually he was arrested and brought before the court. The probation officer recommended treatment at Shek Kwu Chau, but as the boy did not show signs of drug dependence during the remand period, he was placed on probation for one year instead.

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He could not adjust easily to the requirements of probation, because the family, particularly the father, tended to regard him as the black sheep. Lack of understanding at home sent him into the streets for comfort, and once here, he soon moved back to the old haunts, the old acquaintances, and in time took up opium again.

At this stage, the probation officer became insistent, taking special pains to keep in close touch with the boy, and his family, to prevent a lapse into serious crime, with its damaging consequences.

Battle

The big battle was to reconcile the family and the boy, for this involved mutual concessions, and each was suspicious of the other. It took time, but this battle was ultimately won, and the next hurdle was to make the boy see that unless he was willing to go to Shek Kwu Chau to rid himself of the habit, he would be addicted to drugs for life.

First there was obstinacy, and then indecision, but at last resistance was overcome. The boy had to wait five months for admission. Shek Kwu Chau turned out to be far from the repressive prison he had imagined it to be, and humane treatment turned him into a young man eager to turn over a new leaf.

He stayed at Shek Kwu Chau for five months, neither always a model trainee, nor completely above the desire to engage in a puff. But when he left, he knew that if he was really to make good, he had to cut the past away from him, like a complete surgical operation to remove gangrene.

/Mr. Lee

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Mr. Lee concludes the story.

"The boy," he says, "was so cheerful on his return, so changed, that his family happily accepted him back. He returned to welding on the prompting of his brother, and now earns \$38 a day. He worked at the job until his probation period was over, and by all accounts is still at it. Only one snag remains -- his relationship with his father. But I am convinced it will not drive him back to opium.

"What is encouraging is that probation works, and so does Shek Kwu Chau."

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Release time: 3.00 p.m.