



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1992

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MAINTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE - GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID ON SATURDAY (TORONTO TIME) THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE TO STAND UP FOR "OUR SYSTEM" BEFORE AND AFTER 1997, AND MAINTAIN "OUR WAY OF LIFE".

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE HON BARBARA MCDUGALL, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, IN TORONTO, THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME AN ECONOMIC WONDER BECAUSE OF "THE VITALITY, THE ENERGY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY", AND AN OPEN ECONOMY.

"WE HAVE PURSUED POLICIES TOWARDS BUSINESS BASED ON MINIMUM INTERFERENCE AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT," HE TOLD THE 200 CANADIAN BUSINESS PEOPLE AND CHINESE COMMUNITY LEADERS AT THE LUNCHEON.

OUT OF A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY, MR PATTEN SAID, HONG KONG HAD INVESTED IN EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, AND "WE ARE NOW INVESTING MASSIVELY IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURES", INCLUDING "OUR AIRPORT".

"PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN HONG KONG HELPED OF COURSE TO SUSTAIN OUR WAY OF LIFE," HE SAID. "BUT IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT OUR WAY OF LIFE HELPS TO SUSTAIN OUR PROSPERITY AND STABILITY."

"IT'S THAT WAY OF LIFE WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION," SAID MR PATTEN. "THE WAY OF LIFE WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN SUCH DETAIL IN THE JOINT DECLARATION COMPRISES OUR SYSTEM -- ONE OF THE TWO SYSTEMS IN THAT HISTORIC CONCEPT OF ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS."

"WE HAVE TO STAND UP FOR IT AFTER 1997 AND OF COURSE WE HAVE TO STAND UP FOR IT BEFORE 1997 AS WELL," THE GOVERNOR SAID. "IF WE WON'T STAND UP FOR IT NOW WHAT CHANCE THAT PEOPLE WILL STAND UP FOR IT IN THE YEARS AHEAD."

"THAT IN MY JUDGEMENT IS VERY LARGELY WHAT THE PRESENT DEBATE IN HONG KONG IS ALL ABOUT," MR PATTEN ADDED.

HE REITERATED THAT THOSE WHO CRITICISED HIS POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS SHOULD "PUT UP THEIR OWN PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE", AND "I DO THINK THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD ENJOY A PERIOD OF CALMER REFLECTION OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS BEFORE WE FINALLY RESOLVE THOSE MATTERS."

SPEAKING AS THE CANADIAN HOST, THE HON BARBARA MCDUGALL, EXPRESSED CANADA'S "FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

"WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR SITUATION, GOVERNOR PATTEN," SHE SAID, "AND WE COMMEND YOU FOR THE ENERGY AND SKILL AND THE INSIGHT THAT YOU ARE BRINGING TO THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD."

"CANADA SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SINO-BRITISH ACCORD AND THE BASIC LAW," MCDUGALL SAID. "AND WE SUPPORT MEASURES LIKELY TO PERMIT THE TERRITORY TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER."

/"CANADA STANDS .....

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"CANADA STANDS READY TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, ITS COUNCILS AND ITS GOVERNOR, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE," SHE SAID.

DR JOSEPH WONG, A CHINESE COMMUNITY LEADER, SAID AT THE LUNCHEON THAT "WE ALL FEEL PROUD OF THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS BOLD STEPS TO SAFEGUARD THE DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG."

THE GOVERNOR HAD A JOINT MEDIA SESSION WITH MCDUGALL AFTER THE LUNCHEON, AND VISITED THE ONTARIO LASER AND LIGHTWAVE RESEARCH CENTRE, AND MET WITH HONG KONG STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT A RECEPTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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STATEMENT ON AIRPORT PROJECT

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON THE XINHUA REPORT TODAY (SUNDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "OUR POSITION REMAINS THE SAME AS THAT STATED IN THE RELEASE ISSUED TO THE PRESS ON NOVEMBER 13 WHICH READ:

'WE ARE EXAMINING WAYS OF MOVING AHEAD WITH THE AIRPORT PROJECT ON A STEP BY STEP APPROACH THAT ENABLES US TO CARRY OUT OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) IN A PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC WAY. THE FIRST SUCH STEP WILL BE A DECISION ON THE AIRPORT SITE PREPARATION CONTRACT, WHICH THE CHINESE SIDE SUGGESTED IN JULY WE SHOULD FINANCE DIRECTLY IN ADVANCE OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT ON FINANCIAL PACKAGES FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY. THIS IS NOT, AND NEVER HAS BEEN, A GO-IT-ALONE OPTION. IT IS A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MOU, AIMED AT MAINTAINING PROGRESS ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. AS THE GOVERNOR HAS SAID, WE ARE KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN FOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR FIRST PRIORITY.'

