



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## HOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF A HOME PURCHASE SCHEME AND A HOUSING LOAN SCHEME TO HELP CIVIL SERVANTS TOWARDS BUYING THEIR OWN HOMES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THESE SCHEMES WERE DRAWN UP AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH STAFF AND WOULD EXTEND DIRECT HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO MORE LOCAL OFFICERS.

UNDER THE HOME PURCHASE SCHEME, THOSE WHO ARE ON OR ABOVE POINT 38 OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE (AT PRESENT \$8 515 PER MONTH), WHICH MAKES THEM ELIGIBLE FOR THE PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE OR NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS, CAN IN FUTURE OPT INSTEAD TO RECEIVE THEIR HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF A HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE (HPA) TO PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE ON A FLAT.

AT THE SAME TIME, A FURTHER 13 000 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING ANY HOUSING ASSISTANCE AT THE MOMENT WILL ALSO BECOME IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE FOR THE HPA. THEY ARE EITHER ON MPS POINT 29 (AT PRESENT \$5 585 A MONTH) TO POINT 37 (AT PRESENT \$8 065 PER MONTH), OR HAVE HAD 20 OR MORE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THEY MUST ALSO BE CONFIRMED TO THE PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT OR HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED ONE CONTRACT TERM, NORMALLY OF 2-1/2 YEARS. OVER AND ABOVE THESE 13 000 OFFICERS MORE WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE MONTH BY MONTH AS THEY COMPLETE 20 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR REACH MPS POINT 29.

UNDER THIS SCHEME, ELIGIBLE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE ENTERED INTO A MORTGAGE ARRANGEMENT FOR A PROPERTY IN HONG KONG WILL RECEIVE THIS MONTHLY ALLOWANCE.

THEY WILL HAVE TO LIVE IN THE FLAT THEY PURCHASE THROUGH THIS SCHEME UNLESS THEY ARE DIRECTED TO LIVE IN DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS.

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE HPA ARE \$2 600 FOR OFFICERS ON POINT 16 OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE= \$3 840 FOR THOSE ON POINT 29= \$6 000 FOR THOSE ON POINT 38= \$10 080 FOR THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE AND \$13 300 FOR THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE DIRECTORATE SCALE.

THE HPA WOULD BE PAYABLE FOR 120 MONTHS (10 YEARS) OR UPON COMPLETION OF MORTGAGE REPAYMENT, OR UPON THE OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE, WHICHEVER IS THE EARLIER.

IT COULD BE DRAWN WITHIN THE LIMIT OF THE OFFICER'S ALLOWANCE ENTITLEMENT UP TO THE AMOUNT OF THE MONTHLY MORTGAGE REPAYMENT. AN OFFICER WISHING TO BUY A HIGHER PRICED FLAT COULD TOP UP THE ALLOWANCE WITH HIS OWN RESOURCES.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO THE HPA, THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALLOWANCE AND WHO ARE CONFIRMED TO THE PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A LOAN TO ASSIST WITH THE INITIAL DOWN PAYMENT ON THE PROPERTY.

THE LOAN WOULD BE LIMITED TO 10 PER CENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE FLAT OR 18 MONTHS' SALARY, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

THE RATE OF INTEREST FOR THE LOAN WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.

THE LOAN WOULD NORMALLY HAVE TO BE REPAID OVER 10 YEARS.

THE OFFICER CAN ONLY RECEIVE ONE SUCH LOAN DURING HIS SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRADE UP HIS FLAT WITHIN THE 10 YEAR PERIOD OF PAYMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE TO REFLECT HIS PROGRESS THROUGH THE SALARY SCALE ON PROMOTION OR THROUGH LONG SERVICE.

THE OTHER WAY IN WHICH PENSIONABLE CIVIL SERVANTS ARE HELPED TOWARDS HOME OWNERSHIP IS THROUGH THE HOUSING LOAN SCHEME. THIS SCHEME IS APPLICABLE TO THOSE WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST 10 YEARS OF SERVICE AND WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR OR HAVE NOT TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE HOME PURCHASE SCHEME.

IT WOULD HELP THOSE WHO ARE NEARING RETIREMENT AND THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME OR WHO HAVE JOINED THE RECENTLY COMPLETED WAH YUEN CHUEN AND SHATIN LODGE HOUSING SCHEMES.

