DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FEWER DRUG ADDICTS NEWLY REPORTED

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THE DOWNWARD TREND IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS NEWLY REPORTED TO THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE -- A TREND WHICH STARTED IN 1984 -- CONTINUED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY, SAID THIS WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE ANTI-PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES DRAMA COMPETITION THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR MULLOY SAID THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OF ALL AGES NEWLY REPORTED DROPPED BY 17.8 PER CENT FROM 1,335 TO 1,098, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1987.

"THE NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED YOUNG PERSONS AGED UNDER 21 ALSO DECREASED BY 21.3 PER CENT, FROM 432 TO 340," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, MR MULLOY SAID THAT SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF DRUGS HAD BEEN SEIZED AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUAL EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS.

HE SAID 401 KILOGRAMS OF NO.3 HEROIN HAD BEEN SEIZED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

"THIS IS MORE THAN THE TOTAL QUANTITY SEIZED IN THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1987, WHICH TOTALLED 358 KILOGRAMS," HE SAID.

"IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, ABOUT HALF OF THE SOME 5,000 MANDRAX TABLETS SEIZED WERE FAKE, INDICATING THAT THIS PROBLEM IS PROBABLY FADING," HE ADDED.

MR MULLOY SAID DURING THE PERIOD THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR ALL DRUG OFFENCES INCREASED SLIGHTLY, BY 2.6 PER CENT TO 5,765 PERSONS.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 30.5 PER CENT, FROM 2,798 TO 3,651, IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR MAJOR DRUG OFFENCES.

"CONSULTATION ON THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1988 IS REACHING ITS FINAL STAGES.

"I BELIEVE, IF PASSED, THOSE NEW POWERS WILL DEAL A SEVERE BLOW TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS," MR MULLOY SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY EFFORTS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) HAD HAD THEIR EFFECT IN THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE IN RECENT YEARS WHICH WAS IN CONTRAST TO THE WORLD-WIDE TREND.

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

THE COMMISSIONER STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH TODAY'S EVENT ALSO MARKED THE END OF THE ANTI-DRUG WEEK '88 PROGRAMME, THE GOVERNMENT'S VIGILANCE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS THE DETERMINATION AND DRIVE AT MOUNTING THESE EFFORTS, WOULD CONTINUE.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACAN AND THE BAUHINIA JAYCEES, THE DRAMA COMPETITION WAS AIMED AT AROUSING THE AWARENESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE PERILS OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ABUSE.

A TOTAL OF 28 ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED FOR THE TWO DIVISIONS: STUDENTS (ALL FORM ONE TO SEVEN STUDENTS) AND OPEN (GROUPS OTHER THAN PROFESSIONAL THEATRICAL COMPANIES).

FOLLOWING KEEN COMPETITION, A FIVE-MEMBER JURY SELECTED THE TOP GROUPS IN THE COMPETITION.

IN THE STUDENT DIVISION, KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL WON THE GRAND PRIZE, AND PENTECOSTAL LAM HON KWONG SCHOOL WON THE SPECIAL PRIZE.

IN THE OPEN DIVISION, WESTERN DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION WON THE GRAND PRIZE, AND YEE CHING DRAMA CLUB WON THE SPECIAL PRIZE.

WINNERS OF THE GRAND PRIZE AND OF THE SPECIAL PRIZE WERE EACH AWARDED A TROPHY AND A CASH CHEQUE FOR $1,500 AND $1,000 RESPECTIVELY.

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MAN DIES OF RABIES

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) CONFIRMED THAT A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN HAD DIED OF RABIES.

THE PATIENT WAS A RESIDENT IN A VILLAGE IN YUEN LONG. HE WAS BITTEN BY A DOG IN CHINA ABOUT A YEAR AGO BUT ONLY DEVELOPED SYMPTOMS RECENTLY.

HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM POK OI HOSPITAL TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL ON OCTOBER 2 AND DIED ON OCTOBER 18.

A POST-MORTEM WAS CONDUCTED TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSE OF DEATH. FROM THE HISTORY, POST-MORTEM AND LABORATORY FINDINGS AVAILABLE TODAY, THE MAN WAS CONSIDERED TO BE AN IMPORTED RABIES CASE.

THE LAST RABIES CASE IN HONG KONG WAS REPORTED IN AUGUST 1986.

