



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1984

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LABOUR MP'S DUE

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TWO LABOUR MP'S WILL ARRIVE ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 26) TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG.

THEY ARE MR ERIC DEAKINS AND MR KEN EASTHAM. WHILE IN HONG KONG, THEY WILL MEET A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, SOCIAL WORKERS, MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, CHAIRMEN OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, TSUEN WAN DB MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

MR DEAKINS AND MR EASTHAM WILL ATTEND RECEPTIONS TO BE HOSTED BY URBAN COUNCIL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

THEY WILL ATTEND BRIEFINGS BY UMELCO, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO BE MADE FOR THE TWO MP'S TO VISIT TSUEN WAN DISTRICT, A SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE, A FACTORY, A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP AND HOUSING ESTATES.

THEY WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 4 BEFORE LEAVING THAT DAY.

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45 INSURANCE COMPANIES WITHDRAWN

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A TOTAL OF 45 INSURANCE COMPANIES IN HONG KONG HAD THEIR AUTHORISATION WITHDRAWN BETWEEN JUNE 30 LAST YEAR, WHEN THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE CAME INTO FORCE, AND JUNE 30 THIS YEAR.

FOUR OF THESE COMPANIES WERE WOUND UP BY THE HIGH COURT UPON THE PETITION OF THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE REST WERE EITHER DORMANT OR UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION AND HAD THUS LET THEIR AUTHORISATION LAPSE, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THEIR BUSINESS WOULD BE RUN OFF AND THE COMPANIES WOUND DOWN IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.

/THE NEW

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THE NEW LEGISLATION PRESCRIBES REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FITNESS OF DIRECTORS AND CONTROLLERS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES AND PROVIDES MORE STRINGENT FINANCIAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ON INSURERS.

IT ALSO CONFERS MUCH WIDER POWERS OF INVESTIGATION AND INTERVENTION ON THE REGISTRAR GENERAL IN HIS CAPACITY AS INSURANCE AUTHORITY FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF POLICY HOLDERS.

AS AT JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 277 INSURANCE COMPANIES AUTHORISED TO CARRY ON THE INSURANCE BUSINESS -- INCLUDING 15 NEW ONES -- COMPARED WITH A TOTAL OF 307 COMPANIES AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

OF THESE 277 COMPANIES, 130 WERE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG.

THE REMAINING 147 COMPANIES CAME FROM 26 COUNTRIES, THE MAJORITY OF THEM FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM (50), AND THE UNITED STATES (30), FOLLOWED BY EIGHT COMPANIES EACH FROM BERMUDA AND JAPAN, SIX EACH FROM SINGAPORE AND SWITZERLAND, AND FIVE EACH FROM CANADA AND FRANCE.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GRAND FINAL TOMORROW
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THE FINAL EPISODE OF THE +SAFETY AT WORK+ SERIES IV TELEVISION PROGRAMME AND AN +INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GALA NIGHT+ WILL BE SCREENED ON HK-TVBS JADE CHANNEL AT 9.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

TELEVISION PERSONALITIES MR TANG YING-MAN AND MISS HAPPY CHAN HOI-SUM WILL BE COMPERES OF THE GALA NIGHT.

A NUMBER OF POPULAR SINGERS AND ARTISTES WILL BE PERFORMING. THEY INCLUDE: MISS ROWENA CORTES, MR PANG KIN-SUN, MISS ANNABELLE LOUIE, MR ROY CHIAO, THE YOUNG TIGERS GROUP, AND TWO FORMER MISSES HONGKONG ROWENA LAM AND ANGLIE LEUNG.

COMPETING IN THE FINAL FOR THE GRAND PRIZE -- AN 11-DAY ALL-EXPENSES-PAID HOLIDAY IN THE UNITED STATES -- ARE LAI SUN GARMENT COMPANY LTD, GARDEN COMPANY LTD AND HONG KONG UNITED DOCKYARDS LTD. THEY BEAT 24 OTHER TEAMS IN THE PRELIMINARIES AND SEMI-FINALS SCREENED ON THE SAME CHANNEL IN THE PAST 12 WEEKS.

