



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Home Affairs Department performance satisfactory

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A survey commissioned by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) revealed that respondents considered the overall performance of the department and its district offices (DOs) to be quite satisfactory with about 60 per cent giving a positive rating of 6-10 on a 0 to 10 scale, where 10 represents the highest satisfaction.

The survey was conducted by an independent research firm in January and some 2,000 households were interviewed.

When asked to name government departments that they know of, HAD/DOs is relatively popularly known among respondents, ranking fourth among government departments.

Seven out of eight, when prompted, said they were aware of HAD and its responsibilities.

The survey also revealed that the vast majority recognised HAD's role as a channel of communication between government and the public. And 81 per cent of the respondents mentioned this as one of the department's key functions.

Apart from ascertaining the general awareness and overall performance rating of HAD/DOs, the survey also questioned respondents on individual aspects of the work of the department, such as the assistance and support provided to mutual aid Committees and owners corporations.

Commenting on the findings of the survey, the Director of Home Affairs, Mr Joseph W P Wong, said the results were enlightening and encouraging.

"We have a firm foundation which we shall continue to build on. The findings identify areas where we can still do better and provide a benchmark with which to measure our future performance," he said.

"Discussions involving the District Officers are being held to study the findings and to develop a strategy to improve the wide range of services we provide to the public.

"Our aim is to provide a high quality service which meets the growing aspirations of our community," Mr Wong said.

The following is the summary and conclusion of the survey:

- * When asked to name government departments that they know of, HAD/DOs is relatively popularly known among respondents, ranking fourth among government departments.
- * A much higher percentage (87%) of the respondents are aware of the department when prompted.
- * Half of the respondents can spell out the roles of HAD/DOs spontaneously. This is significant bearing in mind the multifarious functions of the department.
- * One of HAD/DO's obvious roles, being a channel of communication between government and the public, is highly recognised at 81%. Generally speaking, the young, the more educated [matriculated and above], professional/manager, and the higher [\$15,000+] personal income group tend to be more knowledgeable about the functions of HAD/DOs.
- * The minor environmental improvement projects, undertaken by DOs, are considered to have improved the environment by less than half of the respondents. This may be due to the small scale of these projects and limited publicity about such projects.
- * On the other hand, most respondents particularly New Territories residents consider that they benefited from the rural local public works undertaken by DOs.
- * The performance of HAD/DOs as mediator in disputes between residents and government departments is considered to be poor (37% bad vs 18% good). This finding should be seen against the background that most cases brought to DOs are problematic cases in which the relevant departments were unable to resolve or offer assistance. On the other hand, it may point to the lack of satisfactory explanation to the residents when the requests cannot be entertained.
- * Those who have MAC or OC in their estates/buildings are generally quite satisfied with the assistance and support provided by the HAD/DOs. The satisfaction level is higher among the older members of the public.

- * The overwhelming majority of the Hong Kong people are in favour of organising district festivals.
- * The performance of the other roles of HAD/DOs (for example, ensuring the allocation of resources in accordance with community priorities and disseminating information to enhance the public's understanding of major government policies) are considered to be fair to satisfactory.
- * The overall performance of HAD/DOs is considered to be quite satisfactory by respondents, with almost 60 per cent giving a positive rating of 6-10 on a ten-point scale, where "10" represents the highest satisfaction rating.

Older members of the public tend to give higher satisfaction ratings.

End/Sunday, April 30, 1995

13 applications for pre-sale-consent approved

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The Lands Department, during the first quarter of 1995, approved 11 applications for consent to pre-sales of a total of 6,540 residential units and two for pre-sale of non-residential units.

The residential units are located on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon, Tai Po, Sha Tin, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Lantau districts and are expected by developers to be completed between now and June next year. They include 1,550 PSPS units in Chai Wan and 1,024 Sandwich Class Housing units in Tsing Yi.

