



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1981

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CONSULTANTS COMPLETE STUDY  
OF NORTH WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES  
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NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, A CONSORTIUM OF FIVE ENGINEERING AND PLANNING FIRMS, HAVE JUST COMPLETED A NINE-MONTH LONG STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE STUDY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES, AND FOLLOWS PREVIOUS +IN HOUSE+ STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT COVERING THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

THE CONSULTANTS' REPORT IN FIVE VOLUMES IS BEING CIRCULATED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR COMMENT BEFORE BEING REFERRED TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE FOR ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE.

THE TWO OVERRIDING THEMES OF THE STUDY HAVE BEEN TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT WITH THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO PROCEED WITH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES AND HOW THIS REGION MIGHT BEST CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STUDIES.

THE CONSULTANTS HAVE EXAMINED STRATEGIES WHICH ALLOW FOR A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES.

THEY RECOMMEND INITIALLY THE EARLY COMMITMENT BY GOVERNMENT TO A +BASE STRATEGY+ WHICH PROVIDES FOR ORDERLY +NATURAL+ GROWTH IN THE STUDY REGION, AS A CONTINUATION OF EXISTING TRENDS, UP TO A POPULATION OF ABOUT HALF A MILLION PEOPLE BY 1996.

THEY ALSO SUGGEST HOW MAJOR GROWTH MIGHT TAKE PLACE, BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW URBAN-TYPE SETTLEMENTS CONTAINING UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 680 000 PERSONS. THESE COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PHASES OF ABOUT 340 000 EACH, THE FIRST OF WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SELF-CONTAINED TO STAND BY ITSELF SHOULD THE NEED ARISE TO CALL A HALT TO FURTHER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AT THAT STAGE.

TO ALLOW A RANGE OF OPTIONS, THE CONSULTANTS HAVE PROVIDED GOVERNMENT WITH A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS WITH ULTIMATE POPULATIONS OF BETWEEN ABOUT 470 000, AND 1 150 000 PEOPLE FOR THE NORTH WEST NEW TERRITORIES BY THE YEAR 1996.

THEY RECOMMEND THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC +INFRASTRUCTURE+ TO COPE WITH THE BASE POPULATION OF 470 000, BUT TO MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR DECISIONS BEING DELAYED ON ANY STRATEGIC GROWTH STRATEGY UNTIL AN OVERALL VIEW ON A TERRITORY-WIDE GROWTH STRATEGY CAN BE TAKEN.

/THE +BASE .....

THE +BASE STRATEGY+ SEEKS TO DEAL WITH ALL THE EXISTING PROBLEMS IN THE REGION WHICH HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS DISORDERED GROWTH, AND TO PROVIDE A SENSIBLE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH FUTURE GROWTH CAN TAKE PLACE. MEASURES ARE PROPOSED FOR AREAS OF MEDIUM DENSITY URBAN DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE LARGELY RESTRICTED TO SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WHERE PRESENT PRESSURES ARE GREATEST. THESE AREAS WILL BE DELINEATED MORE EXACTLY AND IN MORE DETAIL AS THE RESULT OF FURTHER STUDIES.

IT IS INTENDED THAT REDEVELOPMENT BE CARRIED OUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WITH GOVERNMENT PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ROADS, DRAINS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND THE LIKE. YUEN LONG NEW TOWN WOULD BE FURTHER EXPANDED TO AN ULTIMATE POPULATION OF ABOUT 150 000 AND THE EXPANSION OF A NUMBER OF EXISTING RURAL CENTRES IS PLANNED, E.G. KAM TIN AND SAN TIN.

ELSEWHERE IN THE DISTRICT, DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE RESTRAINED SO AS TO CONSERVE THE CHARACTER OF RURAL +HINTERLAND+ AND TO ENSURE THAT AN UNDUE STRAIN IS NOT PUT UPON ROADS, SEWERAGE AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE.

