



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1988

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SIR DAVID STARTS "WALK AND PLANT" PROMOTION

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY TO HELP CONSERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO SHOW CONCERN FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE BY PARTICIPATING IN TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING WEEKS.

"IT IS OF GREAT SADNESS TO ME THAT ALTHOUGH THE VALUE OF HAVING COUNTRY PARKS IS WELL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMUNITY, THEY ARE STILL DREADFULLY DAMAGED EACH YEAR BY HILL FIRES, MANY OF WHICH WERE CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"HILL FIRES ARE EASY TO START BUT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PUT OUT. PREVENTION IS ALWAYS THE KEY.

"MAY I THEREFORE REMIND OUR COUNTRY PARK VISITORS TO BE EVER MINDFUL OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP KEEP OUR COUNTRYSIDE SAFE AND TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT."

SIR DAVID WAS ADDRESSING 100 INVITED GUESTS AND 1,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM FAMILY GROUPS AND SCHOOLS ATTENDING A "WALK AND PLANT" ACTIVITY AT PAK TAM AU IN SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK.

JOINING SIR DAVID IN OFFICIATING AT THE EVENT WERE LADY FORD; THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE; THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR CLIVE OXLEY AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED, MR ROBERT CHAN.

ALSO OFFICIATING WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD'S PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MR WILLIAM WAN; AND THE MARKETING DIRECTOR OF SWIRE BOTTLERS LIMITED, MR STEVE MASON, WHOSE COMPANY IS THE SPONSOR OF THE EVENT.

THE EVENT WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY AROUND 20 HOSTELLERS FROM NEIGHBOURING ASIAN COUNTRIES NOW ATTENDING AN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR IN HONG KONG ON YOUTH HOSTELS.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES ORGANISED THE EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED.

IT MARKED THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRST 13 FAMILY WALKS IN THE COUNTRY PARK SYSTEM AND THE LAUNCHING OF A PROMOTIONAL DRIVE TO ENCOURAGE WIDER PUBLIC USE OF THESE FACILITIES.

A FAMILY WALK IS A TRAIL LOCATED AT A SCENIC COUNTRY PARK AREA. IT PROVIDES NOT ONLY A WAY FOR A FAMILY TO TAKE EXERCISE IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS BUT ALSO GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCAL PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

/TODAY'S EVENT

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TODAY'S EVENT ALSO LAUNCHED THE 1988 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME WHICH THIS YEAR CELEBRATES ITS 31ST ANNIVERSARY.

"TREE PLANTING IS ESSENTIAL IN KEEPING OUR COUNTRYSIDE GREEN AND IN REPLENISHING THE STOCK OF TREES DAMAGED BY HILL FIRES," SIR DAVID SAID.

"PROMOTING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN TREE PLANTING HELPS PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE DELICATE ECOLOGY OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND SERVES TO REMIND US OF OUR OBLIGATION TO HELP IN PRESERVING IT."

HE SAID THAT STARTING FROM TOMORROW UNTIL THE END OF APRIL, ON ANY SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE PERIOD, TREE SEEDLINGS WOULD BE PROVIDED FREE IN EIGHT DESIGNATED PLANTING SITES IN VARIOUS COUNTRY PARKS.

"PLEASE DO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR CONCERN FOR OUR COUNTRYSIDE," HE SAID IN A GENERAL APPEAL TO PARK VISITORS.

SIR DAVID LATER LED THE GUEST PARTY AND THE PARTICIPANTS IN PLANTING THE FIRST TREES OF THE YEAR AND THEN WALKED THROUGH THE NEARBY 1.8 KILOMETRE PAK TAM FAMILY WALK.

THE EIGHT SITES WHERE TREE SEEDLINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE SCHEDULED TREE PLANTING DAYS FOR PLANTING BY INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE TAI MO SHAN, TAI TONG, BRIDE'S POOL, CLEARWATER BAY, PAK TAM CHUNG, POK FU LAM, QUARRY BAY AND MUI WO.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM TO PROVIDE TREE SEEDLINGS, TOOLS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

IN ADDITION TO SERVING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR GROUP PARTICIPATION. INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSERVATION EDUCATION UNIT AT 3-7332121 FOR REGISTRATION.