THE WINNING TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 12.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, THE ONE-HOUR SHOW WILL FEATURE AN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME OF SINGING, BREAKDANCE, A MINI-OPERA AS WELL AS AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY QUIZ WITH ATTRACTIVE PRIZES.

/OVER \$300 000

OVER \$300 000 IN PRIZES, INCLUDING COLOUR TV SETS, VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS, RADIO CASSETTE RECORDERS, KITCHEN APPLIANCES, WASHING MACHINES, ELECTRONIC TV GAMES AND WRIST WATCHES WERE AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS AND HOME VIEWERS SINCE THE FIRST EPISODE WAS SCREENED ON JUNE 3 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT FEEDBACK INFORMATION INDICATED THAT BESIDES BEING ENTERTAINING, THE TV PROGRAMME HAD HELPED AROUSE SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE HOME VIEWERS.

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TEXTILES AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY SIGNED

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THE NEW HONG KONG-NORWAY TEXTILES AGREEMENT WAS RATIFIED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN HONG KONG.

IT WAS SIGNED BY MR LEIF E. HALVORSEN, CONSUL-GENERAL OF NORWAY, AND MR E.P. HO, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

THE NEW AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED AND INITIALLED IN OSLO IN JANUARY. IT COVERS A THREE-YEAR PERIOD STARTING FROM JULY 1, 1984.

NORWAY HAS ACCEDED TO THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT AS FROM JULY 1, 1984.

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LADY BREMRIDGE VISITS AGED FOLK

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LADY BREMRIDGE, WIFE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SPENT THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING VISITING THE ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE AGED AND THE SHUN LEE ADULT TRAINING CENTRE IN NGAU CHI WAN.

DURING THE VISIT, LADY BREMRIDGE SAW SOME 30 HANDICAPPED TRAINEES FROM THE SHUN LEE ADULT TRAINING CENTRE GIVING SERVICE TO AND PLAYING WITH SOME 40 ELDERLY PERSONS OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE AGED IN A SPECIAL ONE-DAY PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

YESTERDAY LADY BREMRIDGE HAD VISITED THE PO LEUNG KUK PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP IN SAI KUNG, TO SEE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF AN INTEGRATED CAMP COMPRISING STUDENTS FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD. THE CAMP WAS ORGANISED BY THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

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GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN HOUSING PROGRAMME URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PERHAPS CONSIDER OFFERING MORE RENTAL BLOCKS OF GOOD QUALITY WITH A PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT FOR SALE TO BETTER-OFF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S HOME OWNERSHIP COMMITTEE, MR CHARLES SIN, SAID THIS DURING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE PENINSULA LION'S CLUB OF HONG KONG TODAY.

HE SAID THE RECENT EXPERIMENTAL SCHEME OF OFFERING RENTAL TRIDENT II BLOCKS FOR SALE AT MUCH LOWER PRICES HAD PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS AMONG EXISTING ESTATE TENANTS.

MR SIN ALSO SAID THE STRONG AND PERSISTENT DEMAND FOR HOS FLATS INDICATED THAT HOME OWNERSHIP WAS STILL A DESIRED OBJECTIVE AMONG THE LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS.

+SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES HAVE LENDED SUPPORT TO THE VIEW THAT HOME OWNERSHIP IS CONDUCIVE TO A MORE STABLE SOCIETY AS HOME-OWNERS ARE COMMITTED TO THE PLACE IN WHICH THEY HAVE A STAKE.

+IT IS THEREFORE IN THE INTEREST AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE HOME OWNERSHIP AMONG THE POPULATION AND HOS IS INSTRUMENTAL IN PURSUING THIS OBJECTIVE,+ HE ADDED.

+THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS PLANS FOR INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF FLATS FOR SALE FROM THE CURRENT ANNUAL TARGET OF 5 000 TO 10 000 IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WITH THE ADDITION OF 4 000 TO 5 000 FLATS UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME.

