



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ALLIED GROUP INVESTIGATION	1
HUMAN RIGHTS ANIMATION ON TV	1
13,278 BENEFIT FROM FREE LEGAL SERVICE	2
DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION MARKS AND PLATES	2
REGIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATION ON LEARNING TRIP	3
GOOD PROGRESS IN REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS	4

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PUBLIC URGED TO HELP IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICES	5
OVER 5 MILLION PEOPLE CONSULT CNTA'S ENQUIRY SERVICE	6

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993

- 1 -

ALLIED GROUP INVESTIGATION

* * * * *

THE INSPECTOR APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATED TO THE ALLIED GROUP SUBMITTED HIS REPORT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TODAY (SATURDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

MR NICHOLAS ALLEN OF COOPERS AND LYBRAND WAS APPOINTED AN INSPECTOR UNDER SECTION 143(1)(C) OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE IN AUGUST 1992 TO INVESTIGATE THE AFFAIRS OF THE ALLIED GROUP LIMITED AND FOUR OTHER RELATED COMPANIES.

A FURTHER APPOINTMENT WAS MADE IN OCTOBER 1992 TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION TO ANOTHER 22 COMPANIES.

"THE INSPECTION REPORT IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 146 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL NOW EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE FACTS IDENTIFIED DURING THE INSPECTION BEFORE DECIDING ON THE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE INTENTION REMAINS THAT THE REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE SUBJECT TO LEGAL ADVICE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HUMAN RIGHTS ANIMATION ON TV

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE WIDELY ACCLAIMED UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ANIMATION ON TVB PEARL FROM 11 AM TO 11.30 AM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 30).

THE SCREENING WAS INITIATED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION AS PART OF THE ONGOING PUBLICITY EFFORT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THIS ANIMATED PRODUCTION IS JOINTLY PRODUCED BY A GROUP OF WELL-KNOWN ANIMATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO VIVIDLY PRESENT THE ARTICLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AN IMPRESSIVE AND YET ARTISTICALLY SENSITIVE MANNER.

AS THE ANIMATION OF EACH CLAUSE OF THE DECLARATION IS CREATED BY A DIFFERENT ANIMATOR, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO NOTE THE UNIQUE STYLE OF THE ANIMATORS IN PUTTING ACROSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, DR DANIEL TSE, SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD FOCUSSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THROUGH A HOST OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES INCLUDING RADIO BROADCASTS, EXHIBITIONS, DEBATES, TELELINE SERVICE AND THE PRODUCTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION CARDS AND COMIC BOOKS.

HE SAID: "WE ALL APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION TENDS TO BE ABSTRACT AND CONCEPTUAL, THE MESSAGES HAVE TO BE DELIVERED IN SUCH A WAY THAT PEOPLE FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE AND INTERESTING.

/"WE BELIEVE

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ANIMATION WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST ENJOYABLE AND INSPIRING TV PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE FAMILY."

DR TSE ADDED THAT FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED, MORE INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS AVAILABLE AT THE CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE ON THE 29TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

- - - - 0 - - - -

13,278 BENEFIT FROM FREE LEGAL SERVICE

* * * * *

ABOUT 13,278 PEOPLE HAVE MADE USE OF THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME ADMINISTERED BY THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESCS) UNDER THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 1,427 REFERRALS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE TO THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY, WHICH CO-ORGANISES THE SCHEME.

THE FIGURES WERE 10,932 AND 1,192 RESPECTIVELY IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

A MAJORITY OF THE CASES INVOLVED MATRIMONIAL, MONETARY, COMMERCIAL MATTERS AND COMPENSATION OR DAMAGES FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, FIRE AND PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE.

ON THE SERVICE ITSELF, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE APPLICANTS WOULD BE FIRST INTERVIEWED BY PESCS STAFF TO IDENTIFY THEIR NEEDS.

ARRANGEMENT WILL THEN BE MADE FOR THEM TO SEE DUTY LAWYERS ATTENDING THE EVENING BUREAUS SITUATED AT FIVE DISTRICT OFFICES IN WAN CHAI, YAU TSIM, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SCHEME CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY OF THE PESCS OR THE CNTA'S CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE ON TELEPHONE 835 2500.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION MARKS AND PLATES

* * * * *

MOTOR CAR OWNERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO DISPLAY ON THE CAR REGISTRATION MARK ASSIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ARRANGEMENT, PROPORTIONS, FORM AND SIZE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, THE LETTERS AND NUMERALS OF THE REGISTRATION MARK WERE TO BE DISPLAYED AS TWO SEPARATE GROUPS.

ALL LETTERS AND NUMERALS ARE TO APPEAR IN SIMPLE BLOCK FORM, OTHER STYLES SUCH AS ITALICS ARE NOT PERMITTED, HE SAID.

