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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1983

GOVERNOR OPENS TWO 'FIRSTS' IN TAI PO
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (SATURDAY) STRESSED GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN TO ENJOY THEIR DAILY LIVES AND CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS WITHIN NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+AND THERE MUST BE GOOD TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO PROVIDE EASY MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE HUB OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

CITING TAI PO AS AN EXAMPLE, SIR EDWARD SAID: +WHAT USED TO BE A QUIET, RURAL MARKET CAN NOW BE REACHED IN COMFORT IN LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR BY ELECTRIFIED TRAIN FROM THE HEART OF KOWLOON.

+WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE PRESENT BUSY WORK SITES IN TAI PO WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A MODERN TOWN CENTRE LINKED BY A NETWORK OF PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES AND A LANDSCAPED RIVERSIDE PROMENADE.

+IN ABOUT A YEAR'S TIME, THE TRUNK ROAD TO KOWLOON WILL BE COMPLETED.

+A FULL RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED IN TAI PO IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO CATER FOR ITS GROWING POPULATION WHICH WILL RISE FROM THE PRESENT FIGURE OF 100 000 TO 280 000 BY 1990 ON FULL DEVELOPMENT.+

SIR EDWARD WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF TAI PO'S FIRST SPORTS FESTIVAL AND THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, THE FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT SPORTS CENTRE IN THE DISTRICT.

HE SAID THESE TWO +FIRSTS+ DEMONSTRATE VIVIDLY THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN TAI PO.

EXACTLY FOUR WEEKS AGO, THE GOVERNOR OPENED A COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE AT TUEN MUN.

+THE OPENING OF THIS CENTRE TODAY IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE PACE OF CHANGE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

+IT SHOWS WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION AND ENTHUSIASM AMONGST ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY+.

REFERRING TO THE DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED SPORTS FESTIVAL, HE SAID IT AIMED AT +STIMULATING LOCAL INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND PHYSICAL RECREATION ON THE PART OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

+AGAIN, THIS FESTIVAL PROVIDES YET ANOTHER CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION AMONGST VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN BUILDING A HAPPY AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT.+

/THE TWO-WEEK .....

THE TWO-WEEK SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL FEATURE 16 SPORTS EVENTS, INCLUDING A MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION, AND COMPETITIONS OF TABLE TENNIS, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, ORIENTEERING, BOWLING, TENNIS, BADMINTON, FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER AND LONG RUN.

SIR EDWARD ALSO WATCHED A DISPLAY BY A CHINESE GYMNASTICS TEAM -- THE OPENING PROGRAMME OF THE NEW SPORTS CENTRE WHICH CAN BE USED AS AN OLYMPIC-SIZE GYMNASTICS HALL, OR AS THREE BASKETBALL COURTS, NINE BADMINTON COURTS OR THREE VOLLEYBALL COURTS.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE A BOWLING ALLEY, A DANCE STUDIO, A FITNESS ROOM AND TWO SAUNA BATHROOMS.

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SURVEY STUDIES VIEWERS ATTITUDES TO TELEVISION

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OVER HALF THE PEOPLE POLLED IN A SURVEY ON ATTITUDES OF TELEVISION COMMISSIONED BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY FEEL THAT HEALTH WARNINGS IN CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE.

THE SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY IN JULY THIS YEAR, AND OVER 2 600 HOUSEHOLDS WERE INCLUDED TO GIVE A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION, MR ROBERT SUN, COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING, SAID TODAY.

THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION CONSIDER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR CIGARETTES, LIQUOR, PERSONAL PRODUCTS AND SANITARY NAPKINS TO BE ACCEPTABLE.

HOWEVER, MANY ALSO CONSIDER THAT TIME RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR THESE ADVERTISEMENTS.

ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT HEALTH WARNINGS, 38.1 PER CENT SAID THEY DO NOT REGARD THEM AS EFFECTIVE.

THE INVESTIGATION FOUND THAT 95.7 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG OWN ONE OR MORE TELEVISION SETS.

