



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1991

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PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES HANDLE 6.2 M CASES

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THE 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESC'S) AND THE NEWLY SET-UP CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE (CTEC) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HANDLED A TOTAL OF 6.2 MILLION CASES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE PESC'S, LOCATED CONVENIENTLY IN THE 19 DISTRICTS, HAD PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

"THESE SERVICES INCLUDE ANSWERING GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, DISTRIBUTING GOVERNMENT FORMS, LEAFLETS AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL, ADMINISTERING DECLARATIONS AND OATHS, AND MAKING REFERRALS UNDER BOTH THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME AND THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME," HE ADDED.

DURING THE PERIOD, 313,018 DECLARATIONS AND OATHS WERE ADMINISTERED. THE MORE POPULAR TOPICS WERE DECLARATIONS OF TRUE COPY OF DOCUMENT, AND THOSE FOR EDUCATION, EXAMINATION AND EMIGRATION PURPOSES.

THE PESC'S HAVE ALSO REFERRED 1,340 CASES TO HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY UNDER THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, WHICH IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND THE CNTA.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 8,071 ENQUIRIES ON RENT AND TENANCY PROBLEMS WERE HANDLED BY OFFICERS OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT UNDER THE RENT OFFICER SCHEME.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, RENT OFFICERS ATTEND THE 15 DISTRICT OFFICES ON A REGULAR BASIS," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE AND ENABLING THE PUBLIC TO MAKE ENQUIRIES WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TO A PESC, A CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS SINCE APRIL THIS YEAR.

UNTIL JUNE, THE SERVICE HAS HANDLED 42,197 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT PESC'S OR ASK ABOUT GOVERNMENT SERVICES MAY NOW TELEPHONE THE NEW ENQUIRY CENTRE ON TEL. 835 1501.

"THE LINE OPERATES FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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ELECTORS URGED TO VOTE IN LEGCO POLLS

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ELECTORS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG BY CASTING THEIR VOTES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 15.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE ASSISTANT CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS MARY TSANG, AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) FOR THE DISTRICT.

MISS TSANG NOTED THAT THE 77,565 REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE DISTRICT REPRESENTED SOME HALF OF THE ELECTORATE IN THE ISLAND WEST CONSTITUENCY, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

SHE ADDED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT MONTH WOULD HINGE ON THE ELECTORS' ENTHUSIASM TO VOTE.

MISS TSANG ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS ON SEPTEMBER 12.

TO PUBLICISE THE ELECTIONS, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN WHICH INCLUDED A BUS PARADE, STREET BUNTINGS, NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENTS AND ELECTION SOUVENIRS TO ATTRACT VOTERS TO THE BOOTH, SHE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR HO SHIU-SUM SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOME 30 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, ORGANISED MORE THAN 700 ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISTRICT'S YOUTH THIS SUMMER.

MR HO HOPED THAT PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SYP THEME "SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY" THROUGH THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

THE FINALE OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WAS A VARIETY SHOW TODAY AT THE FORBES STREET PLAYGROUND, KENNEDY TOWN.

THE EVENT HAD ATTRACTED MORE THAN 2,000 LOCAL RESIDENTS, MOSTLY CHILDREN, TO JOIN.

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UK/HK GOVERNMENTS JOINT FUNDING SCHEME

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NEW STUDENTS INTENDING TO PURSUE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AS FROM THE 1991-92 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE UK/HK GOVERNMENTS JOINT FUNDING SCHEME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY SAID THE SCHEME WAS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG AND UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENTS TO HELP NEEDY HONG KONG STUDENTS MEET THE HIGHER TUITION FEES CHARGED ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"IT IS OPEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SUBJECT TO THEIR HAVING RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY OR BEEN DOMICILED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COURSE COMMENCEMENT," HE SAID.

THE SCHEME IS MEANS-TESTED AND THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUITION FEES PAYABLE BY AN OVERSEAS STUDENT AND A BRITISH HOME STUDENT STUDYING THE SAME COURSE.

THE BRITISH HOME STUDENT FEE HAS BEEN INCREASED CONSIDERABLY STARTING FROM THE YEAR 1990-91.

