



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## CHILDREN SCREENED FOR HEARING DEFECTS

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THE AUDIOMETRIC SCREENING PROGRAMME RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO DETECT HEARING DEFECTS IN CHILDREN WILL COVER THE WHOLE PRIMARY ONE POPULATION BY 1981.

IN THIS FISCAL YEAR THE SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED IN STAGES FROM GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT MORE THAN 88 000 PUPILS.

+PLANS TO RECRUIT MORE AUDIOLOGISTS, AUDIOMETRICIANS AND SUPPORTING STAFF, AND THE PURCHASE OF TWO WELL-EQUIPPED VANS FITTED WITH ACCOUSTIC BOOTHS ARE IN THE PIPELINE,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DISCLOSED TODAY.

IN ADDITION, FACILITIES AT THE TWO EXISTING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES WILL BE EXPANDED SO THAT MORE EQUIPMENT WILL BE ACQUIRED AND MORE SPACE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR AUDIOLOGICAL AND REMEDIAL SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SCREENING PROGRAMME WAS PART OF A WIDE-RANGING LONG-TERM PLAN INTRODUCED IN 1968 TO HELP SCHOOL CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM HEARING DISABILITY.

IT WAS AIMED AT DETECTING HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN PUPILS THROUGH HEARING TESTS CONDUCTED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL IN VISITS TO SCHOOLS EVERY YEAR, IN ORDER THAT SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AT AN EARLY STAGE TO PREVENT THE PROBLEM FROM DEVELOPING INTO A HANDICAP.

THERE IS A FIVE-MINUTE HEARING TEST IN A QUIET ROOM MAINLY TO FIND OUT THE PUPIL'S RESPONSE TO CERTAIN FREQUENCIES OF SOUND AT FIXED SCREENING INTENSITY WITHIN NORMAL SPEECH RANGE, HE EXPLAINED.

+PUPILS WHO FAIL THE TEST OR ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF SCREENING WILL RECEIVE A FULL-SCALE ASSESSMENT AT ONE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRES. AFTERWARDS A VERBAL REPORT ON THEIR HEARING ABILITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PARENTS. A WRITTEN REPORT WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOL SOON AFTERWARDS,+ HE SAID.

+HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN WILL THEN BE RECOMMENDED FOR SPECIAL SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CLASSROOM, PROVISION OF HEARING AIDS FREE OF CHARGE, PERIPATETIC TEACHING SERVICE, AND PLACEMENT IN SPECIAL CLASSES OR SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

+AT THE SAME TIME, REGULAR SPEECH AND AUDITORY TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN THEM TO ENHANCE THEIR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT. THOSE IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE REFERRED TO SPECIALISTS FOR TREATMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

OF THE 68 000 PRIMARY 1 PUPILS FROM 709 SCHOOLS WHO RECEIVED TESTS LAST YEAR, ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OR 3 400 WERE IDENTIFIED TO HAVE VARYING DEGREES OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

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CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HARMONY IN MARRIAGES  
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A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED NEXT MONTH AIMED AT MINIMISING MARITAL CONFLICTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED A MAJOR FACTOR OF FAMILY BREAKDOWNS AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

WITH ITS THEME ON +MARITAL RELATIONSHIP+, THE CAMPAIGN IS ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

THROUGH COMMUNITY-WIDE AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, THE CAMPAIGN WILL STRESS TO YOUNG COUPLES THE RISK OF RUSHING INTO MARRIAGE, AND TO MARRIED COUPLES THE NEED FOR ADJUSTMENTS AND ENRICHMENT TO KEEP THEIR MARRIED LIFE HAPPY.

+THE OBJECTIVE IS TO HELP PREVENT FAMILY BREAKDOWNS WHICH ARE OFTEN THE RESULT OF PERSISTENT MARITAL DISCORDS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FAMILY PROBLEMS HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, MARITAL CONFLICTS FORMED THE LARGEST SINGLE CATEGORY.

IN 1979-80, HE SAID, ABOUT 3 000 MARRIED COUPLES WITH MARITAL CONFLICTS HAD COME TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELLING.

HE SAID AS HUSBAND AND WIFE WERE THE NUCLEUS MEMBERS OF A FAMILY, CONSTANT CONFLICTS BETWEEN THEM WOULD NOT ONLY BRING TO THEMSELVES MENTAL AGONY BUT ALSO CAUSE TURMOILS IN THE WHOLE FAMILY, AFFECTING PARTICULARLY THEIR CHILDREN.

