



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government attaches importance to building management

The Government attaches great importance to private building management and actively assists owners and residents in this area, the acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Joseph W P Wong, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the "Building Management Seminar '95", Mr Wong said the Building Management Ordinance had further facilitated the formation of owners' corporations and tightened up the supervision of management committees.

He said: "It also introduced measures relating to the management of buildings subject to deeds of mutual covenant."

A further recent improvement in the building management field, Mr Wong noted, has been the extension of the jurisdiction of the Lands Tribunal to embrace building management.

This provides a speedier and less expensive legal means for owners and concerned parties to resolve their differences, he added.

Apart from providing and improving the legal framework, the Home Affairs Department has established Building Management Co-ordination Teams in nine district offices to provide professional advice on building management.

"These teams proactively identify problematic buildings in their districts for improvement. Joint efforts by various government departments, such as the Buildings Department, the Fire Services Department and the Police, then help to facilitate implementation of the improvement plans," Mr Wong said.

Staff of district offices also attend Owners' Corporation general meetings on invitation, where they perform a useful advisory and mediating role.

"In addition, we are now putting more manpower and resources into private building management related educational and publicity activities," Mr Wong said.

Apart from publishing a number of helpful and informative booklets, the Home Affairs Department has produced a series of building management educational videos which are kept at the district offices for loan to any interested bodies free of charge.

New videos to expand the series to all aspects of building management will continue to be produced.

And, to tie in with this seminar, a roving exhibition on private building management will be mounted in all districts in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Mr Wong also called on owners and residents to work closely together to promote successful management in their buildings.

"Effective building management by owners and residents not only leads to less risk, less crime and less problems but also, by building up friendship, harmony and good neighbourliness, can be a force in promoting successful community building and ensuring your building, your home, is a happier, healthier environment for you and your families.

"Not only is a well managed building a comfortable place to live in, but also it is a major asset increasing in value and thus helping to increase the value of the flat you live in," Mr Wong said.

Jointly organised by the Home Affairs Department and the Housing Department, "The Building Management Seminar '95" discussed the management contract scheme of the Housing Department, the Lands Tribunal's jurisdiction over building management, maintenance of electrical installations in buildings and the importance of professional building management.

More than 300 office-bearers of owners' corporations and mutual aid committees, as well as practitioners in building management attended today's seminar.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Exhibition to promote anti-drug message

The Government and voluntary agencies in the health education and drug-related field united to stage a large-scale exhibition for the first time today (Saturday) to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The two-day International Anti-drug Day Exhibition was organised by the Narcotics Division, on behalf of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), at the New World Plaza, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The seven participating agencies were the Caritas Lok Heep; the Community Drug Advisory Council; the Drug Addict Counselling and Rehabilitation Services; the Hong Kong Council of Social Service; Life Education Activity Programme; Pui Hong Self-help Association and the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers.

A televised appeal by tennis celebrity Michael Chang and an anti-drug theme song sung by movie star Jackie Chan were launched at the opening ceremony of the exhibition held this afternoon. They both urged youngsters to stay away from drugs and to adopt a healthy life.

The participation of the voluntary agencies and the celebrities showed the importance of a joint community effort in the fight against drug abuse.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Water safe for consumption assurance

The water supplied by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to consumers is clean and safe for consumption, the Director of Water Supplies, Mr Hu Man-shiu, said when he met members of the Tsing Yi Concern Group and Regional Councillor and District Board member, Mr Ting Hin-wah, this (Saturday) morning.

He also explained in details the rigorous water treatment and disinfection process which ensured that the water supplied to consumers complied fully with the World Health Organisation standards.

The Concern Group handed over four water samples containing worm-like insects to WSD claiming that they had been found alive.

Initial inspection by a senior waterworks chemist revealed that it was most unlikely that the insects could have originated from the water supplied by WSD as they were not of the kind of species which normally live in water and would not be able to survive in water which was chlorinated during treatment.

Nevertheless, the department would arrange to deliver the samples to other specialists to carry out further detailed examination.