+BUT THE DEMAND FROM BOTH TENANTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING INDICATES THAT THE PRODUCTION FIGURES STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO MEET THE EXPECTATION OF THE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS.+

HE SAID THAT ANY INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF HOS-PSPS FLATS SHOULD NOT HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON THE PRIVATE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY WHILE EXPANSION OF THE PSPS WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, PROVIDE MORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPERS.

REFERRING TO THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS BY THE PUBLIC AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT OF WELL-OFF TENANTS IN HOUSING ESTATES, HE SAID THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR A GENTLE, PERSUASIVE APPROACH TO ENCOURAGE THESE TENANTS TO PURCHASE HOS FLATS.

/+NEVERTHELESS,

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+NEVERTHELESS, THERE COULD BE MANY REASONS WHICH MAY PREVENT A PUBLIC HOUSING TENANT FROM BUYING HOS FLATS.

+FOR EXAMPLE, THERE MAY BE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HIS FUTURE HOUSEHOLD INCOME, AND HOS FLAT PURCHASERS ARE DEBARRED FROM RE-ENTRY INTO RENTAL HOUSING. OR, THE TENANT MAY NOT WISH TO COMMIT TO A LONG-TERM FINANCIAL OUTLAY.+

HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE HOS-PSPS FLATS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAMME TO BE LET TO WELL-OFF TENANTS WHO ASPIRED TO BETTER LIVING STANDARDS AND COULD WELL AFFORD HIGHER RENTS.

+RENTS COULD BE CHARGED AT A LEVEL TO RECOVER COSTS, BUT WOULD STILL BE BELOW THE MARKET RENTS.

+IN THIS WAY, GOVERNMENT WILL REDUCE SUBSIDY TO WELL-OFF TENANTS AND DIVERT RESOURCES TO HELPING THOSE WHO ARE IN GREATER NEED. PURCHASERS OF HOS FLATS WHO, BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, CANNOT COMPLETE THE MORTGAGE REPAYMENT COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR SUCH 'EXPENSIVE' RENTAL HOUSING TO HELP THEM TO TIDE OVER THEIR DIFFICULTIES.

+THERE WOULD THEN BE TWO LEVELS OF RENTAL HOUSING, CHARGED AT SUBSIDISED AND COST-RECOVERY RENTS, AND TWO LINES OF HOS FLATS, ONE BEING CHEAPER AND MORE AKIN TO RENTAL HOUSING.

+WITH THIS SCENARIO, THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME WOULD BE MORE COMPREHENSIVE, CATERING FOR LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS.+

MR SIN SAID IT WOULD BE A GOOD POLICY OF THE AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN ITS PROGRAMME SO THAT IT COULD QUICKLY RESPOND TO CHANGES IN THE PROPERTY MARKET.

+IF AT ANY TIME PRIVATE DEVELOPERS ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT FLATS TO CATER FOR THE DEMAND OF HOUSE-OWNERS AT LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME LEVELS, THE AUTHORITY SHOULD HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO CONVERT ITS FLATS FOR SALE INTO FLATS FOR RENTS.+

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UNCERTAINTY PRELUDE TO GREATER PROSPERITY - LIAO

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THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY HONG KONG IS NOW FACING IS ONLY A TEMPORARY PHENOMENON AND THE TERRITORY'S ADVANCEMENT WILL CONTINUE UNABATED TOWARDS EVEN GREATER PROSPERITY AND CONTENTMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID THIS WHEN ADDRESSING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE NINTH EAROPH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS THIS AFTERNOON.

FOR ALL THOSE WHO LIVE HERE AND WHOSE FUTURE IS HERE, MR LIAO SAID, THE UNCERTAINTY IS THE PRELUDE TO AN IMPORTANT MOMENT IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

+IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CHANGES ARE SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED WHICH WILL AFFECT THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO BELONG HERE.

+BUT DESPITE THESE CHANGES LIFE MUST GO ON FOR THIS UNIQUE CITY-STATE, THE FACILITIES AND AMENITIES OF WHICH ARE PLANNED AND PROVIDED, NOT FOR A METROPOLIS BUT RATHER ON THE SCALE OF NATIONAL PROVISION ELSEWHERE.+

MR LIAO SAID HONG KONG, BLESSED WITH AN INDUSTRIOUS WORK FORCE AND BUSINESSMEN OF HIGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ACUMEN, HAD DEVELOPED A SOPHISTICATED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

+AND FREEENTERPRISE HAS ENABLED IT TO BECOME A LEADING MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE AS WELL AS A LEADING TRADING NATION.