THE AMOUNT OF THE HOUSING LOAN WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE OFFICER'S MAXIMUM COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITY CALCULATED AT THE TIME OF THE LOAN APPLICATION AND WOULD NOT BE FURTHER ADJUSTED.

THE LOAN WOULD BE REPAYABLE BY MONTHLY INSTALMENTS DEDUCTED FROM SALARY IN EITHER OF TWO WAYS. THE REPAYMENT CAN COVER THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON THE LOAN, CALCULATED ON THE REDUCING BALANCE, AND MADE OVER 10 YEARS, OR UNTIL THE OFFICER LEAVES THE SERVICE IF THIS IS EARLIER. ALTERNATIVELY, IT CAN COVER THE INTEREST ALONE, CALCULATED ANNUALLY ON THE FULL LOAN, WITH REPAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL TO BE EVENTUALLY RECOVERED FROM THE COMMUTED PENSION GRATUITY.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD OPT FOR EITHER THE HOME PURCHASE SCHEME OR THE HOUSING LOAN SCHEME AT FIRST. SOME MIGHT WAIT TILL THEY CAN BETTER AFFORD THE FLAT THEY WANT, WHILE SOME MIGHT CHOOSE, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS OR CONTINUE TO DRAW PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE. THERE IS ALSO A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF SUITABLE FLATS THAT CAN BE AVAILABLE AT ANY ONE TIME.

IN RESPECT OF BOTH SCHEMES, THERE WOULD BE NO AGE LIMIT WITH REGARD TO ELIGIBILITY, AND OFFICERS WHO ALREADY HOLD CURRENT MORTGAGES ON FLATS WOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEMES.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH HAS SET UP A SPECIAL TEAM TO IMPLEMENT THE ARRANGEMENTS, AND A COMPUTER PROGRAMME WILL BE DEVELOPED TO EFFECT PAYMENTS AND REPAYMENTS. APPLICATIONS FOR THE HPA AND THE LOANS WOULD BE CONSIDERED EVERY QUARTER AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FIRST OF THESE WILL BE INVITED AS SOON AS DETAILED PROCEDURES ARE FINALISED BUT IT WILL NOT BE LATER THAN OCTOBER.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY A QUOTA OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS ARE SET ASIDE EACH YEAR FOR JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD CONTINUE. CURRENTLY, THIS QUOTA IS 1 100 UNITS PER ANNUM, BUT IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE SIZE OF THIS QUOTA WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW.

WITH REGARD TO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SCHEMES FOR LOCAL OFFICERS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE SUCH SCHEMES IN THE PRESENT FORM. HOWEVER, AN EXAMINATION WAS UNDERWAY TO CONSIDER WHETHER NEW WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FLATS FOR PURCHASE BY LOCAL OFFICERS. THIS EXAMINATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW HOUSING ASSISTANCE SCHEMES, AND WOULD TAKE SOME MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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GOVERNMENT BUYS \$2 500M MORE EQUITY IN MTR  
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PURCHASE FOR CASH A FURTHER \$2 500 MILLION EQUITY IN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

FOLLOWING AN EQUITY INJECTION OF \$1 000 MILLION EARLIER IN THE YEAR, ITS ISSUED CAPITAL IS NOW \$2 190 MILLION AND THE ADDITIONAL \$2 500 MILLION WILL THEREFORE RAISE THE ISSUED CAPITAL TO \$4 690 MILLION.

THE AUTHORISED CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION IS \$5 500 MILLION.

THE AUTHORISED CAPITAL OF THE CORPORATION WAS INCREASED FROM \$2 000 MILLION TO \$5 500 MILLION ON FEBRUARY 27, 1981.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE AUTHORISED CAPITAL WAS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A FURTHER EQUITY INVESTMENT IN THE CORPORATION AS A CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LINE. THE CORPORATION WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED TO DRAW ON THIS APPROPRIATION FOR SOME TIME, BUT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CORPORATION'S INTEREST COSTS ARE VERY SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN WAS ANTICIPATED WHEN THE CORPORATION WAS FORMED IN 1975, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED, SO AS TO ALLEVIATE THESE COSTS, TO BRING FORWARD THE ISLAND LINE EQUITY INVESTMENT.