Mr Hu reiterated that consumers should take good care of their own storage tank and plumbing systems, including the associated taps and sinks, by carrying out regular maintenance and keeping them in a clean state to avoid contamination.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Open forum for arts groups

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Members from the arts community wishing to have more information on the Guidelines for Representative Arts Organisations and for their nominees for membership of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), which were issued on May 8 by the Recreation and Culture Branch, are welcome to attend an open forum to be held next Thursday (June 29).

The acting Deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Ian Petersen, and the acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Raymond Tam, will be present to answer questions.

The HKADC commenced its operation as a statutory body with effect from June 1. The Council's second term of office will commence with effect from January 1 next year. At that time, it is intended to include up to nine members who will have been nominated by each of the up to nine specified organisations representing each of nine specified categories of arts interests, namely: literary arts, music, dance, drama, visual arts, film arts, arts administration, arts education and arts criticism.

The forum will be held at 5 pm in the Conference Room of the Recreation and Culture Branch, 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

As the venue can only accommodate about 30 people, those interested should contact Mr Benedict Wong on 2594 5622 to make reservations. Each organisation may only reserve up to two seats.

Attention News Editor:

Media representatives wishing to cover the open forum are requested to send in their names to Ms Winnie Lo on 2810 3354 before Wednesday (June 28).

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Repatriation of ECVIIs resumes

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The repatriation of Ex-China Vietnamese Illegal Immigrants (ECVIIs) to China has resumed, a Government spokesman announced today (Saturday).

Sixty ECVIIs, comprising 24 men, 15 women, 13 boys and eight girls, were repatriated to Beihai, Guangxi by air this morning.

The ECVII population in Hong Kong was thus reduced to about 260, the spokesman added.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

\$94,500 awarded to family of traffic accident victim

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The Social Welfare Department has approved \$94,500 from the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Fund to the family of a man who was killed after his motor-cycle crashed into a light goods vehicle and a public light bus during a traffic accident which occurred on Tuen Mun Road on June 7.

The man was survived by his wife, a daughter, aged six, and a son, aged two months.

In addition, a burial grant of \$9,000 under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance scheme was also awarded to the victim's wife.

A spokesman for the department said today (Saturday) that the TAVA scheme provided quick financial assistance to traffic accident victims or their dependants, regardless of the means of a family or the fault element in the accident.

"Beneficiaries under the scheme will retain the right to make claims for legal damages or compensation from other sources in the usual way.

"However, those who receive other damages or compensation relating to the same accident are required to repay the amount of assistance already received from the scheme.

"But in any case, the amount repaid will not exceed the amount of damages or compensation awarded," the spokesman said.

The Social Welfare Department paid out more than \$98.5 million from the TAVA Fund to traffic accident victims or their dependants in 1993-94.

Enquiries about the scheme may be directed to the department's TAVA Section in Room 942, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, or on 2834 7472.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Fresh water cut in Mong Kok

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Tuesday (June 27) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include Boundary Street, Lai Chi Kok Road, Ki Lung Street, Tai Nan Street, Poplar Street and Cedar Street.

End/Saturday, June 24, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,365	09:30	+60
Closing balance in the account	1,545	10:00	+60
Change attributable to:		11:00	+60
Money market activity	+60	11:30	+60
LAF today	-880	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *-0.1* 24.6.95

End/Saturday, June 24,1995

Compassionate rehousing for needy persons

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) will examine whether individuals or families have genuine, immediate and long-term housing needs because of special circumstances and personal factors before recommending these cases to the Housing Department for consideration for compassionate rehousing.

A spokesman for the department added that compassionate rehousing was meant to solve an individual's long-term social problem and should not be taken as a mere sympathetic gesture to people living in adversity.

"Caseworkers of the SWD and some selected non- governmental organisations assess such applications during their daily work and recommend them for compassionate rehousing," he said.

"The SWD is responsible for recommending eligible applicants to the Housing Department for allocation of accommodation in public housing estates and the scheme is operated free of charge."

The spokesman said in 1994/95 the SWD had recommended 2,025 such cases to the Housing Department for its consideration.

"The applicants of the scheme are usually suffering from poor health, disabilities and special social conditions which, in the judgment of medical personnel or caseworkers, compassionate rehousing is essential to solve their housing problems," the spokesman added .

Elderly welfare recipients who are homeless or living in crowded bedspace apartment will also be considered for recommendation for rehousing.

