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GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE ELDERLY STRESSED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR ERIC HO, REITERATED TODAY (SATURDAY) THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR THE ELDERLY.

SPEAKING AT THE CHARITY BALL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED, MR HO SAID THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS CHARITY FUNCTION REFLECTED +THE FEELING OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN CARING FOR THE AGED+.

NOTING THAT THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY HAS A TRADITION OF HONOUR AND RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY, HE SAID, +OUR SENIOR CITIZENS OF TODAY HAVE DEVOTED THEIR WORKING LIVES TO BUILDING THIS CITY OF OURS AND THE PROSPERITY THE COMMUNITY NOW ENJOYS.+

+FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PART ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ELDERLY WAS REINFORCED BY THE STATEMENTS IN THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY -- ESPECIALLY THE INNOVATION OF THE GOLD COIN HOMES -- IF I MAY PUT IT THAT WAY,+ MR HO SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE GOVERNOR REVEALED A TRIAL SCHEME OF HOUSING THE ELDERLY IN PRIVATE FLATS TO MEET THE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF THOSE WHO ARE IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SCHEME WILL BE FINANCED FROM THE SURPLUSES OBTAINED FROM THE SALES OF GOLD COINS WHICH ARE NOW HELD IN THE SPECIAL COIN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED SPECIFICALLY TO ASSIST AND CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IMPORTANT IN SOCIAL SERVICES

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SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG COULD REMAIN +RESPONSIVE AND VIABLE+ ONLY THROUGH COMMUNITY INPUT OR PARTICIPATION, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A TWO-WEEK EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS AT THE CITY HALL, MR ALLEYNE SAID THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY INPUT, BOTH IN TIME AND EFFORT, WAS IMMEASURABLE.

HE SAID ONE OF THE BASIC AIMS OF SOCIAL WORK WAS TO RELEASE THE POTENTIAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND TO ENHANCE HIS SOCIAL FUNCTIONING.

+THE APPROACH IS SURELY TO ENCOURAGE THE INDIVIDUAL TO CONTRIBUTE AS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY - TO RECOGNISE AND TO FULFIL HIS OBLIGATIONS - MAKING THE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICE A TWO-WAY PROCESS,+ HE SAID.

/HE STRESSED .....

HE STRESSED THAT THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SOCIAL WORKER IN THESE ASPECTS WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

+HE IS AN INFLUENTIAL FACTOR AND MOVING FORCE IN SHAPING THE MOOD AND IN STIMULATING DEVELOPMENT BASED ON A CORE OF SOCIAL WORK VALUES AND ETHICS,+ HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE EXHIBITION AIMED TO DEMONSTRATE THE SCOPE AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WELFARE SERVICES, THE PEOPLE WHO DELIVERED THE SERVICES AND THOSE WHO USED THEM, SO AS TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AVERAGE MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

+THESE GOALS ARE REALISTIC AND MUCH NEEDED AT THIS TIME WHEN OUR VARIED SERVICES ARE DEVELOPING WITH A MULTITUDE OF APPROACHES AND METHODS TO MEET DIVERGENT NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

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CAS PRAISED FOR RESCUE WORK DURING RAIN STORMS

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR LEWIS DAVIES THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING COMMENDED THE CIVIL AID SERVICES FOR THE ROLE THEY PLAYED DURING THE HEAVY RAIN STORMS IN MAY, JUNE AND AUGUST THIS YEAR.

ADDRESSING SOME 240 CAS RECRUITS AND CADETS DURING THEIR PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS IN HARBOUR ROAD MR DAVIES RECALLED: +WHILST YOU HAVE BEEN UNDER TRAINING YOU WILL HAVE SEEN AND BEEN PROUD OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE CAS ASSEMBLED SO QUICKLY DURING THE PARTICULARLY HEAVY RAIN STORMS IN MAY AND JUNE AND LATER IN AUGUST.+

+THEY WERE LITERALLY EVERYWHERE EVACUATING PEOPLE FROM DANGEROUS AREAS, LOOKING AFTER HOMELESS PEOPLE IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS, CARRYING OUT HEAVY RESCUE DUTIES AND DIGGING DAY AND NIGHT TO RECOVER TRAPPED PERSONS,+ HE SAID.

DESCRIBING THE CAS AS A FIRST CLASS EMERGENCY SERVICE, MR DAVIES SAID IT WAS WELL DISCIPLINED, PROPERLY TRAINED AND CAPABLE OF HELPING THE REGULAR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

HE NOTED THAT THE CAS HAD BEEN REORGANISED TO MAKE A TACTICAL FORCE OF 450 VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY WITHIN ONE HOUR OF CALL OUT AND COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD INSURANCE AND WOULD GIVE CONFIDENCE TO EVERYONE.