AS A RESULT OF THIS LATEST INJECTION, THE CORPORATION WILL HAVE DRAWN ALL OF THE MONEY WHICH GOVERNMENT SET ASIDE IN THE MASS TRANSIT FUND FOR THE ISLAND LINE.

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## CONSTRUCTION ATTRACTS MORE OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS

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HONG KONG'S REPUTATION FOR ITS DYNAMIC OPERATIONS, ITS HARD-WORKING POPULACE AND ITS VAST AND CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT IS FAST BECOMING RECOGNISED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, MR DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TONIGHT.

HE WAS ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION AT THE LU PAN (PATRON SAINT OF BUILDERS) FESTIVAL DINNER.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS SEVERAL NEW PROFESSIONAL FIRMS AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES HAD ESTABLISHED A PRESENCE IN HONG KONG.

AND FROM THE DISCUSSIONS HE HAD RECENTLY WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS OUTSIDE HONG KONG, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT +HONG KONG CAN EXPECT A GREATER INFLOW OF FIRMS FROM EUROPE, AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN OUR INDUSTRY OR TO SUPPLY MATERIALS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR PROJECTS+.

THIS, HE SAID, WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CONCERNED +TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND IMPROVE OUR TECHNIQUES, OUR EFFICIENCY AND OUR PRODUCTIVITY+.

MR MCDONALD CONGRATULATED THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ON ITS SUCCESS IN IMPROVING ITS EFFICIENCY BY SUCH A VENTURE AS THE OPERATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE, ADDING THAT THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE SECOND TRAINING CENTRE FUNCTIONING IN 1982 WAS INDEED GOOD NEWS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TWO PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREAS IN WHICH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INDUSTRY HAD BEEN INADEQUATE.

THE FIRST WAS NOISE CONTROL.

+THE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED RESTRICTING CERTAIN NOISY OPERATIONS HAVE HAD A FAIR IMPACT AND MANY CONTRACTORS HAVE ADOPTED METHODS OF WORK AND EMPLOYED TYPES OF EQUIPMENT WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN GREATLY REDUCED NOISE LEVELS,+ HE SAID.

+GENERALLY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET GONE FAR ENOUGH ALONG THIS ROUTE BUT THE FURTHER LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AND THE EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNIQUES AND EFFICIENCY TO WHICH I REFERRED EARLIER SHOULD IN TIME CONSIDERABLY UPGRADE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.+

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT THE SECOND AREA IN WHICH MORE MUST BE DONE WAS IN THE APPLICATION OF SAFER WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND MORE RIGID CONTROL OF OPERATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE WORK FORCE.

/THE NUMBER .....

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES IN HONG KONG WAS STILL TOO HIGH.

+AGAIN SOME CONTROLLING MEASURES HAVE ALREADY PASSED THROUGH OUR LEGISLATURE AND MORE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE FUTURE BUT LEGISLATION ALONE IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH WORK SITES TO EARNESTLY ENDEAVOUR TO REDUCE THE ACCIDENT RATE AND PREVENT THE MISERY THAT COMES AS A RESULT OF THESE ACCIDENTS.+

TURNING TO THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, MR MCDONALD SAID ITS STATURE GREW FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO GROW.

TO THIS END, HE SAID: +PLANS ARE ALREADY AFOOT TO EXPAND EXISTING LIAISON MACHINERY TO PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTHER MEANS OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS WHICH ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME, THEREBY PRODUCING CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ALLOW ALL OF US TO RENDER A BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.+

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#### AUSTRALIANS DISPLAY BUILDING MATERIALS

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THE AUSTRALIAN BUILDING MATERIALS DISPLAY, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND EVER MOUNTED BY AUSTRALIA IN HONG KONG, WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD.

FORTY-FOUR AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES ARE TAKING PART IN THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION BEING HELD AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE HILTON HOTEL.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR MCDONALD SAID: +AUSTRALIAN BUILDING PRODUCTS ARE OF COURSE ALREADY WELL-KNOWN TO LOCAL INDUSTRY BUT MANY OF THE ITEMS ON DISPLAY HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN HERE BEFORE.

