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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
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HONG KONG'S WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK STILL DEPENDED HEAVILY ON THE RAINFALL TO BE RECEIVED IN THE REMAINDER OF THE WET SEASON, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WILLIAM TUCKER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE LIONS CLUB OF CASTLE PEAK, MR TUCKER SAID THAT A HEAVY RAINSTORM OR RAINSTORMS COULD CHANGE THE PICTURE MATERIALLY.

+THERE IS STILL SUFFICIENT OF THE WET SEASON LEFT TO EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN THE STORAGE POSITION AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE DEPRESSIONS WHICH APPEAR TO FORM WITH REGULARITY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA WILL DECIDE TO GRACE OUR SHORES IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAY, HONG KONG HAD RECEIVED 797 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN COMPARED WITH THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY MEDIAN FORECAST FROM MAY TO OCTOBER OF 1 440 MILLIMETRES, MR TUCKER SAID.

+WE THEREFORE HAVE SOME LEEWAY TO MAKE UP BEFORE WE REACH THE MEDIAN VALUE OF THE FORECAST, WHICH IS ITSELF ONLY 76 PER CENT OF THE LONG TERM AVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD.+

MR TUCKER REPEATED THE ASSURANCE HE GAVE EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT A FULL WATER SUPPLY WOULD BE MAINTAINED UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER, AND THAT THE WATER POSITION WOULD BE FULLY REVIEWED EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.

THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE DESALTER AT LOK ON PAI MIGHT HAVE TO BE OPERATED DURING THE COMING WINTER.

+THE PLANT IS BEING PREPARED ACCORDINGLY FOR OPERATION IN OCTOBER, SHOULD THIS PROVE TO BE NECESSARY,+ HE SAID.

+A LOT WILL DEPEND ON THE RAINFALL RECEIVED IN THE REMAINDER OF THE WET SEASON, AS THIS WILL DETERMINE NOT ONLY WHETHER THE DESALTER HAS TO BE REACTIVATED, BUT ALSO THE LEVEL OF SUPPLY THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE WINTER SO THAT WE DO NOT ENTER THE NEXT WET SEASON WITH AN UNACCEPTABLY LOW STORAGE.+

MR TUCKER SAID THAT THE DESALTER, OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY, COULD PRODUCE 182 000 CUBIC METRES OF FRESH WATER A DAY, OR ABOUT 12 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S CURRENT CONSUMPTION.

BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH OPERATING COST, THE DESALTER WAS BROUGHT INTO OPERATION ONLY WHEN THE NEED WAS IMPERATIVE, MR TUCKER SAID.

+BUT WHAT IS LESS WELL UNDERSTOOD IS THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE OVERALL YIELD OF OUR SYSTEM EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT OPERATING. THIS IS BECAUSE THE CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS CAN BE OPERATED AT GREATER EFFICIENCY - OR GREATER RISK, IF YOU PREFER - IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE DESALTER IS AVAILABLE FOR OPERATION IF NECESSARY.+

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TURNING TO WATER FROM CHINA, MR TUCKER SAID THAT UNDER THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MAY LAST YEAR, MORE WATER WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM 1983, INCREASING BY ANNUAL INCREMENTS OF ABOUT 35 MILLION CUBIC METRES TO 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES A YEAR IN THE MID-1990S.

+FOR COMPARISON, THIS FIGURE IS GREATER THAN OUR TOTAL CONSUMPTION AT THE PRESENT TIME. I SHOULD STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS FIGURE IS NOT LIMITING AND THE AGREEMENT ALLOWS FOR DISCUSSION FOR FURTHER SUPPLIES BEYOND THE AMOUNT OF 620 MILLION CUBIC METRES CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT,+ HE SAID.

+AT PRESENT, WATER FROM CHINA REPRESENTS ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF OUR CONSUMPTION AND THIS SOURCE WILL BE MORE THAN TREBLED OVER THE NEXT 14 YEARS TO BECOME ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE ESTIMATED DEMAND IN THE MID-1990S.+

MR TUCKER SAID THAT THIS INCREASE WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL WORK IN CHINA AND HONG KONG. WORK HAD BEGUN IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETION IN FOUR TO FIVE YEARS.

TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE THE WATER IN HONG KONG, THREE STAGES HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED TO MEET DEMAND UP TO 1986, 1990 AND 1994 AT PRESENT-DAY ESTIMATES OF $698 MILLION, $377 MILLION AND $134 MILLION, A TOTAL OF $1.2 BILLION.

+THE WORK FOR THE FIRST STAGE IS QUITE EXTENSIVE AND INCLUDES THE NEW RIVER CROSSING AT SHENZHEN= RECEPTION TANKS AND PUMPING STATION AT MUK WU= AN AQUEDUCT FROM MUK WU TO TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR= A TUNNEL FROM PAT HEUNG TO YAU KAM TAU IN TSUEN WAN AND FOUR PUMPING STATIONS: ONE EACH AT AU TAU, FAN KAM ROAD NEAR THE GOLF CLUB, LOWER SHING MUN AND TAI PO TAU,+ MR TUCKER SAID.

HE SAID THE WATER SUPPLY FROM CHINA WAS BEING INCREASED IN THE CURRENT SUPPLY PERIOD BY 30 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS WAS BEING ACHIEVED BY EXTENDING THE SUPPLY PERIOD BY ONE MONTH TO THE END OF AUGUST AND BY MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF DELIVERY.

NORMALLY, CHINA SUPPLIED WATER FOR 10 MONTHS OF THE YEAR FROM OCTOBER 1 TO JULY 31, ALLOWING TWO MONTHS FOR MAINTENANCE.

+FOR THIS YEAR THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO CURTAIL THE SHUTDOWN TO ONE MONTH, THIS BEING THE MINIMUM PERIOD NECESSARY FOR CARRYING OUT WORKS ON THEIR SYSTEM,+ MR TUCKER SAID.

+AS A POINT OF INTEREST, THE SUPPLY PERIOD WILL BE CHANGED NEXT YEAR SO AS TO OPERATE FROM MAY 1 TO FEBRUARY 28 THE FOLLOWING YEAR.+

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ROAD CONGESTION HAMPERING BUS OPERATIONS,
SAYS COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT

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THE EFFECTS OF ROAD CONGESTION ON BUS OPERATIONS IS AN AREA OF GREAT CONCERN, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, SAYS IN HIS DEPARTMENT'S 1980 ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY).

+ALTHOUGH THE MAIN BUS COMPANIES INTRODUCED MORE THAN 350 ADDITIONAL DOUBLE-DECK VEHICLES DURING THE YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED WAS LESS FOR KMB AND ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER FOR CMB,+ HE SAID.

+THIS SHOULD HAVE RESULTED IN BUSES ON MANY ROUTES BEING LESS CROWDED, BUT MUCH OF THE IMPROVEMENT WAS LOST BECAUSE WORSENING ROAD CONGESTION MEANT THAT JOURNEY TIMES WERE LENGTHENED AND THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS EACH BUS WAS ABLE TO CARRY THROUGHOUT THE DAY WAS REDUCED.+

MR ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF BUS SERVICES IN CONGESTED CONDITIONS COULD BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED BY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES INCORPORATING PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY MEASURES.

BUT HE SAID : +IN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS, WHERE MUCH OF THE ROAD SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED IN DAYS OF RELATIVELY LIGHT TRAFFIC, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE PROVISION OF PRIORITY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER ROAD-USERS.

+THE AIM WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO MOVE THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND GOODS IN VEHICLES WHICH MAKE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF THE LIMITED ROAD SPACE AVAILABLE.

+TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED AND LICENSED, AND 1980 WAS AGAIN A RECORD YEAR WITH A NET INCREASE OF MORE THAN 38 000 REGISTERED VEHICLES, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO JUST SHORT OF 300 000.

+NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION, PARTICULARLY IN THE URBAN AREA, OBVIOUSLY CANNOT KEEP UP WITH INCREASES OF THIS MAGNITUDE AND THE FIGURES ON THE RAPID INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE CROSS-HARBOUR AND LION ROCK TUNNELS ILLUSTRATE THE SPEED WITH WHICH TRAFFIC ON THESE ROADS IS REACHING CAPACITY.

+THE SAME IS HAPPENING ON OTHER ROADS, WHERE THE NUMBER OF HOURS PER DAY DURING WHICH CONGESTION REACHES SERIOUS PROPORTIONS IS INCREASING.+

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INCREMENTAL CREDIT FOR SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THAT THEY AWARD INCREMENTAL CREDIT TO SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS WHO HAVE HAD ACCEPTABLE RELEVANT POST-QUALIFICATION EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO FIRST APPOINTMENT.

