



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PWD ADOPTS NEW PRISON CELL DESIGN .....	1
OVER 1,000 NEW PLACES PROVIDED IN SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES IN HOUSING ESTATES .....	3
SCHOOLS URGED TO PLACE LESS EMPHASIS ON TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS .....	5
COMPANY REGISTRY FEES TO BE REVISED .....	6

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 1 -

P.W.D. DESIGNS PRISONS WITHOUT BARS

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INTRODUCING A NEW FEATURE IN THE DESIGN OF PRISONS WHICH WILL OFFER GREATER SECURITY -- WITHOUT THE USE OF BARS ON WINDOWS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, AT A GRADUATION PARADE FOR 78 PRISON OFFICERS AT STANLEY.

THE FIRST PENAL INSTITUTION IN THE URBAN AREAS TO FEATURE THE NEW SYSTEM, HE SAID, WOULD BE THE KOWLOON RECEPTION CENTRE AT LAI CHI KOK WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR TO HOUSE 980 INMATES.

AMONG THE NEW INNOVATIONS INCORPORATED IN THE SCHEME WAS A SPECIAL CELL DESIGN IN WHICH +ISLANDS+ OF CELLS WERE SITED IN THE CENTRE OF EACH FLOOR WITH A PASSAGEWAY ALL ROUND BETWEEN THE CELLS AND THE EXTERNAL WALLS.

+THUS PRISONERS, WHILE RECEIVING THE BENEFIT OF LIGHT AND AIR FROM WINDOWS, HAVE NO DIRECT ACCESS TO THEM. BARS ACROSS WINDOWS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED, SECURITY BEING ACHIEVED BY THE DESIGN OF THE WINDOWS THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

EACH OF THE +ISLANDS+ OF CELLS WOULD BE DIVIDED BY A SERVICE PASSAGE WHICH WOULD HOUSE ALL BUILDING SERVICES SO THAT FAULTS IN THESE COULD BE ATTENDED TO WITHOUT THE NEED TO EVACUATE THE CELLS, HE ADDED.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE KOWLOON RECEPTION CENTRE HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY SITED IN THE URBAN AREA IN ORDER TO PERMIT THOSE HELD ON REMAND TO HAVE EASIER ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL AND TO FACILITATE VISITS BY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

+ADEQUATE VISITING FACILITIES ARE IMPORTANT AND ALL NEW INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED WITH THIS IN MIND,+ HE SAID. VISITING FACILITIES IN EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS WERE ALSO BEING IMPROVED.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE PAST YEARS HAD SEEN MANY CHANGES IN THE CONCEPT OF PRISON DESIGN AND TO KEEP ABREAST OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS P.W.D. STAFF HAD VISITED AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SEE AND DISCUSS THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES THERE.

THERE WERE STILL A FEW INSTITUTIONS IN OLD BUILDINGS DESIGNED SOME TIME AGO WHEN HONG KONG'S OVERALL POPULATION AND ITS PRISON POPULATION WAS MUCH SMALLER, BUT THE OVERCROWDED SITUATION WAS BEING REMEDIED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 2 -

A NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS WERE ALREADY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE P.W.D. ON BEHALF OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING A NEW CENTRE AT LAI KING WITH STAFF QUARTERS AND ROOM FOR 260 INMATES WHICH WOULD REPLACE THE FORMER STANLEY TRAINING CENTRE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION A NEW MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON AT SHEK PIK FOR 480 INMATES HAD BEEN APPROVED AND SHOULD BE READY IN 1980.

MR. MCDONALD SAID HE ALSO HOPED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL IN THE COMING MONTHS TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF QUARTERS AT SHA TSUI FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE, AND THE REBUILDING OF STANLEY PRISON.

MR. MCDONALD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO CONSIDERING EXPANDING ITS INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES FOR HELPING PRISONERS TO LEARN NEW SKILLS.

IN ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID, PRISONERS WERE ALREADY MAKING FIBRE GLASS FURNITURE FOR THEIR CENTRE AS PART OF A +SELF-HELP+ SCHEME.

HE SAID INDUSTRIAL TRAINING OF PRISONERS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE REHABILITATION PROCESS, AND INVOLVED MANY DIFFERENT TRADES, INCLUDING TAILORING, SILK-SCREENING, PRINTING, SHOE-MAKING, CARPENTRY, LAUNDERING, METAL WORK, RATTAN AND BAMBOO WARE, AS WELL AS FIBRE GLASS WORK.

