DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1985

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

HK DEVELOPING OWN SYSTEMS -- SIR EDWARD 1

GOVERNOR VISITS URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT 3

INTEREST IN OLD LINE-DRAWING MACHINE 4

GOVERNOR TO VISIT HK SEA SCHOOL 4

CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC 4

CLOSER INTEGRATION IN POLICY-MAKING EXPECTED 5

SEMINAR FOR NEW LEGCO MEMBERS 7

MARINE POLICE -- WELL-TRAINED, HIGHLY DISCIPLINED 7

NEW HOUSING MATERIALS TESTING LAB OPENED 9

YOUTHS GET CHANCE TO SHOW CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY 10

MORE WORK FOR RSD STAFF IN DEVELOPING NEW TOWN 11

CAR PARKING SITE UP FOR RENT 12

HK DEVELOPING OWN SYSTEMS -- SIR EDWARD

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HONG KONG IS DEVELOPING AND WILL DEVELOP ITS OWN SYSTEMS AND ITS OWN WAY OF OPERATING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+AND I DON'T THINK THAT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THAT SYSTEM WILL FOLLOW A PATTERN OF ANYWHERE ELSE -- HONG KONG IS VERY SUCCESSFUL IN DEVELOPING ITS OWN SYSTEMS, AND I THINK THAT THAT IS PROBABLY WHAT WILL OCCUR,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM A REPORTER, AFTER TOURING THE SHAM SHUI PO MARKET, ON WHETHER HE FELT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR A PARTY SYSTEM TO DEVELOP IN HONG KONG.

HE ADDED THAT WHEN QUESTIONS LIKE THAT WERE ASKED, +ONE WAS REALLY ASKING FOR A THEORETICAL APPROACH.+

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD ENCOURAGE OR DISCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, SIR EDWARD SAID HE WOULD DO NEITHER.

+I AM GOING TO WATCH+, HE SAID.

+I THINK WHEN THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETS, WE WILL HAVE THE COMPLETED SYSTEM REALLY -- WE WILL HAVE DISTRICT BOARDS, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, FUNCTIONAL MEMBERS ETC -- I THINK THAT WILL DEVELOP ITS OWN PATTERN AND ITS OWN GROUPINGS.

+I THINK THAT A SYSTEM IS STRONGEST WHEN IT GROWS FROM THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH IT IS BASED, AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT GROW NATURALLY RATHER THAN TRY TO FORCE IT INTO ANY PARTICULAR PATTERN,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR HIS VIEWS ON A COMMITTEE SYSTEM FOR HONG KONG, SIR EDWARD SAID HE WAS NOT GOING TO RECOMMEND ONE SYSTEM OR ANOTHER.

+THE WHOLE POINT OF HAVING THE NEXT TWO YEARS BEFORE THE 1987 REVIEW IS THAT QUITE A LOT OF IDEAS CAN COME FORWARD, AND PEOPLE CAN GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THEM.

+AND I DON'T THINK I WANT TO SAY BEFORE 1987 THAT ONE SYSTEM IS GOING TO BE BETTER THAN ANOTHER.+

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD +TOYED+ WITH THE IDEA OF A COMMITTEE SYSTEM, SIR EDWARD SAID, +I HAVEN'T TOYED WITH THE IDEA.+

ASKED TO ELABORATE ON A RECENT REMARK BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONSTITUTIONAL TO DEBATE THE BASIC LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE BASIC LAW WAS, BY THE AGREEMENT, TO BE DRAFTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

/+I THINK .....

+I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH IS HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT IS THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE ESSENTIALS ARE BEING OVERLOOKED.

+AND THE ESSENTIALS WE HAVE AGREED. THE BASIC LAW HAS TO BE DRAFTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. IT HAS TO CONTAIN WHAT IS IN THE AGREEMENT.

+AND THE CHINESE HAVE SAID THAT -- THEY GAVE THE UNDERTAKING WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER CAME DOWN HERE -- THAT THERE WOULD BE WIDE CONSULTATION, CONSULTATION IN HONG KONG ON A WIDE BASIS.