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JAMAICAN TRADE MISSION VISITS TSUEN WAN

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THE RAPID PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN TSUEN WAN HAS GREATLY IMPRESSED A TRADE DELEGATION FROM JAMAICA WHO VISITED THE NEW TOWN TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE 10-MAN JAMAICAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION, LED BY THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, MR DOUGLAS VAS, WAS FIRST GIVEN A BRIEFING BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, DR RICHARD BUTLER, BEFORE GOING TO TSUEN WAN.

THEY WERE MET BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, WHO BRIEFED THEM ON BOARD THE MARINE LAUNCH 'CLEMENTI' DURING AN HOUR-LONG TOUR ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF TSUEN WAN FOR A CLOSE LOOK OF THE DEVELOPING NEW TOWN, THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT, THE TSING YI DOCKYARDS AND OIL INSTALLATIONS AND THE TSUEN WAN RECLAMATION.

MISS CHUNG EMPHASISED THAT TSUEN WAN HAD BEEN PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY AND MODERN COMMUNICATIONS.

SHE ALSO BRIEFED THE MISSION ON TSUEN WAN'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY, THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT, PLANS FOR HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT TO TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR MORE OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

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BIG CLEAN-UP OF RIVER INDUS

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NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY LEADERS WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) IMPRESSED BY THE PAINSTAKING EFFORTS OF THE FIELD STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES IN THEIR FOUR-MONTH LONG CLEAN-UP OF THE HEAVILY POLLUTED RIVER INDUS RUNNING THROUGH FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI.

THE LEADERS, COMPRISING NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, TOURED A SECTION OF THE 24-KILOMETRE RIVER COURSE AT THE TING PING SHAN AND FU TEI AU AND SAW HOW 50 CLEANSING WORKERS ON TWO FIBREGLASS DINGHIES CUT AWAY UNDERGROWTHS AND CLEARED AWAY SOLID WASTE ALONG THE WATER COURSE.

THEY ALSO INSPECTED A BOOM NET STRETCHED ACROSS THE ARCH OF A HIGHWAY BRIDGE TO TRAP FLOATING DEBRIS AND FOUND IT TO BE QUITE EFFICIENT IN COLLECTING THE GARBAGE.

A TOTAL OF 450 TONNES OF DEBRIS AND VEGETATION HAVE SO FAR BEEN REMOVED DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE CLEARANCE STARTING IN JULY THIS YEAR.

/NOTING THAT .....

NOTING THAT THE MAMMOTH CLEAN-UP WAS THE FOURTH ONE SINCE 1977, THE CHAIRMAN OF NORTH DISTRICT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG, SAID PIG AND POULTRY FARMERS AND VILLAGERS SHOULD NOW BREAK AWAY FROM THE HABIT OF THINKING THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THE RIVER CLEAN AND START THINKING ABOUT THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY.

MR LIU URGED FELLOW VILLAGERS TO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND TO HELP KEEP THEIR SURROUNDINGS CLEAN AND HYGIENIC.

HE ADVISED THEM TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE FARM WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS TO DISPOSE OF ALL WASTE AND HOUSEHOLD REFUSE IN A PROPER WAY.

MR LIU SAID A CLEAN-VILLAGE COMPETITION, AN EDUCATION CAMP FOR STUDENTS AND A VARIETY SHOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN WOULD BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ALSO TAKING PART IN TODAY'S TOUR WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NORTH REGION) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR BOWEN LEUNG, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STURAT HARBINSON, THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF NORTH DISTRICT, MR LAW WAI-MING, AND THE DEPUTY URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF NORTH DISTRICT, MR CHAN SAK-NAM.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
MOVING TO FAIRMONT HOUSE
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT 102 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, WILL MOVE TO TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION AT FAIRMONT HOUSE (4TH TO 8TH FLOORS), NO. 8 COTTON TREE DRIVE, HONG KONG ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11).

THE SITE OF THE OLD MARINE BUILDING IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE 1906 WILL BE DEMOLISHED AND REDEVELOPED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL BE 5-211521.

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NEW TIMETABLE FOR DIESEL-HAULED PASSENGER TRAINS

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL INTRODUCE A NEW TIMETABLE FOR THE DIESEL-HAULED PASSENGER TRAINS ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11) IN ORDER TO TIE IN WITH THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW SIGNALLING SYSTEM IN FANLING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KCR SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THERE ARE AT PRESENT 33 TRAINS -- 16 NORTHBOUND AND 17 SOUTHBOUND -- RUNNING DAILY BETWEEN KOWLOON AND LOWU, INCLUDING ONE DOWN TRAIN FROM TAI PO MARKET.

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED TIMETABLE, THE NUMBER OF TRAINS IN OPERATION WILL BE INCREASED TO 35 -- 17 NORTHBOUND AND 18 SOUTHBOUND -- NECESSITATING THE ORIGINAL TIME SCHEDULE BEING SLIGHTLY ALTERED.