Pending approval on March 31 this year were 18 applications for pre-sale consent involving 9,157 residential units and nine applications in respect of non-residential units. These developments are located in various districts throughout the territory and the majority are expected to be completed in 1995.

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Amusement ride owners reminded to heed regulation

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Owners of amusement rides are reminded to submit the operation, maintenance and emergency manuals, as well as the requisite information on the competent persons and operators to the department.

A spokesman for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) said today (Sunday): "Under the Amusement Rides (Safety) (Operation and Maintenance) Regulation, the owners are required to report such information to EMSD."

The spokesman said the regulation also required all amusement ride owners to employ an approved competent person to take charge of the operation and maintenance work and to arrange an approved surveyor to carry out annual examination work of their amusement rides.

The examination report should be submitted to the EMSD for approval.

"Moreover, they have to provide and display notices specifying prohibited conduct, number of passengers and weight permitted in each ride, and keep a log book for inspection by EMSD.

"They also have to equip their ride venues with first aid facilities," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, kiddie ride owners are also reminded that the regulation governs kiddie ride operation as well.

Kiddie rides are those played by children of 12-year-old or below and have a power rating of not more than 1.1 kilowatts and a carrying capacity of not more than 100 kilogrammes. Among them are those operated by coins.

The spokesman said kiddie ride owners should register their rides with the EMSD.

"All kiddie ride owners are required to arrange a surveyor or qualified person to examine the ride once every six months.

"They also have to provide and display notices stating the conditions of using their rides, inspect the ride equipment daily and keep a log book for inspection by the EMSD," he said.

Any amusement ride owner failing to comply with the requirements of the Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance and or the Amusement Rides (Safety) (Operation and Maintenance) Regulation is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and a daily fine of \$10,000.

Information leaflets and appropriate application forms are available from District Offices, Public Housing Estate Offices, EMSD headquarters, Licensing Offices of the Urban Services Department and Regional Services Department, and the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority.

Enquiries may be made on tel 2882 8011 or by writing to EMSD headquarters at 98 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay.

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District staff to register employees as electors

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Staff of district offices will visit companies, factories and organisations from tomorrow (Monday) until May 14 to help employees register as electors.

This is yet another effort to promote voter registration during the five-month voter registration drive which will end on June 1.

A spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) appeals to the management and staff of these organisations to support the drive.

The spokesman said staff would visit some 2,000 establishments during the two-week period. These establishments cover about 160,000 employees who have not yet registered as electors.

He said staff would explain to employees that since they were working persons, they, once registered, would be entitled to cast two votes: one in the geographical constituency according to their place of residence and one in the new functional constituency according to the principal business of the organisation in which they work.

He also said district office staff, in a special drive, would also be visiting new public housing estates. Temporary registration counters are set up at vantage points throughout the territory to help residents register to vote.

Composite registration forms can be obtained from 1,500 outlets including district offices, post offices, housing estate offices and banks.

For enquiries, please call the REO hotline: 2891 1001.

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Ambulancemen help save a man's life

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Three ambulancemen were highly commended for their efficiency and professional skills which helped save the life of an elderly man.

In recognition of their superb performance, the acting Chief Ambulance Officer, Mr Au-Yeung Hok-ling, yesterday (Saturday) presented Commendations to the trio - Principal Ambulanceman Chan Cheuk-on and Ambulancemen Chan Che-ping and Ma Chun-keung.

The ambulancemen responded to an emergency call on December 19 last year that a 60-year-old man was found collapsed in a Chai Wan building.

Having found the man was without heartbeat and breathing, they immediately applied cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation.

The treatment was successful. Minutes later, before arrival to hospital, the man's heart started to beat again and his breathing restored.

He was discharged from hospital a month later.

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Factories fined for engaging women to work on rest day

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Owners of industrial undertakings should notify the Labour Department if they want to engage women or young persons to work on their rest day.