+EXACTLY HOW THAT WILL DEVELOP IS, AT THIS STAGE ANYWAY, HYPOTHETICAL, IT SEEMS TO ME. SO IT IS BEST NOT TO TRY TO BE TOO SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP.+

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING GOVERNMENT COULD DO TO STOP SUCH A DEBATE IF THE MAJORITY OF LEGCO UNOFFICIALS WANTED IT, SIR EDWARD SAID, +I THINK WE WILL GET TO THE POINT WHEN WE KNOW WHAT UNOFFICIALS WANT TO DO AND WHAT FORMS OF DEBATES THEY WANT IN LEGCO.+

+AND AS THE PRESIDENT OF LEGCO, AS SOME OF YOU HAVE OFTEN REMINDED ME, IT WOULD BE QUITE IMPROPER FOR THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE A POSITION BEFORE THE PROPOSITION HAS EVEN BEEN MADE.+

ASKED WHY IT WAS TAKING HIM SO LONG TO DECIDE ON THE LIST OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR LEGCO, SIR EDWARD REPLIED,+ BECAUSE I CONSIDER EVERY NAME EXCEEDINGLY CAREFULLY.+

HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO ANNOUNCE THE NAMES OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHEN HE ANNOUNCES THE NAMES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS +NOT TOO LONG+ FROM NOW.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE MORE LICENCES TO HAWKERS, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE WHAT WAS GOING TO BE IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON HAWKERS.

+BUT I THINK THAT ANYBODY WALKING ROUND THE STREETS OF HONG KONG -- AS I DO, NOT ONLY TODAY -- WILL SEE THAT HAWKER POLICY IS A POLICY WHICH HAS VERY MANY FACETS.

+IT HAS THE CONVENIENCE TO PEOPLE, IT HAS THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE HAWKERS, IT HAS THE NEED NOT TO HAVE OBSTRUCTION, IT HAS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN PROPER CONTROLS FOR HEALTH REASONS, AND ALL THOSE HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

+WHEN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT COMES OUT, I THINK THEN THERE WILL HAVE TO BE THIS PERIOD OF CONSULTATION. AND FROM THAT I HOPE WILL GROW A POLICY WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY, TO THE HAWKERS AND TO EVERYBODY ELSE, BUT IT WILL HAVE TO BE A BALANCE, OF COURSE, BETWEEN A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS,+ HE SAID.

BEFORE LEAVING THE MARKET, SIR EDWARD REMINDED REPORTERS PRESENT, +DON'T FORGET TO DO YOUR SHOPPING.+

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GOVERNOR VISITS URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, THIS AFTERNOON (WEDNESDAY) PAID A TWO-HOUR VISIT TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SIR EDWARD, ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT THE VISIT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR JOHN R. HEYWOOD, FIRST ARRIVED AT USD HEADQUARTERS AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING) WHERE HE WAS INTRODUCED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS, MRS HELEN C.P. LAI YU AND DR PATRICK H. HASE, AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF.

SIR EDWARD WAS THEN BRIEFED BY THE STAFF OFFICER (HAWKER CONTROL), MR OWEN BROADLEY, ON THE HAWKER ISSUE, AND BY THE CHIEF CURATOR (SPACE MUSEUM/MUSEUM OF HISTORY), MR C.H. HO, ON MUSEUM SERVICES.

HE THEN PROCEEDED TO KOWLOON PARK WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE CURATOR (MUSEUM OF HISTORY), MR ROBERT P.F. LAM, AND THE CHIEF MANAGER (LEISURE SERVICES) KOWLOON WEST, MR DAVID S.K. YU.

DURING HIS HALF-HOUR STAY THERE, HE WAS SHOWN AROUND THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY, WHERE ITEMS RELATED TO LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY ARE COLLECTED, STUDIED AND PUT ON DISPLAY. WHILE AT KOWLOON PARK HE ALSO INSPECTED THE AVIARY, WHICH WAS OPENED IN 1980 AND DESIGNED WITHOUT SUPPORTING PILLARS TO ENHANCE THE VIEWING OF BIRDS IN FLIGHT.

