



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ACTION STEPPED UP AGAINST LABOUR LAW BREAKERS

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF 2 240 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST PROPRIETORS OF INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WERE TAKEN OUT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

OF THE CASES HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PROSECUTIONS UNIT, 2 191 RESULTED IN CONVICTIONS, AND FINES IMPOSED BY COURTS AMOUNTED TO NEARLY \$1.4 MILLION.

THE CASES MAINLY CONCERNED THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

OFFENCES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACCOUNTED FOR 1 048 OF THE SUMMONSES. THESE RESULTED IN 1 026 CONVICTIONS WITH FINES TOTTALLING MORE THAN \$490 000.

OFFENCES RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY RESULTED IN 967 SUMMONSES WITH 946 CONVICTIONS. FINES AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$727 000.

OF THE 946 CONVICTIONS, 716 WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS, AND 230 WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THAT MOST OF THE CONVICTIONS WERE THE RESULT OF ACTION INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEES AT WORK AND PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG WORKERS.

HOWEVER, IT TOOK MORE THAN LEGISLATION TO STAMP OUT OFFENCES IN INDUSTRY AND CO-OPERATION WAS NEEDED FROM ALL CONCERNED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, HE SAID.

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NOMINATIONS BEGIN FOR 24TH TERM HEUNG YEE KUK ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS HAVE OPENED FOR THE ELECTIONS OF SPECIAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE 24TH TERM OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK - THE STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE ARE SEVEN SEATS EACH FOR THE THREE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF TAI PO (INCLUDING SHA TIN AND NORTH), YUEN LONG (INCLUDING TUEN MUN) AND SOUTHERN (COMPRISING TSUEN WAN, ISLANDS AND SAI KUNG DISTRICTS). THE NEW TERM OF OFFICE WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 1.

EACH CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY AN EX-OFFICIO COUNCILLOR AND SECONDED BY ANOTHER, BOTH OF WHOM MUST BE FROM THE SAME ELECTORAL DISTRICT AS THE CANDIDATE.

/NOMINATIONS CLOSE

NOMINATIONS CLOSE NEXT THURSDAY (APRIL 17). ALL NOMINATION FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICES BEFORE 4 PM ON THAT DATE. LATE RETURNS WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID.

ELECTIONS OF SPECIAL COUNCILLORS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 15 AT THE HEUNG YEE KUK OFFICE, 47 CUMBERLAND ROAD, KOWLOON TONG, STARTING AT 9 AM FOR TAI PO DISTRICT- 11.30 AM FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT- AND 3 PM FOR YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

NINETY-ONE ELECTORS CONSISTING OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF ALL RURAL COMMITTEES AND THE 22 NEW TERRITORIES UNOFFICIAL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD BY SECRET BALLOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEUNG YEE KUK ORDINANCE.

THE RETURNING OFFICER IS SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHO WILL BE ASSISTED BY STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, VOTING PROCEDURES WILL BE EXPLAINED BY MR AKERS-JONES, WHO WILL ANNOUNCE RESULTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VOTES HAVE BEEN CHECKED AND COUNTED.

ELECTIONS OF A CHAIRMAN, TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN AND 15 ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW TERM WILL BE HELD ON MAY 29.

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INTEREST FREE LOANS AVAILABLE TO POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ASIDE MORE THAN \$53.8 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO HELP NEEDY STUDENTS AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNIC AND APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES.

INTEREST FREE LOANS UP TO \$5 400 A YEAR ARE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING LIVING AND PERSONAL EXPENSES.

SUCH LOANS AND OUTRIGHT GRANTS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS OF BOTH UNIVERSITIES SINCE 1969. A SIMILAR SCHEME FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS AT THE THEN NEWLY OPENED POLYTECHNIC WAS INTRODUCED IN 1976.

IN SETTING UP THE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS WERE THAT:

- * NO STUDENT WHO IS OFFERED A PLACE IN THE HIGHER INSTITUTES OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT FOR LACK OF MEANS-
- * ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF NEED, NOT ACADEMIC MERIT- AND
- * THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD IN ALL CASES BE ADEQUATE TO MEET ALL REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE STUDENT, HAVING REGARD TO HIS OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

/FURTHERMORE,

FURTHERMORE, IN ORDER TO KEEP PACE WITH RISING COSTS OF LIVING, THE MAXIMUM LOAN LEVEL HAS BEEN RAISED TWICE FROM \$4 000 PREVIOUSLY TO THE PRESENT \$5 400.