"The employer must submit applications for change of rest day to the Labour Department beforehand or else he will breach the Women and Young Persons (Industry) Regulations," Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Miss Rita Ma, said today (Sunday).

Two garment manufacturers in Kwai Chung were each fined \$10,000 recently at Tsuen Wan Magistracy for engaging woman workers to work on their rest day without notifying the Labour Department.

In the first case, Draper Company Limited was found to have engaged 37 women to work on their rest day. In the second case, 32 women were found working on their rest day at Ziang Kong Garment Manufacturing Company Limited.

Miss Ma said that any employer who breached the Regulations was liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

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Placement service for redundant teachers

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The Education Department's Placement Service to help redundant teachers in aided primary schools obtain new teaching posts will start tomorrow (Monday).

A spokesman for the department explained that these teachers were usually made redundant by the drop in enrolment in their schools due to people moving from urban areas to new towns.

The spokesman said: "The Placement Service Unit had helped some 7,120 redundant teachers in securing new teaching posts over the past years.

"We will continue to give these teachers full assistance again this year.

"Our 100 per cent success rate over the past years owes much to the support and co-operation of school principals and school management committees for which the department is most grateful," the spokesman said.

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Application for flag days 1996 invited

Organisations wishing to hold flag days next year to raise funds to finance services which they provide are invited to apply to the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

About 50 flag days will be allocated next year.

An SWD spokesman said today (Sunday) that applicants must be bona-fide non-profit-making organisations under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

"All applicants will be considered by the Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee on the merits of the service or special projects for which fund-raising through a flag day is proposed, the applicant organisation's financial needs, and the organisation's ability to execute such fund-raising activities," he said.

Explaining the allocation criteria, the spokesman said each application would be considered basically in the following aspects:

- * an assessment of the management capability of the applicant organisation. This is important since public collection of money are involved;
- * the nature of the services provided by the organisation, and the demand for such from the community;
- * the financial need of the organisation based on its annual budget, operating surplus/deficits, availability of other funding resources, and planned projects; and

- * the organisation's ability to organise fund-raising activities and to maximise the benefits of a flag day.

The spokesman emphasised that expenses in connection with a flag day should not exceed 10 per cent of the gross receipts, and that successful applicants need to observe the conditions for holding flag days as laid down on a public subscription permit issued under the Summary Offences Ordinance.

Application forms can now be obtained from the SWD Headquarters, Room 920, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, in person or in writing.

The completed application form, together with a copy of the organisation's latest annual report and statement of audited accounts, must reach the department on or before May 31. Late applications will not be entertained.

Successful applications will be informed by October.

The list of successful applicants being allocated with flag days in 1996 will also be announced in the media, so that the public will be aware of who these welfare organisations are.

Enquiries on flag day activities can be made on tel 2892 5315.

Members of the public who suspect that they have been approached by bogus persons or charitable agencies for funds are advised to report to the Police, so that due enquiries can be conducted.

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Music lovers invited to join summer camp

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A summer music camp, which will provide young music lovers an opportunity to receive intensive music training in a delightful atmosphere, is being organised by the Music Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch.

The 1995 Hong Kong Youth Music Camp, sponsored by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, is to take place at the Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre from July 15 to 25.

A spokesman for the Music Office said the aim of the camp was to enable participants, both local and overseas, to foster cultural exchange through music.

"Participants will be able to join master classes, workshops and seminars conducted by renowned musicians. They may also enjoy recreational activities such as karaoke, video shows, swimming, badminton and billiard in their free time," the spokesman said.

Applicants must be aged under 23 on July 15 this year. They should play at least one Chinese or western orchestral instrument and orchestral experience will be an advantage.

Fees will be charged at \$255 per head for three days, \$415 for five days and \$590 for seven days. All fees include tuition, three meals a day and lodging.

Application forms are now available at all Music Centres of the Music Office. The deadline for applications is May 5 (Friday). Enquiries can be made on 2582 5314.

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