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SEVENTY-FIVE BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN NOVEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED 75 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANS APPROVED FOR THE 11-MONTH PERIOD OF THE YEAR TO 614.

APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENCE DEVELOPMENTS AGAIN TOPPED THE LIST WITH A TOTAL OF 41 PLANS. THE SECOND HIGHEST WENT TO FACTORY/WORKSHOP/INDUSTRIAL AND GODOWN DEVELOPMENTS WITH A TOTAL OF 16 PLANS. THESE INCLUDED TWO FACTORIES AT THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

OF THE PLANS APPROVED, 23 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 40 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 60 PROJECTS. THE FLOOR AREA OF THESE PROJECTS TOTALLED 444,673.6 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 321,396.9 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND THE REMAINDER FOR NON-DOMESTIC USES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS $1,072 MILLION.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 45 OCCUPATION PERMITS, OF WHICH 13 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 10 IN KOWLOON AND 22 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE ISSUED 40 DEMOLITION ORDERS AFFECTING 83 BUILDINGS.

DURING THE MONTH, THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 486 COMPLAINTS REGARDING ILLEGAL BUILDINGS AND ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 617 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 83 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 414 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED FOUR EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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RUNNERS FROM CHINA WIN THE MARATHON

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DISTANCE RUNNER CAI SHANG-YAN FROM CHINA WITH A PERSONAL TIME OF 2.23.07 WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE OPEN MEN DIVISION OF THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON HELD ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE 1ST RUNNER-UP OF THE OPEN MEN DIVISION WAS HUGH JONES (ENGLAND) WITH A PERSONAL TIME OF 2.23.55 AND THE 2ND RUNNER-UP KEVIN RYAN (NEW ZEALAND) WITH 2.24.52.

THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

LI XIN-XIA AND XIAO HONG-YAN, BOTH FROM CHINA, BECAME THE WINNER AND 1ST RUNNER-UP OF THE OPEN WOMEN DIVISION WITH PERSONAL TIMES OF 2.41.31 AND 2.42.36 RESPECTIVELY.

THE HONG KONG RUNNER VERONICA THRESH WAS THE 2ND RUNNER-UP WITH A PERSONAL TIME OF 3.14.14.

SINGAPOREAN ATHLETES DEREK YZELMAN, LAI PAK-LOK AND TANG SEE-CHONG TOPPED THE LIST OF THE WHEELCHAIR MEN DIVISION WITH PERSONAL TIMES OF 2.48.34, 2.50.25 AND 2.55.29 RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WHEELCHAIR WOMEN DIVISION WENT TO ONE OF THE TOP SEEDS OF THIS DIVISION, MAEDA ITSUKO FROM JAPAN, WITH A PERSONAL TIME OF 3.36.39. THE 1ST AND 2ND RUNNERS-UP WERE PATRICIA HILL (NEW ZEALAND) AND CHAN KAM-TIN (HONG KONG) WITH THE PERSONAL TIMES OF 3.38.36 AND 3.50.24 RESPECTIVELY.

THE RACE RECEIVED AN OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS RUNNERS WITH A TOTAL OF 970 COMPETITORS FROM 19 COUNTRIES AND AREAS. THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY, OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

COMPETITORS WERE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE FOUR LAPS OF A SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND SHAU KEI WAN COVERING A DISTANCE OF 42.195 KILOMETRES WHICH IS THE STANDARD LENGTH OF THE MODERN MARATHON.

BESIDES PROMOTING AN ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE BY BECOMING "ANTI-DRUG RUNNERS", COMPETITORS ALSO RAISED MONEY FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE.

THE EVENT, THE ELEVENTH IN THE SERIES, WAS SPONSORED BY CATHAY PACIFIC, NEW BALANCE, DEL MONTE, WATSON'S DISTILLED WATER AND INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.

