



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1978

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SIR DENYS CALLS FOR GREATER PREVENTION EFFORTS
AGAINST DRUG ABUSE
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, SAID TODAY THAT PREVENTION AND EDUCATION MEASURES MUST BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED IF THE DRUG PROBLEM IN HONG KONG IS TO BE ELIMINATED.

SIR DENYS WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY AT THE CONCOURSE OF THE KOWLOON RAILWAY STATION TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THREE DISTRICT CAMPAIGNS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND DISTRICT AGENCIES IN TAI PO, HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH AND WONG TAI SIN.

HE SAID CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN FIGHTING DRUGS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS THROUGH EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EXPANSION OF ADDICTION TREATMENT FACILITIES.

+HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT RELY ONLY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIAL MEASURES,+ HE CAUTIONED.

+FOR ONLY BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING ADDICTS CAN WE HOPE TO FIRST CONTAIN THE PROBLEM AND TO ELIMINATE IT IN THE END,+ HE SAID.

SIR DENYS SAID THE EXISTING PREVENTIVE METHODS SHOULD BE 'REDOUBLED' AND THIS MEANS NOT ONLY TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE EVILS OF DRUGS BUT ALSO HELP THEM IN POSITIVE WAYS TO ADAPT TO OUR HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SOCIETY.

HE OBSERVED THAT DRUG ABUSE IS A MANIFESTATION OF VARIOUS FACTORS SUCH AS POOR EDUCATION, AN UNHAPPY FAMILY LIFE, AN UNSATISFACTORY ENVIRONMENT, THE PRESSURES AND FRUSTRATIONS OF A CROWDED URBAN LIFE AND PERSONALITY WEAKNESS.

+AS LONG AS THESE FACTORS EXIST IN OUR SOCIETY, AS THEY MAY BE EXPECTED TO DO, THOSE WHO FAIL TO STAND UP TO THEM ARE LIKELY TO BE TEMPTED TO TAKE DRUGS, WHICH APPEAR TO OFFER A TEMPORARY MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM THE HARSH REALITIES OF LIFE,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE CEREMONY, SIR DENYS PRESENTED THE COLOURS TO 1,000 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB, WHO THEN SET OFF ON A SPECIAL TRAIN FOR TAI PO, CARRYING WITH THEM BANNERS, PLACARDS AND 50,000 LEAFLETS.

REINFORCED BY ABOUT 400 MORE LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE UPON ARRIVAL, THEY WENT ALL OVER THE TOWN AREAS OF TAI PO MARKET, FAN LING AND SHEUNG SHUI TO HAND OUT THE ANTI-DRUG LEAFLETS.

/THE THREE-WEEK-LONG.....

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THE THREE-WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN COMPRISES MORE THAN 60 EVENTS TO BE HELD IN THE SIX DISTRICTS OF TAI PO, I.E. TAI PO PROPER, FAN LING, SHEUNG SHUI, TA KWU LING, SHA TAU KOK AND SAI KUNG NORTH. THESE EVENTS INCLUDE EXHIBITIONS, SCHOOL COMPETITIONS, VARIETY SHOWS, STREET THEATRE SHOWS, FILM SHOWS AND A SEMINAR.

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO PROMOTE A GREATER AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM AND TO ENLIST GREATER SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY IN FIGHTING IT.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ACAN EXPANDS ITS ANNUAL ONE-DISTRICT CAMPAIGN TO THREE DISTRICTS. THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH AND WONG TAI SIN.

AN ACAN SPOKESMAN SAID IT TOOK MORE THAN FIVE MONTHS AND SCORES OF DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING RURAL COMMITTEES, KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, AREA COMMITTEES, YOUTH CENTRES, SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, TO PLAN AND ORGANISE THE CAMPAIGNS.

+WITH EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN MOUNTING SUCH CAMPAIGNS IN OTHER DISTRICTS, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CAMPAIGNS THIS YEAR WILL EFFECTIVELY SPREAD THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE ACROSS TO ONE MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE THREE DISTRICTS,+ HE SAID.

