

\$1m aid for civic education

THE Government has allocating over \$1 million to launch intensive publicity campaigns on civic education for the year.

The chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, Mrs Rita Fan, said yesterday \$1.28 million — \$530,000 more than last year — had been allocated to engender a better sense of civic-mindedness in Hongkong.

A total of \$700,000 will be spent on a publicity package which includes a large-scale variety show, television programs.

Opponents of direct elections have accused Hongkong people of lacking civic awareness, saying they are not mature enough for sophisticated politics or drastic changes.

Mrs Fan said civic awareness should be promoted regardless of the political issues being debated. She said the committee had encouraged people to voice their opinions on all social affairs, including the current political review.

The committee was formed last year with members from several Government departments.

The extra money is expected to be used to expand the committee's civic education resource room into a full-scale centre to better serve the community.

The committee's community participation scheme would also be reinforced with an increase of funding and 23 projects would be completed during the year.