+THEY WILL MAKE A MEANINGFUL INCREASE TO THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN OUR PROJECTS.+

HE RECALLED THAT DURING A RECENT VISIT TO AUSTRALIA HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING MANY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS MANY ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, PLANNERS, CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT DURING THE TALKS HE HAD SPOKEN OF THE VAST AND ONGOING PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION TO WHICH HONG KONG WAS COMMITTED.

+AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO COME HERE TO WORK WITH US AND HELP US TO MEET OUR DEVELOPMENT TARGETS,+ HE ADDED.

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NT DEVELOPMENT COMPRESSED INTO 12 YEARS  
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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN COMPRESSED INTO 12 YEARS, BUT COULD OFTEN HAVE TAKEN 50 OR 100 YEARS TO ACHIEVE ELSEWHERE, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR AKERS-JONES, WHO WAS OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION OF NEW TERRITORIES ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS, SAID 12 YEARS AGO DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS TAKING PLACE ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS, AND A COHERENT INTEGRATED PLAN HAD YET TO EMERGE.

THERE WAS NO DETERMINED AND FIXED EFFORT TO OVERCOME THE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING AND TO DEVELOP FURTHER LAND FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

+IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT 12 YEARS AGO THE CONTAINER PORT AT KWAI CHUNG WAS NOT YET OPEN= THERE WAS NO BRIDGE TO TSING YI= NO RACECOURSE AT SHA TIN= ONLY A HANDFUL OF MODERN BUILDINGS AT TAI PO= NO TUEN MUN HIGHWAY= THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY IN AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT= AND OF COURSE NO NEW TOWNS,+ HE SAID.

THERE HAD BEEN CHANGES IN THE PAST 12 YEARS OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE WHICH WERE PERHAPS NOT SO EASILY DISCERNED.

THE HEUNG YEE KUK HAD MOVED ITS OFFICE TO KOWLOON, AND WELCOMED THE INCLUSION OF OTHER REPRESENTATIVES IN THE DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WERE FORMED.

LAND INCREASED ENORMOUSLY IN VALUE AND WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY THE PHYSICAL CHANGES TO THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT UPHEAVAL, DISTURBANCE AND REGRET, NEVERTHELESS THE SPREAD OF RESTAURANTS, SUPERMARKETS, MOTOR CAR SHOW ROOMS, AND BANKS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES INDICATED A CHANGING LEVEL OF PROSPERITY.

ALL THIS HAD HAPPENED IN 12 YEARS, COMPRESSING WHAT HAD OFTEN TAKEN 50 OR 100 YEARS ELSEWHERE AND SETTING A PACE OF CHANGE, AND REQUIRING A QUICK RESPONSE AND REACTION, IN BOTH PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+NOW THE CONTAINER PORT IS TOO SMALL, THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS UNDER GREAT STRAIN, THE HOUSING PROBLEM IS VERY LITTLE NEARER TO SOLUTION THAN IT WAS 12 YEARS AGO AND MORE NEW TOWNS MUST BE BUILT, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR TOWNS NEEDS AN OVERHAUL,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

THERE WERE ALSO HUMAN AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF PRESSING IMPORTANCE.

AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF A STABLE POPULATION, STABLE COMMUNITIES AND A LOW LEVEL OF CRIME, THE GROWTH IN POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAD BROUGHT AN EQUALLY RAPID GROWTH IN CRIME.

/THE PREDOMINANTLY .....

THE PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG POPULATION IN SOME OF OUR NEW TOWNS HAD CREATED AN ABNORMAL DEMAND FOR SCHOOLS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

YOUNG MARRIED MOTHERS WITH TIME AND CHILDREN ON THEIR HANDS NEEDED HELP AND FRIENDSHIP.

+WHAT IS CERTAIN TO ME IS THAT WE MUST INVOLVE PEOPLE MORE AND MORE IF WE ARE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THESE MANY PROBLEMS.

+THE FORMATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY ELECTION AMONG THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, THE GROWTH OF ORGANISATIONS TO BRING YOUNG WOMEN TOGETHER, THE STEADY EXPANSION OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, AND CITIZENS COMING TOGETHER TO FIGHT CRIME AND CLEAN HONG KONG ARE ALL ASPECTS OF THE RESPONSE OF THIS VITAL COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN TO THE PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE,+  
MR AKERS-JONES SAID.