MR. MCDONALD CONGRATULATED THE GRADUATING OFFICERS FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGH STANDARD REQUIRED OF THEIR PROFESSION WITH ITS WIDE-RANGING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND URGED THEM TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH MORALE WITHIN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 3 -

NEW PLACES IN SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES

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AT LEAST 1,094 NEW PLACES IN SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR.

SOME 194 PLACES ARE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH EXPANSION OF SUBVENTED CENTRES NOW ALREADY OFFERING SUCH SERVICES, ANOTHER 900 PLACES WILL BE CREATED IN CENTRES WHICH ARE TO OPEN THEIR DOORS IN THE COMING YEAR.

TWO OF THE NEW CENTRES ARE LOCATED IN KWAI SHING ESTATE. OTHERS ARE IN OI MAN, TAI HING, PAK TIN, CHEUNG CHING, LAI KING AND LAU FOU SHAN.

FOR THOSE VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CHILD CARE WORK, PREMISES SPECIALLY RESERVED FOR NURSERIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT SOME EXISTING HOUSING ESTATES AND THOSE SOON TO BE COMPLETED.

THEY ARE AT LAI YIU, SHEK LEI, SAU MAU PING, TAI HING, CHEUNG CHING, PAK TIN, SHEK KIP MEI (RE-DEVELOPMENT) AND SHUN LEE TSUEN ESTATES.

AGENCIES WHO WANT TO EXTEND THEIR SERVICE TO THESE PLACES CAN ASK FOR DETAILS FROM THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT TWO MONTHS LEFT FOR EXISTING CHILD CARE CENTRES TO REGISTER WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IF THEY WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE PERIOD OF GRACE ALLOWED FOR MEETING THE NEW STANDARDS.

BEFORE MAY 31 THEY CAN STILL REGISTER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON SATISFYING CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS. THEY WILL THEN BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO BRING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT UP TO THE REQUIRED FULL STANDARDS.

BY THE END OF THIS MONTH (MARCH), THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A TOTAL OF 234 APPLICATION FORMS TO PROSPECTIVE CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATORS. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS WERE AT THAT TIME PROCESSING 164 APPLICATIONS.

OF THE 164 APPLICANTS, 36 HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED WITH CERTIFICATES BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, 24 BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND 85 BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. NINETEEN HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 4 -

ALL HAVE TO BE ISSUED WITH FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES IN ADDITION TO CERTIFICATES OF BUILDING SAFETY BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, OR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN THE CASE OF THOSE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, BEFORE THEY ARE CONSIDERED FOR FINAL REGISTRATION BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

+THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE BEING LOOKED AFTER IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN,+ SAID MISS NANCY CHOW, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE.

+BEFORE A FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PREMISES INTENDED TO BE USED AS A CHILD CARE CENTRE MUST NOT ONLY ITSELF BE FIRE SAFE, ITS NEIGHBOURS ALSO MUST NOT BE OF HIGH FIRE RISK, SUCH AS RESTAURANTS, WORKSHOPS AND DANGEROUS GOODS STORES,+ SHE SAID.

MISS CHOW CALLED ON ALL EXISTING CHILD CARE CENTRE OPERATORS WHO INTEND TO BRING UP THEIR STANDARDS BUT WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO PUT IN THEIR APPLICATION WITHOUT DELAY.

IF THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES THEY CAN ASK FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AT 21, HOSPITAL ROAD IN SAI YING POON.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 5 -

LESS EMPHASIS ON TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

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SCHOOLS SHOULD PLACE LESS EMPHASIS ON TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS AND INSTEAD SHOULD SATISFY PUPILS' NEEDS BY FINDING OUT THEIR ABILITIES AND DEVELOPING THEM, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PROFESSIONAL), MR. HO NGA-MING SAID THIS MORNING WHEN HE DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE CONFERENCE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION AT THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO ABOUT 450 PARTICIPANTS, MR. HO SAID SUCH AN ATTITUDE IMPLIED A REDUCTION IN THE QUANTITY OF ORAL TEACHING AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TEACHER INTO A GUIDE AND FRIEND.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE ORGANISATION OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE WAS THAT THE SCHOOL MUST REMEMBER THAT EDUCATION WAS AN UNENDING PROCESS.

