



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1982

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COMMUNITY CAN BENEFIT FROM RETIRED PEOPLE

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THE COMMUNITY CAN BENEFIT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF PEOPLE ENTERING RETIREMENT, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE STILL PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY VIGOROUS, READY TO RESHAPE THEIR LIVES AND RESPOND TO OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR ERIC HO, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A RETIREMENT PORTFOLIO EXHIBITION AT THE NEW WORLD CENTRE THIS AFTERNOON, MR HO SAID THE POTENTIALS OF RETIRED PEOPLE IN VOLUNTEER WORK - IN PARTICULAR, VISITING AND HELPING NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS, RELIEVING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION AND THEREBY FOSTERING MUTUAL COMPANIONSHIP - REMAINED TO BE FULLY TAPPED.

+BUT ANY PREPARATION FOR RETIREMENT WILL NOT BE COMPLETE OR EFFECTIVE WITHOUT A 'CARING COMMUNITY'. HOWEVER MUCH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR CAN DO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND A RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, IT IS THE PEOPLE WHOM A RETIRED PERSON COMES INTO CONTACT WITH IN HIS EVERYDAY LIFE - HIS FAMILY, NEIGHBOURS OR EVEN A CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE - AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF HIM THAT WILL SUSTAIN HIS SENSE OF SATISFACTION AND FULFILLMENT AND HENCE HIS LINK WITH THE COMMUNITY,+ MR HO SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE EXHIBITION MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG JAYCEETTES TO TAKE A CRITICAL LOOK AT HOW THE COMMUNITY SHOULD RESPOND AND ASSIST TOWARDS THE AGEING PROCESS.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT ARISING FROM THIS EXHIBITION AND OTHER FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES, THE ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED IN ITS RIGHT PERSPECTIVE AND THAT THERE WILL BE USEFUL AND PRACTICAL EXCHANGES ON RELATED MATTERS SUCH AS MAINTAINING HEALTH, FITNESS AND MOBILITY,+ HE SAID.

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NEED TO ENRICH SPIRITUAL LIFE STRESSED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN WHERE THE POPULATION IS RAPIDLY INCREASING, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR. PATRICK HASE, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION HELD AT KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE, HE EMPHASISED THE NEED TO ENRICH THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

+THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION PLAYS A LEADING ROLE TO PROMOTE INTERESTS IN ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AMONG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT. WE AIM TO MAKE SHA TIN, NOT ONLY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN, BUT ALSO WHERE A HEALTHY STATE OF MIND IS BRED,+ HE SAID.

AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE INAUGURATED FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE.

THE ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN FEBRUARY 1980 AND HAS BEEN PROVIDING SUCH POPULAR FACILITIES AS A READING ROOM AND A MOBILE LIBRARY.

OVER THE YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE AND HAS ORGANISED MANY EVENTS, INCLUDING LAST DECEMBER'S SHA TIN ARTS FORTNIGHT WHICH HAS NOW BECOME AN ANNUAL AFFAIR BECAUSE OF ITS POPULARITY.

DR HASE ESPECIALLY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE SHA TIN CANTONESE OPERA TRAINING GROUP, BOTH ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

THE ASSOCIATION, WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE MOSTLY FUNDED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, WILL SOON ORGANISE TRAINING COURSES IN CHINESE PAINTING AND CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AS A MEMBER, AT ONLY \$10. FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING 0-617111 EXT. 235.

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SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS - AUTOMATIC FRONTLINE DEFENCE AGAINST FIRES
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THE LITTLE NOZZLES OF AN AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM HANGING FROM THE CEILING MAY BE CONSIDERED AN EYESORE BY SOME PEOPLE, BUT - IF FIRE CONSCIOUS PROPRIETORS VALUE THEIR POSSESSIONS - THEY MUST NOT BE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE BY INTERNAL DECORATIONS.