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LOK ON PAI CHIMNEYS BLASTED

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TWO 123-METRE-HIGH CONCRETE CHIMNEYS AT THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER IN TUEN MUN WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) REDUCED TO RUBBLE IN LESS THAN SIX SECONDS - A RECORD IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY OF DEMOLITION WORK, THANKS TO THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME EXPLOSIVES WERE USED IN HONG KONG FOR DEMOLITION PURPOSE.

THE BLASTING, USING ABOUT 110 KILOGRAMS OF EXPLOSIVES, PRODUCED MORE THAN 6,000 CUBIC METRES OF DEBRIS.

THE WORK, AT A CONTRACT COST OF \$4 MILLION, WAS CARRIED OUT BY CHEUNG KEE FUNG CHEUNG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

THE DISPOSAL OF THE CHIMNEYS WILL MAKE WAY FOR A TRANSHIPMENT AREA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

THE HISTORY OF THE DESALTER CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE LATE 1960'S WHEN HONG KONG WAS FACED WITH CHRONIC WATER SHORTAGE.

EXPERTS AT THAT TIME HAD COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF TURNING TO THE SEA TO SOLVE THE WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM AFTER EXHAUSTING THE CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF CATCHMENT, STORAGE AND SUPPLY.

IN 1972, A DECISION WAS MADE TO BUILD THE DESALTER, WHICH COULD GIVE AN OUTPUT OF 181,800 CUBIC METRES OF FRESH WATER PER DAY AT FULL OPERATION.

THE FIRST OF ITS SIX MULTI-STAGE FLASH DISTILLATION UNITS CAME INTO OPERATION IN MID-1975, AND BY 1976 ALL UNITS HAD BEEN COMMISSIONED.

THE DESALTING PLANT WAS MAINTAINED IN A STRATEGIC RESERVE STATE DURING THE SHUT-DOWN PERIOD OF WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA AND WAS KEPT AS A RESERVE RESOURCE TO BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT SUPPLIES WHEN NECESSARY.

IN 1975-78 AND 1981-82 THE PLANT HAD MADE VERY USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS AUGMENTING WATER RESOURCES WITH THE RESULT THAT SEVERE WATER RESTRICTIONS WERE AVOIDED.

HOWEVER, WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF WATER FROM CHINA, THE DESALTER HAS NOT BEEN IN USE SINCE 1982.

IN 1989, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO DISPOSE OF THE DESALTING PLANT IN VIEW OF THE IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY SITUATION AND THE HIGH FUEL COSTS.

THE PLANT, EXCLUDING SITE BUILDINGS, CIVIL STRUCTURES AND LAND, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD TO AND DISMANTLED BY A METAL DEALER THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

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APART FROM INTRODUCING A NEW TECHNIQUE, THE DEMOLITION TODAY ALSO BROUGHT \$200,000 OF DONATION TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

THE BLASTING WAS SWITCHED ON BY MR C P YU, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SPONSORING COMPANY, KUMAGAI GUMI (HK) LIMITED; DR EDWARD BRAND, THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MR PANG YUK-LING, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR.

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FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES ESSENTIAL

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THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO FURTHER IMPROVE FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES AND ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF DIVORCES, CHILD ABUSES AND FAMILY VIOLENCE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN HER ADDRESS TO A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CARNIVAL AT THE VICTORIA PARK ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

"IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE TO HELP FAMILY MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

"THIS WILL HELP PREVENT PERSONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN WOULD FOCUS ON HAPPY MARRIAGE AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD.

THE SLOGAN OF THE CAMPAIGN IS "PARENTS AND CHILDREN WORK HAND IN HAND TO BUILD A HAPPY FAMILY".