HEALTH STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT ARE TODAY VISITING THE PATIENT'S HOME IN YUEN LONG TO TRACE HIS CONTACTS AND TO TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY.

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FIVE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED TO LAB
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FIVE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES WERE ELECTED TODAY (SATURDAY) TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR TWO YEARS STARTING FROM NEXT JANUARY.

THEY WERE:

MOK KA-WING - 133 VOTES

LAM SHUK-YEE - 132 VOTES

MONG WAI-MING - 121 VOTES

LI FUNG-YING - 114 VOTES

CHAN YUN-CHE - 112 VOTES

OUT OF THE 261 EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNIONS ENROLLED FOR THE ELECTION, 250 TURNED OUT TO VOTE. OF THE 250 VOTES CAST, 249 WERE DECLARED VALID.

TODAY'S ELECTION TOOK PLACE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RETURNING OFFICER, MR YIU YAN-NANG, WHO IS AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE VOTES WERE COUNTED IN THE PRESENCE OF MR ROBERT CHAN, REPRESENTING THE SECRETARY FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, AND MR ROBERT SUEN, REPRESENTING THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS.

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD:

MR A.R. HAMILTON, OF THE EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF HONG KONG;

DR LUI MING-WAH, OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

MR HENRY Y.Y. TANG, OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES;

MR A.E. GAZELEY, OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;

MR HO SAI-CHU, OF THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ONE EMPLOYER AND ONE EMPLOYEE MEMBER WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO SIT ON THE BOARD. THEIR NAMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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PROMOTION OF ARTS NOW BEARING FRUIT

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BY ACTIVELY SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE ARTS IN THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MANAGED TO TURN HONG KONG FROM A "CULTURAL DESERT" INTO AN OASIS WHICH IS NOW BEARING FRUIT.

THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS WHEN SPEAKING AT THE OPENING RECEPTION OF THE 1988 WORLD MUSIC DAYS FESTIVAL AT THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING.

PUBLIC FUNDS SUPPORTED TWO ORCHESTRAS, THREE DANCE COMPANIES, TWO THEATRE COMPANIES, ARTS FESTIVALS AND LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PERFORMANCES BY BOTH LOCAL AND VISITING ARTISTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SIR DAVID SAID.

"THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PERFORMING ARTS VENUES ALSO HELPS TO ENCOURAGE CULTURAL LIFE IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

"IN 1987, THREE NEW VENUES PROVIDING A TOTAL OF OVER 3,000 SEATS WERE OPENED AND TWO OTHER CENTRES, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, WHICH ARE DUE TO OPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL BRING THE TOTAL TO 23,000 SEATS," HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS WAS TRAINING HONG KONG'S FUTURE PERFORMING ARTISTS.

"WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS BUT ARE NOT COMPLACENT AND INTEND TO DO MORE," SIR DAVID REMARKED.

OF THE 1988 WORLD MUSIC DAYS FESTIVAL, SIR DAVID SAID THAT WHILE IT FOCUSSED ON THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC AND ITS FUTURE, IT WAS A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EVENT IN WHICH SOME 40 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED.

"IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT HONG KONG, AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY WHERE EAST AND WEST BLEND IN HARMONY, SHOULD BE THE HOST FOR THIS FIRST OCCASION WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND THE ASIAN COMPOSERS LEAGUE ARE COMING TOGETHER FOR THIS MUSICAL EAST-MEETS-WEST," HE SAID.

IT WAS AN OCCASION WHICH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS DELIGHTED TO SUPPORT, SIR DAVID ADDED.

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MAJOR CLEARANCE PROGRAMME ON SCHEDULE

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THE MASSIVE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME TO MAKE WAY FOR TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL HAS SO FAR BEEN CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS SO FAR OF THE 18-MONTH PROGRAMME, WHICH AIMS AT CLEARING 18,000 PEOPLE TO MAKE WAY FOR THE TUNNEL.

"DESPITE ALL THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM REHOUSING AND LAND RESUMPTION, PHASE I AND PART OF PHASE II OF THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME, WHICH INVOLVED 3,753 PEOPLE FROM 1,198 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

"THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL HAD PROVIDED VALUABLE ADVICE, AND THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED HAD WORKED HARD IN FORMULATING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TUNNEL PROJECT," HE NOTED.

AFTER A FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT, MR LAN NOTED THAT THERE WERE STILL PROBLEMS WHICH HAD TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE PHASES III AND IV COULD START NEXT YEAR.

