



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, March 9, 1974

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Release time: 3.00 p.m.

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FAIR RESPONSE TO FIRE SERVICES RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Recent Press advertisements for Assistant Station Officers attracted a total of 80 applicants, a Fire Services spokesman revealed today.

Of this number, approximately 60 have been initially accepted for further interviews and tests.

"This is a fair response," the spokesman said, "but we would naturally have liked to see it greater." Normally, about 15 - 20 per cent of applicants were finally accepted.

He said the department had plans to more or less double in size over the next few years and it was essential that sufficient Assistant Station Officers were recruited to fill present vacancies as well as those which would arise in future when new stations were built.

"Because of this expansion prospects for qualified young men joining this department are very good," he said.

On the subject of Rank and File recruitment, the spokesman said there was a present deficiency of 11 per cent, but this would fall to seven per cent in April when 157 vacancies were filled.

"However," he added, "our need for Rank and File officers is going to grow and recruitment must be maintained at a high level if plans to expand are to go ahead. In this connection, the current review of firemen's salaries by the Pay Investigation Unit is eagerly awaited."

The spokesman pointed out that a large number of Fire Services officers began their careers with the department as firemen or ambulancemen.

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LAST STAGE OF PLASTICS SHARE-OUT

A share-out of two essential raw materials to local plastics firms is now in its final stage.

Allocations on a quota basis have been arranged by the Commerce and Industry Department to about 1,100 smaller firms qualifying to receive supplies.

About four million pounds of polystyrene and 1.5 million pounds of polyethylene have been made available for allocation by importers and larger manufacturing firms.

The quotas for polystyrene, which have already been issued, amount to 95 per cent of the March supply requirements submitted by firms qualifying to participate in the share-out.

Issue of quotas for polyethylene is now being completed. The amount available for distribution in four different categories ranges from 25 to 65 per cent of supply requirements for the current month.

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NEW MARKET FOR MONG KOK

The Mong Kok Market building at the junction of Argyle Street and Canton Road will soon be demolished to make way for a modern up-to-date market complex.

The new market will be a two-storey building with an area of 13,000 square feet. Marketing facilities will be provided on both floors housing the existing stallholders and about 100 hawkers from the surrounding area.

The rooftop of the building is to be used as a playground, as well as providing quarters for the market staff.

The project is part of a programme to provide better market facilities in urban areas. This programme calls for the construction of new markets and the reprovisioning of existing ones.

Tenders are now invited for the demolition of the old market building. Piling work will follow directly afterwards and is scheduled for completion by July this year.

Actual construction of the building is expected to begin in early September for completion by the end of August next year.

During the construction of the new complex, the existing stalls will be moved to a nearby temporary market at the junction of Shanghai Street and Mong Kok Road. The temporary market is due for completion later this month.

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YAU MA TEI FIRE STATION OPENED

Mr. Chan Yam-tong, Chairman of Yau Ma Tei Kaifong Welfare Association, this (Saturday) morning officially opened Yau Ma Tei Fire Station, situated in Waterloo Road.

Mr. Chan was welcomed by the Deputy Director of Fire Services, Mr. Frederick Watson, and the Chief Fire Officer, Kowloon, Mr. Herbert Hutchins.

In a short speech, he referred to the close relations between the public and the Fire Services and to the difficulties in fighting fires due to the large population and the number of multi-storey buildings.

"These add extra responsibilities to Firemen," said Mr. Chan. "You are no doubt aware that the Hong Kong Fire Services Department is equipped to the highest standards and is known as one of the best in the world."

After unveiling a commemorative plaque, Mr. Chan and other guests watched a lion dance by the New Territories Lion Dancing Team and also inspected equipment and toured the newly opened premises.

The station, which cost approximately \$1.5 million to build, has a staff of 37 operating two shifts. There are four appliances. The number of people living in the area served by the station is 220,000. Included in the building are Officers' and Rank and File quarters.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the opening ceremony will be boxed for collection later today.

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WATERWORKS INSPECTOR RETIRING

Mr. Thomas Barker, a Waterworks Inspector of the Public Works Department, will be retiring shortly after more than 11 years of service.

To mark his retirement, the Director of Water Supplies, Mr. Bill Knight, will present him with a gift on behalf of his colleagues at a ceremony to be held on Monday (March 11).

Mr. Barker first joined the Waterworks Office in 1963 as a Waterworks Inspector II. He was promoted to his present position of Inspector I a year later.

Note to Editors: The presentation ceremony will be held at 4.45 p.m. on Monday in the P.W.D. Conference Room, 21st floor, Murray Building, Garden Road. Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the occasion.

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ROAD CLOSURE

Motorists are advised that the two slip roads at the junction of Ching Cheung Road and Castle Peak Road in Kowloon will be closed to all vehicular traffic as from Monday (March 11).

The closure is to facilitate the re-construction of the road pavements. Traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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DISABLED IN CHARITY WALK

Some 28 disabled residents living in the Social Welfare Department's Rehabilitation Center in Aberdeen will participate tomorrow (Sunday) in the Circle Walk organised by the Community Chest to take place on Hong Kong Island.

The participants comprise 17 physically disabled, including ten in wheelchairs, seven mentally retarded, and four deaf. Three of the participants are women.

Fifteen of the walkers are being sponsored by the Hongkong Round Table No. 5.

The walk will start off from Government Stadium at Soa Kong Po at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Also taking part will be Mr. Kenneth Topley, Director of Social Welfare, and some 200 staff of the department.

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MR. BEDFORD RESIGNING FROM I.C.A.C.

Mr. Trevor Bedford, the Director of the Corruption Prevention Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption is to resign from the public service.

He is to take up an appointment with the Hong Kong Land Company later in the year.

Commenting on Mr. Bedford's decision to leave the government Mr. Jack Cater, Commissioner Against Corruption said: "I am naturally very sorry to lose the services of such an experienced administrator as Mr. Bedford. He has made a considerable contribution to the planning and launching of the Commission. It is vital that we should maintain the impetus on his side of the work of the Commission and we hope to appoint a successor to Mr. Bedford in the near future."

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SUNDAY DIB

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies will be available for collection at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow from the G.I.S. Press room, 6th floor, Beaconsfield House.

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