+SCHOOL LIFE IS MERELY ONE PART OF THE PUPIL'S LIFE AND WHEN HE LEAVES SCHOOL EDUCATION WILL NOT CEASE. THE SCHOOL MUST THEREFORE FIT IN WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THE PUPILS, MUST BEAR IN MIND THE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC FEATURES OF THE COMMUNITY, AND MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE PUPILS DO NOT FEEL CUT OFF FROM THE LIFE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD WHEN THEY ARE ENGAGED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

+THE SCHOOL MUST BE MERELY ONE PART OF THE PUPIL'S WORLD, AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD MUST BE VERY MUCH MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH SCHOOL. BUT BEYOND THIS EACH PUPIL MUST BE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH A SET OF ABIDING INTERESTS, DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE EDUCATION WHICH HAS BEEN BEGUN AT SCHOOL AND GENUINELY INTERESTED IN AND AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND HIM, + THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID.

TURNING TO PRIMARY EDUCATION, MR. HO SAID THAT PART OF THE TEACHERS' TASK WAS TO DISCOVER, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WHAT EXPERIENCES THE CHILDREN HAD IN PRE-SCHOOL YEARS AND WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THEIR EXPERIENCES IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL HOURS.

HE ADDED : +THEY WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE WITHIN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT A WAY OF LIVING THAT WILL SUPPLEMENT THESE EXPERIENCES AND WILL ENSURE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL CAPACITY, THE ACQUISITION OF SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE THE CHILDREN FIND NECESSARY AT THE STAGE TO WHICH THEY HAVE DEVELOPED, AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT AS MEMBERS OF A GROWING COMMUNITY. +

SPEAKING ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TEACHERS, MR. HO POINTED OUT THAT THEY WERE AT THE GRASS-ROOT LEVEL OF THE SYSTEM.

+IN SPREADING AND EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW IDEAS AND APPROACHES THEY HAVE AN INDISPENSABLE PART TO PLAY IN ORDER TO FULFIL THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL, + HE SAID.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1977

- 6 -

THE INITIATIVE AND ENERGY OF SCHOOL HEADS AND THEIR STAFF WERE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS.

+AIMS, METHODS AND ATTITUDES TO EDUCATION, TO BE OF REAL WORTH, ARE ALWAYS IN COURSE OF EVOLUTION AND COMPARATIVE VALUES ARE CONTINUALLY CHANGING,+ MR. HO SAID.

THE AIM OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP TO THE FULL THE POTENTIALITIES OF EVERY CHILD, IN ACCORD ALWAYS WITH THE GENERAL GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

+TO MY MIND,+ MR. HO SAID, +THE WIDER ENDS BEFORE US CANNOT BE REACHED WITHOUT DEVELOPING IN THE CHILDREN CERTAIN GENERAL ATTRIBUTES - BASIC SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES AND HABITS.+

WITHOUT BASIC SKILLS CHILDREN WOULD LACK THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR FURTHER EDUCATION AND THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN LIFE.

WITH AND THROUGH KNOWLEDGE CHILDREN WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH DECISIONS AND SOLVE PROBLEMS.

MR. HO SAID THAT AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP= RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS, BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS OF OTHERS= AND THE ABILITY TO APPRAISE OLD AND NEW IDEAS WERE AMONG THE ATTRIBUTES WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL TO A PREPARATION FOR LIVING A FULL AND USEFUL LIFE.

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#### COMPANIES REGISTRY REVISES OUTDATED FEES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMPLETED A REVISION OF VARIOUS OUTDATED FEES LEVIED BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY.

THE NEW FEES UNDER THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES INCORPORATION ORDINANCE WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, WHEREAS THE INCREASED FEES UNDER THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE AND THE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AMENDMENT ORDINANCE ~~WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 1.~~

ANNOUNCING THE PROPOSED INCREASES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID SOME OF THESE FEES ~~HAD~~ NOT BEEN CHANGED FOR MANY YEARS AND THE EXERCISE WAS AIMED AT BRINGING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH PRESENT DAY VALUES.

HE SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE THERE HAD BEEN NO REVISION OF FEES SINCE 1955.

FULL DETAILS OF THE NEW FEES AND CHARGES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE SHORTLY.

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