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE, 70.6 PER CENT, SAID THAT TOO MUCH TIME WAS ALLOTTED TO TELEVISION COMMERCIALS. LESS THAN ONE PER CENT SAID THE PROPORTION WAS TOO LITTLE, WHILE ABOUT A QUARTER THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT RIGHT.

PEOPLE ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ABOUT VARIOUS SUPERLATIVE AND HEALTH CLAIMS IN TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWO-THIRDS OF THE POPULATION SAID THEY DISBELIEVED 'SUPERLATIVE' CLAIMS.

IN THE CASE OF MEDICINES, 65 PER CENT DISBELIEVED HEALTH CLAIMS MADE AND AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY, 91.3 PER CENT, DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ADVERTISED MEDICINES ARE EFFECTIVE INSTANTLY.

/ABOUT TWO-THIRDS .....

ABOUT TWO-THIRDS CONSIDERED THE PRESENT CENSORSHIP STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIALS TO BE JUST RIGHT.

THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT ON AVERAGE EACH VIEWER SPENT MORE THAN THREE HOURS A DAY WATCHING TELEVISION, MAINLY FOR PASSING THE TIME, ENTERTAINMENT, AND NEWS.

HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS FELT THAT TELEVISION PROGRAMMES INFLUENCED THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIFE.

THERE WAS GENERAL SATISFACTION OVER THE EXISTING NUMBER OF CHANNELS.

AND PEOPLE WERE, IN GENERAL, HAPPY WITH THE FREQUENCY OF MOST TYPES OF PROGRAMME, SUCH AS SPORT, WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES, KUNG-FU SERIALS, CONTEMPORARY ACTION SERIALS AND VARIETY SHOWS.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS A SIZEABLE DEMAND FOR MORE DOCUMENTARIES, FROM 60 PER CENT OF THOSE POLLED, AND FOR MUSICAL PROGRAMMES, FROM 53.2 PER CENT.

OVER ONE THIRD ALSO FELT THAT PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES, MAGAZINE PROGRAMMES AND WESTERN DRAMA SERIALS WERE NOT FREQUENT ENOUGH.

THE REPORT SAYS THAT IT IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR OVER HALF OF ALL CHILDREN TO WATCH TELEVISION AFTER 10 PM, ALTHOUGH THE YOUNGER THE CHILD THE GREATER DEGREE OF PARENTAL CONTROL WAS EXERCISED.

OVER HALF OF THE PEOPLE QUESTIONED SAID THEY FELT THE CURRENT DURATION OF FAMILY VIEWING HOURS WAS JUST RIGHT AND 65.3 PER CENT SAID THE QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES WAS SATISFACTORY.

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MORE APPEALS RECEIVED OVER SOCIAL SECURITY CASES

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THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD RECEIVED 93 APPEALS IN 1982-83, AN INCREASE OF 33 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR.

IN ITS 1982-83 ANNUAL REPORT JUST PUBLISHED, THE BOARD NOTES THAT OF THE 93 APPEALS, 26 CONCERNED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 63 SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE CASES AND THE REMAINING FOUR THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

THE BOARD HEARD A TOTAL OF 82 APPEALS, WHICH INCLUDED 14 CASES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE PRECEDING YEAR.

OF THE APPEALS HEARD, THE BOARD CONFIRMED THE DECISIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON 60 CASES WHILE IN THE OTHER 22 CASES, THE DECISIONS WERE CHANGED.

/+THE HANDLING .....

+THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS LODGED BY THE PUBLIC IN RESPECT OF SOCIAL SECURITY HAS CONTINUED TO REMAIN AS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLES OF THE BOARD,+ THE REPORT SAYS.

THE COMPLAINTS DO NOT ALL BECOME APPEALS BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS OF SOME COMPLAINANTS MAY BE SOLVED AFTER THE STAFF OF THE BOARD HAVE TAKEN APPROPRIATE ACTION.

DURING THE YEAR, 137 COMPLAINTS WERE LODGED AT THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD, A 33 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR.

OF THESE, 63 WERE REGARDED AS SETTLED, THREE WERE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES FOR ATTENTION AND 71 EVENTUALLY BECAME APPEALS.

