



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1994

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PROPER LABELLING FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD REQUIRED

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS MUST PROPERLY LABEL OR MARK PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED, AS STIPULATED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELING) REGULATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT OFFENDERS WERE SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS UPON CONVICTION.

THE REMINDER WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING TWO COURT CASES IN WHICH TWO FOOD SHOP OPERATORS IN TSUEN WAN AND CENTRAL WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$4,000 AFTER THEY PLEADED GUILTY OF SELLING IMPROPERLY LABELED PREPACKAGED MOONCAKE AND COCONUT SABRE.

THE COURT WAS TOLD THAT THE FOOD SOLD BY THE TWO DEFENDANTS WERE NOT MARKED OR LABELED WITH THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD, INDICATION OF ITS MINIMUM DURABILITY, NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH AS REQUIRED BY THE REGULATIONS.

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FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR GRAVE-SWEEPERS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA CARE IN HANDLING FIRE WHEN THEY VISIT THEIR ANCESTRAL GRAVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD.

THE DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER, MR CHAN PING-KWONG, SAID:

"IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL HIGH FIRE RISK DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT WILL MOBILISE 18 TEAMS OF 162 FIRE FIGHTERS ON STAND-BY DUTIES ROUND-THE-CLOCK TO SAFEGUARD COUNTRY PARK PLANTATIONS."

SIX TEAMS OF 120 CIVIL AID SERVICES PERSONNEL WILL JOIN THE AFD FIRE FIGHTERS.

MR CHAN SAID MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY HUMAN NEGLIGENCE AND COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF PEOPLE OBSERVED A FEW SIMPLE RULES.

THESE RULES ARE:

* BURN WORSHIPPING ITEMS IN METAL CONTAINERS;

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* DO NOT LEAVE LIGHTED CANDLES, JOSS ARTICLES AND PAPERS UNATTENDED; AND

* MAKE SURE ALL BURNING ITEMS ARE EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING GRAVE SITES.

MR CHAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE METAL CONTAINERS AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS INSIDE COUNTRY PARK AREAS FOR THEIR USE.

HE ALSO REMINDED PICNICKERS TO LIGHT FIRES ONLY AT DESIGNATED BARBECUE SITES.

"ILLEGAL LIGHTING OF FIRES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE ADDED.

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ADVANCED MOTORING MEANS HIGH SKILL WITH SAFETY

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ADVANCED MOTORING MEANS HIGH SKILL WITH SAFETY, NOT HIGH SKILL TO BE FAST, OR TO SHOW OFF, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FINAL ROUNDS OF COMPETITIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TROPHY SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION HELD AT THE VICTORIA PARK, MR HUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT, REGULARISE THE POOR DRIVING STYLE OF SOME DRIVERS OF LARGE VEHICLES BY DRIVING TOO CLOSE AND POSING A THREAT TO OTHER VEHICLES.

HE SAID THE COMPETITION, WHICH AIMED AT SAFE AND COMFORTABLE DRIVING, WAS EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL TO PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS.

"WE HAVE ABOUT 30,000 TAXI DRIVERS DRIVING ON THE ROADS CARRYING ABOUT 1.2 MILLION PASSENGERS EACH DAY. SINCE PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS SPEND LONGER HOURS DRIVING ON THE ROADS AND USE MORE ROAD SPACE, THEY NATURALLY HAVE A BIGGER PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ROAD SAFETY ASPECT," MR HUI SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN RECENT MONTHS.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS. MANY OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ARE RELATED TO RUNNING RED LIGHTS OR SPEEDING. THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL JOIN HANDS WITH THE POLICE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST DRIVERS WHO DISREGARD SPEED LIMITS AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS," HE ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TROPHY SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS HONG KONG AND SPONSORED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPETITION WAS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS: PRIVATE CAR, TAXI, LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE AND LIGHT BUS.

TEN FINALISTS FROM EACH SECTION WERE SELECTED FROM THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS HELD IN EARLY MARCH TO COMPETE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTION.

