



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FIRE TRAGEDY MARS HO'S LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

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UNLIKE MOST FAMILIES PREPARING FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE RAT, THE HO FAMILY OF YAU TONG FACE A BLEAK HOLIDAY.

FOR THE FAMILY OF FATHER -- A CONSTRUCTION WORKER EARNING \$2 000 A MONTH -- MOTHER AND TWO-MONTH OLD SON -- LOST EVERYTHING WHEN A SQUATTER FIRE IN LING NAM SAN CHUEN SPREAD TO THEIR HUT AND DESTROYED IT TOO.

THE EARLY MORNING DECEMBER 8 FIRE HAD SPREAD RAPIDLY THROUGH ELECTRICAL WIRES.

THE HO'S HAD BOUGHT THE HUT FOR \$8 000 WHEN THEY MARRIED TWO YEARS AGO AND SPENT \$10 000 ON EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING IT.

THE FAMILY ARE NOW STAYING WITH MRS HO'S MOTHER WHILE AWAITING REHOUSING.

LAST YEAR THERE WERE 169 SQUATTER FIRES, MAKING 3 339 PEOPLE HOMELESS.

IN KOWLOON EAST, A SQUATTER BLACK SPOT, SUCH FIRES MADE UP 80 PER CENT OF THE DISTRICT'S FIRE TOLL LAST YEAR.

MR CHAN HOI, DIVISIONAL COMMANDER (KOWLOON EAST) OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DESCRIBED THE PROBLEMS FACED IN FIGHTING SQUATTER FIRES.

MOST OF THE FLIMSY STRUCTURES ARE BUILT ON HILL SLOPES, AND MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAS TO BE SPENT LAYING HOSES TO THE SCENE OF FIRE. AND THE FREQUENT EXPLOSIONS OF LP GAS CYLINDERS POSE ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FIREMEN, HE SAID.

FIRE SERVICES REGULARLY VISIT SQUATTER AREAS, SPREADING THE FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS, MR CHAN STRESSED.

MRS HO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A FIRE WATCH TEAM HAD BEEN FORMED IN HER VILLAGE WITH THE HELP OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SCHEME RECEIVED ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGERS.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE. THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT FIRES ARE INEVITABLE IN SQUATTER AREAS, SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, IN SOME OTHER SQUATTER VILLAGES, FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES ARE WELL ORGANISED.

MR CHAN SAID FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF FSD, HAS ORGANISED AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME ON FIRE SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS.

+IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF OTHER DISTRICTS COULD DO THE SAME,+ HE SAID.

THE SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENTS DIVISION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SPENT \$23 MILLION THIS FINANCIAL YEAR ON IMPROVING THE OVERALL LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR URBAN SQUATTER AREAS, AND SOME OF THE MONEY WAS ALLOCATED FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION FACILITIES.

THE DIVISION'S SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER, MR CHU CHAI-KUEN SAID FIRE BREAKS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN CHEUNG LUNG TIN, LAM TIN AND SAU MAU PING. SHAU KEI WAN AND DIAMOND HILL WILL BE THE NEXT IN LINE.

+FIRE BREAKS HAVE PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. WE INTEND TO EXTEND THE SCHEME TO ALL MAJOR SQUATTER VILLAGES IN THE URBAN AREA WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS,+ MR CHU SAID.

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'WARMTH, VITALITY, PARTICIPATION' FOR ELDERLY
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A SPECIAL PURCHASE SCHEME, A FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP SERVICE, A HEALTH EXHIBITION, A VITALITY DAY, VISITS AND CLEAN-UP EXERCISE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TWO-MONTH MONG KOK ELDERLY CAMPAIGN BEGINNING TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE CAMPAIGN IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, THE MONG KOK KAIFONG ASSOCIATION, THE MONG KOK DISTRICT CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, AND THE MONG KOK DISTRICT COUNTRYMEN AND CLANSMEN ASSOCIATION.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STANLEY WONG SAID THE AIM WAS TO AROUSE THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND CARE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

+THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES, WE HOPE TO PROVIDE SOME RECREATIONAL AND HEALTHY PASTIME FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

+OUR MOTTO IS 'WARMTH, VITALITY AND PARTICIPATION'.+

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMPAIGN'S STEERING COMMITTEE, MR CHO SHIU-CHUNG AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHOI FOOK-CHI.

MR CHO SAID VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT WERE ALSO ARRANGING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CHINESE OPERAS, DISTRIBUTION OF RED PACKETS, DINNER TREATS AND MOVIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPAIGN.

A SEMINAR ON +THE LIFE OF OLD PEOPLE IN URBAN AREA+ HELD TODAY AT THE NEW WORLD HOTEL STARTED OFF THE CAMPAIGN.