DURING THE YEAR, THE BOARD MADE SOME SUGGESTIONS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES.

THE SUGGESTIONS RELATE TO THE CALCULATION AND RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT, THE TREATMENT OF APPLICATIONS BY REFERRAL, AND EFFORTS TO TRACE THE APPLICANTS BEFORE CASES ARE CLOSED.

WELCOMING THESE SUGGESTIONS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID, +WE WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR IMPROVEMENTS+.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD, AN INDEPENDENT BODY ESTABLISHED IN APRIL 1978, RECEIVES APPEALS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS AGAINST DECISIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE ALL UNOFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN IS MR CHIU CHUN-BONG, J.P.

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AMENDMENTS TO DEBTORS BILL

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DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE DEBTORS (ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT) BILL 1983 WERE RELEASED TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THIS BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 7, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS SAID THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL, TO BE MOVED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE ON DECEMBER 21.

ONE AMENDMENT WILL ENABLE THE COURTS TO MAKE AN ORDER PROHIBITING THE DEBTOR FROM LEAVING HONG KONG. THIS ORDER WILL, UNLESS RENEWED, LAPSE ON THE EXPIRY OF ONE MONTH. IF THE DEBTOR ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE HONG KONG IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE ORDER, HE MAY BE ARRESTED IF THIS IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT HIS DEPARTURE.

/ANOTHER AMENDMENT .....

ANOTHER AMENDMENT WILL ENABLE A DEFENDANT, AGAINST WHOM AN ORDER HAS BEEN OBTAINED COMMITTING HIM TO PRISON OR PROHIBITING HIM FROM LEAVING HONG KONG, TO APPLY PROMPTLY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THE ORDER. IN THIS APPLICATION, IF THE DEFENDANT SHOWS THAT THERE IS A GENUINE DISPUTE OVER THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM, THE ORDER WILL BE DISCHARGED.

THE EFFECT OF THIS AMENDMENT WILL BE TO RESTRICT THE ARREST AND PROHIBITION PROCEDURES, BEFORE JUDGMENT, TO THOSE CLAIMS THAT THE COURTS CONSIDER CANNOT BE DISPUTED.

UNDER THIS PROCEDURE, THE DEFENDANT WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONSENT TO JUDGMENT AND, THEREAFTER, HE WILL BE EXAMINED AND DISCHARGED FROM IMPRISONMENT IF HE CANNOT PAY THE DEBT OR MAKES A REASONABLE OFFER TO PAY. IN MOST CASES, AN ORDER COMMITTING THE DEFENDANT TO PRISON WILL LAPSE ON THE EXPIRY OF ONE MONTH.

OTHER AMENDMENTS WILL BE MOVED ON DECEMBER 21, BUT THESE WILL NOT AFFECT THE SUBSTANCE OF PROVISIONS OF THE BILL PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 2.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS MAY WRITE TO UMELCO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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MORE DEGREE COURSES FOR HK POLYTECHNIC

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR TWO MORE DEGREE COURSES TO BE CONDUCTED AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC FROM THE 1984-85 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THEY ARE FOUR-YEAR +SANDWICH+ COURSES (WITH TWO YEARS OF ACADEMIC STUDIES, FOLLOWED BY ONE YEAR OF SUPERVISED INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND ONE FINAL YEAR OF ACADEMIC STUDIES) IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING WHICH WILL LEAD TO A BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING DEGREE.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING COURSE WILL INITIALLY CATER TO 60 STUDENTS, AND THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING COURSE TO 30 STUDENTS, WITH THEIR INTAKE RISING TO 70 IN 1985-86 AND 60 IN 1986-87 RESPECTIVELY.

THE DEGREE PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF THE U.K. COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS.

THEIR INTRODUCTION HAS BEEN AGREED TO ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT APPROVAL WILL LAPSE AUTOMATICALLY AFTER SIX YEARS UNLESS THE COURSES ARE REVALIDATED.

/FIVE DEGREE .....

FIVE DEGREE COURSES STARTED AT THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC IN SEPTEMBER 1983.