DESCRIBING THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AS +THE FIRST DELIBERATE ORGANISATIONAL LINK TO BE FORGED BETWEEN THE NT AND THE METROPOLITAN AREA+, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ITS MEMBERS, WHO HAD GIVEN SO MUCH SERVICE AS A CLUB AND AS INDIVIDUALS IN THE PAST 12 YEARS, WOULD FACE THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE WITH A SIMILAR DETERMINATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR UTMOST.

INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT WAS MR WILLIAM H.C. WAN, WHO TAKES OVER FROM MR IP YIN-WAH. VICE PRESIDENTS ARE MR LAM YIM AND MR KWOK MING-YEE. THE TREASURER IS MR DAVID CHENG AND THE SECRETARY MR PATRICK M.H. WONG.

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TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE TO HOLD  
SEMINAR ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION  
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TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION FOR TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

IT WILL START AT 8 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF THE HOH FUK TONG COLLEGE ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, WILL BE IN THE CHAIR AND WILL INTRODUCE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM.

OTHER SPEAKERS WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, MR LAU WONG-FAT, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHAN YAT-SUN, MR CHEUNG KAM-HUNG, MR NG CHEUK-TAI AND MR CHOW MAN-PING, WHO ARE ALSO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

ALL ASPECTS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SEMINAR WHICH IS TO ENABLE LOCAL PEOPLE TO KNOW THE SCHEME BETTER AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

MEMBERS OF RURAL AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO WELCOME.

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SENIOR CITIZENS WHO GET INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS  
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IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN, NOR IT SEEMS, IS ONE EVER TOO OLD TO GET INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS.

THIS CLEARLY IS THE VIEW HELD BY SOME 30 ELDERLY WOMEN WHO MAKE IT A POINT REGULARLY TO TURN UP FOR AN EARLY MORNING DIP ON TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT THE KWUN TONG SWIMMING POOL.

THESE WOMEN, WHOSE AGES RANGE FROM 50 TO 70, ARE MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL SWIMMING COURSE FOR THE ELDERLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, WHICH HAS BROUGHT NEW VIM AND VIGOUR, AS WELL AS HAPPINESS INTO THE LIFE OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

ONE OF THE MORE SENIOR MEMBERS, 70-YEAR-OLD MRS CHU TSE-TAI, EXCLAIMED **EXUBERANTLY** WHEN ASKED HOW SHE FELT ABOUT TAKING THE COURSE: +WONDERFUL, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.+

+APART FROM BEING ABLE TO SWIM, WHICH I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO BEFORE, I FEEL MUCH HEALTHIER, AND THE QUALITY OF MY LIFE HAS IMPROVED.+

+AND NOW I HAVE GREAT FUN WHEN I GET INTO THE WATER WITH MY GRANDCHILDREN WHEN WE GO TO THE BEACH. BEFORE TAKING THE COURSE, I COULD ONLY SIT ON THE BEACH AND WATCH, NOW I PARTICIPATE,+ SHE SAID.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE, EXPLAINED MRS WONG LEUNG CHIU-BING, ASSISTANT RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, KWUN TONG, IS TO GIVE THE ELDERLY PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FUN FROM SWIMMING AND, AT THE SAME TIME, GIVE THEM SOME IDEA OF SAFETY IN WATER.

WHILE SOME OF THE WOMEN MAY HAVE DONE SOME SWIMMING BEFORE, MOST HAD NEVER BEEN IN A SWIMMING POOL ALL THEIR LIVES UNTIL THEY TOOK UP THE COURSE.

+IT TOOK QUITE A LOT OF PERSUADING AT FIRST FOR SOME OF THEM EVEN TO COME OUT FROM THE CHANGING ROOM IN THEIR SWIM SUITS,+ MRS WONG SAID.

THE COURSE ITSELF LASTS FOR FIVE WEEKS. IT IS OPEN TO MEN AND WOMEN BETWEEN 50 AND 70 YEARS OF AGE AND COSTS \$15 FOR THE ENTIRE 15 ONE-HOUR SESSIONS. THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HAS BEEN OFFERING TWO SUCH COURSES EACH SUMMER, SINCE 1979.

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+THE COURSE IS EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH THE WOMEN AND WE ARE USUALLY OVERSUBSCRIBED WITHIN MINUTES AFTER ENROLMENT STARTS,+ SAID MRS WONG.