HAVING CONSIDERED THE NEED OF HONG KONG STUDENTS, A NOTIONAL 'HOME FEE' IS ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING STUDENTS' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1991-92, THE NOTIONAL 'HOME FEE' WILL BE 669 POUND STERLING.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF GRANT, BUT IF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT EXCEEDS THE JOINT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THEN EACH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S SHARE OF GRANT WILL BE PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED, WITH THE BALANCE MADE UP BY A LOAN SOLELY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

AN INTEREST ON THE LOAN BORROWED BY APPLICANTS IS CHARGEABLE AT THE RATE OF 2.5% PER ANNUM CALCULATED FROM THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT PERIOD.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY AT QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOW BLOCK, GROUND FLOOR, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED BY AN INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ONE OF THE COURSES COVERED BY THE SCHEME (PROOF OF CONDITIONAL OFFER WILL BE ACCEPTABLE).

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ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON TEL. 867 3547.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HAND TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE SPECIFIED ABOVE BUT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 THIS YEAR MAY BE ACCEPTED BUT WILL BE PROCESSED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOANS ONLY.

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PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED IN FIGHTING CRIME

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THE YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG, TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO HELP THE POLICE IN FIGHTING CRIME.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT "JOINT FORCES AGAINST CRIME" CAMPAIGN AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, MISS TANG SAID THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORT IN SPREADING THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE.

SHE ALSO SAID A CAMPAIGN ENTITLED "CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL TRADES IN FIGHTING CRIME" WOULD BE LAUNCHED LATER THIS YEAR TO COMBAT SHOP CRIME.

"THE CAMPAIGN AIMS TO PROMOTE THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE AMONG STAFF OF ALL BUSINESSES," SHE SAID.

ON THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS TANG APPEALED TO ALL VOTERS TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON SEPTEMBER 15.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR HENRY BLUD, SAID THE POLICE WOULD CONSTANTLY REVIEW ITS TACTICS AND MAKE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF STAFF TO CURB CRIME.

"IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD TO REPORT CRIME, A ONE-WAY MIRROR VIEWING FACILITY AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN YAU TSIM POLICE DISTRICT TO HELP IDENTIFY SUSPECTS WHILST PROTECT WITNESSES," HE SAID.

TO TIE IN WITH THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S PUBLICITY PROGRAMME, THE YAU TSIM DFCC WILL ORGANISE A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO PUT THE MESSAGE ACROSS.

THESE INCLUDE A SINGING CONTEST, A YEAR-END FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, A CARNIVAL AND A GOOD CITIZEN AWARD SCHEME.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH AND YAU TSIM DFCC CHAIRMAN, MR YANG TSE-KONG.

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YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO CARE FOR OTHERS

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THE REGIONAL OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES WEST) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MRS LESLIE HUNG, TODAY (SUNDAY) CALLED ON YOUNGSTERS TO CARE FOR OTHERS AND ACTIVELY TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A "CARE AND SHARE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING" SEMINAR, MRS HUNG POINTED OUT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ENSURE THE SOCIETY TO GO ON AND PROGRESS.

"IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT THEY ARE GIVEN THE SUPPORT AND TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO BE RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY," SHE ADDED.

AFTER THIS SEMINAR, THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE PART IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO CARE FOR OTHERS AND FULFIL THEIR ASPIRATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

MORE THAN 130 YOUNGSTERS FROM KWAI TSING, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN ATTENDED THE SEMINAR WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST REGION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE REGION'S YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

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REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS FARING WELL

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THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION IN THE COMING YEARS WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE CO-OPERATION OF THE INDUSTRY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING.

THE REMARK WAS MADE AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND APPLIANCES TRADE WORKERS UNION DURING WHICH MR KWOK PAID TRIBUTE TO THE UNION FOR THEIR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

"SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR UNDER THE NEW ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE, THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD SO FAR RECEIVED ABOUT 22,000 APPLICATIONS," HE SAID.