THEY COVER SOCIAL WORK, COMPUTING STUDIES, APPLIED SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

IN ADDITION, APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR A DEGREE COURSE IN GRAPHIC DESIGN AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN TO BE OFFERED FROM 1984-85.

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HK-NORWAY TEXTILES TALKS ADJOURNED

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CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND HONG KONG REGARDING HONG KONG'S TEXTILE EXPORTS TO NORWAY, RESUMED IN HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 30, WERE ADJOURNED TODAY (SATURDAY).

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE BUT THE POINT HAS BEEN REACHED WHERE TIME FOR FURTHER REFLECTION IS REQUIRED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE TWO SIDES PROVISIONALLY AGREED TO RESUME THE CONSULTATIONS AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE IN EARLY 1984.

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NEW COMMUNITY HALL FOR AP LEI CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ON SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES ARE AIMED AT PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION SO THAT SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED, OR AT LEAST ALLEVIATED, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL OFFICER (HONG KONG), MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

+IN THIS WAY, THE QUALITY OF LIFE WILL BE IMPROVED NOT JUST FOR INDIVIDUALS BUT ALSO FOR GROUPS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ SHE SAID.

MRS GOODSTADT WAS SPEAKING AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL AND THE INAUGURATION OF ITS FIRST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

+IN PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID, +THE GOVERNMENT DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY.+

SHE NOTED THAT THERE WAS A WIDE RANGE OF WELFARE SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF AP LEI CHAU WHICH CATERED FOR THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, INCLUDING BOTH ABLE-BODIED AND THE DISABLED.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF A COMMUNITY HALL HELPED TO ENSURE THAT THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WERE GEARED TO THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE DRAWN FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WHO KNOW WELL ABOUT LOCAL RESOURCES AND CAN REPRESENT LOCAL OPINION.

THE NEW PURPOSE-BUILT COMMUNITY HALL, THE FIRST ONE IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT, PROVIDES THE 20 000 RESIDENTS WITH A MUCH-NEEDED VENUE FOR CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

IT HAS BEEN ORGANISING A LARGE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HOME WORK GUIDANCE SESSIONS, FAMILY CAMPS, CULTURAL COMPETITIONS, MUSIC PROGRAMMES AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

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1984 STAMP ISSUES ANNOUNCED

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THE POST OFFICE TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED ITS 1984 PROGRAMME OF NEW STAMP ISSUES.

ON MARCH 7, A SET OF FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF AVIATION IN HONG KONG WILL BE ISSUED.

THESE STAMPS, DESIGNED BY MR MEL HARRIS, WILL ALSO BE REPRODUCED ON POSTCARDS FOR SALE AT ALL POST OFFICE COUNTERS.

THE SECOND SPECIAL STAMP ISSUE WILL BE ON JUNE 21, WITH OLD MAPS OF HONG KONG AS ITS THEME.

THESE MAPS REPRESENT INTERESTING PHASES IN THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG AND WERE CHOSEN BY MR REDGE SOLLEY WHO DESIGNED THE STAMPS.

CHINESE LANTERNS WILL BE THE THEME FOR A SET TO BE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 6.

THESE STAMPS, DEPICTING THE LANTERNS SEEN DURING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IN HONG KONG, WERE DESIGNED BY MR JOHNNY YIM.

THE LAST SPECIAL ISSUE IN 1984 WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 21 TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB. A MINIATURE SHEET OF THESE STAMPS, WHICH WERE DESIGNED BY MR MEL HARRIS, WILL ALSO BE SOLD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS ISSUE.

MORE DETAILS OF THESE STAMPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE TIME OF ISSUE.

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WOMEN PRAISED FOR PUBLIC WORK

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THE VALUE OF YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IS THAT THE MEMBERS CAN HELP CHANGE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FROM A GROUP OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS INTO A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MRS JANE AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

+WOMEN ARE NATURALLY PEACEMAKERS, AND WITH THE BONDING TOGETHER OF MEMBERS OF THE ALREADY 15 YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN EXISTENCE AND WITH A FURTHER 13 SOCIETIES IN THE PLANNING STAGE, THIS FORCE FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP, ACTIVE, INTERESTED AND CONCERNED WOMEN, AND LIFE IN THE NEW TOWNS AND IN THE OLDER PARTS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WILL ALSO TAKE ON A DIFFERENT DIMENSION,+ SHE SAID.