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CS PAYS TRIBUTE TO YOUNG MUSICIANS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE PRESENTED A CONCERT BY MORE THAN 1,000 YOUNG MUSICIANS AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE ANNUAL TRAINEES' GALA IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE TO PROVIDE ITS TRAINEES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, AND LADY FORD OFFICIATED AT THE GALA AND PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE OFFICE'S OUTSTANDING TRAINEES, ORCHESTRAL, CHOIR AND BAND MEMBERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

ADDRESSING A CAPACITY AUDIENCE, SIR DAVID SAID : "I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON ON THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION - SPECIAL TO THE YOUNG TRAINEES BECAUSE ON THIS OCCASION THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE GIVEN DUE RECOGNITION; AND SPECIAL TO THE MUSIC OFFICE BECAUSE THE CONCERT IS THE GRAND FINALE TO A SERIES OF MUSIC EVENTS HELD TO CELEBRATE ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY."

SIR DAVID SAID SOME PEOPLE REGARDED LEARNING MUSIC AS A PRODUCTIVE USE OF THEIR FREE TIME AND BETTER THAN SITTING PASSIVELY WATCHING TELEVISION.

"LEARNING TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AND TO MAKE PROGRESS ALSO HELPS A PERSON TO ACQUIRE A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND APPRECIATION OF THE VALUE OF HARD WORK. THIS SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT IS A VITAL FACTOR IN DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF ANY CHILD," HE SAID.

"THROUGH REGULAR PRACTICE, A PERSON ALSO LEARNS SELF-DISCIPLINE AND THEREBY HOW TO APPLY SELF-MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN OTHER SPHERES OF ACTIVITIES. PRACTISING ALSO ENHANCES ONE'S POWERS OF CONCENTRATION."

REFERRING TO MUSIC AS AN UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE ABILITY TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT ALSO HELPS ONE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH SIMILAR INTERSTS, BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

"IT ALSO TEACHES HOW TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHERS WHILE PLAYING IN ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRAS.

"THE ABILITY TO PLAY MUSIC AND TO APPRECIATE MUSIC CONTRIBUTES TO THE BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF A PERSON. IT IS ALSO A LIFE-LONG SOURCE OF PLEASURE AND ENRICHMENT OF LEISURE TIME."

EARLIER, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MISS LOLLY CHIU, SAID THE CONCERT MARKED YET ANOTHER MEANINGFUL YEAR OF THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

/SHE SAID : .....

SHE SAID : "IN THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY IN CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OFFICE'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL ACTIVITIES IN RUNNING INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR OVER 4,000 TRAINEES AND ORGANISING COMMUNITY CONCERTS, WE HAD THE CHINESE MUSIC WEEK IN NOVEMBER, STRING MUSIC WEEK IN DECEMBER, A BAND WEEK AROUND CHRISTMAS AND THE YOUNG MUSICIANS' DEBUT WAS A DELIGHTFUL SUCCESS.

"WE WERE ALSO VERY ACTIVE IN OUR MUSIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES. OUR YOUTH SYMPHONY ORHESTRA COMPLETED A TOUR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN AUGUST, AND WE ALSO RECEIVED HERE GREAT MUSICIANS AND GROUPS FROM CHINA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES."

MISS CHIU GAVE A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT.

THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR A.K. CHUI, AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR CLIVE OXLEY, ALSO ATTENDED THE GALA.

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ANTI-RABIES INOCULATION DRIVE IN FISHING PORTS

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A SPECIAL INOCULATION DRIVE WILL BE MOUNTED IN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS FOR FISHERMEN WHO WANT TO GET THEIR DOGS IMMUNISED AGAINST RABIES.

ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR SINCE 1983, THE DRIVE IS SPECIALLY TIMED TO SUIT THE CONVENIENCE OF FISHERMEN AS MOST OF THEM WILL BE BACK FROM THEIR FISHING TRIPS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

IT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF BOAT-TO-BOAT VISITS AND WILL LAST FOR NINE WORKING DAYS BETWEEN TOMORROW (MONDAY) AND FEBRUARY 10, FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM DAILY.

THE DEPARTMENT'S MOBILE INOCULATION TEAMS WILL FIRST VISIT THE FISHING PORTS OF ABERDEEN AND SHAU KEI WAN ON JANUARY 25 AND 26. THEY WILL THEN VISIT CHEUNG CHAU ON FEBRUARY 2 AND 3 AND SHAM MUN TSAI ON FEBRUARY 4 AND 5 RESPECTIVELY.

THE TEAMS WILL CALL ON TAI MEI TUK ON FEBRUARY 8, CASTLE PEAK BAY AND SAI KUNG ON FEBRUARY 8 AND 9, AND FINALLY SHA TAU KOK ON FEBRUARY 9 AND 10.

