



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, April 3, 1976

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TOTAL DONATION FOR ALDRICH BAY FIRE VICTIMS AMOUNTS TO \$4.7 M

Members of the public donated a total of \$4.69 million in aid of the victims of the Aldrich Bay fire which broke out in early February this year.

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today: "Of this sum, \$3.4 million was raised by HK-TVB and RTV in their charity shows; and \$1.29 million received by the department and deposited with the Emergency Relief Fund."

He said that each of the 3,000 odd victims had been given \$1,458 in cash, apart from being provided with the normal emergency relief, such as blankets, cooked meals, clothing and household utensils. "Of the total cash payment, \$1,128 was directly paid out to each fire victim by the two television stations amounting to \$3.4 million, \$20 each from the Fat Choy Fund while the rest at \$310 each from the public donations deposited with the Emergency Relief Fund earmarked for them amounting to \$844,410," he said.

Another sum of \$388,125 had been paid to the victims from the Emergency Relief Fund to meet re-accommodation and re-equipment grants for moving into public housing estates or licensed areas.

Other incidental expenses paid out from the Fund included \$34,311 for new clothing distributed to the victims and \$1,477 for special food.

"The total sum of money paid to these victims from public donations other than through the TV stations amounted to \$1.27 million, leaving a balance of \$20,964 from un-earmarked donations to be carried forward to the Emergency Relief Fund for future use," the spokesman added.

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ETV SERVICE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Director of Education has reassured the heads of all primary schools that the Educational Television Service (ETV) will continue to serve their needs following the merger of certain elements of the service with Radio Television Hong Kong.

Although the merged television production unit will be controlled by the Director of Broadcasting, ETV will continue to be the responsibility of the Director of Education who will specify the content of ETV programmes, satisfy himself as to their quality, time-table their transmission and evaluate their use in schools.

ETV producers will continue to be employed by the Education Department.

Stating this in a circular letter to primary school heads, the Deputy Director of Education (Administration), Mr. Colvyn Haye told them that their committees would continue to be intimately concerned with ETV programming and their teachers would continue their close association with ETV producers.

Mr. Haye added: "The day-to-day liaison with the ETV Service (including response to complaints about reception and other queries) will not be affected. ETV will continue to serve you as it has done since 1971. In effect the ETV Service will function as at present."

As announced previously, the merger of the Government's two television production organisations is to enable the best use to be made of creative television talent and production resources of the two services.

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IRRIGATION SCHEMES DESIGNED FOR FARMERS IN N.T.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department is to hand over four irrigation schemes to farmers in the New Territories this month.

For many years now the Department has been responsible for the planning, design and construction of irrigation development schemes.

These schemes are one of development inputs designed to improve local crop production but they are also designed to make optimum use of Hong Kong's water resources particularly in time of dry weather.

The four irrigation schemes due to be handed over to farmers are located in Tuen Mun, Ha Tsuen, Tung Chung and Tai O respectively. They were planned, designed and installed by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in the year 1975/76 at a cost totalling \$344,000.

A spokesman for the Department said: "These schemes consist of more than 30,000 feet of galvanised iron pipeline. They benefit a total of 173 acres of agricultural land."

Farmers, who have often in the past experienced irrigation water shortage in these areas, will now be able to grow a wide range of crops, especially vegetables, the whole year round.

In future, farmers at Lo Fu Hang, Tuen Mun; Sham Wat and Sham Sek Tsuen, Tai O; Tai Po and Ha Ling Pei, Tung Chung will be able to install modern sprinkler irrigation systems on their land. Such systems can be operated by water under pressure from the irrigation pipeline and, when installed, can greatly reduce the labour costs of irrigation which are high under traditional methods of irrigation.

Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to cover the handing-over ceremonies. The first one will take place at Tuen Mun Rural Committee Office on April 6 at 2 p.m. and the second at Ha Tsuen Rural Committee Office on April 9 at 12 noon.

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MAC'S IN TAI PO AND FAN LING

Forming mutual aid committees in Tai Po and Fan Ling is the responsibility of an attractive young woman, Miss Cheung Yuen-chun.

The two towns have a total of 22 MAC's and a further ten are at present in the pipe-line.

Miss Cheung is employed by the District Office, Tai Po. She has so far formed MAC's in ten multi-storey buildings.

"I find the work interesting as I enjoy meeting and talking to people," she said.

The initial response among building tenants to forming a MAC, she pointed out, was "fifty-fifty". Some of them were keen in which case the job was much easier, while the others were uncertain that MAC's could actually help solve the management, security and cleanliness problems in buildings.

Miss Cheung, who took up her present post seven months ago, has been quite successful in persuading the latter category that MAC's could work to good effect provided that "members are keen and support is maintained."

However, she stressed that after a MAC was formed, she still had to keep in close contact with it and help organise events such as outings and visits by District Office staff, Police and Fire Services Department officers in order to maintain interest among members.

The first MAC in the Tai Po/Fan Ling area was formed early in 1974.

Miss Cheung estimated that some 40 MAC's could be formed in these two towns, and she hoped to achieve this target by the end of this year.

"But with the future development of Tai Po and Fan Ling," she added, "there will still be scope in the years ahead."

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TOYS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED AT SIU LAM

The Hong Kong (Island South) Round Table No. 6 has donated a quantity of toys and play equipment to the Siu Lam Hospital as part of the club's community project for 1976.

The play equipment will be installed in the hospital's central play area. They comprise such items as elastybounce, venture climbing frame, sturdy barrows and prams, rocking bird and a pullalong truck which were made by a member of the club.

In addition, the club has also collected a quantity of used toys for the children at Siu Lam, which looks after some 200 mentally subnormal patients.

The donation came after a visit to the hospital by a member of the club, who was very much impressed with the way the mentally retarded patients, mostly children, were being looked after.

The Siu Lam Hospital is situated near Tai Lam Valley, 16½ milestone, Castle Peak Road. Opened in June 1972, it is one of the very few hospitals in the whole of Asia designed solely for the care of the severely mentally retarded.

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CHILDREN'S DAY CARNIVAL

Some 2,000 children will attend a carnival to be held at the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre on Monday (April 5) at 2 p.m. to celebrate the children's day.

The carnival is jointly organised by the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre of the Social Welfare Department, West Kowloon Youth Guidance Council and the Scout Association of Kowloon Tsai District.

There will be about 20 games stalls and prizes will be awarded to the winning stall designs.

Officiating at the ribbon-cutting ceremony will be Mr. Yuen Chau, President of Scout Association of Kowloon Tsai District, Mr. Fan Chi-on, Hon. President of West Kowloon Youth Guidance Council and Mr. Sit Sui-lun, Warden of Tai Hang Tung Community Centre.

On the same day, the Social Welfare Department's Shek Lei Estate Community Work Office is organising a fun fair for about 500 children in the district.

The fun fair will take place at the hall of the Shek Lei Estate Welfare Building from 2 p.m.

It will have about 10 games stalls and cartoon shows for the youngsters.

Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to cover the above functions, both of which will take place on Monday (April 5) at 2 p.m.

The Tai Hang Tung Community Centre is situated at Tong Yam Street and the Shek Lei Estate Welfare Building at Tai Pak Tin Street.

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