FOR THE LITTLE NOZZLES, EACH WITH A TINY GLASS BULB OR A SOLDERED AND FUSIBLE DEVICE BUILT IN, ARE THE VERY FRONTLINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST FIRE.

LAST YEAR, 56 FIRES WERE TACKLED AND CONFINED IN THEIR INCIPIENT STAGES BY THE OPERATION OF THE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER INSTALLATION. IN MOST CASES, THE FIRE WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE ACTION OF ONLY ONE OR TWO SPRINKLER HEADS.

THESE REMARKS CAME FROM AN EXPERT WHOSE JOB IS TO GIVE ADVICE ON ANTI-FIRE INSTALLATIONS - MR RICHARD LO, THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

+THE EFFICACY OF THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN, AND I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY BUILDING WITH A PROPERLY INSTALLED, MAINTAINED AND OPERATING SPRINKLER SYSTEM WHICH HAS EVER BEEN COMPLETELY BURNED OUT,+ HE SAID.

GIVING ADVICE ON THE USE OF THE AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM TO PROTECT PROPERTY AGAINST FIRE, MR LO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN MADE MANDATORY FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF NON-DOMESTIC BUILDINGS SINCE 1964, MANY PROPRIETORS STILL DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF SUCH A SYSTEM.

+AS A RESULT WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH PEOPLE WHO, THINKING THAT THEY ARE IN NO DANGER SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY COMPLIED WITH THE LETTER OF LAW, PUT UP A DECORATIVE FALSE CEILING AFTER WE HAVE INSPECTED THEIR PREMISES.+

+THE FALSE CEILING NOT ONLY OBSTRUCTS THE SPRINKLER HEADS, IT ALSO RENDERS THE TEMPERATURE SENSING AND SELF-ACTIVATING DEVICE INEFFECTIVE. THE CEILING COULD SHIELD OUT HEAT FROM A FIRE RIGHT BELOW THE SPRINKLERS UNTIL IT HAS BURNT THROUGH THE FALSE CEILING,+ MR LO POINTED OUT.

+WE HAVE DISCOVERED INSTANCES WHERE STRUCTURAL CHANGES, SUCH AS VENTILATION DUCTINGS, CABLE-TRAYS, INTERIOR DESIGN OBJECTS AND OVERHANGING MACHINERY PARTS WERE ADDED ON AFTER OUR INITIAL INSPECTION TO CERTIFY A BUILDING WORTHY FOR OCCUPANCY,+ HE ADDED.

+HOWEVER, A METHOD TO OVERCOME SUCH SITUATIONS IS THE PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF SPRINKLER HEADS UNDERNEATH THE FALSE CEILING IF THE DEPTH OF SUCH FALSE CEILING IS OVER 0.8 M OR THE ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF SPRINKLER HEADS DIRECTLY BELOW SUCH OBSTRUCTIONS,+ HE REMARKED.

AN AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER INSTALLATION COMPRISES A SYSTEM OF PIPES ERECTED AT OR NEAR THE CEILING. AT INTERVALS IN THE PIPEWORK AT VARYING DISTANCES ARE SPRINKLER HEADS SEALING DROP-PIPE OUTLETS WHICH EMBODY A DEVICE WHEREBY A RISE IN TEMPERATURE TO A PREDETERMINED LIMIT, USUALLY AT 68 DEGREES CELSIUS, CAUSES THE SPRINKLER TO OPERATE AND WATER TO BE DISCHARGED IN THE FORM OF FINE SPRAY OVER AN AREA DIRECTLY BELOW IT.

+CONSEQUENTLY, ANYTHING WHICH OBSTRUCTS THE SPRINKLER HEADS WILL EITHER PREVENT OR DELAY THE SYSTEM FROM BEING ACTIVATED BY THE HEAT OF THE FIRE OR OBSTRUCT THE DISCHARGE OF WATER SPRAY,+ MR LO EXPLAINED.