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EXHIBITION ON RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING DECLARED OPEN A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION WHICH SPELLS OUT THE ROLES OF +RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD+, THE THEME OF THE EXHIBITION.

THE EXHIBITION, ON DISPLAY AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL, IS ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION AND THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR. LEE SAID THAT PARENTS WERE THE NUCLEUS OF THE FAMILY, AND THEY WERE THE ONES WHO HAD THE CLOSEST AND MOST FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

+HOW THEY BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN IS BOUND TO HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE ON THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE SAID THAT APART FROM MAKING A LIVING IN A COMPETITIVE SOCIETY, IT WAS BY NO MEANS A SIMPLE TASK FOR PARENTS TO BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN AS A MATURED, RESPONSIBLE AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

+IT IS THEREFORE MY EXPRESS HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATIVE AND MEANINGFUL EXHIBITION COULD HELP MAKE PARENTS BETTER REALISE THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY, THUS ENABLING THEM TO LEAD A HAPPIER FAMILY LIFE,+ HE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION FORMS PART OF THE CURRENT COMMUNITY-WIDE CAMPAIGN ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WHICH AIMS AT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE AND FOSTERING HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS TO HELP FORESTALL FAMILY BREAKDOWNS AND MINIMISE SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

MR. LEE SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WAS WIDELY INTRODUCED TO THE COMMUNITY.

+THE FOCUS NOW IS ON THE CONTENTS OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION THROUGH IMPARTING RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY,+ HE SAID.

ON DISPLAY AT THE EXHIBITION ARE MATERIALS WHICH ILLUSTRATE FAMILY PLANNING, PREPARATION FOR PREGNANCY, PRE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CARE, BEHAVIORAL GUIDANCE AND STAGES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

THERE ARE ALSO EXHIBITS WHICH SHOW THE WAYS TO DESIGN BALANCED DIETS, HEALTHY RECREATIONAL PURSUITS FOR CHILDREN AS WELL AS MEASURES TO ENSURE HOME SAFETY.

AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR. LEE TOURED THE EXHIBITION WITH OTHER TWO GUESTS OF HONOURS, MRS. CHAN WONG SHUI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION, AND MR. TANG CHIU-PING, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL.

THEY WATCHED CHILDREN-HAVING FUN AT A +CHILDREN'S WONDERLAND+ AND A DEMONSTRATION ON HOW TO PROPERLY BATHE A NEW-BORN BABY. FILMS ARE ALSO SHOWN ON PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

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S.W.D. TAKES FIRST MOVE TOWARDS REGIONALISATION
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS APPOINTED FOUR SENIOR OFFICIALS AS REGIONAL OFFICERS IN ITS FIRST MOVE TOWARDS REGIONALISATION OF ITS WELFARE SERVICES.

THE REGIONALISATION, WHICH WILL BE GRADUALLY IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AIMS AT MORE EFFICIENTLY SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED AND BETTER CO-ORDINATING WELFARE SERVICES ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY APRIL NEXT YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSIST OF THE HEADQUARTERS, THE FOUR REGIONS -- HONG KONG ISLAND, EAST KOWLOON, WEST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES -- AND 11 DISTRICTS.

THE NEW SET-UP WILL SEE THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES AND OPERATIONS DECENTRALISED INTO THESE REGIONS SO AS TO PROVIDE A MORE RATIONALISED AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PRACTICALLY UNDER ONE ROOF.

APPOINTED AS HEAD OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND REGION IS MR. KWOK KA-CHI= EAST KOWLOON REGION, MR. KHOO TAI-PIN= WEST KOWLOON REGION, MR. LU YU-HUA= AND THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION, MR. HENRY AU.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT EACH OF THESE OFFICERS WOULD BE THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATOR FOR HIS REGION IN SOCIAL WELFARE MATTERS AND WOULD ACT AS THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN HIS REGION IN DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, APART FROM BEING THE +EYES AND EARS+ OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THEIR JOB, HE SAID, IS TO CO-ORDINATE ALL WELFARE SERVICES IN THE REGIONS TO SERVE THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, IMPLEMENT DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES, LIAISE WITH LOCAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND TO REFLECT CHANGING NEEDS IN THE AREAS.