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TUNNEL BUS LANE AND TIDAL-FLOW SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY LANE ON THE KOWLOON-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED FROM 7.30 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 21) TO REDUCE BUS JOURNEY TIME ALONG THE TUNNEL CORRIDOR.

AT THE SAME TIME, FROM MONDAY TO MARCH 31, EXCEPT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THE TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT CARRIED OUT AT THE LION ROCK TUNNEL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 7.30 AM WILL BE EXTENDED BY 10 MINUTES TO END AT 7.40 AM.

/THE BUS

THE BUS LANE WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE KERBSIDE LANES OF CHE KUNG MUI ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM CHUI TIN STREET TO HUNG MUI KUK ROAD AND HUNG MUI KUK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM CHE KUNG MIU ROAD TO CHUNG PAK ROAD.

IT WILL OPERATE FROM 7.30 AM TO 9 AM, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"HOWEVER, THE HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF ROAD WIDENING WORK SCHEDULED IN JUNE THIS YEAR," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THIS DEPARTMENT SHOW THAT DURING PEAK HOURS, OVER 300 BUSES MAKE USE OF THE EXISTING BUS LANE EACH HOUR, AND THEIR JOURNEY TIME HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ABOUT ONE-AND-A-HALF MINUTES.

"IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TWO NEW SECTIONS OF BUS LANES WILL BRING ABOUT A FURTHER REDUCTION OF THREE TO FOUR MINUTES IN BUS JOURNEY TIME," HE ADDED.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TIDAL-FLOW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE ON A TRIAL BASIS, WITH THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING ITS IMPACT ON TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON THE TUNNEL APPROACH ROADS IN BOTH SHA TIN AND KOWLOON.

DURING THE TRIAL, SPECIAL TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE ADOPTED BETWEEN 7.15 AM AND 7.50 AM AT THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND WITH THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND.

IN THE FIRST WEEK, FROM MARCH 21 TO 25, TRAFFIC CONES WILL BE PLACED ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF WATERLOO ROAD TO GIVE VEHICLES COMING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND AN EXCLUSIVE LANE.

IN THE SECOND WEEK, FROM MARCH 28 TO 31, TRAFFIC LIGHTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ERECTED AT THAT JUNCTION WILL START TO OPERATE, THUS IMPROVING THE FLOW OF VEHICLES FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

"THESE TWO METHODS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW AT THAT JUNCTION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A NEW 550-METRE STRETCH OF LANE MARKING WILL BE INTRODUCED PERMANENTLY ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WESTBOUND EAST OF THE WATERLOO ROAD FLYOVER TO PREVENT VEHICLES FROM THE OUTER LANE JUMPING THE QUEUE INTO THE WATERLOO ROAD SLIP ROAD.

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TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT ISSUES 3RD QUARTER REPORT

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DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987-88, THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 1,991 COMPLAINTS, ACCORDING TO ITS QUARTERLY REPORT TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE REPORT COVERS THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31.

THE TCU WAS SET UP UNDER THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AND MONITOR COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS.

COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF 1,985 RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THERE WAS A 0.3 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS.

IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE PRECEDING YEAR, A TOTAL OF 1,564 COMPLAINTS WERE REGISTERED.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES NUMBERED 888, OR APPROXIMATELY 45 PER CENT OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED. THEY ARE STILL THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF COMPLAINTS HANDLED BY THE TCU.

REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE, 193 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED. THEY AROSE FROM PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE EXISTING FREQUENCY OF SERVICE OR TO INTRODUCE NEW ROUTES AND EXTEND EXISTING ROUTES.

THERE WERE 22 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF BUS SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH WERE MAINLY ABOUT INADEQUATE BUS FREQUENCIES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE 82 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF BUS SERVICE WERE MAINLY ABOUT THOSE SERVING KOWLOON WEST, KWUN TONG AND SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE STANDARD OF SERVICE OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT MADE UP 663 CASES OR 75 PER CENT OF THE CASES INVOLVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

THESE COMPLAINTS WERE TAKEN UP INDIVIDUALLY WITH THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS CONCERNED (THE BUS COMPANIES, FERRY COMPANIES AND RAILWAY CORPORATIONS) OR THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF IRREGULARITIES IN GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES AND THE POLICE IN RESPECT OF TAXI MALPRACTICES).