+ONE OF THE MOST COMMON MALPRACTICES IS THE ERECTION OF A NEW MEZZANINE FLOOR WITHIN THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WITHOUT THE PROVISION OF A NEW LAYER OF SPRINKLERS UNDERNEATH THE FLOORING OF SUCH NEW STRUCTURE TO DETECT AND PROTECT FIRE RISKS BELOW IT,+ HE ADDED.

TO AVOID COSTLY MODIFICATIONS, MR LO ADVISED THAT THE NEW PROJECTS DIVISION OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU (5-281122) SHOULD BE CONSULTED IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO THE EFFECT ANY BUILDING ALTERATIONS MAY HAVE ON EXISTING SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS.

AN EFFECTIVE SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS USUALLY +COST-EFFECTIVE+ BECAUSE SOME INSURERS PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL REBATES ON THE PREMIUMS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES.

ONE INSURER SAID THAT THE REBATES, WHEN CALCULATED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, COULD IN FACT COVER THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE INSTALLATION.

SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS WERE FIRST INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG IN 1934 TO PROTECT STAGE AREAS IN THEATRES. BUT THEY WERE NOT IN GENERAL USE UNTIL THE 1960'S WHEN CONDITIONS AND HEIGHTS OF BUILDINGS FORCED MAJOR CHANGES UPON BOTH DEVELOPERS AND THE FIRE SERVICES.

FROM 1964, UNDER THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE (MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT), ALL BOWLING ALLEYS, GODOWNS, COMPARTMENTS (INCLUDING DEPARTMENT STORES) EXCEEDING 7 000 CUBIC METRES, NON-DOMESTIC FLOORS OF COMPOSITE BUILDINGS EXCEEDING 15 STOREYS IN HEIGHT WERE NORMALLY REQUIRED TO INSTALL AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS.

IN MARCH 1973, ALL INDUSTRIAL TYPE BUILDINGS OF MORE THAN TWO STOREYS AND ALL COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL PORTIONS OF COMPOSITE BUILDINGS OF ABOVE 30 M IN HEIGHT OR MORE THAN 10 STOREYS WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.

FROM MAY 1, 1976, AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS HAD TO BE EXTENDED TO COVER ALL INTERNAL STAIRCASES AND COMMON AREAS FORMING PART OF REQUIRED EXIT ROUTES IN RESPECT OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS. SUCH MODIFIED REQUIREMENTS HAVE PROVED THEIR VALUE IN THAT MANY INDUSTRIAL FIRES LOCATED AT COMMON AREAS AND INTERNAL STAIRCASES WERE SUPPRESSED OR EXTINGUISHED BY THE ACTION OF ONE OR TWO SPRINKLER HEADS.

UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, CODE OF PRACTICE (MINIMUM FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT), SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS MUST BE PROVIDED, WITH TWO SEPARATE AND ADEQUATE SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY ALWAYS AVAILABLE. AMONG THE ACCEPTABLE SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY ARE: TOWN'S MAIN, ELEVATED TANKS, PRESSURE TANKS, PUMPS, ELEVATED PRIVATE RESERVOIRS AND APPROVED SALT WATER MAINS.

AN ELEVATED PRIVATE RESERVOIR MUST HAVE A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 1 000 000 LITRES (1 000 CUBIC METRES) IF PROPOSED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TOWN'S MAIN, BUT RESERVOIRS OF SOMEWHAT LESS CAPACITY MAY BE APPROVED IF CONDITIONS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY FAVOURABLE.

THE CODE OF PRACTICE, HOWEVER, IS INTENDED ONLY AS A GENERAL GUIDE AND NOT TO LAY DOWN HARD AND FAST RULES, AS SPECIAL FACTORS OF CIRCUMSTANCES MAY ARISE IN PARTICULAR CASES WHICH NECESSITATE THE PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS OR EQUIPMENT NOT INDICATED IN THE CODE.

