



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1984

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DECISION ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATION 'WELL TIMED'
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THE SETTING UP OF A WELL BALANCED LOCAL ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE AT THE DISTRICT AND REGIONAL LEVEL IS A PERFECTLY LOGICAL AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR IAN MACPHERSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE DESCRIBED AS +WELL TIMED+ THE MOVES TO HAVE DISTRICT BOARDS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL BECAUSE +THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE NOW BEEN FUNCTIONING FOR A REASONABLE TIME AND HAVE SETTLED DOWN AND PROVED THEIR WORTH.+

SPEAKING IN A LUNCHEON TALK TO THE ZONTA CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MACPHERSON ELABORATED ON GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, ANNOUNCED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY, TO FURTHER DEVELOP LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

HE SAID THE WAY WAS CLEAR FOR THE NEXT STEP TO BE TAKEN.

+ONE OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS WE SHALL BE DOING IS TO GET MORE PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS,+ HE SAID.

+EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY WILL BE GIVEN TO VOTER REGISTRATION BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST WHEN THE REGISTRATION PERIOD BEGINS IN THE HOPE THAT MANY MORE PEOPLE WILL REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO VOTE IN THE MARCH 1985 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE INTEREST GENERATED IN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION WILL IN ITSELF LEAD TO A VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE ONE MILLION PEOPLE NOW ON THE REGISTER.

+ANOTHER THING TO BE DONE IN GOOD TIME IS TO ESTABLISH THE NEW DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE GREATER NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS.

+IN MOST CASES THIS WILL INVOLVE TWO MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES BUT IN SOME, WHERE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE, NEW CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES HAVE TO BE DRAWN. THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF LOCAL CONSULTATION.+

THE THIRD THING, HE SAID, WAS TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK SETTING UP THE PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL EARLY NEXT YEAR AND THE FULL COUNCIL BY MARCH OR APRIL IN 1986.

THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MUST ALSO BE IN PLACE IN TIME, HE ADDED.

A FOURTH TASK WOULD BE TO REFINE AND DEFINE THE PRECISE RELATIONSHIP OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS TO THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND +MAKE SURE THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE SYSTEM IS ESTABLISHED WHICH IS ABLE, WITHIN THE OVERALL POLICY FRAMEWORK, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS OF EACH DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

/MR MACPHERSON

MR MACPHERSON STRESSED THAT THESE WERE JUST SOME OF THE IMMEDIATE TASKS.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THEY WILL BE DEALT WITH IN GOOD TIME. BUT IT CAN ONLY BE WITH THE SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS THAT THESE MOVES TOWARD A MORE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION CAN SUCCEED.+

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD REMAIN PRIMARILY ADVISORY, THEY WOULD IN FUTURE BE UNDERTAKING A MUCH MORE DIRECT ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF DISTRICT FACILITIES AND, AS FAR AS THE NEW TERRITORIES IS CONCERNED, THERE WOULD BE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THEM AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD AN INFLUENCE ON VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF DISTRICT LIFE AND, WITH MORE ELECTED MEMBERS, AN UNOFFICIAL CHAIRMAN, A GREATER MANAGEMENT ROLE AND THE LINK WITH THE REGIONAL LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION, THEIR INFLUENCE WOULD CERTAINLY INCREASE.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WITH ITS HEADQUARTERS IN SHA TIN, WOULD BY 1986 BE A FINANCIALLY AUTONOMOUS LOCAL AUTHORITY, DETERMINING POLICY AND PROVIDING THE SERVICES NOW PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE AREA IN VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY AS THE URBAN COUNCIL WAS DOING FOR THE URBAN AREA.

+I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD EXPECT ANY DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE SERVICES NOW SO EFFICIENTLY PROVIDED BUT AT LEAST THE PRIORITIES WILL BE DETERMINED, NOT BY CIVIL SERVANTS BUT BY A COUNCIL MADE UP OF APPOINTED AND ELECTED UNOFFICIALS, WITH AN ELECTED MAJORITY,+ HE SAID.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES INCREASED * * *

FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE 8.4 PER CENT (TAX FREE), AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 5.16 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

NOTICE OF THIS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE 70 CENTS PER MONTH PER \$100.

INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 18, 1984.

