



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1988

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310,000 APPLY FOR STUDENT TRAVEL SUBSIDY

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MORE THAN 310,000 APPLICATIONS FOR THE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE PAYABLE UNDER THE NEW STUDENT TRAVEL SCHEME HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THESE APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING PROCESSED BY THE STUDENT TRAVEL ALLOWANCE UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE TWO APPROVED POST SECONDARY COLLEGES, THE FIVE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE INSTITUTIONS AND THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

THE DEADLINE FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS TO RETURN THEIR APPLICATION FORMS IS NOVEMBER 4, HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT MOST OF THESE INSTITUTIONS COMMENCED THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER.

"UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE FIRST DEGREE COURSE AND ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 ARE ELIGIBLE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"IF EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY, THE ALLOWANCE WILL BE PAID IN MID-DECEMBER IN THE FORM OF A LUMP SUM FOR THE WHOLE ACADEMIC YEAR 1988-89 THROUGH AUTO-PAY FACILITIES DIRECTLY INTO THE ACCOUNTS OF APPLICANTS, I.E. PARENTS AND GUARDIANS IN THE CASE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN THE CASE OF THOSE ATTENDING POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE ALLOWANCE IS CALCULATED AS HALF THE AVERAGE FARE CHARGED BY OPERATORS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THESE AVERAGE FARES ARE BASED ON SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FOR JOURNEYS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE STUDENT LIVES AND THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED.

THE SCHEME TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

IT SUBSIDISES 10 JOURNEYS A WEEK TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND INCLUDES AN EXTRA PROVISION FOR FOUR TRIPS A WEEK TO ASSIST STUDENTS LIVING IN AN AREA BEYOND THE WALKING DISTANCE FROM THEIR PLACE OF STUDY TO TAKE PART IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADDITIONAL PROVISION WAS MADE ON THE BASIS THAT MOST OF THE EDUCATION-RELATED EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE IN THE SCHOOL PREMISES AFTER NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS.

/HAVING TAKEN

HAVING TAKEN THIS FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT AND THE FACT THAT STUDENTS LIVING CLOSE TO THEIR PLACE OF STUDY DID NOT HAVE TO MEET ANY TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR JOURNEYS TO AND FROM SCHOOL, IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO MAKE SEPARATE PROVISION FOR SUBSIDISING EXTRA-CURRICULAR JOURNEYS TAKEN BY THAT GROUP OF STUDENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS STILL HAD TO PAY PART OF THE COST OF THEIR JOURNEYS TO AND FROM SCHOOL SINCE THE SUBSIDY WOULD ONLY MEET HALF THE AVERAGE FARES CHARGED BY OPERATORS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"THE NEW SCHEME HAS DISTINCT ADVANTAGES OVER THE OLD STUDENT TRAVEL CARD SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT GIVES STUDENTS GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF THE ALLOWANCE AS THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE MODES OF TRANSPORT USED OR THE TIMES AT WHICH THE STUDENTS MAY TRAVEL."

"UNDER THE OLD SCHEME, THE STUDENT TRAVEL CARD WAS NOT ACCEPTED FOR SOME FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, NAMELY CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES, EXPRESS AND RECREATIONAL BUS ROUTES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND SECOND CLASS TRAVEL ON THE STAR FERRY," HE SAID.

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TAC DISCUSSES APPLICATIONS FOR TAXI FARE INCREASES
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (TUESDAY) DISCUSSED THE APPLICATIONS FROM THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXI ASSOCIATIONS FOR FARE INCREASES.

MEMBERS LOOKED INTO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF A FARE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN TAXI AND OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND OTHER FACTORS IN CONSIDERING A FARE INCREASE.

HOWEVER, NO DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE MEMBERS FELT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FURTHER VIEWS FROM THE TAXI TRADE AT A SPECIAL MEETING.

THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC OBTAINED THROUGH THE MEDIA AND OTHER COMPLAINT CHANNELS WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW, PRODUCED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY A TAC SUB-COMMITTEE.

/THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE RECOMMENDATIONS COVER THE ROLE OF TAXIS IN THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM, THEIR CLASSIFICATION AND OPERATING BOUNDARIES, NUMBER OF LICENCES, FARE POLICY AND THE QUALITY OF SERVICE.

IN DISCUSSING THE RECENT UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF TAXI MALPRACTICE, MEMBERS FELT THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST PERSISTENT OFFENDERS.

SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD BE BROUGHT UP IN THE MEETING WITH THE TAXI TRADE.

THE TAC MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY'S FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME FOR 1989-1993 AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

THE FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME INCLUDES A ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, A FLEET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, A DEPOT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE SAFETY AND THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES OPERATED.

THEY FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KCRC SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND IMPROVE THE SAFETY MEASURES OF THE LRT ON THE ONE HAND, AND ENHANCE THE SERVICE SCHEDULES ON THE OTHER.

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PRELIMINARY INQUIRY ORDERED BY DIRECTOR OF MARINE
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR DERICK HALL, TODAY (TUESDAY) ORDERED A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THE GROUNDING OF THE HONG KONG REGISTERED JETFOIL "FUNCHAL" IN THE ACCESS CHANNEL TO THE OUTER HARBOUR OF MACAU ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 16).

THE INQUIRY WAS ORDERED UNDER SECTION 51(1) OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE.

A MARINE OFFICER, MR PAUL OWEN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY. HE WILL SUBMIT A REPORT ON HIS FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR.

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SUMMER TIME WILL NOT BE RE-INTRODUCED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) DECIDED THAT SUMMER TIME SHOULD NOT BE RE-INTRODUCED FOR THE TIME BEING IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC OPINION WHICH CLEARLY PREFERS RETENTION OF THE PRESENT TIME SYSTEM.

"THIS FOLLOWED CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF OPINION RECEIVED FROM A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE WHICH WAS CONDUCTED FROM MAY TO JULY THIS YEAR," SAID A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN.

"THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE INVOLVED ALL DISTRICT BOARDS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, POWER COMPANIES, TRANSPORT OPERATORS WHICH INCLUDED AIRLINES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES."

THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONSULTATION EXERCISES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THERE HAS BEEN A PERCEPTIBLE SHIFT IN PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF SUMMER TIME SINCE VIEWS WERE LAST ASSESSED IN THE 1970S; NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, A CLEAR MAJORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PREFER THE EXISTING TIME SYSTEM OF GMT+8 TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
- * THE CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR PRODUCED NO OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES. HOWEVER, THE AIRLINE COMPANIES IN PARTICULAR FORESAW CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES.
- * THERE WOULD BE A SMALL SAVING IN ANNUAL ELECTRICITY AND FUEL CONSUMPTION BUT ONLY BY ABOUT 0.5 PER CENT. THIS WOULD HAVE A NEGLIGIBLE EFFECT ON TARIFFS.
- * GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN COPE ADEQUATELY WITH EITHER TIME SYSTEM WITHOUT ANY OVERRIDING OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

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PAYMENT OF DANGEROUS DUTIES ALLOWANCE NOT JUSTIFIED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT LAND AND ENGINEERING SURVEYING OFFICERS THAT THEIR REQUEST FOR A DANGEROUS DUTIES ALLOWANCE FOR SURVEY OFFICERS, (LAND) AND (ENGINEERING), COULD NOT BE GRANTED.

THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH AN ALLOWANCE WAS NOT JUSTIFIED UNDER EXISTING DEFINITION AND CRITERIA WAS REACHED FOLLOWING A SERIES OF INSPECTION VISITS CARRIED OUT BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH FROM MID-AUGUST TO EARLY SEPTEMBER TO SEE BOTH STREAMS OF SURVEY OFFICERS UNDERTAKING FIELD SURVEY WORK.

A TOTAL OF 60 SITE VISITS WERE MADE DURING THE INSPECTIONS, 32 IN RESPECT OF SURVEY OFFICERS (LAND) AND 28 IN RESPECT OF SURVEY OFFICERS (ENGINEERING).