IN THE AREA OF REGISTRATION, MR KWOK SAID THE UNION HAD NOT ONLY PROVIDED INVALUABLE ADVICE TO HIS DEPARTMENT, BUT HAD ALSO OFFERED MUCH ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THE "BULK REGISTRATION" A SUCCESS WITHOUT WHICH THE REGISTRATION PROCESS WOULD HAVE TO BE PROLONGED.

HE ALSO THANKED THE UNION FOR TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ORGANISING THE ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION TO HELP ELECTRICAL WORKERS MEET THE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED UNDER THE ELECTRICITY (REGISTRATION) REGULATIONS.

/"THE DATE

"THE DATE FOR THE FIRST OF SUCH AN EXAMINATION WAS SCHEDULED ON AUGUST 30 THIS YEAR AND THOSE EXPERIENCED ELECTRICAL WORKERS WHO DID NOT POSSESS THE NECESSARY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS COULD MAKE USE OF THE EXAMINATION TO BECOME A REGISTERED WORKER," MR KWOK SAID.

REGARDING THE ON-GOING REGISTRATION PROGRESS, HE POINTED OUT THAT SO FAR EXCEPT FOR A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS WHO FAILED TO MEET ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS, THE MAJORITY OF APPLICATIONS WERE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY FOR REGISTRATION.

HE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT AIMED TO REGISTER ALL THE EXISTING ELECTRICAL WORKERS, WHICH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 30,000 IN THE INDUSTRY, BY AROUND MID-1992.

"BY THEN, FIXED ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY REGISTERED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS AND WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN THE ELECTRICITY (WIRING) REGULATIONS," HE SAID.

MR KWOK ALSO SAID FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY, THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT WOULD PUBLISH A CODE OF PRACTICE BY EARLY NEXT YEAR WHICH WOULD SET OUT IN DETAILS TECHNICAL GUIDELINES ON HOW THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET.

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SEMINAR TO BOOST WORK SAFETY ON GONDOLAS
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE A SEMINAR ON AUGUST 28 (WEDNESDAY) TO FURTHER PROMOTE SAFETY AT WORK ON GONDOLAS.

ACTING CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS, SOME OF THEM FATAL, ON WORK SITES INVOLVING THE USE OF GONDOLAS IN RECENT YEARS.

"THESE ACCIDENTS WERE MOSTLY CAUSED BY FAILURE OF THE GONDOLA'S SUSPENSION SYSTEM, OR WERE DUE TO WORKERS' FAILURE TO WEAR SAFETY BELTS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN ATTACHED TO AN INDEPENDENT LIFELINE OR A SECURE ANCHORAGE," MR CHAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SEMINAR WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTRACTORS, WORKERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE TRADE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SHARE EXPERIENCES IN THE SAFE USE OF GONDOLAS.

"THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GONDOLA SAFETY SUCH AS INSTALLATION AND RELOCATION, EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS, SAFETY ROPES WITH AUTOMATIC SAFETY DEVICES AND PROPER USE OF SAFETY BELTS," HE ADDED.

THE HALF-DAY SEMINAR WILL START AT 2.30 PM AT THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE ON THE 13TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, AND ADMISSION IS FREE.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES AND ENROLMENT CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3564.

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MOVE TO NEW HOME COMPLETED

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THE MOVE BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND TWO REMAINING OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL BUILDING AT 1-3, PAI TAU STREET IN SHA TIN WILL BE COMPLETED THIS WEEKEND.

THE SECRETARIAT, WHICH WILL BE HOUSED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOW BLOCK, WILL START OPERATING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE RSD'S SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND LICENSING OFFICE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE EIGHTH AND NINTH FLOORS OF THE 20-STOREY OFFICE TOWER.

THEIR NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR PUBLIC ENQUIRIES ARE 601 8841 AND 601 8747 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ON SEPTEMBER 26.

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LI PO CHUN MATERNITY HOME CLOSES

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THE LI PO CHUN MATERNITY HOME IN MONG KOK WILL BE CLOSED FROM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT ALL ANTE-NATAL CLIENTS PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO THE MATERNITY HOME WILL BE DIRECTED TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL OR KWONG WAH HOSPITAL STARTING FROM AUGUST 25.

THE CLOSURE WILL NOT AFFECT THE NORMAL OPERATION OF LI PO CHUN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE VARIOUS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

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