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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SECURITY
AND WELFARE SERVICES
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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LOOKS AFTER BASIC LIVING WHILE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES HELP MEET EXTRA NEEDS ARISING OUT OF OLD AGE OR DISABILITY, NO MATTER HOW THE BENEFICIARY IS CARED FOR -- BY HIS FAMILY OR IN AN INSTITUTION.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR THOMAS LEE, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN HE SPOKE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE SERVICES AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF TAI PING SHAN.

MR LEE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CRITICISED LATELY FOR BEING INCONSIDERATE AND UNFAIR TO THE ELDERLY IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS TO ADJUST FEES CHARGED IN OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES.

HE DESCRIBED THE CRITICISMS AS UNFOUNDED AND ATTRIBUTED THEM TO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES SCHEME.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL ALONG, IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY, FEES HAD BEEN SET AT LEVELS WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE SERVICE-USERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY CASH BENEFITS.

HE SAID IF FEES WERE NOT ADJUSTED IN STEP WITH INFLATION AND INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, PEOPLE IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE WOULD BECOME PROGRESSIVELY BETTER OFF THAN THOSE WHO HAD TO BE LOOKED AFTER BY THEIR FAMILY AT HOME.

+THIS WOULD FRUSTRATE THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING 'CARE IN THE COMMUNITY',+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR LEE SAID IT WAS COMMONLY ACCEPTED THAT FEE CHARGING WAS SOCIALLY DESIRABLE AND COULD NOT ONLY ACHIEVE A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF SCARCE RESOURCES BUT ALSO ENABLE THE SERVICE-USER TO MAINTAIN HIS DIGNITY BY MAKING HIM FEEL HE WAS NOT RECEIVING CHARITY.

AS A CUSTOMER, HE CAN THEREFORE EXPECT THE SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED AT A CERTAIN STANDARD, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CAN RAISE REVENUE TO HELP MEET RECURRENT EXPENDITURE BY CHARGING FEES WHICH ARE MAINLY PAID FOR BY SOCIAL SECURITY, HE SAID.

THE VOLUNTARY WELFARE SECTOR HAS AGREED TO THE POLICY OF FEE CHARGING, WHICH WAS REAFFIRMED IN THE 1979 POLICY WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE, HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES SCHEMES AND THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN HELPING THE BENEFICIARIES TO MEET FEES CHARGED FOR INSTITUTIONAL CARE, MR LEE SAID PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IS SPECIFICALLY MEANT TO MEET BASIC LIVING.

/+IT HELPS .....

+IT HELPS THOSE WITHOUT ANY INCOME OR UNABLE TO EARN ENOUGH BY GIVING MONTHLY CASH PAYMENTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR INCOME AT A SUBSISTENCE LEVEL WHEREBY THEY CAN MEET THEIR BASIC ESSENTIAL NEEDS, SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING, WITHOUT UNDUE HARDSHIP,+ HE SAID.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCALE RATES, HE SAID, ARE REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAINTAIN THEIR PURCHASING POWER AND IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR THEY WILL BE INCREASED, FOR THE SIXTH TIME, BY ABOUT 22 PER CENT.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SCALE RATES WERE BASED ON A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INDEX OF PRICES WHICH MEASURED, BY WAY OF A SPECIALLY DESIGNED METHOD, CHANGES IN THE COST OF LIVING FOR FAMILIES RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THE METHOD OF MEASUREMENT TAKES ACCOUNT OF ACTUAL PRICE CHANGES IN THE INDEX IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS AND THE PROJECTED PRICE CHANGES FOR THE FOLLOWING SIX MONTHS, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE EFFECT OF SHORT-TERM AND SEASONAL PRICE FLUCTUATION, HE SAID.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE SAID, ANY INCREASE IN THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCALE RATES ALREADY INCLUDES AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT TO ANTICIPATE INCREASES IN THE RELATIVELY IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND BEFORE THE NEXT REVISION.

AS TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES SCHEME WHICH COMPRISES THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, MR LEE SAID IT WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO HELP THE RECIPIENT TO MEET ANY EXTRA FINANCIAL NEEDS ARISING OUT OF HIS OLD AGE OR DISABILITY.