"DURING THE INSPECTIONS, IT WAS NOTED THAT, TYPICALLY, SURVEY WORK HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT IN RURAL AREAS, ON ROOF TOPS, SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, ON ROADSIDES, IN UNDERGROUND TUNNELS AND IN CONTAINER TERMINALS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE CONDUCT OF FIELD SURVEYS, AS WITH ANY OTHER OUTDOOR WORK, INVOLVED CONSIDERABLE PHYSICAL EFFORT AND STAMINA.

"AT TIMES, THE SURVEY OFFICERS HAD TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND EXERCISE DUE CARE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES.

"HOWEVER, AS OUTDOOR FIELD SURVEY WORK IS AN INHERENT PART OF THE GENERAL DUTIES OF SURVEY OFFICERS (LAND) AND (ENGINEERING), AND AS OFFICERS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY TRAINED AND EMPLOYED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH WORK AS PART OF THEIR GENERAL DUTIES, THE RANGE OF OUTDOOR WORK UNDERTAKEN AS OBSERVED THROUGH THE JOB INSPECTIONS CANNOT AS A WHOLE BE REGARDED AS EXCEPTIONALLY DANGEROUS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, DANGEROUS DUTIES ALLOWANCES WERE ONLY PAYABLE TO OFFICERS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY DANGEROUS OR HAZARDOUS DUTIES WHICH WERE NOT INHERENT IN THE WORK OF THEIR GRADE OR RANK.

/IN PRACTICE,

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IN PRACTICE, HE SAID, THERE WERE THREE MAIN CRITERIA IN CONSIDERING REQUESTS FOR SUCH ALLOWANCES:

- * THE WORK OF A PARTICULAR POST CONTAINS A DISTINCT ELEMENT OF DANGER WHICH IS UNAVOIDABLE DESPITE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BEING TAKEN, AND THE HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY THE OFFICER CONCERNED IS SUFFICIENTLY OBVIOUS TO MERIT SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION;
- * THE REQUIREMENT TO PERFORM DANGEROUS DUTIES IS NOT INHERENT IN THE GENERAL DUTIES OF THE RANK OR GRADE; AND
- * SUCH DANGEROUS DUTIES TAKE UP A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE OFFICER'S WORKING TIME.

CITING AN EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE THESE CRITERIA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID A GOVERNMENT DRIVER ENGAGED IN NORMAL DRIVING DUTIES WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A DANGEROUS DUTIES ALLOWANCE.

"BUT IF HE IS POSTED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND IS FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY REQUIRED TO DRIVE A VEHICLE CONTAINING EXPLOSIVES TO WORK SITES, HE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH AN ALLOWANCE," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE TO WORKMEN AND CHAINMEN WORKING IN LAND AND ENGINEERING SURVEY TEAMS, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THESE WORKMEN AND CHAINMEN WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING HEAVY SURVEY EQUIPMENT WHEN GAINING ACCESS TO HIGH POINTS, AS WELL AS CLEARING THE UNDERGROWTH WHEN WORKING ON VIRGIN LAND.

"THEY ARE ALSO OFTEN REQUIRED TO SET UP REFERENCE POSTS OR REFLECTORS IN THE MIDDLE OF CARRIAGEWAYS AND STAY THERE WHILE SURVEY WORK IS BEING DONE.

"AS SUCH, THE DEGREE OF DANGER THAT WORKMEN AND CHAINMEN WORKING IN SURVEY TEAMS ARE EXPOSED TO MERITS THE GRANTING OF SUCH AN ALLOWANCE," HE SAID.

AS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE TO 24 SURVEY OFFICERS AND SENIOR SURVEY OFFICERS (ENGINEERING) IN THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THEY HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY GRANTED THE ALLOWANCE BECAUSE THEY WERE FREQUENTLY REQUIRED TO TAKE PIEZOMETER READINGS ON POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SLOPES TO MONITOR THEIR STABILITY ON RAINY DAYS.

THIS ALLOWANCE WAS ONLY PAYABLE DURING THE WET SEASON FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, HE SAID.

"OTHER SURVEY OFFICERS SELDOM HAVE TO CARRY OUT FIELD WORK DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER," HE ADDED.

