



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1983

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JOINT FUND TO HELP HK STUDENTS IN BRITAIN

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THE HONG KONG AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED ON A JOINT FUNDING SCHEME TO ASSIST HONG KONG STUDENTS IN BRITAIN TO PAY OVERSEAS STUDENT FEES.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SCHEME WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1983-84 ACADEMIC YEAR AND WILL BE REVIEWED JOINTLY BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THREE YEARS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE 50 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THE SCHEME FOR 1983-84 UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 1.9 MILLION STERLING POUND. THE COMMITMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL COSTS IN THE FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL MATCH THIS CONTRIBUTION ON A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR BASIS. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IF THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WAS SMALLER THAN TURNED OUT TO BE REQUIRED IN 1983-84 OR IN FUTURE YEARS, EACH STUDENT WOULD RECEIVE PART OF THE SUBSIDY IN THE FORM OF A GRANT AND THE BALANCE OF THE ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN THE FORM OF A LOAN.

THE SCHEME WILL APPLY TO HONG KONG STUDENTS ON FIRST DEGREE OR POLYTECHNIC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES IN BRITAIN WHO WILL BE MEANS-TESTED TO DETERMINE THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE AND THE LEVEL OF SUBSIDY TO BE RECEIVED.

+IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE AT THIS STAGE HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, BUT BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRANTED A LOAN UNDER THE CURRENT SCHEME IN 1982-83, AROUND 1 000 STUDENTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE. AS THE AVERAGE SUBSIDY PER STUDENT WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$22 700 PER ANNUM, THE FUNDS ALLOCATED SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET DEMAND IN 1983-84,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

AS IN THE CASE OF THE EXISTING LOAN SCHEME FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS IN BRITAIN, THE AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY PAYABLE IN EACH CASE WILL BE DETERMINED BY SUBTRACTING THE STUDENT'S ANNUAL DISPOSABLE INCOME FROM THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOME AND OVERSEAS RATES OF FEES.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AND MEANS-TESTED IN HONG KONG IN THE SAME WAY AS FOR THE LOAN SCHEME, BY THE SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, AND THE SUBSIDIES WILL BE PAID DIRECT TO THE INSTITUTIONS IN BRITAIN.

APPLICATIONS FOR SUBSIDY WILL BE CALLED SOON, FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN LONDON WILL ARRANGE FOR STUDENTS ALREADY IN BRITAIN TO BE INFORMED.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SLOPE STABILITY CONTINUE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE OVERALL SITUATION WITH REGARD TO SLOPE STABILITY, EVEN THOUGH HONG KONG STOOD UP VERY WELL TO THE HEAVY DOWNPOURS LAST YEAR — THE WETTEST YEAR SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER, DR EDWARD BRAND, SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PUT INTO MEASURES TO IMPROVE AND CONTROL GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING PRACTICE.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, DR BRAND SAID SINCE 1977, WHEN THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE WAS SET UP, MORE THAN \$470 MILLION HAD BEEN SPENT ON THE LANDSLIP PREVENTIVE MEASURES PROGRAMME.

+AND EXPENDITURE IS CONTINUING AT THE RATE OF ABOUT \$50 MILLION PER YEAR,+ HE SAID.

+ADDITIONALLY, A GREAT DEAL OF STABILISATION WORK, AT A COST OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, IS CARRIED OUT IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAPITAL PROJECTS.+

DR BRAND SAID THAT ONE QUESTION QUITE OFTEN ASKED BY THE PUBLIC WAS +HOW SAFE ARE HONG KONG'S SLOPES?+, BUT, THIS QUESTION WAS NOT EASY TO ANSWER IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, HE SAID.

+AS WITH ALL CIVIL ENGINEERING STRUCTURES, SLOPES ARE DESIGNED ON THE BASIS OF FACTORS OF SAFETY, WHICH IS BASICALLY THE RATIO OF THE DESIGN STRENGTH OF A STRUCTURE TO THE MINIMUM STRENGTH REQUIRED FOR IT TO BE STABLE,+ DR BRAND SAID.