+THESE, COUPLED WITH THE SIMPLICITY OF THE TERRITORY'S LAND TENURE SYSTEM, LOW TAXATION AND GOOD PLANNING AND THE PROVISION OF QUALITY FACILITIES SUCH AS HOUSING, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOUND HEALTH, SECURE A CONTENTED COMMUNITY.+

ON LOCAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR LIAO SAID THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH OPERATED ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTATION AND CONCENSUS HAD SERVED THE PEOPLE WELL.

+THIS UNIQUE SYSTEM OF GATHERING THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC HAS ALLOWED TIME AND OPPORTUNITY FOR DEBATE AND DISSENT, BUT IT USUALLY RESULTS IN A POLICY ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY.

+DERIVED FROM THIS IS THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WHICH HONG KONG ENJOYS.+

IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSALS FOR MORE +CITIZEN PARTICIPATION+, HE SAID ITS DESIRE WAS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF STABILITY AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL HONG KONG CITIZENS.

+THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION WILL BE DEVELOPED BUT AT A MEASURED PACE SO THAT THE CITIZEN'S ENJOYMENT OF THEIR PROSPERITY IS UNINTERRUPTED.+

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PHOTO CONTEST ON LIVING CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS HOLDING A PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LIFE STYLE AND IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS OF RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE COMPETITION, WHICH IS ENTITLED '+LIFESTYLE+', IS OPEN TO ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

PRIZES FOR THE CONTEST INCLUDE TWO BRITISH AIRWAYS RETURN TICKETS TO LONDON WITH SEVEN NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND A PHILIPS COMPACT DISC PLAYER FOR THE OVERALL BEST PHOTOGRAPH.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 60 OTHER PRIZES OF VARIOUS PHILIPS PRODUCTS, FOR WINNERS IN THE TWO CATEGORIES OF THE CONTEST - ONE ON 'BUILDING' AND THE OTHER ON 'PEOPLE'.

THE CONTEST IS BEING ORGANISED AS PART OF THE ANCILLARY PUBLICITY FOR A LARGE SCALE EXHIBITION - '+BETTER LIVING IN ESTATES+' - WHICH WILL BE STAGED IN NOVEMBER.

ANNOUNCIIING THE CONTEST, AN AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY: '+THE 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGES IN LIFE STYLES AND LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE NOT ONLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS BUT HAVE ALSO WON FOR HONG KONG A COMMENDABLE REPUTATION OVERSEAS.

+TO HELP MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS IMPORTANT SOCIAL SERVICE, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS ORGANISING AN EXHIBITION TO CLEARLY REFLECT ESTATE RESIDENTS' LIVING STYLES AND STANDARDS TOGETHER WITH THEIR EVER IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE.+'

THE PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE EITHER COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE, ANE EACH PARTICIPANT CAN ENTER UP TO SIX PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS SEPTEMBER 28.

FULL DETAILS AND ENTRY FORMS FOR THE CONTEST ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, THE CORAL PHOTO COMPANY IN MTR STATIONS, AND THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS AT 101, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER AND WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY.

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JOINT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

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MEMBERS OF THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE AND THE AREA COMMITTEE IN WAH FU ARE JOINING SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS TO ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL ELECTORS TO REGISTER.

LED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, AND A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAM KWOK-KWONG, THE 50-STRONG TEAM HAS JUST STARTED ITS 10-DAY VISITING PROGRAMME TO THE WAH FU PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

+WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE ABOUT 16 000 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS FROM THE 25 000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN WAH FU,+ SAID MR CHAN.

+SO FAR, ABOUT HALF OF THE 125 000 POTENTIAL VOTERS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED.