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ERRATIC BUS SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WERE MAINLY DIRECTED AT BUS ROUTES SERVING SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPLAINTS ABOUT BUSES NOT KEEPING TO SCHEDULED FREQUENCY WERE LEVELLED MAINLY AT EXTERNAL BUS ROUTES IN KOWLOON WEST, KWUN TONG AND SHA TIN.

/REGARDING GREEN

REGARDING GREEN MINIBUS SERVICES, THE MAIN COMPLAINTS WERE MINIBUSES NOT ADHERING TO APPROVED SCHEDULE OR ROUTING, AND MISCONDUCT BY DRIVERS.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI SERVICE RECEIVED BY THE TCU IN THE QUARTER TOTALLED 287 CASES COMPARED WITH 392 CASES RECORDED IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, A DECLINE OF 37 PER CENT.

AS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI SERVICE CONCERNED MALPRACTICES AND MISCONDUCT BY DRIVERS.

THESE INCLUDED DRIVERS REFUSING HIRE OR SOLICITING PASSENGERS, NOT TAKING THE MOST DIRECT ROUTING, FAILING TO DRIVE TO DESTINATIONS AND OVERCHARGING.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING ROUTES OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY TOTALLED 22 CASES IN THE QUARTER UNDER REVIEW. THERE WAS ONE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE STAR FERRY COMPANY.

THE MAIN AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE REGULARITY OF SERVICE, CONDUCT OF STAFF, AND PASSENGER FACILITIES.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD CONGESTION TOTALLED 375 CASES, DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: 102 CASES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 151 CASES IN KOWLOON, 80 CASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND 42 CASES IN TUNNEL AREAS.

FACTORS WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ROAD CONGESTION INCLUDED LOADING AND UNLOADING ACTIVITIES AT KERBSIDE, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MATTERS, INADEQUATE ROAD CAPACITY AND ROAD WORKS.

OF ALL CASES CONCERNING VEHICLE OBSTRUCTION CAUSING CONGESTION, 24 CASES (29 PER CENT) AND 27 CASES (33 PER CENT) WERE DIRECTED AT LORRIES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES RESPECTIVELY.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES DECLINED FROM 87 TO 86. THE MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN WERE TRAFFIC LIGHT PHASING AND TRAFFIC LANE ARRANGEMENT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND ROAD FITTINGS DECREASED FROM 176 CASES IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER TO 166 THIS QUARTER.

THE MAJOR AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE DEFECTIVE ROAD SURFACES, MALFUNCTIONING TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND DAMAGED TRAFFIC SIGNS/AIDS.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CASES DROPPED FROM THE PREVIOUS QUARTER'S 250 CASES TO 213 CASES THIS QUARTER. THEY WERE MAINLY RELATED TO REQUESTS FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING, ABANDONED VEHICLES AND OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

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MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES IN TUEN MUN

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SIX MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES LOCATED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF TUEN MUN WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS TO COPE WITH THE URGENT DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT.

THE REGIONAL SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR CARLOS LEUNG, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ST SIMON'S SHAN KING DAY NURSERY RUN BY THE O.M.S. ST SIMON HOME FOR FISHERMEN'S AND WORKMEN'S CHILDREN IN TUEN MUN.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THERE WERE AT PRESENT 15 GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED AND TWO PRIVATELY-RUN CHILD CARE CENTRES AND ONE GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRE IN THE DISTRICT, PROVIDING 2,044 PLACES.

"ON THE TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS, THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT TARGET IS TO ASSIST VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO RUN 16 CHILD CARE CENTRES THROUGH SUBVENTION SO AS TO PROVIDE 1,600 PLACES EACH FINANCIAL YEAR," MR LEUNG SAID.

"THERE IS MUCH MORE TO A SATISFACTORILY-RUN CHILD CARE CENTRE THAN CATERING FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SAFE AND PROPER CARE OR AN ADEQUATE AND BALANCED DIET.

"IT SHOULD ENSURE THE CHILDREN'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL GROWTH ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE, INTEREST AND ABILITY," HE SAID.

"THE CENTRE SHOULD ALSO CO-OPERATE CLOSELY WITH PARENTS SO AS TO ENHANCE THE CHILDREN'S BASIC KNOWLEDGE, HELP THEM DEVELOP PROPER HABITS AND AROUSE THEIR INTEREST IN LEARNING SO THAT THEY WILL GROW UP INTO MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY HEALTHY, GOOD-NATURED AND SOCIABLE ADULTS," HE ADDED.

