DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PARENTS CAN DO MOST TO STOP JUVENILE CRIME

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY TODAY CALLED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN THE AGE GROUP 7 TO 15 TO CONSIDER CRITICALLY RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THEIR FAMILY TO SEE IF THE CHILDREN WERE BEING GIVEN PROPER ATTENTION.

COMMENTING ON THE UPSURGE IN JUVENILE CRIME IN THIS AGE GROUP, AT A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR BRAY SAID SOCIAL WORK BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WELFARE AGENCIES, AS WELL AS SCHOOLS WOULD HELP IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM, BUT THEY COULD NOT DO EVERYTHING.

+BY FAR THE GREATEST HELP CAN BE GIVEN BY PARENTS THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED THEM: +DO WE TRY HARD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND OUR CHILDREN'S ASPIRATIONS AND PROBLEMS? DO OUR CHILDREN SEEK REFUGE IN FRIENDSHIPS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY BECAUSE THEY FEEL UNWANTED IN THE FAMILY? WHAT DO THEY DO IN THEIR LEISURE TIME AND IF THEY ARE MIXING IN BAD COMPANY WHAT ARE WE DOING TO CHANGE THIS? DO WE GIVE SUFFICIENT THOUGHT TO ESTABLISHING SOUND MORAL STANDARDS?+

HE REGRETTED THAT PARENTS TENDED TO FEEL THEIR CHILDREN AT THIS AGE WERE OLD ENOUGH TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES. YET THEY STILL NEEDED WORRYING:

+THEY ARE NOW OLD ENOUGH TO TALK TO. THEY STILL TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF NOTICE OF WHAT PARENTS HAVE TO SAY. THEIR FUTURE DEPENDS A VERY GREAT DEAL ON HOW MUCH TROUBLE WE AS PARENTS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE.

+IT IS WELL WORTH PRESERVING JUST THOSE FEW EXTRA YEARS SO THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL GROW UP HAPPIER AND MORE USEFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY,+ MR BRAY SAID.

HE SAID SOME PRELIMINARY STUDY HAD BEEN DONE ON THE JUVENILE CRIME STATISTICS AND IF IT WAS ANY CONSOLATION THE CRIMES WERE NOT VIOLENT ONES, ALTHOUGH EVEN THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBERS INVOLVED IN ASSAULTS AND SEXUAL OFFENCES WERE WORRYING.

MOST OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTED RELATIVELY MINOR OFFENCES SUCH AS SHOPLIFTING, BLACKMAILING FOR SMALL SUMS OF MONEY AND PETTY THEFTS= IN OTHER WORDS OFFENCES INVOLVING DISHONESTY AND THE URGE FOR QUICK AND EASY CASH.

THE NT NEW TOWNS SEEMED TO HAVE FARED PARTICULARLY BADLY: IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, OVER 40 PER CENT OF THOSE PROSECUTED FOR MISCELLANEOUS THEFTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE UNDER 16 AND A FAIRLY LARGE PROPORTION OF THEM CAME FROM PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THERE WAS COMPARATIVELY LESS JUVENILE CRIME DURING THE SUMMER VACATION AND MR BRAY WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE VIGOROUS ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME HAD HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.

/THE NUMBER .....

THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CRIME WAS INCREASING BUT THIS WAS NOT SURPRISING SINCE MORE AND MORE AND EVENTUALLY VIRTUALLY ALL CHILDREN WITHIN THE AGE GROUP WOULD BE STUDENTS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NINE YEARS OF FREE, COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

+WHAT IS OF CONCERN IS A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN 'TRIAD' OR TRIAD-RELATED OFFENCES -- SPECIFICALLY TRIAD MEMBERSHIP, CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION AND BLACKMAIL.

+THE NUMBERS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL STILL -- 50 PROSECUTIONS IN 1978, 113 IN 1979 AND WE EXPECT ABOUT 170 THIS YEAR -- BUT THE TREND TOWARDS GANG ACTIVITY, UNDER THE GUISE OF TRIAD AFFILIATIONS, IS WORRYING.

+I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ESTABLISHED TRIAD BODIES SYSTEMATICALLY INFILTRATING SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO, THE PERCENTAGE OF FIRST OFFENDERS HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1978 TO AUGUST 1980.