+APART FROM VISITING FAMILIES AND FACTORIES TO PROMOTE THE REGISTRATION DRIVE, WE HAVE ORGANISED SEMINARS AND SLIDE SHOWS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. WE INTEND TO VISIT OVER 40 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEXT MONTH WHEN THE NEW TERM STARTS,+ HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION, THE MONTHLY +MEET-THE-TARGET SEMINAR+, HELD BETWEEN DB MEMBERS AND PEOPLE FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, HAD ENCOURAGED MORE ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO COME FORWARD.

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NEW PUPPETS TO HELP GET MORE VOTERS

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THREE NEW PUPPETS WHO HAVE JUST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES' MOBILE STREET THEATRE WILL MAKE THEIR DEBUT ON TELEVISION TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

TOGETHER WITH THE SIX ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE PUPPET FAMILY, THEY WILL APPEAR IN A SPECIAL EPISODE OF THE RTHK PROGRAMME +HONG KONG TONIGHT+ TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION. THE PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCAST ON ATV'S CHINESE CHANNEL AT 7.30 PM.

THE THREE NEW CHARACTERS - SMART KID, SAI MUI AND DOGGY - REPRESENT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE FAMILY.

/THE SIX

THE SIX OLDER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - BA BI, MA MI, GRANDPA, GRANDMA, MUI TAU AND THE CAT - JUST TURNED SIX LAST MONTH. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR FIGURES TO MANY CHILDREN, THEY HAVE NO INTENTION TO RETIRE FROM THE SCENE. JOINED BY THE NEWCOMERS, THEY WILL EMBARK ON MORE EDUCATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL MISSIONS.

EVER SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1978, THE PUPPET THEATRE HAS PROVED A POPULAR FEATURE OF THE GIS MOBILE UNIT, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNG.

OVER THE YEARS, THE PUPPETS HAVE HELPED TO SPREAD CAMPAIGN MESSAGES TO THE GRASS-ROOTS, RANGING FROM ANTI-NARCOTICS, ROAD SAFETY, CLEAN HONG KONG, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, FIRE PREVENTION AND FIGHT CRIME, TO THE MORE RECENT VOTER REGISTRATION.

A GIS SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY: +AFTER YEARS OF EXPOSURE, THE EFFECT OF THE OLD PUPPETS IS BEGINNING TO WEAR OFF.

+WE DECIDED TO CREATE SOME NEW CHARACTERS TO MAINTAIN AUDIENCE INTEREST AND ENSURE BETTER RETURNS FOR OUR PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS.+

THE FAMILY OF NINE WILL SET OFF ON THEIR TERRITORY-WIDE JOURNEYS NEXT WEEK TO SPREAD INFORMATION AND BRING FUN AND LAUGHTER TO THE PEOPLE.

+IF YOU WANT TO CATCH A FIRST-HAND GLIMPSE OF THE NEW PUPPETS, DON'T MISS THE 'HONG KONG TONIGHT' TV PROGRAMME AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION YOUTHS DO WELL IN EXAMS
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TEN YOUTHS AT THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION WHO HAD DONE WELL IN EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES TODAY.

THEY SAT IN THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS COURSE LEVEL ONE EXAMINATION AS WELL AS THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES EXAMINATION ON INTERMEDIATE BOOKKEEPING LAST YEAR.

AMONG THEM, THEY EARNED 12 DISTINCTIONS, TWO CREDITS AND SIX PASSES.

/THE TEN

THE TEN YOUTHS, SERVING SENTENCES OF THREE TO NINE YEARS, ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 25. THREE OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCHARGED.

MR CHENG CHI-LEUNG, SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, PRESENTED THE CERTIFICATES AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE INSTITUTION.

MR CHENG SAID THAT BOTH COURSES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED AS PART OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO YOUNG OFFENDERS.

MORE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES WERE BEING ORGANISED WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION, HE SAID.

TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY PARENTS AND RELATIVES OF THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES AS WELL AS OFFICERS AND MASTERS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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NEW FEES FOR NT POOLS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN FEES FOR THE RESERVED USE OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE NEW FEES COVER ALL SWIMMING POOL COMPLEXES IN SHA TIN, KWAI CHUNG, YUEN LONG AND NORTH DISTRICT UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE FEES HAVE BEEN REVISED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH THOSE IN THE URBAN AREA WHICH CAME INTO FORCE EARLY THIS YEAR, AN NTSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW CHARGES ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOLS TO HOLD SWIMMING LESSONS FOR 60 PEOPLE DURING SCHOOL HOURS AT A TEACHING POOL, A TRAINING POOL, A CHILDREN'S POOL AND TWO LANES OF A 50-METRE MAIN POOL AT ANY OF THE NT PUBLIC SWIMMING COMPLEXES HAVE BEEN RAISED FROM \$14 TO \$18 PER HOUR.

FEES FOR THE USE OF A TRAINING OR TEACHING POOL FOR A FREE SWIMMING CLASS FOR 50 PEOPLE BY SCHOOLS OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS AND BY REGISTERED WELFARE AGENCIES, SWIMMING AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS ARE NOW \$38 AN HOUR, COMPARED WITH THE OLD RATE OF \$29.

/FEES FOR

FEEES FOR SPECIAL WATER POLO AND CANOE POLO TRAINING FOR 50 PEOPLE DURING THE LAST SESSIONAL BREAK ARE \$190, COMPARED WITH \$144 PREVIOUSLY.

FEEES FOR DIVING AND SWIMMING TRAINING DURING THE LAST SESSIONAL BREAK HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM \$14 TO \$18 AND THOSE FOR SWIMMING AND LIFE-SAVING TRAINING IN A 50-METRE POOL, FROM \$18 TO \$23.

THE HOURLY RATE FOR A FEE-CHARGING SWIMMING CLASS FOR A MAXIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE AT A TRAINING OR TEACHING POOL IS \$165, UP FROM \$126.

CHARGES FOR THE RESERVED USE OF EACH LANE IN A 50-METRE POOL BY SWIMMING ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM \$36 TO \$48 AN HOUR, WHILE SCHOOLS AND REGISTERED WELFARE AGENCIES ARE CHARGED \$32 AN HOUR.

THE NEW FEE FOR HOLDING LIFE-SAVING TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS FOR 25 PEOPLE BY LIFE-SAVING CLUBS AT A RESERVED LANE IS \$38 AN HOUR, COMPARED WITH THE OLD RATE OF \$29.

THERE IS NO INCREASE IN ADMISSION FEES FOR INDIVIDUAL SWIMMERS, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

THE ADMISSION FEE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE AT ALL NT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS REMAINS AT \$2, AND THAT FOR ADULTS AT \$5, HE ADDED.

CHAMPIONS TO PERFORM AT FOLK VARIETY CONCERT

ABOUT 30 CHAMPIONS OF VARIOUS SINGING CONTESTS HELD WITHIN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICTS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WILL PERFORM AT A +FOLK VARIETY CONCERT+ ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 26)

ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION AND THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE CONCERT WILL START AT 8 PM AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF THE HONG KONG CARITAS CENTRE, CAINE ROAD.

BOTH GROUP AND SOLO WINNERS WILL JOIN THE CONCERT.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN YOUTH CHOIR WHICH WILL PERFORM CHORAL PIECES.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS AT THE HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AND ALL OFFICES OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY DIALLING 5-450868.

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RUNNERS TO VIE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP
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ABOUT 200 MEN AND WOMEN, AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 32, WILL TAKE PART IN A 4 000-METRE RUN IN KWUN TONG ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 26) TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF THE MONTH-LONG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE RUNNERS, FROM 20 SCHOOLS AND LOCAL YOUTH CENTRES, WILL VIE FOR THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE JUNIOR AND OPEN DIVISIONS.

THEY WILL START FROM THE TSUI PING ROAD PLAYGROUND, FOLLOW THE BOUNDARY OF THE TSUI PING AREA AND BACK TO THE PLAYGROUND.

THE ACTING KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CLAYMON LAI, AND THE ACTING REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (EAST KOWLOON), MR K.K. CHENG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY ON SUNDAY WHEN WINNERS OF THE DAY WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES.

MORE THAN 500 ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN HELD FOR THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME BEGAN LAST MONTH.

