



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BUS OPERATIONS REVIEW UNDERWAY

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WORK HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST ON THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF THE BUS OPERATIONS OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS AND KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANIES.

THE REVIEW IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH A VIEW TO FINDING WAYS OF IMPROVING THE COST EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF BUS SERVICES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN RECALLED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AS THEY CURRENTLY APPLY TO THE BUS COMPANIES.

IN THE CASE OF KMB, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, THE TAC PROPOSED AN INTERIM FARE INCREASE TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO BREAK EVEN IN 1981 BUT THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO KMB'S FULL APPLICATION ON COMPLETION OF THE STUDY.

TEAMS COMPRISING A CROSS-SECTION OF OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN FORMED AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND SCHEME OF CONTROL.

THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAMS ARE TO :

- * RE-EXAMINE THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING UNDER-UTILISED SERVICES AND OPTIMISING EFFICIENCY (TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION)-
- * REVIEW THE PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINING BUSES HAVING REGARD TO THE COST AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT)-
- * RE-EXAMINE THE PROGRAMME FOR ACQUIRING DEPOT SPACE AND TO RECOMMEND THE MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD OF MEETING THE LAND REQUIREMENT (ENVIRONMENT BRANCH AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT)-
- * INVESTIGATE THE METHOD OF ACQUISITION OF SPARE PARTS BY THE BUS COMPANIES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING COSTS, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LEVELS FOR SPARE PARTS STOCK (GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)-
- * REVIEW THE SCHEME OF CONTROL APPLICABLE TO THE BUS COMPANIES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE SOURCES OF INCOME CURRENTLY OUTSIDE THE SCHEME (ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH).

THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS TEAMS WILL BE CO-ORDINATED BY A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROGRAMME OF WORK WAS FULLY ENDORSED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY AND MEMBERS OF THE TAC WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW.

THE PUBLIC WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW AND WOULD BE INVITED BY THE VARIOUS SUB-GROUPS TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUS SERVICE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE REVIEW IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT WHERE POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN BUS SERVICES WERE IDENTIFIED THEY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS THE REVIEW PROGRESSED, WITHOUT WAITING FOR A FULL REPORT TO BE COMPILED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

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PRIVATE BED CHARGES TO BE REVISED IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS
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DAILY CHARGES FOR PRIVATE BEDS IN SOME GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS ARE TO BE REVISED FROM JUNE 1, BUT THE COST OF STAYING IN A GENERAL WARD WILL REMAIN AT \$5 A DAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT SINCE 1975, THE MAINTENANCE RATES FOR PRIVATE BEDS HAVE NOT CHANGED AT \$120 A DAY FOR FIRST CLASS AND \$80 A DAY FOR SECOND CLASS.

INCREASED COSTS MADE IT NECESSARY TO REVISE SOME OF THESE CHARGES, HE SAID.

UNDER THE REVISED CHARGES, FIRST CLASS BEDS WILL BE INCREASED TO \$240 A DAY AND SECOND CLASS BEDS TO \$160 A DAY AT QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS, THE TWO GOVERNMENT REGIONAL HOSPITALS.

THE DAILY MAINTENANCE CHARGE FOR A SPECIAL CLASS BED IN TSAN YUK HOSPITAL WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$20 TO \$45, BUT THE MAINTENANCE CHARGES AT CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL WILL REMAIN AT \$120 FOR A FIRST CLASS BED AND \$80 FOR A SECOND CLASS BED, DUE TO ITS RELATIVELY LOWER OPERATIONAL COSTS.

THE RATE FOR CHILDREN'S PRIVATE BEDS WILL STILL BE HALF OF THE ADULT RATE.

THE REDUCED RATES CIVIL SERVANTS PAY WILL ALSO BE CORRESPONDINGLY INCREASED.

/AFTER CONSULTING

AFTER CONSULTING THE VARIOUS CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATIONS, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT CHARGES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, PENSIONERS AND OTHER ENTITLED PERSONS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$35 TO \$50 FOR FIRST CLASS BEDS, AND FROM \$25 TO \$35 FOR SECOND CLASS BEDS. THESE NEW FEES WILL APPLY TO QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND CASTLE PEAK HOSPITALS BUT NOT THE TSAN YUK HOSPITAL WHERE THE CHARGES FOR SPECIAL CLASS BEDS WILL BE \$30 PER DAY.

THE NEW CHARGES ARE NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE BEDS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AMOUNTS TO LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PRESENT CHARGES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET COSTS, AND IT IS NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR THESE SERVICES TO BE SUBSIDISED FROM THE PUBLIC FUND, HE SAID.

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PUBLIC WARNED OF NEED TO CHECK FIRE INSTALLATION

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A FACTORY FIRE IN KWAI CHUNG EARLY THIS MORNING CAUSED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF DAMAGE DUE IN PART TO THE FACT THAT THE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION WAS NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WAS OBSTRUCTED BY GOODS PILED HIGH.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT ON THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF KWAI TAK FACTORY BUILDING IN KWAI TAK STREET, AT ABOUT 1.30 AM.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF NEW TERRITORIES, MR FRED JACKSON, SAID IT TOOK FIREMEN NEARLY THREE HOURS TO PUT OUT THE FIRST ALARM BLAZE.