MARITAL DISCORDS GENERALLY RESULT FROM AN UNCLEAR CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE, INADEQUATE PREPARATION BEFORE GETTING MARRIED, INABILITY TO ADJUST TO CHANGES AFTER MARRIAGE, OR A LACK OF EFFORTS TO ENRICH MARRIED LIFE, HE SAID.

+THERE ARE CASES WHERE COUPLES HURRIED INTO MARRIAGE MORE FOR EMOTIONAL REASONS THAN FOR ANYTHING ELSE, ONLY TO FIND THAT THEIR MARITAL RELATIONSHIP COULD NOT STAND THE TEST OF TIME FOR LACK OF CAREFUL PREPARATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE ALSO CASES WHERE CONFLICTS DEVELOPED AS THE COUPLES COULD NOT ADJUST TO CHANGES WITHIN THE FAMILY OR THEY DID NOTHING TO REVITALISE WHAT THEY MIGHT PROGRESSIVELY FIND AS MONOTONOUS MARRIED LIFE.

HE STRESSED THAT MARRIAGE WAS MEANT TO BE A LIFE-LONG BOND THE HARMONY OF WHICH COULD ONLY BE SUSTAINED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL TRUST, UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT AND CONCERN, AS WELL AS SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE FORTHCOMING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WHICH WILL RUN INTO 1981, WILL BRING HOME ITS MESSAGES THROUGH A VARIETY OF COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMMES, PROMOTIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICTS.

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HIGHLIGHTING THE PROGRAMMES WILL BE A SERIES OF 14 TV GAME SHOWS FOR FAMILIES PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE SERIES, ENTITLED +FAMILY QUIZ+, WILL BE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING AND WILL TAP THE CLOSE UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION OF PARTICIPATING FAMILY MEMBERS.

RTHK ALSO PLANS TO INCORPORATE MESSAGES ON MARITAL RELATIONSHIP IN SEVERAL EPISODES OF A NEW SERIES OF THE POPULAR TV DRAMA PROGRAMME +UNDER THE SAME ROOF+, WITH CASE MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

EARLY NEXT MONTH, THREE +FLORAL BUSES+, EACH CARRYING A COUPLE DRESSED UP AS BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM, WILL TOUR HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES STOPPING AT STRATEGIC POINTS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THROUGH HANDOUTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES.

+SECOND HONEYMOON TRIPS+ AND FAMILY CAMPS WILL BE ORGAINSED IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS TO FOSTER STRONGER MARITAL TIES AMONG MARRIED COUPLES.

OTHER PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE TV AND RADIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES ON MARITAL RELATIONSHIP, DISCUSSION SESSIONS AND TALKS, SUPPLEMENTED BY TELEVISION BRIEFS AND POSTERS.

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REMINDER ON MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT AGE  
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EMPLOYERS WERE REMINDED TODAY THAT THE MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG WOULD BE RAISED FROM 14 TO 15 WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT FROM THAT DATE THOSE UNDER 15 WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING ANY EMPLOYMENT.

THOSE BETWEEN 13 AND 14 MAY, WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS, AND UPON THE PRODUCTION OF A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE, ENGAGE IN PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN ONLY THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS AIMED AT PROTECTING THEIR HEALTH AND MORALS.

+IN RECRUITING STAFF, EMPLOYERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THEIR YOUNG EMPLOYEES HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 15 BY SEPTEMBER 1. ANYONE VIOLATING THIS PROHIBITION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10 000,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT NOTICE OF RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT WAS GIVEN ABOUT A YEAR AGO WHEN THE PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 14 IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WAS EXTENDED TO THE NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO ASSIST THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMPULSORY JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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\$16.8 MILLION PAID OUT UNDER TRAFFIC ACCIDENT SCHEME

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PAID OUT MORE THAN \$16.8 MILLION AS QUICK CASH RELIEF FOR PEOPLE APPLYING UNDER THE +NO FAULT+ TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

ANOTHER \$327 051 HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED FOR PAYMENT TO 96 CASES AND AWAIT COLLECTION AT THE DEPARTMENT.

THE PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE WERE GRANTED TO 426 CASES INVOLVING DEATH AND 4 157 CASES INVOLVING INJURIES WHICH CAUSED AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS' LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY.

MRS DIANA LEE, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) SECTION, SAID TODAY THE AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS FOR THE FATAL CASES TOTALLED ALMOST \$3 MILLION AND THAT FOR THE INJURY CASES, OVER \$13.8 MILLION.