WINNERS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH TROPHIES AND PRIZES AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN MAY.

TEACHING HAS ITS REWARDS

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A CAREER IN TEACHING CAN AT TIMES BE DULL AND FRUSTRATING, BUT TO MANY LIKE PREVOCATIONAL TEACHER CHU MAN-YEE, IT OFFERS SUFFICIENT "REWARDS" FOR HER TO DEVOTE HER TIME AND EFFORT.

A FORMER PERSONAL SECRETARY, MS CHU HAS NOW SPENT SEVEN YEARS TEACHING IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOLS.

"TEACHING IN AN ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE IS LITERALLY RELAXING.

"THE STUDENTS ARE GROWN-UPS AND YOU GET ALONG WITH THEM LIKE FRIENDS.

"FOR A SECONDARY OR PRIVATE SCHOOL, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO PERFORM AS A TEACHER. YOU NEED TO EARN RESPECT AND ACCEPTANCE FROM YOUR STUDENTS SO THEY WILL LEARN WHAT YOU TEACH," SHE SAID.

"IN ANY CASE, YOU NEED TO ADAPT TO THE TEACHING ENVIRONMENT AND TO YOUR NEW STUDENTS AT THE START OF EVERY SCHOOL YEAR. THIS REQUIRES SOME EFFORT AND IT IS NOT UNTIL THE THIRD MONTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR THAT YOU CAN HAVE GREATER CONFIDENCE WALKING INTO THE CLASSROOM."

MS CHU ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE MANY THINGS IN HER TEACHING CAREER THAT SHE DID NOT LIKE.

"AS A TEACHER, YOU HAVE TO COPE WITH PRESSURE FROM STUDENTS AND FROM YOURSELF," SHE SAID.

"AS A NEW TEACHER, YOU MUST SPEND PLENTY OF TIME PREPARING THE LECTURES. YOU MAY ALSO NEED TO TACKLE WORRIES OVER HOW YOU WILL COME ACROSS IN CLASS, WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN TAME NAUGHTY STUDENTS OR WHETHER THE CLASS CAN LEARN AS QUICKLY AS YOU WISH THEM TO."

THERE IS ALSO PRESSURE FROM STUDENTS.

"SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, AT 11 TO 16 YEARS OF AGE, ARE VERY YOUNG AND CAN GET QUITE EMOTIONAL FROM UNHAPPY THINGS THEY ENCOUNTER OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

"SOMETIMES THEY MESSED THINGS UP IN FRONT OF A TEACHER OR THE WHOLE CLASS WITHOUT REALISING WHAT THEY ARE DOING. A TEACHER HAS TO ACCEPT HER STUDENTS AND HANDLE THE SITUATION AS SUCH."

TWO YEARS AFTER SHE ENGAGED AS A TEACHER, MS CHU ASK HERSELF WHETHER SHE WANTED TO CONTINUE TEACHING.

"I FOUND THAT I LIKE TEACHING. EVERY MORNING, I PULLED MYSELF OUT OF BED AND HURRIED TO SCHOOL ON CROWDED BUSES.

"BUT ONCE I ARRIVED IN SCHOOL, I HEARD GREETINGS LIKE 'GOOD MORNING, MADAM' OR 'HOW ARE YOU, MISS CHU?' YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE WHAT THESE GREETINGS AND SMILES DID TO BRIGHTEN UP THE DAY.

"AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER WHEN STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR EXAMINATION RESULTS, IT IS SATISFYING TO WATCH THE CONTENTED LOOK ON THEIR FACE, KNOWING THAT THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM IN THEIR PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE. AND IF SOME OF THEM MAKE IMPROVEMENTS, YOU SHARE THEIR HAPPINESS.

"IN A WAY, IT JUSTIFIES ALL THE HARD WORK YOU HAVE PUT INTO THE JOB OVER THE MONTHS. I THINK THESE ARE SOME OF THE 'REWARDS' FOR BEING A TEACHER."