OVER THE YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE PRODUCTION OF A TELEVISION SERIES ENTITLED "UNDER THE SAME ROOF", THE PUBLICATION OF PAMPHLETS AND THE ORGANISATION OF EXHIBITIONS, TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS FAMILY RELATIONS.

TODAY'S CARNIVAL, FEATURING A JIGSAW THAT PORTRAYED FAMILY LOVE, WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

MEMBERS FROM MORE THAN 1,000 FAMILIES SPENT ABOUT TWO HOURS TO FORM THE 400-SQUARE-METRE JIGSAW, THE BIGGEST EVER FORMED IN THE TERRITORY.

THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS VISITED VICTORIA PARK TO TAKE PART IN VARIOUS STALL GAMES, TOUR AN EXHIBITION AND ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS.

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MEET THE CHALLENGE, JOIN THE CADET CORPS

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WHILE FEISTY TEENAGERS ARE BUSY LOCKING THEMSELVES IN VIDEO GAMES OR CRAZY AFTER SHOW BIZ IDOLS, LUKEY LEE BOLDLY TAKES UP A CHALLENGE THAT SHE WILL TREASURE FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

IT ALSO SETS HER IN MOTION TOWARDS A MORE FORTHCOMING FUTURE.

THE CHALLENGE IS OFFERED BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) CADET CORPS.

NOW, HER CADET LIFE IS ALMOST THROUGH, AFTER NEARING FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE. BUT SHE IS READY TO STAY ON, AND THIS TIME, IN THE CAS ADULT GROUP.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD LUKEY HAS NO HESITATION IN SHARING HER CAS EXPERIENCE WITH HER FRIENDS.

"IT IS A COMBINATION OF FUN AND DISCIPLINE," SHE SAID, SPORTING HER UNIFORM WHICH SHE SPENDS TWO TO THREE HOURS TO MAKE GOOD EVERY TIME SHE WEARS IT.

TO HER, TIDYING UP HER UNIFORM AND SCOURING HER SHOES ARE A PART OF DISCIPLINARY TRAINING. AND SHE CONFESSED THAT IT WAS NOT AN EASY JOB.

"THE UNIFORM IS THE SYMBOL OF SELF-DISCIPLINE. I FEEL PROUD WHEN I HAVE IT ON," LUKEY SAID.

BEFORE SHE JOINED THE CADET CORPS, LUKEY WAS A SHY AND TIMID KIND OF A GIRL. NOW, SHE SAYS SHE IS MORE STEADY AND PATIENT IN HANDLING SITUATIONS.

THE CORPS IS A TOOL THAT BRINGS UP THE CONFIDENCE IN HER.

"I CAN BRAVE THE WEATHER AND BRAVE THE CROWDS. I AM ALSO CONFIDENT IN COPING WITH MY STUDIES AND INTERPERSONAL TIES," SHE SAID.

THE CADETS HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC FUNCTIONS SUCH AS CROWD CONTROL IN "WALK FOR THE MILLION" AND "CITY FORUM". THEY ALSO HAVE TO BE ON "BEAT DUTY" IN COUNTRY PARKS REMINDING PICNICKERS TO PITCH IN AND WATCH OUT FOR FIRE.

"THIS TYPE OF WORK CAN AROUSE OUR SOCIAL AWARENESS AND CIVIC-MINDEDNESS," SHE SAID.

WHEN LUKEY WAS 13 YEARS OLD, HER FATHER LEE KAM-WAH, HIMSELF A CAS MAN FOR 13 YEARS, TRIED TO CONVINCED HER HOW INTERESTING THE LIFE IN THE CORPS IS.

SHE CONFIDED THAT SHE JOINED IN LARGELY OUT OF CURIOSITY AND INTEREST. LATER SHE FOUND IT A "GOLD MINE".

"I ENCOURAGE LUKEY TO JOIN AS THE TRAINING THERE CAN SUPPLEMENT HER SCHOOL STUDIES," MR LEE SAID, "AND SHE ENJOYS A FULLER LIFE NOW."

LUKEY'S TWO SISTERS, AUDREY AND CRYSTAL, AGED 18 AND 16 RESPECTIVELY, ALSO JOINED THE CAS AFTER LUKEY'S RECOMMENDATION. AND THERE THEY SERVED TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS. CRYSTAL IS STILL A SERVING MEMBER.

THE CAS CADET CORPS, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1968, PROVIDES FREE-OF-CHARGE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 18.