/THE DEPARTMENT'S .....

THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER, DR NORMAN CHENG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE DRIVE IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS IN PREVENTING THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE DEADLY DISEASE INTO HONG KONG.

"DOGS ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS ARE VULNERABLE TO RABIES BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR BEING IN CONTACT WITH OTHER ANIMALS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THEY ARE INOCULATED AGAINST THE DISEASE EVERY THREE YEARS TO KEEP UP THEIR IMMUNITY," DR CHENG SAID.

HE URGED THE FISHERMEN TO MAKE USE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICE TO HAVE THEIR DOGS INOCULATED AND LICENSED.

"THE LAW REQUIRES ALL DOGS OVER FIVE MONTHS' OLD TO BE LICENSED AND INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RENDER THE OWNER LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $5,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," DR CHENG SAID.

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YEAR OF DRAGON SPECIAL STAMPS TO BE ISSUED

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A SET OF FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS FEATURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE DRAGON AND A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING THE STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 27), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE STAMPS ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, $1.30, $1.70 AND $5, WHILE THE SOUVENIR SHEET IS AT $8.5 EACH.

AS ALL POST OFFICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS ON THAT DAY, ADDITIONAL COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, AND POST OFFICES AT BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HENNESSY ROAD, KING'S ROAD, MORRISON HILL, QUEEN'S ROAD AND SHEUNG WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

ADDITIONAL COUNTERS WILL ALSO BE SET UP AT POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. THEY ARE IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, GILLIES AVENUE, KOWLOON CENTRAL, KOWLOON CITY, KWUN TONG, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, TSIM SHA TSUI AND TSUEN WING STREET.

EXTRA STAFF WOULD BE ON DUTY AT MOST POST OFFICES ON THAT DAY BUT QUEUES WERE NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO FORM, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SHOW TOLERANCE AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO TRANSACT THEIR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS ON OTHER WORKING DAYS," HE ADDED.

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BEAUTY QUEEN TO GIVE OUT LUCKY NUMBER PLATE

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MISS HONG KONG, MISS PAULINE YEUNG, WILL BE THE HONORARY AUCTIONEER FOR A VERY SPECIAL CAR NUMBER - 8 - AT A VEHICLE NUMBER AUCTION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY).

THE AUCTION OF "LUCKY" VEHICLE NUMBERS, SPECIALLY ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF TVB, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SECURED THE AGREEMENT OF MISS YEUNG TO BE THE HONORARY AUCTIONEER FOR THE REGISTRATION NUMBER "8", CONSIDERED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE IN GENERAL AS A LUCKY NUMBER MEANING "PROSPERITY".

PUTTING THIS SPECIAL AUSPICIOUS NUMBER FOR AUCTION NEAR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTED THAT BIDDING WILL BE BRISK FROM THE FIRST CALL.

APART FROM THE NUMBER "8", ANOTHER 18 SPECIALLY SELECTED "LUCKY" NUMBERS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL GO TO THE LOTTERIES FUND WHICH IS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

MISS YEUNG WILL PRESENT THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER FOR NUMBER "8" WITH THE NUMBER PLATE BEARING THE SPECIAL NUMBER.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, WILL PRESENT A SOUVENIR TO MISS YEUNG IN APPRECIATION OF HER PARTICIPATION IN THE CHARITABLE CAUSE.

THIS WILL BE THE 121ST AUCTION HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED DURING THE PAST 120 AUCTIONS IS NEARLY $50 MILLION, WITH THE REGISTRATION NUMBER "3" FETCHING THE HIGHEST PRICE OF $1,030,000.

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PRIVATE SECTOR URGED TO CLEAN SURROUNDING AREAS

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THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS TODAY (SUNDAY) URGED TO SUPPORT THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN BY "ADOPTING" THE SURROUNDING PUBLIC PLACES OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS IN KEEPING THEM CLEAN.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE, MR WALTER SULKE, AT A CLEANSING OPERATION CARRIED OUT AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S HANKOW OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRE.