SHE SAID THE INJURY GRANTS INCLUDED \$3 MILLION AS FURTHER PAYMENTS TO THOSE WHO WERE MEDICALLY CERTIFIED TO REQUIRE EXTENDED SICK LEAVE.

IN THE CASES ALREADY PROCESSED, SHE SAID, THE HIGHEST PAYMENT WAS \$25 040 MADE FOR ONE FATAL ACCIDENT, WHILE OTHER PAYMENTS RANGED FROM \$800 TO \$21 100.

+AT PRESENT, 428 OTHER APPLICATIONS ARE BEING PROCESSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THE APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE PAYMENT IN A FAIRLY SHORT TIME,+ SHE SAID.

THE NON-MEANS-TESTED SCHEME IMPLEMENTED IN MAY LAST YEAR IS AIMED AT PROVIDING QUICK CASH RELIEF FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS AT FAULT IN THE ACCIDENT.

MRS LEE SAID PEOPLE INVOLVED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT COULD APPLY WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE EVENT. FOR INJURY GRANTS, INJURIES SUSTAINED MUST HAVE CAUSED AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS' LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY.

APPLICATIONS OR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE AT THE TAVA SECTION ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE AT 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG (TEL NO 5-779421 OR 5-7903650).

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SURVEY ON TUEN MUN TRANSPORT NEARING COMPLETION  
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A SURVEY ORGANISED BY TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE OF LOCAL TRANSPORT FACILITIES IS NEARLY COMPLETE.

THE SURVEY, THE SECOND IN TWO YEARS, IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AND HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS.

MORE THAN 1 000 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED SINCE THE SURVEY STARTED ON AUGUST 12.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY WAS TO OBTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE NEW TOWN.

THERE HAD BEEN COMPLAINTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES LOCALLY. IT WAS HOPED THAT THROUGH THIS SURVEY THE GOVERNMENT COULD OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE KIND OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES RESIDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROVIDED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

THE FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ASKED WHAT FERRY ROUTES THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNAL CITY AND EXTERNAL MAXICAB SERVICES.

THEIR VIEWS WILL BE HELPFUL IN FUTURE PLANNING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. THE SPOKESMAN THANKED THE FAMILIES WHO HAD READILY TAKEN PART IN THE SURVEY FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION.

THE SURVEY WILL BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT MONTH. ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL FIRST BE TABULATED AND THEN COMPILED INTO A REPORT BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REPORT WAS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN IT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS.

THE INFORMATION FROM THE LAST SURVEY HAD PROVED TO BE VERY USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WAS NO LONGER UP-TO-DATE OWING TO RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IN THE NEW TOWN.

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ONE WEEK TO ENTER LOGO COMPETITION  
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HONG KONG DESIGNERS INTERESTED IN WINNING A \$1 500 PRIZE HAD BETTER HURRY.

A LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION CARRYING THIS SUM IN PRIZE MONEY CLOSES IN A WEEK.

THE LOGO IS FOR NORTH DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

IT WILL APPEAR ON LETTERHEADS, BANNERS, SPORTS SHIRTS AND MEDALS. LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL MORE EASILY RECOGNISE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE WHEN THEY BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE LOGO, A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID. HE SAID A FEW ENTRIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED ALREADY, BUT MORE WERE NEEDED.

THE DISTRICT, COVERING THE TOWNS OF SHA TAU KOK, SHEUNG SHUI, SHEK WU HUI AND FANLING AND THE BORDER AREA WAS FORMERLY PART OF TAI PO DISTRICT.

IT BECAME A SEPARATE DISTRICT LAST OCTOBER AS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EXTENDED RAPIDLY TO THE NORTH AREA.

DESIGN OF THE LOGO SHOULD BE BASED ON THE CHINESE CHARACTER FOR NORTH AND RESTRICTED TO TWO COLOURS.

BESIDES THE WINNER'S PRIZE, THERE WILL BE THREE PRIZES OF \$200 EACH.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE OR SHEUNG SHUI PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 3.

THE COMPETITION IS PART OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES BEING ORGANISED BY NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE TO CELEBRATE ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE A LANTERN PARADE, SPORTS COMPETITIONS, QUIZ CONTESTS AND A VARIETY SHOW.

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WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION  
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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 27) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY LI TAK STREET, FUK LEE STREET AND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

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