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HUMAN RIGHTS TELELINE A "RINGING SUCCESS"
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FROM THE NUMBER OF CALLS IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING, THE HUMAN RIGHTS TELELINE SERVICE IS CERTAINLY PROVING TO BE A "RINGING SUCCESS".

LAUNCHED ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, IT HAS ALREADY DEALT WITH MORE THAN 108,400 ENQUIRIES - SOME 1,200 EVERYDAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID THAT THE FREE PHONE-IN SERVICE HAS BEEN SO WELL-RECEIVED IS A WELCOME SIGN OF THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT MAKING MORE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS ENACTED IN JUNE 1991, WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PROMOTION PRIORITY IN THE COMING YEARS.

SOME OF HONG KONG'S ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITIES HAVE ALREADY THROWN THEIR WEIGHT - AND VOICES - BEHIND IT.

FOR IT WAS WITH THEIR PROFESSIONAL HELP - THE PRODUCTION OF FIVE 'DRAMATISED' RECORDINGS - THAT HELPED LAUNCH THE TELELINE ON DECEMBER 3 LAST YEAR WHICH GAVE THE PUBLIC, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A MORE DIRECT AND EASIER ACCESS TO HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION.

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE WILL BE EXPANDING OUR INFORMATION BANK AT INTERMITTENT INTERVALS TO EVENTUALLY COVER ALL THE IMPORTANT FACETS OF THE LAW," HE EXPLAINED.

BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE CONCENTRATING ON THE MOST COMMON SITUATIONS BY FOCUSING THEIR INCULCATIONS ON: THE FREEDOM OF OPINION AND SPEECH; FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY; EQUALITY BEFORE THE COURTS AND THE RIGHT TO A FAIR AND PUBLIC HEARING; PROTECTION OF PRIVACY, AND, THE ENTITLEMENT TO THESE RIGHTS WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTION.

WHERE EXISTING LAW MAY CONFLICT WITH, OR, CONTRAVENE THE SPIRIT OF THE ORDINANCE, AN EXPLANATION HAS BEEN WRITTEN INTO ONE OF THE SCENARIOS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A REVIEW TO SEE HOW A BALANCE CAN BE STRUCK.

IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN URGED THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE TO MAKE FULL USE OF TELELINE BY DIALLING 187 8111, 187 8122 OR 187 8133. THE ACCESS CODE IS 6701 - 5.

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION NEEDED TO ACHIEVE "HEALTH FOR ALL"

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TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET OF "HEALTH FOR ALL" REQUIRES THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, APART FROM THE PROVISION OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"THAT IS WHY 'PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH' IS THE MOTTO OF OUR DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM," DR LEE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A "HEALTHY LIFESTYLE DAY" ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S KWUN TONG DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.

"THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH IS NO LONGER THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO HAVE A PART TO PLAY.

"PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS, AS WELL AS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ALL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE," HE SAID.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THESE PROFESSIONALS CAN HAVE CLOSE CO-ORDINATION IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS.

"FOR 'HEALTH' IS NOT JUST FREE FROM DISEASES BUT ALSO THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF A PERSON," DR LEE ADDED, QUOTING THE DEFINITION GIVEN BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

HE SAID THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE SERVED TO PROVIDE A CHANNEL FOR VARIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE ENGAGED IN MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT TO GET TOGETHER TO WORK FOR BETTER QUALITY SERVICES UNDER THE SPIRIT OF 'PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH'.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, MR LAM HANG-FAI, STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE".

"I AM SURE THAT IF WE STICK CLOSELY AND PERSISTENTLY TO A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, WE CAN EVENTUALLY BE HEALTHY AND FREE FROM DISEASES," HE SAID.

TODAY'S EVENT FEATURED GAME STALLS, DISPLAYS AND HEALTH CHECK COUNTERS WHICH CONVEYED HEALTHY LIFESTYLE MESSAGES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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SURVEY ON OPERATION OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE OPERATION CHARACTERISTICS AND FINANCE OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE SURVEY WAS AN ANNUAL EXERCISE AND COMPRISED A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY AND A METER-READING SURVEY.

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS AND SKETCHES SHOWING THE LOCATIONS OF THE METER-READING CENTRES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO TAXI OPERATORS SELECTED FOR THE SURVEY.

FOR THE METER-READING SURVEY, TAXI OWNERS SHOULD PRESENT THEIR VEHICLES TO THE METER-READING CENTRES FROM MARCH 15 TO 19 AND FROM 22 TO MARCH 26 BETWEEN 9 AM AND 12.30 PM OR BETWEEN 2 PM AND 4.30 PM.