EXISTING RURAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE TACKLED VILLAGE BY VILLAGE TO PROVIDE IN EACH CASE A LAYOUT PLAN FOR ORDERED DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE SQUATTERS, RATIONALIZE THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES, SEWAGE DISPOSAL, WATER SUPPLY AND THE LIKE.

THE PROPOSED TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE +BASE STRATEGY+ INCLUDES THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AS A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY, THE BUILDING OF A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, AND A NEW TRUNK ROAD FROM AU TAU WHICH WOULD BYPASS YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN TO THE SOUTH TO JOIN THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY NEAR PEARL ISLAND.

ALSO ENVISAGED IS A +HEAVY RAIL+ LINK BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN BY THE LATE 1980S AND A ROAD TUNNEL FROM SEK KONG TO YAU KOM TAU (WHICH IS A LITTLE WEST OF TSUEN WAN).

FURTHER LINKS ARE ENVISAGED BY THE MID-1990S, INCLUDING A NEW TRUNK ROAD FROM AU TAU TO LAM KAM ROAD AND A POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE +HEAVY RAIL+ LINK FROM TUEN MUN TO YUEN LONG.

MAJOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL INCLUDE A NEW SYSTEM OF TRUNK SEWERS, SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, AND A SUBMARINE OUTFALL ALL TO BE CONSTRUCTED DURING THE 1980S.

THE VERY ROBUST TRANSPORT NETWORK WHICH THE CONSULTANTS PROPOSE FOR THE BASE STRATEGY WOULD WELL SERVE ANY INITIAL INCREASES IN POPULATION BEYOND THE BASE LEVEL, BUT ANY PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR URBAN-TYPE GROWTH WOULD REQUIRE NEW MAJOR ROADS LINKING THE DEVELOPMENTS TO THE ROAD SYSTEM AND A POSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF THE HEAVY RAIL SYSTEM TO TAI PO. NEW URBAN CENTRES WOULD ALSO BE SERVED INITIALLY BY AN EXTENSION OF THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM AND EVENTUALLY BY CONNECTION TO THE +HEAVY RAIL+ SYSTEM.

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THE CONSULTANTS HAVE LOOKED FOR SUITABLE SOURCES OF FILLING MATERIAL AS PART OF THE STUDY, AND RECOMMEND THE USE OF SAND DREDGED FROM THE SEABED FOR THE MAJOR GROWTH STRATEGY, SINCE IT IS THOUGHT THAT THIS CAN BE FOUND AT A REASONABLE COST. WHERE LAND-BASED FILL IS REQUIRED, SPECIAL CONDITIONS ARE PROPOSED FOR THE LOCATION, DESIGN AND AFTER-USE OF THE BORROW AREAS.

AFTER CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT'S LAND DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE. THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER.

IF GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATIONS, MORE DETAILED PLANNING AND ENGINEERING STUDIES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE +BASE STRATEGY+ IS COMMENCED.

A DECISION ON ANY MAJOR GROWTH STRATEGY IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

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#### PUBLIC HOUSING IS THEME OF NEW STAMP ISSUE

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A SPECIAL ISSUE OF FOUR POSTAGE STAMPS (20 CENTS, \$1, \$1.30 AND \$2), WITH THE THEME OF PUBLIC HOUSING, WILL BE PLACED ON SALE ON OCTOBER 14, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROVIDES HOMES FOR MORE THAN TWO MILLION PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

ALSO ON SALE WILL BE A SOUVENIR MINIATURE SHEET CONTAINING THE FOUR STAMPS WHICH, WHEN SEEN TOGETHER, GIVES AN OVERALL VIEW OF ONE OF THE MORE MODERN HOUSING ESTATES.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES ON SEPTEMBER 29 AT 50 CENTS EACH.

EACH COVER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN INSERT CARD CONTAINING INFORMATION ON HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AND BRIEF PHILATELIC INFORMATION.