ON THE CAUSES OF THE UPSURGE IN JUVENILE CRIME, MR BRAY SAID MORE WORK STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE ON THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION BUT A FEW POPULAR GUESSES -- INFLUX OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN -- HAD BEEN ELIMINATED.

ON THE OTHER HAND THERE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE WILLINGNESS OF VICTIMS TO REPORT MINOR OFFENCES, AND THE SETTING UP OF MORE REPORT CENTRES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS AS WELL AS THE SUCCESSFUL JUNIOR POLICE CALL MOVEMENT HAD MADE THE POLICE MORE ACCESSIBLE AND APPROACHABLE.

THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS THAT INFLATION AND INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING, MORE THAN NEUTRALISING INCREASES IN WAGES SINCE 1979, AND THAT LARGE SPENDINGS BY SOME MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES ON HOUSING HAD DEPRIVED CHILDREN OF THE VALUE OF THEIR POCKET MONEY.

ON THE FIRST POINT, MR BRAY SAID AVERAGE REAL WAGES (ALLOWING FOR INFLATION) FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS CERTAINLY FELL BETWEEN MARCH AND SEPTEMBER 1979 BY 3.6 PER CENT, BUT THEY THEN INCREASED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1979 AND MARCH 1980, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE STILL BELOW THE MARCH 1979 FIGURE. THE PERFORMANCE COMPARED BADLY WITH A RISE IN AVERAGE REAL WAGES OF 28 PER CENT FROM MARCH 1976 TO MARCH 1979.

AS TO RENTS, MR BRAY SAID IT HAD TO BE REMEMBERED THAT NEARLY HALF THE POPULATION LIVE IN HOUSING ESTATES WHERE RENTS ARE LOW AND IN FACT IT WAS FOUND THAT THE INCREASE IN CRIME WAS DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH IN THESE ESTATES.

HE SAID AS A RESULT OF AN EARLIER STUDY ON JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY, A PROGRAMME PLAN OF REMEDIAL ACTION WAS DRAWN UP TO ESTABLISH VARIOUS SERVICES IN A CO-ORDINATED AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

/THERE WERE .....

THERE WERE THREE AREAS: SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, WHICH MEANS HAVING A SOCIAL WORKER ATTACHED TO A GROUP OF SCHOOLS TO WHOM DIFFICULT CASES CAN BE REFERRED= OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK, AIMED AT A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DO NOT MAKE USE OF FACILITIES SUCH AS YOUTH CENTRES, TO CATCH THOSE 'AT RISK'= AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, A FORM OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION TO TEACH THE INDIVIDUAL +TO KNOW ONESELF AND LEARN HOW TO BEHAVE TOWARDS OTHERS+.

+THE RECENT STATISTICS ON JUVENILE CRIME INDICATE THAT THE PROBLEM IS LARGER THAN WE THOUGHT AND GROWING.

+THEY MEAN THE TARGETS AND RESOURCE PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAMME PLAN WILL NEED TO BE REVIEWED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER ONCE OUR STUDY OF THE CAUSES IS FURTHER ADVANCED,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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SPECIAL CHECK ON EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK CARRIED OUT A THREE-DAY SPECIAL OPERATION TO CHECK ON EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT DURING THE OPERATION WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT LAST TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, THE DEPARTMENT'S ENTIRE LABOUR INSPECTORATE WAS MOBILISED TO CHECK PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT IN BOTH THE INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

IN THE THREE-DAY PERIOD, LABOUR INSPECTORS VISITED A TOTAL OF 7 022 ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOUND THAT 83 EMPLOYEES IN 69 ESTABLISHMENTS DID NOT CARRY ANY IDENTITY DOCUMENT.

A TOTAL OF 503 ESTABLISHMENTS DID NOT KEEP A PROPER RECORD OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AS REQUIRED BY THE NEWLY ENACTED IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) ORDINANCE.

ALL THE CASES CONCERNING EMPLOYEES WITHOUT PROOF OF IDENTITY WERE REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJORITY OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WERE COOPERATIVE TO LABOUR INSPECTORS CARRYING OUT THE SPECIAL OPERATION.

HE REITERATED THAT ANY EMPLOYER WHO EMPLOYS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND ON CONVICTION TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $50 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT. HE MAY ALSO BE FINED $10 000 FOR FAILING TO KEEP AN UP-TO-DATE RECORD OF EACH OF HIS EMPLOYEES SHOWING HIS NAME, THE TYPE OF IDENTITY DOCUMENT AND THE NUMBER OF SUCH DOCUMENT. THE RECORD SHOULD BE IN THE FORM OF A LIST IF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED.

