

Bid to double number of MACs in Tsun Wan

A major effort will be made this year to double the number of Mutual Aid Committees operating in both private and public housing estates in Tsun Wan.

"In round figures, we hope to double the number of MACs there," a New Territories Administration spokesman said yesterday.

He said that there are presently 107 MACs operating in Tsun Wan, 10 more in the "pipeline" with 18 Owners' Incorporations in operation which are similar in function to the MACs.

While the emphasis in the past had been to encourage the

development of MACs in private multi-storey housing blocks in Tsun Wan, the spokesman said this year the focus would be on bringing the concept to public housing estates.

He said a team consisting of eight community organisers directed by a community liaison officer working through the Tsun Wan District Office is explaining the MAC concept to residents of public housing estates and encouraging them to form their own MACs.

MACs were first formed in Tsun Wan in the summer of 1973. The committees were set up to enable multi-storey

building residents to organise cleanliness and anti-crime campaigns.

In a speech to members of the Y's Men's Club of Hongkong yesterday, the Secretary for the New Territories, Mr D. Akers-Jones, said that the MACs already established in Tsun Wan encompass about one-sixth of the population.

"... but by the end of the year we hope to bring up to one-third of the population into the MACs," said Mr Akers-Jones.

He said other committees had also been formed in each of the New Territories towns and that more are being formed in these areas as well.