AN INCREASED NUMBER OF FIRST DAY COVERS HAS BEEN PRINTED TO MEET ANTICIPATED PUBLIC DEMAND BUT, TO ENSURE THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO BUY THE COVERS, NO MORE THAN TEN MAY BE PURCHASED BY A CUSTOMER AT ONE TIME.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICING OF FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE, NATHAN ROAD AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, PEKING ROAD. FOR THIS SERVICE, ADDRESSED FIRST DAY COVERS MUST BE HANDED IN WITH AN ORDER FORM TOGETHER WITH A REMITTANCE TO COVER THE COST.

/THE CHARGE .....

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THE CHARGE WILL BE \$5 PER COVER WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF THE STAMPS (\$4.50) TOGETHER WITH A SERVICE FEE OF 50 CENTS.

THE COVERS MUST BE FULLY ADDRESSED BY THE APPLICANT, AND NOT LESS THAN 10 COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITH EACH ORDER.

THE ORDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 29, 1981.

ANY PERSON ORDERING SERVICED COVERS ADDRESSED TO A LOCAL DESTINATION MAY COLLECT THEM ON OCTOBER 15 FROM THE POST OFFICE WHERE THE ORDER WAS PLACED.

COVERS ADDRESSED OVERSEAS WILL BE SENT FORWARD BY ORDINARY POST, SURFACE MAIL, UNLESS SUFFICIENT STAMPS ARE AFFIXED TO COVER AIRMAIL AND/OR REGISTRATION CHARGES.

THE LATEST ACCEPTANCE DATE FOR ADVANCE ORDERS OF SERVICED COVERS WILL BE 5 PM ON OCTOBER 9, 1981.

A SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON OCTOBER 14 AT ALL POST OFFICES WHEREBY FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER, IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATE STAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSON PRESENTING THEM.

NO TIME TYPE WILL APPEAR IN THE POSTMARK.

THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE SERVICE ARE:

- (A) ONLY ARTICLES BEARING AN INDICATION THAT THEY ARE +FIRST DAY COVERS+ WILL BE SO TREATED=
- (B) THE ARTICLES MUST BE ADDRESSED TO A LOCAL ADDRESS= AND
- (C) NO REGISTERED ITEMS WILL BE PROCESSED BY THIS METHOD.

SPECIAL POSTING BOXES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE ON OCTOBER 14 FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE FIRST DAY COVERS CAREFULLY HAND-POSTMARKED BEFORE DESPATCH TO THE ADDRESS ON THE COVERS.

THE NEW STAMPS WILL BE ON DISPLAY ON THE FIRST FLOOR PUBLIC COUNTER OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, ON OCTOBER 8 FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM.

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YOUTH CARNIVAL TO ENCOURAGE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION  
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A YOUTH CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEAN PARK NEXT SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 27) TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR'S PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR GEOFFREY BARNES= THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE= THE GENERAL MANAGER OF OCEAN PARK, MR KENNETH TOMLINS= THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MR Y.F. HUI AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL GUIDING COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS +THE ADOLESCENT AND THE FAMILY+ AND THE TARGET GROUP IS YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11 AND 15 AND THEIR PARENTS.

WINNING ENTRIES OF AN INTER-DISTRICT STRUCTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE CARNIVAL.

A PANEL OF JUDGES WILL PICK THE FIRST THREE WINNING GROUPS, WHO WILL RECEIVE CASH PRIZES OF \$1 500, \$1 000 AND \$500 RESPECTIVELY.

EXHIBITION MATERIAL ON +THE ADOLESCENT AND THE FAMILY+ WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED.

STAGE PERFORMANCES WILL BE PUT ON BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE MUSIC OFFICE.

A TEAM FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE WILL PERFORM A CHINESE FOLK DANCE AND A DISCO NUMBER.

THE MUSIC OFFICE'S 40-MEMBER SYMPHONIC BAND WILL PLAY 15 NUMBERS, INCLUDING MARCHES, POPULAR TUNES, JAZZ AND DISCO MUSIC, AND CHINESE SONGS.

THERE WILL BE A TREASURE HUNT FOR VISITORS TO OCEAN PARK, AND PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ASKED TO LOOK FOR HIDDEN BOARDS CONTAINING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION MESSAGES.

