



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1992

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1992

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OVER 9,000 VACANCIES AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL WORKERS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED 9,400 JOB VACANCIES FROM 556 EMPLOYERS INTENDING TO BRING IN FOREIGN WORKERS SINCE APPLICATION UNDER THE CURRENT IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME OPENED LAST MONDAY (JANUARY 20).

"TO ENABLE MORE LOCAL WORKERS TO APPLY FOR THESE VACANCIES, LETTERS ARE BEING SENT TO ALL REGISTERED WORKERS' UNIONS EXPLAINING TO THEM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHEME AND THE JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES)," THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"WE ARE ASKING THE UNIONS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR MEMBERS TO APPROACH THE LES OFFICES IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SEEKING JOBS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME, LOCAL WORKERS WERE GIVEN PRIORITY IN FILLING JOB VACANCIES BEFORE THE POSTS WERE OFFERED TO OVERSEAS WORKERS. HE ALSO REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY MUST OFFER NO LESS THAN THE MEDIAN WAGES FOR THE RELEVANT OCCUPATION TO LOCAL WORKERS WHO APPLY FOR THOSE JOBS.

COMMENTING ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES REGISTERED WITH THE LES IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPORTATION SCHEME, MR CHAN SAID IT REFLECTED KEEN DEMAND FOR WORKERS IN CERTAIN TRADES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CATERING AND HOTEL INDUSTRIES WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 3,706 OF THE VACANCIES REGISTERED.

"THE LES HAS ALSO REGISTERED 1,898 VACANCIES IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES, 603 IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL INDUSTRIES, 755 IN FINANCE, INSURANCE, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, AND 782 IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY," HE NOTED.

HE ADDED THAT MORE INFORMATION ON VACANCIES RECEIVED WOULD LATER BE SENT TO RELEVANT TRADE UNIONS SO THAT ANY WORKERS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN THE JOBS AVAILABLE COULD APPLY.

"SUCH INFORMATION IS ALSO DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUSLY ON NOTICE BOARDS AT EACH OF THE 11 LES DISTRICT OFFICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO APPLY," HE NOTED.

"IN ADDITION, LES STAFF WILL CHECK THEIR RECORDS OF JOB REGISTRANTS TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE JOB-SEEKERS FOR REFERRAL TO EMPLOYERS FOR INTERVIEW," HE SAID.

ENQUIRIES ON PLACEMENT OF AND APPLICATION FOR JOB VACANCIES AT THE LES UNDER THE SCHEME CAN BE MADE ON 852 4158.

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40 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED LAST NOVEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 40 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 15 WERE FOR HONG KONG, NINE FOR KOWLOON AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 22 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, THREE FOR COMMERCIAL AND SHOP/OFFICE DEVELOPMENTS AND FIVE FOR FACTORY AND WORKSHOP PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 45 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 149,663.7 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 91,902.1 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$2,051 MILLION.

USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 174,509 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 99,044 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO DURING NOVEMBER, THE OFFICE ISSUED 41 OCCUPATION PERMITS; 14 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN FOR KOWLOON AND 20 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 33 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 77 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 640 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,782 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 207 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 732 BUILDINGS AND NO EMERGENCY CLOSURES WERE REQUIRED.

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COMIC BOOK TO PROMOTE 'DON'T LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED'

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A FULL-COLOUR COMIC BOOK TO ALERT PARENTS OF THE DANGER TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN UNATTENDED WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE COMIC BOOK, ENTITLED "DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE", IS PART OF A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN OF THE CHILD NEGLECT PREVENTION PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP.

/THE WORKING

THE WORKING GROUP COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND THE AGAINST CHILD ABUSE.

THE BOOK, IN CHINESE, CONTAINS FIVE SHORT STORIES BASED ON REAL EXAMPLES BUT WITH DIFFERENT SETTINGS TO DEPICT THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN BEING LEFT UNATTENDED, BOTH AT HOME AND OUTDOOR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID THERE WERE OUTDOOR ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CHILDREN WITHOUT PROPER SUPERVISION FROM THEIR ACCOMPANIED PARENTS.

HE REMINDED PARENTS THAT CHILDREN, EVEN LEFT UNATTENDED FOR A SHORT SPELL WHILE THEY WERE SHOPPING OR CHATTING WOULD RESULT IN DISASTER.

"A CHILD LEFT ALONE IS A CHILD LEFT IN DANGER," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

THIS MESSAGE IS VIVIDLY PORTRAYED THROUGHOUT THE BOOK WITH THE COVER SHOWING A SMALL BOY CROUCHING ALONE AT A CORNER OF A DIM ROOM, LOOKING TERRIFIED AND HELPLESS. HE IS CONFRONTED WITH VARIOUS "ANIMATED HOME HAZARDS" SUCH AS LP GAS CYLINDER, KNIFE, LIGHTER, MATCH, INSECTICIDE, PLUG AND SOCKET, CAPSULE, WINDOW WITHOUT GRILLE AND THERMAL FLASK.