HE COMMENDED THE ST SIMON AGENCY FOR ITS NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL, MEDICAL, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1954.

THE AGENCY IS CURRENTLY OPERATING A CHILD CARE CENTRE AT TAI HING ESTATE, PROVIDING CARE FOR 100 CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX. ANOTHER CHILD CARE CENTRE WILL COME INTO SERVICE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

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DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TO BE EXAMINED

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE IN PUBLIC THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1988-89 AT FOUR SPECIAL MEETINGS ON MARCH 22, 23, 24, AND 29.

DURING THE MEETINGS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN PERSON ON THOSE HEADS AND SUBHEADS OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE.

EACH MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON A PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES:

- * MARCH 22 (TUESDAY) -- SECURITY SERVICES
- * MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY) -- SOCIAL SERVICES
- * MARCH 24 (THURSDAY) -- ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
- * MARCH 29 (TUESDAY) -- GENERAL SERVICES

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE WRITTEN REPLIES PROVIDED BY CONTROLLING OFFICERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GIS NEWSROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL, IN THE MORNING OF EACH MEETING DAY.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROVES EFFECTIVE IN WAN CHAI

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THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN WAN CHAI HAS PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN 1985, THE WAN CHAI POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR MICHAEL PREW, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE FIFTH PHASE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN THE DISTRICT.

THERE HAD BEEN A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CRIME SITUATION IN THE 17 BUILDINGS HOUSING 1,056 FAMILIES WHICH HAD JOINED THE SCHEME IN ITS FIRST FOUR PHASES, MR PREW SAID.

FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT WOULD FORM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UNITS TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE PROPERTY OF THEIR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS, HE EXPLAINED.

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"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS, CRIMES, PARTICULARLY BURGLARY AND THEFT, WILL BE REDUCED."

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALLAN CHOW, NOTED THAT THE BASIC AIM OF THE SCHEME WAS TO PROMOTE THE FORMATION OF CLOSELY KNIT GROUPS AMONG NEIGHBOURS IN ORDER TO PREVENT CRIME.

POSITIVE EFFECTS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED, HE ADDED.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHENG HOK-YIN, REMARKED THAT GOOD RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE SCHEME WHICH BEGAN LAST SEPTEMBER AND INVOLVED SIX BUILDINGS.

A TOTAL OF THREE BUILDINGS ARE TAKING PART IN THE LATEST PHASE.

THEY ARE FU WING COURT, FRIENDSHIP MANSION AND HYDE PARK MANSION.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BLOCKS WERE PRESENTED MEMORIAL PLATES AT TODAY'S CEREMONY.

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NEW LAMBETH WALK FOOTBRIDGE OPENS TOMORROW

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AN EXTENSION TO THE ELEVATED WALKWAY SYSTEM IN LAMBETH WALK AND QUEENSWAY WILL BE OPEN FROM TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THE EXTENSION INCLUDES THE LAMBETH WALK/MURRAY ROAD FOOTBRIDGE WHICH IS SITUATED ADJACENT TO THE NORTHERN FACE OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING AND CROSSES MURRAY ROAD TO CHATER GARDEN.

THE EASTERN END OF THIS FOOTBRIDGE IS LINKED TO BOTH THE NEW FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS LAMBETH WALK TO HUTCHISON HOUSE AND BANK OF AMERICA TOWER AND THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS COTTON TREE DRIVE TO QUEENSWAY PLAZA AND BOND CENTRE.

THE EXTENSION ALSO INCLUDES A WALKWAY THROUGH THE WESTERN END OF THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE MURRAY ROAD CARPARK, LINKING THE LAMBETH WALK/MURRAY ROAD FOOTBRIDGE TO THE FOOTPATH ON THE GARDEN ROAD FLYOVER.

THE EXTENSION WAS CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT'S UPGRADED CONNAUGHT ROAD AND ANCILLARY ROADWORKS PROJECT.

CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 1986 AT AND COST \$5.5 MILLION.