SIR EDWARD THEN WENT TO PEI HO STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (KOWLOON NORTH), MR LEE SAI-HEI, AND THE DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (SHAM SHUI PO), MR CHAN WING-CHEUK.

SIR EDWARD WAS TOLD THAT THERE ARE NOW SOME 280 FIXED-PITCH AND STATIC MOBILE HAWKERS SELLING DRY GOODS IN THE AREA, PLUS ABOUT 300 UNLICENSED HAWKERS TRADING THERE. THESE ON-STREET HAWKERS HAVE BEEN CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

TO SOLVE THIS HAWKER PROBLEM, THE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO BUILD AN URBAN COUNCIL COMPLEX IN THE DISTRICT WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE SOME OF THE ON-STREET HAWKERS. CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPLEX WILL BEGIN IN 1987.

SIR EDWARD THEN WENT TO THE SHAM SHUI PO MARKET, WHICH IS ONE OF THE OLDEST MARKETS IN HONG KONG. THE 78 STALLS IN THE MARKET WILL EVENTUALLY BE RESITED IN THE COMPLEX.

BEFORE ENDING HIS TOUR, SIR EDWARD INSPECTED THE STATIC HAWKER STALLS ALONG KI LUNG STREET.

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INTEREST IN OLD LINE-DRAWING MACHINE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TOOK CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AN OLD LINE-DRAWING MACHINE WHEN HE VISITED THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY TODAY DURING AN AFTERNOON'S VISIT TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE LINE-DRAWING MACHINE WAS RECENTLY DONATED TO THE MUSEUM. SIR EDWARD ALSO VISITED THE AVIARY AT KOWLOON PARK AND LATER WENT TO SHAM SHUI PO TO SEE FOR HIMSELF HAWKER PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT. HE ALSO INSPECTED THE SHAM SHUI PO MARKET.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT HK SEA SCHOOL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 11), AND OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY MARKING THE COMPLETION OF THE BRADBURY BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GAMES AREAS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL AT 41 TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, STANLEY, HONG KONG, BY 2.40 PM.

GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SPENT AN AFTERNOON AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE INSTITUTION.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SIR S.Y. CHUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLYTECHNIC COUNCIL; DR JOHN CLARK, DIRECTOR; DR Y.K. CHING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND MR K.M. LO, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.

SIR DAVID LEARNED FROM DR CLARK THAT THE POLYTECHNIC IS NOW MOVING TOWARDS HAVING 30 PER CENT OF ITS ENROLMENT TAKING DEGREE COURSES BY THE EARLY 1990'S, BUT THAT IT WILL ALSO KEEP UP ITS DISTINCTIVE AND UNIQUE ROLE AS A CHIEF PROVIDER OF HIGHER TECHNICIAN COURSES.

/ALL COURSES, ...

ALL COURSES, NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR LEVEL, ARE GEARED TOWARDS THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND THE COMMUNITY, AS SHOWN BY THE TEACHING FACILITIES SIR DAVID SAW.

THE FACILITIES INCLUDE THE ERGONOMICS LABORATORY, THE PRODUCT DESIGN STUDIOS AND THE AUDIO-VISUAL WORKSHOPS WHICH ARE USED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN AREAS OF INTERIOR AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE HYDRAULICS LABORATORY, AT WHICH AN OFFSHORE ENGINEERING RESEARCH PROJECT, UNDERTAKEN IN COLLABORATION WITH CHINA, IS BEING CARRIED OUT. THE FINDINGS OF THE PROJECT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAW THE +ELITE CAD-CAM LABORATORY+ WHICH PROVIDES TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTISING ENGINEERS ON THE USE OF COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN AND COMPUTER-INTEGRATED MANUFACTURE, TWO DEVICES AIMED AT ACHIEVING MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS.

HE WENT ON TO INSPECT THE SUPPORTING SERVICES WHICH THE STUDENTS NEED OTHER THAN THE TRAINING IN THEIR DISCIPLINES OF STUDY, AND TOURED THE LIBRARY, THE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT, THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY AND THE SPORTS FACILITIES.