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/NOTE TO .....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YOUTH CARNIVAL, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LOW LAND AREA OF OCEAN PARK AT 11 AM ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 27). THE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE FOR THE OTHER EVENTS IS AS FOLLOWS :

- \* STAGE SHOW BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AND RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE 11.45 AM - 12.45 PM=
- \* FOLK SONG PERFORMANCE BY RTHK 2.00 PM - 3.00 PM=
- \* TREASURE HUNT 12.30 PM - 2.00 PM  
AND 3.00 PM - 3.30 PM=
- \* EXHIBITION AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN DISPLAY  
11.00 AM - 4.00 PM.

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CONTEST TO KEEP MARKET STALLS CLEAN

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A DISTRICT-WIDE CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK TO PROMOTE A GENERAL CLEAN-UP OF STALLS IN FOUR MARKETS IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE 'KEEP MARKET STALL CLEAN COMPETITION' IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN MEAT MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION AND THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO COINCIDE WITH SHA TIN HEALTH WEEK.

TAKING PART IN THE COMPETITION WILL BE THE SHA TIN NEW MARKET MANAGED BY THE NTSD AND THE LEK YUEN ESTATE MARKET, WO CHE ESTATE MARKET AND SHA KOK ESTATE MARKET RUN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPETITION IS INTENDED TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND THE ROLE MARKET OPERATORS PLAY IN THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH BY KEEPING THEIR TRADING AREA TIDY, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD.

JUDGEMENT WILL BE BASED ON THE CLEANLINESS OF STALLS AND THE SURROUNDINGS, THE MAINTENANCE OF STALLS AND TRADING UTENSILS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SHA TIN MEAT MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE NTSD WILL MAKE UP THE PANEL OF JUDGES.

PLAQUES AND CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS AT A CEREMONY AT SHA TIN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE IN LEK YUEN ESTATE ON SEPTEMBER 24.

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SCHOOLS URGED TO SUPPORT CLEAN HK CAMPAIGN  
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HEADS OF SCHOOLS WERE TODAY URGED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE TO GIVE THEIR FULLEST SUPPORT TO PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

IN A GENERAL SCHOOL CIRCULAR IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN DUE TO BE LAUNCHED ON OCTOBER 25, THE DIRECTOR SAID: +ALL SCHOOLS ARE URGED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DRIVING HOME TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE MESSAGE THAT 'CLEANLINESS IS A WAY OF LIFE'.+

EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN LITTER PREVENTION IS A LONG TERM TASK THAT INVOLVES DEVELOPING CORRECT PERSONAL HABITS AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES.

+IT CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED THAT GOOD HABITS ARE BEST CULTIVATED FROM THE EARLIEST AGE AND THAT HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO CAN DO A GREAT DEAL IN INCULCATING IN YOUNG PEOPLE A SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE APPEARANCE AND CONDITION OF THEIR CITY,+ MR HAYE SAID.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE LAUNCHING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR SCHOOLS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

THEY INCLUDE A SCHOOL LITTER PREFECT SCHEME, ADOPTING OUR COUNTRYSIDE SCHEME, +CLEAN FOR CHARITY+, +CLEAN OUR BEACHES+, AND VARIOUS INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS ON THE CLEAN HONG KONG THEME.

+SCHOOLS WILL ALSO BE REQUESTED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE DISTRICT OFFICES OR THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES TO ASK PUPILS TO PARTICIPATE IN CLEAN HONG KONG ACTIVITIES,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

THE CIRCULAR ALSO CONTAINED A LIST OF SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES WHICH SCHOOLS CAN ORGANISE TO HELP ALLEVIATE LITTER PROBLEMS.

THESE INCLUDE ENCOURAGING PUPILS TO KEEP THEIR OWN CLASSROOM TIDY, ARRANGING COMPETITIONS ON THE CLEAN HONG KONG THEME, ASSIGNING ESSAYS ON RELATED TOPICS, ENCOURAGING PUPILS TO SET GOOD EXAMPLES OF CLEANLINESS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND NEIGHBOURS, CLEANING PICNIC AREAS DURING ANNUAL SCHOOL PICNICS, AND ORGANISING THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB OR OTHER SCHOOL CLUBS TO DEVOTE A SATURDAY EACH MONTH TO ASSIST ELDERLY OR HANDICAPPED PERSONS REMOVE LITTER FROM THEIR HOMES.