THE HEIGHT OF ALL LETTERS AND NUMERALS SHOULD BE NO LESS THAN EIGHT CENTIMETRES AND NOT MORE THAN 11 CENTIMETRES HIGH FOR ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT OF INVALID CARRIAGES AND MOTORCYCLES, THEY SHOULD BE NO LESS THAN FIVE CENTIMETRES AND NOT MORE THAN 11 CENTIMETRES HIGH, HE ADDED.

"IT IS THEREFORE IN THEIR OWN INTEREST THAT VEHICLE OWNERS SHOULD ONLY DISPLAY A NUMBER PLATE THAT COMPLIED WITH THE SPECIFICATION PROVIDED UNDER THE LAW," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ANY CAR OWNER WHO CONTRAVENES THE REGULATION IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$2,000, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REGIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATION ON LEARNING TRIP

* * * * *

A GROUP OF REGIONAL COUNCILLORS LEFT TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR FRANCE AND GERMANY TO VISIT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, WILL STOP AT MONTPELLIER, PARIS, BERLIN AND MUNICH DURING THE 13-DAY TRIP.

THE DELEGATES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR ADOLF HSU AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES (CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT), MISS CHOI SUK-KUEN.

TOP ON THEIR ITINERARY ARE VISITS TO LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, PARKS, THEATRES AND SPORTS STADIUMS AND THE RESPECTIVE MANAGING ORGANISATIONS IN THE HOST CITIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SAID SUCH VISITS WOULD ENABLE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BUILD UP CONTACTS WITH THEIR OVERSEAS COUNTERPARTS AND TO LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE PROVISIONS OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

COUNCILLORS WOULD ALSO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO POLICIES AND OPERATING SYSTEMS EMPLOYED BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN MARKETING, FACILITY MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMMING AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, HE SAID.

ANOTHER COUNCIL DELEGATION HAND DEPARTED FOR FRANCE AND GERMANY ON AUGUST 21 TO STUDY A HOST OF MATTERS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE SERVICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993

- 4 -

GOOD PROGRESS IN REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

* * * * *

REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE HAS BEEN PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AND SATISFACTORILY, THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, SAID THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING.

MR KWOK NOTED THAT THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) HAD NOW REGISTERED ABOUT 53,000 ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND 6,800 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1990.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND APPLIANCES TRADE WORKERS' UNION.

UNDER THE REGULATIONS, ALL WORK ON THE FIXED ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY REGISTERED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, WHO IN TURN MUST EMPLOY REGISTERED ELECTRICAL WORKERS, HE ADDED.

MR KWOK PRAISED THE UNION FOR RUNNING A BULK REGISTRATION SCHEME TO HELP EMSD MAKE THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE A SUCCESS.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, MR KWOK CONTINUED, THE UNION PRE-VETTED THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS WHO INTENDED TO REGISTER WITH EMSD AND THEN CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES OF ALL THEIR RELEVANT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

"THE SCHEME NOT ONLY PROVIDES A CONVENIENT MEANS FOR YOUR MEMBERS TO GET REGISTERED BUT ALSO SAVES US A LOT OF MANPOWER IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.

"SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 10,000 MEMBERS OF YOUR UNION WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY REGISTERED BY THIS MEANS," HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, MR KWOK NOTED THAT THE UNION JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH EMSD IN AUGUST 1991 AND JANUARY LAST YEAR TWO EXAMINATIONS FOR ELECTRICAL WORKERS WITHOUT FORMAL ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS, ENABLING THEM TO BE REGISTERED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLIC URGED TO HELP IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICES

* * * * *

POSTAL SERVICES ARE SUCH AN ACCEPTED PART OF OUR EVERYDAY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC THAT IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED.

WHAT IS OFTEN NOT FULLY REALISED IS THE EFFORT THE POST OFFICE PUT IN TO MAKE PROPER DELIVERY OF EVERY SINGLE LETTER TO YOUR MAIL BOX, AND SOMETIMES RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR.

THE PUBLIC OFTEN DO NOT REALISE THAT BY PUTTING A LITTLE BIT OF EFFORT THEY CAN HELP IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICES.

CONTROLLER OF POSTS (MANAGEMENT CONTROL), MRS ELLEN SIU, SAID THE POST OFFICE WAS GEARED TO FURTHER IMPROVE SERVICES. BUT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE A PART TO PLAY TOO.

"NOTHING EXEMPLIFIES THE REAL SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE BETTER THAN THE WAY IN WHICH POST OFFICE IS PREPARED TO REACH OUT TO MEET THE POSTAL NEEDS OF CITIZENS HERE. BUT WE TOO WANT THEIR HELP," MRS SIU SAID.