IN A LETTER EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED THE AGENCIES THAT APPROVAL HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TO AWARD INCREMENTAL CREDIT FOR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE TO SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT BE EXTENDED TO THE RANK OF SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

THE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN FIXED AT OCTOBER 1, 1981.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE AWARD OF INCREMENTAL CREDIT FROM OCTOBER 1 DID NOT MEAN THAT SOCIAL WORKERS RECRUITED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BEFORE THAT DATE WOULD MISS OUT.

THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD APPLY TO BOTH SERVING OFFICERS AND NEW APPOINTEES.

+ELIGIBLE SERVING OFFICERS WHO POSSESS SUITABLE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND WHO HAVE NOT REACHED THE MAXIMUM POINT OF THE SALARY SCALE CAN APPLY TO HAVE THEIR PAY ADJUSTED FROM OCTOBER 1,+ HE SAID.

EXPERIENCE WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF THE ENTRY REQUIREMENT FOR SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANTS AND WHICH IS RELEVANT TO THE SWA APPOINTMENT AND OBTAINED AT A LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY COMPARABLE TO THAT OF SWA IS ACCEPTABLE FOR INCREMENTAL CREDIT.

ONLY EXPERIENCE AFTER THE ACQUISITION OF A RECOGNISED DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL WORK IS COUNTED.

+THE AWARD OF INCREMENTAL CREDIT IS SUBJECT TO THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS FOR THE WELFARE WORKER RANK, THE DEPARTMENT IS AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ON THE QUESTION OF INCREMENTAL CREDIT FOR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.

+WE WILL GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THIS WHEN THE COUNCIL COMES UP WITH DETAILED INFORMATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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GAS STEERING GROUP MEETS GAS INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOWN GAS AND LPG INDUSTRIES TODAY (THURSDAY) JOINED MEMBERS OF THE GAS CONSULTANCY STEERING GROUP IN A USEFUL DISCUSSION ON GAS SAFETY MEASURES.

THE STEERING GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, MEETS REGULARLY TO REVIEW AND TO DIRECT THE WORK OF THE GAS CONSULTANTS COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS TODAY, THE STEERING GROUP AND THE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE BEST MEANS TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN USING GAS WATER-HEATERS, AND TO CO-ORDINATE THEIR PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS.

THEY ALSO REVIEWED THE FOLLOW-UP ACTION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE CORONER'S RIDERS AT THE END OF THE INQUEST INTO GAS WATER-HEATER RELATED DEATHS EARLIER THIS YEAR.

WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE CONTROL AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT IS ENLISTING THE VOLUNTARY SUPPORT OF THE INDUSTRIES TO IMPLEMENT THE RIDERS.

THE DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED BETTER DESIGNED WARNING LABELS, STEPPED-UP TRAINING FOR APPLIANCE FITTERS, RESTRICTION ON THE INSTALLATION OF UNSAFE HEATERS, AND PLANNED PUBLICITY AIMED PARTICULARLY AT YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE MEETING TODAY ALSO COVERED THE SUBJECT OF TRAINING FACILITIES FOR WORKERS JOINING THE INDUSTRIES. COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES ARE ALREADY PROVIDED BY TOWN GAS AND SOME LPG MARKETERS. THE POSSIBILITIES OF CO-ORDINATED FORMS OF TRAINING WERE ALSO EXPLORED.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR MORE TAXI LICENCES

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IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE ISSUING TAXI LICENCES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL CALL TENDERS TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR A FURTHER 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES AND 150 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S USUAL PRACTICE TO INVITE TENDERS FOR TAXI LICENCES IN BATCHES AT INTERVALS OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

TENDER FORMS FOR THE 450 TAXI LICENCES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION TOMORROW FROM EITHER THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, CENTRAL, OR THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK.

GREEN TENDER FORMS WILL BE USED FOR URBAN TAXI LICENCES AND YELLOW FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

PROSPECTIVE TENDERERS CANNOT USE ANY OTHER FORM ISSUED PREVIOUSLY.

TENDERERS MUST DEPOSIT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES $25 000 FOR EACH URBAN TAXI LICENCE AND $15 000 FOR EACH NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCE INCLUDED IN THE TENDER.

AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, PREMIA MAY BE TENDERED FOR ONE OR MORE URBAN OR NEW TERRITORIES TAXI.

A TENDERER MAY SUBMIT ONE TENDER FORM FOR ANY NUMBER OF TAXI LICENCES NOT EXCEEDING 300 FOR THE URBAN AREA AND 150 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE TENDERER MAY ALSO SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE TENDER FORM BUT, IF A SINGLE TENDER FORM IS SUBMITTED FOR MORE THAN ONE LICENCE, THE PREMIUM OFFERED FOR EACH LICENCE MUST BE THE SAME.

IF THE NUMBER OF LICENCES AVAILABLE IS LESS THAN THE NUMBER REQUIRED BY THE TENDERER, A SMALLER NUMBER OF LICENCES MAY BE ALLOCATED TO HIM.

A PUBLIC BALLOT MAY BE HELD TO DETERMINE THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERERS WHO OFFER THE SAME UNIT PREMIUM.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS, TOGETHER WITH ORIGINAL DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, MUST BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE IN SEALED ENVELOPES, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX, IN THE ENTRANCE HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (MAIN WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1981.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR ANOTHER RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR JOINT VENTURE DEVELOPMENT.

THE 7 251 SQUARE-METRE SITE IS IN WYLIE PATH, KOWLOON.

UNDER THE SALE CONDITIONS, THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER MUST BUILD FOR THE GOVERNMENT, FREE OF CHARGE, THREE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS, EACH OF 40 FLATS.

THE SIZE OF THE FLATS WILL BE 176 SQUARE METRES TO 215 SQUARE METRES.

THE REMAINING BLOCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER FOR DISPOSAL IN THE OPEN MARKET IN THE USUAL WAY.

CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 16.

TENDER FORMS, WITH NOTICES AND CONDITIONS, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG= AND THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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FOUR INDUSTRIAL/GODOWN SITES FOR TENDER

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APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FROM HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A/B) FOR FOUR NEW TERRITORIES INDUSTRIAL/ GODOWN SITES.

TWO OF THE SITES ARE IN THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL AREA AND TWO ARE IN TUEN MUN.

THE YUEN LONG SITES, LOCATED BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MEASURE 2 698 SQUARE METRES AND 1 217 SQUARE METRES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT IS $16.19 MILLION FOR THE LARGER SITE AND $7.3 MILLION FOR THE SMALLER SITE, BOTH TO BE COMPLETED IN FOUR YEARS. THE PLOT RATIO IS FIVE FOR BOTH SITES.

THE TUEN MUN SITES, MEASURING 1 630 SQUARE METRES AND 1 459 SQUARE METRES, ARE SITUATED NEAR SHEK PAI TAU.

THEY HAVE A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 9.5 AND CARRY FOUR-YEAR BUILDING COVENANTS OF $15.14 MILLION AND $12.77 MILLION.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 18.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NTA AND THE EIGHT DISTRICT OFFICES.

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COST OF BREACHING LABOUR LAWS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 686 PROSECUTIONS LAST MONTH (JULY) FOR BREACH OF LABOUR LEGISLATION, RESULTING IN 661 CONVICTIONS WITH FINES TOTALLING MORE THAN $420 000.

MOST OF THE CASES CONCERNED BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

CASES RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS TOTALLED 250, RESULTING IN FINES TOTALLING $225 650.

THESE INCLUDED 148 CASES (WITH $117 000 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 39 CASES (WITH $63 850 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

OFFENCES IN CONNECTION WITH EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOUNTED FOR 385 CASES WITH $183 130 IN FINES.

OF THE OTHER PROSECUTIONS, SEVEN CASES RELATED TO FAILURE TO KEEP RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES, LEADING TO $2 750 IN FINES.

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DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF RETIRES

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR MAURICE LANE WILL BE RETIRING NEXT MONTH AFTER SERVING 25 YEARS WITH THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES.

AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH POINT TODAY (THURSDAY) THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR F.M. WATSON PRESENTED A MEMENTO TO MR LANE ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

DURING HIS YEARS OF SERVICE, MR LANE PROGRESSED THROUGH THE RANKS TO BECOME A CHIEF FIRE OFFICER IN 1968. HE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU, THEN KNOWN AS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU. DURING HIS FIVE YEARS AS HEAD OF THE BUREAU, NEW LEGISLATION GOVERNING FIRE SAFETY IN HONG KONG'S GROWING NUMBERS OF SKYSCRAPERS WAS INTRODUCED.