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DEADLINES FOR HEALTH EDUCATION SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS

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HEADS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1988 INTER-SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE URGED SCHOOLS TO SUBMIT THEIR ENTRY FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE CLOSING DATES OF THE COMPETITIONS ARE DRAWING NEAR.

COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS FOR THE SPEECH CONTEST MUST BE RETURNED TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AT ROOM 924, NINTH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 393 CANTON ROAD BY SATURDAY (OCTOBER 22).

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE SONG CONTEST MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SAME ADDRESS BY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29.

AIMED AT ENHANCING HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN HONG KONG, THE CONTESTS ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

"THIS WILL NOT ONLY PRODUCE MEANINGFUL COMPETITIONS, BUT WILL ALSO HELP IMPRESS UPON STUDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE THEME CHOSEN FOR BOTH CONTESTS IS "WE NEED TO KEEP HONG KONG BEAUTIFUL".

THE SPEECH CONTEST IS GENERALLY DIVIDED INTO SIX SECTIONS - ENGLISH, PUTONGHUA AND CANTONESE - IN BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

EACH SCHOOL MAY NOMINATE UP TO A TOTAL OF 12 REPRESENTATIVES TO COMPETE IN THE SPEECH CONTEST, BUT WITH NOT MORE THAN TWO IN EACH SECTION, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"SPEECHES WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES EACH IN PRIMARY SECTIONS AND FIVE MINUTES IN SECONDARY SECTIONS. MARKS WOULD BE DEDUCTED FOR OVER-TIMING," HE SAID.

"PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO HOLD THEIR OWN PRELIMINARY CONTESTS TO SELECT STUDENTS WHO ARE BEST QUALIFIED TO COMPETE.

"SEMI-FINALS WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5 AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ANNEXE IN MONG KOK AND WINNERS WILL BE SELECTED TO ENTER FOR THE FINALS WHICH WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 19 AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL".

/TURNING TO

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TURNING TO THE SONG CONTEST, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTIONS.

"EACH SCHOOL MAY SEND ONLY ONE CHOIR OF 30 TO 60 STUDENTS, INCLUDING MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT, TO COMPETE IN EACH SECTION," HE EXPLAINED.

"THREE MUSIC SCORES ARE PROVIDED FOR EACH SECTION AND EACH CHOIR CAN CHOOSE ONLY ONE. SCHOOLS ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO COMPOSE VERSE FOR THE SCORE SELECTED.

"THE LYRICS MAY BE IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH OR BOTH. COPIES OF THE MUSIC SCORE FOR RESPECTIVE SECTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH."

THE SONG CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 12 AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

A TRANSPORT SUBSIDY OF \$300 WILL BE GRANTED TO EACH PARTICIPATING CHOIR IN THE SONG CONTEST.

"BOOK COUPONS, RANGING FROM \$1,000 TO \$200, AND TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL WINNING ENTRANTS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF BOTH THE SPEECH AND SONG CONTESTS.

"FIRST PRIZE-WINNERS IN THE SPEECH CONTEST AND THE WINNING CHOIRS IN THE SONG CONTEST WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON DECEMBER 10 IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH ON 3-7236234.

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ANTI-DRUG RUN-THE-STAIRS RACE TOMORROW

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ABOUT 300 PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ANTI-DRUG RUN-THE-STAIRS RACE IN NORTH POINT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AS PART OF THE ANTI-DRUG WEEK PROGRAMME.

IT IS BEING HELD ON CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL DAY TO OBSERVE THE TRADITION OF ASCENDING THE HILLS ON THIS OCCASION.

THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN).

/RUNNERS WILL

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RUNNERS WILL HAVE TO CLIMB THREE STAIRWAYS, COVERING MORE THAN 700 STEPS, IN CLOUD VIEW ROAD.

A MEMBER OF THE ACAN, MR YEUNG PO-KWAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT A STARTING-OFF CEREMONY AT 9.15 AM.

THE EVENT, AIMED AT HELPING TO DISSEMINATE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGES THROUGH HEALTHY PURSUITS, COMPRISES THREE DIVISIONS -- MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND GROUP DIVISIONS.

