



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EMPHASIS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID 1993/94 WOULD BE ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE YEAR FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN MEETING ITS COMMITMENTS TO PROVIDE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG.

IT WOULD ALSO SEE A NEW EFFORT LAUNCHED TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE SANDWICH CLASS OBTAIN FLATS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

ON THE SEWAGE STRATEGY, MR EASON SAID DETAILED DESIGN WOULD START ON STAGE I AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS WILL PROCEED IN MANY OF THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN AREAS THAT ARE PART OF THE HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME AIMED AT IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN VICTORIA HARBOUR.

"THIS IS ON TOP OF OTHER ON-GOING SEWERAGE WORKS WHICH CURRENTLY INCLUDE SCHEMES FOR TOLO HARBOUR, PORT SHELTER, AND SOUTH OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

AS PART OF THE PROGRAMME TO STRENGTHEN CONTROL ON WATER POLLUTION, TWO MORE WATER CONTROL ZONES WILL BE DECLARED THIS YEAR, AT THE EASTERN AND WESTERN ENDS OF THE HARBOUR AND TWO SUPPLEMENTARY ZONES IN THE SOUTHERN AND TOLO HARBOUR CONTROL ZONES.

MR EASON POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE INCREASE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET WOULD BE DEVOTED TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN THE TERRITORY AND EXTENDING THESE SERVICES TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING AMOUNT OF WASTE THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS GENERATING AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF WASTE.

THIS PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE IN APRIL WHICH WILL ENABLE THE CRADLE TO GRAVE SCHEME TO BE INTRODUCED.

"WE PLAN TO START CONSTRUCTING ALSO THE FIRST TWO OF THE THREE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"THIS WILL MATCH A NETWORK OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS, TWO OF WHICH ARE ALREADY OPERATING, TO TAKE CARE OF HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM NEED FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES," HE SAID.

WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WILL ACCOUNT FOR A LARGE SLICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET, OTHER ASPECTS OF POLLUTION ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE INCREASED ATTENTION IN THE COMING YEAR.

FOR EXAMPLE, CONTROLS ON ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS WILL BE INTRODUCED AND THE EXEMPTION CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AMENDMENT ORDINANCE WILL BE REMOVED.

THIS WILL MEAN THAT A NUMBER OF EXISTING CEMENT PLANTS, ROCK CRUSHING MILLS AND THE TSING YI POWER STATION WILL COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

ALSO, NOISE CONTROLS WILL BE STEPPED UP WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO CONTROL CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND ROAD VEHICLE NOISE.

/MR EASON

MR EASON SAID: "WE ALSO PLAN TO DESIGNATE TWO MARINE PARKS AT YAN CHAU TONG NEAR KAT O AND HOI HA WAN IN SAI KUNG FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PURPOSES AND A MARINE RESERVE AT CAPE D'AGUILAR FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

PROVISIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TO ESTABLISH A HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE TO SURVEY HONG KONG WATERS.

THIS WILL MAKE HONG KONG SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THE COLLECTION OF HYDROGRAPHIC AND HYDRODYNAMIC INFORMATION AND THE PRODUCTION AND UPDATING OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS AND NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

MR EASON SAID: "THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BEING PROVIDED ACROSS-THE-BOARD IN THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS WILL ENABLE US TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR OUR SERVICES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD."

ON SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING, HE SAID: "WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE HOUSING SOCIETY TO DRAW UP DETAILS OF THE 'FAST START' SCHEME AND IT REMAINS OUR INTENTION THAT THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL MOVE INTO THEIR NEW FLATS BY AUGUST."

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ATTESTATION OF CONTRACTS NOT REQUIRED

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EMPLOYERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER CONTRACT TO BE ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE HELPER'S APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT VISA WILL BE REMOVED TOMORROW (MONDAY).

"THE CHANGE IS AIMED AT SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURE AND REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE COST," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

HE ADDED THAT CONTRACTS OF OTHER CATEGORIES OF FOREIGN WORKERS RECRUITED UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME DID NOT REQUIRE ATTESTATION BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"ABOLITION OF THIS REQUIREMENT WILL SHORTEN THE PROCESSING TIME AND SAVE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS SEVERAL TRIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND CONSULATES," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CHANGE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE RIGHTS OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS.

"LIKE ALL OTHER FOREIGN WORKERS IN HONG KONG, THEY ENJOY THE SAME PROTECTION UNDER THE LABOUR LAWS AS LOCAL EMPLOYEES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CONSULTATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE TO THE HELPERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID NEW STANDARD CONTRACT FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT INFORMATION OFFICE AT IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

"BEFORE SUBMITTING A CONTRACT TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR VISA APPLICATION, EMPLOYERS SHOULD CONSULT THE RELEVANT CONSULATES FOR ANY NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS OR FORMALITIES TO BE COMPLETED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT STARTING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY), THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD ONLY ACCEPT CONTRACTS MADE IN THE NEW FORM OR THOSE OLD CONTRACTS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED TO PROMOTE AIDS EDUCATION

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TO PROMOTE AIDS EDUCATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, THE HELP OF YOUTH GROUPS IS NEEDED, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR MARGARET CHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

DR CHAN SAID THE CREATIVITY OF YOUTH MUST BE MADE USE OF TO DESIGN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR THEIR PEERS.

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT AN AWARD-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF A YOUTH AIDS EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS).

SHE SAID IT WAS OUTDATED TO LAUNCH AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER ONE SINGLE AUTHORITY.