THEY WILL BE ASSISTED BY STAFF OFFICERS IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF SOCIAL WORK AND WILL SUPERVISE AND ENSURE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES WITHIN THEIR REGIONS, HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THE NEWLY-APPOINTED REGIONAL OFFICERS HAVE AN IMMEDIATE TASK OF PUTTING THEIR REGIONAL ORGANISATION INTO SHAPE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE REGIONALISATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD EXPERIENCED DRAMATIC INCREASES IN BOTH STAFF AND EXPENDITURE FOR ITS EXPANDING SERVICES OVER THE PAST YEARS.

/WITH FURTHER.....

WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT PLANNED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, HE SAID, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO REORGANISE THE DEPARTMENT AND TO DECENTRALISE ITS SERVICES WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING A MORE EFFICIENT DELIVERY AND BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF SERVICES.

+THE KEY TO THIS INCREASED EFFICIENCY IS THE GROUPING OF ALL FRONT-LINE SERVICES WITHIN OUR DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE, WHEREAS AT PRESENT PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT AT FIRST REALISE HOW THE DEPARTMENT CAN HELP THEM ARE SOMETIMES AT A LOSS AS TO WHICH PARTICULAR SERVICE'S OFFICE TO GO TO.

+CLEARLY THERE IS A LOT OF SCOPE FOR SUCH A RATIONAL REORGANISATION AS THERE ARE AT PRESENT OVER 140 DIFFERENT OFFICES AND FACILITIES SCATTERED ABOUT THE PLACE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT IS ENVISAGED THAT WITH GREATER AUTONOMY ON REGIONAL LEVELS AND SERVICES BECOMING MORE LOCALITY-ORIENTATED, THE REGIONAL AND DISTRICT TEAMS WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT A MORE COHESIVE DEPARTMENTAL IDENTITY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

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MORE RECREATION AND SPORT FOR TSUEN WAN'S RURAL COMMUNITY
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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE ARE PLANNING A DISTRICT-WIDE +RURAL REACH-OUT+ PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES FOR ALL RURAL CENTRES OF POPULATION IN TSUEN WAN.

THE PROJECT -- TO BE FUNDED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD -- WOULD BE ANOTHER MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN AN INTENSIFIED SCHEME TO IMPROVE FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT'S RURAL AREAS, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES SAID TODAY AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRST CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE ON MA WAN ISLAND.

MR. HAYES SAID MANY VILLAGE COMMUNITIES HAD LONG HELPED THEMSELVES, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY RECOGNISED THAT THERE WERE INADEQUATE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN MANY RURAL VILLAGES.

/+MA WAN.....

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+MA WAN IS NO EXCEPTION AND LAST YEAR WE DECIDED TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION THERE BY BUILDING A RECREATIONAL CENTRE,+ HE SAID.

+WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN RELIEF EVERYWHERE (C.A.R.E.) AND FROM THE RURAL COMMITTEE OF MA WAN, VARIOUS NEW TERRITORIES COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.+

THE TWO-STOREY NEW CENTRE NEAR THE WATERFRONT WAS BUILT AT A COST OF \$200,000 TO PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED VENUE FOR CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND.

IN HIS ADDRESS, MR. HAYES PRAISED C.A.R.E. FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN THIS AND OTHER WORTHWHILE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL VILLAGERS.

HE SAID: +C.A.R.E. HAVE IN RECENT YEARS BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN THEIR DONATION TOWARDS RURAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT.+

THEY RENDERED MAJOR ASSISTANCE IN RE-ROOFING THE MA WAN FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE= WITH CONCRETING A FOOTBALL PITCH ON MA WAN= WITH PROVIDING A VILLAGE OFFICE FOR CHUEN LUNG= AND WITH REPAIRING THE STAIRCASES OF MOON TSAI TONG FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE.