The spokesman stressed that the applicants should have no ownership of residential property nor have the means to solve their housing needs. They should have financial means not exceeding the income limits for public housing applicants and fulfil other residence qualifications laid down by the Housing Department.

"However some flexibility in the criteria may be exercised for those genuinely deserving cases, especially the sick and the disabled," he said.

Needy individuals or families may contact the SWD's various family services centres for assessment or make direct enquiries to the departmental hotline on tel 2343 2255.

The spokesman reiterated that compassionate rehousing was only one of the viable solutions to housing problems. Other assistance, such as hostel placement and financial grants, would be arranged if appropriate.

End/Sunday, June 25, 1995

Message for the public to vote on September 17

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A massive publicity campaign to encourage Hong Kong's 2.56 million registered electors to come out to vote in the Legislative Council elections starts off today (Sunday) with an exhibition at Times Square.

The campaign message also extends to electors who have the right to cast a second vote in the 30 functional constituencies.

Speaking at a media session, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, who officiating at the exhibition's opening, said activities ranging from mobile exhibitions to election fora and numerous district programmes would be staged to spread the "Vote on September 17" message.

"Some \$21 million will be spent on this three-pronged campaign, which aims at educating the public on the functions of the Legislative Council, explaining the polling procedures and urging electors to vote," he said.

"And from now to polling day, the campaign message will be repeated throughout the territory on television, radio, newspapers, poster boards, banners and bunting, electronic display boards, public transport, cinemas, ... just about everywhere," he said.

Today's exhibition is the first in a series to be staged at more than 30 public venues throughout the territory in the next three months. These include major shopping arcades, MTR and KCR stations, and public housing estates.

"The displays will, in a lively manner, outline the features and the importance of the coming elections as well as the polling procedures," Mr Ng said.

He pointed out that the September elections could be described as "a milestone in Hong Kong's history" because, for the first time, they would return a fully elected legislature.

"The elections for the geographical and functional constituencies as well as the Election Committee will all be held on September 17, and arrangements will be put in place to ensure maximum convenience for the electors," he said.

"Most electors will need to visit only one polling station even if they are to cast two votes. A colour scheme will be adopted for the ballot papers and official electioneering materials of the functional constituencies."

The campaign will also feature a series of television and radio APIs (announcements of public interest), one of which has already been screened on television since June 2 and another one to be launched very soon.

Mr Ng noted that these APIs would keep the momentum going before the election atmosphere started to heat up with the nomination of candidates between August 1 and 14.

"And as the polling day draws near, election fora will be held to familiarise electors with the platform and views of the candidates," he said.

District fora will be organised by the Home Affairs Department for the 20 geographical constituencies. RTHK, on the other hand, will arrange television fora for both the geographical constituencies and the nine new functional constituencies and radio fora for all the constituencies, including the Election Committee Constituency.

The television fora will be broadcast during prime time on TVB-Jade and ATV-Home.

End/Sunday, June 25, 1995

Grant for Putonghua Special Programme

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The Education Department invites secondary schools to apply for the grant to run the Putonghua Special Programme for the 1995-96 school year.

A spokesman for the Education Department said schools which could not offer Putonghua class in the formal curriculum because of administrative difficulties could now apply for the grant to employ part-time instructors to run the programme for students at junior secondary level after school hours.

The spokesman said the grant was offered to government, aided and caput secondary schools, all English Schools Foundation schools and special schools (except those for the severely mentally handicapped) with a secondary section.

He said eligible schools would receive \$4,400 for each class up to a maximum of nine in the coming school year.

At present 446 primary schools are offering Putonghua class in their school curriculum, and a further 391 schools are promoting Putonghua through extra-curricular activities.

At the secondary level, there are 173 schools offering Putonghua in the formal curriculum, 19 schools running the Putonghua Special Programme outside school hours, and a further 186 schools promoting it through extra-curricular activities.

Schools wishing to offer the Putonghua Special Programme in the 1995-96 school year should return the completed application form to the Education Department on or before July 3.

End/Sunday, June 25, 1995

Video on summer job traps

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A video warning students and young job-seekers against possible employment traps will make its debut on television on Wednesday (June 28).

