



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME WILL ENSURE HAPPY AND SECURE RETIREMENT	1
DOWNPOUR AFFECTS BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	1
BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING LOWERED	3
APPLICATION FOR GRANT AND ALLOWANCE FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS	3
PREVENTION AGAINST CHOLERA	4
DELEGATES AT MANILA REHABILITATION CONFERENCE	5
POSTER ON BEWARE OF IMPOSTERS	5
CONTESTS TO PROMOTE HISTORICAL HERITAGE	6

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME WILL ENSURE
HAPPY AND SECURE RETIREMENT

* * * * *

THE MAIN THRUST OF THE PROPOSED OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME (OPS) IS TO ENSURE A HAPPY AND SECURE RETIREMENT FOR THE ELDERLY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, SAID TONIGHT (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE LIONS CLUB DISTRICT 303, MISS CHOW SAID THE SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE IMMEDIATE CASH BENEFITS TO ALL ELIGIBLE CITIZENS AGED 65 AND OVER AND WHO HAD LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS.

THE SCHEME, SHE BELIEVES, WOULD BEST MEET AND SUIT THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE INCLUDING HOUSEWIVES, LOW INCOME WORKERS AND RETIREES.

DURING THEIR WORKING YEARS, THESE PEOPLE HAVE WILLINGLY CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS TO SOCIETY AND IN RECOGNITION OF THIS, MISS CHOW SAID A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY SUCH AS HONG KONG COULD WELL AFFORD TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY LEAD A DIGNIFIED LIFE IN THEIR OLD AGE.

"AND, AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, TAKING CARE OF OUR ELDERLY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION."

IN STRESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE SCHEME, MISS CHOW POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO AN ANNUAL CASH CONTRIBUTION OF ABOUT 30 PER CENT, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD FORGO TAXES ON EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TUNE OF SOMETHING LIKE \$0.8 BILLION A YEAR.

FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH THE PROPOSED SCHEME WITH A START-UP FUND OF \$10 BILLION.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEAR SOME 35 PER CENT TO 40 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THE OPS," SHE SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, SHE ALSO REFERRED TO PROJECTIONS BY CONSULTANTS WHICH SHOWED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION RATE OF 1.5 PER CENT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE LEVEL OF BENEFITS PROPOSED WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

MISS CHOW ALSO CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE LIONS CLUB TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED SCHEME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DOWNPOUR AFFECTS BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

* * * * *

BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUOUS DOWNPOUR OVERNIGHT, THE BLACK RAIN STORM WARNING WAS HOISTED AT 5.50 AM THIS MORNING (SATURDAY), AFFECTING NORMAL BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ANNOUNCED THAT BANKS WOULD BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THERE WOULD BE NO SITTINGS IN ALL HONG KONG COURTS TODAY. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE DUE TO ATTEND COURTS SHOULD DO SO AT 9.30 AM ON MONDAY.

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IMMIGRATION SERVICES AT HEADQUARTERS, BRANCH OFFICES, REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES AND BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE REGISTRIES HAVE BEEN TEMPORARY SUSPENDED.

IF THE BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING IS CANCELLED LATER IN THE DAY, SERVICES AT THE MARRIAGE REGISTRIES WILL BE RESUMED TWO HOURS THEREAFTER.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED THAT ALL GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS AND OTHER DAY CLINICS HAD BEEN CLOSED EXCEPT SIX METHALDONE CLINICS.

SERVICES AT ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES, DAY REHABILITATION AND ELDERLY SERVICES CENTRES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED 29 TEMPORARY SHELTERS AND 63 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ADMITTED SO FAR TODAY.

BETWEEN 4 AM AND 6 AM TODAY MORE THAN 100 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED OVER HONG KONG ISLAND. DURING THE PAST 36 HOURS, OVER 400 MM WERE RECORDED OVER THE TERRITORY.

THERE WERE 21 CASES OF FLOODING REPORTED BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 8AM TODAY IN ADDITION TO THE 336 CASES RECORDED YESTERDAY, MAKING A TOTAL OF 357 CASES.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 63 LANDSLIPS SINCE 3 AM YESTERDAY (FRIDAY). ONLY ONE WAS RECORDED THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING AT LOWER SAU MAU PING TSAI VILLAGE WHERE A RETAINING WALL COLLAPSED.

