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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS
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ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE STUDENTS MORE IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ISSUES ARE SUCCEEDING AND ELICITING RESPONSE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID TODAY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THREE-DAY 7TH HONG KONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SEMINAR AT MORRISON HOUSE.

SPEAKING AS PATRON, MR. TOPLEY NOTED THAT IN THE EARLY DAYS THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE SEMINARS TENDED TO BE ON WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED INTERNAL ISSUES - CURRICULA, TEACHING METHODS, INTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

BUT GRADUALLY THE EMPHASIS SWITCHED TO THE PLACE OF THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS WITHIN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

+THIS CHANGE REFLECTS THE GROWING CONCERN AND INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, IN PARTICULAR IN COMMUNIT SERVICE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHICH HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A VERY HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND A NECESSARY ONE IF TEACHERS WERE TO DO THEIR JOBS PROPERLY.

THE TOPIC FOR THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR - +THE IMPACT OF MASS MEDIA ON HONG KONG YOUTHS+ - HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSED IN RECENT YEARS.

BUT MOST OF THE DISCUSSION AND REPORTS ON IT REFLECTED THE OPINIONS OF THE OLDER AGE GROUPS. +I LOOK FORWARD TO READING THE VIEWS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE TOPIC IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPACT ELSEWHERE, THE KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION AND WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE LIKE WITHOUT THE MASS MEDIA.

AS IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FIND OUT OPINIONS OF STUDENTS, MR. TOPLEY SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE A REPORT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS AND OF THE SEMINAR IN GENERAL. +SUCH FEEDBACK IS INTERESTING,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT IN 1969 WHEN THE FIRST SEMINAR WAS HELD, SOME 60 ODD STUDENTS REPRESENTING ABOUT 20 SCHOOLS ATTENDED. TODAY THERE WERE OVER 100 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 26 SCHOOLS.

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DONATION TO HELP IMPROVE YOUTH SERVICES IN NEW TERRITORIES

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS PRESENTED WITH A CHEQUE FOR $16,050 TONIGHT (SATURDAY) BY THE CASTLE PEAK LIONS CLUB TO HELP IMPROVE THE LIBRARY AND YOUTH SERVICES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RUNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CHEQUE WAS PRESENTED TO MR. MORRIS MORGAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, BY MR. FAN PA-FUN, THE PRESIDENT, AT THE CLUB'S LADIES NIGHT HELD AT THE PENINSULA HOTEL.

IN ACCEPTING THE MONEY ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR. MORGAN SAID PART OF IT WOULD GO TOWARDS AUGMENTING THE SUPPLY OF BOOKS PURCHASED FROM GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE SERVICE'S TWO LIBRARY VANS THUS ENABLING THE LIBRARIES TO OFFER A WIDER SELECTION OF READING MATERIAL.

THE REMAINDER WILL BE SPENT ON SOUND EQUIPMENT AND GAMES EQUIPMENT FOR ANOTHER VAN AND WILL GREATLY HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS YOUTH SERVICES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RURAL MOBILE VANS HAD TWO FUNCTIONS. FIRSTLY, HE SAID, THEY PROVIDE A MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHO ARE UNABLE TO VISIT, BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE INVOLVED, LIBRARIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AT FIXED LOCATIONS, AND SECONDLY, TO PROVIDE A CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE FOR REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THIS SERVICE INCLUDES ORGANISING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FILM SHOWS, CAMPS, SOCIAL EVENINGS AND INFORMAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, UNDERTAKING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND ENCOURAGING YOUTH AND OTHER VILLAGERS TO FORM THEIR OWN GROUPS TO ORGANISE PROGRAMMES AND SO ON.+

THE THREE VANS MAKE DAILY JOURNEYS ROUND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND REGULARLY VISIT SOME 50 STATIONS. IN A TYPICAL MONTH, HE SAID, THE TWO VANS USED AS MOBILE LIBRARIES WOULD SERVE 25 READING STATIONS AND 22 SCHOOLS AND THE THIRD VAN WOULD BE ORGANISING CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES IN SOME 10 VILLAGES.

THEREFORE, HE ADDED, THE MONEY DONATED BY THE CLUB WOULD GO IN SOME WAY TOWARDS ENRICHING THE LIFE OF RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE REMOTE AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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THE TASK OF KEEPING 176 VESSELS AFLOAT

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THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD, WHICH IS RELATIVELY UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC, HAS AN ARDUOUS TASK TO PERFORM -- TO KEEP THE WHOLE GOVERNMENT FLEET IN TOP SEAWORTHY CONDITION ALL YEAR ROUND AND TO OPERATE THE FLEET OF LAUNCHES DIRECTLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT FLEET CONSISTS OF 176 VESSELS. THESE VESSELS, RANGING FROM SOPHISTICATED POLICE PATROL BOATS TO CRUDE RUBBISH BARGES, CAN FORM A LINE STRETCHING ALL THE WAY FROM CENTRAL TO THE JORDAN ROAD FERRY PIER.