MR SULKE EXPLAINED THAT BY "ADOPTING" THE SURROUNDING PUBLIC PLACES, IT MEANT THAT A CORPORATION OR AN ORGANISATION WOULD TAKE UP BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBLITY FOR CLEANSING THESE AREAS.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS LED BY MR SULKE AND THE DIRECTOR OF BETTING OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, MR WARREN WILSON. THEY JOINED HANDS WITH OTHER STAFF OF THE JOCKEY CLUB TO CLEAN UP THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE CENTRE.

"IT IS GOOD TO SEE THE ENTHUSIASM AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE JOCKEY CLUB IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, AND I HOPE THAT TODAY'S OPERATION WILL ENCOURAGE PUNTERS, HOWEVER UNLUCKY THEY MAY BE, TO THROW THEIR LOSING TICKETS INTO THE BIN AND NOT TO LITTER THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE BETTING CENTRES," MR SULKE SAID.

"WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE IN THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS TO HAVE A FAR GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL FIRMS, TO MOTIVATE THEM TO KEEP THE SURROUNDINGS OF THEIR PREMISES AND SHOPS CLEAN, AND TODAY THE JOCKEY CLUB IS GIVING AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE AS TO HOW THIS CAN BE DONE," HE ADDED.

MR SULKE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK A NUMBER OF CORPORATIONS WHICH HAD ALREADY RESPONDED FAVOURABLY TO HIS APPEAL BY ORGANISING VARIOUS "PITCH IN" ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

THESE CORPORATIONS WERE FROM THE OIL INDUSTRY, SUPERMARKET AND RETAIL BUSINESSES, PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATIONS, AND SO ON.

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'PAINT AND PLAY' FOR 1,000 CHILDREN

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IT WAS A BUSTLING SCENE AT THE EDINBURGH PLACE THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON WHEN THE SQUARE WAS TURNED INTO AN ART FAIR FOR SOME 1,000 YOUNG ARTISTS.

TAKING PART IN THE INSPIRING "PAINT AND PLAY" ACTIVITY DAY WERE CHILDREN AGED BELOW SEVEN WHO FULLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR CREATIVITY AND ARTISTIC TALENT BY USING PRIMITIVE MATERIAL SUCH AS CLAY, FLOUR, SAND AND WATER, WOOD, PAPER AND EVEN SCRAP IN THEIR WORK.

THE EVENT WAS INTENDED TO GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE TO MAKE DECISIONS, ORGANISE THEIR WORK AND SOLVE PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN.

THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, PARENTS WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT COULD BE DONE TO HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL.

THE FUNCTION WAS OPENED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM KAM-KWONG, AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MRS ELSIE TU.

MR LAM ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL UPON THE PARENTS TO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 10, SO AS TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THE "PAINT AND PLAY" ACTIVITY DAY WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CHUNG WAN AREA COMMITTEE, PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION AND THE SALVATION ARMY WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS.

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DB SEMINAR ON SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT

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THE POPULATION OF SHA TIN WAS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 426,000 AS AT MARCH LAST YEAR, COMPRISING A PUBLIC HOUSING POPULATION OF 286,000 AND PRIVATE HOUSING POPULATION OF 140,000.

THIS WAS REVEALED AT A SEMINAR RECENTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT FOR DB MEMBERS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE 1987 EDITION OF THE SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

/ACCORDING TO .....

ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, KWONG YUEN ESTATE, YIU ON ESTATE AND PHASE III OF HIN KENG ESTATE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION WOULD HAVE A COMBINED CAPACITY FOR 46,700 RESIDENTS UPON COMPLETION.

NEW HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SHA TIN WERE HONG LAM COURT, KAM HAY COURT AND ONE NEAR YIU ON ESTATE. WHEN FULLY COMPLETED, THEY COULD ACCOMMODATE UP TO 25,200 PEOPLE.

TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE DISTRICT, EIGHT SCHOOLS WOULD BE AVAILABLE UNDER STAGES V AND VI OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME.

OF THESE SCHOOLS, ONE HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND ANOTHER ONE NEARING COMPLETION. FIVE OTHERS WERE PLACED UNDER ADVANCED PROGRAMME, BRINGING THE COMPLETION DATE TO 1989, WHILE THE REMAINING ONE WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY 1990.

TWO MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED TO SHA TIN BY 1991 UNDER THE REPROVISIONING PROGRAMME.