COPIES OF THE NEW TIMETABLE ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL STATIONS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

TIME SCHEDULES FOR THE ELECTRIC TRAINS AND EXPRESS THROUGH TRAINS BETWEEN KOWLOON AND GUANGZHOU WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN HUNG HOM AND TO KWA WAN

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CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN HUNG HOM AND TO KWA WAN IN KOWLOON TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE TWO AREAS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE CLEARWAYS RESTRICTIONS WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11) WILL BE IMPOSED ON LOK SHAN ROAD, CHI KIANG STREET, MOK CHEONG STREET, AND SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD NEAR THEIR JUNCTIONS WITH MA TAU WAI ROAD; PAK KUNG STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH CHATHAM ROAD NORTH; AND HA HEUNG ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH CHI KIANG STREET. WITHIN THESE ROAD SECTIONS, VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WHAMPOA STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH BAKER STREET, THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SHING TAK STREET NEAR MA TAU KOK ROAD; AND ANOTHER SECTION NEAR FU NING STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

THE CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF FU NING STREET BETWEEN MA TAU CHUNG ROAD AND SHING TAK STREET WILL BE RESCINDED.

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PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CHING TAK STREET

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CLOSE A SECTION OF CHING TAK STREET BETWEEN BLOCK 11 AND 12 OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD BLOCKS AS PART OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF MARK I AND II ESTATES.

AS PART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME, A NEW ROAD WILL BE CONSTRUCTED SOUTH OF THE EXISTING BLOCK 12.

A NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE AFFECTED SECTION OF THE ROAD CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE; THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG AND THE KOWLOON EAST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

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TENDERS CALLED FOR DRAINAGE WORKS IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN

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THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SITE FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS NEAR HIN TIN IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, ABOUT SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE FORMED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR ABOUT 21 000 PEOPLE.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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YOUTH SOCCER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

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A MAJOR PROJECT TO DEVELOP AND TRAIN YOUNG SOCCER PLAYERS HAS ATTRACTED ABOUT 2 000 APPLICATIONS.

THE FIVE-MONTH PROJECT, KNOWN AS THE HONG KONG YOUTH FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 1982-83, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

+AS ONLY 1 280 PLAYERS COULD BE ACCEPTED, SELECTIONS WERE MADE LAST WEEK THROUGH A SERIES OF SKILL TESTS, AND TRAINING HAS STARTED FOR THOSE PICKED,+ SAID THE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER IN CHARGE OF TEAM GAMES, MR THOMSON CHAN, WHO RECENTLY REFERRED AT THE WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT IN SPAIN.

UNDER THE SCHEME, THERE ARE 16 TEAM MANAGERS, EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR 80 PLAYERS.

THE PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE FIVE WEEKS OF ELEMENTARY TRAINING, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SIX WEEKS OF INTERMEDIATE TRAINING AND BY PRACTICE MATCHES.

+AFTER THE BASIC TRAINING, THE 16 GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DISTRICT LEAGUE MATCHES.

+THE WINNING TEAM AND OTHER PLAYERS SHOWING POTENTIAL WILL THEN BE SELECTED FOR FURTHER TRAINING AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

THESE BEST PLAYERS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING CHOSEN TO REPRESENT HONG KONG IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MATCHES, HE ADDED.

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SEMINAR ON MORAL EDUCATION
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THREE HALF-DAY SEMINARS ON THE TEACHING OF ETHICAL/MORAL EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE HELD LATER THIS MONTH AND IN NOVEMBER.

THE EVENTS ARE ORGANISED BY THE RELIGIOUS/ETHICAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE.

FOR TEACHERS TEACHING ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 20 RESPECTIVELY AT THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRE IN PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

FOR TEACHERS WORKING IN KOWLOON THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6 AT HO MAN TIN GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL, PERTH STREET.

THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR IS TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH SUGGESTED APPROACHES TO MORAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT COUNSELLING, AND THE USE OF RELATED AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS. PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE WITH PANEL SPEAKERS AND AMONG THEMSELVES DURING THE SEMINARS, WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, RELIGIOUS/ETHICAL EDUCATION SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, 5/F, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

DUE TO THE LIMITED SEATING CAPACITY, HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO NOMINATE NOT MORE THAN TWO TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR. IN CASE OF OVER-SUBSCRIPTION, ACCEPTANCE WILL BE TREATED ON A 'FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED' BASIS.

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SWIMMING GALA FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT

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A FRIENDLY MATCH BETWEEN LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RAISED THE CURTAIN ON THE SECOND SHA TIN DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE JOCKEY CLUB SWIMMING POOL.

