



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LADY WILSON PRAISES ABILYMPICS

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ABILYMPICS - THE OLYMPICS OF ABILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - WERE COMPETITIONS INTENDED TO INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE ABILITIES OF DISABLED PEOPLE, LADY WILSON SAID THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE THIRD HONG KONG ABILYMPICS PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY, SHE SAID: "THEY ALSO TEACH THE DISABLED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THEMSELVES, BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO REACH BEYOND WHAT THEY PREVIOUSLY SAW AS THEIR LIMITS AND BY INSPIRING THEM TO EXPLORE THE FULL EXTENT OF THEIR PHYSICAL ABILITIES."

IN DOING SO, LADY WILSON SAID, THEY SERVED TO SHOW THE COMMUNITY JUST HOW MUCH DISABLED PEOPLE COULD DO.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE MOTTO FOR THE THIRD HONG KONG ABILYMPICS: 'EQUALITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION' WAS WELL CHOSEN.

FOR THE PAST WEEKS, SHE SAID, A VARIETY OF EXCITING AND IMAGINATIVE CONTESTS, FROM COOKING TO MODEL-MAKING, FROM KITE-FLYING TO FLOWER ARRANGING HAD BEEN ARRANGED.

"THESE EVENTS HAVE PROVIDED A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS THROUGH FRIENDLY COMPETITION," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT THE WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS HAD PERFORMED VERY WELL AND THEY WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS TO BE HELD IN THE REGION IN AUGUST.

SHE WAS ALSO DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD TAKEN ON THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS AS AN OFFICIAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE CLOSING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS.

LADY WILSON EXPRESSED HER THANKS TO PROFESSOR HARRY FANG AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE THIRD HONG KONG ABILYMPICS, AND HAD BEEN WORKING SO HARD IN PREPARING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS.

SHE ALSO CONGRATULATED ALL THOSE CONTESTANTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

"WHETHER OR NOT YOU WON, YOU HAVE SHOWN BY YOUR EXAMPLE THAT DISABLED PEOPLE REALLY ARE FULL, ADMIRABLE, PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

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FULL-TIME MASTER OF WEDDING IN ACTION

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A LILAC-CARPETED HALL, WITH MATCHING CURTAINS AND THE GLITTERING RADIANCE OF THE LUCID CRYSTAL LIGHTS, ADDS TINTS OF SOLEMN MAJESTY TO THE TOUCHES OF ROMANCE.

TO MANY COUPLES, THIS IS THE MEMENTO OF THAT VERY DAY WHEN THEY MADE THEIR WEDLOCK PLEDGE.

TO MRS DEBORAH LEE, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE SHE HELPS TIE THE LOVE KNOTS.

AS A DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES, MRS LEE HAS IN THE PAST TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS EXPLAINED TO HUNDREDS OF PAIRS OF LOVERS THE SOLEMN AND BINDING CHARACTER OF REGISTRY WEDDING, AND THE MONOGAMOUS NATURE OF MARRIAGE IN HONG KONG.

IN AN AUSPICIOUS DAY WHEN THE MARRIAGE HALLS ARE FULLY BOOKED, MRS LEE HAS TO PERFORM IN SOME 20 WEDDINGS, NON-STOP.

MONOTONOUS THOUGH IT MAY SEEM, MRS LEE, WITH A COMPLACENT SMILE, SAID: "EVERYTHING IS JOVIAL IN MARRIAGE. YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO SHARE OTHERS' JOY AND THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE WORK OF A DEPUTY REGISTRAR DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

"OUR AIM IS TO MAKE THE WEDDING CEREMONY SOLEMN AND MEMORABLE," SHE SAID.

FALLING BACK INTO HER CHAIR, MRS LEE SAID THEY HAVE AN UNWRITTEN AND YET STRICTLY FOLLOWED 'CODE OF DRESSING'. THAT IS, TIE AND SUIT FOR MEN; DRESS AND MAKE-UP FOR WOMEN.

"THE CHOICE OF COLOUR IS BY NO MEANS RANDOM," SHE ADDED.

"FOR INSTANCE, AS WHITE IS TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED BY CHINESE AS AN OMINOUS COLOUR, TO MATCH IT, ONE HAS TO WEAR SOME GLAMOROUS-COLOURED ACCESSORIES," SHE WENT ON.

THE NEXT THING IS THE SETTING.