ON THE TRANSPORT SIDE, PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK FOR THE ROAD NETWORK LINKING SHA TIN AND TOLO HIGHWAY TO THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WAS UNDERWAY. THE ROADS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1991 TO MATCH THE PLANNED COMPLETION DATE OF THE TUNNEL.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHA TIN END OF ROUTE 5 LINKING SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN STARTED IN JUNE LAST YEAR AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1989.

THE LINK ROAD FROM MA ON SHAN TO NAI CHUNG NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR. IT WOULD PROVIDE A DIRECT ROAD CONNECTION TO SAI KUNG.

THE IMPROVEMENTS TO TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE KOWLOON RESERVOIR WAS IN PROGRESS AND WAS DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THERE WAS HOWEVER A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE EXTENDED TO WIDEN THE SECTION BETWEEN TAI WO PING INTERCHANGE AND TAI WAI VIADUCT FOR THREE-LANE TRAFFIC.

ON THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, THE SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRAL PARK HAD BEEN UPSET BY CONTRACTUAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAD CAUSED NUMEROUS DELAYS. IT WAS HOPED THAT THE PARK WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

WORKS ON A LOCAL OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO THE CULTURAL COMPLEX IN TOWN CENTRE WAS NEARING COMPLETION, AND WORKS HAD BEEN COMMENCED ON ANOTHER ONE NEAR HOTEL RIVERSIDE PLAZA. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR AREAS NEAR CITY ONE, PAI TAU AND YUEN CHAU KOK WOULD START EARLY THIS YEAR.

/THE INDOOR .....

THE INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE IN YUEN WO ROAD WAS NEARING COMPLETION. SIMILAR PROJECTS AT HENG ON ESTATE AND HIN KENG ESTATE HAD BEEN COMPLETED RECENTLY AND FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE EARLY THIS YEAR.

AT THE SEMINAR, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHOWED MUCH INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND SOME RELATED ISSUES WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSED AT THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES NEXT MONTH.

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NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS

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LOCAL RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, RESIDENTS ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE DISTRICT'S SOCIAL SERVICES AWARD SCHEME.

ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD FOR THE THIRD YEAR, THE SCHEME WILL BE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE NOMINEES IN VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

"WE HOPE THAT BY GIVING DUE RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO HAVE RENDERED COMMENDABLE SERVICES, MORE PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD SAID.

A NEW DIVISION, THE GROUP DIVISION, HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE AWARD SCHEME THIS YEAR. OTHER DIVISIONS REMAIN THE STUDENTS DIVISION WHICH IS SUB-DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL, SECONDARY AND POST SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTIONS; AND THE OPEN DIVISION WHICH COMPRISES THE WORKING PEOPLE AND NON-WORKING PEOPLE SECTIONS.

THE NOMINEES MUST EITHER LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT. NOMINEES FOR THE NON-WORKING PEOPLE SECTION CAN BE HOUSEWIVES OR RETIRED PERSONS.

THEY SHOULD HAVE GIVEN VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY, DISABLED, YOUTH OR CHILDREN, OR HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS, NON-PROFIT MAKING WELFARE BODIES, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, AND SO ON.

FOR THE GROUP DIVISION, NOMINATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR GROUPS OF TWO OF MORE PERSONS WHO WORKED TOGETHER IN RENDERING SUCH SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

/"THE DEADLINE .....

"THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS WILL BE APRIL 15. NOMINATION FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO VARIOUS LOCAL BODIES AND ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"AN ADJUDICATING PANEL APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD WILL EXAMINE ALL NOMINATIONS AND SELECT THE FINALISTS FOR INTERVIEWS IN MAY. THE FIRST THREE WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED BOOK COUPONS AND SOUVENIRS WHILE ALL FINALISTS WILL GET A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AND SOUVENIRS," HE ADDED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT DETAILS OF THE AWARD SCHEME CAN BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON 5-540271.

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RETRAINING COURSE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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TO HELP SERVING PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FAMILIARISE WITH MODERN METHODS AND APPROACHES IN CLASS TEACHING, NEW CONCEPTS OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND THE USE OF RESOURCES, THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL AGAIN ORGANISE FOUR RETRAINING COURSES IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE EIGHT-WEEK RETRAINING COURSES WILL EMPHASISE MAINLY ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS, HELPING TEACHERS TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTIVITY APPROACH AND DEVELOPING MODERN METHODS IN PROGRAMMED LEARNING, TEAM TEACHING, REMEDIAL TEACHING AND MIXED ABILITY GROUPING.