MR LO SAID: +IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BUSINESS PROPRIETORS, FACTORY OPERATORS AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE CODE, AS IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. BY KNOWING WHAT IS REQUIRED, THEY WOULD ALSO KNOW WHETHER THEIR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS INSTALLED BY REGISTERED FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS ARE UP TO THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARD AND WHETHER ANY STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING MAY AFFECT THEIR SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS.+

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 137 REGISTERED CLASS 2 FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS (PERSONS WHO ARE AUTHORISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES TO INSTALL, MAINTAIN, REPAIR AND INSPECT ANY FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION OR EQUIPMENT (OTHER THAN PORTABLE EQUIPMENT) WHICH CONTAINS:-

- (A) PIPES AND FITTINGS DESIGNED OR ADAPTED TO CARRY WATER OR SOME OTHER FIRE EXTINGUISHING MEDIUM- OR
- (B) ANY TYPE OF ELECTRICAL APPARATUS OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED IN CLASS 1.

IN 1947, THERE WERE ONLY TWO SUCH CONTRACTORS.

ASIDE FROM CARRYING OUT NEW INSTALLATIONS, THESE CONTRACTORS PROVIDE THE MANDATORY ANNUAL MAINTENANCE, UPON WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF MAINTENANCE UNDER THE FIRE SERVICE (INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT) REGULATIONS, CAP. 95, LAWS OF HONG KONG.

MR LO ADVISED THAT ANY DOUBTS WITH REGARD TO THE QUALITY OF SERVICE BY ANY OF THE CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY CONVEYED TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

TO TIGHTEN THE LAWS GOVERNING THE STANDARDS OF SUCH SERVICE, FINES FOR SIGNING A FALSE OR MISLEADING CERTIFICATE AND OTHER OFFENCES RELATING TO SALE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF ANY FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE JUNE LAST YEAR FROM \$2 000 TO \$5 000.

AS FROM MAY 19, MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICE WERE INCREASED FROM AN INITIAL FINE OF \$2 000 PLUS \$40 DAILY TO \$25 000 AND \$2 500 DAILY THEREAFTER.

AT THE SAME TIME, FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT ORDER MAY ATTRACT A FINE OF UP TO \$50 000 AND \$5 000 DAILY, UP FROM \$4 000 AND \$100 PREVIOUSLY.

MR LO SAID THIS +GET-TOUGH+ POLICY OF INCREASING FINES MORE THAN TEN-FOLD IS NECESSARY BECAUSE SOME FLAGRANT VIOLATORS - PARTICULARLY THOSE BIG FACTORY OPERATORS WHO ARE CRAMPED FOR SPACE - CONSIDERED THE PREVIOUS LEVEL OF FINES AS PART OF THEIR OPERATIONAL OVERHEADS.

HE SAID FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS HERE ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, BECAUSE HONG KONG PROBABLY HAS MORE HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS PER SQUARE MILE IN AN AREA OF OUR SIZE THAN ANY COMPARABLE CITY IN THE WORLD.

ONE EXAMPLE IS THE REQUIREMENT OF SMOKE DETECTORS IN ADDITION TO SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS IN HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY - A STIPULATION NOT FOUND IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

MR LO EXPLAINED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT IS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE +SLEEPING RISKS+ TO OCCUPANTS WHO ARE EITHER HANDICAPPED, BED RIDDEN OR USUALLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH THEIR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS AS TO THE BEST ESCAPE ROUTE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE, OR BECAUSE OF THE HIGH TURNOVER RATE OF OCCUPANCY OR THAT THE OCCUPANTS WOULD REQUIRE ASSISTANCE FOR A SPEEDY EVACUATION.

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FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PRESSURE EQUIPMENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS WARNED ALL OWNERS OF PRESSURE EQUIPMENT, CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS ENGAGED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND FACTORIES AGAINST USING COMPRESSED AIR FOR THE TRANSFER OF DIESEL FUEL OIL FROM OIL DRUMS.

THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR OF THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR B.S. MAKHIJA, ISSUED THIS WARNING TODAY (SUNDAY) FOLLOWING THE RECENT DEATHS OF TWO PEOPLE WITHIN THE SHORT SPAN OF A FEW MONTHS AS A RESULT OF OIL DRUM EXPLOSION.