+THIS INCLUDES THE PURCHASE OF SERVICES IN WHATEVER FORM, SUCH AS SPECIAL HEALTH CARE OR ATTENTION NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

TO THE EXTENT THAT AN ELDERLY PERSON, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS TO ENTER AN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYS FOR HIS BASIC LIVING IN THE INSTITUTION, WHILE HIS SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE CAN BE USED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS HIS ADDITIONAL NEEDS, JUST AS IN ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IF HE WAS UNDER THE CARE OF HIS FAMILY IN THE FAMILY HOME.

HOWEVER, MR LEE EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION, NOR THE PRACTICE, THAT ANY INCREASED ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY ENTIRELY BY FEES CHARGED IN INSTITUTIONS.

+FEES CHARGED HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AT SUCH LEVELS THAT AFTER ALL HIS ESSENTIAL NEEDS HAVE BEEN MET BY PAYING FEES, THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE MONEY LEFT OUT OF HIS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS,+ HE SAID.

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TWO APPOINTED PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MEMBERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS APPOINTED DR VICTOR FUNG KWOK-KING AND MR P.A.L. VINE, OBE, VRD, JP AS NEW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

DR FUNG WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT THIS MONTH AND MR VINE IN OCTOBER.

DR FUNG IS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LI AND FUNG (TRADING) LTD. HE IS VERY ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND IS AT PRESENT A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY APPEAL BOARD, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD, HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ADVISORY BOARD, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, ADMISSIONS, BUDGETS AND ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST, AND THE NORTH AMERICA AREA COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HE WAS FORMERLY A PROFESSOR AT THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL AND IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

DR FUNG HOLDS VARIOUS GUEST LECTURERSHIPS AND ADVISORY POSITIONS WITH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

MR VINE, FORMER SENIOR PARTNER AND PRESENTLY A CONSULTANT WITH THE FIRM OF DEACONS, SOLICITORS AND NOTARIES, IS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN COMMERCIAL AND BANKING CIRCLES, AND IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARTERED BANK HONG KONG TRUSTEE LTD.

HE IS A DIRECTOR OF SEVERAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES AND IS PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF VARIOUS INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARDS, AND THE LEGAL COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MR VINE IS A PAST PRESIDENT AND CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY AND THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF NOTARIES PUBLIC, AND A MEMBER OF 10 OTHER COMMITTEES.

HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE BUILDING ORDINANCE APPEAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, BUT IN VIEW OF HIS FORTHCOMING APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HE HAS RELINQUISHED HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS TRIBUNAL.

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TV FILM ON METRICATION

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A NEW 30-MINUTE TELEVISION PROGRAMME INTRODUCING THE METRIC SYSTEM (SI) WILL BE SCREENED THIS MONTH BY THE TWO TELEVISION STATIONS.

THE FILM WAS JOINTLY PRODUCED BY THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE METRICATION COMMITTEE AS PART OF THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME FOR THE METRICATION CAMPAIGN.

THE SCREENING TIME HAS SCHEDULED FOR THIS SATURDAY AND JULY 19 AT 11.30 AM ON TVB JADE AND JULY 19 AND 20 AT 12.15 PM AND 12.30 PM RESPECTIVELY ON RTV 1.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE METRICATION COMMITTEE SAID THE FILM, ENTITLED 'AN INTRODUCTION TO METRICATION', IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING EDUCATORS TO ADOPT THE METRIC UNITS INTO THEIR SYLLABUSES.

+WE ARE ALSO SURE THE GENERAL PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR STUDENTS, WILL BENEFIT FROM IT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PROGRAMME, FEATURING THE SEVEN BASE UNITS - LENGTH, MASS, TIME, TEMPERATURE, ELECTRIC CURRENT, LUMINOUS INTENSITY AND AMOUNT OF SUBSTANCE, WILL GIVE THE VIEWERS A CLEARER CONCEPT OF THE VARIOUS UNITS IN METRIC.

WITH THE USE OF ILLUSTRATIONS, IT WILL HELP TV VIEWERS TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE MEASUREMENTS IN METRIC UNITS OF THINGS THEY COME ACROSS IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

FOR INSTANCE, NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN VISUALISE THE LENGTH OF ONE METRE WITHOUT THE USE OF A MEASURING DEVICE - THE FILM WILL IMPRESS ON THE VIEWERS' MINDS THAT NORMALLY THE HEIGHT FROM THE FLOOR TO A DOOR HANDLE IS ABOUT ONE METRE.