AS TO HOW THE TEACHING CAREER COMPARES WITH HER PREVIOUS JOB, MS CHU SAID THE TWO WERE DIFFERENT IN NATURE AND DID NOT PROVIDE THE SAME LEVEL OF JOB SATISFACTION.

BUT SHE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

THE GOVERNOR PROMISES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY RAISING THE TEACHER TO STUDENT RATIO, ABOUT 620 NEW TEACHING POSTS WILL BE CREATED IN THE 1994/95 SCHOOL YEAR.

THE NUMBER DOES NOT INCLUDE REPLACEMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES RESULTING FROM TEACHER WASTAGES.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS LAUNCHED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS A LARGE-SCALE TEACHER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN.

RECRUITMENT IS BEING CONDUCTED LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS AND A TEACHER RECRUITMENT INFORMATION OFFICE IN ROOM 706 AT 405 NATHAN ROAD PROVIDES HELP TO THOSE SEEKING A TEACHING JOB.

THE RECRUITMENT DRIVE WILL OPEN THE DOOR FOR MANY TO A RESPECTIVE AND REWARDING CAREER.

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PROSECUTIONS STEPPED UP TO PROTECT WORKERS' INTEREST

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CONTINUED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS BY BRINGING MORE LABOUR LAW OFFENDERS TO COURT LAST YEAR THROUGH ITS STRINGENT PROSECUTION ACTIONS.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 7,810 SUMMONSES WERE SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT TO COURT BY THE DEPARTMENT, RESULTING IN A TOTAL FINE OF MORE THAN \$22.8 MILLION.

THIS REPRESENTS A 17.5 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WHICH HAD RECORDED 6,644 CONVICTIONS WITH FINES TALLING \$19.4 MILLION.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MR JOHN SUNG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY):

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"WE ARE DETERMINED TO BRING OFFENDERS TO COURT BY TAKING OUT MORE PROSECUTIONS.

"MANY MORE EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR MALPRACTICES AND OUR CONTINUOUS ACTION WILL MAKE THEM TAKE A MORE SERIOUS VIEW OF THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF WORKERS," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE CONVICTION FIGURES, MR SUNG NOTED THAT ABOUT 37 PER CENT OF THE CONVICTED CASES WERE RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFENCES.

"AMONG THESE CASES, 2,926 WERE BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, WITH FINES TOTTALLING \$17 MILLION," MR SUNG SAID.

COMPARED WITH THE 2,763 CONVICTION CASES AND THE TOTAL FINE OF SOME \$14 MILLION IN 1992, IT REPRESENTED A SIX PER CENT INCREASE IN CONVICTION CASES AND A 17.6 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE TOTAL FINE.

OF THESE CASES, 749 WERE AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO FAILED TO GUARD DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY EFFECTIVELY WHILE 305 WERE RELATED TO FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXIT DOORWAYS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION.

ANOTHER 299 WERE RELATED TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE WORKMEN WITH SAFETY HELMETS AND/OR TO ENSURE THEY WEAR SUCH HELMETS WHILE AT THE SITE.

APART FROM INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFENCES, THERE WERE 4,652 CONVICTIONS OF VIOLATION OF WELFARE PROVISIONS UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCES.

THE FINES IMPOSED TOTTALLED \$4.9 MILLION.

"VIOLATIONS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS TO WORK OVERTIME OR ON REST DAYS HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR 1,263 CASES WHILE FAILURE OF EMPLOYERS TO INSURE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES OR TO GIVE THEM STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY ACCOUNTED FOR ANOTHER 1,729 CASES," MR SUNG SAID.

HE NOTED THAT OF THE REMAINING CONVICTION CASES, 197 INVOLVED BREACHES OF THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE WITH THE MAJORITY RELATED TO OPERATION OF BOILERS OR PRESSURE VESSELS WITHOUT THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF COMPETENT PERSONS.

ANOTHER 35 CASES WERE DUE TO THE FAILURE OF EMPLOYERS TO KEEP OR PRODUCE FOR INSPECTION BY LABOUR INSPECTORS EMPLOYEES' RECORDS AS REQUIRED UNDER PART IVB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.