DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONFIDENCE IN DISTRICT BOARD CONTRIBUTION
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES TODAY (SATURDAY) EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BY WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER WITH THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES WILL MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIVES OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

PRESIDING AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BOARD HAD A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TASK.

HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THAT THE WAN CHAI OF TODAY WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAN CHAI PLANNED VERY MANY YEARS AGO FOR LOW RISE BUILDING AND A SMALL POPULATION.

+NOW WITH ALMOST THREE QUARTERS OF THE OLD BUILDINGS DEVELOPED TO OVER 15 STOREYS AND WITH ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE CONCENTRATED IN A SMALL AREA, STRESSES ON RESIDENTS AND DEMANDS FOR FACILITIES ARE EXTREMELY SEVERE,+ HE SAID.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THE PART WHICH THE BOARD SHOULD PLAY.

MR AKERS-JONES THEN WENT ON TO SUGGEST SOME PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THE BOARD TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY BUILDING, TOWN PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AND OTHER FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

ON COMMUNITY BUILDING, HE SAID THE BOARD SHOULD EXAMINE THE WHOLE REALM OF THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN THE DISTRICT AND THEN TO RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS SINCE SOME ORGANISATIONS MIGHT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS, SOME MIGHT NEED TO CHANGE AND EXPAND THEIR ACTIVITIES AND THERE MIGHT BE A NEED FOR NEW ORGANISATIONS.

AS REGARDS TOWN PLANNING, HE ADVISED THE MEMBERS TO INVITE GOVERNMENT PLANNERS TO EXPLAIN TO THEM HOW THE PRESENT PLAN WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR OWN IDEAS TO THE PROCESS OF MAKING GOOD DEFICIENCIES.

IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE MANY EXISTING FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT ARE USED TO CAPACITY BY DAY AND NIGHT, HE SAID. THIS REQUIRES A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE LINKS WITH EXISTING BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, HE ADDED.

THE 12 UNOFFICIALS APPOINTED ARE : MR CHAM SIU-LEUN, MR CHENG HOK-YIN, MR CHU WING-KEE, MR HO FOOK-CHU, MR HO YUK-WING, MR LEE KON, MR LEE WAN-YUEN, MR LO WAI-MAN, MR NG SAI-YING, MISS NG SUI-HING, MRS WAN LEE TSZ-HUEN AND MR YAN KOW. TWO URBAN COUNCILLORS, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND MR F.K. HU ALSO SIT ON THE BOARD.

THEY WILL SERVE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 1982.

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MORE FAMILIES WILL BENEFIT FROM FEE AID SCHEME

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THE NEW FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES IS DESIGNED TO ENABLE MORE FAMILIES TO BENEFIT FROM LOW-COST DAY NURSERY SERVICES AND, IF NECESSARY, TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO PAY THE FEES CHARGED BY NURSERIES.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF THE ON NING DAY NURSERY OF THE TSUNG TSIN MISSION AT SHUN LEE ESTATE.

+THE ASSISTANCE,+ HE SAID, +WILL BE PAID ON A SLIDING SCALE, THE EFFECT OF WHICH WILL BE THAT PARENTS WHO ARE PRESENTLY ELIGIBLE TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES WILL NOT, UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, HAVE TO PAY MORE THAN THEY WOULD UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.+

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SLIDING SCALE WILL ENABLE BETTER OFF FAMILIES TO ALSO RECEIVE SOME ASSISTANCE WITH DAY NURSERY FEES.

MR ALLEYNE SAID FEE ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO WISHED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO KINDERGARTENS.

THUS, THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS REFLECTED +A MUCH MORE CONSISTENT APPROACH, ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY CARE AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN.+

IN DUE COURSE, THE DIRECTOR SAID, IT WAS INTENDED THAT DAY NURSERIES WOULD PROVIDE SERVICES TO TWO AND THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ONLY, WHILE FOUR AND FIVE-YEAR-OLDS WOULD ATTEND KINDERGARTENS, SOME OF WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FULL DAY CARE FOR THOSE WHO NEEDED IT.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT +THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO BAR THE ADMISSION OF FOUR AND FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN TO DAY NURSERIES UNTIL IT IS SATISFIED THAT SUFFICIENT PLACES EXIST IN FULL DAY KINDERGARTENS TO MEET THE NEED FOR FULL DAY CARE FOR THIS AGE GROUP.+

MR ALLEYNE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE EXPANSION OF DAY NURSERY SERVICES TO MEET THE FULL DEMAND FROM PARENTS WHO HAD A NEED TO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN IN FULL DAY CARE.