AS FAR AS EMPLOYEES ARE CONCERNED, FAILURE TO PRODUCE THEIR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS FOR INSPECTION BY A LABOUR OFFICER CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE WHICH CARRIES A FINE OF $1 000.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MORE SPECIAL OPERATIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IF AND WHEN NECESSARY.

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SURVEY ON RENT AND PROPERTY VALUES
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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED SOME 300 000 FORMS TODAY (NOVEMBER 24) TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON RENT AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF PROPERTY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE FORM (REQUISITION FOR PARTICULARS OF TENEMENTS) WILL BE DESPATCHED TO ALL THOSE WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE PROPERTY TAX ROLL EXCEPT THOSE WHO OCCUPY THEIR PROPERTIES SOLELY AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED TO UPDATE ASSESSABLE VALUES WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT 1976/77. THE UPDATED ASSESSABLE VALUES WILL BE APPLIED TO PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT 1981/82.

THE FORM, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, MAY BE COMPLETED IN EITHER LANGUAGE. RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN IT TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT BY DECEMBER 23, 1980.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED THEM TO READ THE FORM CAREFULLY. IF THEY DO SO THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING IT, HE SAID.

IF HOWEVER AFTER READING THE FORM THERE IS STILL DOUBT, THEY CAN TELEPHONE 5-79595102 FOR ASSISTANCE OR CALL AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT -- HONG KONG OFFICE: WINDSOR HOUSE, 19TH FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY= KOWLOON OFFICE: PARK-IN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK= AND TSUEN WAN SUB-OFFICE: 210, 9TH FLOOR, FOU WAH CENTRE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ASSISTANCE MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED AT ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR DISTRICT OFFICE.

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SNT TALKS ABOUT TAI PO DEVELOPMENT
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THE ACHIEVEMENT AND CHANGE OF TAI PO SO FAR HAS BEEN REMARKABLE, BUT THERE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE LACKING AND OTHERS WHICH ARE CAUSING CONCERN. THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THIS TODAY AT THE SHENG KUNG HUI BISHOP MOK SAU TSENG SECONDARY SCHOOL SPEECH DAY.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID TAI PO NOW HAD 6 500 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, BUT NO FOOTBALL FIELD OR RUNNING TRACK= TOO MANY CHILDREN HAD TO TRAVEL 20 MILES TO SCHOOL AND BACK ON CROWDED TRAINS AND BUSES= PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAD DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING UP WITH THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE= AND THE WATERS OF TOLO HARBOUR WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POLLUTED FROM DOMESTIC SEWAGE AND FARM AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATER.

+WE NEED A NEW MARKET= AND THERE ARE MANY MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE THE ATTENTION AND PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWN, ITS BUILDINGS AND GENERAL ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

/+ALL THESE .....

+ALL THESE ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF TAI PO= BUT ULTIMATELY IT IS YOU YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE HERE WHO WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE FUTURE TAI PO WILL BE PROSPEROUS AND LIVELY, WHERE PEOPLE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER, OR WILL BE DULL, DIRTY, AND SELFISH.+

MR AKERS-JONES SAID IT WAS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE THAT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR THE POPULATION OF TAI PO WOULD BE DOUBLE WHAT IT WAS TODAY - FROM 30 000 TO 60 000.

MOREOVER PILING FOR THE NEXT HOUSING ESTATE AT YUEN CHAU TSAI HAD STARTED AND IN THREE YEARS' TIME ANOTHER 35 000 PEOPLE WOULD MOVE IN.

A MASTER PLAN FOR THE CENTRE OF TAI PO NEW TOWN HAD BEEN PREPARED AND WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT STARTING NEXT YEAR.

TEN FACTORIES WOULD BE OPERATING IN THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND MORE NEW FACTORIES PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID RECLAMATION OF TAI PO HOI WAS RAPIDLY PROCEEDING.