THE FREE COURSES WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ADOPTING ACTIVITY APPROACH IN THEIR CLASS TEACHING.

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND TUTORIALS. THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN CLASSROOM SITUATIONS, TO CONSTRUCT AND DESIGN TEACHING AIDS AND TO VISIT VARIOUS TEACHING CENTRES AND SCHOOLS WHICH ADOPT AND PRACTISE THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE REQUESTED TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE COURSES TO THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION JOINT SELECTION BOARD BEFORE MARCH 14.

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RESIDENTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL SERVICES

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A PROJECT AIMING TO INTRODUCE TO KWUN TONG RESIDENTS THE PROVISION AND AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN THEIR DISTRICT STARTED TODAY (SUNDAY) WITH AN EXHIBITION AT TELFORD GARDENS PODIUM.

FOUR MAIN AREAS IN SOCIAL SERVICES - SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, AND LABOUR - ARE FEATURED IN THE MOBILE EXHIBITION, WHICH IS A MAJOR PART OF THE "SOCIAL SERVICES IN KWUN TONG" PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION, KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, SAID THE PROJECT WAS INFORMATIVE AND SERVED A GOOD PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY NEEDS.

HE SAID THE 680,000 POPULATION IN KWUN TONG WERE BEING PROVIDED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, WHICH WERE UNDER REGULAR REVIEW TO COPE WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD UNTIL FEBRUARY 5 AT THREE LOCATIONS - AT THE TELFORD GARDENS PODIUM TODAY, AT THE TELFORD GARDENS SHOPPING MALL ON JANUARY 25 AND 26, AND AT THE KWUN TONG MTR STATION FROM JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 5.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE A SEMINAR ON JANUARY 31 AND THE PRODUCTION OF 20,000 LEAFLETS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS.

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CONTRACTORS REMINDED TO FENCE OFF OPENINGS

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A CONTRACTOR WAS RECENTLY FINED $30,000 AT THE SOUTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE SUITABLE GUARDRAILS AT FLOOR EDGES AND TO ENCLOSE THE HOISTWAY OF A HOIST AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN FERRY STREET.

THIS FOLLOWED AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH A WORKER FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE SITE.

IN PASSING SENTENCE, THE MAGISTRATE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEFENDANT HAD NO PREVIOUS CONVICTION RECORD, A DETERRENT FINE HAD TO BE IMPOSED TO BRING THE ATTENTION OF OTHER CONTRACTORS TO THE SAFETY LEGISLATION.

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UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, FLOOR EDGES, BALCONIES, LIFT SHAFT OPENINGS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES FROM WHICH A PERSON IS LIABLE TO FALL, MUST BE SECURELY FENCED OFF.

IN ADDITION, THE HOISTWAY OF EVERY HOIST SHALL, AT ALL POINTS AT WHICH ACCESS TO THE HOISTWAY IS PROVIDED, OR AT WHICH PERSONS ARE LIABLE TO BE STRUCK BY ANY MOVING PART OF THE HOIST, BE EFFICIENTLY PROTECTED BY A SUBSTANTIAL ENCLOSURE.

THE REGULATIONS ALSO SPECIFY CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO CONTRAVENES THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF GUARDRAILS AND THE OPERATION OF HOISTS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $50,000 AND $30,000 RESPECTIVELY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE REGULATIONS MAY BE MADE TO ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN KOWLOON CITY

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TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS, A SHORT SECTION OF NAM KOK ROAD IN KOWLOON CITY NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH CARPENTER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 27) FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

VEHICLES ON NAM KOK ROAD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PASS THROUGH THE JUNCTION FOR TURNING RIGHT ON TO CARPENTER ROAD.

IN ADDITION, THE SECTION OF NAM KOK ROAD TO THE NORTH OF NGA TSIN WAI ROAD WILL BE CONVERTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TO A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC WITH ENTRANCE AND EXIT AT NGA TSIN WAI ROAD ONLY.

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