FOLLOWING AN INITIAL ENQUIRY, FIREMEN FOUND THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN THE PREMISES DID NOT FUNCTION CORRECTLY.

+WE FOUND GOODS IN THE FACTORY STACKED UP TO THE CEILING,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE BECAUSE THE SPRINKLER ON THE CEILING MUST NOT BE OBSTRUCTED IF IT IS TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY.

+THERE SHOULD AT LEAST BE A TWO-FOOT GAP BETWEEN THE SPRINKLER HEAD AND THE GOODS BELOW,+ HE SAID.

MR JACKSON SAID AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF DAMAGE WAS DONE BY THIS SIMPLE FIRE BECAUSE THE FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION (FSI) IN THE FACTORY WAS NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

+I APPEAL TO ALL FACTORY OWNERS TO ENSURE THAT ALL FSI'S ARE IN WORKING ORDER AND TO LEARN THE LESSON FROM THIS FIRE IN KWAI CHUNG,+ HE SAID.

HE REMINDED FACTORY OPERATORS AND OWNERS THAT IT IS THEIR DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP ALL FSI'S IN WORKING ORDER AS FAILURE TO DO SO COULD LEAD TO PROSECUTION AND A FINE.

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\$46 500 BOOST FOR DRIVE TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE
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YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS WILL BE THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN A TERRITORY-WIDE CAMPAIGN TO BE UNDERTAKEN THIS YEAR BY PROMOTORS OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE ADOLESCENTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE TARGET GROUP FOR THE FORTHCOMING CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN JUVENILE CRIME.

FROM SEPTEMBER, THE CAMPAIGN WILL UNDERLINE THE RAPID CHANGES IN THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT ADOLESCENT STAGE AND WILL STRESS THE NEED FOR PARENTAL GUIDANCE TO KEEP THEM ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

MESSAGES WILL BE PUT ACROSS THROUGH CENTRALLY-ORGANISED ACTIVITIES AND DISTRICT PROGRAMMES, SUPPORTED BY A VARIETY OF PUBLICITY MATERIAL, INCLUDING TELEVISION BRIEFS, POSTERS AND BOOKLETS.

TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE CAMPAIGN RECEIVED A BOOST FROM A STAUNCH SUPPORTER WHO DONATED \$46 500 FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A DESK CALENDAR CARRYING FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION MESSAGES.

AT A CEREMONY THIS MORNING, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, RECEIVED THE DONATION FROM MR CHIU YU-HEI, A YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY LEADER.

MR ALLEYNE THANKED MR CHIU FOR HIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION, AND UNTIRING SUPPORT FOR FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS AS A MEASURE TO HELP STRENGTHEN FAMILY TIES AND FORESTALL BREAKDOWNS.

MR CHIU MADE HIS FIRST CONTRIBUTION THREE YEARS AGO TO FINANCE THE PRODUCTION OF A WALL CALENDAR. LAST YEAR, HE CONTRIBUTED AGAIN TOWARDS THE COST OF A NOVEL ELECTRONIC GAME FOR A SPECIAL FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TELEVISION SERIES.

MR CHIU HAS HAD A LONG-TIME INTEREST IN COMMUNITY SERVICES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH SERVICES. HE IS THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

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FUNDS FOR ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

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NON-PROFIT-MAKING VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ARE INVITED TO SEND IN PROPOSALS ON ADULT EDUCATION COURSES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY WISH TO ORGANISE WITH GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION IN 1981/82.

THE SUBVENTION SCHEME IS CONTAINED IN THE 1978 WHITE PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

+A PILOT SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR AND 18 PROJECTS INVOLVING 12 VOLUNTARY BODIES ARE NOW IN SESSION.+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT AT THIS STAGE THE PURPOSE OF INVITING APPLICATIONS IS TO EXPLORE WHICH ADULT EDUCATION COURSES PROPOSED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS MERIT SUBVENTION.

+ALL APPLICATIONS FOR SUBVENTION WILL BE DULY CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SUBVENTION IS TO MEET THE COST OF STAFF DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE COURSES AND ACTIVITIES, AND THE PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT.

COURSES WHICH MERIT SUBVENTION INCLUDE THOSE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE BASIC LITERACY IN CHINESE, TO PROMOTE GENERAL EDUCATION FOR GROUPS, RE-ORIENTATION AND CANTONESE FOR NEWCOMERS TO HONG KONG, SOCIAL AND MORAL EDUCATION, LABOUR EDUCATION, PREVOCATIONAL TRAINING, SPECIAL EDUCATION, CAREER EDUCATION, PRE-RETIREMENT AND RETIREMENT EDUCATION, COURSES ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, AND ACTIVITIES IN AREAS NOT COVERED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES.

ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO APPLY FOR SUBVENTION CAN OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD, 4/F., KOWLOON.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION NOT LATER THAN JUNE 3. FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SUBVENTION SCHEME, ORGANISATIONS CAN CONTACT MR S.G. WONG OF THE SECTION ON 3-7133285.