AT PRESENT, ENTRY TO SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES IS LIMITED TO THE CHILDREN OF FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME IS NO MORE THAN 30 PER CENT IN EXCESS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL (ROUGHLY $1 800 A MONTH FOR A FOUR-MEMBER FAMILY).

/+THIS STRICT .....

+THIS STRICT INCOME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA,+ HE SAID, +MEANS THAT MANY FAMILIES WHO NEED TO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN IN DAY NURSERIES ARE EXCLUDED FROM SUBVENTED DAY CARE CENTRES BUT ARE, NEVERTHELESS, UNABLE TO PAY THE MUCH HIGHER FEES CHARGED BY PRIVATE CENTRES.+

MR ALLEYNE NOTED THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FELT SOME CONCERN AT THE EFFECT OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ON THEIR OPERATIONS.

HE ASSURED ALL AGENCIES NOW RUNNING SUBVENTED DAY NURSERIES THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO ENSURE THAT THE TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT SUBVENTION SYSTEM TO THE NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.

+WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES,+ HE WENT ON, +I AM SURE THAT WE CAN EMBARK ON THIS NEW PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT OF DAY NURSERY SERVICES WITH THE MINIMUM OF PROBLEMS ON ALL SIDES.+

HE HOPED THAT AGENCIES OR OPERATORS WOULD FEEL FREE TO APPROACH STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY QUERIES OR POINTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY FURTHER.

THE ON NING DAY NURSERY, OPENED TODAY, IS THE FOURTH TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TSUNG TSIN MISSION, PROVIDING MORE THAN 160 PLACES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AT SHUN LEE ESTATE.

IT HAS BEEN FITTED OUT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF AN OVERSEAS DONATION OF $200 000 AND A GRANT OF $500 000 FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN WING LOK STREET

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A SECTION OF WING LOK STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND RUMSEY STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 22).

ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS WITHIN THE CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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FURTHER TALKS ON FRENCH TRADE RESTRICTIONS

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A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS REGARDING THE RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED BY FRANCE ON IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG IS LIKELY TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG IN MID-APRIL.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRADE, MR LAWRENCE MILLS, ON HIS RETURN TO HONG KONG FROM EUROPE.

+WE HELD TWO ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFFS AND TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND FRENCH OFFICIALS IN GENEVA AND PARIS,+ HE SAID.

+AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO LIFT THE QUOTA ENTIRELY ON ONE SMALL ITEM (SOYA SPROUTS), AND TO USE THE QUOTA SYSTEM ON FOUR OTHER GROUPS OF PRODUCTS - PARTS FOR TOYS, PLEASURE BOATS, OPTICAL MICROSCOPES AND SPARE PARTS FOR RADIO RECEIVERS - SOLELY FOR SURVEILLANCE PURPOSES. IN OTHER WORDS, IMPORT LICENCES WILL BE FREELY ISSUED FOR THESE PRODUCTS. THE QUOTAS ON SOME KNITWEAR HAVE BEEN DOUBLED AND THOSE ON CERTAIN OTHER CLOTHING INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT. THE GARMENTS CONCERNED IN EACH CASE ARE MADE OF MATERIALS NOT COVERED BY THE MFA. THIS SHOULD PROVIDE SOME ALLEVIATION FOR OUR SILK GARMENT INDUSTRY,+ MR MILLS SAID.

+HOWEVER, ON WHAT WE MIGHT CALL THE HARD CORE ITEMS, CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES REMAIN AND WE SHALL HAVE TO CONSIDER THESE FURTHER. NONETHELESS, THE FRENCH HAVE INCREASED THE QUOTA FOR RADIOS BY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT TO 180 000 PIECES WHILST THE QUOTA FOR TOYS HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM THE PUBLISHED FIGURE OF 15 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS TO 22 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS,+ MR MILLS SAID.

+AS WE ANTICIPATED, THE MOST DIFFICULT AREA WAS QUARTZ WATCHES. THE FRENCH WERE NOT ABLE TO CHANGE OR REMOVE THE QUOTA AT THIS STAGE BUT WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION FURTHER. WE HAVE AGREED TO DO THIS,+ MR MILLS ADDED.