THE TASK OF UPKEEPING THESE VESSELS RESTS ON THE 1,200 WORKERS IN THE DOCKYARD WHICH IS UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

OF THESE WORKERS, 700 ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING 500 CREWMEN. THE REMAINING 500 ARE EMPLOYED BY 16 PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.

+THEY ALL WORK UNDER THE SAME ROOF AND BUSINESS IS KEPT AS COMPETITIVE AS POSSIBLE+, SAID THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE DOCKYARD, MR. KHIN HLA.

MR. KHIN KNOWS WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT AND THINKS NEITHER A WHOLLY GOVERNMENT-OPERATED, NOR A SOLELY PRIVATE-RUN BUSINESS OF THIS NATURE IS PRACTICAL ENOUGH TO KEEP SUCH AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE OPERATING EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

+WE KEEP OUR OWN STAFF SO THAT WE ARE NOT TOTALLY RELIANT ON THE CONTRACTORS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FLEET+, HE SAID.

UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT WORKERS CARRY OUT ROUTINE CHECK-UPS WHILE THE CONTRACTORS, OPERATING ON A TENDER BASIS, LOOK AFTER MAJOR OVERHAUL WORK. THE WORK INCLUDES HULL AND DECK CHECKS AND ENGINE MAINTENANCE.

OVERHAUL WORK IS DONE ON THREE SLIPWAYS, TWO OF WHICH HAVE CONCRETE COVERS. THESE TWO COVERED SLIPWAYS ARE USED TO HANDLE VESSELS BELOW 300 TONS WHILE THE OPEN ONE CATERS FOR LAUNCHES UP TO 500 TONS.

MINOR REPAIRS TO EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS COOKING, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING AND STEERING SYSTEMS, ARE DONE IN THE VARIOUS WORKSHOPS.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD MOBILISES THE WHOLE MARINE DEPARTMENT FLEET.

/+THE FLEET .....

+THE FLEET DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB TO HELP TRANSPORT FRESH WATER FROM OCEAN-GOING VESSELS IN THE 1963 DROUGHT, TO HELP FIGHT THE SEAWISE UNIVERSITY FIRE IN 1972 AND IN VARIOUS OIL POLLUTION SITUATIONS+, MR. KHIN RECALLED.

BESIDES THIS, THE DOCKYARD WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE NAVIGATIONAL AIDS SECTION TO ENSURE THAT ALL BUOYS, BEACONS AND OTHER NAVIGATIONAL AIDS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS ARE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION.

MR. KHIN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM ITS RATHER PRIMITIVE ORIGIN IN 1914 WHEN A SLIPWAY AND A RANGE OF WOODEN SHEDS WERE BUILT AT THE CANTON ROAD WATERFRONT INSIDE THE YAUMATI TYPHOON SHELTER TO LOOK AFTER A FLEET OF 35 COAL-BURNING VESSELS.

THOUGH IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE, OVERCROWDING BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE GOVERNMENT FLEET WAS INEVITABLE.

IN THE EARLY 1960'S, A TENTATIVE PLAN TO BUILD A NEW DOCKYARD ON THE WATERFRONT OF THE EXISTING CANTON ROAD CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES WAS DRAWN UP.

THE PLAN BECAME A REALITY IN SEPTEMBER 1971 WHEN THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD SWUNG INTO OPERATION.

IT IS MORE SPACIOUS AND BETTER EQUIPPED. BUT THERE IS A NEED FOR FURTHER EXPANSION AS THE SIZE OF THE GOVERNMENT FLEET HAS DOUBLED OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

COMMENTING ON FUTURE PLANS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID: +WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF STREAMLINING THE STAFF STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD+. +AT THE SAME TIME+, HE ADDED, +THE GOVERNMENT HAS EARMARKED A PIECE OF LAND ADJOINING THE DOCKYARD FOR BUILDING TWO MORE SLIPWAYS CAPABLE OF HANDLING EVEN BIGGER VESSELS.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A LAUNCH BEING REPAIRED AT THE DOCKYARD WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION IN KOWLOON CITY

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A THREE-DAY EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION ON ANTI-DRUG ABUSE WILL BE HELD FROM MONDAY (FEB. 17) TO WEDNESDAY (FEB. 19) BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM AT THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE, FOOK TAO MANSION, 8-12 SUNG WONG TOI ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, KOWLOON.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARTS, STATISTICAL MATERIALS AND SAMPLES OF DRUGS. THESE HAVE BEEN PUT TOGETHER TO SHOW THE VARIETIES OF DRUGS AND THEIR RESOURCES, THE EXISTING SITUATION OF DRUG-ADDICTION IN HONG KONG, THE VARIOUS WAYS OF DRUG-TAKING AND THE WORK OF ANTI-NARCOTICS AGENCIES.

MR. DONALD NG, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER FOR KOWLOON CITY, SAID THAT THIS WAS JUST ONE OF A LARGE VARIETY OF ANTI-DRUG PROGRAMMES SUCH AS SEMINARS, TALKS, COMPETITIONS AND VISITS TO REHABILITATION CENTRES, BEING HELD BY 13 AGENCIES IN KOWLOON CITY INCLUDING KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, YOUTH CENTRES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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