



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PASSPORT APPLICATION PROCESS SIMPLIFIED

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IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, PASSPORT APPLICANTS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO SEND IN THEIR ORIGINAL HONG KONG BIRTH CERTIFICATES WHEN THEY SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BY POST.

ORIGINALLY, APPLICANTS FOR FIRST PASSPORTS WERE REQUIRED TO SEND IN THEIR ORIGINAL HONG KONG BIRTH CERTIFICATES TOGETHER WITH THEIR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS.

"NOW, AS A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, APPLICANTS MAY CHOOSE TO SEND IN PHOTOSTAT COPIES OF THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATES INSTEAD," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"HOWEVER, SAME AS FOR OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, THE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE PRODUCED FOR INSPECTION UPON COLLECTION OF THE NEW PASSPORTS," HE ADDED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SINCE THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR STARTED TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORTS, BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORTS AND HONG KONG CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY BY POST.

APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE DROP-IN BOXES INSTALLED AT THE IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS OR AT ANY IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICES.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED ARE ISSUED TOGETHER WITH APPLICATION FORMS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL IMMIGRATION OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES AND DESIGNATED POST OFFICES.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ALSO TELEPHONE 824 6111 FOR MORE DETAILS.

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NEW CHILD HEALTH RECORD TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 1993

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INFANTS BORN ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A NEW CHILD HEALTH RECORD WHEN THEY ATTEND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES NEXT YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SATURDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE BOOKLET WAS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE WITH AN OBJECTIVE TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE OF THE CHILD.

THE BOOKLET IS PREPARED IN TWO DESIGNS FOR EASY DISTINCTION - THE BLUE ONE FOR BOYS AND PINK FOR GIRLS.

"IT IS INTENDED TO RECORD THE HEALTH INFORMATION OF A CHILD FROM BIRTH TO 18 YEARS OF AGE AND WILL BE KEPT BY THE PARENTS AT HOME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS IT IS AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT, THE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON THE PARENTS TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN'S BOOKLET WITH DUE CARE, NOTING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REPLACED WHEN LOST.

"THEY SHOULD PRESENT THE BOOKLET WHEN THEIR CHILD ATTENDS ANY CLINIC OR HOSPITAL FOR REFERENCE AND RECORDING PURPOSES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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TAI MEI TUK PUMPING STATION TO BE UPDATED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FROM A PREQUALIFIED LIST OF TENDERERS FOR WORKS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF TAI MEI TUK 'A' PUMPING STATION WITHIN PLOVER COVE RESERVIOR.

BOTH TAI MEI TUK 'A' AND 'B' PUMPING STATIONS PUMP WATER FROM THE RESERVOIR TO TAI PO TAU FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION DURING THE CHINA WATER ANNUAL SHUTDOWN PERIOD IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

TAI PO TAU IS A FOCAL POINT IN THE TERRITORY'S RAW WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR RECEIVING BOTH WATER FROM CHINA AND WATER FROM THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR DURING THE SHUTDOWN PERIOD.

TO MEET WITH ANTICIPATED DEMAND FOR WATER IN HONG KONG, THE CAPACITY OF TAI MEI TUK 'A' PUMPING STATION MUST BE INCREASED TO MATCH THAT OF THE PUMPING STATIONS IN TAI PO TAU.

THE SCOPE OF WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT COMPRISES MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXISTING STATION FOR INSTALLING SIX NEW PUMPSETS WITH ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT.

THE CONTRACTOR IS ALSO REQUIRED TO LAY 300 METRES OF TWO-METRE DIAMETER STEEL DELIVERY PIPE TO DISCHARGE THE INCREASED QUANTITY OF WATER INTO THE EXISTING TUNNEL BETWEEN TAI MEI TUK AND TAI PO TAU.

OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDE MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF THE CONTROL HOUSE AS WELL AS INSTALLATION OF NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION EQUIPMENT.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START NEXT MARCH FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1995.

THESE WORKS FORM PART OF STAGE I OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA BEYOND 1994.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM BINNIE CONSULTANTS LIMITED, 11TH FLOOR, NEW TOWN TOWER, PAK HOK TING STREET, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JANUARY 29 NEXT YEAR.

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PLEA ON CHILD CARE

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A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO PARENTS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE, INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEIR CHILDREN UNATTENDED AT HOME.

"FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN, THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE AT HOME, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED ANOTHER SET OF POSTER AND LEAFLET TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE.

THE POSTERS ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND SERVICE UNITS OF THE DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, DISTRICT OFFICES, GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND HOSPITALS OF HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET FOCUSING ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE AND PROVIDING A LIST OF CENTRES RUNNING THE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT AIMING AT ELIMINATING THE RISK OF UNATTENDED CHILDREN AT HOME.

HE NOTED THAT 75 CHILD CARE CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT, OFFERING 225 PLACES TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

"A FLEXIBLE MODE OF FEE CHARGING HAS ALSO BEEN ADOPTED FOR PARENTS WHO NEED THE SERVICE FOR A SHORT SPAN OF TIME," HE SAID.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE CENTRES OFFER SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY CARE ON SESSIONAL BASIS, CHARGING FEE BETWEEN \$10 TO \$15 PER ADMISSION.