+HONG KONG'S OBJECTIVE IN THESE TALKS WAS TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG ALTOGETHER,+ MR MILLS SAID. +WE DID NOT SUCCEED, BUT THE FRENCH HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THIS LEADS US TO THINK THAT A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BE USEFUL. WE HAVE THEREFORE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED A FURTHER ROUND OF ARTICLE XXIII CONSULTATIONS FOR MID-APRIL IN HONG KONG.+

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LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE OPENS

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IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES THERE IS AN INCREASING NEED FOR BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO RECOGNISE THEIR MUTUAL DEPENDENCE AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR J.N. HENDERSON, THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING AT THE OPENING OF A LABOUR RELATIONS CONFERENCE HELD BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT THE HOLIDAY INN HOTEL.

THE CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY ABOUT 250 PEOPLE, WAS ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF A YEAR-LONG LABOUR AND STAFF RELATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT STARTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. ANOTHER FUNCTION OF THE PROJECT WAS A SERIES OF FIVE LABOUR RELATIONS WORKSHOPS FOR EMPLOYEES.

MR HENDERSON REMINDED THE 250 PEOPLE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE THAT THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS WAS TO HELP BRING ABOUT INDUSTRIAL PEACE AND SOCIAL STABILITY, AND IT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BY HARMONIOUS ACCORD RATHER THAN BY ARID DIVERSIVENESS.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WHILST CONTINUING TO WORK FOR RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH, EFFORTS MUST ALSO BE MADE TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

MR HENDERSON THEN LISTED SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT WOULD HELP ACHIEVE THESE +TWIN OBJECTIVES+.

HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR GREATER PROFITS AND WORKERS FOR INCREASING WAGES.

BUT BEYOND PROFITS FOR THE EMPLOYERS, HE POINTED OUT, THERE WERE ALWAYS THE WIDER DIMENSIONS OF THE WORK FORCE'S SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE COMMUNITY'S WELL-BEING AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

AND BEYOND INCREASING WAGES AND IMPROVING TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EMPLOYEES, THERE WAS A GROWING NEED TO IMPROVE QUALITY BOTH IN THE PRODUCT ITSELF AND IN THE WORKING SITUATION, TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND TO ENDEAVOUR, WITH THE EMPLOYERS, TO MEET DEADLINES AND OTHER BUSINESS COMMITMENTS.

+IN OTHER WORDS,+ HE SAID, +IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL PRESSURES AND ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES THERE IS AN INCREASING NEED FOR BOTH SIDES OF INDUSTRY TO RECOGNISE THEIR MUTUAL DEPENDENCE AND THE COVERGENCE OF THEIR INTERESTS AND TO OVERCOME SUCH DIFFICULTIES BY WORKING TOGETHER.+

IN THIS CONNECTION, MR HENDERSON EXTENDED A PLEA TO A MINORITY OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAD LATELY BEEN RATHER VOCAL IN THEIR CONCERN ABOUT SOME ITEMS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION.

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IN HONG KONG, HE SAID, THERE WAS A NEED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE POPULATION TO AVOID LOP-SIDED DEVELOPMENT. IT WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE STEADY GROWTH, INDUSTRIAL PEACE AND THE PROSPERITY THAT THE ECONOMY NEEDED TO ENABLE THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO BE IMPROVED.

ON ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICY OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE WORKFORCE, BUT WOULD CONTINUE ALSO TO AVOID CUMBERSOME REGULATIONS AND UNDUE INTERFERENCE IN LABOUR MATTERS.

+THIS POLICY HAS STOOD US IN GOOD STEAD IN THE PAST AND I AM SURE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE,+ MR HENDERSON NOTED.

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE, THE CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR RELATIONS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR DONALD CHAN, TRACED THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LABOUR RELATIONS SCENE FROM THE 1950'S TO THE 1970'S, OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLES IN PROMOTING HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS AND SPOKE OF SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT WOULD AFFECT LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LABOUR RELATIONS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN QUIET, PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS, A RECORD THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED COULD BE PROUD OF.

TURNING TO THE FUTURE, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICY OF KEEPING LABOUR STANDARDS COMPARABLE TO THE BEST OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

THE LEGISLATIVE THRUST WOULD BE IN THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, ASSESSING INJURIES AND PROCESSING COMPENSATION CLAIMS, AND SICKNESS AND DEATH BENEFITS.