HE WAS REFERRING TO THE DEMAND BY OWNERS OF OLD SCHEDULED BUILDING LOTS IN DIAMOND HILL, WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME.

THE OWNERS ARE ASKING FOR THE SAME VILLAGE REMOVAL TERMS AS FOR INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO URBAN LAND-OWNERS UNDER THE EXISTING POLICY.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOOKED CLOSELY INTO THE MATTER AND A FAVOURABLE COMPENSATION RATE OF $2,929 PER SQUARE FOOT IS NOW BEING OFFERED TO THE AFFECTED OWNERS, IN ADDITION TO REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS."

"I UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE VILLAGERS ARE STILL NOT HAPPY WITH THE TERMS OFFERED, AND WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS. MY DOOR IS OPEN AND I AM PREPARED TO LISTEN TO THEM," MR LAN SAID.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THINGS WOULD WORK OUT SMOOTHLY IN TIME FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CLEARANCE PROGRAMME TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE.

EARLIER, MR LAN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH, TOURED THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE WHICH CONTAINS 132 SHOPS OF VARIOUS TRADES, 12 RESTAURANTS, WET AND DRY MARKETS AND 24 COOKED FOOD STALLS.

/THE PARTY .....

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE ROOFTOP OF WANG LOK HOUSE AT WANG TAU HOM ESTATE WHERE MR LAN WAS BRIEFED ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S KOWLOON CENTRAL ESTATES REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

MR LAN WAS TOLD THAT UNDER THE PROGRAMME, ALL THE EXISTING MARK I AND II HOUSING BLOCKS WOULD HAVE BEEN REDEVELOPED BY 1990 TO MAKE WAY FOR DOMESTIC BLOCKS OF THE LATEST STANDARD.

FROM WANG LOK HOUSE, THE PARTY WENT TO THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AT MA CHAI HANG AND CHUK YUEN EASTERN PLATFORM FOR A BRIEF INSPECTION BEFORE ARRIVING AT TSZ WAN SHAN.

AT TSZ WAN SHAN, MR LAN LEARNED THAT SIX PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS THERE WERE AMONG THE 26 SUBSTANDARD BLOCKS IN THE TERRITORY, AND WERE SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION IN 1989 UNDER THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S EXTENDED REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

AFTERWARDS, THE PARTY WALKED THROUGH THE NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE WHERE MR LAN SAW THE GREATLY IMPROVED LIVING ENVIRONMENT WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF A RECENTLY-COMPLETED $1.77 MILLION SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

FOLLOWING THE TOUR OF THE VILLAGE, THE PARTY WENT TO THE ROOFTOP OF KAM WAN HOUSE AT CHOI HUNG ESTATE FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF DIAMOND HILL, TAI HOM AND THE SITE OF THE SOUTHERN PORTAL OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, MR LAN VISITED THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE IN SAN PO KONG AND WAS GIVEN TO A BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION FOSTERS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAS HELPED FOSTER A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT MATTERS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS LORNA MA WONG LUNG-SHI, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF AN EXHIBITION ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT BOARD ACTIVITIES, MRS MA SAID THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD PLAYED A DUAL ROLE IN REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION AND ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISTRICT.

MRS MA POINTED OUT THAT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, APART FROM PROVIDING A MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT, ALSO ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS TO HELP DEVELOP THE COMMUNITY AND IMPROVE FACILITIES FOR DISTRICTS.

/THE EXHIBITION .....

THE EXHIBITION WOULD HELP RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT TO ACHIEVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WHICH ORGANISES ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS IN MONG KOK, AND TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, SHE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION IS BEING STAGED AT THE DISPLAY PANELS IN THE OPEN-AIR SYCAMORE ART GALLERY AT THE ACCCESS ROAD BETWEEN SYCAMORE STREET AND BOUNDARY STREET.

THE GALLERY WAS OPENED IN 1985 TO PROMOTE THE APPRECIATION OF ART IN THE DISTRICT.

WITH THE HELP OF STUDENTS FROM THE FIRST INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND DESIGN, A 46-METRE-LONG MURAL PAINTING AT THE GALLERY WAS TOUCHED UP RECENTLY TO COINCIDE WITH THE FIRST EXHIBITION THERE IN 1988/89.

CHAIRMAN OF MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI, ALSO OFFICIATED AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREOMONY.