MRS AKERS-JONES WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE CHING HONG AND FUK LOI MOON LOK YIN NGAI SOCIETIES AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

+YIN NGAI ARE ALREADY MAKING THEIR MARK IN THE COMMUNITY WITH SOCIAL SERVICE, INTEREST CLASSES, ORGANISED PICNICS AND VISITS TO PLACES OF INTEREST,+ SHE SAID.

+STRANGERS MOVING FROM DISTANT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY WILL BE HELPED SETTLE INTO THEIR NEW LIVES AND MADE WELCOME, AND IN THEIR TURN WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIVELINESS AND INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY+.

SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE CHING HONG AND FUK LOI MOON LOK YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN JANUARY AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR, A LOT OF FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR THEIR 172 MEMBERS.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 2 000 MEMBERS IN THE 15 YIN NGAI SOCIETIES.

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METRIC SCALE COUNTER MOVES TO CENTRAL

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BETWEEN NOVEMBER 28 AND DECEMBER 10, MORE THAN 13 000 PEOPLE VISITED THE METRIC SCALE COUNTER AT NGAU TAU KOK MARKET IN KWUN TONG.

CHAIRMAN OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, MR JAMES WU DISCLOSED THE FIGURE TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME SINCE ITS IMPLEMENTATION LAST MONTH.

+THIS COUNTER HAS PROVED JUST AS POPULAR AS THE ONE SET UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT BOWRINGTON MARKET IN WAN CHAI FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO 26,+ MR WU SAID.

AS FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 12), THE COUNTER WILL BE MOVED TO CENTRAL MARKET FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

/APART FROM .....

APART FROM A DEMONSTRATION ON THE USE OF WEIGHING SCALES WITH DUAL SCALE CALIBRATION, PUBLICITY MATERIALS SUCH AS METRIC CONVERSION CARDS, STICKERS, METRIC DIALS AND FACT SHEETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE COUNTER.

THE SETTING UP OF METRIC SCALE COUNTERS IN MARKET PLACE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IS PART OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE'S NEW PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO INTRODUCE THE METRIC SYSTEM TO PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL.

AFTER DECEMBER 24, THE COUNTER WILL BE MOVED TO YAU MA TI MARKET, ABERDEEN MARKET AND FINALLY, MONG KOK MARKET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR JAMES WU, CHAIRMAN OF THE METRICATION COMMITTEE, WILL VISIT THE METRIC SCALE COUNTER AT CENTRAL MARKET (QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL ENTRANCE) AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 12) TO SEE PEOPLE'S REACTION TO THE SCHEME. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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ROSARYHILL REFLECTS EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HK

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROSARYHILL SCHOOL OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS HAS MIRRORED THE GENERAL PATTERN OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID AT THE SCHOOL'S OPEN DAY TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR HAYE SAID ROSARYHILL SCHOOL AT FIRST CONCENTRATED ON PRIMARY EDUCATION, AND EXTENDED INTO SECONDARY EDUCATION LATER ON.

+THE SECONDARY SECTION OF THE SCHOOL, LIKE THE PRIMARY, STARTED AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL, BUT JOINED THE RANKS OF THE PER CAPUT GRANT SCHOOLS IN 1974, ENTERED THE GOVERNMENT'S SCHEME OF PHASED CONVERSION TO FULLY AIDED STATUS IN 1979, AND ATTAINED THAT STATUS IN 1982.

+THIS DEVELOPMENT REFLECTS THE PATTERN OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS - THE EARLY CONCENTRATION ON THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, THE RAPID EXPANSION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AND, MORE RECENTLY, THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN THE FULLY AIDED SECTOR,+ MR HAYE SAID.

/THE DECISION .....

