



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1982

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MASSIVE INCREASE IN SOCIAL WELFARE EXPENDITURE  
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EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL WELFARE DURING FISCAL 1981-82 INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO TOP \$1.14 BILLION, ACCORDING TO THE 1982 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE FIGURE INCLUDED RECURRENT SUBVENTIONS TO VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES, WHICH GREW BY NEARLY 30 PER CENT TO \$190 MILLION.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME, THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME, THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME, THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND EMERGENCY RELIEF.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR TOTALLED \$291.29 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$68.29 MILLION, COVERING 45 752 CASES, MADE UP MOSTLY OF ELDERLY, SICK OR DISABLED PEOPLE OR WIDOWS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

A TOTAL OF \$436.73 MILLION WAS PAID OUT UNDER THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SEVERELY DISABLED AND ELDERLY PERSONS AGED 70 AND ABOVE.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, 32 407 NEW APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR AND THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES AT THE END OF LAST MARCH WAS 203 517.

THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED 997 APPLICATIONS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE, OR 10 PER CENT MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, UNDER THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME, WHICH PROVIDES CASH ASSISTANCE TO INNOCENT VICTIMS (OR THEIR DEPENDENTS) WHO ARE INJURED OR KILLED IN VIOLENT CRIMES OR BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTIES.

COMPENSATIONS PAID OUT TOTALLED \$2.2 MILLION, A 45 PER CENT INCREASE OVER FISCAL 1980-81.

THROUGH THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME, 5 187 CASES WERE PAID \$24 MILLION, UP BY 32 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THIS SCHEME PROVIDES SPEEDY CASH ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE MEANS OF THE PERSONS OR TO THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDED EMERGENCY RELIEF SERVICES TO A TOTAL 11 032 FAMILIES INVOLVING 34 147 PEOPLE IN 149 INCIDENTS.

DURING THE YEAR, IT CONDUCTED 15 RESEARCH STUDIES ON A BROAD RANGE OF SOCIAL TOPICS.

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MUSIC TRAINING FOR MORE PEOPLE

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WITH MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES AND EXPANDING FACILITIES, MORE YOUTHS IN HONG KONG CAN NOW RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TRAINING.

THROUGH ITS FIVE MUSIC CENTRES SET UP IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HONG KONG, THE MUSIC OFFICE CURRENTLY PROVIDES INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING CLASSES FOR SOME 2 600 STUDENTS RANGING FROM AGES 6 TO 23, AT A NOMINAL MONTHLY FEE OF \$10 EACH. TWO MORE CENTRES WILL BE READY SHORTLY FOR YUEN LONG AND HONG KONG EAST.

+WITH STEADY EXPANSION OF OUR FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF, WE HOPE TO DOUBLE OUR TRAINING CAPACITY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, AND HAVE MORE MUSIC CENTRES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG,+ MR THOMAS WANG, THE ASSISTANT MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (PROFESSIONAL), SAID.

ESTABLISHED IN 1977, THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN MUSIC. IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR THE GOVERNMENT SPENT OVER \$13 MILLION TO FINANCE THE OFFICE'S BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES. AND FOR 1982-83 A SUM OF \$17 MILLION HAS BEEN PROVIDED.

AT THE MOMENT, THE MUSIC OFFICE ADMINISTERS AND TRAINS OVER 20 CHOIRS, ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS, INCLUDING HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A AND B, HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA AND HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND.

+STUDENTS UNDERTAKE INTENSIVE AURAL TRAINING AND TAKE COURSES ON MUSIC APPRECIATION AND THEORIES. THEY LEARN TO PLAY WIND, STRING AND CHINESE ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS,+ MR WANG SAID.

FOR PARTICULARLY TALENTED STUDENTS, THE OFFICE CONDUCTS INDIVIDUAL LESSONS TO TAP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. IT ALSO PROVIDES SPECIAL CLASSES FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, AS WELL AS FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL MUSIC INTERESTS.

AS PART OF ITS COMPREHENSIVE, ON-GOING TRAINING PROGRAMMES, IT ALSO ORGANISES YOUTH MUSIC CAMPS, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND MASTER CLASSES AND SEMINARS GIVEN BY VISITING LEADING MUSICIANS.

MR WANG POINTED OUT THAT MUSIC WAS GAINING INCREASING RECOGNITION IN HONG KONG.

+THIS HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS' UNDERSTANDING THAT MUSIC CAN REFINE AND MODIFY PEOPLE'S CHARACTER. THEY ARE WILLING TO LET THEIR CHILDREN TAKE UP INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING AS PASTIMES TO KEEP THEM OFF THE STREETS,+ HE ADDED.

/HE EXPRESSED .....

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE'S TRAINING PROGRAMMES WOULD GIVE A MAJOR IMPETUS TO THE LOCAL MUSIC SCENE.

ACCORDING TO MR WANG, THERE ARE NOW MORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICIANS IN HONG KONG. THEY MAY JOIN LOCAL ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS OR TAKE UP TEACHING POSTS. ALSO, THE MUSIC OFFICE REQUIRES LARGE NUMBERS OF HIGH-STANDARD MUSICIANS TO TRAIN STUDENTS AND ORGANISE ACTIVITIES.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUSIC DEPARTMENT AT BOTH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, AS WELL AS THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC WERE ALSO GREAT STRIDES FORWARD, HE POINTED OUT.