TROPHIES AND GIFT COUPONS WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS IN EACH DIVISION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 9.15 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT CHEUNG CHUK SHAN COLLEGE, 11 CLOUD VIEW ROAD, NORTH POINT.

NARCOTICS DIVISION STAFF WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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PAK TAI TEMPLE RENOVATION TO START NEXT MONTH
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THE CHINESE TEMPLES COMMITTEE IS TO SPEND MORE THAN \$1.3 MILLION TO GIVE A FACE-LIFT TO THE 205-YEAR-OLD PAK TAI TEMPLE ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THE COMMITTEE'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MR ALBERT WONG, SAID PLANNING FOR A MAJOR RENOVATION OF THE TEMPLE BEGAN IN MID-1987 AND THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE SCOPE OF WORK PROPOSED.

THE RENOVATION WORK WOULD START NEXT MONTH AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR, HE SAID.

MR WONG NOTED THAT THE RENOVATION PROJECT WAS PART OF THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME TO REFURBISH TEMPLES UNDER ITS MANAGEMENT.

MR WONG SAID THE CHINESE TEMPLES COMMITTEE (CTC) WAS SET UP IN 1928 WHEN THE CHINESE TEMPLES ORDINANCE WAS PASSED INTO LAW.

/THE COMMITTEE

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THE COMMITTEE TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TEMPLES WHICH HAD FALLEN INTO PRIVATE HANDS TO PREVENT UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE FROM RELIGIOUS EXPLOITATION. IT ALSO MANAGED TEMPLES WHICH WERE SURRENDERED BY THE PROPRIETORS VOLUNTARILY.

MR WONG SAID THE COMMITTEE NOW MANAGED 40 TEMPLES, OF WHICH 17 WERE DELEGATED TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION.

OF THE REMAINING 23 TEMPLES, 16 WERE DIRECTLY MANAGED BY THE COMMITTEE BY MEANS OF A SELF-ADMINISTRATION SCHEME WHEREBY MONEY DONATED BY PATRONS WAS RECEIVED. KEEPING OF THE OTHER SEVEN TEMPLES WAS DONE BY MEANS OF ANNUAL TENDERS.

MR WONG EXPLAINED THAT AS THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WAS THE EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION PROVIDED ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO ENSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE BODY.

THERE WERE TWO SUB-COMMITTEES - THE EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

"THE EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OVERSEES THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TEMPLES AND TENDERS FOR KEEPERSHIP, ASSESSES THE PERFORMANCE OF KEEPERS AND ARRANGES FOR RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS AND INVESTMENT," HE SAID.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE ADMINISTERED TWO FUNDS. THE CHINESE TEMPLES FUND WAS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF TEMPLE BUILDINGS AND FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF CUSTOMARY CEREMONIES.

THE GENERAL CHINESE CHARITIES FUND WAS MAINLY FOR DONATIONS TO VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

EACH YEAR, MORE THAN \$1 MILLION WAS PAID OUT FOR THE PURCHASE OF LIBRARY BOOKS, HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE, AND SO ON FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGULAR MAINTENANCE AS WELL AS MAJOR RENOVATION OF TEMPLES.

APART FROM THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF \$3 MILLION ON REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF TEMPLES UNDER THE COMMITTEE, \$150,000 WAS ALSO SET ASIDE FROM WHICH OTHER TEMPLES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES COULD OBTAIN FUNDS BY APPLICATION TO THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES) FOR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES.

MR WONG SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD WORK OUT A PRIORITY LIST FOR MAJOR RENOVATION AND WORK TO REFURBISH THE TEMPLES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN TURN.

/RENOVATION WORKS

RENOVATION WORKS FOR KWUN YUM TEMPLE IN HUNG HOM AND HAU WONG TEMPLES IN KOWLOON CITY AND TAI O RESPECTIVELY WERE NEARING COMPLETION.

"IN ADDITION TO THE RENOVATION PROJECT FOR PAK TAI TEMPLE ON CHEUNG CHAU, WHICH IS NOW IN THE PIPELINE, OTHER PROJECTS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR TIN HAU TEMPLES IN ABERDEEN AND SHAM SHUI PO," HE SAID.