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MATRICULATION COURSES

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A LIMITED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS DONATED BY LEADING ORGANISATIONS WILL BE OFFERED TO LOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS FOR A TWO-YEAR MATRICULATION COURSE LEADING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WHICH IS RECOGNISED FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY PURPOSES IN HONG KONG AND IN MOST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRITAIN AND CANADA.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OPERATED BY THE UNITED WORLD COLLEGES COMPRISING FOUR CO-EDUCATIONAL RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES - ATLANTIC COLLEGE IN BRITAIN, PEARSON COLLEGE IN CANADA, AMERICAN WEST COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADRIATIC COLLEGE IN ITALY.

THEY AIM TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION.

AN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND AN INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE PROJECTS AND FOR THE PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION OF NEW COLLEGES.

ENTRY TO EACH COLLEGE IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND IS BASED ON ACADEMIC ABILITY AND PERSONAL QUALITIES. THE STUDENT BODY AND TEACHING STAFF OF THE COLLEGES ARE FULLY INTERNATIONAL.

STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE A MINIMUM OF SIX SUBJECTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE - THREE AT THE HIGHER LEVEL AND THREE AT THE SUBSIDIARY LEVEL.

APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER 16 AND UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ON SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR AND POSSESS A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (HKCEE) SHOWING AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS OF GRADE C OR ABOVE OR HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF OBTAINING SIMILAR RANK IN THE 1988 HKCEE.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE COLLEGES IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR FOR THE TWO-YEAR COURSE.

INTENDING APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED THAT EACH SCHOLARSHIP WILL NORMALLY COVER PART OF THE TUITION AND BOARDING FEES DURING THE TWO YEARS.

IT WILL NOT BE ADEQUATE TO COVER OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES SUCH AS RETURN AIR TICKETS, MAINTENANCE DURING LONG VACATIONS, PERSONAL ALLOWANCE, AND SO ON. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET THESE EXPENSES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, ROOM 530, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY SCHOOL HEADS TO THE SAME OFFICE BEFORE APRIL 8 (FRIDAY).

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION

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FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$827,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER DD 18 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$90,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER CN 1 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$85,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 FOR CL 7628.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

	\$		\$		\$		\$
DS163	20,000	DR8823	2,000	DS198	21,000	DR1628	6,000
AU8068	5,000	DS911	43,000	CN1	85,000	DR2178	6,000
BV1	WITHDRAWN	DT33	70,000	DS6686	4,000	8468	25,000
DS3278	9,000	DS328	53,000	DS3880	6,000	DM938	7,000
HK58	26,000	DR178	19,000	DD68	50,000	DR13	42,000
DS8382	4,000	DS6682	9,000	AA7202	4,000	BP1128	5,000
CL7628	1,000	DS3328	20,000	DS9888	18,000	AF172	5,000
AD3399	14,000	AW1623	3,000	BC883	12,000	DR8885	3,000
DS172	5,000	DB6	60,000	DR2388	8,000	AK105	5,000
DD18	90,000	DU339	18,000	XX133	40,000	DT6898	4,000

ONE SPECIAL REGISTRATION MARK, BV1, WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUCTION.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 122ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$58,225,032.

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SERVICES TO BEGIN AT MONA FONG CLINIC

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE MONA FONG CLINIC IN SAI KUNG WILL BEGIN OPERATION ON MONDAY (MARCH 21).

THE SAI KUNG DISPENSARY AND SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT CLINIC WILL BE CLOSED DOWN AS THEIR SERVICES WILL BE REPROVISIONED AT THE MONA FONG CLINIC.

THE NEW CLINIC IS LOCATED IN MAN NIN STREET, ADJACENT TO THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE CLINIC WILL PROVIDE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICE, ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE (9 AM TO 5 PM DAILY), CHEST AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES.

OPENING HOURS OF THE FOUR-STOREY CLINIC WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND 2 PM TO 5 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

THE EXISTING SAI KUNG HEALTH OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WILL ALSO BE MOVED TO THE MONA FONG CLINIC ON MONDAY.

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POPULAR COIN COLLECTION STILL AVAILABLE

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THE HONG KONG COLLECTORS' COIN COLLECTION, A NUMISMATIC ITEM RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HAS PROVED POPULAR WITH COIN COLLECTORS, AND PROOF SETS HAVE BEEN SOLD OUT.

HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A SET MAY STILL BUY THE UNCIRCULATED COLLECTION.