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POT FLOWER GROWING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A SCHOOL CHILDREN POT FLOWER GROWING COMPETITION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNUAL URBAN COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AT THE CITY HALL.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS: ONE FOR URBAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THE OTHER FOR RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

ITS AIM IS TO GIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANTS.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO JOIN THE COMPETITION SHOULD APPLY TO THE INSPECTOR (PRIMARY SCIENCE), SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13.

THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL SUPPLY SEEDS TO THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.

/A SEMINAR

A SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT A LATER DATE WITH TALKS ON +FLOWER GROWING AND THE PRIMARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM+ AND +PLANTING TECHNIQUES+ BY OFFICERS FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THREE POTS OF FLOWERS OF THE SAME SPECIES WILL FORM ONE UNIT AND EACH SCHOOL MAY ONLY PRESENT A MAXIMUM OF THREE UNITS.

PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE BEST THREE ENTRIES FOR EACH SPECIES AS WELL AS TO THE WINNER OF EACH SECTION. AN OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP WILL ALSO BE AWARDED TO THE BEST ENTRY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE COMPETITION CAN BE MADE WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT 5-8392466 OR WITH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 5-95741.

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SITE AND HOUSES FOR SALE
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A SITE IN YUEN LONG AND FOUR HOUSES AT NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE, KOWLOON, ARE BEING OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE 707 SQUARE-METRE SITE IN TAI TONG ROAD, YUEN LONG IS FOR BUILDING A PETROL-FILLING STATION.

THE HOUSES, EACH WITH A SITE AREA OF 56 SQUARE METRES, ARE FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USES WHICH, HOWEVER, EXCLUDE THEIR USE AS GODOWNS, CINEMAS AND REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

A TOTAL OF 18 HOUSES AT NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLD EITHER BY PUBLIC AUCTION OR TENDER.

THE FOUR HOUSES ARE THE LAST BATCH TO BE PUT UP FOR SALE.

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS SEPTEMBER 21.

THE TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- * LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON), YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

THE TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THESE PLACES.

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AMENDMENTS TO TUEN MUN PLAN ANNOUNCED

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TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE FIRST AMENDMENT INVOLVES REZONING 4.4 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND TO THE SOUTH OF TAI HING ESTATE AS A COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA.

THE SITE IS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY A COTTON MILL. THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD BEFORE ANY REDEVELOPMENT WORK CAN TAKE PLACE.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT CONCERNS REZONING A 1.9-HECTARE INDUSTRIAL SITE, ALSO TO THE SOUTH OF TAI HING ESTATE, FOR RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A) DEVELOPMENT.

HIGHER DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH COMMERCIAL FACILITIES WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE LOWER THREE FLOORS.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICES, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG;
- * TOWN PLANNING DIVISION, LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND
- * TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, 201 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, AND THE MAP SALE SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD AT \$10 PER UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$60 PER COLOURED COPY.

OBJECTIONS IN WRITING MUST REACH THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BY SEPTEMBER 7.

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MORE SAFETY ON ROADS

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A NEW FOOTBRIDGE IS TO BE BUILT ACROSS KING'S ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN CHIU STREET, NORTH POINT.

IT IS ONE OF THE FOOTBRIDGES WHICH WILL PROVIDE GREATER TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN THE NORTH POINT AND QUARRY BAY AREAS.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE EXTENDING AN EXISTING TRAM ISLAND.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL IS PUBLISHED UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A RELATED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN LOBBY, HONG KONG= THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG NORTH, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG= AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 884-886 KING'S ROAD, HONG KONG.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY OCTOBER 23.

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TRAFFIC MEASURES IN SHAU KEI WAN

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHAU KEI WAN ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 26) FROM 1 AM TO 7 AM FOR WORK ON A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS SHAU KEI WAN ROAD NEAR TAI KOO SHING ROAD.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN TAI KOO SHING ROAD AND TAI CHEONG STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE SAME ROAD SECTION WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO WAYS.
- * MORNING TRAM SERVICES IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL NOT START UNTIL AFTER 7 AM.

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