+OBVIOUSLY, THE DESIGN STRENGTH MUST BE HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM VALUE REQUIRED FOR STABILITY, OTHERWISE THE STRUCTURE WOULD FALL DOWN.+

IN ASSESSING THE STABILITY OF A SLOPE, OR IN DESIGNING A NEW ONE, A GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF A NUMBER OF FACTORS. HE MUST STUDY THE GEOLOGY AND GEOMETRY OF THE SLOPE AND OF THE SURROUNDING AREA; HE MUST BE ABLE TO MEASURE ACCURATELY THE STRENGTH CHARACTERISTICS OF A LARGE MASS OF SOIL AND ROCK; AND HE MUST BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE WATER PRESSURES THAT WILL DEVELOP IN THE SLOPE DURING A HEAVY RAINSTORM.

+THE MEASUREMENT OF THE STRENGTH CHARACTERISTICS IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH, BUT THE PREDICTION OF WATER PRESSURES IS THE MOST PROBLEMATICAL ASPECT OF ALL IN THE SLOPE DESIGN. IT IS THEREFORE ALSO CRITICAL TO SLOPE SAFETY,+ DR BRAND SAID.

+SLOPES ARE DESIGNED TO A GIVEN STANDARD OF SAFETY ENGENDERED IN THE FACTOR OF SAFETY USED BY THE DESIGNER. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME PROBABILITY OF FAILURE, EVEN IF THIS IS EXTREMELY SMALL. THE PROBABILITY OF FAILURE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE REDUCED AS THE DESIGN FACTOR OF SAFETY IS INCREASED.+

DR BRAND SAID THAT GENERALLY SPEAKING, HONG KONG'S SLOPES WERE AS SAFE AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DENSE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ON STEEP SLOPES OF RESIDUAL SOIL WHICH WERE SUBJECTED TO INTENSE RAINFALL.

+SLOPE FAILURES WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR DURING TIMES OF EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY RAINFALL, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT A MAJOR CATASTROPHE OF THE KIND THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST WILL NEVER TAKE PLACE AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, SQUATTER VILLAGES ON STEEP HILLSIDES WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF CONCERN. THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE IS NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE OVERALL SITUATION WITH REGARD TO SLOPE STABILITY, AND THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE NO RELAXATION OF EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.+

IN HONG KONG, THE NUMBER OF DEATHS RESULTING FROM LANDSLIDES OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS HAS AVERAGED LESS THAN 15 PER YEAR, INCLUSIVE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED IN THE FEW MAJOR CATASTROPHES.

THIS FIGURE COMPARES WITH ABOUT 400 DEATHS PER YEAR WHICH AT PRESENT OCCUR AS A RESULT OF ROAD ACCIDENTS. THE PROBABILITY OF SOMEONE BEING KILLED OR INJURED FROM A LANDSLIDE IS THEREFORE MUCH LOWER THAN THE PROBABILITY OF HIS DEATH OR INJURY ON THE ROADS OF HONG KONG.

DESPITE THIS, DR BRAND SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT EVEN ONE DEATH FROM LANDSLIDES, AND EVERY EFFORT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES FROM THESE INCIDENTS.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT MACAU
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL PAY AN INFORMAL ONE-DAY VISIT TO MACAU ON MAY 19 (THURSDAY) AT THE INVITATION OF MACAU GOVERNOR VASCO DE ALMEIDA E COSTA.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY YOUDE; THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG; THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO; THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE AIDE-DE-CAMP.

THE GOVERNOR AND HIS PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN MACAU IN MID-MORNING AND WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

DURING THEIR VISIT, THEY WILL BE GUESTS OF HONOUR AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE MACAU GOVERNOR AND HIS WIFE AT SANTA SANCHA PALACE.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION IN MACAU AND THE TERRITORY'S MAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

HE WILL ALSO BE VISITING PLACES OF INTEREST.

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STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVES REDUCED
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THE TWO POWER COMPANIES AND THEIR SUPPLIERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN UNTIL 1987 AN OVERALL FUEL RESERVE, OF COAL AND OIL, EQUIVALENT TO 40 DAYS' ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AT CURRENT LOADS.