THIS IS STILL AVAILABLE AT \$100 PER SET, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE UNCIRCULATED COINS ARE OF BRILLIANT QUALITY; EACH ONE CAREFULLY SELECTED BY THE ROYAL MINT.

THEY ARE PACKAGED AND SEALED WITHIN A COLOURFUL PRESENTATION FOLDER, WHICH CONTAINS A BOOKLET GIVING THE HISTORY OF EACH COIN.

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LIKE THE PROOF SET, THE BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED COLLECTION COMPRISES SEVEN COINS, INCLUDING THE FIVE-CENT COIN, WHICH WAS LAST MINTED IN 1980 AND WHICH IS NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION.

"THE FIVE-CENT COIN INCLUDED IN THIS 1988 COLLECTION IS SPECIALLY MADE IN LIMITED NUMBERS, WHICH MEANS THAT IT MAY WELL BE THE LAST FIVE-CENT COIN TO BE MINTED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE UNCIRCULATED COLLECTION WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FROM THE MAIN BRANCHES OF THE HONGKONG BANK AND ALL BRANCHES OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK AS LONG AS STOCK LASTS.

PROCEEDS FROM THE PROMOTION OF THIS COIN COLLECTION WILL GO TO COMMUNITY SERVICES.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPORTS MEET

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MORE THAN 300 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF PARTICIPATED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL SPORTS MEET HELD AT THE FOOTBALL FIELD ADJACENT TO STANLEY PRISON TODAY (SATURDAY).

THEY COMPETED IN ABOUT 20 TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, INCLUDING SHOT-PUT, HIGH JUMP, LONG JUMP, DISCUS, JAVELIN, RUNNING AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELAY.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY WERE THE 4 X 100 METRE INVITATION RELAY, IN WHICH TEAMS FROM FOUR OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS - CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, IMMIGRATION, LANDS AND WORKS AND THE POLICE - TOOK PART; AND THE SLALOM RACE FOR A GROUP OF DISABLED PEOPLE FROM THE MARGARET TRENCH MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE.

THE WINNERS WERE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES BY MRS FRANSCIA CHAN, WIFE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

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TREE PLANTING TO COMMEMORATE WORK OF DB
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ABOUT 30 MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL PLANT TREES IN THE TIN HAU TEMPLE GARDEN IN CAUSEWAY BAY TOMORROW (SUNDAY) MORNING TO COMMEMORATE THE CURRENT TERM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE IS ALSO AIMED AT BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE VICINITY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

"A TOTAL OF 10 DRAGON JUNIPER TREES WILL BE PLANTED IN THE GARDEN WHICH IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED SOON," HE SAID.

"THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAS DONE MUCH TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS CLEARING ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN BACK LANES; BUILDING SITTING-OUT AREAS, FOOTPATHS AND RAIN SHELTERS; PROVIDING COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES AND GUARD RAILS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

"THE BOARD'S WORK IN COMMUNITY BUILDING INCLUDES PROVIDING RECREATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES FOR RESIDENTS BY ORGANISING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL, AND INTRODUCING THE MEDICAL SCHEME AND THE GREEN MINIBUS PREFERENTIAL SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY.

"THE BOARD HAS ALSO ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT ON VARIOUS POLICIES ON TRAFFIC, HAWKING AND OTHER ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE WELL-BEING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS," HE ADDED.

OFFICIATING AT TOMORROW'S TREE PLANTING CEREMONY WILL BE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR MAN SAI-CHEONG; CHIEF MANAGER (LEISURE SERVICES), URBAN COUNCIL, MR R.F. POLLARD; AND CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

TWO AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO WINNERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY AWARD SCHEME BY THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN AT THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE CURRENT TERM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT 10 AM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) IN THE GARDEN NEXT TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE IN TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

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FUN FAIR FOR EMSD STAFF

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THE OPEN YARD AT THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN CAROLINE HILL ROAD WILL BE TURNED INTO A RECREATIONAL GROUND TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ENJOY A DAY OF FUN.

THE FUN FAIR, THE SIXTH OF ITS KIND ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF CLUB, WILL START AT 10 AM AND CLOSE AT 4.30 PM.