/CERTIFICATES WHICH

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE MAY 18, 1984 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS :-

13.2 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 31, 1981 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1981;

14.4 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1981 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 4, 1981;

12 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982;

10.8 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982 AND BEFORE AUGUST 27, 1982;

9 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 27, 1982 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 3, 1982;

7.8 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 3, 1982 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1983;

10.2 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1983 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1983;

12 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1983 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 7, 1983;

9.6 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 7, 1983 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1984;

7.8 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 1984 AND BEFORE MARCH 23, 1984; AND

5.16 PER CENT PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 1984 AND BEFORE MAY 18, 1984.

BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE :

\$1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON MAY 21, 1984, JUNE 21, 1984 AND JULY 21, 1984 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON AUGUST 21, 1984, WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS :-

ON \$1 000, MAY 21, 1984 TO AUGUST 21, 1984,
THREE COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$7.00 PER MONTH = \$21.00

ON \$1 000, JUNE 21, 1984 TO AUGUST 21, 1984,
TWO COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$7.00 PER MONTH = \$14.00

ON \$1 000, JULY 21, 1984 TO AUGUST 21, 1984,
ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT \$7.00 PER MONTH = \$ 7.00

\$42.00
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OUTDOOR ECOLOGY COURSES FOR MATRIC STUDENTS
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SEVERAL OUTDOOR ECOLOGY COURSES WILL BE HELD FOR MATRICULATION STUDENTS AT THE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT SAI KUNG BETWEEN THIS SEPTEMBER AND JUNE 1985.

THE COURSES, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AND THE SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, AIM AT ENABLING THE STUDENTS TO STUDY IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT THE SAME TIME.

THE CONTENT OF THE COURSES WILL BE BASED ON THE HIGHER LEVEL AND ADVANCED LEVEL BIOLOGY SYLLABUSES. STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT BOTH FIELD AND LABORATORY STUDIES ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS SUCH AS MANGROVE, FRESHWATER STREAM, NATURE TRAIL AND HILLSIDE GRASSLAND.

THERE WILL BE TWO THREE-DAY COURSES FOR MIDDLE SIX STUDENTS AND 13 FOUR-DAY COURSES FOR LOWER AND UPPER SIX STUDENTS. COURSE TUITION IS FREE, BUT EACH STUDENT WILL BE CHARGED \$60 FOR THE THREE-DAY COURSE AND \$90 FOR THE FOUR-DAY COURSE TO COVER ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS.

THE MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT FOR EACH COURSE IS 40. AT LEAST ONE TEACHER FROM EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL BE EXPECTED TO STAY IN THE CAMP WITH THE STUDENTS AND TO ASSIST IN CONDUCTING THE COURSES.

HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHO WISH TO SEND THEIR STUDENTS TO THE COURSE SHOULD APPLY TO THE INSPECTOR, FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, PAK KONG, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES, BY JUNE 8.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

PRESS CONFERENCE ON PHARMACY REPORT
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY AND ANCILLARY MATTERS.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE GIS THEATRE AT BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, 5TH FLOOR.

/THE CONFERENCE

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THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY DR S.H. LEE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (HEALTH SERVICES AND PLANNING). OTHER PANELISTS WILL INCLUDE MR N.C.L. SHIPMAN, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MEDICAL AND HEALTH) AND MR K.Y. LI, CHIEF PHARMACIST, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE REPORT TOGETHER WITH A COMMENTARY IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT 2.15 PM IN THE THEATRE.

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WATERSLIDE SITE FOR LEASE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO LEASE A 4 700-SQUARE METRE SITE NEAR NGAM HA TONG, CLEAR WATER BAY FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A RECREATIONAL WATERSLIDE.

TENDERS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR TENANCY ARE BEING INVITED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE WATERSLIDE, WILL COMPRISE WATER CHANNELS AND ANCILLARY STRUCTURES, AND WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ACCORDING TO MASTER PLANS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A PUMPHOUSE, CHANGING ROOMS, SPLASH POOL, TICKET BOOTH AND TOILETS.

THE TENANT WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT LANDSCAPING WORK AND PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS JUNE 1.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- * THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SAI KUNG.

THE TENDER PLAN CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE LOCATIONS.

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MEASURES TO EASE CONGESTION
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TO EASE CONGESTION AT ITS OFFICE, THE CITY HALL MARRIAGE REGISTRY WILL STOP ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF ABSENCE OF MARRIAGE RECORD FROM MONDAY (MAY 21).

THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR APPLICATIONS AT THIS REGISTRY MAY COLLECT THEIR CERTIFICATES THERE.

NEW APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY POST TO THE MARRIAGE RECORDS OFFICE AT 92-97 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, SECOND FLOOR, LI PO CHUN CHAMBERS FROM MONDAY.

THE SAME SERVICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED AT ALL OTHER MARRIAGE REGISTRIES.

THOSE WITH ENQUIRIES MAY DIAL 3-7333111.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BRIDGE +TOPPING-OUT+
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THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR BRYAN O'RORKE, AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED, MR D.A. MORRIS, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE +TOPPING-OUT+ CEREMONY OF A BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHING MUN RIVER TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE BRIDGE, BUILT NEAR SHA TIN CITY ONE AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, FORMS PART OF A TRUNK ROAD IN SHA TIN WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM.

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SQUASH AND TENNIS COURTS FOR MORSE PARK
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WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK ON CONSTRUCTING THREE SQUASH AND SIX TENNIS COURTS AT MORSE PARK, WONG TAI SIN.

THE SQUASH COURTS WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED AND THERE WILL BE STANDS FOR 120 SPECTATORS.

THE TENNIS COURTS WILL BE FLOODLIT.

A \$3.8 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO K. WONG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE BUILDING WITH SOLAR-HEATED CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS AND A STOREROOM.

WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

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STAGE FACILITIES FOR CENTRE
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ADDITIONAL STAGE LIGHTING AND CURTAIN EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL AT FAT TSEUNG STREET, BETWEEN SO UK AND LEI CHENG UK ESTATES.

A CONTRACT VALUED AT ALMOST \$114 000 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO LEE BIU KEE COMPANY BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORK WILL START IN JUNE AND BE COMPLETED IN THREE MONTHS.

THE 500-SEAT HALL HAS A STAGE FOR CONCERTS, PLAYS AND OPERAS. THERE ARE ALSO DRESSING ROOMS AND A STORAGE AREA, AS WELL AS CHANGING ROOMS AND A COVERED PLAYGROUND.

THE CENTRE IS HOUSED IN A SIX-STOREY MAIN BLOCK, AND PROVIDES SUCH FACILITIES AS A LIBRARY, COFFEE BAR, MULTI-SERVICE CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, GROUP ACTIVITY AND STUDY ROOMS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, A NURSERY WITH ROOF PLAY-AREA AND A BASKETBALL COURT.

IT WAS OPENED LAST DECEMBER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

LANDROVER GIVEN TO AMS
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A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, MR YUEN KIT, HAS DONATED A LANDROVER AMBULANCE TO THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES. THE AMS COMMISSIONER, DR K.L. THONG, WILL RECEIVE THE KEY TO THE AMBULANCE FROM MR YUEN AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT KOWLOON HOSPITAL.

AFTER THE HANDING-OVER CEREMONY, MEMBERS OF THE AMS WILL USE THE VEHICLE TO STAGE A DEMONSTRATION OF CASUALTY CONVEYANCE.

THE VEHICLE, WITH ITS FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE MECHANISM, WILL BE USED IN THE MORE REMOTE AND HILLY AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OCCASION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

SHA TIN BOARD MEMBERS TO VISIT TDC
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SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S HEAD OFFICE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE VISIT IS TO FAMILIARISE MEMBERS WITH THE ORGANISATION AND SERVICES OF THE COUNCIL AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW THE COUNCIL COULD HELP IN THE SERVICING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY IN SHA TIN.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER THE VISIT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE COUNCIL'S HEAD OFFICE ON THE 31ST FLOOR OF GREAT EAGLE CENTRE, 23 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 2.30 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BOARD TO DISCUSS RENT INCREASES
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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE RENT INCREASES OF SHOPS AT BLOCKS NINE AND 13 OF SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE 1983 TAXI REVIEW AND THE REVIEW ON PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 39 TONKIN STREET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TWELVE TO SING FOR TOP PRIZE
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TWELVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TSUEN WAN HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FROM AMONG 500 CONTESTANTS TO COMPETE IN THE DISTRICT'S AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST THIS SATURDAY (MAY 19).

TSUEN WAN IS THE EIGHTH DISTRICT TO HOLD THE 18-DISTRICT AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE CONTEST IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND SING TAO NEWSPAPERS LIMITED AND WILL START AT 7.30 PM AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SINGING CONTEST.

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