A NUMBER OF ROADS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS, CAUSING EITHER COMPLETE OR PARTIAL CLOSURE AND DIVERSION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTS SERVICES.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, ONE LANE AT MAGAZINE GAP ROAD JUNCTION HAS BEEN OPENED; VICTORIA ROAD NEAR GOVERNMENT KENNEL IS USED FOR LONE-LANE TWO-WAY OPERATIONS; POK FU LAM ROAD NEAR POKFIELD ROAD HAS BEEN MADE TWO WAY-TWO LANE OPERATION AND A KUNG NGAM ROAD OUTSIDE MING WAH BUILDING HAS BEEN CLOSED.

ON KOWLOON SIDE, PING CHI STREET, A SLIP ROAD OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD OUTSIDE TVB AND HAU MAN STREET IN OI MAN ESTATE HAVE BEEN CLOSED.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR GREENVIEW TERRACE AND SAI SHA ROAD NEAR KEI LING HAR ARE BOTH ON ONE-WAY TWO-LANE OPERATION. LAU FAU SHAN DEEP BAY ROAD AND KWI FUK ROAD ARE BOTH CLOSED.

BLACK RAINSTORM WARNING LOWERED

* * * * *

THE BLACK RAIN STORM WARNING WHICH HAD BEEN HOISTED SINCE 5.50 AM TODAY (SATURDAY) WAS LOWERED AT 10.50 AM FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WEATHER CONDITION.

THE FLOOD WARNING WAS ALSO LOWERED AT 12.15 PM. SINCE THE HOISTING OF THE FLOOD WARNING AT 3 AM YESTERDAY (FRIDAY), A TOTAL OF 378 CASES OF FLOODING HAVE BEEN REPORTED, WITH 42 OF THEM RECORDED BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 11 AM TODAY.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 82 LANDSLIP CASES SINCE 3 PM YESTERDAY (FRIDAY) TILL NOON TODAY.

MARRIAGE SERVICE AT TSIM SHA TSUI MARRIAGE REGISTRY AND COTTON TREE DRIVE MARRIAGE REGISTRY WILL RESUME NORMAL AT 2 PM, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE 30 TEMPORARY SHELTERS OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OPENED FOR PEOPLE IN NEED ARE ACCOMMODATING 56 PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLICATION FOR GRANT AND ALLOWANCE FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS

* * * * *

APPLICATION FOR CAPITAL GRANT AND EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE UNDER THE REVISED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME SHOULD BE MADE BY DECEMBER 31, 1994, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THESE APPLICATIONS WOULD COVER ALL EXPANDED PARTS OF PROHIBITION AREAS 3-9 AND 9A, CONTROL AREAS 10, 12, 13 AND 14, AND RESTRICTION AREAS 10R, 11R, PART OF 13R AND 14R.

THE AREAS COVERED INCLUDE NEW TOWNS, PART OF LANTAU ISLAND, PART OF OUTLYING ISLANDS, UPPER SHAM CHUN (SHENZHEN) RIVER AREA, LIU TO VILLAGE AND ENVIRONS, TAI LAM CHUNG, RIVER INDUS AREA, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR EDDIE LUI SAID: "LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THESE AREAS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE SCHEME ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

"THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS CAN APPLY FOR CAPITAL GRANTS AND LOW INTEREST LOAN TO COVER THE COST OF POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT, WHILE THOSE WHO PREFER TO CEASE BUSINESS CAN APPLY FOR AN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE.

"BOTH FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN INCREASED RECENTLY," MR LUI SAID.

LETTERS INVITING FARMERS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN SENT. AFFECTED FARMERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE LETTERS SHOULD CONTACT EPD'S LOCAL CONTROL OFFICE (TERRITORY NORTH) ON TEL 685 1111.

/MR LUI

MR LUI ALSO REMINDED LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THESE AREAS TO RETAIN RELEVANT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR FARMING ACTIVITIES (FOR EXAMPLE, RECEIPTS FOR PURCHASE OF FEEDSTUFF OR INVOICES FOR SALE OF LIVESTOCK) IF THEY WISH TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

DETAILED PLANS OF THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LAND REGISTRY AND THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL CONTROL OFFICES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

- - - - 0 - - - -
PREVENTION AGAINST CHOLERA

* * * * *

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE VIGILANT ON THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA IN THE SUMMER MONTHS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES), DR CHAN WAI-MAN, SAID MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT ON THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA EVEN THOUGH NO NEW CHOLERA CASE WAS REPORTED SINCE JULY 10.

