DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR CONGRATULATES RED CROSS ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (SUNDAY) CONGRATULATED THE RED CROSS ON 40 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENT IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE RED CROSS YOUTH PARADE AT THE HONG KONG STADIUM, SIR DAVID SAID MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG KNEW THE RED CROSS BEST FOR ITS BLOOD DONATION PROGRAMME - A PROGRAMME WHICH DEMONSTRATED VIVIDLY THE EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CARING WHICH CHARACTERISED THIS ADMIRABLE ORGANISATION.

"BUT IT IS BY NO MEANS THE ONLY SERVICE THAT THE RED CROSS PROVIDES," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID WHEN THE RED CROSS WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG 40 YEARS AGO, ITS ACTIVITIES WERE LIMITED TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOSPITALS AND TO MAKING SURGICAL DRESSINGS.

IT HAS EXPANDED IMPRESSIVELY SINCE THEN:

- EDUCATION FOR CONVALESCING CHILDREN

- RAISING FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF

- TEACHING FIRST AID

- LENDING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

HE ALSO ADDED THAT THESE WERE JUST SOME OF THE SERVICES WHICH THE RED CROSS OFFERED OUR COMMUNITY.

SIR DAVID SAID A PARTICULARLY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE RED CROSS HAD MADE TO HONG KONG WAS THE RED CROSS YOUTH.

"THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE RED CROSS YOUTH LEARN, IN THE WORKS OF THEIR MOTTO, TO 'SERVE ONE ANOTHER'.

"THEY LEARN SKILLS WITH WHICH TO HELP OTHERS; AND THEY LEARN, THROUGH DIRECT EXPERIENCE, THE SATISFACTION OF BEING ABLE TO HELP OTHERS.

"THEY DO SO IN AN ORGANISATION WHICH PROVIDES DISCIPLINE, PRACTICAL TRAINING AND FRIENDSHIP," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HAD GREAT PLEASURE TO SEE SO MANY SMART, ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY TODAY.

"I COMMEND YOU ALL ON THE HARD WORK THAT HAS GONE INTO ORGANISING AND PREPARING FOR THIS EVENT.

"I THANK ALL MEMBERS OF RED CROSS YOUTH IN HONG KONG FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND THE PUBLIC." HE ADDED.

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RESPECT FOR NATURE NEEDED: YEUNG

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IT IS VITAL THAT STUDENTS AND PEOPLE OF ALL AGES IN OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOP A RESPECT FOR NATURE AND AN IMPROVED AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS CONSERVATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR K.Y. YEUNG SAID.

HE SAID THIS WOULD ENSURE THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ITS QUALITY OF LIFE.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 'I LOVE GREEN HONG KONG' CONCERT IN TSUEN WAN TODAY (SUNDAY), MR YEUNG NOTED THAT NO COMMUNITY THAT BLATANTLY DISREGARDED ITS NATURAL HERITAGE COULD MAINTAIN ITSELF FOR LONG.

"WE WOULD BE DOING OURSELVES A DISSERVICE WERE WE NOT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IN HONG KONG BECOMES FULLY AWARE OF THE PART HE MUST PLAY IN PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS.

"FOR THE NEW ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVEL COURSES, TO BE INTRODUCED FROM 1992, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LIBERAL STUDIES COURSE. THESE ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE INFORMAL CURRICULUM.

"TO COMPLEMENT THESE SCHOOL-BASED EFFORTS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED A FIELD STUDY CENTRE IN SAI KUNG IN 1979.

"WE HAVE PLANS FOR A FURTHER THREE FIELD STUDIES CENTRES, TO BE LOCATED IN CHEUNG CHAU, TSUEN WAN AND TUNG CHUNG. THESE WILL BE ESTABLISHED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS AND WHEN FUNDS PERMIT," THE SECRETARY SAID.

SINCE THE SAI KUNG CENTRE HAS BEEN HEAVILY USED, MR YEUNG SAID HE WELCOMED THE INITIATIVE AND FORESIGHT OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 IN SETTING UP THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN SAI KUNG TO ADD TO THE PRESENT LIMITED PROVISION.