HE NOTED THAT 44-GALLON OIL DRUMS WERE BEING ADAPTED FOR TRANSFERRING LIQUID FUEL IN THEM BY COMPRESSED AIR.

MR MAKHIJA SAID, +THIS PRACTICE IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THE MISUSE OF COMPRESSED AIR IN THIS MANNER BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.+

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BIG INCREASE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY RCD

THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED MORE THAN 7 700 RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR OVER 600 000 PEOPLE OF VARIOUS AGES AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITIES OF 66 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR'S TOTAL OF ABOUT 4 670.

+OUR STATISTICS SHOW THAT THESE EVENTS ARE INCREASING EVERY YEAR WITH CORRESPONDING RISES IN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

+AS AN EXAMPLE, THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WAS 650, WHILE FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR THE AVERAGE WAS 390.

+THE RSS WAS ESTABLISHED IN LATE 1974, AND AT THE END OF THE 1975-76 FINANCIAL YEAR OUR ACTIVITIES NUMBERED A MERE 735 WITH PARTICIPANTS AT 134 996.

+WHEN THIS IS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S FIGURE, ONE CAN SEE CLEARLY THE EXTENT OF INCREASE IN OUR ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE RSS ACTIVITIES, GROUPED INTO SEVEN CATEGORIES, ARE ATHLETICS AND AQUATIC SPORTS, TEAM GAMES, INDIVIDUAL GAMES, OUTDOOR PURSUITS, DANCE AND FITNESS, RECREATION SCHEME FOR SPECIAL GROUP AND OTHER PROJECTS.

TWO CATEGORIES WHICH ATTRACT WIDE PARTICIPATION ARE OUTDOOR PURSUITS, AND DANCE AND FITNESS.

FOR OUTDOOR PURSUITS, COVERING ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM HIKING IN WOODED AREAS TO SAILING, SOME 193 500 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN 4 000 EVENTS IN THE YEAR 1981-82, WHILE THE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR WERE ABOUT 139 750 AND 1 850 RESPECTIVELY.

DANCE AND FITNESS EVENTS ARE DIVERSIFIED. THEY INCLUDE COURSES IN BALLROOM AND DISCO DANCING; TAI-CHI AND KUNG-FU TEACHINGS; AND INSTRUCTIONS ON YOGA, GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING.

ABOUT 1 400 SUCH KEEP-FIT COURSES WERE ORGANISED IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR, A RISE OF 73 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 805 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FACTORY WORKERS AND OFFICE EMPLOYEES MAKE UP 80 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

OTHERS, SUCH AS TODDLERS, THE ELDERLY AND THE HANDICAPPED ARE ALSO NOT FORGOTTEN, HE SAID.

+WE DO HAVE PROGRAMMES SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THE ELDERLY, AND FOR THE HANDICAPPED, WE ORGANISED 101 EVENTS FOR ABOUT 6 700 PARTICIPANTS IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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DREDGING OPERATION ON KAM TIN RIVER

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DREDGING WORK ON KAM TIN RIVER IN YUEN LONG WITH THE USE OF A MODERN DREDGER WILL BE EXTENDED TO OTHER RIVERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ONCE IT IS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION LAUNCHED EARLIER THIS MONTH (JULY) INVOLVED A BRAND-NEW DREDGER KNOWN AS THE WATERWITCH, WHICH WAS ESPECIALLY SUITED FOR USE IN SHALLOW RIVERS AND STREAMS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

FUNCTIONING LIKE A TRACTOR, THE WATERWITCH BELONGING TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAD DREDGED UP 100 TONNES OF SOLID WASTE, VEGETATION AND WATER-BORNE REFUSE FROM THE RIVER OVER THE PAST WEEK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING AN EARLIER OPERATION CARRIED OUT FROM LATE LAST YEAR, NTSD WORKERS HAD SPENT MORE THAN 4 000 MAN-WORKING-DAYS, CLEARING AWAY 650 TONNES OF REFUSE ALONG 15 KILOMETRES OF THE RIVER COURSE.