Entitled "Summer Job Traps", the video is jointly produced by the Labour Department and Radio Television Hong Kong, with a donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

"The video will feature some possible job traps, such as the selling of pirated compact discs and enrolling in modelling agencies," Senior Labour Officer (Careers Advisory Service), Mrs Ada Leung, said today (Sunday).

"It will also highlight the importance of seeking parents' advice before taking up summer jobs," she said.

"We hope that the video can help students identify possible employment traps so that they can stay away from monetary loss or being exploited by unscrupulous employers," said Mrs Leung.

The video will also carry messages reminding young job-seekers to pay attention to work safety.

"We are very grateful for the generous donation of \$500,000 by the Jockey Club Charities Trust for producing the video. It will be broadcast on Wednesday at 7 pm on TVB Jade," Mrs Leung said.

"Through the Jockey Club's generosity, our department is able to distribute free copies of the video to interested secondary schools and youth centres," she added.

Free loan service of the video is also available to other related organisations at the two Careers Information centres in Southorn Centre, Wan Chai, and the Mong Kok Government Offices.

Enquiries on the loan service can be made to the two Careers Information centres on 2835 2044 or 2399 2241.

End/Sunday, June 25, 1995

"Deaf Cafeteria" opens today

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The first-ever cafeteria run almost solely by hearing-impaired people is open for business at the Lions Nature Education Centre in Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung today (Sunday).

Operated by the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf, the "Deaf Cafeteria" was officially opened by the Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok; and Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee this morning.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs Fok said the cafeteria was a self-service fast-food establishment with the main aim of providing equal job opportunities for the deaf in Hong Kong.

"The cafeteria is also tasked with employment counselling, 'open employment' and on-the-job training for the deaf so as to help them develop their potential.

"As the majority of its employees are hearing-impaired, it is hoped that they will make full use of this 'open employment' to boost their confidence and foster a spirit of independence," she said.

This will certainly help them integrate into the community, she added.

Mrs Fok paid tribute to the Society, which had, since its establishment in 1968, made strenuous efforts to improve the welfare for the deaf and to fight for fair treatment for them in the community.

"The opening for business of the cafeteria is a fine example of the Society's many achievements," she said.

Turning to Government's efforts, Mrs Fok said it would continue to seek more fund allocations with a view to expanding the territory's supported employment and to strengthening vocational assessment and training.

She said the Social Welfare Department had secured fund allocations in March this year enabling the number of supported employment vacancies to be increased from 30 to 360.

She pointed out the additional funding was resulted from a proposal by a preliminary report completed last February by the Working Party on Training and Employment for People with Disabilities.

According to the proposal, supported employment will greatly assist the disabled in their vocational rehabilitation.

On the Working Party, Mrs Fok said it had been formed along the line recommended by the White Paper on Rehabilitation, which was released earlier this month.

The White Paper spells out the policy trends on further development of rehabilitation services in the years to come, she added.

Mrs Fok also took the opportunity to thank the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for its \$1.4 million donation in support of the setting up of the "Deaf Cafeteria" and the International Lions Clubs District 303 (Lions Clubs) for their assistance in the project.

The cafeteria, converted from the former barracks and stores, has earlier been leased at a nominal fee to the Society by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

A tenancy agreement signing ceremony was conducted by Dr Lee and the Society's Chairman, Dr Buddy Wong, late last month.

Also officiating at today's opening ceremony were Dr Wong, the Society's President, Mr Lee Kwok-yin, and President of the Lions Clubs, Mr William Leung.

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Fund-raising schedule for July

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Eleven organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 or the Hong Kong Council of Social Service's 2866 8123 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

Event Date

Organisation

July 1

The Outward Bound Trust of Hong Kong Ltd
(Hong Kong Outward Bound School)

July 8

Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service

July 15

Tuen Mun Hospital

July 22

The Cheshire Home Hong Kong

July 29

Birthright Society Ltd.

Public Subscription

Event Day	Organisation
July 1, 2, 6, 8 & 9	Pok Oi Hospital
July 2	March for Jesus Hong Kong
July 2,9,16,23 & 30	Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd
July 9	Word for the World Christian Fellowship
July 14-16 & 21-23	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
July 29	Land of Virtue Centre Ltd.

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