LOCATED IN A FORMER GOVERNMENT FARM IN SAI KUNG, THE CENTRE WILL CONTAIN AN ARBORETUM OF INDIGENOUS AND RARE TREES, AS WELL AS SPECIMENS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS, FRUIT TREES AND FIELD CROPS, AND AN EXHIBITION HALL WITH EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS ON HONG KONG'S FLORA, FAUNA, COUNTRY PARKS, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

ADDITIONAL ATTTRACTIONS WILL INCLUDE AN INSECT HOUSE AND AN ELEVATED WALKWAY THROUGH THE ORCHARD FOR CLOSE-UP INSPECTIONS OF FLOWERS AND FRUITS.

MR YEUNG HOPED THAT THE CONCERT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN RAISING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE.

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RAT PREVENTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE LAUNCHING A MONTH-LONG TERRITORY-WIDE RAT PREVENTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 1) TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN AND HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT FOR GOOD HEALTH.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SUNDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID THE CAMPAIGN, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT THE HAZARDS TO HEALTH THAT RATS WOULD BRING.

THE SPOKESMAN APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR COOPERATION IN PREVENTING RAT INFESTATIONS.

"RATS ARE NOT ONLY CARRIERS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES LIKE PLAGUE AND TYPHUS, THEY ALSO INDIRECTLY TRANSMIT GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, TYPHOID FEVER AND FOOD POISONING," HE SAID.

RATS WILL ALSO CREATE NUISANCE AND DAMAGE FITTINGS OF BUILDINGS AND FURNITURE.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, EDUCATIONAL LITERATURES SUCH AS POSTERS, ADVISORY LETTERS AND LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT OFFICES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, FOOD PREMISES, MARKETS AND HOUSING ESTATES.

TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON RAT PREVENTION, A 24-HOUR HEALTH EDUCATION HOTLINE 723 0013 WILL BE SET UP. IT WILL ALSO ANSWER SPECIFIC ENQUIRIES ON RAT PREVENTION.

MEANWHILE, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE ON RAT PREVENTION ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE PEST CONTROL UNITS IN VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

TO MAINTAIN A GOOD LIVING ENVIRONMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PUBLIC SHOULD:

* MAINTAIN THE BUILDINGS PROPERLY TO DEPRIVE RATS OF HARBOURAGE;

* IMPROVE SANITATION TO DEPRIVE RATS OF FOOD SUPPLIES;

* ORGANISE REGULAR CLEARANCE OF JUNKS AND DISUSED ARTICLES FROM PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS YARDS, STAIR LANDING AND ROOFTOPS;

* STORE FOOD AND DISPOSE OF SCRAPS AND REFUSE PROPERLY; AND

* STORE EDIBLE MATERIAL IN RAT-PROOF CONTAINERS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR RESTAURANT AND FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS.

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LAN URGES YOUTHS TO JOIN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

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YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BE JOINING ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION, REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR LAN MADE THIS APPEAL BEFORE TAKING THE SALUTE AT THE ASSOCIATION'S HONG KONG AND ISLANDS REGIONAL ANNUAL PARADE IN VICTORIA PARK.

HE SAID BY BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE ROAD SAFETY PATROLS, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN MEANINGFUL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY CHEST FUND RAISING DRIVE, CLEAN HONG KONG AND ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGNS.

MR LAN NOTED THAT SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PATROLS IN 1963, IT HAD HELPED FOSTER A CORRECT CONCEPT AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS ROAD USE AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION PARTICULARLY THE STUDENTS.

"THROUGH DISCIPLINARY TRAINING SESSIONS UNDER THE PATROLS, YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CULTIVATED WITH LEADERSHIP SKILLS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THESE HAD PROVED USEFUL TO THEIR HEALTHY BUILD-UP.

ON THE PATROLS' STRENGTH, MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD DEVELOPED, THROUGH THE YEARS, INTO A 227-TEAM FORCE WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 12,000.