+WITH ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE DAY WON'T BE FAR OFF WHEN HONG KONG WILL BE PRODUCING ITS OWN MUSICIANS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING,+ MR WANG PREDICTED.

FOSTERING A +CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT+ IN WHICH TALENTS CAN BLOSSOM IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT, MR WANG EXPLAINED.

TO THIS END, THE MUSIC OFFICE IS ACTIVELY PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN MUSIC.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, IT HAS PRESENTED SOME 200 +MUSIC FOR THE MILLION+ CONCERTS TO ABOUT 120 000 PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY HALLS, PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC VENUES.

AS PART OF THE TRAINING, THE OFFICE HAS REGULARLY BEEN ORGANISING CONCERTS FOR YOUTH BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS FORMED BY ITS OWN STUDENTS DURING THE YEAR.

THE NEXT MAJOR EVENT IS THE ANNUAL GALA CONCERT TO BE HELD ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 27) IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL. ABOUT 350 YOUNG TRAINEES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONCERT WITH A PROGRAMME OF 19 ITEMS.

TEN-YEAR-OLD MAN KEI, ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS, PERHAPS REFLECTED THE FEELING OF MANY STUDENTS WHEN SHE SAID, +I LIKE TO PERFORM TO AN AUDIENCE. THE ATTENTION AND THE APPLAUSE MAKE ME SO PROUD.+

SHE HAS BEEN LEARNING TO PLAY THE VIOLA WITH THE MUSIC OFFICE FOR TWO YEARS AND WILL KEEP ON TRAINING UNTIL SHE BECOMES + A GREAT VIOLA PLAYER+, MAN KEI SAID, HER EYES SPARKLING WITH HOPE AND EXCITEMENT.

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SOCIAL SERVICES AWARD SCHEME FOR STUDENTS

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A STUDENT SOCIAL SERVICES AWARD SCHEME WILL BE LAUNCHED EARLY NEXT YEAR IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNGSTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN VOLUNTARY WORK.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE SCHEME AIMS AT GIVING RECOGNITION TO LOCAL STUDENTS WHO HAVE RENDERED VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES WITH COMMENDABLE RECORDS.

ABOUT 800 NOMINATION FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT INVITING NOMINATIONS. THE FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTIONS. TO QUALIFY, CANDIDATES MUST HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH SOCIAL WELFARE WORK AS SERVICES TO OLD PEOPLE, DISABLED, CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, AND ASSISTANCE TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, KAIFONG OR VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS.

ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE INTERVIEWED BY AN ADJUDICATING PANEL EARLY NEXT YEAR. THE DECIDING FACTORS WILL BE THE CANDIDATES' KNOWLEDGE OF AND ENTHUSIASM TOWARDS VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WORK, THEIR SCOPE OF SERVICE, RATE OF PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS IN EACH SECTION AND ALL NOMINATED CANDIDATES WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SOUVENIRS.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD HAS CONTRIBUTED \$8 000 TOWARDS THE SCHEME WHICH, IF PROVED SUCCESSFUL, WILL BE ORGANISED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

FURTHER ENQUIRY ON THE SCHEME MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MISS LILY SHIU OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 5-540271.

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NEW SALT WATER MAINS FOR NORTH POINT AND QUARRY BAY

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF ABOUT 3 500 METRES OF MILD STEEL DUCTILE IRON AND ASBESTOS SALT WATER MAINS IN NORTH POINT AND QUARRY BAY.

THESE WATER MAINS, RANGING FROM 150 MM TO 600 MM IN DIAMETER, FORM PART OF THE SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE SUPPLY OF SALT WATER TO NORTH POINT AND TO EXTEND IT TO QUARRY BAY FOR FLUSHING PURPOSES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SITTING-OUT AREA FOR ABERDEEN  
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SITTING-OUT AREA AT THE JUNCTION OF SHEK PAI WAN ROAD AND ABERDEEN PRAYA ROAD.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHAIN-LINK FENCING, PAVINGS, FLOWER BEDS AND HEXAGONAL FLOWER PLOTS, TIMBER ARBOURS AND CONCRETE LITTER BINS ON A TRIANGULAR PIECE OF LAND OF ABOUT 480 SQUARE METRES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN FEBURARY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT FOUR MONTHS.

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YUEN LONG SITE FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY  
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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE AT SAI CHING STREET, YUEN LONG.

THE SITE, COVERING ABOUT 1 788 SQUARE METRES, IS TO BE USED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON JANUARY 7.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES, AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON WEST), KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON; AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (YUEN LONG), YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

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WATER MAINS WORK  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 28) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SUTHERLAND STREET, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, MORRISON STREET, BONHAM STRAND, WING LOK STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST TO SUTHERLAND STREET JUNCTION.

ALSO ON TUESDAY, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES AND VILLAGES IN CASTLE PEAK WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 10 AM, TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREA INCLUDES ALL PREMISES AND VILLAGES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD, FROM SAM SHING ESTATE, GORDON CAMP, SIU SO TSUEN, SIU LAM, TAI LAM CHUNG TSUEN TO TAI LAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

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