THE HIGHWAY (NEW TERRITORIES) DIVISION HAD ALSO COMMISSIONED CONTRACTORS TO DREDGE THE RIVER AT FIVE HEAVILY POLLUTED SITES, WHICH INCLUDED PAT HEUNG OFF FAN KAM ROAD AND THE UPPER SECTION OF HUNG MO BRIDGE, REMOVING A TOTAL OF 6 500 CUBIC METRES OF POLLUTANTS.

THE CURRENT WATERWITCH OPERATION FOCUSING ON THE LOWER STRETCHES OF HUNG MO BRIDGE HAD HELPED EASE THE RIVER FLOW, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN.

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GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR SAI KUNG

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THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN MAN NIN STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH PO TUNG ROAD IN SAI KUNG.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE BUILDING OF AN EIGHT-STOREY OFFICE BLOCK ON A SITE OF ABOUT 2 250 SQUARE METRES.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE BUILDING WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION OF ABOUT 10 300 SQUARE METRES FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH HAVE REGIONAL OR FIELD OFFICES IN SAI KUNG TOWN.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN SEPTEMBER AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SUBMARINE PIPELINES TO SUPPLY MORE WATER FOR
HONG KONG ISLAND
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LAY TWIN SUBMARINE PIPELINES OF 1 000 MM IN DIAMETER BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 11.4 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED.

THE PIPELINES, EACH MEASURING ABOUT 1.33 KILOMETRES, WILL BE BURIED AT LEAST 2.5 M BELOW THE SEABED.

THEY WILL FORM PART OF A PROJECT TO TRANSFER ADDITIONAL FRESH WATER FROM KOWLOON TO SUPPLEMENT SUPPLIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE AREA INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN MAY ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; THE YAU MA TEI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 490-492 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON; AND THE WAN CHAI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

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NEW PARKING METERS IN WAN CHAI

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MORE PARKING METERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN WAN CHAI FROM 8 AM ON TUESDAY (JULY 13).

THE NEW METERED SPACES WILL BE ON THE KERBSIDE LANES OF WING FUNG STREET, KENNEDY STREET, HING WAN STREET AND KUT ON STREET.

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MORAL EDUCATION CARTOON COMPETITION

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A CARTOON COMPETITION AIMED AT BOOSTING MORAL EDUCATION AMONG STUDENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE, THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION AND WAH KIU YAT PO, THE COMPETITION WILL BE DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY, JUNIOR SECONDARY AND SENIOR SECONDARY DIVISIONS TO CATER FOR STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS.

AN ENTRY IN COLOUR OR MONOCHROME CAN BE A SINGLE PICTURE OR A SERIES OF CARTOONS, AND IT MUST INTERPRET THE TITLE GIVEN, REFLECT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR AND CARRY A MORAL MESSAGE.

THE TITLES FOR THE PRIMARY, JUNIOR SECONDARY AND SENIOR SECONDARY DIVISIONS ARE +WELL DONE+, +A HUMOROUS EVENT DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAY+, AND +KINDNESS+, RESPECTIVELY.

TWENTY WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE SELECTED FOR EACH DIVISION, AND THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD WILL BE A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PLUS A BOOK TOKEN OF \$50.

ENTRIES SHOULD REACH THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION AT 46-48 MAN KING BUILDING, 2/F, FERRY POINT, KOWLOON, ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19.

RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN WAH KIU YAT PO.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION (3-884343 OR 3-886383) OR THE INSPECTOR (ART) OF THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (5-621006 OR 5-621967).

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WATER CUT IN SHAM SHUI PO

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11.30 PM ON TUESDAY (JULY 13) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY CHEUNG FAT STREET, PO ON ROAD AND SO UK ESTATE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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