THE SECOND PART OF THE TV PROGRAMME WILL INTRODUCE THE MORE COMPLICATED DERIVED UNITS INCLUDING AREA, VOLUME, VELOCITY, FORCE, PRESSURE, ENERGY AND ELECTRIC POTENTIAL.

IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAMME WILL EXPLAIN HOW THESE BASE UNITS AND DERIVED UNITS SHOULD BE APPLIED AND EXPRESSED IN THE PROPER SI FORM, AND WHAT ARE THE NON-METRIC UNITS STILL IN USE INTERNATIONALLY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT RAISED IN THE FILM IS THE NEW CHINESE TERMINOLOGY FOR THE SI.

+IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLE SET BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND AFTER CAREFUL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHINESE METRIC TERMINOLOGY USED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE CHINESE POPULATION IN THE WORLD, THE METRICATION COMMITTEE HAD ADOPTED A CHINESE METRIC LANGUAGE THAT IS COMPREHENSIVE AND LOGICAL,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE NEW CHINESE METRIC TERMS WILL MAKE THE SYSTEM EASIER FOR EVERYBODY.

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NEW EDITION OF PLAY SAFE BOOKLET PUBLISHED

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AN UP-DATED EDITION OF +STEPPING OUT+, A GUIDE TO BETTER ENJOYMENT OF OUTDOOR PURSUITS, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

AVAILABLE IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH VERSION, THE BOOKLET IS AN INVALUABLE INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR RECREATION IN HONG KONG. IT HAS COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON VARIOUS AQUATIC AND LAND SPORTS, INCLUDING SWIMMING, UNDERWATER DIVING, BOATING, WATER SKIING, CYCLING, MOUNTAINEERING, CAMPING AND SKATEBOARD RIDING.

IN THIS NEW EDITION THE BOOKLET, DESIGNED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HAS TAKEN ON AN ATTRACTIVE LOOK BY INCORPORATING THE +PLAY SAFE+ LOGO ON ITS COVER.

A CONCISE SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL OUTDOOR PURSUITS, GIVING INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT, COSTS AND PLACES OF ACTIVITIES, IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY NEW LEARNERS.

SAFETY MEASURES IN EACH SPORT ARE DESCRIBED IN FULL DETAIL. BY FOLLOWING THESE SAFETY HINTS ACCIDENTS CAN BE AVOIDED.

OTHER USEFUL SECTIONS INCLUDE A LIST OF TITLES OF REFERENCE MAPS OF HONG KONG, A MAP OF COUNTRY PARKS SHOWING LOCATIONS OF ALL MANAGEMENT CENTRES, A LIST OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND SOME HINTS ON FIRE PREVENTION AND KEEPING THE COUNTRYSIDE CLEAN.

COPIES OF THE BOOKLET ARE BEING MAILED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR REFERENCE USE BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. THE BOOKLETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM ALL CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES FROM NEXT WEEK.

COPIES WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE WATER SPORTS AND RECREATION PLAY SAFE DAY AT REPULSE BAY THIS SUNDAY (JULY 13) TO WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE WATER SPORTS AND RECREATION PLAY SAFE DAY AT REPULSE BAY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (JULY 13) FROM 10 AM TO NOON, WILL FEATURE A SPECTACULAR PROGRAMME OF WATER SPORTS SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS IN SKIING, WIND SURFING, LIFE SAVING, SWIMMING, CANOEING AND BOATING. OTHER ATTRACTIONS WILL BE A PARACHUTE DISPLAY, CANOE POLO AND A STATIC DISPLAY OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PLAY SAFE DAY. TRANSPORT TO REPULSE BAY WILL BE PROVIDED. PRESS MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT QUEEN'S PIER AT 8 AM WHERE THEY WILL BE MET BY GIS REPRESENTATIVES.

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EARLIER TAXI DRIVER LICENCE WRITTEN TEST

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IN A MOVE TO REDUCE THE LARGE BACKLOG OF CANDIDATES FOR THE TAXI DRIVER LICENCE WRITTEN TEST, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CONDUCT SPECIAL EARLY TESTS IN AUGUST FOR CANDIDATES ON THE WAITING LIST UP TO MAY 15, 1981.