ANOTHER PILOT SCHEME ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN HAD ALSO BEEN IN OPERATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SCHEME IS A SHORT-TERM DAY CARE SERVICE PROVIDED ON FULL-DAY, HALF-DAY OR SESSIONAL BASIS IN THREE SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND ONE EARLY EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, AGED TWO TO SIX.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN THE SERVICES MAY CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON TEL 836 3114.

"PARENTS HAVING ANY CHILDREN-CARE PROBLEMS COULD ALSO SEEK HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," HE ADDED.

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EMPLOYEES MUST BE INSURED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ALERTED EMPLOYERS TO THE REQUIREMENT OF TAKING OUT INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND TO DISPLAY CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE WORKPLACE A NOTICE OF INSURANCE.

THE ADVICE FOLLOWED RECENT CASES AT THE FANLING AND KWUN TONG MAGISTRACIES IN WHICH FOUR ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$35,000 FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

ANOTHER COMPANY WAS FINED FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY A NOTICE OF INSURANCE.

SUKIS HAIR SALON IN FANLING WAS FINED \$6,000 WHILE GOLD LOOP ELECTROPLATING AND METAL FINISHING COMPANY LIMITED, DONCORP INDUSTRIES LIMITED AND THE GOLDEN GLORY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED IN KWUN TONG WERE FINED \$14,000, \$9,600 AND \$5,400 RESPECTIVELY FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES.

IN ANOTHER CASE, THE OWNER OF WEI FEI TRADING COMPANY IN SAN PO KONG WAS FINED \$2,500 BY A KWUN TONG MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY A NOTICE OF INSURANCE.

THE OFFENCES WERE DETECTED BY LABOUR INSPECTORS DURING ROUTINE VISITS TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS EARLIER THIS YEAR.

"ALL EMPLOYERS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICIES TO COVER THEIR FULL LIABILITIES UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND UNDER COMMON LAW," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS) MR JOHN SUNG EXPLAINED.

"AN INSURED EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO DISPLAY, IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OF THE WORKPLACE, A NOTICE SHOWING THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYER AND THE NAME OF THE INSURER," MR SUNG SAID.

OTHER DETAILS SHOULD INCLUDE THE POLICY NUMBER, THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE POLICY AND THE COMMENCEMENT AND EXPIRY DATES OF THE INSURANCE PERIOD.

THE NOTICE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND THE EXTENT OF THE LIABILITY INSURED.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY, ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, FOR FAILURE TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES, IS A FINE OF \$20,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR, MR SUNG SAID.

FAILING TO DISPLAY A NOTICE OF INSURANCE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000, HE ADDED.

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VOLUNTEERS RECRUITS JUNIOR LEADERS

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) IS TO RECRUIT 140 JUNIOR LEADERS THIS YEAR.

APPLICANTS MUST BE MALE, BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 16, PHYSICALLY FIT AND OF GOOD CONDUCT.

THEY MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILLING TO OBEY DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING, AND HAVE THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS' WRITTEN CONSENT TO JOIN THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS.

PROGRESSIVE TRAINING COURSE AIMING AT DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SELF-RELIANCE AND PROMOTING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

THE TRAINING INCLUDES FOOT DRILLS, CAMPCRAFT, MAP READING, EXPEDITION, ORIENTEERING, FIRST AID, RADIO-COMMUNICATION, SHOOTING, SWIMMING, FENCING, BAND, LION DANCE, CANOEING AND LIFE-SAVING.

SOME OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS' TRAINING WILL BE LINKED UP WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPS ARE PROVIDED WITH UNIFORM AND RATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, 1 SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, HONG KONG OR BY TELEPHONING 576 1371.

THE CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION IS JANUARY 31 NEXT YEAR.

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RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS JOIN DANCE FESTIVAL

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A RECORD NUMBER OF MORE THAN 4,000 STUDENTS HAVE ENTERED THIS YEAR'S 29TH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL.

THE FESTIVAL -- JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPORTS COUNCIL -- WILL BE HELD AT WONG TAI SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE IN NAM CHEONG STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, BETWEEN JANUARY 6 AND 18.

A TOTAL OF 4,078 STUDENTS FROM 228 SCHOOLS FORM 362 TEAMS TO JOIN THE FESTIVAL - 175 ARE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 165 FROM PRIMARY AND 22 FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES -- WESTERN FOLK, NATIONAL, ORIENTAL, AND MODERN DANCES.

PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THREE SECONDARY AND THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH OBTAIN THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORES IN THEIR BEST FOUR DANCES.

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL AWARDS WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO ONE SECONDARY AND ONE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, BASED ON THEIR PAST AND CURRENT PARTICIPATION AND RESULTS.

THE WINNERS' PERFORMANCE AND PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE AND SHA TIN TOWN HALL IN MARCH AND APRIL.

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