AN IMPORTANT AIM OF IT IS TO TRAIN THESE PEOPLE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

IN FACT, QUITE A NUMBER OF EX-CAS MEMBERS JOINED THE DISCIPLINARY SERVICES SUCH AS THE POLICE.

BEING A LEADING CADET IN THE HONG KONG EAST GIRL CADET UNIT, LUKEY IS A "BIG SISTER" AMONG HER RANKS.

"I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MY JUNIORS SUCH AS DISHING OUT WORKS TO THEM AND BE THEIR MEDIATOR," SHE SAID.

NOW A LOWER SIX STUDENT, LUKEY HAS NO PROBLEM STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN HER STUDIES AND CAS DUTY.

THE SERVICE DUTY IS A MAGNET TO HER. SHE ATTENDED EVERY UNIT MEETING ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS EVEN DURING THE MONTH OF HER HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAM.

"I FOUND IT UNEASY TO STAY AT HOME IN THESE EVENINGS. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON MY STUDY. I MISS MY TEAM MEMBERS VERY MUCH," SHE RECALLED.

LUKEY HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED THE CAS BEST CADET AWARD 1992.

SHE IS DUE TO RETIRE NEXT APRIL. SHE WANTS TO BE A POLICEWOMAN OR A CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INSPECTOR SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE.

THE CADET CORPS COMPRISES DIFFERENT UNITS: THE BOY CADET UNITS, MIXED CADET UNITS AND GIRL CADET UNITS. TRAINING INCLUDES ADVENTUROUS GRILLS, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND IN-HOUSE GATHERINGS.

IF YOU ARE BETWEEN 12 AND 15 AND ARE INTERESTED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF CAS CADET CORPS, YOU CAN GO TO A DISTRICT OFFICE TO GET AN APPLICATION FORM.

RECRUITMENT INTERVIEWS ARE HELD EVERY MONTH. AFTER A MEDICAL CHECK-UP, YOU CAN JOIN IN THE CAS CADET FAMILY AND SHARE THE FUN AND JOY FOR BEING A MEMBER. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO CAS HEADQUARTERS ON TEL 805 6036 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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MANHOLE CONTRACTOR FINED FOR NEGLECTING SAFETY

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CONTRACTORS OF WORK INVOLVING MANHOLES ARE REMINDED OF THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO ENSURE WORKERS' SAFETY IN CONFINED SPACES.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ISSUED THE REMINDER FOLLOWING A RECENT CASE IN WHICH A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OWNER WAS FINED \$3,000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR ALLOWING A WORKER TO GO INSIDE A MANHOLE FOR DRAINAGE WORK WITHOUT TAKING APPROPRIATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

"FACTORY INSPECTORS DETECTED THE OFFENCE DURING A SPECIAL OPERATION IN TSUEN WAN LATE AT NIGHT," CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR CHAN TAT-KING SAID.

MR CHAN SAID WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES REQUIRED CAREFUL PLANNING AND BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES MUST TAKE APPROPRIATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST POSSIBLE DANGERS.

"UNDER THE GENERAL DUTY PROVISIONS AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CONFINED SPACES) REGULATIONS, PROPRIETORS AND CONTRACTORS MUST DEVISE AND ADOPT A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST THE DANGER OF EXPLOSIVE OR TOXIC GASES AND OXYGEN DEFICIENCY," MR CHAN SAID.

"TESTING OF THE MANHOLE FOR THE PRESENCE OF ANY DANGEROUS GASES AND OXYGEN LEVEL BEFORE ENTRY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ALSO STRESSED THAT SUCH TESTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY A COMPETENT PERSON WITH SCIENTIFIC MONITORING INSTRUMENTS.

"IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE WORK TEAM CONDUCT SUCH TESTS BY DROPPING BURNING PAPERS IN THE MANHOLE," HE SAID.

WORKERS SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH MANHOLE WORK AND MUST BE TRAINED AND SUPERVISED TO CARRY OUT ALL THE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND RESCUE OPERATION IN EMERGENCY, MR CHAN SAID.

EMPLOYERS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY PROVISIONS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

"THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE IS ALWAYS READY TO OFFER ADVICE ON WORK SAFETY IN CONFINED SPACES." HE SAID.