MR LANE WAS APPOINTED TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1975. HE WAS AWARDED THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL (FIRE SERVICES) FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN 1966 AND THE QUEEN'S FIRE SERVICE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN 1972.

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DANCE AND FITNESS COURSES ATTRACT THOUSANDS
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MORE THAN 4 500 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE CITY LIONS CLUB SPORTS CENTRE RUN BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE SINCE THE CENTRE OPENED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

LOCATED BENEATH THE STAND OF THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB STADIUM IN SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, THE CENTRE PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF DANCE AND FITNESS COURSES FOR PEOPLE WITH VARIOUS TASTES AND INCLINATIONS.

THE CENTRE'S FITNESS ROOM IS EQUIPPED WITH MOST MODERN FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE GYM MACHINE WHICH HELPS PEOPLE TO TONE UP THEIR MUSCLE OR LOSE A FEW EXTRA POUNDS, SAID THE CENTRE MANAGER, MR HO MING-CHEONG.

+THE GYM MACHINE, IN CONTRAST TO THE TRADITIONAL FORMS OF ATHLETIC EXERCISES, PROVIDES 16 DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPECIFIC EXERCISES TAILORED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF VARIOUS PEOPLE,+ MR HO SAID.

ANOTHER TYPE OF NEW FACILITY IS THE ISOKENTIC SWIM BENCH -- ONE OF A VERY FEW IN HONG KONG -- WHICH ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO SIMULATE SWIMMING IN VARIOUS STYLES, SUCH AS BUTTERFLY PULL, CRAWLSTROKE PULL, BACKSTROKE PULL AND BREAST PULL AND KICK. THESE EXERCISES WILL HELP PEOPLE TO BECOME MUCH EASIER IN WATER.

THE CENTRE ALSO OFFERS ALL KINDS OF DANCE COURSES OR DANCE-INS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO +SWING+ OR +JAZZ UP+. LESSONS ALSO INCLUDE BALLET AND WESTERN DANCING, BALLROOM DANCING AND MODERN DANCING.

THE DANCE ROOM HAS BEEN FURNISHED WITH TINTED MIRRORS AND ADJUSTABLE HAND-RAIL ROUND THE WALL TO MAKE IT AN IDEAL PLACE FOR DANCE ENTHUSIASTS, SAID MR HO.

THE CENTRE ALSO ORGANISES DIFFERENT DANCE COURSES FOR JUNIORS AND YOUNG ADULTS AND THESE HAVE HAD OVERWHELMING RESPONSE.

FACILITIES IN THE CENTRE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM. DETAILS OF THE COURSES AND OF OTHER ACTIVITIES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HEADQUARTERS AT 11TH FLOOR, WING ON CENTRE, 111 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND ITS DISTRICT OFFICES.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR ON TSING YI

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THE TSING YI DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD A SEMINAR ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) NIGHT.

THE SEMINAR, THE FIRST FOR THE ISLAND'S 42 000 POPULATION, WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION AT CHING WAI HOUSE IN CHEUNG CHING ESTATE STARTING AT 8.30 PM.

TSING YI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOSEPH WONG, WILL GIVE A TALK ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WITH SLIDES AND MAPS. A BOOKLET ON TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE ISLAND'S RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN TIN-SOONG= FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE, MR WONG DAI-HEI= AND TRADE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN, MR WONG TAK-YAN. THEY WILL TALK ABOUT THEIR WORK AS MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

FOR THE ELECTION, TSING YI WILL HAVE ONE CONSTITUENCY AND TWO POLLING STATIONS AT TSING YI PUBLIC SCHOOL IN TSING YI MAIN STREET AND THE BUDDHIST YIP KAI NAM MEMORIAL COLLEGE IN CHEUNG CHING ESTATE. REGISTRATION OF VOTERS WILL START ON SEPTEMBER 1.

THE MAJORITY OF TSING YI'S POPULATION LIVES IN CHEUNG CHING AND CHEUNG HONG PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, WHILE ABOUT 5 000 LIVE IN THE TWO FISHING VILLAGES AT MOON TSAI TONG, NORTH OF THE ISLAND.

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