MR WONG NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE HIGH PATRONAGE RATE AT THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE IN SHA TIN, THE COMMITTEE WAS NOW WORKING ON A \$20-MILLION PROJECT TO BUILD AN EXTENSION TO IT.

THE PLAN WAS TO BUILD A MAIN HALL WITH TWO LONG CORRIDORS IN FRONT FLANKING A LARGE COMPOUND AND A LANDSCAPED POOL OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE.

THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDED A MUSEUM, WOULD TAKE MORE THAN ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE, HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SO FAR HAD RECEIVED MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN DONATIONS FOR THE PROJECT AND WORK WOULD START AS SOON AS FORMALITIES OVER LAND ACQUISITION HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

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ISLANDS YOUTHS CONTRIBUTE TO DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT

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A GROUP OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE REFURBISHING OF A WELFARE CENTRE ON CHEUNG CHAU OVER THE PAST WEEKEND HAVE FOUND IT A MEANINGFUL WAY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

"THE CHEUK HO FAT WELFARE CENTRE AT SAI WAN WHICH SERVES THE RESIDENTS OF THE THREE ROUND TABLE VILLAGES THERE HAS BEEN BUILT FOR OVER A DECADE AND NEEDS REPAINTING," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

"THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS ARRANGED FOR A GROUP OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS TO LEND A HELPING HAND BY GIVING THE CENTRE A BRUSH UP," HE SAID.

THE ACTIVITY WAS ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CBCC) OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AS PART OF ITS DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (DIP).

/ALTHOUGH THIS

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ALTHOUGH THIS KIND OF PROJECTS WAS FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE COOPERATION OF LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS WAS NECESSARY FOR THE PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOR PAST YEARS, THE DIP HAD PLAYED AN UNASSUMING YET IMPORTANT ROLE IN BENEFITING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE ISLANDERS AS WELL AS IMPROVING THE DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT, HE ADDED.

BEING A SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE CBCC HAS BEEN TASKED WITH COORDINATING AND MONITORING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN COMMUNITY BUILDING IN THE DISTRICT.

THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIP, THE CBCC AIMS TO PROMOTE THE IDENTITY OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WHICH IS PARTICULARLY ESSENTIAL AS THE ISLANDS POPULATION IS SCATTERED GEOGRAPHICALLY.

OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE DIP INCLUDE CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE DISTRICT, CULTIVATING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG THE ISLANDERS AND INVOLVING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS.

"IN THE CURRENT YEAR, FIVE TYPES OF COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED WHICH INCLUDE VILLAGE CLEAN-UP, YOUTH CAMP, TREE PLANTING, PAINTING OF RAINSHELTERS AND MURAL PAINTING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"APART FROM THESE ACTIVITIES, THE CBCC HAS ALSO PLANNED HEALTH CARE PROJECTS WHICH CATER FOR THE NEED OF THE ELDERLY AND REMOTE ISLANDERS," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT FROM LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL THESE PLANS TO BE MATERIALISED," HE STRESSED.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1988

- 13 -

RESTRICTED ZONES IN KWUN TONG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF HIP WO STREET IN KWUN TONG WILL BECOME RESTRICTED ZONES ROUND-THE-CLOCK FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21):

- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 70 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG YAN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 39 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KWUN TONG ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL ALSO BE MADE RESTRICTED ZONES ROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR ABOUT 10 DAYS:

- * THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WAI YIP STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH TSUN YIP STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 37 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- * THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TSUN YIP STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH WAI YIP STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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TEMPORARY TRAM LANE IN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE EASTBOUND TRAM TRACK ON DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 369 AND 375 WILL BECOME A TRAM-ONLY LANE FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21).

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1988

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN LOCK ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A SECTION OF LOCK ROAD IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BECOME AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21).

THE 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY WILL BE DESIGNATED ON THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF LOCK ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH HAIPHONG ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES SOUTH OF THE JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN GILMAN STREET

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF GILMAN STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21).

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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NO-ENTRY TO NAI CHUNG BUS TERMINUS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21), NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE NAI CHUNG BUS TERMINUS IN SAI KUNG AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

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