SIR DAVID ALSO LEARNED THAT, TO HELP BROADEN THE STUDENTS' OUTLOOK, 20 COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES COURSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO FULL-TIME STUDENTS ON AN ELECTIVE BASIS IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR.

THESE INCLUDE LAW, MUSIC APPRECIATION, GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND ASTRONOMY.

EARLIER, BEFORE STARTING HIS TOUR, SIR DAVID MET STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND HAD A TASTE OF THE STUDENT'S WORK - A LUNCH IN HIS HONOUR, PREPARED AND SERVED BY THE STUDENTS OF INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING STUDIES.

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CLOSER INTEGRATION IN POLICY-MAKING EXPECTED

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THE EXISTING SYSTEM IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS ARE INVOLVED IN MOST OF THE MAJOR COMMITTEES WHICH DECIDE AND ADVISE ON POLICY HAS TO BE DEVELOPED IN A MORE DELIBERATE WAY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT MEMBERS WERE ALREADY CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE POLICY DECISION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, BUT HE WOULD EXPECT THAT TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND AND DEEPEN.

/HE ADDED .....

HE ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

ASKED DURING HIS TOUR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO ELABORATE ON THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED AT A MEET THE MEDIA SESSION YESTERDAY (TUESDAY), SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG MUST WORK TOWARDS A CLOSER INTEGRATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS.

+OF COURSE THAT WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED,+ HE SAID. +WHAT WE HAVE GOT TO DO IS TO DEVELOP THE SYSTEM IN A MORE DELIBERATE WAY, SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND IN SOME CASES, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, ARE MORE INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL FORMULATION OF POLICY.+

ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS WOULD THEN BE DEVELOPING INTO THE CONGRESS AND THE SENATE IF HONG KONG WERE TO ADOPT THE UNITED STATES STYLE, SIR DAVID SAID THAT WAS PROBABLY DEVELOPING HIS IDEAS TOO FAR AT THE PRESENT STAGE.

+BUT CERTAINLY WE SHOULD NOT LOOK AT ONE AREA OF THE WORLD IN ORDER TO DRAW UP IDEAS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

+WE SHOULD LOOK AT OTHER SYSTEMS. PERHAPS THE SYSTEMS IN NORTH AMERICA ARE OF INTEREST TO US IN THIS PARTICULAR FIELD,+ HE ADDED.

ASKED IF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM WOULD BE ONE OF THE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN 1987, SIR DAVID SAID: +I SHOULD THINK WE WILL GET ON WITH DEVELOPING THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM BEFORE 1987, BECAUSE WITH THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WE WILL WANT TO INTEGRATE THEM MORE INTO THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS.+

+I THINK IT WOULD BE A STEP FORWARD IF WE CAN MORE CLOSELY INTEGRATE THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES FOR HONG KONG AND FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO PRAISED THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE POLYTECHNIC FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION AND THE TREMENDOUS WORK THAT HAD BEEN DONE FOR HONG KONG AND FOR THE FUTURE.

+THE POLYTECHNIC IS MAKING TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO IT, AND THE COMMUNITY SHOULD GIVE IT ALL THE SUPPORT IT CAN,+ HE NOTED.

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SEMINAR FOR NEW LEGCO MEMBERS
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NEW MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AT A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON OCTOBER 23.

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE COUNCILS DIVISION, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHAMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING IN JACKSON ROAD.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, AND THE COUNSEL TO THE LEGISLATURE, MR JAMES O'GRADY, WILL LEAD DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG, THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND POLICY-MAKING PROCESS, AND THE PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FREE-RANGING QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

AS THIS WILL BE AN ORIENTATION BRIEFING FOR NEW MEMBERS, THERE WILL BE NO PRESS FACILITY.

HOWEVER, PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT A PRESS PREVIEW OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING WILL BE HELD THREE DAYS LATER ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 26), AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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MARINE POLICE -- WELL-TRAINED, HIGHLY DISCIPLINED
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HONG KONG'S WATERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE POLICED STRONGLY IN THE YEARS AHEAD NOW THAT THE MARINE POLICE EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES ARE ON THE RIGHT COURSE.