THE WOMEN ARE FAR KEENER IN TAKING THE COURSE THAN THE MEN. THE MEN SEEM TO GIVE UP MORE EASILY. +PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE BEING FEWER IN NUMBER, THEY ARE TOO SHY TO STAY ON,+ SHE SAID.

SO FAR, SOME 130 WOMEN AND ABOUT 20 MEN HAVE GONE THROUGH THE COURSE.

IN THE OPINION OF COURSE INSTRUCTOR MR CHOW MAN-KUI, MORE INSTRUCTORS AND MORE ATTENTION ARE REQUIRED IN TEACHING THE ELDERLY. +AND YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE PATIENT TOO,+ HE ADDED.

MR CHOW, WHO IS WITH THE KWUN TONG SWIMMING CLUB, SAID THE ELDERLY WOMEN WILL BE ABLE TO SWIM ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

QUITE APART FROM THE BENEFITS TO HEALTH AND EMOTION, THE COURSE ALSO ACHIEVES THE OBJECT OF BRINGING THE ELDERLY PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER SOCIALLY, THEREBY ALSO HELPING IMPROVE THE OVERALL SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE AREA, EXPLAINED MRS WONG.

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#### WATER FIGURES

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WATER STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 38.1 PER CENT OR 220.104 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

ON THE SAME DATE LAST YEAR, THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 335.971 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, OR 58.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER LEAKAGE TESTS  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY (JULY 15) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY WATERLOO ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, PUBLIC SQUARE STREET AND SHANGHAI STREET INCLUDING WING SING LANE, HI LUNG LANE, MAN MING LANE, TEMPLE STREET, PORTLAND STREET, ARTHUR STREET AND YUNNAN LANE.

MEANWHILE, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (JULY 16) TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 17) FOR SIMILAR TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNK BAY ROAD, KAI TIN ROAD, PING TIN STREET, AND ON TIN STREET, INCLUDING WHOLE BLOCKS OF LAM TIN ESTATE AND LAM TIN SAM TSUEN.

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'FIGHT CRIME' PROMOTION  
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A FIGHT CRIME VARIETY SHOW, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE MONG KOK FIVE AREA COMMITTEES, WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JULY 18), 7 PM AT ANCHOR STREET PLAYGROUND, TAI KOK TSUI.

THIS ANNUAL ACTIVITY, AIMED AT PROMOTING THE 'FIGHT AGAINST CRIME', WILL INCLUDE TAEKWONDO PERFORMANCE AND SKITS. ADMISSION IS FREE.

SOME 2 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE EVENT. MR P.K. CHAN, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WILL BE OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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MONDAY, JULY 13, 1981

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ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON FLYOVER  
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THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR HAROLD BEATON, TODAY VISITED THE STUBBS ROAD FLYOVER WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE PARTIALLY OPENED TO TRAFFIC THIS WEEKEND.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR HUGH MCBRIDE OF PETER PUN AND ASSOCIATES, THE CONSULTANTS, AND MR PETER MANN, RESIDENT ENGINEER.

MR BEATON SAID THAT THE 450-METRE FLYOVER WOULD BE OPENED TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC DOWN WONG NAI CHUNG GAP ROAD FROM 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY.

THIS, HE ADDED, SHOULD RELIEVE THE CONGESTION AT THE STUBBS ROAD ROUNDABOUT, ESPECIALLY DURING RUSH HOURS.

THE FLYOVER IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER ON COMPLETION OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT.

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HEAVY VEHICLES BARRED FROM SOME HONG KONG ROADS  
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VEHICLES WITH AN UNLADEN WEIGHT EXCEEDING 2-1/2 TONS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING SEVERAL ROADS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 15).

THEY ARE HENDERSON ROAD= PRICE ROAD, BETWEEN WILSON ROAD AND MOUNT BUTLER ROAD AND BETWEEN MOUNT BUTLER ROAD AND MOUNT BUTLER DRIVE= DEEP WATER BAY ROAD, BETWEEN NAM FUNG ROAD AND SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST, AND BETWEEN ISLAND ROAD AND SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST= ACCESS ROAD TO POLICE TRAINING CAMP, NEAR ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET= AND SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST.

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