THE DECISION BY THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE FULLY AIDED SECTOR REFLECTED A REALISATION OF THE INCREASING DEMANDS PLACED ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSAL JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WITH INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, HE SAID.

COMPARED WITH THE SITUATION 25 YEARS AGO, MR HAYE NOTED, +TODAY WE HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FULL RANGE OF ABILITY AND FOSTER INTERESTS AND PURSUITS OUTSIDE BUT COMPLEMENTARY TO THE MORE FORMAL CLASSROOM TEACHING.+

+AND EVEN THIS MORE FORMAL TEACHING HAS BECOME MORE COMPLEX AS IT STRIVES TO KEEP UP WITH THE RAPID ADVANCES BEING MADE IN ALL FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE.

+ALL THIS HAS MEANT THE NEED FOR GREATER AND IMPROVED RESOURCES IN THE SCHOOLS, IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY IN BOTH TEACHING STAFF AND FACILITIES,+ MR HAYE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THIS NEED COULD ONLY BE MET THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BODIES OPERATING THE SCHOOLS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

+THIS IS THE PARTNERSHIP WHICH EXISTS IN WHAT IN HONG KONG WE CALL THE AIDED SCHOOLS.

+IT IS A PARTNERSHIP WHICH ENSURES THE MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS OF PROVISION BUT LEAVES SUFFICIENT FREEDOM TO SCHOOL BODIES TO RETAIN THEIR INDIVIDUALITY AND THEIR FREEDOM TO INITIATE.

+ROSARYHILL SCHOOL OFFERS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A NON-GOVERNMENT BODY RECOGNISING A NEED TO BE MET, TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO MEET THAT NEED BUT, RECOGNISING THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS OWN RESOURCES, ENSURING THAT IT CONTINUES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS PUPILS THROUGH ACTIVE CO-OPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT,+ MR HAYE SAID.

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ANTI-SMOKING DRIVE IN KWUN TONG

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AN ANTI-SMOKING EXHIBITION-CUM-CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SUNDAY) IN KWUN TONG TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE HEALTH RISKS FROM SMOKING.

THE EVENT WILL MARK THE OPENING OF THE DISTRICT'S ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN WHICH WILL LAST TILL THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

THE CARNIVAL, FEATURING A CHILDREN ART GALLERY, A QUIZ, GAMES STALLS, SLIDE AND VARIETY SHOWS AND A DISPLAY OF ANTI-SMOKING MESSAGES, WILL BE HELD FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM AT THE MAIN SQUARE OF THE TELFORD GARDENS IN KOWLOON BAY.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK-UPS AND LUNG FUNCTION TESTS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

/OFFICIATING AT .....

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION AND CARNIVAL WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, DR JUDITH MACKAY; THE COMMUNITY PHYSICIAN (KOWLOON REGION) OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR LAI SAU-SHUE; THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CLAYMON LAI; AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT, MISS MONA LO.

OTHER PROGRAMMES TO PUBLICISE THE ILL EFFECTS OF SMOKING INCLUDE SPEECH, DRAWING AND SLOGAN COMPETITIONS AS WELL AS SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS.

ALSO, A TWO-DAY CAMP FOR 50 VOLUNTEER WORKERS BEGAN TODAY AT THE YUEN LONG HOLIDAY HOUSE OF THE HONG KONG GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION TO TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE AS HEALTH ADVOCATES FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

THE CAMPAIGN, SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (ESTATE MANAGEMENT) LIMITED.

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TRIAL SCHEME ON REFUSE DISPOSAL

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A TRIAL SCHEME ON REFUSE DISPOSAL WILL BE LAUNCHED IN WAN CHAI ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 12) WHEN 12 000 PLASTIC LITTER BAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE TO 644 HOUSEHOLDS IN 12 BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

CO-ORDINATED BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE TRIAL SCHEME IS A JOINT VENTURE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE WAN CHAI EAST AREA COMMITTEE.

THE FIVE-WEEK SCHEME IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO ADOPT THE HABIT OF USING PLASTIC BAGS TO DISPOSE OF REFUSE.

