



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1981

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FEW PROBLEMS AS WATER RESTRICTIONS START

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HONG KONG WENT THROUGH ITS FIRST NIGHT OF WATER RESTRICTIONS YESTERDAY WITH RELATIVELY FEW PROBLEMS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR WILLIAM TUCKER, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST PHASE OF WATER RESTRICTIONS.

HE SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE INCONVENIENCE, EXCEPT IN A FEW ISOLATED CASES.

MR TUCKER SAID THAT AS IN THE PAST, A NUMBER OF REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FROM PEOPLE IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS WHO FOUND THEIR TAPS RUNNING OUT EVEN BEFORE SUPPLIES WERE SWITCHED OFF AT 10 PM.

THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS, HE SAID, WAS PROBABLY OVER-REACTION ON THE PART OF SOME PEOPLE WHO ALL DECIDED TO DRAW WATER TO LAST THEM THROUGH THE NIGHT.

MR TUCKER SAID THAT IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE OPERATIONAL COSTS, SOME BUILDING MANagements MIGHT HAVE ALTERED THE INTERNAL PUMPING SYSTEMS, WHICH WERE REQUIRED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE UPPER FLOORS WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO GET WATER WHEN MAINS PRESSURE WAS LOW - PARTICULARLY DURING TIMES OF WATER RESTRICTIONS.

HE APPEALED TO THE MANagements OF THESE BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR INTERNAL PUMPING SYSTEMS WERE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

+WITHOUT THE INTERNAL PUMPING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID, +THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDINGS MIGHT SUFFER UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP DURING WATER RESTRICTIONS, AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO BECAUSE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE INTERNAL SYSTEMS LIES ENTIRELY WITH THE BUILDING MANagements.+

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT STAFF OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WERE SEEN SWITCHING OFF SUPPLIES BEFORE 10 PM, HE SAID THAT THE TIME TAKEN TO CLOSE A VALVE RANGED FROM TWO MINUTES FOR A FOUR-INCH PIPE TO SOME 25 MINUTES FOR A 48-INCH MAIN.

+THAT IS WHY THE TURNCOCK STAFF HAVE TO START A BIT EARLY SO THAT THE SUPPLIES CAN BE COMPLETELY SWITCHED OFF BY 10 PM.+

REFERRING TO REPORTS THAT SOME PREMISES HAD CONTINUED TO RECEIVE WATER DURING THE RESTRICTION HOURS, HE SAID THESE PREMISES WERE APPARENTLY DRAWING WATER FROM STORAGE TANKS ON THE ROOFS OF THE BUILDINGS.

HE URGED THE MANagements OF THESE BUILDINGS TO CO-OPERATE IN ENSURING THAT ALL THESE TANKS ARE SHUT OFF DURING THE RESTRICTION HOURS.

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IN OTHER CASES, HE SAID, A FEW PREMISES RECEIVED WATER OUTSIDE SUPPLY HOURS BECAUSE THEY ARE LOCATED WITHIN INDUSTRIAL ZONES.

MR TUCKER POINTED OUT THAT SOME PEOPLE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE WATER WELL AFTER THE MAINS WERE CLOSED BECAUSE SOME WATER REMAINED IN THE PIPING SYSTEM AND FOR A WHILE WOULD CONTINUE TO FEED SOME PREMISES IN LOW-LYING AREAS.

HE STRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO HAVE SUPPLIES STOPPED AT 10 PM EACH DAY AND RESTORED AT 6 O'CLOCK THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, CONSUMERS SHOULD NOT EXPECT THEIR SUPPLIES TO BE STOPPED AT PRECISELY 10 PM.

+IN SOME CASES, THE SWITCH-OFF TIME VARIES BY MINUTES FROM PLACE TO PLACE AS OUR TURNCOCK STAFF WORK THEIR WAY FROM ONE VALVE TO ANOTHER,+ HE SAID.

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HURRY UP AND REGISTER, SNT URGES

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SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON ALL WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO +HURRY UP AND REGISTER+.

THERE ARE ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT FOR REGISTRATION WHICH CLOSES ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 12).