MR CHAN'S SUGGESTION TO EMPLOYERS IN THE CHANGING TRENDS OF LABOUR RELATIONS WAS SIMPLY +BEING WILLING TO TRY NEW PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT DEVICES+ AND +CONSULT YOUR STAFF MORE+.

HE TOLD THE MEETING : +IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STAFF OF YOUR INDUSTRY AND YOUR ORGANISATION AND THEN FIND THE RIGHT MIX OF APPROACH TO LABOUR RELATIONS. YOU MUST ENSURE THAT YOUR ATTITUDES AND STRUCTURAL RESPONSES ARE FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE TO MEET THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.+

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TOUR
POK FU LAM VILLAGE AND WAH FU ESTATE
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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD TOURED POK FU LAM VILLAGE AND WAH FU ESTATE THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING TO SEE SOME OF THE LATEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT, MR K.C. KWONG AND THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LOLLY CHIU, THE GROUP WAS FIRST MET BY OFFICE BEARERS OF THE POK FU LAM VILLAGE KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

THE GROUP TOOK AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE VILLAGE FROM THE ROOF-TOP OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BUILDING AND WAS SHOWN A SITE DESIGNATED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A SITTING-OUT AREA.

THE WHOLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE SDB, COSTS MORE THAN $44 000 AND IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THE BOARD MEMBERS THEN INSPECTED A NEW FLUSH TOILET, WHICH IS ONE OF THREE BEING INSTALLED IN THE VILLAGE TO REPLACE THE OLD STYLE DRY PUBLIC LATRINES.

NEXT THEY STOPPED AT CLAYMORE AVENUE TO LOOK OVER A BOX CULVERT THERE.

THE BOARD MEMBERS ALSO INSPECTED THE RESURFACING WORK OF THE MAIN FOOTPATH WHICH LEADS TO THE VILLAGE AND THE SURFACING OF AN AREA OUTSIDE AN EXISTING FIBRE-GLASS TOILET.

THE TWO PROJECTS ARE BEING FUNDED BY THE SDB AND COST ABOUT $19 000 IN ALL.

THE GROUP THEN PROCEEDED TO WAH FU ESTATE AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE ESTATE'S HOUSING MANAGER ON THE SPOT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS.

THIS INCLUDED A LARGE-SCALE ELECTRICITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO INCREASE LOADING CAPACITY IN MARCH THIS YEAR. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT ABOUT HALF THE RESIDENTS IN THE ESTATE WOULD BE ABLE TO INSTALL THEIR OWN AIR-CONDITIONERS.

THE BOARD MEMBERS ALSO LEARNT THAT A NEW SUB-OFFICE OF THE SOUTHERN CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE OPENED IN THE AREA BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE MORE SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS.

THE BOARD MEMBERS THEN VISITED A FAMILY LIVING IN THE ESTATE AND STAYED THERE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES.

THEIR LAST STOP WAS AT THE WAH FU ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO VISIT OFFICIALS OF THE ASSOCIATION. THE ASSOCIATION HAS IN THE PAST CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO COMMUNITY WORK IN ORGANISING VARIOUS CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN WAH FU ESTATE.

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FINALISTS FOR FIGHT YOUTH CRIME DRAMA COMPETITION SELECTED

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DRAMA TEAMS FROM HO LAP COLLEGE, MU KUANG ENGLISH SCHOOL AND BUDDHIST SIN TAK COLLEGE HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO ENTER THE GRAND FINAL OF THE FIGHT YOUTH CRIME DRAMA COMPETITION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 13, 1982 AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE TSUEN WAN PUBLIC HO CHUEN YIU MEMORIAL COLLEGE WHERE THE LAST OF THE THREE SEMI-FINAL SESSIONS WAS HELD.

TWO SEMI-FINALS HAD BEEN HELD AT THE SCHOOL HALLS OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL EARLIER THIS MONTH.

THE COMPETITION IS ONE OF THE MAJOR FUNCTIONS ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES FOR THE FIGHT YOUTH CRIME CAMPAIGN 1981/82. IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH SUCH HEALTHY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES, THE +FIGHT CRIME+ MESSAGE COULD BE PUT ACROSS EFFECTIVELY TO YOUNGSTERS IN HONG KONG.

+THE STANDARD OF THE 15 TEAMS COMPETING AT THE SEMI-FINALS IS, ON THE AVERAGE, VERY HIGH AND THE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO SHOW THEIR CREATIVITY AND TEAM SPIRIT IN THEIR STAGE PERFORMANCES,+ SAID MR JAMES MARK, ADVISER AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADJUDICATING PANEL.