ANY CANDIDATE ON THE WAITING LIST WHO WISHES TO REGISTER FOR AN EARLIER TEST SHOULD REPORT TO COUNTER NO.35, WRITTEN TEST UNIT, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR, 56, DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON, ON THE DATE SHOWN BELOW OPPOSITE THE TEST DATE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED:

TEST DATES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED	DATE OF REGISTRATION FOR EARLY TEST
AUGUST 18 - SEPTEMBER 1	JULY 16
SEPTEMBER 2 - SEPTEMBER 11	JULY 17
SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 25	JULY 18
SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 8	JULY 19
OCTOBER 9 - OCTOBER 22	JULY 21
OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 30	JULY 22
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 12	JULY 23
NOVEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 25	JULY 24
NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 8	JULY 25
DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 19	JULY 26
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 7, 1981	JULY 28, 1980
JANUARY 8, 1981 - JANUARY 15, 1981	JULY 29, 1980
JANUARY 16, 1981 - JANUARY 29, 1981	JULY 30, 1980
JANUARY 29, 1981 - FEBRUARY 13, 1981	JULY 31, 1980
FEBRUARY 16, 1981 - FEBRUARY 27, 1981	AUGUST 1, 1980
MARCH 2, 1981 - MARCH 12, 1981	AUGUST 2, 1980
MARCH 13, 1981 - MARCH 25, 1981	AUGUST 5, 1980
MARCH 26, 1981 - APRIL 2, 1981	AUGUST 6, 1980
APRIL 3, 1981 - APRIL 16, 1981	AUGUST 7, 1980
APRIL 22, 1981 - MAY 4, 1981	AUGUST 8, 1980
MAY 5, 1981 - MAY 15, 1981	AUGUST 9, 1980

/+EACH CANDIDATE .....

+EACH CANDIDATE MUST PRESENT HIS ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT LETTER AND HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD OR PASSPORT FOR INSPECTION WHEN APPLYING IN PERSON OR REQUESTING ANOTHER PERSON TO APPLY ON HIS BEHALF,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

+NO ALTERNATIVE DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS PERMITTED,+ HE ADDED.

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$9.6 MILLION POLYCLINIC CONTRACT AWARDED

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A $9.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW POLYCLINIC IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED THIS MORNING BY MR S.C. KWAN, CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF HING WAH CONSTRUCTION LTD.

MR KWAN SAID THE NEW POLYCLINIC, ON A 5 900-SQUARE METRE SITE NEAR THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND FRASER ROAD, WOULD CONSIST OF A SIX-STOREY MAIN BUILDING AND A TWO-STOREY ANCILLARY BUILDING.

WHEN COMPLETED, IT WILL HAVE A GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT, FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CENTRE, DENTAL AND CHEST CLINIC, RADIODIAGNOSTIC DEPARTMENT AND PATHOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

THERE WILL ALSO BE OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS A STAFF CANTEEN, KITCHEN, STAFF CHANGING ROOMS AND PARKING SPACES.

HE SAID THAT WORK ON THE CONTRACT, WHICH FORMED THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROJECT, WOULD START LATER THIS MONTH AND TAKE 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

YAN OI TONG, A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION, HAS DONATED $4 MILLION TOWARDS THE PROJECT.

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TAI PO PEOPLE URGED TO SUPPORT SCOUTS

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TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICHOLAS NG, HAS URGED LOCAL RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNITY AND YOUTH AFFAIRS TO SUPPORT LOCAL SCOUTING ACTIVITIES.

MR NG WAS SPEAKING TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 1980-81 OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID SCOUTS, WITH THEIR STRICT TRAINING WHICH EMPHASISED DEVELOPMENT OF BODY AND MIND, COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING COMMUNITY WORK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH WAS BECOMING HEAVIER.

THROUGH TRAINING, HE SAID, SCOUTS GREW UP AS USEFUL AND CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE SERVING THE COMMUNITY, BUILDING A GOOD IMAGE AND CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BALANCED COMMUNITY.