SHE GIVES A FEW TIPS THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN FOLLOW:

- * THE RECEIVER'S ADDRESS ON THE MAIL ITEM SHOULD BE WRITTEN AS CLEARLY AND AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE. USE THE FIRST LINE FOR FLAT AND FLOOR NUMBERS AND NAME OF BUILDING. THE SECOND LINE FOR THE NUMBER OF BUILDING AND NAME OF STREET. THE THIRD LINE FOR NAME OF THE DISTRICT AND THE FOURTH FOR HONG KONG, KOWLOON OR NEW TERRITORIES AS APPROPRIATE;
- * FOR OVERSEAS MAIL, THE POSTAL DISTRICT NUMBER OR POSTAL CODE, NAME OF COUNTY, STATE OR PROVINCE, AND NAME OF COUNTRY SHOULD APPEAR IN THE LOWEST FOUR LINES OF THE ADDRESS;
- * A TYPED OR A MACHINE-PRINTED IN ROMAN TYPE, RATHER THAN A HANDWRITTEN ADDRESS IS PREFERRED;
- * STAMP SHOULD BE AFFIXED ONTO THE TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE MAIL ITEM, FOR PROCESSING BY THE STAMP CANCELLING MACHINE;
- * USE ENVELOPES OF WHICH THE SIZE FALLS WITHIN THE PERMISSIBLE RANGE. THE MINIMUM SIZE IS 90 MM TIMES 140 MM, THE MAXIMUM SIZE IS 167 MM TIMES 260 MM.
- * FOLLOW THE POSTAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF PARCEL. NORMALLY THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT IS 10 KILOGRAMS ALTHOUGH SOME DESTINATIONS ALLOW A MAXIMUM OF 15 TO 20 KILOGRAMS; AND
- * PACK, WRAP AND SEAL A PARCEL PROPERLY TO AVOID DAMAGE, DELAY OR EVEN DETENTION OF THE ITEMS.

MRS SIU SAID SINCE 1990, THE POST OFFICE HAD BEEN USING THE MECHANISED LETTER SORTING SYSTEM (MLSS) TO SORT MAIL.

THIS SYSTEM IS THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO USE MODERN OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION AND VIDEO CODING TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF POSTCODES.

THE MLSS, INSTALLED AT THE TWO MAJOR MAIL PROCESSING CENTRES, OPERATES AN AUTOMATIC LETTER SORTING PROCESS BY SCANNING AN ADDRESS AND PRINTING BAR CODES ON THE ENVELOPE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO POSTMEN.

SHE SAID THOSE HANDWRITTEN ADDRESSES TOO ROUGH TO SEE OR NOT IN NORMAL FORMAT HAVE TO BE PROCESSED MANUALLY. IT WOULD CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF ITEMS PROCESSED FROM 20,000 AN HOUR TO ONLY 1,500 AN HOUR.

MANUAL PROCESSING IS ALSO REQUIRED ON LETTERS WITH IMPROPER ATTACHMENT OF STAMPS.

"THE POST OFFICE IS NOW TURNING AROUND MORE THAN 2.7 MILLION MAIL ITEMS EACH DAY. NATURALLY, WE RELY ON MECHANISATION AND AUTOMATION AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO DO THE JOB," MRS SIU SAID.

"WITH PUBLIC CO-OPERATION, I AM SURE THAT MAIL CAN BE PROCESSED MORE EFFICIENTLY AND THAT IT CAN REACH ADDRESSES FASTER," SHE ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO HELP IMPROVE THE SERVICE MAY CALL THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU OR READ THE GUIDANCE BOOKLETS WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FREE FROM POST OFFICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OVER 5 MILLION PEOPLE CONSULT CNTA'S ENQUIRY SERVICE

* * * * *

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) SERVED MORE THAN 5.2 MILLION PEOPLE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THIS ALSO INCLUDED THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES HANDLED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE (CTEC), TOTTALLING 64,806.

THE CENTRES SERVED ABOUT 4.4 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE 20 CENTRES, LOCATED CONVENIENTLY THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SUCH AS ADMINISTERING DECLARATIONS AND OATHS, MAKING REFERRALS UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME AND THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME.

THEY ALSO HELP IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT FORMS, LEAFLETS AND VARIOUS PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND HANDLE GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

A TOTAL OF 237,873 DECLARATIONS AND OATHS WERE ADMINISTERED FROM JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR, THE MORE POPULAR TOPICS BEING DECLARATIONS OF TRUE COPY OF DOCUMENT AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF EDUCATION, EXAMINATION AND EMIGRATION.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1993

- 7 -

DURING THE PERIOD, THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT RENT OFFICERS, WHO ATTEND THE 15 DISTRICT OFFICES REGULARLY, HANDLED 6,773 ENQUIRIES ON RENT AND TENANCY RELATED PROBLEMS.

MOREOVER, 1,427 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL THE CTEC HOTLINE 835 2500 DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SERVICES.

- - - - 0 - - - -