BUT THE ABILITY TO MAKE THIS POSITIVE FORECAST HAD BEEN HARD-WON, AND IT WOULD NOT ALL BE SMOOTH-SAILING FROM NOW ON, THE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF THE MARINE POLICE, MR JOHN MACDONALD, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

''TAKING 10 YEARS TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAMME, WHICH SHOULD HAVE STRETCHED OVER MORE THAN 40 YEARS, HAS PRODUCED SOME DIFFICULTIES WHICH ONLY TIME CAN SOLVE,'' HE SAID.

/''ACQUISITION OF .....

''ACQUISITION OF LAUNCHES AND THEIR EQUIPMENT IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE, BUT TO PRODUCE A LARGE NUMBER OF HIGHLY-TRAINED MARINE POLICE OFFICERS AT SHORT-NOTICE IS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK.''

THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MAN THE LAUNCHES OF THE FLEET WERE NOT ONLY TRAINED AS POLICE OFFICERS TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THEIR LAND-BASED COUNTERPARTS, THEY MUST ALSO MASTER THE ARTS OF NAVIGATION, SEAMANSHIP, ENGINEERING, WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY, RADAR AND RADAR PROCEDURES, SHIP CONSTRUCTION, SHIP HUSBANDRY, SIGNALLING AND A HOST OF MARINE-RELATED ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS.

TODAY, THE MARINE POLICE FLEET CONSISTS OF TWO 111-FOOT COMMAND LAUNCHES, SEVEN 78-FOOT PATROL LAUNCHES, NINE 26-METRE PATROL BOATS, THREE 26-METRE FAST LOGISTIC CRAFT, FIFTEEN 26.8-METRE FAST PATROL LAUNCHES AND MANY MINOR CRAFT, SOME OF WHICH CAN ATTAIN SPEEDS OF OVER 45 KNOTS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE TWO 70-FOOT PATROL LAUNCHES, WHICH ARE SOON TO BE DECOMMISSIONED, AND SEVEN 50-FOOT HARBOUR PATROL LAUNCHES, WHICH WILL BE REPLACED BY FASTER AND MORE MODERN CRAFT.

MR MACDONALD SAID THAT TENDERING WAS ALSO WELL IN HAND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TWO 40-METRE COMMAND LAUNCHES WHICH WILL BE EQUIPPED AS SEARCH-AND-RESCUE VESSELS WITH AND ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITY AT EXTENDED RANGE.

''TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE SEAWARD DEFENCE OF THE TERRITORY IS NOT ONLY DIFFICULT,'' HE POINTED OUT ''IT IS EXPENSIVE. NOT AS EXPENSIVE AS NEGLECTING THOSE DEFENCES, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF A SERVICE WHICH IS TRADITIONALLY LOW-PROFILE AND WHOSE MAIN AIM IS THE PREVENTION OF CRIME IN AN AREA ALMOST TOTALLY ALIEN TO THE LAYMAN.''

HE DESCRIBED THE MARINE POLICE AS A LARGE, WELL-TRAINED AND HIGHLY-DISCIPLINED FORCE WHICH CAN BE RAPIDLY MOBILISED AND RE-DEPLOYED IN AN EMERGENCY.

''IN THE LAST 144 YEARS, THE MARINE POLICE HAVE STOOD BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THOSE FORCES WHICH WOULD DISRUPT ITS SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY,'' HE SAID.

IT WAS THAT PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM INTERFERENCE WHICH HAD ALLOWED WHAT WAS ONCE LITTLE MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF FISHING VILLAGES, TO BECOME THE ECONOMIC GIANT OF TODAY. TRADE, THE VERY LIFEBLOOD OF HONG KONG, WAS POSSIBLE ONLY UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A SECURE HARBOUR AND OPEN SEA LANES.

''THE EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION OF THE MARINE REGION, IF ALLOWED TO PROGRESS SATISFACTORILY, WILL PERMIT ACTIVE, POSITIVE POLICING, RATHER THAN A PASSIVE, REACTIVE ROLE,'' MR MACDONALD SAID.