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BEFORE MARCH 15.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED OWNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY TO HELP THE DEPARTMENT ASSESS THE OPERATING CONDITIONS OF NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS.

HE SAID THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND USED FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ONLY.

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OWNER FINED FOR DEFYING DEMOLITION ORDER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REITERATED THAT FLAT-OWNERS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH DEMOLITION ORDERS ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES MAY FACE HEAVY FINES.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A COMPANY WAS FINED \$20,000 FOR IGNORING A COURT ORDER TO DEMOLISH AN ILLEGAL STRUCTURE ON THE ROOF-TOP OF A BUILDING IN WAN CHAI.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT ON JANUARY 22 LAST YEAR WHEN BOO STAFF, ACTING ON A COMPLAINT, INSPECTED THE ROOF OF 17A MOON STREET, WAN CHAI.

THEY DISCOVERED THAT CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT ABOVE A TOP-FLOOR PREMISES OWNED BY THE DEFENDANT, THE CHINA PORT NOMINEES COMPANY LIMITED.

THE COURT HEARD THAT A WARNING LETTER WAS IMMEDIATELY ISSUED BY BOO ADVISING THE OWNER TO STOP THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AND TO REMOVE THEM.

WHEN THE ADVICE WAS IGNORED, A DEMOLITION ORDER WAS ISSUED ON JULY 23 LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE OWNER TO REMOVE THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE AND TO REINSTATE THE PART OF THE BUILDING AFFECTED BY SEPTEMBER 22.

THE DEFENDANT WAS TAKEN TO COURT AFTER SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT INSPECTIONS REVEALED THAT THE STATUTORY ORDER HAD NOT YET BEEN COMPLIED WITH. HE PLEADED GUILTY AT EASTERN MAGISTRACY ON FEBRUARY 16 THIS YEAR AND WAS FINED \$20,000.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS SUPPORT OF PEOPLE: SHA

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS GAINED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 10TH INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE TSUEN WAN TRADE ASSOCIATION, HE SAID LOCAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS HAD MADE NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS SUCCESS.

"MANY LARGE-SCALE DISTRICT ACTIVITIES WERE MADE POSSIBLE WITH THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP," HE SAID, ADDING THAT DISTRICT BOARDS MET PART OF THE FUNDING.

MR SUEN ALSO PRAISED THE TSUEN WAN TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS IN THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND IN PROMOTING LOCAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

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LOCAL ARTS GROUPS GET GRANTS

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THREE PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP HAVE BEEN AWARDED A TOTAL OF \$160,000 BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) UNDER THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS.

OF THEM, THE DRAMA GROUP ART SQUARE IS SPONSORED BY EAGLE KINGDOM INTERNATIONAL LTD.

IN THE MUSIC FIELD, CHUEN YING GUZENG ENSEMBLE IS SPONSORED BY YHY FOOD PRODUCTS LTD.

HONG KONG FESTIVAL FRINGE LTD IN THE COMBINED ARTS FIELD IS SPONSORED BY AGFA-GEVAERT' (HK) LTD.

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THE CFPA HAS ALSO APPROVED 19 PROJECT GRANTS, AMOUNTING TO \$676,040, TO 17 PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS.

IN THE DRAMA FIELD ARE THE NONSENSEMAKERS, ACTORS' FAMILY, NOVICE, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE, THE STUDENT UNION OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG SHUE YAN COLLEGE, HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION, THE PERFORMERS, RED CALF DRAMA CLUB, CHOI HUNG DRAMA ASSOCIATION AND CARLSBERG WANCHAI THEATRE.

MS MUI CHEUK-YIN AND SOUTH ASLT DANCE WORKSHOP ARE IN THE DANCE FIELD.

IN THE MUSIC FIELD ARE HONG KONG COMPOSERS' GUILD AND HONG KONG MUSIC ALLIANCE FOR STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTES.

GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO WAH FAI CANTONESE OPERA ASSOCIATION AND BIG FIGHT CANTONESE OPERA SOCIETY IN THE CHINESE OPERA FIELD.

APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT AND MATCHING GRANTS CAN BE MADE ANY TIME IN THE YEAR.

THE APPLICANT MUST BE AN APPROVED CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATION.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE PLANNED PERFORMANCE DATES TO ALLOW TIME FOR ASSESSMENT BY CFPA.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR PROJECT AND MATCHING GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CFPA SECRETARIAT ON 40TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 594 5600.

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