+BEHIND YOUR SCHOOL, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TAI PO STATION FOR THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY WILL START SHORTLY AND SO WILL THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW COASTAL ROAD FROM SHA TIN TO TAI PO AND AROUND TAI PO TO FANLING,+ HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE STUDENTS THEY WOULD REMEMBER 1980 AS THE YEAR OF THEIR PRIZE-GIVING: THEY WOULD REMEMBER IT AS THE YEAR THE SEA WAS FILLED IN, THE LAST YEAR WHEN, PERHAPS, THEY COLLECTED CLAMS FROM THE SEASHORE.

+THESE NEED NOT BE SAD MEMORIES, IF WE SUCCEED IN BUILDING AT TAI PO A TOWN TO BE PROUD OF AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY SOCIETY.+

MR AKERS-JONES SAID PROPOSALS TO GIVE GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS WOULD OPEN UP NEW AVENUES FOR THE STUDENTS TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT.

+YOUR SCHOOL AND TEACHERS HAVE GIVEN YOU A SOLID PREPARATION FOR YOUR NEW ROLE IN SOCIETY, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL MEET THE NEW CHALLENGE WITH COURAGE, UNSELFISHNESS AND CONCERN FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

THE BISHOP MOK SAU TSENG SECONDARY SCHOOL, WHICH IS IN TAI PO MARKET, OPENED IN 1975 AND NOW HAS MORE THAN 1 100 STUDENTS IN 30 CLASSES.

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REVIEW COMMITTEE WELCOMES PUBLIC VIEWS

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INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ARE WELCOME TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS TO THE NEWLY SET UP +COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.+

THEY SHOULD FORWARD THEIR VIEWS TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY, GPO BOX 7070, HONG KONG.

MR KENNETH TOPLEY, WHO HEADS THE 12-MEMBER COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY:

+I AM EAGER THAT EDUCATORS AND ALL WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THEIR VIEWS TO THE COMMITTEE AT AN EARLY STAGE.

+WE WELCOME NEW IDEAS AND ALL VIEWS WE RECEIVE WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY. THE COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE AT A LATER STAGE TO INVITE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO AMPLIFY THEIR VIEWS.+

THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE REQUIRE IT TO LOOK AT THE FULL RANGE OF RPOVISION FOR VOCATIONAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNIC, POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE COMMITTEE WILL BE TAKING A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE TOTAL PROVISION OF PLACES, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF NEW INSTITUTIONS, AND THE USE IN EDUCATION OF DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNIQUES.

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PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN RECEIVES UTMOST ATTENTION

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THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN IS RECEIVING THE UTMOST ATTENTION OF MANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS COMMUNITY LEADERS AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRED TING, TOLD THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSUEN WAN THIS TODAY.

+WHEN ONE LOOKS BACK AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN ONE WILL NO DOUBT AGREE THAT IT HAS NOT ONLY GROWN AT ENORMOUS SPEED BUT ALSO IN SIZE FOR THE PAST FEW DECADES,+ HE SAID.

IN 1930 THE POPULATION WAS IN THE REGION OF 5 000. EVEN BY 1961 IT STOOD AT ONLY 84 000.

+HOWEVER, TODAY THE POPULATION IS 700 000. MORE SIGNIFICANT STILL, AS FAR AS THE PLANNING OF COMMUNITY SERVICES IS CONCERNED, THIS IS A RELATIVELY YOUNG POPULATION AS ABOUT 200 000 OF THE RESIDENTS ARE IN THE SIX TO 23 YEARS AGE GROUP AND ABOUT 68 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION ARE RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.+

/TO MATCH .....

TO MATCH THIS RAPID GROWTH IN POPULATION A GREAT MANY NEW RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES HAD BEEN PROVIDED.

+HOWEVER, SINCE THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IS ALWAYS GIVEN TOP PRIORITY AMONGST THE GOVERNMENT'S VARIOUS PROGRAMME AREAS AND BECAUSE OF OTHER CONTRAINTS, WE HAVE TO ADMIT THAT AS FAR AS THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES IS CONCERNED WE ARE STILL FAR BEHIND THE ACTUAL NEED, THOUGH I MUST ALSO POINT OUT THAT TSUEN WAN, IN THIS ASPECT, COMPARES VERY FAVOURABLY WITH SOME OTHER DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG,+ MR TING SAID.

EXISTING MAJOR FACILITIES IN THE NEW TOWN INCLUDED YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND, SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND, KWAI SHING SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND, WO YI HOP ROAD SPORTS GROUND, EIGHT GAZETTED BEACHES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND THE NEWLY COMPLETED O.R. SADICK MEMORIAL GAMES HALL.