CITING THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF TEAMS HAD INCREASED FROM ONE IN 1982 TO EIGHT THIS YEAR WHICH INDICATED THAT THIS KIND OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HAD BEEN POPULARLY RECEIVED.

MR LAN WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT IN THE PATROLS' 27-YEAR HISTORY, NOT EVEN ONE MEMBER WAS INJURED WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES. THE PATROLS TAKES CARE OF MORE THAN 300,000 STUDENTS DAILY THOURGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY SIMILAR SETUPS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, HONG KONG'S ROAD SAFETY PATROLS SURELY RANKS FIRST IN ITS SYSTEMATIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES, UNIFORM DESIGNS AND SERVICE RECORDS," HE SAID.

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PARADE TO SPREAD ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGES

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ABOUT 1,000 SAI KUNG RESIDENTS TOOK PART IN A LARGE-SCALE PARADE IN TSEUNG KWAN O THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING TO PLEDGE SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN.

SPEAKING AT THE KICK-OFF CEREMONY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN WORKING GROUP, MR EDWARD PONG, SAID THE PARADE AIMED AT ENCOURAGING YOUNTSERS TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS.

HE URGED YOUNG PERSONS TO ADOPT A HEALTHY AND DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLE, SO AS TO CREATE A BRILLIANT FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES.

HOLDING COLOURFUL BANNERS AND SIGNS WITH ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGES, THE PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY FROM THE DISTRICT'S YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, MARCHED WITH HIGH SPIRIT FROM PO LAM ESTATE TO TSUI LAM ESTATE.

APART FROM CHANTING ANTI-NARCOTICS SLOGANS, THEY ALSO JOINED A CHOIR TO SING THE THEME SONG OF THE CAMPAIGN. HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS WERE ATTRACTED TO JOIN IN.

THE PARADE LASTED FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND ENDED UP AT THE AMPHITHEATRE OF TSUI LAM ESTATE, WHERE A POPULAR CONCERT WAS HELD TO ENTERTAIN THE PARTICIPANTS.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE KICK-OFF CEREMONY INCLUDED MEMBER OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, MR PAO PING-WING; SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WILLIAM WAN; SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG; AND POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF KWUN TONG, MR ARTHUR HIGGINBOTTOM.

THE PARADE IS PART OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SAI KING DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITIONS, VISITS TO TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AND DAWN ISLAND, TALKS AND SEMINARS.

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YAU TSIM FIGHT CRIME SINGING CONTEST

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO COMPETE IN A FIGHT CRIME SINGING CONTEST AND WIN VALUABLE PRIZES INCLUDING POSSIBLE SINGING CONTRACTS.

THE "GLORY OF LIFE" CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL.

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THE CONTEST AIMS AT ENCOURAGING YOUNG MEMBERS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME AND HELP SPREAD CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGES.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN INITIAL INTERVIEW FROM WHICH TEN FINALISTS WILL BE SELECTED TO COMPETE IN THE FINALS.

THE FINALS CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE TOP THREE WINNERS WILL BE GIVEN VOICE TESTS AND MAY BE ABLE TO SIGN SINGING CONTRACTS WITH A RECORD COMPANY.

ENTRY FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

* YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI;

* YAU TSIM JUNIOR POLICE CALL CLUBHOUSE, POLICE MARRIED QUARTERS, 182 CANTON ROAD; AND

* YAU TSIM CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION, 33 SALISBURY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 301 2160 AND 722 1020. THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS DECEMBER 28.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY TICKETS ON SALE

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TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE ON SALE FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 28) AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON 11TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID ONLY 180 TICKETS, AT $55 PER ADULT AND $47 PER CHILD OR ELDERLY, WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

"AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO FAMILY-UNIT PARTICIPANTS TO ENABLE THEM TO SHARE THE FUN OF THE FESTIVE SEASON," HE SAID.

THE ANNUAL FUNCTION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, AT THE CAINE ROAD CARITAS CENTRE, BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM. THERE WILL BE A BUFFET DINNER, GAMES AND A LUCKY DRAW.

THE PARTY IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE CHUNG WAN AREA COMMITTEE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3499 OR 852 3487.

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