ENQUIRIES FROM SCHOOLS CONCERNING CLEAN HONG KONG ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE MADE AT THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-779007.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL BLACKSPOT TURNED INTO PLAY AREA \* \* \*

A TEMPORARY PLAY AREA HAS BEEN BUILT ON A NORTH KWAI CHUNG SITE WHICH WAS FORMERLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL BLACKSPOT.

THE SITE, COVERING AN AREA OF 650 SQUARE METRES, IS AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI LOONG STREET AND WO YI HOP ROAD. FOR YEARS, IT WAS USED AS A DUMPING GROUND BY THE NEARBY RESIDENTS.

IN APRIL, STAFF FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ASSISTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TEAM OF KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, REMOVED ABOUT 150 TONS OF GARBAGE FROM THE SITE.

FOLLOWING THE CLEARANCE, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD DECIDED TO TURN THE SITE INTO A TEMPORARY PLAY AREA TO PREVENT FURTHER DUMPING AND TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

ALREADY SOME BENCHES, SWINGS AND WALKING BEAMS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AND TURFING IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE SURROUNDING SLOPE.

THE BUILDING COST OF \$42 000 WAS MET BY THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH HAS ALLOCATED \$250 000 THIS YEAR FOR SIMILAR IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THERE ARE ABOUT 270 SQUATTER HUTS WITH A POPULATION OF 1 000 IN THE AREA.

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### SQUATTER VILLAGERS IN TELEMATCH \* \* \* \*

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT INTER-SQUATTER VILLAGERS TELEMATCH HELD IN CHAI WAN PARK TODAY (SUNDAY).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (EASTERN) AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE EVENT WAS AIMED AT FOSTERING AND PROMOTING A COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND A SENSE OF CO-OPERATION AMONG THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (EASTERN), MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, SAID AT THE OPENING ADDRESS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE PART IN MORE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND TO APPRECIATE THE MERITS OF SOCIAL COHESION AND CO-OPERATION.

HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE PARTICIPANTS THAT REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME STARTED ON SEPTEMBER 1.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT THE SCHEME TO ENSURE THAT DISTRICT NEEDS COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY.

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### BUSY TIME AT PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES

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THE PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER, AND THE NATURE OF THEIR QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR SERVICES OR ADVICE, CAN VARY QUITE WIDELY.

SOME MAY ASK ABOUT LEGAL AID- SOME OTHERS MAY LOOK FOR THE BEST WAY TO SETTLE THEIR GRIEVANCES AGAINST PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PARTIES.

MANY OTHERS HAVE PERSONAL DOMESTIC MATTERS ON WHICH THEY MIGHT WANT ADVICE - LIKE THE MOTHER SEEKING A SCHOLARSHIP FOR HER SON, OR LIKE THE ANXIOUS PARENTS WISHING TO KNOW HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH A DIFFICULT CHILD.

CHALKED UP, THE FIGURE IS STAGGERING.

IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THERE WERE NEARLY FOUR MILLION ITEMS OF QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED, REQUESTS FOR SERVICES TO BE DEALT WITH, AND ADVICE TO BE GIVEN.

ALL OF THESE ARE HANDLED BY THE EXISTING 31 PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE 16 CENTRES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

+WHATEVER THE PROBLEM, WE DO OUR VERY BEST TO COMPLY,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE, WHICH DEALT WITH NEARLY THREE MILLION ITEMS FROM JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR.

COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE VOLUME OF WORK INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT.

WHEN THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES WHICH WERE FIRST SET UP IN 1968, THERE WERE 10 COUNTERS HANDLING SOME 341 000 REQUESTS FOR THE YEAR.