A PRESS BRIEFING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY MORNING AT THE LUARD ROAD REFUSE COLLECTION POINT (NEXT TO SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND) WHEN DETAILS OF THE TRIAL SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP, MRS PEGGY LAM, WHO ALSO HEADS THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, MRS LAM AND OTHER GUESTS WILL DISTRIBUTE LITTER BAGS TO HOUSEHOLDS IN A NEARBY BUILDING AND EXPLAIN THE USAGE TO THE RESIDENTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS BRIEFING AT 11 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 12) AT THE LUARD ROAD REFUSE COLLECTION POINT (NEAR SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND) IN WAN CHAI.

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FOOD HYGIENE COURSE FOR RESTAURATEURS IN TUEN MUN

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A FOUR-SESSION FOOD HYGIENE COURSE IS BEING HELD IN TUEN MUN FOR PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH RESTAURANT OPERATIONS IN THIS NEW TOWN.

THE COURSE, ARRANGED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IS AIMED AT PROMOTING GENERAL HYGIENE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AT RESTAURANTS.

THE COURSE COVERS PREVENTION OF FOOD POISONING, PRINCIPLES OF MICROBIOLOGY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF FOOD HYGIENE AS WELL AS LOCAL BUSINESS LAWS.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF RESTAURANT SANITATION WITH HEALTH INSPECTORS.

SIMILAR COURSES WILL BE HELD IN OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES NEXT YEAR.

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SEVEN MODEL NEIGHBOURS GET AWARDS

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SEVEN CITIZENS WERE THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING GIVEN AWARDS FOR THE CARE AND CONCERN THEY SHOWED TO THEIR FELLOW NEIGHBOURS.

THE THREE MEN AND FOUR WOMEN WERE CHOSEN FROM 78 NOMINATIONS FOR THE MODEL NEIGHBOUR AWARD.

THEY COME FROM VILLAGES, TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, SQUATTER AREAS AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN DISTRICTS.

SPEAKING AT THE AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID THE MODEL NEIGHBOUR AWARD PROJECT HELPED STRENGTHEN THE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS.

HE SAID THE MODEL NEIGHBOURS, ALONG WITH A LOT MORE OTHERS, HAD MADE THE COMMUNITY A MUCH BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

+IN THIS DENSELY POPULATED CITY, ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLINESS, CONCERN AND CARE FOR NEIGHBOURS IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO BUILD A HARMONIOUS, HAPPY AND HEALTHY SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

THE MODEL NEIGHBOUR AWARD PROJECT, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, WAS INITIATED BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE-ACTION COUNCIL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FREE CHECK-UPS FOR TSUEN WAN WORKERS
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THE FIRST FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP SESSION, UNDER THE TSUEN WAN HEALTH WEEK SCHEME, WILL TAKE PLACE AT 11 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 12) AT THE GARDEN COMPANY LIMITED IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD, SHAM TSENG.

MEDICAL TEAMS FROM THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL WILL CARRY OUT CHECK-UPS FOR WORKERS AT THE COMPANY.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER (TSUEN WAN), MISS ELAINE CHUNG; DISTRICT OFFICER (KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI), MR TAM WING-PONG; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, DR CHEUNG SAU-CHING; CHAIRMAN OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR ANTHONY HO; AND A BOARD MEMBER, MR FU YUEN-HUNG, WILL VISIT THE MEDICAL TEAMS THAT MORNING.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE IN FOU WAN CENTRE, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT 10.30 AM FOR SHAM TSENG.

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CHINESE GYMNASTS TO HOLD COACHING SESSION
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MORE THAN 500 STUDENTS IN SHA TIN WILL BE TREATED TO A WORLD STANDARD PERFORMANCE BY THE VISITING CHINESE GYMNASTICS TEAM TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THE FREE DEMONSTRATION SESSION WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM AT THE CHALLENGE GYMNASIUM HALL OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE IN SHA TIN.

MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE GYMNASTICS TEAM REPRESENTED GUANGDONG PROVINCE IN THIS YEAR'S CHINA NATION-WIDE SPORTS MEET. TOGETHER WITH EIGHT COACHES FROM THE HONG KONG AMATEUR GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION, THEY WILL ALSO OFFER BASIC TECHNIQUE TRAINING LESSONS TO YOUTHS.