THE COMIC BOOK ALSO ILLUSTRATES SOME FEASIBLE WAYS TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF LEAVING CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

IT ALSO CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT WELFARE ORGANISATIONS WHICH OFFER OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE, AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AND FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICES TO NEEDY PARENTS.

COPIES OF THE COMIC BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, CENTRES OPERATED BY MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, AND MANAGEMENT OFFICES OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

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MORE FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

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MARRIED COUPLES WITH A HAPPY AND STABLE FAMILY ARE URGED TO JOIN THE TEAM OF FOSTER PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL LOVE AND CARE.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THROUGH FOSTERING, CHILDREN COULD GROW UNDER A NORMAL FAMILY SETTING AND ENJOY A NORMAL CHILDHOOD.

"FOSTER PARENTS CAN, ON THE ONE HAND, DO THE COMMUNITY A SERVICE AND ON THE OTHER, PUSH UP THEIR ABILITY AS PARENTS," HE ADDED.

/THE OBJECTIVE

THE OBJECTIVE OF FOSTERING IS TO PLACE UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN IN A STABLE FAMILY WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN ACT AS SUBSTITUTE PARENTS UNTIL THE CHILD CAN RETURN TO HIS NATURAL PARENTS.

AT PRESENT, ABOUT 200 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN HOMES OF OVER 140 FOSTER PARENTS.

SOME FOSTER CHILDREN HAVE NO PARENTS OR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. SOME HAVE TO SEPARATE FROM THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE OF FAMILY PROBLEM, IMPRISONMENT OR ILLNESS AND SO ON.

TO MEET FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE, THE CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO RECRUIT MORE FOSTER PARENTS THIS YEAR.

"FAMILIES WHICH CAN PROVIDE FOSTER SERVICE TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 10, THOSE WHICH CAN LOOK AFTER TWO CHILDREN OR MORE AT ONE TIME AND THOSE WHICH WILL TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ARE MOST WELCOME."

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED TO BECOME A FOSTER PARENTS CAN MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON TEL. 852 4596 OR 852 4599, OR CALL AT THE CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT AT FOURTH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR OPERATING COMMUNITY CENTRE

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAY NOW APPLY TO USE THE OFFICE PREMISES OF THE HIN KENG NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE IN SHA TIN TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE CENTRE, LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR, IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. IT HAS AN AREA OF 278 SQUARE METRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT APPLICANTS SHOULD SUBMIT A PROPOSAL STATING THE NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED, THE TARGET CLIENTELE, FEES AND CHARGES, STAFFING, DETAILS OF SPONSORS, AND EXPERIENCE OF THE ORGANISATION IN PROVIDING THE PROPOSED SERVICES.

THE SUCCESSFUL ORGANISATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO HELP THE DISTRICT OFFICE MANAGE THE CENTRE, INCLUDING THE OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE CENTRE, KEEPING CUSTODY OF KEYS, MANNING THE ENQUIRY COUNTER, OPENING FACILITIES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS, AND ACCEPTING BOOKINGS FROM THE PUBLIC.

APPLICANTS SHOULD ALSO STATE IN THE PROPOSAL THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO TAKE UP THESE RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WOULD SELECT THE MOST SUITABLE ORGANISATION, AND THE RESULT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY THE END OF MARCH.

HE ADDED THAT THE SELECTED ORGANISATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A THREE-YEAR TENANCY AGREEMENT AT A NOMINAL RENT.

FOR THE USE OF THE CENTRE'S COMMON FACILITIES SUCH AS THE MULTI-PURPOSE HALL AND CONFERENCE ROOM, THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE SELECTED ORGANISATION WOULD HAVE TO APPLY TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE THROUGH NORMAL PROCEDURE AND NO PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN.

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN BEFORE FEBRUARY 15.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON TEL. 604 8078 EXT. 70.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTING FOR TAI PO FESTIVAL
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THE THIRD TAI PO FESTIVAL WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, THIS (SUNDAY) EVENING AFTER HE SWITCHED ON THE LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTINGS ALONG LAM TSUEN RIVER.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR LAM SAID THIS MEANINGFUL EVENT WOULD BRING MORE JOY TO TAI PO RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVE SEASON.

HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE FESTIVAL WOULD HELP PROMOTE THE IMAGE OF TAI PO AS BOTH A NEW TOWN AND A TRADITIONAL RURAL AREA. IT WOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN LOCAL RESIDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING.

OVER 30 RECREATIONAL, SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD DURING THE MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL WHICH IS HELD EVERY THREE YEARS.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE "YAN YAT" PARTY FOR THE ELDERLY, CANTONESE OPERAS, MARTIAL ARTS PERFORMANCES, ORCHID SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND NEW YEAR GALAS.

THE FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

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WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN LAMMA ISLAND
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SUPPLIES OF FRESH AND FLUSHING WATER TO ALL PREMISES ON LAMMA ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 28) TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

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