MR CHUI SAID UP TO YESTERDAY THE EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES HAD RECEIVED MORE THAN 100 000 COMPLETED FORMS.

+THIS IS A REASONABLY SATISFACTORY RESULT, ALTHOUGH I AM HOPING THAT A LOT MORE FORMS WILL COME IN BEFORE REGISTRATION CLOSES,+ HE SAID.

ONLY THOSE WHO REGISTER CAN VOTE IN THE NT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 4 NEXT YEAR, HE POINTED OUT.

+BY VOTING, PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON BOARDS, WHICH HAVE A DIRECT SAY ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND POLICIES AFFECTING THEIR LIVES,+ HE SAID.

ELECTIONS FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE ORGANISED ON A CONSTITUENCY BASIS. THERE ARE 46 CONSTITUENCIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND 128 POLLING STATIONS.

ANYONE WHO IS AGED 21 YEARS OR OVER, POSSESSES A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND WHO HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS IS QUALIFIED TO VOTE.

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TOUGHER MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL DUMPING
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TO HELP MAKE HONG KONG A CLEANER PLACE, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO STRENGTHEN THE LAW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL DUMPING OF LITTER AND WASTE.

PROVISIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1981, PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY, TO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF LITTER TO COVER ALL TYPES OF ILLEGALLY-DUMPED MATERIAL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE INTENTION WAS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE LAW APPLIED TO LITTER DEPOSITED FROM GOODS VEHICLES.

SERIOUS PROBLEMS HAD BEEN CAUSED IN THE PAST BY THE ILLEGAL AND INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF LORRY LOADS OF LITTER, WASTE AND OTHER MATERIAL, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BY DRIVERS WHO FAILED TO MAKE USE OF CONTROLLED TIPS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+BECAUSE OF THE PREVALENCE OF THIS PRACTICE, ITS HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COST INVOLVED IN THE REMOVAL OF THE RUBBISH, IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT AMENDMENTS BE INTRODUCED TO MAKE THE LAW MORE EFFECTIVE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION, LIABILITY FOR THE OFFENCE IS RESTRICTED TO THE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY DUMPS THE LOAD.

IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY IN ESTABLISHING THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON DRIVING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENCE, UNLESS THE OFFENDER IS CAUGHT IN THE ACT, NEW REGULATIONS WOULD MAKE THE OWNER OR HIRER OF GOODS VEHICLES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE DRIVERS UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

THIS MEANS THAT THE OWNER OR HIRER OF A GOODS VEHICLE WOULD BE LIABLE FOR AN OFFENCE IN ADDITION TO THE DRIVER WHO DUMPS LITTER AND COULD BE PROSECUTED IN CASES WHERE THE DRIVER IS NOT IDENTIFIED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE OWNER OR HIRER OF THE VEHICLE WOULD NOT BE CONVICTED IF A VEHICLE WAS TAKEN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER OR HIRER OR IF THE OFFENCE RESULTED FROM AN ACCIDENT OR SOME OTHER CAUSE BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE FINES FOR ALL LAND-BASED LITTERING OFFENCES TO CONFORM WITH THE PENALTY FOR MARINE LITTERING, AS INTRODUCED UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE CURRENT PENALTIES OF \$1 000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE AND \$2 000 FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES WILL BE INCREASED TO A FINE OF \$5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

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MERCHANT SHIPPING (PLEASURE VESSELS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 1981
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A REMINDER THAT NEW REGULATIONS RELATING TO PLEASURE VESSELS WILL COME INTO FORCE ON OCTOBER 17 WAS ISSUED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE MADE IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY AND IMPROVED CONTROL AT SEA AND TO COMBAT THE CONTINUING THREAT POSED BY THE USE OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT TO BRING IN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THESE REGULATIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PLEASURE VESSELS FITTED WITH OR DESIGNED TO CARRY ENGINES, POSSESSED OR USED EITHER IN OR OUT OF THE WATER, BUT DO NOT APPLY TO CRAFT THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN LAUNCHED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY ARE PART OF THE MEASURES INTRODUCED UNDER THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1981, ENACTED IN MID-JULY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND ARE INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT PLEASURE VESSELS ARE PROPERLY LICENSED AND OPERATED, ARE INSURED AGAINST THIRD PARTY RISKS AND ARE MORE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE.