"INSTEAD OF THE CONVENTIONAL GLOWING RED, THE FURNISHINGS OF NEWER MARRIAGE HALLS ARE ADORNED IN SOFTER SHADES TO MAKE THEM LOOK WARM, SNUG AND TRENDY.

"THOSE IN OLDER HALLS, LIKE THE ONES IN THE CITY HALL, ARE ALSO BEING 'TOUCHED UP'.

"BUT THE OUTSIDE SETTING IS AS IMPORTANT AS THAT OF THE INSIDE," MRS LEE SAID.

SITUATED NEXT DOOR TO THE YET-TO-BE-COMPLETED HONG KONG PARK, THE COTTON TREE DRIVE MARRIAGE REGISTRY IS TIPPED TO BECOME A 'COMING ATTRACTION'.

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WHEN THE PARK IS OPENED LATER THIS MONTH, IT WOULD PROVIDE A SUPERB SETTING FOR HUSBANDS- AND WIVES-TO-BE TO CAPTURE THEIR EUPHORIC MOMENTS, SHE SAID.

SOMETIMES THE INTERPOLATION OF EPISODES MAY CREATE A MORE MNEMONIC EFFECT, BOTH TO THE COUPLES AND TO THE DEPUTY REGISTRARS.

REMINISCING HER EXPERIENCES IN DIFFERENT MARRIAGE REGISTRIES, MRS LEE VOLUBLY RECOUNTED HER INTERESTING ENCOUNTERS.

SOMETIMES A HIGH-SPIRITED PERSON MIGHT PUT THE WEDDING RING ON THE PARTNER'S WRONG FINGER OR THE RING MIGHT BE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF IT DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO FORCE IT THROUGH.

"THERE WERE ALSO CASES WHERE COUPLES, BEING TEASED BY THEIR GUESTS AND COULD NOT HELP BUT LAUGHING, ENDED UP IN 'STACCATOS' WHEN TAKING OATHS.

"BUT THE REAL FANFARE COMES WHEN THE PROTAGONISTS ARE MOVIE OR TV CELEBRITIES.

"PEOPLE WERE EVERYWHERE WITH CAMERA-CLICKING REPORTERS SHOVING HERE AND THERE FOR A GOOD SHOOTING ANGLE. THE COUPLES WERE OFTEN REQUESTED TO EITHER 'PLAYBACK' A PARTICULAR EPISODE OF THE CEREMONY OR SIMPLY HAD IT DONE IN SLOW MOTION," SHE SAID.

AS THE 'MASTER OF WEDDING', MRS LEE HAS TO KEEP HER COUNTENANCE ON THE ONE HAND TO MAINTAIN THE SOLEMNITY OF THE CEREMONY, WHILE ON THE OTHER SHE HAS TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TOO ALIEN TO SPOIL THE JOY OF THE WEDDING.

IT IS NOT EASY TO STRIKE THE BALANCE, SHE CONFESSED.

TO THOSE OVER-EXCITED PAIRS, MRS LEE HAS ONE ADVICE TO GIVE.

"DON'T WORRIED. THEY WOULD BE BRIEFED THOROUGHLY IN ADVANCE ON THE PROCEDURES.

"IF THEY STILL FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, THEY CAN GO TO THE REGISTRY BEFORE THE WEDDING DAY AND ASK FOR AN ADVANCED READING OF THE WEDLOCK STATEMENT," MRS LEE SAID.

APART FROM PERFORMING IN WEDDING CEREMONIES, DEPUTY REGISTRARS ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICE ADMINISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION.

BUT THEIR WORK IS NOT TOTALLY OFFICE-BOUND.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A CONVENIENT SERVICE TO PEOPLE LIVING IN FAR-OFF PLACES, A DEPUTY REGISTRAR IS PUT IN CHARGE OF THE MOBILE REGISTRY, ACCORDING TO CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER, MR CHAN KI-WAI.

MR CHAN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATION SECTION, SAID THE MOBILE REGISTRY WOULD PROVIDE WEEKLY SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN SAI KUNG AND CHEUNG CHAU, AND MONTHLY SERVICES TO THOSE ON LANTAU.

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SOMETIMES, A PAIR WHO WANT TO GET MARRIED MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO A MARRIAGE REGISTRY OR A LICENSED PLACE OF WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE THEIR MARRIAGE.

"FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MAY BE CRITICALLY ILL OR PRISONERS," HE EXPLAINED.

AFTER OBTAINING A SPECIAL LICENCE FROM THE GOVERNOR, THEY CAN THEN HOLD THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY AT A SPECIFIED PLACE AND TIME WITH A DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAVELLING ALL THE WAY TO THE DESIGNATED PLACE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE.