THERE WERE ALSO NUMEROUS SITTING-OUT AREAS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES WITHIN TSUEN WAN FOR PASSIVE RECREATION, PLUS COMMUNITY HALLS IN SOME ESTATES.

AS FOR THE FUTURE, MAJOR PROJECTS IN MIND INCLUDED CONVERSION OF YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND INTO A STADIUM, CONSTRUCTING NORTH KWAI CHUNG SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX NEXT TO WO YI HOP ROAD SPORTS GROUND, GIN DRINKERS BAY PARK OF WHICH ABOUT 26 HECTARES OF LAND WAS EXPECTED TO BE DEVELOPED AS A BOTANICAL GARDEN, TSING YI SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, A CULTURAL AND SPORTS COMPLEX ON TSUEN WAN SOUTH RECLAMATION, AND TSO KUNG TAM PARK WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A RECREATION AND SPORTS CENTRE AND A LANDSCAPED PARK.

+ALL THESE NEW PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FULLY OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS DECADE, WHILE SOME SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY THE MID-EIGHTIES,+ MR TING SAID.

+IN ADDITION TO THESE MAJOR FACILITIES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT MORE LOCAL AND DISTRICT OPEN SPACES, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN FOR EITHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE RECREATION BY THE RESIDENTS.

+AS FAR AS THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS CONCERNED, AND IN LINE WITH THE THINKING OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, WE ALWAYS CONSIDER THAT TEMPORARY SPORTS FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN THE INTERIM PERIOD WHEN PERMANENT FACILITIES ARE NOT YET READY FOR PUBLIC USE,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS WITH THIS CONVICTION IN MIND THAT THE CHAI WAN KOK TEMPORARY SPORTS CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED. IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1978-79, THE RECORDS SHOWED THAT 72 395 PERSONS HAD USED THE FACILITIES PROVIDED AT THIS CENTRE. FROM APRIL 1 TILL THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE ATTENDANCE FIGURE TOTALLED 80 998.

+WE ARE SAD THAT THIS CENTRE WILL SOON HAVE TO BE CLOSED TO MAKE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT, BUT I CAN ASSURE THAT VERY ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING A SIMILAR SPORTS CENTRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE,+ MR TING SAID.

/A SPECIAL .....

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO HOW EXISTING RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES COULD BE IMPROVED AND BETTER UTILISED AND HOW NEW FACILITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

COMMENDING LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND GENUINE SENSE OF COMMITMENT IN PROMOTING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, MR TING SAID: +WHILST RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN HAVE BEEN INCREASING IN TYPE AND SCOPE, THEIR FULL UTILISATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE ENTHUSIASTIC PROMOTION OF SPORTS AND ORGANISED GAMES BY LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.+

THE SUCCESS OF THE TWO TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVALS, BOTH UNDER THE INSPIRING LEADERSHIP OF MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, IS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF LOCAL PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CULTURAL SCENE, MR TING SAID THE COMPLETION AND OPENING OF TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL WAS AN OBVIOUS LANDMARK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN TSUEN WAN.

IT WAS NOW WELL PATRONISED BY THE PUBLIC AND RECORDS SHOWED THAT THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL AND THE AUDITORIUM WERE FULLY BOOKED EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY TILL THE END OF MARCH NEXT YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES DID NOT BEGIN WITH THE OPENING OF TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

WELL BEFORE THAT THE TSUEN WAN CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION HAD ALREADY BEEN PLAYING A LEADING ROLE. ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAST TWO TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVALS WOULD ALWAYS BE A MEMORY THAT MANY RESIDENTS WOULD RELISH.

IN ADDITION, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ASSOCIATION, ITS FOUR PROMOTION COMMITTEES (MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES) HAVE BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN ORGANISING PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS, MR TING SAID.

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29 000 PEOPLE VISITED CAREERS EXHIBITION

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MORE THAN 29 000 PEOPLE VISITED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S NINTH ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL LOW BLOCK EXHIBITION HALL IN THE TWO DAYS FOLLOWING ITS OPENING LAST FRIDAY.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, MORE THAN 70 000 PEOPLE WATCHED THE CAREERS SHOWS STAGED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AT EDINBURGH PLACE.