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE SEMINAR WERE THE DIRECTOR OF ST. JAMES SETTLEMENT, MRS GRACE WAN; SENIOR LECTURER IN SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR NELSON W.S. CHOW; CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, MR ADOLF K.T. TSANG; AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHO.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, VOLUNTEERS FROM SIX VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL VISIT ABOUT 150 OLD PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT AND HELP THEM CLEAN UP THEIR FLATS BETWEEN JANUARY 23 AND FEBRUARY 1.

OTHER PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE:

- * A VITALITY DAY AT THE MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND ON FEBRUARY 12;
- * A LUNAR NEW YEAR VARIETY SHOW AT THE CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE ON FEBRUARY 20;
- * A DINNER FOR THE ELDERLY ON FEBRUARY 28;
- * AN EXHIBITION ON HEALTH CARE AT THE CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE ON MARCH 3; AND
- * A TWO-WEEK FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP SERVICE AT THE CHAN HING SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE FROM MARCH 5.

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METER PARKING SCHEME A SUCCESS

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MOTORISTS FOUND IT MUCH EASIER NOW TO PARK THEIR CARS IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON HOLIDAYS FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF A PARKING METER SCHEME LAST SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CARRIED OUT RECENTLY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT THE TURNOVER RATE OF VEHICLES USING THE METERED PARKING SPACES HAS INCREASED BY 63 PER CENT SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME FOR SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

+THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY CLEARLY SHOW THAT THE SCHEME IS SUCCESSFUL IN DETERRING UNFAIR, LONG TERM PARKING AND IN REGULATING THE USE OF ON-STREET METERED PARKING SPACES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID.

BASED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, THE SCHEME WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER 1982 IN THE SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT AREAS OF CAUSEWAY BAY.

IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXTENDED TO WAN CHAI AND HAPPY VALLEY AND THEN TO TSIM SHA TSUI.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 1 187 METERS OPERATING ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS BETWEEN 10 AM AND 10 PM.

FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION, THE UPPER PARTS OF THE METER POSTS ARE PAINTED VIOLET.

IN VIEW OF ITS SUCCESS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING EXTENDING THE SCHEME TO OTHER BUSY AREAS SUCH AS MONG KOK.

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COMMENDATION FOR ECONOMY

THE DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, WILL PRESENT A COMMENDATION TO A SENIOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER OF THE FINANCE BRANCH, MR TONY CROSS.

THE COMMENDATION IS IN RECOGNITION OF MR CROSS'S WORK IN BRINGING ABOUT AN ANNUAL SAVING OF SOME \$30 MILLION IN RECURRENT COSTS AND \$13 MILLION IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CLEANSING SERVICES.

A PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 23) AT THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS, 8TH FLOOR, GOLDEN GATE COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 136-138 AUSTIN ROAD, KOWLOON.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, MR HEYWOOD AND MR CROSS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW ABOUT THE SAVING AND THE NTSD'S CLEANSING SERVICES.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS IN NT

SEVEN SPORTS GROUNDS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 23) TO FACILITATE THE MARKING OF STALL SITES FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS.

THE FAIRS WILL BE HELD BETWEEN JANUARY 26 (THURSDAY) AND FEBRUARY 2, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE FAIRS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE YUEN LONG SPORTS GROUND AND THE OPEN CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE YUEN LONG STADIUM, THE TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND, THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND IN TSUEN WAN, THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND, THE YUEN WO ROAD PLAYGROUND IN SHA TIN, THE SHEK WU HUI PLAYGROUND IN SHEUNG SHUI AND THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

A TOTAL OF 922 STALLS FOR SALE OF FLOWERS, DRY GOODS, DRINKS, ICE CREAM OR SNACKS WILL BE PUT UP.

ALL THE STALL SITES, EXCEPT NINE FOR SALE OF FLOWER AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND, HAVE BEEN LET OUT.

TRADERS WHO WISH TO LEASE THE NINE VACANT SITES MAY CONTACT THE KWAI CHUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, DURING OFFICE HOURS.

THESE SITES WILL BE LET FOR \$100 ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE AND RSS OFFICE OPENED

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RESIDENTS IN SHA TIN CAN EXPECT BETTER AND MORE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS SERVICES WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE AND RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (SHA TIN OFFICE) AT KCR HOUSE TODAY.

THE SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE IS THE SEVENTH OF ITS KIND IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN DISTRICTS AND THE THIRD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SET UP BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

LOCATED AT LEVEL FOUR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION, THE MUSIC CENTRE HAS A LARGE REHEARSAL ROOM AND FIVE PRACTICE ROOMS FITTED WITH MIRRORS AND ACOUSTICS.