SAFETY TRAINING COURSES ARE ALSO ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OR THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AT 13TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

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BUS LICENCE HOLDERS MAY DRIVE LIGHT BUSES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT HOLDERS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUS DRIVING LICENCE WILL ALSO BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES FROM DECEMBER 1 (TUESDAY).

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WHO APPLY FOR ENDORSEMENT TO DRIVE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC BUS ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL ALSO BE ENDORSED TO DRIVE BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

EXISTING HOLDERS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUS DRIVING LICENCES WILL BE ENDORSED TO DRIVE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WHEN THEIR LICENCES ARE RENEWED.

PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL OF THEIR LICENCES, THEY ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO DRIVE BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES FROM DECEMBER 1.

HOLDERS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUS DRIVING LICENCES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS DRIVING TEST BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE MAY APPLY FOR A REFUND OF THE DRIVING TEST FORM FEE.

THEY SHOULD WRITE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S SHATIN APPOINTMENT OFFICE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHATIN STATION.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR REFUND SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENT DATE.

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44 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 44 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN SEPTEMBER.

OF THESE, 10 WERE FOR HONG KONG, 14 FOR KOWLOON AND 20 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 19 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, 10 FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TWO FOR FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 40 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 172,453 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 72,809 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$2,250 MILLION.

/USABLE FLOOR .....

USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 50,517 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 216,029 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE OFFICE ISSUED 38 OCCUPATION PERMITS: 14 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 11 FOR KOWLOON, AND 13 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 24 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 44 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE OFFICE'S CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 636 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,726 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 250 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 654 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED FIVE EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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#### COUPLES INVITED TO BECOME ADOPTIVE PARENTS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A POSTER WITH AN AIM TO RECRUIT MORE ADOPTIVE PARENTS.

THE POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATIONS FOR ONE WEEK, STARTING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID ANY COUPLES WHO WISH TO ADOPT NEEDY CHILDREN COULD APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT'S ADOPTION UNIT.

"THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE IS TO FIND SUITABLE AND PERMANENT HOMES FOR NEEDY CHILDREN SO THAT THEY MAY ENJOY THE LOVING CARE OF A FAMILY LIFE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THESE NEEDY CHILDREN, WHO ARE MADE WARDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MAY HAVE EITHER LOST THEIR PARENTS OR BEEN ABANDONED BY THEIR PARENTS.

THEY ARE VOID OF NOT ONLY PROPER REARING BUT ALSO A HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

"BUT THEY, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CHILDREN, SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT, CARE AND STIMULATION IN A LOVING AND PERMANENT HOME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY LEND A HELPING HAND SHOULD THEY BE MORE FORTHCOMING TO BECOME SUBSTITUTE PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN."

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 33 WARDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION.

COUPLES WHO ARE INTERESTED TO BECOME PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ADOPTION UNIT.

ENQUIRIES COULD ALSO BE MADE BY CALLING THE ADOPTION UNIT ON TEL 852 3107.

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IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDALS FOR EMSD STAFF

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TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL BY THE QUEEN.

THEY ARE WORKS SUPERVISORS MR LEUNG KWONG-YAU AND MR LAU PO-KWONG, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE EACH WORKED WITH EMSD FOR 35 YEARS.

MR LEUNG, AGED 59, IS DUE TO RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE NEXT MONTH AFTER SERVING IN THE ELECTRICAL, AIR-CONDITIONING, REFRIGERATION SECTION (EAR) OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MR LAU, ALSO AGED 59 AND SERVED IN EAR SINCE JOINING THE DEPARTMENT, HAS RETIRED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

THEIR MAIN DUTIES AT THE DEPARTMENT ARE TO MAINTAIN ALL THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATIONS AND DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AT GOVERNMENT VENUES IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION.

THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR KWOK PING-KI, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THE AWARD OF THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDALS TO THE OFFICERS WAS A RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTINUOUS, ARDUOUS EFFORTS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

"THEY HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR WORK TO BE DEDICATED AND DEVOTED OFFICERS.

"BEING CO-OPERATIVE, HARDWORKING, AND WITH EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR WORK, BOTH MR LEUNG AND MR LAU ARE WELL-LIKED AND THEIR SERVICES GREATLY VALUED BY FELLOW COLLEAGUES," MR KWOK SAID.

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