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NEW HOUSING MATERIALS TESTING LAB OPENED
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THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT PLACES ON QUALITY IS THE KEY TO MAKING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES SOPHISTICATED COMMUNITIES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR FRED PANG YUK-LING, SAID THIS TODAY IN OFFICIALLY OPENING THE DEPARTMENT'S MATERIALS TESTING LABORATORY.

+WHILE SKILLFUL AND IMAGINATIVE ESTATE DESIGNS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, SO TOO IS THE NEED FOR EVER-IMPROVING QUALITY, WORKMANSHIP AND DURABILITY OF THE BUILDINGS WE ARE CONSTRUCTING,+ MR PANG SAID.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS BUILDING IMPROVED MULTI-ROOM FLATS IN RENTAL HOUSING ESTATES, REPLACING THE SIMPLE ONE-ROOM CONCEPTION TO MEET THE GROWING ASPIRATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF TENANTS.

+THIS ADVANCE, TOGETHER WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE ESTATE DESIGN OFFERING WELL-PLANNED AND SAFE BUILDINGS AND GOOD ANCILLARY FACILITIES, PROVIDES A MUCH BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESIDENTS.+

ON CONSTRUCTION, MR PANG SAID THE USE OF RELIABLE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE MATERIALS EXERCISED WITH CARE AND THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR LIMITATIONS WOULD MAKE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES LAST AND MINIMISE MAINTENANCE COSTS.

AND IT WAS FOR THESE VERY GOOD REASONS THE MATERIALS TESTING LABORATORY, THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW TECHNICAL ARM, WAS SET UP, HE SAID.

+IT WILL IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND HELP ASSURE THEIR QUALITY, THUS ENABLING THE DEPARTMENT TO MONITOR ALL ROUTINE TESTING OF CONCRETE AND MATERIALS USED IN ITS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.+

FOR THE PRESENT, HE SAID, FACILITIES IN THE LABORATORY COVERED ONLY THE CURING AND COMPRESSIVE TESTING OF CONCRETE CUBES AND CORES, BUT THEY WOULD SOON BE EXTENDED TO COVER OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS SUCH AS AGGREGATE, CEMENT, AND CHEMICAL TESTING.

TENDER DOCUMENTATION IS ALSO IN HAND FOR PURCHASING NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR STEEL TESTS.

+THEREAFTER, DEPENDENT UPON PRIORITIES, SUITABLE TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR BITUMEN, SOILS, BUILDING SERVICES MATERIALS AND FITTING WILL GRADUALLY BE INSTALLED.+

/HOWEVER, MR .....

HOWEVER, MR PANG SAID THAT THE LABORATORY WAS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT TESTING USE THE DEPARTMENT MADE OF COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTIONAL LABORATORIES, BUT RATHER TO COMPLEMENT THEIR SERVICES.

+WE SHALL AIM TO DEVELOP CLOSE TIES WITH THEM AND COMPARE RESULTS.+

TO ACHIEVE SUCH COMPARISONS, MR PANG SAID, THE LABORATORY WILL OPERATE TO +BENCH MARK+ STANDARDS WHICH WILL REQUIRE CLOSE LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE TEACHING INSTITUTIONS AND, IN DUE COURSE, THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCREDITATION SYSTEM.

WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED ON THE COMPUTERISATION OF THE LABORATORY TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO REGULARISE TEST RESULTS.

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YOUTHS GET CHANCE TO SHOW CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

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WONG TAI SIN YOUTHS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUTDOOR LIFE AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE DISTRICT'S IYY YOUTH FESTIVAL.

ON TWO CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS (OCTOBER 12 AND 19), YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT WILL SPEND THE MORNING AT THE CLEARWATER BAY COUNTRY PARK.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT COUNTRY PARK AUTHORITY, THE YOUTHS WILL HELP CUT GRASS AND COLLECT LITTER IN THE COUNTRY PARK.

THE +YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN COUNTRY PARKS+ EVENT IS ONE OF MANY ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT IYY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

A SEMINAR ON LAW HAS ALSO BEEN ORGANISED FOR YOUTHS PARTICIPATING IN THE FESTIVAL. THE +LAW FOR YOUTH+ SEMINAR, CO-ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL YOUTH ACTIVITY COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 11) AT 8 PM IN THE CALVARY CHURCH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE IN TSZ WAN SHAN.