THE DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOLLOWS A REVIEW OF THE NEED FOR STRATEGIC RESERVES IN VIEW OF THE WORLD-WIDE SURPLUSES OF OIL AND THE POWER COMPANIES' MOVE FROM OIL TO COAL-FIRED GENERATING PLANTS.

THE COMPANIES HAD BEEN MAINTAINING RESERVES OF FUEL OIL EQUIVALENT TO 60 DAYS' ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SINCE 1980 TO GUARD AGAINST A DISRUPTION IN THE SUPPLY OF OIL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NOW POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF RESERVES BECAUSE OF THE WORLD-WIDE SURPLUSES OF OIL, COUPLED WITH THE DECREASING DEPENDENCE OF THE COMPANIES ON FUEL OIL AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY.

+IN ADDITION, THE POWER COMPANIES HAVE SECURED SUPPLIES OF COAL FROM A VARIETY OF RELIABLE SOURCES,+ HE EXPLAINED.
+THEREFORE, THE CHANCES OF A SERIOUS INTERRUPTION IN THE SUPPLY OF COAL OR, INDEED, OF FUEL OIL ARE MUCH SLIMMER TODAY.+

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MAINTAINING FUEL RESERVES AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN WAS NECESSARY WAS UNWARRANTED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

+WHILE REPRESENTING ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE COMPANIES' OPERATING EXPENSES, THE LOWER COST OF MAINTAINING SMALLER RESERVES WILL NEVERTHELESS BENEFIT CONSUMERS IN THE LONG TERM,+ HE ADDED.

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HIGH POTENTIAL FOR MARINE FISH CULTURE
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MARINE FISH FARMERS WILL BE ABLE TO SEEK EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES TO RELOCATE THEIR EQUIPMENT OR WIND UP THEIR BUSINESS, A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

MARICULTURISTS ARE BEING ALLOCATED SITES IN THE 26 DESIGNATED ZONES AND ANY FISH CULTURE OUTSIDE THESE ZONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED, THE SENIOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHEUNG, SAID.

UNDER THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE, WHICH CAME INTO FULL OPERATION IN MID-1982, 1 900 APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR LICENCES TO CULTURE MARINE FISH. OF THESE, 1 600 ARE FROM PRACTISING CULTURISTS.

MR CHEUNG SAID AT A MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES THAT THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY, WHICH LAST YEAR PRODUCED 1 155 TONNES OF FISH VALUED AT \$67 MILLION.

/+IT ALSO

+IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE INDUSTRY BY PROHIBITING WATER POLLUTION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE CULTURE RAFTS AND THE FISH,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHEUNG SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE STARTED IN MA WAN WHERE 66 PRACTISING CULTURISTS APPLIED FOR AND WERE ALLOCATED SITES.

THE RELOCATION EXERCISE WAS SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED IN LATE APRIL AND THE NEXT TARGET ZONE IS TIN HA WAN IN JUNK BAY.

HE SAID, +THERE ARE SOME FISH CULTURISTS WHO HAVE DECIDED TO WIND UP THEIR OPERATIONS, AND OTHERS WHO WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE, BUT FAILED TO OBTAIN A CULTURE SITE. THEY WILL HAVE TO BE CLEARED IN DUE COURSE.+

IT WOULD BE INEVITABLE, DURING THE COURSE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION, THAT THERE WOULD BE FISH CULTURE RAFTS WHICH WERE EITHER ABANDONED OR ON WHICH AN OFFENCE HAD BEEN COMMITTED AND HAD THEREFORE TO BE SEIZED, MR CHEUNG SAID.

+MOST OF THESE ITEMS ARE SO HUGE, AND THE FISH THAT MAY BE FOUND THERE ARE SO DELICATE, THAT THERE ARE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR STORAGE AND SAFE-KEEPING.

+THE LAW PROVIDES FOR THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TO SELL THESE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND IF POSSIBLE TO REIMBURSE THE OWNER OF THE EQUIPMENT THE BALANCE OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE AFTER DEDUCTING ANY EXPENSES THE DIRECTOR MAY HAVE INCURRED IN THE SEIZURE AND SALE,+ HE SAID.