+THE PLAYS, THOUGH PRESENTED IN DIFFERENT FORMATS, ARE ABLE TO DEPICT THE YOUTH CRIME PROBLEM AND PUT ACROSS THE +FIGHT CRIME+ MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE,+ HE ADDED.

CASH PRIZES OF $3 000, $2 000 AND $1 000, DONATED BY THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LTD., ARE TO BE AWARDED TO WINNERS AT THE GRAND FINAL OF THE COMPETITION. THE THIRD AND FOURTH RUNNERS-UP WILL EACH RECEIVE A CONSOLATION PRIZE OF $500.

THE GRAND FINAL IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 400, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE 52 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH INITIALLY ENTERED THIS DRAMA COMPETITION.

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VISIT OF ESCAP CHIEF SECRETARY

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THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP), MR SHAH A. M. SHAMSUL KIBRIA WILL BE VISITING HONG KONG EARLY NEXT WEEK ON THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MR KIBRIA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION, MR ENAM A. CHAUDHURY AND CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ESCAP INFORMATION SERVICE, MR HSU SHIH-CHING.

THEY WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG FROM SHANGHAI ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 22) MORNING FOLLOWING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA, AND WILL LEAVE ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

MR KIBRIA'S ITINERARY IN HONG KONG INCLUDES A COURTESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE AND A VISIT TO TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN NEW TOWNS.

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NEW LEASE OF LIFE GIVEN TO TWO BEACHES

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THIRTY PRIMARY STUDENTS TODAY (SATURDAY) SPENT THEIR HOLIDAY CLEANING UP TWO POPULAR BEACHES ON MA WAN ISLAND -- SHA LAU TONG ON THE EAST COAST AND TUNG WAN BEACH.

LED BY FOUR TEACHERS, THE PUBLIC-SPIRITED YOUNGSTERS WHO CAME FROM MA WAN FONG YUEN SCHOOL, STARTED WITH SHA LAU TONG BEACH BEFORE PROCEEDING TO TUNG WAN BEACH.

THEY SPENT THE WHOLE DAY CLEARING UP THE REFUSE LEFT BEHIND BY HOLIDAY MAKERS.

THE CHILDREN'S EFFORT WAS PART OF THE STUDENTS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CURRENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

DURING THE EXERCISE THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROVIDED BACK-UP SERVICES.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE CLEAN-UP WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR JOHN TELFORD, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SOUTH REGION), MR JAMES WILSON, THE CHAIRMAN OF MA WAN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR CHAN KWONG-CHUEN, AND THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF TSUEN WAN, MR LI TIN-MING.

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NT BADMINTON LEAGUE WINNERS RECEIVE CUPS

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CUPS TO WINNERS OF THE FIRST NEW TERRITORIES INTER-DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE WERE PRESENTED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, AND MRS MACPHERSON.

THE WINNERS OF THE MEN'S TITLE WERE THE TSUEN WAN TEAM WHICH WON ALL 10 MATCHES PLAYED.

THE WOMEN'S TITLE WENT TO TAI PO, WHICH LOST ONLY ONE OF ITS 10 MATCHES.

THE RUNNERS-UP IN BOTH SECTIONS WERE TEAMS FROM SHA TIN AND YUEN LONG.

THE LEAGUE, WHICH INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 120 PLAYERS FROM SIX OF THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS, WAS LAUNCHED LAST OCTOBER.

BADMINTON IS ONE OF SEVERAL SPORTS LEAGUES PROMOTED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES INTER-DISTRICT SPORTS COMPETITION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

THE FAST-GROWING GAME OF SQUASH IS THE LATEST LEAGUE THE COMMITTEE IS PROMOTING.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S PRESENTATION WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR DAVID CHIU YIM-SHUN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR STEPHEN WONG.

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KOWLOON MAXICAB ROUTE 12 TO IMPROVE SERVICE

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KOWLOON PLB MAXICAB SERVICE NO. 12 WILL HAVE MORE FREQUENT SERVICES FROM MONDAY (FEBRUARY 22).

THE ROUTE, FROM PAK TIN TO TAI TUNG SUN CHUEN, WILL OPERATE AT 7 OR 8 MINUTE FREQUENCIES DURING PEAK PERIODS AND EVERY 15 TO 20 MINUTES DURING OFF PEAK HOURS.

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