MR NG NOTED THAT THE FIVE-YEAR SCOUT EXPANSION SCHEME, WHICH WAS DRAWN UP IN LINE WITH THE COMMUNITY BUILDING PLAN, HAS NOW ENTERED ITS SECOND YEAR.

+THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF SCOUTS IN TAI PO DISTRICT HAS PROVED THAT YOUR EFFORTS IN THE EXPANSION CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN REWARDING,+ HE SAID.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW AND FORMER OFFICE-BEARERS, MR NG SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EARNEST SUPPORT FROM MORE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE FURTHER EXPANSION.

+SCOUTING ACTIVITIES HELP TO PRODUCE CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE, SO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAI PO COMMUNITY IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CONCERN AND EFFORTS,+ HE SAID.

+I HOPE YOU WILL SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY, TRY YOUR BEST TO PROMOTE SCOUT ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND BUILD UP A HEALTHY COMMUNITY,+ HE TOLD THE NEW OFFICE-BEARERS.

THE TAI PO DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED FOUR YEARS AGO, ALTHOUGH THE HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN THE TOWN GOES BACK MUCH FURTHER THAN THIS. AT PRESENT, TAI PO HAS ABOUT 700 SCOUTS IN 14 TROOPS.

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TUEN MUN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME STARTS

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THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IN TUEN MUN WAS LAUNCHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ACTING REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, MR BILLY LAM.

MORE THAN 300 SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT OVER THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS. SOME ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND OTHERS BY LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE TRAINING CAMPS, CULTURAL SHOWS, EXCURSIONS AND GAMES.

OVER 20 000 LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES A SERIES OF GAMES DAYS FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN REMOTE VILLAGES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAVE PROVIDED $35 000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE PROGRAMME. A FURTHER $20 000 IS EXPECTED FROM LOCAL DONATIONS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING, ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 4 000 LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE, MR LAM SAID THE SERIES OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WOULD ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME.

PRAISING THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ITS SOCIAL SPIRIT, HE SAID IT HAD DONE ITS BEST TO MOBILISE LOCAL VOLUNTARY WORKERS TO CONTRIBUTE IN TERMS OF EFFORT AND MONEY.

+I BELIEVE, WITH YOUR EARNEST SUPPORT AND DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR THE DISTRICT, TUEN MUN WILL DEVELOP AND PROSPER TO OUR DESIRED STANDARDS,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WAS HEUNG YEE KUK CHAIRMAN, MR LAU WONG-FAT.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, SPECTATORS JOINED A FUN FAIR, OPENED BY MRS JANE AKERS-JONES, WIFE OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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TAI PO TAU TREATMENT WORKS CAPACITY TO BE DOUBLED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF TAI PO TAU TREATMENT WORKS TO 110 000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY IN TWO YEARS TIME.

MR LEE GUN-CHEUNG, CHIEF ENGINEER (CONSTRUCTION) OF THE DEPARTMENT, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE EXTENSION OF TAI PO TAU TREATMENT WORK WAS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO FURTHER IMPROVE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE NEW TOWNS IN TAI PO AND SHEK WO HUI.

+UNDER THE PROGRAMME, AN ADDITIONAL TREATMENT WORKS, TWO NEW PUMPING STATIONS AND A NEW SERVICE RESERVOIR WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED TO SERVE THE DISTRICT,+ HE SAID.

MR LEE THIS MORNING SIGNED A $11 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE EXTENSION PROJECT WITH HARBOUR ENGINEERING CO LTD.

WORK ON THE PROJECT INCLUDES BUILDING TWO CLARIFIERS, THREE FILTERS, AN EXTENSION OF THE CHEMICAL HOUSE AND INSTALLING FLOW MEASUREMENT DEVICES.

WORK WILL START NEXT WEEK AND WILL TAKE 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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HIGHWAYS ENGINEER RETIRING

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MR YAM CHUNG-FU, AN ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, IS RETIRING AFTER 28 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

MR YAM JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY 1953 AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER. HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT ENGINEER IN 1956 AND TO ENGINEER IN 1973.

AT A CEREMONY TODAY (THURSDAY), MR HAROLD BEATON, ACTING PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, PRESENTED MR YAM WITH A RETIREMENT GIFT ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE RETIREMENT CEREMONY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN GIS PRESS BOXES, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, FOR COLLECTION THIS EVENING.

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