CONSIDERATION HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE PRESENCE OF DWELLING STRUCTURES ON FISH CULTURE RAFTS AND TO THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE OPERATORS WOULD BECOME HOMELESS WHEN THE RAFTS WERE CLEARED, MR CHEUNG ADDED.

+ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR THOSE WHO OPT TO TERMINATE THEIR OPERATIONS BUT HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION, AND ARE OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING. THEY WILL ALSO RECEIVE A DOMESTIC REMOVAL ALLOWANCE TO FURNISH THEIR NEW HOMES.

+IN ORDER TO EASE THE HARDSHIP OF THE CULTURE OPERATORS IN BOTH RELOCATING THEIR EQUIPMENT AND EXTINGUISHING THE BUSINESS, A MEASURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES,+ HE SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WOULD BE APPROACHING MARICULTURISTS IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO HELP THEM SELECT A FISH SITE IN THE ORDER FIXED BY THE BALLOT HELD IN APRIL AND THEN TO ARRANGE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE RAFTS TO THE SITE, THE PAYMENT OF THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES AND WITH THE LICENSING PROCEDURES.

THE LICENCE FEE IS \$150 FOR A SITE OF 100 SQUARE METRES OR LESS.

THE STAFF WOULD ALSO CONTACT THOSE WHO HAD OPTED TO WIND UP THEIR OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO ARRANGE PAYMENT OF EXTINGUISHMENT ALLOWANCE, HE SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WHOLE IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

+THE LOCAL MARINE FISH CULTURE INDUSTRY HAS A HIGH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. GIVEN THE APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND THE SUITABLE CULTURE ENVIRONMENT, THE INDUSTRY IS SURE TO PROSPER,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

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IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL SUPPORT IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS STRESSED
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THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS WAS STRESSED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR ADOLF HSU, TONIGHT (MONDAY).

MR HSU WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER PARTY GIVEN BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN HONOUR OF FOUR PERSONS WHO WERE DECORATED WITH THE BADGE OF HONOUR FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE FOUR ARE MR CHAN TIN-SUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEE; MR TUNG HONG-YING, AN INDUSTRIALIST; MR WONG DAI-HEI, A FISHERMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE; AND MR HO CHERK-HUNG, REPRESENTATIVE OF MUK MIN HA VILLAGE.

MR HSU SAID THAT LOCAL SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION WERE THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN COMMUNITY BUILDING. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE FOUR PERSONS TO PUT ASIDE THEIR OWN WORK, AND TO SACRIFICE THEIR REST TIME TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY WAS HIGHLY ADMIRABLE, HE SAID.

+THERE ARE MANY FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN TSUEN WAN,+ HE SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE NOW CELEBRATING THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, AND THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE DRAGON BOAT RACE, THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, THE SPORTS FESTIVAL, THE ARTS FESTIVAL, AND ALSO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS AND ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGNS.

+ALL THESE ACTIVITIES, BE THEY ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OR BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, NEED A LOT OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS TO SHARE THE WORK, AND NEED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN CASES WHERE FUNDS ARE INSUFFICIENT.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE DINNER PARTY WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER (TSUEN WAN), MISS ELAINE CHUNG, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER (TSING YI), MR TAM WING-PONG.

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SENIOR POST FOR LOCAL FIRE SERVICES OFFICER
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A SECOND LOCAL OFFICER HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR F.M. WATSON, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE IS MR CHEUNG SHU-SHING.

MR CHEUNG HAS TAKEN OVER AS HEAD OF THE NEW TERRITORIES FIRE COMMAND FROM MR FRED JACKSON, WHO IS AT PRESENT ON LEAVE PRIOR TO RETIREMENT.

MR CHEUNG IS 51 YEARS OF AGE AND HAS WORKED IN DIFFERENT UNITS DURING HIS LONG CAREER WITH THE FIRE SERVICES.

MR CHEUNG ALSO SERVED AS AIDE-DE-CAMP TO THE GOVERNOR FROM 1966 TO 1976.