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AMATEUR GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (SHA TIN), IS AIMED AT PROMOTING YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN GYMNASTICS.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED MORE THAN $6 000 TOWARDS ORGANISING THE EVENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOSTER CARE UNIT OPENING
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (HONG KONG), MRS CAROLINE NEWBIGGING, WILL JOINTLY OPEN THE SWD'S CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT AND THE FUND'S FOSTER CARE SERVICE ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 12) AT 4 PM.

THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT ROOM 1102, TUNG SUN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 194-200 LOCKHART ROAD, WAN CHAI.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. AFTER THE CEREMONY, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO INTERVIEW MRS SHIRELY FOZZARD, DIRECTOR OF FOSTER CARE SERVICE, SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND, AND MISS MOLLY WONG, HEAD OF THE CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT.

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YOUTHS HELP BEAUTIFY ESTATE
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YOUNG PEOPLE AND RESIDENTS OF UPPER NGAU TAU KOK ESTATE IN KWUN TONG WILL JOIN HANDS TO BEAUTIFY, AND CLEAN UP, THE ESTATE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) MORNING.

FORTY VOLUNTEERS FROM THE SHIU ON SEAGULL CLUB WILL PAINT A MURAL ON A RETAINING WALL ADJACENT TO BLOCK FIVE OF THE ESTATE.

ABOUT 100 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL CLEAN UP THE MAIN STREETS.

MEANWHILE, SOME 200 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL CAPTURE THE CLEAN-UP AND MURAL-PAINTING SCENES IN PICTURES BY TAKING PART IN A DRAWING COMPETITION.

TOMORROW'S EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE EAST NGAU TAU KOK AREA COMMITTEE.

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NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS TO BE BUILT

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TWO NEW REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WILL BE BUILT SHORTLY IN MONG KOK AND LEI YUE MUN TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS CALLING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECTS.

THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT IN MONG KOK COVERING ABOUT 173 SQUARE METRES WILL BE SITUATED AT DUNDAS STREET.

THE LEI YUE MUN COLLECTION POINT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 216 SQUARE METRES, WILL BE AT YAN YUE WAI.

WORK ON BOTH PROJECTS WILL START IN FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS.

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FUN AND GAMES AT FUND-RAISING WALK

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MORE THAN 800 STAFF AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOOK PART TODAY (SATURDAY) IN A FUND-RAISING WALK IN TAI LAM CHUNG, TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT'S WELFARE FUND.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, OFFICIATED AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY STARTING OFF THE SIX-KILOMETRE WALK, FROM TAI LAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, THROUGH THE SCENIC TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIR AND BACK.

AFTER THE WALK, A BARBECUE PARTY AND AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME WERE HELD FOR PARTICIPANTS. THERE WERE A TELE-MATCH, GAME STALLS, CAMEL RIDES, AN ARMY DOG DEMONSTRATION, A LUCKY DRAW, AS WELL AS PERFORMANCES BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF BAND AND THE TAI TAM GIRLS' PIPERS AND PRECISION MARCHING TEAM.

THE ANNUAL FUND-RAISING OUTING, WHICH ALSO PROVIDED A DAY OF FUN FOR THE WALKERS, WAS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

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FIRING PRACTICE AT HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR SIX DAYS NEXT WEEK.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

THE PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ON THE COMING MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (DECEMBER 12, 14, 15, 16 AND 17) FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE SECTION OF NAM CHEONG STREET BETWEEN BERWICK STREET AND WOH CHAI STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC ON DECEMBER 12, 16, 19 AND 22 BETWEEN 1 AM TO 5 AM.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS HEADING FOR LUNG CHEUNG ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE BERWICK STREET, SHEK KIP MEI STREET AND WOH CHAI STREET.

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MAXICAB SERVICE TO BE WITHDRAWN

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SERVICES ON MAXICAB ROUTE 17 BETWEEN CHAI WAN AND PAK SHA WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 12).

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