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TENANCY INVITED FOR RECLAMATION AREA

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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF TWO PIECES OF CROWN LAND AT KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION.

THE SITES, MEASURING ABOUT 1 380 AND 960 SQUARE METRES, ARE FOR USE AS CONTRACTOR WORKS AREAS, EXCLUDING CONCRETE AND/OR ASPHALT BATCHING.

THE TENANCY FOR BOTH SITES IS INITIALLY FOR ONE YEAR, AND THEREAFTER ON A QUARTERLY BASIS. THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 5.

TENDER FORMS, WITH NOTICES AND CONDITIONS, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, 19TH FLOOR, OR KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR.

TENDER PLANS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THESE OFFICES.

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MORE STAFF FOR FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE

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ADDITIONAL STAFF PROVIDED TO THE CIVIL SERVANTS' FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE HAS ENABLED REFINANCING LOAN APPLICANTS TO ADVANCE THEIR EXISTING APPOINTMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ADVISORY OFFICE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IT WAS NOW POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE MORE INTERVIEWS IN A DAY.

APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT FOR INTERVIEW CAN TELEPHONE THE ADVISORY OFFICE DURING OFFICE HOURS FROM MAY 25 TO JUNE 13 TO ADVANCE THEIR EXISTING APPOINTMENTS TO AN EARLIER DATE.

REQUESTS FOR ADVANCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS WOULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THAT PERIOD, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE OFFICE ARE: 5-765667 (HK OFFICE) AND 3-699373 (KOWLOON OFFICE).

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COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS RETURNS FROM LECTURE TOUR
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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR THOMAS GARNER, HAS RETURNED TO HONG KONG AFTER A FOUR-WEEK LECTURE TOUR IN THE UNITED STATES AND RESUMED DUTIES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE ATTENDED THE SEVENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPEAKERS CONSORTIUM, HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

DURING THE TOUR, HE VISITED SEVERAL STATES ON THE EAST COAST AND GAVE A SERIES OF TALKS ON THE WORK OF THE PRISON SERVICE IN HONG KONG. THE TALKS WERE ILLUSTRATED WITH PICTURE SLIDES OF THE FACILITIES IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT. AUDIENCES COMPRISED STUDENTS STUDYING IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMMES AND LOCAL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

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SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE VISITS TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR MARTIN ROWLANDS, THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING TOOK A CLOSE LOOK AT THE WORK OF VARIOUS DIVISIONS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

MR ROWLANDS, ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR GARY MULLOY, MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE CLERICAL GRADE, DRIVING INSTRUCTORS, AND MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS, AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

AMONG THE OFFICES MR ROWLANDS VISITED WERE THE KOWLOON LICENSING OFFICE IN DUNDAS STREET AND THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE.

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WORK ON WATER MAIN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 10 HOURS FROM 10 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 23) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAIN CONNECTION.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL ZONE AREA 9 AND AREA 12, TUEN MUN (INCLUDING YEUNG SIU HANG TSUEN AND TSING SHAN TSUEN), ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD, FROM TSZ TIN TSUEN TO TAI LAM CHUNG (INCLUDING SAM SHING ESTATE, CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL AND AREA 20), TAI HING ESTATE, MING KUM ROAD LICENSED AREA, AREA 34 LICENSED AREA, ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD, FROM TSING WUN ROAD TO PILLAR POINT (INCLUDING BOYS' HOME AND CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO LTD).

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NEW TERRITORIES TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE STARTS NEXT MONTH

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FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTION OF INTER-DISTRICT SOCCER AND BASKETBALL LEAGUES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, A TABLE-TENNIS LEAGUE IS TO START ON JUNE 14.

THE LEAGUE, ORGANISED BY NORTH DISTRICT, IS BEING PROMOTED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES INTER-DISTRICT SPORTS COMPETITION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

EACH DISTRICT CAN ENTER A MEN'S TEAM AND A WOMEN'S TEAM.

THE NEW LEAGUE WILL BE INAUGURATED BY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AT THE FUNG KAI MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHEUNG SHUI, FOLLOWING WHICH NORTH DISTRICT WILL PLAY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT IN THE FIRST MATCH.

FINALS WILL BE PLAYED IN SEPTEMBER.

OTHER LEAGUES BEING PLANNED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE INCLUDE VOLLEYBALL, BADMINTON AND TENNIS, WHICH IT IS HOPED WILL START THIS YEAR.

THE SOCCER LEAGUE FINALS WERE PLAYED RECENTLY. THE WINNERS, SAI KUNG, WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE AKERS-JONES CUP ON SUNDAY (MAY 24) AT YUEN LONG STADIUM. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN EXHIBITION MATCH BETWEEN THE CHAMPION SIDE AND A TEAM OF PLAYERS FROM THE OTHER SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS.

A BASKETBALL LEAGUE WHICH STARTED IN FEBRUARY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JULY WHEN FINALS WILL BE PLAYED.

THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY PRINCIPAL RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR DICKEN YUNG, AND INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS' SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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