HE JOINED THE FIRE SERVICES AS A SUB-OFFICER IN 1954 AND WAS PROMOTED TO STATION OFFICER IN 1961. IN 1965, HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER AND IN 1969 TO DIVISIONAL OFFICER.

MR CHEUNG WAS PROMOTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER IN 1981.

ONE OF MR CHEUNG'S MOST UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES WAS WHILE WORKING AT THE KOTEWALL ROAD LANDSLIDE ON JUNE 19, 1972. MR CHEUNG WAS AWARDED THE QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT FOR HIS WORK IN THAT LANDSLIDE.

MR WATSON ALSO ANNOUNCED THE PROMOTION OF MR GERRY LAM CHEK-YUEN TO DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER.

MR LAM IS ATTACHED TO FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS.

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NEW ASSOCIATION FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS
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THE INAUGURATION THIS (MONDAY) EVENING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION WAS ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS THE GOAL OF INVOLVING RESIDENTS IN THE AFFAIRS OF THEIR DISTRICT, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, HE SAID THE NEW ASSOCIATION WOULD +CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY AND OFFER NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT, AND PROVIDE FURTHER ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS+.

/+THE PEOPLE

+THE PEOPLE OF WAN CHAI WILL ALSO HAVE A FRESH OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER IN AN ORGANISATION WHOSE OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD OF ARTS, CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS,+ HE ADDED.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WAS TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER DEGREE OF RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT AND AFFAIRS OF THEIR DISTRICT.

+THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WAS A BIG STEP TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE, FOR ALTHOUGH WAN CHAI IS A SMALL DISTRICT, IT HAS, NEVERTHELESS, A VIGOROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC DISTRICT BOARD,+ HE SAID.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD LAST YEAR, COMPRISES MEMBERS FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD.

A 98-MEMBER DANCE TROUPE AND A 30-MEMBER CHILDREN'S CHOIR HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORMED TO STAGE PERFORMANCES IN THE DISTRICT.

THOSE WHO LIVE OR WORK IN WAN CHAI ARE WELCOME TO BECOME MEMBERS. MEMBERSHIP IS DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES - GROUP, INDIVIDUAL AND YOUTH.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 201 HENNESSY ROAD.

ALSO PRESENT AT THIS EVENING'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY WERE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TONY COOPER.

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\$1.3 BILLION SPENT ON BUILDINGS IN MARCH

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FORTY-NINE NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN MARCH THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 68 IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 17 WERE FOR NEW BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 13 FOR KOWLOON AND 19 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDE THE COMPLEX FOR THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS IN WAN CHAI, A PUBLIC CARPARK IN WONG NEI CHUNG GAP ROAD, TWO SCHOOLS IN OI KWAN ROAD AND TUEN MUN, TWO ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS IN WAI ON STREET AND TAI PO, A RECREATION HALL IN SHEK PIK, LANTAU ISLAND, AND A YOUTH HOSTEL IN CHEUNG CHAU.

/THE DECLARED

THE DECLARED COST OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$1 328.2 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$829.6 MILLION IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

THE USABLE FLOOR AREA TOTALLED 286 359 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 215 603.9 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC AND 70 755.1 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

IN THE SAME MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 46 PROJECTS, INCLUDING THREE SCHOOLS IN SHAU KEI WAN, BRAEMAR HILL ROAD AND CORNWALL STREET, A HOSPITAL EXTENSION IN PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, A FOOTBRIDGE AND COVERED WALKWAY AT THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD AND KAM SHING ROAD, A TOWN HALL AND OFFICE BLOCK IN SAI KUNG AND A PETROL FILLING STATION IN JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, SHEUNG SHUI.

ALTOGETHER, 37 OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS IN MARCH. THEY COMPRISE A HOTEL/APARTMENT COMPLEX IN CANTON ROAD AND A FERRY PIER IN DISCOVERY BAY, LANTAU ISLAND.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE PERMISSION FOR 60 BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

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WATER FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 75.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 436.499 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 231.749 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 40.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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