ALSO ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 13), YOUTHS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING HOW THE POLICE OPERATE IN COUNTRY PARKS BY SPENDING A DAY IN SAI KUNG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE FESTIVAL INCLUDE YOUTH CAMPS, EXHIBITIONS AND INTER-SCHOOL TELEMATCH GAMES.

PAMPHLETS WITH DETAILS OF ALL THE PROGRAMMES IN THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT IYY YOUTH FESTIVAL ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS BRANCH OFFICES.

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MORE WORK FOR RSD STAFF IN DEVELOPING NEW TOWN

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THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD TO CLEAR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE TO 10 TONNES OF REFUSE EACH MONTH IN SHA TIN AS A RESULT OF THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION GROWTH OF THE NEW TOWN.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BY THE DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT (SHA TIN), MR NG YING-NEEN.

HE SAID 327 OF THE DISTRICT'S 533 ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE STAFF, AIDED BY A FLEET OF 28 SPECIALISED VEHICLES, CLEARED AN AVERAGE OF 185 TONNES OF REFUSE DAILY.

+THIS FIGURE CONTINUES TO INCREASE AT A RATE OF FIVE TO 10 TONNES PER MONTH FOLLOWING THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT POPULATION GROWTH IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE ADDED.

ANOTHER TEAM OF SEVEN HEALTH INSPECTORS LOOKED AFTER 632 RESTAURANTS, VARIOUS FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT THAT WERE LICENSED OR PERMITTED TO OPERATE TO ENSURE THAT THEY MET THE REQUIRED STANDARD OF PUBLIC HYGIENE AND SAFETY. THEY ALSO TOOK ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNLICENSED PREMISES.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO MANAGES THREE PUBLIC MARKETS AND A COOKED FOOD MARKET IN SHA TIN WHILE HAWKER CONTROL RESTS WITH A GENERAL DUTIES TEAM OF 137 MEMBERS.

LOOKING AFTER 20 HECTARES OF SPORTSGROUND, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, SWIMMING POOLS, SITTING-OUT AREAS AND REST GARDENS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A TEAM OF AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICERS, ARTISANS AND WORKMEN.

DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER (SHA TIN), MR LAU TAK-SHIU, SAID THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINED TWO PLANT NURSERIES IN SHA TIN THAT PROVIDED ANNUALLY OVER 300 000 PLANT MATERIALS INCLUDING TREES, SHRUBS, CLIMBERS AND GROUND COVERS. IT ALSO KEPT 25 HECTARES OF ROADSIDE AMENITY PLOTS IN THE DISTRICT.

SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT LAST APRIL, 125 RECREATION AND SPORTS EVENTS CATERING FOR PEOPLE WORKING OR LIVING IN SHA TIN WERE ORGANISED. ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN PROMOTING RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CENTRED ON THE SHA TIN PUBLIC LIBRARY, WHICH HAD A STOCK OF 28 315 BOOKS AND 2 166 ITEMS OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS. THE LIBRARY ALSO PROVIDED A WIDE RANGE OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING STORY-TELLING, BOOK EXHIBITIONS, SUBJECT TALKS, MINI CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MUSIC APPRECIATION, FILM SHOWS, ETC.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS CANTONESE OPERAS, VARIETY SHOWS, POP CONCERTS, ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS, PUPPET SHOWS, ETC. WERE REGULARLY ARRANGED IN 11 OUTDOOR VENUES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES. ON THE AVERAGE, FIVE PROGRAMMES WERE PRESENTED EACH MONTH IN SHA TIN, ATTRACTING SOME 300 TO 800 AUDIENCE EACH TIME.

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CAR PARKING SITE UP FOR RENT

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A CAR PARK AT FUNG SHING STREET, DIAMOND HILL IN KOWLOON.

THE 1.65-HECTARE SITE IS FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER 12 TONNES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS OCTOBER 25.

THE TENDER FORM, NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND A PLAN AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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