TWO SPECIALLY-DESIGNED WATER SPORT GAMES WERE PLAYED BY REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS OF THE DISTRICT'S FOUR AREA COMMITTEES, THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION (SHA TIN), THE POLICE, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, THE LOCAL AMBULANCE DEPOT AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TO ENTERTAIN THE AUDIENCE BEFORE THE EVENT WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED AT 1.30 PM.

THE ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA IS ONE OF MANY SPORTS COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE STRONGER IDENTIFICATION AMONG RESIDENTS WITH THEIR DISTRICT. THE WINNERS IN TODAY'S EVENTS WILL REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN THE INTER-DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA ON NOVEMBER 7.

THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION'S CONTRIBUTION TO SHA TIN IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG.

+SPORT PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT. SHA TIN WILL NOT BE A SUCCESSFUL NEW TOWN UNLESS ITS PEOPLE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR OWN COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+WE MUST PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR ORGANISING SUCH A VARIETY OF EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE TEAM SPIRIT AMONG LOCAL PEOPLE.+

ACCORDING TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR LAU HON-KIT, DISTRICT MATCHES ON SOCCER, BASKETBALL, TABLE TENNIS, BADMINTON AS WELL AS TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1982/83.

THE SECOND SHA TIN DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA TODAY ATTRACTED ABOUT 300 COMPETITORS, WHOSE AGES RANGED FROM 10 TO 50, IN 60 RACES INCLUDING BREAST-STROKE, BACK-STROKE, BUTTERFLY, FREE-STYLE AND RELAYS.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, THE COMPETITION WAS OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DISTRICT.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY TODAY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR NG CHAN-LAM AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR TAM PAK-HANG.

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CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ENTERTAIN PACKED AUDIENCE

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CHILDREN'S CHOIRS FROM FIVE NEW TOWNS GOT TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY IN A CONCERT FOR A PACKED AUDIENCE OF 2 000 AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL IN SHEUNG SHUI.

TOTALLING MORE THAN 350, THE YOUNG SINGERS ENTERTAINED THE AUDIENCE WITH CHINESE AND ENGLISH CHILDREN FOLK SONGS, DANCING AND INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCES DURING A TWO-HOUR SHOW JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MOST OF THE CHOIR MEMBERS, AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 14, HAVE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN WELL-RECEIVED PERFORMANCES IN THEIR OWN DISTRICTS -- SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG AND TSUEN WAN.

SOME OF THE CHOIRS WERE FORMED AS EARLY AS 1978 AND ARE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BOARDS.

MR LEUNG KWOK-WAI, A SCHOOL HEADMASTER WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, INITIATED THE IDEA OF THE JOINT CONCERT AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN BRINGING THE CHOIRS TOGETHER.

+THE SHOW PROVIDED YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHOIR MEMBERS TO PERFORM IN PUBLIC, THUS ENABLING THEM TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND TO FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS IN SINGING,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

+MORE IMPORTANT, WE HOPE TODAY'S EVENT WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SIMILAR FUNCTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE ADDED.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, DR RICHARD BUTLER, THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STUART HARBINSON, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES, MR GORDON JONES, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, MR LIU CHING-LEUNG, OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONCERT.

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NEW SITTING-OUT AREA FOR WONG TAI SIN

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A NEW $120 000 SITTING-OUT AREA HAS JUST BEEN ADDED TO THE DENSELY-POPULATED WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT.

THIS WAS THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CARRIED OUT BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD SO FAR.

INSTALLED WITH CONCRETE BENCHES AND FLOWER-BEDS, THE OPEN AREA WAS CONVERTED FROM A SITE AT THE JUNCTION OF TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD AND TUNG CHING ROAD AFTER THE CLEARANCE OF SOME 30 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES THERE.

/SPEAKING AT .....

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TODAY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR A.G. EASON, ENCOURAGED THE NEW DISTRICT BOARD TO CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND MAKE WONG TAI SIN A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN.

+ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF A DISTRICT BOARD IS TO PROVIDE MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN EACH DISTRICT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

+FOR THIS REASON, DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH FUNDS SO THAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN SPEEDILY, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING THAT GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIVE TO PROVIDING BETTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN EACH DISTRICT.+

WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD HAS 16 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN HAND, WITH A TOTAL COST OF MORE THAN $500 000.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE A NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHUNG SHE-YEN, THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER OF KOWLOON, MR PAU MAN-KWONG, AND THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN STRACHAN.

OTHER DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED LAST MONTH AND MEMBERS OF THE TUNG TAU AREA COMMITTEE AND LOCAL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES ATTENDED THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BAND FESTIVAL

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THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD THE FIFTH HONG KONG YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL FROM NOVEMBER 7-14, 1982.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 11) AT THE GIS THEATRE, 5/F., BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM; THE ACTING MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR, MR MIKE LUKE; AND THE ASSISTANT MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (PROFESSIONAL), MR THOMAS WANG.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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