IT WILL BECOME THE BASE FOR THE RUNNING OF THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE ORGANISING OF DISTRICT MUSIC ACTIVITIES AND THE PROMOTION OF MUSIC IN GENERAL.

AT PRESENT, THE SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE IS RUNNING 31 CLASSES FOR 160 TRAINEES.

IN A WELCOME SPEECH, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THE PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND LOCAL CULTURAL AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS OF SHA TIN FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN HELPING THE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A FIRM FOOTHOLD IN THE DISTRICT.

+THE OPENING OF THE SHA TIN MUSIC CENTRE WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR PRESENT LINKS WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND WITH THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE STORE OF MUSICAL TALENT IN SHA TIN AND ENRICH THE LIVES OF SHA TIN RESIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE'S SHA TIN OFFICE, THE COMMISSIONER SAID IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1976 FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES RESIDING IN THE DISTRICT.

+PROGRAMMES ARE VARIED AND DIVERSIFIED COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SPORTS TRAINING COURSES, COMPETITIONS IN AQUATIC SPORTS AND BALL GAMES, OUTDOOR PURSUITS INCLUDING CAMPING, HORSE-RIDING, CANOEING AND SAILING AND VARIOUS RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+LAST YEAR, WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE LOCAL ORGANISATION, A TOTAL OF 297 ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANISED FOR 25 541 RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES,+ MR WILLIAMSON SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, SAID THAT TO KEEP PACE WITH THE CHANGING SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND THE DEMANDS OF A GROWING POPULATION, THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR BETTER AND MORE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

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+I SEE THE OPENING OF THESE OFFICES AS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION,+ HE ADDED.

MR WAI SAID COMPARED WITH THE SITUATION IN 1976 WHEN THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE FIRST SET UP THEIR SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE PREMISES OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

MR WAI URGED THE RSS TO FURTHER WIDEN THEIR SCOPE OF WORK AND INTRODUCE NEW SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO SHA TIN RESIDENTS.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE MR NG CHAN-LAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE, SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD; MR WONG PO-MING, CHAIRMAN OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD; MR LAU HON-KIT, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION; AND MR NG PING-KIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION.

THE GUESTS WERE TREATED TO AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME INCLUDING MUSIC AND DANCES.

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NT TO LAUNCH CLEAN-UP OPERATION

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A SIX-DAY CLEAN-UP OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE LAUNCHED ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 27) TO FURTHER IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

FROM THEN UP TO FEBRUARY 1, ALL REFUSE AND JUNK COLLECTION FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

THIS IS THE PERIOD WHEN MANY RESIDENTS WILL BE BUSY TIDYING UP THEIR HOUSES FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

IN ADDITION, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SET ASIDE SOME 100 SITES WHERE THE PUBLIC MAY DISPOSE OF BULKY ARTICLES SUCH AS OLD TV SETS, AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS, WASHING MACHINES AND GAS COOKERS.

AN NTSD SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO DISCARD REFUSE AND HOUSEHOLD JUNK AT PUBLIC PLACES OR IN COMMON AREAS OF BUILDINGS.

THE OFFENCE CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO SIX MONTHS.

MEANWHILE, SHOPKEEPERS, PRIVATE REFUSE COLLECTORS AND BUILDING CONTRACTORS ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THE JUNK BAY CONTROLLED TIP FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THEIR REFUSE.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CAUSEWAY BAY

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM 9.30 AM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 23).

THE MEASURES ARE:

- * LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN YUN PING ROAD AND HOI PING ROAD; THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN CANAL ROAD WEST AND HOI PING ROAD; YIU WA STREET; FOO MING STREET; HOI PING ROAD; AND THE SECTION OF YUN PING ROAD BETWEEN LEIGHTON ROAD AND HYSAN AVENUE.
- * THE EXISTING LEARNER DRIVER PROHIBITION IN COTTON PATH WILL BE LIFTED.
- * ALL LEARNER DRIVERS IN PERCIVAL STREET SOUTHBOUND WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING LEFT INTO LEIGHTON ROAD EASTBOUND.
- * EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN SUNNING ROAD AND YUN PING ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO CAROLINE HILL ROAD.
- * CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 21 AND PENNINGTON STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO WAYS, WHILE THE SECTION OF CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 21 AND COTTON PATH WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND. LEARNER DRIVERS MAY USE THIS ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO REACH EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND HONG KONG STADIUM.
- * THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH YUN PING ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.
- * THE SAME CLEARWAY RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED ON CAROLINE HILL ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH PENNINGTON STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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