REPAYMENT IS PAINLESS. LOANS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE NORMALLY REPAYABLE BY 20 EQUAL QUARTERLY INSTALMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS AFTER THEY LEAVE UNIVERSITY.

THE REPAYMENT PERIODS FOR POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS VARY FROM THREE TO FIVE YEARS MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERING LENGTH OF COURSES.

FOR STUDENTS IN POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, INTEREST FREE LOANS FIRST BECAME AVAILABLE IN 1975 AT THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE. A MORE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED LAST SEPTEMBER AND NOW THE LOANS FURTHER COVER LINGNAN COLLEGE AND SHUE YAN COLLEGE. LOANS ARE AVAILABLE UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$4 400 A YEAR FOR A STUDENT.

IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, \$8.5 MILLION IN GRANTS AND \$26 MILLION IN INTEREST FREE LOANS HAVE BEEN DISBURSED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. ANOTHER \$1.4 MILLION IN GRANTS AND \$16 MILLION IN LOANS WERE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS AT THE POLYTECHNIC.

FULL-TIME STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ARE ALSO ASSISTED IF THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING EXPENSES.

FOR THE TRAINEE TEACHERS TOO, THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INCREASED LAST SEPTEMBER, FROM \$1 600 TO \$2 000 FOR A MAINTENANCE GRANT AND FROM \$1 200 TO \$2 400 FOR AN INTEREST FREE LOAN.

SO FAR, STUDENT LOANS HAVE BENEFITED OVER 100 000 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN PURSUING HIGHER STUDIES AND OVER \$200 MILLION HAS BEEN PAID OUT TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHER STUDIES BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY.

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ROAD IN TUEN MUN TO BE WIDENED

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A SECTION OF LUNG MUN ROAD IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WILL BE WIDENED TO FORM PART OF A MAJOR ROAD LINK SERVING A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FOR OVER 60 000 RESIDENTS.

THE NEW ROAD WILL ALSO SERVE INDUSTRIAL AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON A FUTURE 34-HECTARE RECLAMATION ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TOWN, AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE POWER STATION AND CEMENT PLANT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT TAP SHEK KOK.

THE SECTION OF THE ROAD TO BE WIDENED EXTENDS SOME 1 600 METRES FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TSING WAN ROAD TO THE PAK KOK SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.

/TENDERS ARE

TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE WORK WHICH WILL START IN JUNE AND TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR NG YEE-YAM, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SAID THE WORK FORMED PART OF THE OVERALL NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

+THE CONTRACT,+ HE SAID,+ INVOLVES THE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING TWO-LANE ROAD TO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WITH A CENTRAL DIVIDER THAT WILL BE USED ALSO AS A NARROW AMENITY AREA.+

+THERE IS PROVISION FOR A FUTURE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NEW ROAD, AND TWO RETAINING WALLS WILL BE BUILT ALONG THIS ROAD SIDE, ONE AGAINST THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME AND THE OTHER ALONG A HEAVILY WOODED KNOLL WHICH IS TO BE PRESERVED AS A LANDSCAPE AREA.+

THE EXISTING UNDERGROUND STORM DRAINS WILL ALSO BE ENLARGED AND EXTENDED ALONG THE ROAD,+ MR NG ADDED.

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NEW SHA TIN LIBRARY PROVES POPULAR * * * * *

A MINI LIBRARY SPONSORED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD IS PROVING POPULAR WITH SHA TIN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

THE LIBRARY, OCCUPYING 56 SQUARE METRES ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SHAU CHUEN HOUSE IN THE CENTRE OF LEK YUEN ESTATE, OPENED FOUR WEEKS AGO. IT HAS A COLLECTION OF ABOUT 1 000 BOOKS INCLUDING REFERENCE BOOKS, AND A VARIETY OF PERIODICALS.

THE READING SEATS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED MOST OF THE TIME, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LIBRARY.

+THE RESPONSE THE LIBRARY HAS RECEIVED CONFIRMS THE NEED FOR SUCH A SERVICE IN THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BESIDES BOOKS THE LIBRARY ALSO PROVIDED A PLACE FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED A QUIET ENVIRONMENT TO STUDY.

FUNDS FOR THE LIBRARY AND BOOKS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE.

THE LIBRARY, THE SIXTH IN THE NEW TOWN, IS KNOWN AS THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION READING ROOM.

IT IS OPERATED BY TWO PAID PART-TIME SUPERVISORS. OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 5.30 PM TO 9.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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