CHANGES MADE UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS ARE:

- (A) LICENCE NUMBERS MUST BE PAINTED OR PERMANENTLY AFFIXED AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE AMID SHIPS ON EACH SIDE OF THE PLEASURE VESSEL, IN A COLOUR WHICH CLEARLY CONTRASTS WITH THAT OF THE SIDE ON WHICH THEY ARE PAINTED OR PERMANENTLY AFFIXED. EACH NUMBER MUST BE AT LEAST 300 MM IN HEIGHT WITH EACH OF ITS COMPONENTS AT LEAST 40 MM BROAD AND, EXCEPT FOR THE NUMBER +1+, TOTALLY 170 MM IN WIDTH. THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY PROPERLY THE NUMBER HAS BEEN INCREASED.
- (B) CHANGES OF ADDRESS, OF PARTICULARS OF THE VESSEL AND OF OWNERSHIP, CHARTERING AND REMOVAL MUST BE REPORTED WITHIN THREE DAYS, INSTEAD OF SEVEN DAYS AS WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST.
- (C) OTHER PENALTY INCREASES INCLUDE:
 - FAILURE TO REPORT CHANGES RELATING TO PLEASURE VESSELS OR IN THE OWNERSHIP OR CHARTERING OF THEM-
 - USING THE VESSEL WITHOUT HAVING ON BOARD THE HOLDER OF A LOCAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE TO ACT AS MASTER AND ENGINEER OR WITHOUT THE OWNER'S CONSENT- AND
 - PERMITTING A PLEASURE CRAFT TO BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES, INCLUDING HIRE OR CARRIAGE OF FARE-PAYING PASSENGERS.
- (D) AN UNLICENSED VESSEL, WHETHER IN OR OUT OF THE WATER, MAY BE SEIZED AND HELD UNTIL IT IS LICENSED OR ITS RELEASE ORDERED BY A MAGISTRATE. THE OWNER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY REMOVAL AND STORAGE CHARGES. ANY VESSEL NOT RECLAIMED WITHIN THREE MONTHS WILL BE DISPOSED OF.

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MOST PLEASURE VESSEL OWNERS HAD COMPLIED WITH THE EXISTING PROVISIONS AND NO DOUBT WOULD COMPLY WITH THE REVISED REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, THE EXTENT OF ILLEGAL SPEEDBOAT OPERATION WAS SUCH THAT MORE SEVERE PENALTIES AND CERTAIN OTHER MEASURES WERE REQUIRED TO DETER THIS TRAFFIC.

HE URGED ALL PLEASURE VESSEL OWNERS TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE VALID LICENCES FOR THEIR CRAFT AND THAT THE NEW LICENCE MARKING REQUIREMENTS ARE COMPLIED WITH BEFORE OCTOBER 17.

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LAND RESUMPTION FOR MTR ISLAND LINE
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A NOTIFICATION OF AN ORDER FOR THE RESUMPTION OF A SITE AT NOS. 170-174 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE ORDER WAS MADE UNDER SECTION 4 (1) OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE LAND FORMS PART OF THE TRIANGULAR SITE AT NOS. 170-188 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHEUNG WAN EAST STATION CONCOURSE.+

+AN OFFER WAS MADE TO SIX OWNERS OF THE SITE FOR JOINT REDEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LAND WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION. OF THESE, FIVE HAVE AGREED TO ENTER INTO A JOINT REDEVELOPMENT. DESPITE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS, THE REMAINING OWNER HAS DECLINED THE OFFER.

