



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, September 16, 1973

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AN "OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD"

Dr. Choa Defends Freedom Of Speech At AMS Passing Out Parade

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, today defended Hong Kong's democratic system of government which allowed every institution or unit of the Medical and Health Department to be subject to public criticism.

"This is a very good phenomenon which shows that we have freedom of speech. This is a very special privilege which we should value," he said.

He was speaking as Controller of the Auxiliary Medical Service at a passing out parade at the end of a foot-drill instructor course examination. Fifty-three candidates had sat, 35 passed, and 17 qualified as instructors. He described the results as "very satisfactory," and he congratulated them all.

Dr. Choa defined constructive criticism as a device which would help the AMS to improve its working efficiency and administrative machinery. The Service welcomed it, and were glad to accept it.

But when the AMS, or the Medical and Health Department, was criticised for no valid reason at all, "although we may feel bad about it, we should be patient and keep cool."

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He told the recruits that when they went about their business, they must be sure to try their best to fulfil their task.

He reminded them that when they braved typhoons, rainstorms and other difficult conditions to help take care of casualty cases, they might not get any special mention or praise afterwards -- but their comrades and he would always remember their "exemplary efforts in the Kotewall Road, Dainaru and Lantao disasters, among others."

On the other hand, if they made a slip -- no matter how small -- they might immediately come under fire. For this reason, he hoped all AMS members would always be on the alert.

He concluded: "While I do not want you to become complacent should you get a pat on your shoulder, I would also urge you not to be demoralised by adverse criticism. This is our occupational hazard. We would be much worse off without any freedom of speech at all."

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LAST GOVERNMENT LOTTERY THIS YEAR

Tickets for the seventh and last government lottery of 1973 are now on sale at \$2 each.

This will be the last opportunity this year for members of the public to win a considerable cash prize and at the same time make a small contribution to charity by buying tickets.

There will be a total of 57 prizes comprising one first prize, one second prize, five third prizes and 50 special prizes.

The first prize will make up 40 per cent of the total proceeds, and the second prize 10 per cent. Each of the five third prizes amount to one per cent of the total proceeds while the other 50 special prizes amount to 0.1 per cent each.

Winning numbers will be drawn at 10 p.m. on October 6 in R.T.V. Television House, Broadcast Drive.

Tickets can be obtained at all Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club selling booths and at the Hong Kong and Yaumati ferry piers. They are also available at about 280 banks as well as two money changers.

All prizes of this lottery must be claimed before October 8, 1975.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.