+IN THE TIME SINCE THEN, THE SERVICE HAS EXPANDED FOURTEEN-FOLD IN TERMS OF VOLUME OF WORK HANDLED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+OUR PEOPLE CAN ANSWER AND GIVE ASSISTANCE ON NEARLY ALL SORTS OF ENQUIRIES AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC.+

AS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES CENTRES, MOSTLY LOCATED IN TSUEN WAN, THEY HAVE DEALT WITH SOME ONE MILLION ITEMS, OR ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE TOTAL VOLUME, IN THEIR 18 LOCATIONS.

/THIS WAS .....

THIS WAS IN FACT A DOUBLING OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FIGURE, SAID MISS BETTY HO OF THE NTA COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIVISION. THE NTA CENTRES WERE FIRST STARTED IN 1974, WITH FOUR OFFICES, DEALING WITH SOME 73 000 REQUESTS A YEAR.

+AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR SERVICE, LIKE THE ONE FOR THE URBAN AREAS, HAS ALSO EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY,+ SHE SAID.

THE MATTERS DEALT WITH ARE WIDE-RANGING, AND CONCERN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, EDUCATION, INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, STATUTORY MATTERS, SUCH AS DECLARATIONS, APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS, MARRIAGE REGISTRATION, AS WELL AS HOUSING AND EMIGRATION. THERE ARE ALSO CASES OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR PRIVATE BODIES NEEDING FOLLOW-UP WORK.

OTHER COMPLAINTS CONCERN SANITATION, PUBLIC NUISANCES, SQUATTING, COMPENSATION, RESETTLEMENT, ROAD AND DRAINAGE, STAFF ATTITUDES, AND DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURES.

LARGE NUMBERS OF REQUESTS ARE MADE FOR GOVERNMENT FORMS, APPLICATIONS FOR HOME OWNERSHIP, AND ENROLMENT IN THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES.

CONSTANT EFFORT IS MADE TO PROVIDE EVEN BETTER SERVICE IN BOTH THE URBAN AND NT AREAS, AND IN MAKING IT MORE CLOSELY WITHIN THE REACH OF THE PEOPLE.

MOBILE VANS AND SERVICES ARE OPERATED TO REMOTE AREAS AND MORE RECENTLY, A LUNCH-TIME ENQUIRY SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED IN FACTORIES, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF WORKERS.

THE SERVICES ALSO MAKE REFERRALS TO THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, AND ONCE A WEEK LEGAL ADVISERS FROM THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY ATTEND TWO COUNTERS EACH IN HONG KONG (IN THE WAN CHAI AND EASTERN AREAS) AND KOWLOON (IN THE MONG KOK AND WONG TAI SIN AREAS) AS WELL AS THE NEW TERRITORIES (IN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN) TO PROVIDE SERVICE ON LEGAL MATTERS.

+OUR COUNTERS ARE MANNED BY EXPERIENCED STAFF WHO ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP UP WITH LATEST INFORMATION ON ALL RELEVANT MATTERS,+ THEY SAID.

THE SERVICES WELCOME PUBLIC ENQUIRIES, AND INDEED, WISH TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO APPROACH THEM IN THE THOUGHT THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD THEREBY GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S WORKS.

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WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE TEMPORARILY TURNED OFF BETWEEN 9 PM ON SEPTEMBER 24 (THURSDAY) AND 8 AM ON THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORK.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE BOUNDED BY SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TAI HO ROAD AND TING KAU 11-1/2-MILESTONE, YUEN TUN CIRCUIT, CHAI WAN KOK STREET, TSUEN KING CIRCUIT, TSUEN WAN CENTRE, ON YUK ROAD AND KWONG ON HOSPITAL.

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TAPS OFF FOR TEN HOURS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YUEN LONG AREAS WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 10 HOURS FROM 9 PM ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORKS.

AFFECTED AREAS ARE BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, KAM TIN ROAD AND KAM SHEUNG ROAD INCLUDING AU TAU, SAN TIN, SHEUNG TSUEN AND FAIRVIEW PARK.

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