WITH ABOUT 50 'MASTERS OF WEDDING' DEPLOYED IN 14 MARRIAGE REGISTRIES, MR CHAN SAID THEY HAD PERFORMED A TOTAL OF 44,640 WEDDINGS OR OVER 90 PER CENT OF REGISTERED MARRIAGES IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER RETURNS AFTER MEETINGS IN CHINA
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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, RETURNED TO HONG KONG LAST NIGHT (FRIDAY) FROM CHINA WHERE HE HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU.

MR LI DESCRIBED THE MEETINGS AS VERY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE AND SAID THEY REFLECTED WELL ON THE GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

MATTERS DISCUSSED TOUCHED ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING COMMERCIAL CRIME, NARCOTICS, THE USE OF GUNS IN CRIME, AND SMUGGLING OFFENCES.

WITH REGARD TO THE THEFT OF CARS IN HONG KONG WHICH HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SMUGGLED INTO CHINA, MR LI CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE TERRITORY.

HE SAID THAT IN CASES WHERE IT COULD BE SHOWN THAT THE CARS HAD BEEN STOLEN, THEY WOULD BE HANDED OVER.

MR LI ALSO SAID THAT THE CARS WOULD BE RETURNED UNCONDITIONALLY.

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POLICE PASSING OUT PARADE

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THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MUST PLAY THEIR FULL PART IN HELPING TO PRESERVE THE STABILITY OF HONG KONG UPON WHICH THE PROSPERITY OF THIS PLACE WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND.

THIS WAS STATED BY A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MR JOHN SWAINE, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A POLICE PASSING OUT PARADE AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL IN WONG CHUK HANG TODAY (SATURDAY).

POINTING OUT THAT THEY WOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THESE ACTIVITIES, MR SWAINE URGED THE GRADUATES TO REMEMBER THAT THEY WERE THE STARTING POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE AGENCIES OF LAW AND ORDER WHEN THEY WALKED A BEAT OR MANNED A POLICE POST.

"THE COMMUNITY WILL JUDGE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICE FORCE BY YOUR RESPONSES.

"THEREFORE BE FIRM BUT FAIR IN YOUR DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC," HE SAID.

MR SWAINE TOLD THE GRADUATES THAT THE UNDERPINNING OF THEIR JOB WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN HONG KONG, AND THAT ROLE WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS HONG KONG EVOLVED IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

"THE TRAINING YOU HAVE UNDERGONE WILL HAVE HELPED YOU TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN POTENTIAL AND TO GROW IN STATURE, AS WELL AS EQUIP YOU FOR THE JOB ITSELF, WHICH IS BOTH DEMANDING AND VARIED," HE ADDED.

ON PARADE TODAY WERE 32 POLICE INSPECTORS AND 115 CONSTABLES WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR BASIC TRAINING.

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1,155 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN APRIL

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A TOTAL OF 1,445 CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN 1,155 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST MONTH.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT 296 OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 613 IN KOWLOON AND 246 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR APRIL SHOWED THAT 22 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 284 PEOPLE WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 1,139 SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF 13 PER CENT AND 17.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

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PEDESTRIAN NEGLIGENCE MAJOR CAUSE OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

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ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PEDESTRIAN CASUALTIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND WERE DUE TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE PEDESTRIANS THEMSELVES, THE POLICE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF HONG KONG ISLAND, MR GEOFFREY ROPER, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME, MR ROPER SAID ON HONG KONG ISLAND 47 PEDESTRIANS WERE KILLED AND 1,501 PEDESTRIANS WERE INJURED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN 1990.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EACH YEAR THE DEATH TOLL IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND WAS FAR GREATER THAN THAT FOR HOMICIDES.

"OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS 86 PERSONS HAD BEEN MURDERED ON THE ISLAND, BUT 304 PERSONS HAD BEEN KILLED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, THE RATIO BEING 3.5 TRAFFIC FATALITIES TO ONE HOMICIDE.

"THIS IS A SHOCKING SITUATION," HE SAID.

MR ROPER NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BY ROAD ENGINEERING MEANS AND THIS LED TO A HIGH DEGREE OF PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CONFLICT.

"IT IS OUR DUTY TO MINIMISE THE ACCIDENTS ARISING FROM THIS SITUATION THROUGH BOTH EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT," HE SAID.