+THE RESPONSE TO THE EXHIBITION SO FAR IS QUITE ENCOURAGING INDEED, WHICH SHOWS THAT THE ANNUAL EVENT IS MEETING A NEED OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID MORE CAREERS SHOWS WOULD BE STAGED AT EDINBURGH PLACE BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND WEDNESDAY, BY KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY ON THURSDAY, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON SATURDAY AND THE POLICE ON SUNDAY.

THE CENTRE WOULD GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CRAFT SUCH AS BRICK-LAYING AND CARPENTRY.

THE EXHIBITION OPENS IN THE EXHIBITION HALL FROM 9.30 AM TO 6.30 PM DAILY UNTIL DECEMBER 1.

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IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION FOR FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN

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THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION FORESAW THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING FORMAL EDUCATION FOR FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN AS LONG AS 30 YEARS AGO, UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR ALLEN LEE SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE FMO SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL.

THE FMO CURRENTLY HAS 13 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH A TOTAL ENROLMENT OF MORE THAN 3 900 PUPILS, MR LEE SAID.

+WHAT IS MORE ENCOURAGING IS THAT SINCE 1978, THE SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN CONVERTED FROM A THREE-YEAR PRACTICAL SCHOOL TO A FIVE-YEAR TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND WILL PROVIDE SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1983,+ HE SAID.

HE ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHOOLS TO THE EFFORTS OF THOSE CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION FOR THE FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN. THIS AT THE SAME TIME REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED ON THIS FIELD, MR LEE SAID.

MR LEE ALSO PRESENTED PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES AND THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN PRESENTED FMO SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE PUPILS.

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SWD DIRECTOR VISITS WELFARE SERVICES IN KWUN TONG

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, TODAY VISITED A CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND A NURSERY OPERATED BY THE PO LEUNG KUK IN KWUN TONG.

THE VISIT WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES IN WHICH THE DIRECTOR WOULD SEE FOR HIMSELF THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES RUN BY GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

MR ALLEYNE FIRST CALLED ON THE KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE WHERE HE INSPECTED THE HOSTEL AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP FACILITIES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED YOUNG ADULTS AGED OVER 16.

ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIALS OF THE KUK, HE TOURED THE CENTRE WHICH OCCUPIES A FLOOR SPACE OF 1 253 SQUARE METRES IN KO CHIU ROAD CENTRE.

HE SAW THE DISABLED PEOPLE DOING SIMPLE JOBS, MOSTLY ASSEMBLING PLASTIC TOYS, UNDER SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE.

LIKE OTHER SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, THE CENTRE PROVIDES REMUNERATIVE JOBS IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT READY FOR OPEN EMPLOYMENT AND ENABLES THEM TO CARRY ON A USEFUL WORKING LIFE.

MR ALLEYNE LATER VISITED THE NEARBY YAU TONG NURSERY WHICH PROVIDES DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED TWO TO SIX. THE NURSERY HAS A CAPACITY OF 100.

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LOCAL FIRE ENGINEERS INVITED TO VISIT GUANGDONG

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THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS (IFE) HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT GUANGDONG EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED AT THE 17TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE BRANCH BY ITS PRESIDENT MR J.H. MARCH, LAST FRIDAY NIGHT.

MR MARCH, WHO IS A DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SAID THE INVITATION CAME FROM THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

+AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY ARE INTERESTED IN FIRE PROTECTION IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AND FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS ADOPTED IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+WE UNDERSTAND THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME OTHER PROVINCES IN CHINA WILL MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE DELEGATION.+

MR MARCH SAID THERE WERE ALSO PLANS TO SEND AN ADVANCE PARTY OF THREE BRANCH MEMBERS -- TWO FROM THE FIRE SERVICES -- TO CHINA TO DISCUSS THE FORMAT AND FORMALITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICIAL VISIT.

/IN HIS .....

IN HIS SPEECH AT THE DINNER, MR MARCH ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FIRE OFFICER LEUNG SHIU-KAY WHO DIED WHILE INSPECTING A FIRE AT THE MTR SITE IN CHEUNG SHA WAN EARLY LAST MONTH. MR LEUNG WAS THE SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE IFE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR S.L. CHEN, WHO WAS THE GUEST OF HONOUR, SPOKE OF THE URGENT NEED FOR SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS IN FIRE PROTECTION.

+TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS IN THE FIRE PROTECTION FIELD,+ HE SAID.

+ADVICE WHICH IS FREELY AVAILABLE FROM THE INSTITUTION APTLY ILLUSTRATES THE GENERAL LACK OF SUCH EXPERTISE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+AS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER MYSELF, I AM WELL AWARE THAT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERT ADVICE AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES ARE READILY AVAILABLE REGARDING ELECTRICAL MATTERS.

+THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE CASE WITH FIRE PROTECTION, ALTHOUGH PERSONS WHO ARE COMPETENT IN DOING FIRE PROTECTIVE WORK ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO QUALIFY AS REGISTERED PERSONS.

+SUCH PERSONS ARE OF COURSE CAPABLE OF OFFERING EXPERT ADVICE BUT, AS CONTRACTORS THEMSELVES IT WOULD BE ETHICALLY IMPROPER FOR THEM TO ACT AS CONSULTANTS AT THE SAME TIME,+ MR CHEN SAID.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT, EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND IN THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS, A MAJORITY OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE SERVING FIRE OFFICERS.

+IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE THAT THERE IS A NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR A FULL-TIME EXPANSION OF EXPERTISE INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AN INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND SERVICE ON MATTERS CONCERNING FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION,+ MR CHEN ADDED.

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REPEAT OF EXHIBITION ON CANCER

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AN EXHIBITION DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT CANCER, THE TOP KILLER DISEASE IN HONG KONG, WILL BE HELD AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL NEXT WEEK BY POPULAR DEMAND.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ARRANGED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE ANTI-CANCER SOCIETY AND THE STOMA ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG.

A SIMILAR EXHIBITION HELD AT THE CITY HALL IN AUGUST WAS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED AND ATTRACTED SOME 70 000 VISITORS IN THREE DAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WAS STILL WIDE MISCONCEPTION AMONG THE PUBLIC THAT THE DISEASE IS DEADLY AND INCURABLE.

/THIS IS .....

THIS IS BECAUSE CANCER HAS CLAIMED MOST LIVES IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

LAST YEAR ALONE ITS DEATH TOLL ROSE TO 6 203, IN OTHER WORDS AN AVERAGE OF 17 PEOPLE DIED OF THE DISEASE EVERYDAY.

+WHAT PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW IS THAT MANY FORMS OF CANCER CAN BE CURED IF DETECTED EARLY AND TREATED IN TIME,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE CAN TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST CERTAIN FORMS OF THE DISEASE, SUCH AS ABSTAINING FROM SMOKING.

+THROUGH THIS EXHIBITION, WE HOPE THE MESSAGE OF PREVENTIVE ACTION AND EARLY TREATMENT IS PUT ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

VISITORS WILL SEE DISPLAYS ON COMMON FORMS OF CANCER IN HONG KONG, ILLUSTRATIONS ON PREVENTIVE AND TREATMENT METHODS, AND FEATURES ON RECENT ADVANCES IN TREATMENT AND RESEARCH.

THERE WILL ALSO BE FILM SHOWS AND SLIDE SHOWS ON VARIOUS TOPICS OF CANCER.

TWO LEAFLETS, ONE ON EARLY CANCER SIGNS AND THE OTHER ON THE WAY TO EXAMINE BREAST CANCER ONESELF WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM FROM FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 28) TO MONDAY (DECEMBER 1).

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SURFACE MAIL TO IRAN RESUMED

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THE POST OFFICE TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT SURFACE LETTER AND PARCEL SERVICES TO IRAN, WHICH WERE SUSPENDED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1979, HAD BEEN RESUMED.

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POTTINGER ST BUS TERMINAL SUSPENDED

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CHINA MOTOR BUS ROUTE NO. 20 (SHAU KEI WAN TO CENTRAL) WILL BE DIVERTED FROM POTTINGER STREET TO QUEEN VICTORIA STREET FROM WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 26) FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK RENEWAL WORKS.

THERE WILL BE A TEMPORARY BUS STOP ON QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL OUTSIDE LANE CRAWFORD TO REPLACE THE EXISTING BUS TERMINAL IN POTTINGER STREET.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD SECTION

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THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN YIP SHING STREET AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 26-28) FOR WORK ON A FOOTBRIDGE.

KWAI CHUNG ROAD MAY BE USED AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE DURING THE CLOSURES.

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