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE IS INVITING OFFICE-BEARERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, VILLAGE OFFICES AND YIN NGAI SOCIETIES TO TAKE PART IN A TRAINING CAMP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS.

THE CAMP WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29 AND 30 (SATURDAY AND SUNDAY) IN THE TUEN MUN CAMPSITE OF THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID SIMILAR ACTIVITIES HELD LAST YEAR WERE WELL-RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY ORGANISERS.

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT ENABLING PARTICIPANTS TO THINK THROUGH THE STEPS OF PROBLEM SOLVING, DECISION MAKING AND PLANNING, TO FIND AND ANALYSE INFORMATION AS WELL AS TO EVALUATE RECOMMENDATIONS OBJECTIVELY, HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION WOULD HELP TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES THROUGH A FILM SHOW, ROLE PLAY AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR KINGSLEY SIT, WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER TO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE CAMPERS, HE ADDED.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE TO PAY $40 FOR THE CAMP FEE. THEY WILL DEPART FROM THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 1 PM ON OCTOBER 29 AND RETURN AT 1.30 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AS THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS LIMITED, INTERESTED COMMUNITY LEADERS SHOULD CONTACT MRS ANGIE LI, ON 0-4513050, WITHOUT DELAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.

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ENTRIES INVITED FOR ANTI-TRIAD BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN AN OPEN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TO BE ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER TO PROMOTE THE ANTI-TRIAD MESSAGE.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ANTI-TRIAD BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE ANTI-TRIAD DRIVE UNDER THIS YEAR'S SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGN, IS SPONSORED BY THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

IT AIMS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE THEIR LEISURE TIME IN SPORTS PURSUITS AND TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM BECOMING INVOLVED WITH TRIADS.

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BELOW 30 WHO ARE LIVING, STUDYING OR WORKING IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND ARE NOT PLAYERS OF THE FIRST OR SECOND DIVISIONS OF THE BASKETBALL LEAGUE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION ARE WELCOME TO FORM THEIR OWN TEAM COMPRISING EIGHT TO 12 PLAYERS TO TAKE PART IN THE TOURNAMENT.

A TOTAL OF 15 TEAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

THE TOURNAMENT, IN THE FORM OF SINGLE ROUND MATCHES, WILL TAKE PLACE IN WEEKDAY EVENINGS IN DECEMBER AT THE ABERDEEN INDOOR GAMES HALL IN WONG CHUK HANG.

THE CHAMPION AND THE FIRST THREE RUNNERS-UP WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND SOUVENIRS.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE TOURNAMENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS AP LEI CHAU, WAH FU AND STANLEY SUB-OFFICES. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-540271.

THE ENTRY DEADLINE WILL BE OCTOBER 30.

APART FROM THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, OTHER PROGRAMMES IN THE DISTRICT'S ANTI-TRIAD DRIVE INCLUDE A SERIES OF VISITS TO SCHOOLS DURING WHICH MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WILL SPEAK ON THE SORDID ACTIVITIES OF TRIADS AND THE DANGERS OF BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THEM.

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ISLANDS DB TO DISCUSS FUEL ASH MANAGEMENT ON LAMMA

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A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT OF FUEL ASH ORIGINATING FROM THE POWER STATION ON LAMMA WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24).

A PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR SIMON HEWITT, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT AND SEEK THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY" OF THE EXPO '97 PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY.

A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (INFORMATION) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH, MR MIKE ROWSE, WILL BE PRESENT TO HEAR MEMBERS' VIEW.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON A PAPER ON THE MUI WO DEVELOPMENT WHICH COVERS A RECLAMATION AND SITE FORMATION PROJECT FOR A SPORTS COMPLEX, A VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE, GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2 PM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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KWAI TSING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BUS FARE INCREASE

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24) TO DISCUSS A FARE INCREASE PROPOSED BY THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. LTD.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE TAXI SERVICE.

/A SENIOR .....

A SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 24) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10/F, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

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FAMILY TRAIL ADDS TO ATTRACTION OF CHEUNG CHAU

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VISITORS TO CHEUNG CHAU WILL FIND IT MORE ENJOYABLE TO TOUR THE ISLAND IN AN ORGANISED WAY AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF A "FAMILY TRAIL" TODAY (SATURDAY).

A LARGE NUMBER OF HIKERS ARE EXPECTED TO USE THE TRAIL AND ENJOY THE SCENERY.