THE PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMME, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION AND POLICE TRAFFIC HONG KONG ISLAND, WAS SPECIALLY PLANNED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"DURING THIS WEEKEND THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF EDUCATION WHILST DURING THE COMING WEEK THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY HONG KONG ISLAND POLICE OFFICERS AT BLACK SPOTS ON THE ISLAND," MR ROPER SAID.

JOINING MR ROPER AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS MOVIE STAR MR JACKIE CHAN.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, MR ROPER AND MR CHAN PROCEEDED TO PEDDER STREET IN CENTRAL TO ASSIST SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS IN DISTRIBUTING EDUCATIONAL LEAFLETS TO PEDESTRIANS.

A TOTAL OF 164 SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS WERE DEPLOYED TODAY AT SEVEN TRAFFIC BLACK SPOTS AT KING'S ROAD/SHU KUK STREET; JAVA ROAD/NORTH POINT ROAD; HENNESSY ROAD/CANAL ROAD; JOHNSTON ROAD/WAN CHAI ROAD; DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL/PEDDER STREET; DES VOEUX ROAD WEST/SUTHERLAND STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD WEST/CENTRE ROAD.

THE EXERCISE WILL BE REPEATED TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

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APPLICATION FOR DB FUNDS INVITED
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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD IS INVITING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE GROUND FLOOR, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1.

PROJECTS REQUIRING SPONSORSHIP SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE THEMES "PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY" AS LAID DOWN BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE ACTIVITIES SHOULD ALSO MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- * PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT;
- * PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CIVIC EDUCATION;
- * IDENTIFY SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT OR SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS PARTICULAR TO THE DISTRICT;
- * FOSTER A SENSE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MUTUAL HELP AMONG THE RESIDENTS, AND
- * PROVIDE RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ELDERLY AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 301 2149.

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WORSHIPPERS URGED TO USE SEA TRANSPORT
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WORSHIPPERS INTENDING TO VISIT THE TIN HAU TEMPLE AT JOSS HOUSE BAY IN SAI KUNG ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (MAY 6 AND 7) TO CELEBRATE THE SEA GODDESS FESTIVAL ARE URGED TO MAKE FULL USE OF SEA TRANSPORT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE SAID AS MORE THAN 30,000 VISITORS WERE EXPECTED, ROAD TRAFFIC TO THE TEMPLE WOULD BE VERY HEAVY.

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FOR THIS REASON, THE SECTION OF TAI AU MUN ROAD BETWEEN CLEARWATER BAY NO. 2 BEACH AND PO TOI O VILLAGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM ON MONDAY TO 6 PM ON TUESDAY.

ALL PARKING SPACES IN THE VICINITY OF TIN HAU TEMPLE AND THE CLEAR WATER BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED.

THE PUBLIC ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THE SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES PLYING BETWEEN NORTH POINT EAST FERRY PIER AND JOSS HOUSE BAY.

THE FIRST FERRY WILL DEPART NORTH POINT AT 10 AM ON MONDAY, WHILE THE LAST FERRY WILL LEAVE JOSS HOUSE BAY AT 4 PM ON TUESDAY.

THE FREQUENCY WILL RANGE FROM 45 TO 90 MINUTES, WITH OVERNIGHT SERVICES ON TUESDAY MORNING.

ADVANCE FERRY TICKETS ARE ON SALE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF JORDAN ROAD FERRY PIER AND ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF CENTRAL HARBOUR SERVICES PIER, CENTRAL.

TICKETS WILL ALSO BE ON SALE AT NORTH POINT EAST PIER ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED WORSHIPPERS TO TAKE SPECIAL CAUTION TO MINIMISE FIRE RISK.

WORSHIPPERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BRING A MAXIMUM OF THREE JOSS STICKS INTO THE TEMPLE. THE BURNING OF PAPER OFFERINGS WILL BE PROHIBITED INSIDE THE TEMPLE. SUFFICIENT INCINERATORS WILL BE PLACED OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO ADVISED NOT TO USE LOUD SPEAKERS AND RADIO CASSETTES IN THE TEMPLE AND TO FOLLOW POLICE INSTRUCTIONS.

THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, WILL TAKE PART IN A WORSHIPPING CEREMONY AT THE TEMPLE ON TUESDAY MORNING.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WORSHIPPING CEREMONY TO BE ATTENDED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, ON TUESDAY (MAY 7) MORNING.

A PRESS COACH WILL LEAVE THE CARPARK OF SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING IN SAI KUNG TOWN AT 10 AM.

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