+NOTWITHSTANDING AN ELEMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICE AND LOCAL FUNDING, IT IS PROBABLY TRUE TO STATE THAT WITHOUT THEIR ASSISTANCE, NONE OF THESE PROJECTS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

IN THE NEW CENTRE, A GREAT VARIETY OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED, INCLUDING MUSIC, CANTONESE DRAMA, LECTURES, BOOKS, CHESS AND TABLE TENNIS COMPETITIONS.

MR. HAYES NOTED THAT THE DISTRICT'S RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICE WAS CURRENTLY PROVIDING WEEKEND PROGRAMMES FOR MA WAN PEOPLE MAINLY IN THE SPORTING AND OUTDOOR FIELD.

AND NEXT YEAR IT WAS PLANNED TO PROVIDE A TEAM OF PAID COMMUNITY ORGANISERS FROM THE SHAM TSENG YOUTH CENTRE TO COME TO MA WAN CENTRE TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES OF ALL KINDS, HE ADDED.

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MORE STUDENTS PURSUE TECHNICAL EDUCATION
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THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS APPLYING FOR PLACES IN PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOLS FOR THE 1978/79 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS INCREASED BY ABOUT 24 PER CENT COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR, WHILE THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE EVENING CLASSES ROSE BY 17 PER CENT.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, NEARLY 17,000 STUDENTS APPLIED FOR JUST OVER 3,000 PLACES IN THE ELEVEN PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOLS. ABOUT 30,000 APPLIED FOR PLACES IN EVENING CLASSES IN THE FOUR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OF WHOM ABOUT 16,000 WILL BE FOUND PLACES. DETAILS REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR DAY CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY NEXT MONTH.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, MR. DANIEL WATERS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SAID: +THE HEAVY OVER-SUBSCRIPTION OF PLACES CLEARLY INDICATES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE NOW REALISE THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN INDUSTRY ON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES.+

THE ELEVEN PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOLS ARE ALL FULLY SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND OFFER A THREE-YEAR POST-PRIMARY COURSE. THEY ARE CARITAS ST. JOSEPH, CARITAS ST. GODFREY, CARITAS ST. PAUL, CARITAS ST. FRANCIS, MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS TUEN MUN, HOLY CARPENTER, HONG KONG COTTON SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION, CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA ROTARY, TANG KING PO, CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AS WELL AS BISHOP HALL MEMORIAL PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOL.

THE CURRICULUM IN PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOLS GIVES EQUAL EMPHASIS TO BOTH GENERAL AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS. THE GENERAL SUBJECTS COMPRISE ENGLISH, CHINESE, MATHEMATICS AND SOCIAL STUDIES. BASIC TECHNICAL EDUCATION INCLUDES BROAD-BASED INSTRUCTION IN AT LEAST THREE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR COMMERCIAL FIELDS. CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

WHILE SOME SCHOOLS MAY PROVIDE A STUDENT WITH A DEGREE OF SPECIALISATION IN ONE FIELD, THEY ALSO PROVIDE A BROAD KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AS A WHOLE.

MR. WATERS SAID: +PUPILS, HAVING STUDIED A CRAFT SUBJECT IN DEPTH, IN A PREVOCAIONAL SCHOOL, ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER DIRECTLY INTO THE SECOND YEAR OF AN APPRENTICESHIP AND THE SECOND YEAR OF A PART-TIME DAY COURSE AT A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

+AS A RESULT OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, ENACTED IN 1976, EMPLOYERS IN DESIGNATED TRADES ARE REQUIRED NOT ONLY TO RELEASE THEIR APPRENTICES FOR ONE DAY A WEEK TO ATTEND PART-TIME COURSES IN RELATED FIELDS IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES BUT ALSO TO PAY THEIR TUITION FEES.

+IN ADDITION, STUDENTS STUDY TWO EVENINGS A WEEK IN THEIR OWN TIME.

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+AFTER THE APPRENTICES COMPLETE A PART-TIME DAY COURSE IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE USUALLY OF TWO OR THREE YEARS' DURATION, COUPLED WITH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, THEY BECOME CRAFTSMEN.

+WE HAVE COME ACROSS MANY STRIKING EXAMPLES OF PREVOCATIONAL LEAVERS WHO HAVE DONE REALLY WELL.