THE TRAIL COMPRISES THREE CIRCULAR ROUTES WHICH COVER MOST OF THE ISLAND AND HIKERS CAN CHOOSE A ROUTE ACCORDING TO THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

"AS THE TRAIL IS DESIGNED TO SUIT BOTH THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY IN A FAMILY, IT IS PHYSICALLY LESS DEMANDING WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER COUNTRY TRAILS AND THERE ARE NUMEROUS RESTING POINTS AND PAVILIONS," HE SAID.

THE IDEA OF THE FAMILY TRAIL PROJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE TWO YEARS AGO. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT TRAILS ON THE ISLANDS WOULD ENHANCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT AS A RECREATION AREA FOR FAMILIES.

LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS WERE INVITED TO DESIGN AND MARK TRAILS ON FOUR ISLANDS - LANTAU, CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND LAMMA.

THE CHEUNG CHAU FAMILY TRAIL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHOSEN AS THE FIRST TO BE CONSTRUCTED AND THE WORKS SECTION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE BEGAN WORK IN SUMMER LAST YEAR.

"CONSTRUCTION WORK INCLUDED IMPROVEMENT TO THE EXISTING FOOTPATHS, INSTALLATION OF ROAD SIGNS AND PUTTING UP MAPS SHOWING THE ROUTES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID

/"ROAD SIGNS .....

"ROAD SIGNS ALONG THE TRAIL INDICATE THE LOCATIONS OF SCENIC SPOTS, DIRECTION OF THE ROUTE, WALKING DISTANCE AND THE TIME NEEDED," HE SAID.

"THESE ROAD SIGNS ARE IMPORTANT TO TRAVELLERS AS THEY PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION AND THEREFORE THEY SHOULD BE KEPT CLEAN AND TIDY," HE STRESSED.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE MORE PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL YOUTHS IN THIS PROJECT, A LOGO DESIGN CONTEST AND A NAMING CONTEST WERE HELD BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

"RESPONSE TO THE CONTESTS WAS GOOD AND THE WINNING ENTRY CAN APTLY REFLECT THE NATURE OF THE TRAIL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ON THE CHEUNG CHAU FAMILY TRAIL, HE SAID THE LONGEST ROUTE -- THE WESTERN LOOP -- TOOK ABOUT TWO HOURS TO FINISH WHEREAS THE SHORTEST ONE -- THE SOUTHEASTERN LOOP -- WAS JUST A 75-MINUTE WALK.

"IT IS BEST FOR A FAMILY TO COVER ONLY ONE OF THESE LOOPS ALTHOUGH THE MORE ENERGETIC PEOPLE MAY FIND IT CHALLENGING IN FINISHING THE WHOLE TRAIL IN ONE DAY," HE SAID.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR SIMILAR TRAILS ON THE OTHER THREE ISLANDS ARE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE, HE ADDED.

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ATHLETIC MEET FOR ISLANDERS

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THE 11TH ISLANDS DISTRICT ATHLETIC MEET WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN SPORTS GROUND TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

MORE THAN 400 ATHLETES FROM VARIOUS ISLANDS OF THE DISTRICT WILL TAKE PART IN THE EVENT WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT RURAL COMMITTEES, ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, REGIONAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND ISLANDS SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JONATHAN NG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 11 AM.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

A SPECIAL VAN DY 6968 WILL LEAVE THE MARINE DEPARTMENT PIER, CENTRAL FOR SHA TIN AT 10 AM. PRESS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF THE TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENT.

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PLB RESTRICTED ZONE IN WONG TAI SIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SHEUNG TAK STREET IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BECOME A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 25).

NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUS WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY IN SHEUNG TAK STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH CHING TAK STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORKS IN COTTON TREE DRIVE, THE FOLLOWING ROADS IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIODS BELOW:

* THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM COTTON TREE DRIVE SOUTHBOUND TO QUEENSWAY WESTBOUND WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM DAILY ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 25) AND THE NEXT DAY.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA COTTON TREE DRIVE, GARDEN ROAD AND QUEENSWAY.

* THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM QUEENSWAY WESTBOUND TO COTTON TREE DRIVE SOUTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED FROM 30 MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM DAILY ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 27) AND THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND COTTON TREE DRIVE.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT FROM 9.30 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY ON OCTOBER 23 (SUNDAY), 24, 25 AND 27, A 350-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTH OF HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORK.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

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