+IN ORDER NOT TO HOLD UP THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME THAT WILL ULTIMATELY CAUSE A DELAY IN THE OPENING OF THE ISLAND LINE, IT IS NECESSARY TO RESUME THE SITE AT NOS. 170-174 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL FOR WHICH VACANT POSSESSION IS REQUIRED IN EARLY NOVEMBER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THERE ARE NO DOMESTIC TENANTS IN THE AFFECTED PREMISES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON HAVING ANY ESTATE, RIGHT, SHARE OR INTEREST IN THE LAND MAY CLAIM COMPENSATION.

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MAJOR ROAD PROJECT FOR TAI PO

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WORK WILL BEGIN IN TAI PO EARLY NEXT YEAR ON A MAJOR ROAD PROJECT WHICH FORMS A VITAL PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE.

THE PROJECT MAINLY INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-KILOMETRE DUAL, THREE-LANE NEW TRUNK ROAD FROM ISLAND HOUSE TO NORTH TAI PO BY-PASSING THE CENTRE OF THE NEW TOWN.

ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 700-METRE DUAL TWO-LANE LINK ROAD TO SERVE THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN AND FIVE MAJOR ROAD BRIDGES.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE, ARE NOW BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

ON COMPLETION, THE NEW TRUNK ROAD WILL LINK WITH THE SHA TIN - TAI PO COASTAL TRUNK ROAD NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL HELP EASE THE HEAVY TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

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FISHERMEN DO WELL IN TELEPHONY COURSE

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THE SECOND COURSE ON RADIO TELEPHONY FOR FISHERMEN ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BEGINS ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 12), FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE FIRST.

ALL 16 CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE FIRST TWO-WEEK COURSE LAST MONTH PASSED THE EXAMINATION.

EIGHTEEN FISHERMEN HAVE ENROLLED FOR THE NEW COURSE.

AN EXAMINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICE AT THE END OF THE COURSE AND SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE AWARDED A RESTRICTED CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY IN RADIO TELEPHONY.

THE COURSE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE FISHERMEN WITH THE PROPER KNOWLEDGE ON THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON FISHING VESSELS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

IT IS HELD IN THE ABERDEEN OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

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TECHNIQUES OF TEACHING DISABLED

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THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE IS ORGANISING A COURSE FOR INSTRUCTORS WORKING WITH THE DISABLED.

+THE COURSE - WHICH STARTS NEXT MONTH - AIMS TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTORS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISABLED, AND THE TECHNIQUES OF TEACHING AND WORKING WITH THEM,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASSES AT THE COLLEGE ONE DAY A WEEK FOR 15 WEEKS, HE SAID.

THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IS CANTONESE, AND THE COURSE FEES IS \$100.

INSTRUCTORS POSSESSING THE COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS' CERTIFICATE OR ITS EQUIVALENT AND WHO ARE WORKING IN VOCATIONAL CENTRES OR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THE DISABLED ARE INVITED TO APPLY.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COLLEGE AT 373 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG, AND COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE COLLEGE NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24.

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NEW 24-HOUR CLEARWAY FOR CASTLE PEAK ROAD

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A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY WILL BE INTRODUCED ON THE YUEN LONG-AU TAU SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 12).

ALL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, WHICH EXTENDS FROM A POINT 30 METRES EAST OF FUNG CHEUNG STREET TO THE AU TAU ROUNDABOUT.

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FUN FAIR FOR 2 000 CHILDREN
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A FUN FAIR WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY AT WO CHE ESTATE FOR 2 000 CHILDREN AND 1 000 PARENTS.

THE FAIR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, HONG KONG (ISLAND EAST) ROUND TABLE NO. 6 AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

THERE WILL BE A BRASS BAND PARADE BY THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE, AS WELL AS A MAGIC SHOW, CHILDREN'S FOLK SONG SINGING AND DANCING PERFORMANCES.

IN ADDITION, 20 GAMES STALLS WILL BE SET UP AT THE FAIR, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE ROOFTOP PODIUM OF THE WO CHE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION HAS ALSO BEEN ORGANISED.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, WHICH STARTS AT 2 PM, WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE- THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG- THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG (ISLAND EAST) ROUND TABLE NO. 6, MR EDDIE FOSTER, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER (SHA TIN), DR PATRICK HASE.

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