THERE WILL BE 22 GAMESTALLS, A BEST STALL DESIGN COMPETITION, A MERRY-GO-ROUND, BAND AND MARCHING PERFORMANCE, LION DANCE AND KUNG FU PERFORMANCE, A BEER-DRINKING CONTEST, LUCKY DRAW AND A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

THE DIRECTOR, MR GRAHAM OSBORNE, WILL OFFICIATE AT A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. ALSO PRESENT WILL BE OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 1,500 STAFF AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE FUN FAIR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S FUN FAIR TO BE HELD FROM 10 AM TO 4.30 PM ON TOMORROW (SUNDAY) IN THE OPEN YARD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

KEEPING ISLANDS CLEAN AN ON-GOING TASK

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN, WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF RESIDENTS, WILL BECOME A CONTINUING MOVEMENT TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JONATHAN NG, SAID THIS TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S 1987-88 KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

MR NG SAID A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT WOULD HELP TO HEIGHTEN THE DISTRICT'S TOURISM POTENTIAL AS WELL AS BENEFIT RESIDENTS.

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KEEP CLEAN MESSAGES HAD ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OVER RECENT MONTHS.

HE THANKED COMMITTEE MEMBERS, RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS FOR THEIR GOOD SUPPORT.

THE KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR YIU KAI-HANG, SAID HE HOPED THAT ISLANDERS WOULD UNDERSTAND THE TASK OF KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN WAS NEVER ENDING AND REQUIRED CONSTANT CO-OPERATION FROM THE COMMUNITY.

HE NOTED THAT KEEPING THE ISLANDS CLEAN WAS IMPORTANT BOTH FOR THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS AS WELL AS FOR THE DISTRICT'S PROSPERITY.

TODAY'S CEREMONY, HELD AT THE BUDDHIST WAI YAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE ON CHEUNG CHAU, WAS ATTENDED BY WINNERS OF THE BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION, CLEANING FOR CHARITY DAY FUND-RAISING CONTEST AND THE DWELLING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, DANCES WERE PERFORMED BY STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT TO ENTERTAIN THE AUDIENCE.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM WAI-KEUNG; CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR FUNG PAK-TAI; DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR IP KI-TIT; AND DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER, MR CHAN CHUN-MO.

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WELFARE PAYMENT DATES REARRANGED

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS MAY RECEIVE EARLIER WELFARE PAYMENT IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON THE EASTER HOLIDAYS AND CHING MING FESTIVAL, APRIL 1 TO 5.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON MARCH 25, 28, 29, 30, 31 RESPECTIVELY OR AFTER AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

MEANWHILE, RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE UNDER THE BANK PAYMENT SYSTEM WITH PAYMENT DATES ON APRIL 1 OR 5 WILL RECEIVE THEIR PAYMENTS ON APRIL 6 AND 7 RESPECTIVELY WHILE THEIR COUNTERPARTS HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS WITH PAYMENT DATES BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND 5 MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON OR AFTER APRIL 6.

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JETTY PLANNED FOR LOADING SLUDGE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO CONSTRUCT A JETTY, FOR THE LOADING OF SLUDGE, WITHIN 6.5 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSAL, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ERECT A NAVIGATION AID NEAR PAK SHA TAU TSUI, TAI PO, FOR DIRECTING VESSELS TRANSPORTING SLUDGE FROM THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

THIS PROJECT WILL INVOLVE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIGHT BUOY THAT WILL FLOAT WITHIN A RADIUS OF 50 METRES. ABOUT 7,854 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE EXTENT OF THE AFFECTED AREAS HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY WRITTEN OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSALS MUST BE SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY MAY 17.

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URBAN CLEARWAY AND TURNING MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

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TWO SECTIONS OF HIU KWONG STREET IN KWUN TONG WILL BE MADE 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 22) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

THE TWO SECTIONS ARE:

HIU KWONG STREET EASTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 205 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SAU LAI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 270 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, AND

HIU KWONG STREET WESTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 215 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SAU LAI STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 280 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER AT THE EASTERN JUNCTION OF YUEN LONG NORTHERN BYPASS WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG SECTION), ALL RIGHT-TURN MOVEMENTS AT THIS JUNCTION WILL BE BANNED BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5 AM FROM TUESDAY (MARCH 22) TO THURSDAY (MARCH 24).

AT THE SAME TIME, ALL STRAIGHT-AHEAD MOVEMENTS AT THIS JUNCTION, EXCEPT THOSE FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD WESTBOUND ON TO YUEN LONG ON LOK ROAD, WILL ALSO BE BANNED.

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