DR CHAN SAID: "FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, VIRAL HEPATITIS A, DYSENTRY, AND TYPHOID ARE COMMON IN THE SUMMER AS A RESULT OF EATING UNCLEAN OR CONTAMINATED FOOD, OR DRINKING CONTAMINATED WATER.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO PATRONISE ILLEGAL HAWKERS AND UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES AS THEIR FOOD MAY BE UNCLEAN AND MAY POSE A SERIOUS RISK TO HEALTH," SHE SAID.

DR CHAN ADVISED: "THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT CHOLERA AND OTHER GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES IS TO OBSERVE THE THREE CARDINAL RULES: FOOD, PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO KEEP AN EYE ON FOOD HYGIENE WHILE TRAVELLING ABROAD AS THEY CAN MINIMISE THE CHANCE OF CONTRACTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA AND HEPATITIS A," SHE SAID.

DR CHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD STEPPED UP THE PROVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION ON CHOLERA TO THE PUBLIC.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL GET FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTHY TRAVELLERS MESSAGES THROUGH TELEVISION AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THEY CAN ALSO DIAL THE HEALTH HOTLINE 833 0111 AND LISTEN TO A PRE-RECORDED CHINESE MINI-DRAMA MESSAGE ON CHOLERA.

HEALTH TALKS ON CHOLERA ARE ALSO PROVIDED AT MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES AND GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS.

NOTING THAT THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE IN NINE FOOD HYGIENE SEMINARS ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY THIS SUMMER, DR CHAN URGED WORKERS IN THE FOOD BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AS ADMISSION IS FREE.

ENQUIRIES FROM THE FOOD TRADE ON THE SEMINARS CAN BE MADE TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT ON TEL 787 1229.

DR CHAN SAID ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING HEALTH MESSAGES ON THE PREVENTION OF CHOLERA TO THEIR CLIENTS OR EMPLOYEES COULD CONTACT THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT ON TEL 572 1476 TO OBTAIN VIDEO AND PRINTED MATERIALS ON THE DISEASE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DELEGATES AT MANILA REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

* * * * *

A 20-MEMBER HONG KONG DELEGATION ATTENDED THE MANILA CONFERENCE "CAMPAIGN '94 ON THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS" WHICH ENDED YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, MR FIDEL V RAMOS, THE CONFERENCE AIMS TO PROMOTE THE OBSERVANCE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA FOR ACTION FOR THE DECADE.

DELEGATES FROM HONG KONG INCLUDED THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALLAN CHOW, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, MS MARIA WAN, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL (ASIA AND THE PACIFIC), MR PETER CHAN.

AT THE CONFERENCE, MR PETER CHAN AND CORE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT WITH A PUBLICATION COMMEMORATING THE LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS IN HONG KONG IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

"THE DOCUMENT TESTIFIES TO THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN ACHIEVING FULL PARTICIPATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES," THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POSTER ON BEWARE OF IMPOSTERS

* * * * *

COPIES OF POSTER ADVISING WELFARE RECIPIENTS TO BE BEWARE OF IMPOSTERS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT ALL THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S (SWD) SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS.

THE POSTER, HEADLINED "BEWARE OF IMPOSTERS! GUARD AGAINST TRAP!", HAS BEEN REPRINTED AND POSTED UP BY THE DEPARTMENT TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAD BEEN FOUND THAT ELDERLY CUSTOMERS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT COULD EASILY FALL PREY TO IMPOSTERS CLAIMING TO BE OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"WE URGE THEM TO BE ON GUARD AND BE WARY OF TRICKSTERS. THEY SHOULD CHECK FOR THE DEPARTMENTAL IDENTITY CARDS OF VISITORS WHO CLAIMED TO BE SWD STAFF," HE SAID.

/HE REITERATED

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1994

- 6 -

HE REITERATED THAT THE SERVICES IN MAKING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WERE ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE AND ANY DEMANDS FOR MONEY FROM PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE SWD STAFF SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT OR THE POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION.

"THE PUBLIC CAN CALL THE NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT OR THE SWD HOTLINE 343 2255 WHEN IN DOUBT," HE CONCLUDED.

----- 0 -----

CONTESTS TO PROMOTE HISTORICAL HERITAGE

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A SERIES OF CONTESTS TO ENHANCE AWARENESS ON THE NEED TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE IN SHA TIN DISTRICT.

ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST, THEY INCLUDE A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION, A MODEL-MAKING CONTEST AND A QUIZ.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHA TIN PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN.

ALL WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES AND TROPHIES. ENTRY IS FREE.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE CONTESTS IS AUGUST 20. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ON TEL 604 8078 EXT 33.

----- 0 -----