

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Saturday, May 13, 1972

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY IN LAM TIN ESTATE

Joint Effort By Social Welfare Department And Voluntary Agencies

School children in the Lam Tin Resettlement Estate will join young people from other organizations in the area in a tree planting ceremony on Saturday, May 20.

The idea is to beautify the surroundings of the estate so as to improve living conditions generally, and help create a better image for the area as a whole.

The project is the brain child of the Lam Tin Estate Community Work Office of the Social Welfare Department, in co-operation with the Lam Tin Administrative Office of the Resettlement Department. Also associating themselves with the project are the Lam Tin Children's Centre of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association and the Lam Tin Youth Centre of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department is making available young trees for planting and officers from the Department will be on hand to provide technical advice. The Department will also be available from time to time after the planting has taken place to see that the young trees are tended properly.

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Already posters have appeared in the estate, designed by the sponsors, and drawing attention to the need to keep the area green if the environment is to be enjoyed by the inhabitants generally and by the young people in particular.

A spokesman for the Lam Tin Estate Community Work Office says the joint project "provides an opportunity for local welfare agencies, schools, and government departments concerned to make a joint effort not only to promote a community spirit, but also to give the residents of the estate a sense of belonging."

Population Increasing

At present, Lam Tin houses more than 50,000, and the population is rapidly increasing. To serve this community, there are seven primary schools, two secondary schools, and one estate building.

The estate building houses a number of welfare agencies, including a Po Leung Kuk nursery, a children's centre and library for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association, and a youth centre for the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. In addition, the Family Planning Association is represented, also the Yan Oi Clinic of the Gospel Preaching Groups of Overseas Chinese Christians, and a centre for the Family Services Division and a field unit for the Public Assistance Division of the Social Welfare Department.

The Lam Tin Estate Community Work Office began servicing the estate in January this year. Its work includes co-ordinating the activities of the welfare agencies, raising the standard of service through mutual planing, and stimulating and improving the welfare of the community through co-operation between government and voluntary agencies.

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PREVENTION OF ENTERIC DISEASES CAMPAIGN

Organised By The Urban Council

The Urban Council and Urban Services Department's month-long campaign on the prevention of enteric diseases is underway.

The campaign is being held in view of the approaching of the summer season when such diseases are most prevalent. It also aims at raising the alertness of the public towards the danger of enteric diseases as well as at improving the standard of hygiene in the preparation of food.

Enteric diseases include cholera, dysenteries, typhoid fevers and food poisoning. Of these, cholera is well known for its acute nature and is dangerous, so as typhoid and dysenteries if medical treatment is not given in time.

Food poisoning, which is quite common in Hong Kong, however, is rarely fatal. But it usually involves a large number of people simultaneously and therefore always arouses a lot of confusion and alarm.

A spokesman for the Urban Services Department pointed out that enteric diseases attack all age groups.

"Among the 438 cases of typhoid reported last year, more than half of the patients were youngsters aged between 10 and 24," he said. "Of the 609 cases of dysentery, 40 per cent were children under the age of five."

Although Hong Kong has been free from cholera since 1969, the spokesman warned that it can be introduced into Hong Kong quite easily since this disease is always present in certain countries in Southeast Asia.

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Enteric diseases occur all the year round but it is more prevalent in summer as the high air temperature favours the growth of germs and propagation of **flies** which help to spread the germs.

These germs are discharged with the excretal matters of patients or carriers of these diseases and then conveyed to our food and drinks by the hands of food handlers who may harbour the germs or through fly contamination.

"As enteric diseases are mainly caused by ingestion of unclean food and drinks," the spokesman said, "hygienic food handling, particularly washing of hands before handling food, is the most effective preventive measure against these diseases."

During the campaign period, Government will make use of all possible ways to impart to the public the rules of food and environmental hygiene.

"Although Government is doing whatever it can to control the outbreak of enteric diseases, members of the public should also play their own part by taking special precautionary measures againsts these diseases," the spokesman added.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE

Helped Settle 249 Labour Problems In April

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department helped employers and employees settle 249 labour problems in April.

As a result of agreement reached, 537 employees received a total of \$286,429.

Of this, \$187,538 was paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, statutory holiday pay and bonuses of a contractual nature under the Employment Ordinance and the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance respectively.

The remaining \$98,891 was paid, apart from the legal entitlements, as severance pay and other ex gratia payments to the employees. Fresh nominal claims made by employees in the same month amounted to \$834,465.

Officers of various district offices of the Labour Relations Service also handled 1,392 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management.

They visited nine establishments to help employers introduce joint consultative machinery to strengthen communication between labour and management.

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HEALTH EDUCATION EXHIBITION

Four-Day Show In Yuen Long's Town Hall

The Medical and Health Department will put on a Health Education Exhibition in the Yuen Long Town Hall between May 16 and 19, both days inclusive, from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

The exhibition will comprise 22 panels illustrating through cartoons, figures, and diagrams, a number of themes that the department wants emphasized at this time among the young.

There will be panels on nutrition, the protection of the eye-sight, and the prevention of gastric-intestinal diseases.

The series on the eye-sight, for example, will illustrate defects in the focusing of the eye, the cause of myopia, and how myopia can be prevented.

The Health Education Unit of the department has contacted the Education Department, the Police, and the District Offices in the New Territories about this exhibition in the hope of attracting an audience of school children and young people, generally, in the area.

An attendance of between 7,000 and 10,000 is expected. Some of the schools will be sending along groups of pupils in tours. Certain teachers are organising essay competitions in connection with the panels.