"IT IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE TO LAUNCH AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME BY ONE SINGLE ORGANISATION, ONE COMMITTEE OR ONE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT," SHE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 12 YOUTH GROUPS JOINED THE COMPETITION. THEIR PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED AT A CAY-CAMP HELD AT THE SAI KUNG RECREATION CENTRE TODAY.

THE WINNERS OF THE THREE "OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS" ARE THE NGAU TAU KOK CARITAS COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE FRIENDS OF THE SCOUTING OF CHEUNG ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG HOSTEL CONNECTION GROUP.

THE AWARD COMPRISES A TROPHY AND A CASH PRIZE OF \$2,000.

DR CHAN SAID THE PROJECTS WERE MOST INNOVATIVE AND PROFESSIONALLY DONE.

NOT ONLY ARE THESE PROJECTS ENTERTAINING, THEY ALSO HELP SPREAD ANTI-AIDS MESSAGES.

"THIS IS EXACTLY THE OBJECTIVE OF CEPAIDS - WHICH IS, TO MAKE USE OF THE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES," SHE SAID.

/ALSO SPEAKING

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT. SHE SAID MANY PEOPLE REJECTED AIDS PATIENTS FOR FEAR OF BEING INFECTED.

"IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERYONE OF US TO HELP PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM DISEASES AND PAIN. WITH THE RIGHT PRECAUTION, IT IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE FOR US TO CONTACT THESE PATIENTS AND TO HELP THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES," SHE SAID.

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COURSES AND SEMINARS FOR PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH (JANUARY) CONDUCTED A SERIES OF SEMINARS, COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY, PRIMARY AND KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS.

A TOTAL OF 10 SEMINARS, NINE IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSES AND A WORKSHOP WERE HELD.

OF THE SEMINARS, SIX WERE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, THREE FOR PRIMARY AND ONE FOR KINDERGARTEN.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE SEMINARS INCLUDED THE TEACHING OF TYPEWRITING (ELECTRONIC), POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSES, THE TEACHING OF SIXTH FORM PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS, THE TEACHING OF LOCAL SOCIAL ISSUES, A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY TEACHING, AND THE USE OF SOURCES IN HISTORY TEACHING AT SIXTH FORM.

ALSO INCLUDED WERE THE WAY TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN LITERATURE TO PRIMARY PUPILS, THE ROLE OF THE PRIMARY SOCIAL STUDIES PANEL CONVENERS, CREATIVE MUSIC MAKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND MUSIC ACTIVITIES FOR KINDERGARTEN HEADS AND TEACHERS.

COURSES INCLUDED IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSES FOR TEACHER LIBRARIANS, A REFRESHER COURSE ON THE TEACHING OF SIMPLE SURVEYING FOR MATHEMATICS TEACHERS OF PRIMARY SIX, FOUR COURSES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON SIMPLE VIDEO PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, AND THE PROJECT APPROACH IN THE TEACHING OF D & T (PART II), SHELL & C PROGRAMMING IN UNIX.

ALSO INCLUDED WERE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING PACKAGES, AND TWO COURSES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS TEACHERS ON THE INTRODUCTION TO MICROCOMPUTERS AND DISK OPERATING SYSTEM.

THE WORKSHOP HELD LAST MONTH WAS ON WARDROBE PLANNING FOR HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS FROM GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS.

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PLACES AVAILABLE AT GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOLS
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PARENTS WISHING TO FIND PRIMARY 2 TO 6 PLACES FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN THE 1993 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO AT VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) CHILDREN AGED SIX AND EIGHT MONTHS OR MORE ON SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR COULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION.

VACANCIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THESE SCHOOLS AND APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM MARCH 2 (TUESDAY) TO MARCH 10 (WEDNESDAY) DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED PARENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED FORMS TO THE SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE ON MARCH 10.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS WILL BE MADE ON MARCH 16.

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49 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN DECEMBER 1992
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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 49 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 20 WERE FOR HONG KONG, 17 FOR KOWLOON AND 12 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 22 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, 10 FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND FOUR FOR FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 44 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 100,065 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 147,556 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$2,994 MILLION.

USABLE FLOOR AREAS OF THESE BUILDINGS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 81,519 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 342,637 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 44 OCCUPATION PERMITS - 17 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX FOR KOWLOON, AND 21 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 41 DEMOLITION CONSENTS INVOLVING 71 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

/THE OFFICE'S

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THE OFFICE'S CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 475 COMPLAINTS OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,371 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 271 REMOVAL ORDERS IN RESPECT OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION OF BOO INSPECTED 649 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED FOUR EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS OPEN TO PUBLIC

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THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 7 (SUNDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO ENJOY THE AZALEAS IN BLOOM.

APART FROM THE GARDENS, CERTAIN ROOMS INSIDE THE HOUSE WILL ALSO BE OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE BUT NO PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE ALLOWED. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT ENTER OTHER PARTS OF THE HOUSE.

PEOPLE WISHING TO VISIT GOVERNMENT HOUSE ARE REQUESTED TO ENTER BY THE EAST GATE AND LEAVE BY THE MAIN OR WEST GATES SO THAT ALL CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WITHOUT CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS.

PEOPLE TRAVELLING BY TAXI OR PRIVATE CARS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO ALIGHT IN FRONT OF THE MAIN GATE AT UPPER ALBERT ROAD.

SCOUTS, ROAD SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS, ST JOHN AMBULANCE STAFF AND POLICEMEN WILL BE PRESENT. VISITORS ARE ASKED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THEM TO AVOID OVERCROWDING.

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