+AFTER BECOMING CRAFTSMEN MANY HAVE THEN GONE ON TO TECHNICIAN LEVEL COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND HAVE LATER EVEN BEEN ADMITTED TO THE POLYTECHNIC. SOME HAVE ATTENDED COURSES AT THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AND ARE NOW TEACHING,+ MR. WATERS SAID.

HE ADDED : +WE ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS LARGELY TO THE EFFORTS OF THE BOYS THEMSELVES BUT WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT IT IS TECHNICAL EDUCATION THAT HAS GIVEN THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD DOWN WELL PAID JOBS.+

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NEW MOVE TO PUBLICISE EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON REVEALED TODAY (SATURDAY) A NEW MOVE TO ENSURE THAT ALL EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ARE AWARE OF THE MAIN POINTS OF EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION.

HE GAVE DETAILS OF THE PLAN THIS EVENING WHEN HE OPENED LABOUR EDUCATION WEEK '78 WHICH IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE INTENDED INTRODUCING LEGISLATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO MAKE IT COMPULSORY FOR A POSTER GIVING A SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION TO BE DISPLAYED IN A CONSPICUOUS POSITION IN ALL PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT.

BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES COULD THEN EASILY READ WHAT THEIR RESPECTIVE OBLIGATIONS AND ENTITLEMENTS WERE UNDER THE LAW, HE SAID. COMPULSION TO DISPLAY THE POSTER WOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

/MR. HENDERSON.....

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MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT NO LESS THAN 43 PIECES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION HAD BEEN PASSED SINCE 1976, NOT TO MENTION THE MANY OTHERS WHICH HAD BEEN ENACTED PREVIOUSLY.

HE SAID: +DESPITE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN PUBLICISING STATUTORY BENEFITS FOR WORKERS, I CAN WELL IMAGINE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THE WORKER ON THE SHOPFLOOR TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THOSE NEW OR AMENDED ITEMS OF LEGISLATION OF CONCERN TO HIM.

+BY BEING MORE WELL-INFORMED ABOUT THEIR LEGAL ENTITLEMENTS, THE CHANCES OF WORKERS BEING MISLED OR DENIED BENEFITS BY UNSCRUPULOUS OR IGNORANT EMPLOYERS WILL BE MUCH DIMINISHED. BY BEING ABLE TO ENJOY FULLER AND BETTER BENEFITS UNDER THE LAW AND THUS GAINING A FAIRER SHARE OF THE FRUITS OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY TO WHICH THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED, WORKERS WILL PARTICIPATE MORE HAPPILY IN THEIR WORK. A MORE CONTENTED WORKFORCE IS A MORE PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE. ALL THIS WILL LEAD TO GREATER INDUSTRIAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN HONG KONG.+

ON THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION, MR. HENDERSON SAID IT WAS A TIME-CONSUMING AND ARDUOUS TASK INVOLVING MANY CONSULTATIONS, DRAFTINGS, PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES.

+NO SOONER HAS THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT GIVEN A SIGH OF RELIEF AT THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF A BILL THAN IT HAS TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH ONCE AGAIN IN ORDER TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF ENFORCEMENT FOR WHICH THE BEST AID IS A WELL-INFORMED EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN EDUCATING THE WORKFORCE ABOUT THEIR ENTITLEMENTS, AND SAID THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN LABOUR EDUCATION WAS A COMPLEMENTARY ONE. THE DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY PROVIDED SPEAKERS FOR TRAINING COURSES, TALKS AND SEMINARS ORGANISED BY EMPLOYEE'S UNIONS, EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES INTERESTED IN LABOUR MATTERS.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PUBLISHED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION A LARGE NUMBER OF EXPLANATORY PAMPHLETS AND GUIDES CONCERNING LABOUR LEGISLATION WHICH WERE AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS BRANCH OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

HE ADDED: +FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE ARE KEPT OPEN DURING THE 1 TO 2 P.M. LUNCH HOUR FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES, RECORD WAGE CLAIMS AND OTHER COMPLAINTS.

+THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE ON A TRIAL BASIS AND I WILL MAKE THEM PERMANENT IF THE RESPONSE IS SHOWN TO BE GOOD.+

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APPRENTICESHIP FOR LIFT MECHANICS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO BE TRAINED AS LIFT MECHANICS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THOSE WHO WISH TO TAKE UP THE APPRENTICESHIP SHOULD APPLY TO THE TRAINING COUNCIL DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT ASIAN HOUSE, WAN CHAI.

THE DURATION OF A LIFT MECHANIC APPRENTICESHIP IS NORMALLY FOUR YEARS BUT GRADUATES OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED A FULL-TIME ONE-YEAR BASIC CRAFT COURSE MAY ENTER DIRECTLY INTO THE SECOND YEAR OF APPRENTICESHIP.

THE USUAL ENTRY REQUIREMENT IS COMPLETION OF FORM 3 SCHOOLING BUT IN SOME CASES A GENERAL EDUCATION STANDARD OF FORM 2 MAY BE ACCEPTABLE.

COMMENTING ON THE VACANCIES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MR. WARNER YEH, SAID YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR JOBS SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER JOINING THE TRADE.

HE SAID: +THERE ARE EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TRADE. A YOUNG PERSON JOINING IT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ON-THE-JOB SUCH SKILLS AS INSTALLATION, ADJUSTMENT, SERVICING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRING OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF LIFTS AND ESCALATORS. AT THE SAME TIME, AS STIPULATED UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, AN APPRENTICE IS GIVEN TIME OFF TO ATTEND A RELATED PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSE IN A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE BY THE EMPLOYER, WHO ALSO PAYS FOR THE EXPENSES.+

MR. YEH ADDED THAT THE APPRENTICE WILL BE AWARDED A CERTIFICATE BY HIS EMPLOYER WHEN HE COMPLETES THE APPRENTICESHIP, CERTIFYING THAT THE APPRENTICE HAS BECOME A COMPETENT LIFT MECHANIC AND HAS ACQUIRED THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

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CANCELLATION OF CAR PARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT 45 PARKING SPACES IN THE MURRAY BARRACKS CAR PARK IN CENTRAL WILL BE CANCELLED FROM 8 A.M. ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 25).

THE AREA WILL BE USED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS A TEMPORARY FIRE STATION TO SERVE PARTS OF WAN CHAI, CENTRAL AND THE MID-LEVELS AREAS.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE AT THE PEAK
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 25) THE SECTION OF PLANTATION ROAD BETWEEN OLD PEAK ROAD AND FINDLAY PATH AT THE PEAK WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS TO FACILITATE TELEPHONE CABLE WORK.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI, YAU MA TEI AND THE MID-LEVELS WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 25) TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN CONNECTION WORK AND LEAKAGE TEST.

IN TAI KOK TSUI, THE SUPPLY WILL BE CUT OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. ON MONDAY. THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY KA SHIN STREET, FUK CHAK STREET, LI TAK STREET, IVY STREET, TAI TSUN STREET, CHUNG WUI STREET, TAI KOK TSUI ROAD BETWEEN CHUNG WUI STREET AND KA SHIN STREET, TAI CHING STREET AND KOK CHEUNG STREET.

IN YAU MA TEI, PREMISES BOUNDED BY KANSU STREET, NATHAN ROAD, WING SING LANE, RECLAMATION STREET, PUBLIC SQUARE STREET AND CANTON ROAD INCLUDING BATTERY STREET, SHANGHAI STREET, TEMPLE STREET AND MARKET STREET WILL HAVE NO WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT MONDAY TO 6 A.M. ON TUESDAY.

IN THE MID-LEVELS, PREMISES AT NOS. 62-70 AND 69F-95E ROBINSON ROAD AND THOSE AT SEYMOUR TERRACE WILL HAVE NO WATER FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT MONDAY TO 6 A.M. ON TUESDAY.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1978

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS DANGEROUS TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN THE RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF FIRING PRACTICE.

THE PRACTICE TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
SEPTEMBER 25 (MONDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 26 (TUESDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 27 (WEDNESDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 28 (THURSDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 29 (FRIDAY)	8 A.M. - 6 P.M.

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