The Health Education Exhibition is the work of the department's Health Education Unit. It tours the New Territories regularly.

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CASTLE PEAK ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Second Stage To Begin In August

Work will soon begin on the second stage of the improvement scheme of Castle Peak Road from Castle Peak to Ping Shan.

The first stage of this scheme, designed to improve traffic flow, consisted of widening this four and a half mile stretch of road, and converting it into a two-lane carriageway. This stage was completed in October, 1970.

The second stage involves the widening of the other half of this road into a two-lane carriageway. This stage also includes the reconstruction of Lam Tei Road.

Lam Tei Road will be widened to 32 feet, with a 20-foot carriageway and footpaths on either side.

The junction of Lam Tei Road and Castle Peak Road will also be resited about 1,100 feet north of its existing location to improve the flow of traffic.

When this part of the improvement scheme is completed, the length of Castle Peak Road from Castle Peak to Yuen Long, which is about six miles, will have an overall width of 100 feet. It will consist of a 48-foot dual two-lane carriageway together with cycle tracks and footpaths on either side.

Work is expected to begin in August this year, and should take about 30 months to complete.

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LISTS OF FOUND IDENTITY CARDS

On Display At C.D.O.'s And Kai Fong Associations

Members of the public who have lost their identity cards and have not yet reclaimed them may call at City District Offices or Kai Fong Associations where lists of found identity cards are on display.

Owners can then call in person at the registration head office on the 4th floor of the Causeway Bay Magistracy to collect their cards.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Registration of Persons Office reminded the public to report any changes in their registered particulars.

In this way, it would be much easier for lost identity cards to be returned to their owners.

Found identity cards unclaimed within 3 months would be cancelled.

A few hundred of these cards are now waiting for collection by their owners.

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RAILWAY BRIDGE ACROSS WATERLOO ROAD

To Be Overhauled From May 15

The Kowloon-Canton Railway announced today that Railway Bridge No. 4 across Waterloo Road is scheduled to be overhauled from Monday, May 15, for a period of about one and a half month.

A K.C.R. spokesman said certain work would have to be carried out at night because scheduled railway services had to be maintained.

He expressed regrets at causing possible noise nuisance to the nearby residents but said every endeavour will be made to keep the amount of night work and its noise level to the minimum.

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FERRY SERVICE TO CHA KWO LING

The temporary ferry service between Shau Kei Wan and Cha Kwo Ling will be continued after May 12.

A Transport Department spokesman said that the motorboat company operating this service had agreed to continue the operation between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. at a 30 minute frequency, with a flat fare of 30 cents per person.

The special KMB shuttle service between Kwun Tong and Cha Kwo Ling will however be discontinued after the Tin Hau Festival period (i.e. after May 12) because of the lack of demand.

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GRANTS FROM COMMUNITY RELIEF TRUST FUND

Nearly 300 Applications From Farmers Approved

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department has investigated and approved the first 273 applications from farmers for rehabilitation grants from the Community Relief Trust Fund.

A spokesman for the Department said work on assessing farm damage and registering losses was continuing.

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SUNDAY D.I.B.

Note to Editors: There will be an issue of the Daily Information Bulletin tomorrow (Sunday). Copies will be available for collection at 3 p.m. at the G.I.S. Press Room, 6th floor, Beaconsfield House.

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U.S. TRADE EMBARGO ON FABRICS

Statement By Commerce And Industry Department

The statement by a U.S. Consular official on the U.S. trade embargo on certain fabrics, which was printed in yesterday's South China Morning Post, contains certain inaccuracies and omissions.

This was stated by a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department.

"We would not normally choose to try to argue such a technical problem in public. Our previous press statement on this subject was made simply in response to the U.S. announcement of the imposition of an embargo. But although the consultations in Washington have not yet been completed, we feel it is necessary to set the record straight at this time."

The U.S. Consulate spokesman maintained that Hong Kong had never sought or obtained mutual agreement for the method by which it controlled and reported exports of the fabrics in question. He also said the need for this precondition was recognised by both sides and was the basis on which the cotton agreement was already operating.

The Commerce and Industry Department denies the accuracy of this statement. During the six years the cotton agreement had been operating no such mutual agreements had been sought or required. And it had been explicitly agreed between the two sides in October 1971 that the same practices would be applied to the new man-made fibre restraints as had been applied under the cotton agreement.

/"Contrary

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"Contrary to the U.S. contention, this justifies the conclusion that Hong Kong did not misinterpret the understanding".

The allegation that the U.S. did not know until late in March that Hong Kong had authorised exports in the disputed category of 22 million square yards is "something of a distortion of the facts," the spokesman said. By mid-February the U.S. had been explicitly informed that over 19 million square yards had been authorised. They did not, however, react until mid-March, for reasons that cannot be established; and then in April they asked the Hong Kong Government to suspend exports. This request was denied because to do so would have destroyed the integrity of the Hong Kong control system and broken faith with shippers who had learned to rely upon it.

"We felt, furthermore, that potential shipments of 22 million square yards, while significant to Hong Kong could not pose a major threat to a U.S. industry which had, in 1971, produced 8,000 million square yards of the same fabric" the spokesman added.

As regards the U.S. statement that the imposition of the embargo on May 5 should have been anticipated if discussions then being held went on beyond that date, the Hong Kong view remains that such action while a compromise is still being sought is not what might normally be expected.

The discussions, which have continued for the past week in Washington D.C., have not yet been concluded.

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Release Time: 3.00 p.m.