



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
COMPETITIVENESS OF INDUSTRY ASSURED: GOVERNOR	1
ANOTHER YEAR OF LOW NUMBER OF INSOLVENCIES	2
TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR SIX NT LOTS	3
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN ENDORSED	4
NEW ADDRESS FOR FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISIONAL OFFICE	5
RESTRICTED ZONES IN QUARRY BAY	6
CENTRAL URBAN CLEARWAYS TO BE EXTENDED	6

WENDESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1988

- 1 -

COMPETITIVENESS OF INDUSTRY ASSURED: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY IS COMPETITIVE AND ITS PRODUCTS ARE IN DEMAND, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE DINNER PARTY OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, SIR DAVID SAID THAT WITH GROWING MARKET WHICH DEMANDED HIGHER QUALITY, MORE SOPHISTICATED AND MORE INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS, OUR INDUSTRY COULD ONLY MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS BY UPGRADING ITS MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES AND ADDING VALUE TO ITS PRODUCTS.

"IN THE FACE OF THESE NEW CHALLENGES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT OUR INDUSTRIES HAVE AN EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE ON WHICH TO OPERATE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY WAS NOW AIMED AT ENCOURAGING INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PRODUCT INNOVATION IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE NEW CHALLENGES.

"INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY IS ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL.

"THE COUNCIL OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES, TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES.

"THESE SERVICES COVER ALL ASPECTS OF PRODUCTIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID THERE WERE OTHER AGENCIES ACTIVE IN THIS FIELD, NOTABLY IN TERTIARY EDUCATION.

HE SAID ANOTHER WAY TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY WAS BY PROMOTING INWARD INVESTMENT.

"IN THIS WAY WE CAN IMPORT USEFUL FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER ITS BENEFITS TO OUR OWN INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT 1987 HAD BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THIS RESPECT, AND BOTH THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT HAD SHOWN ENCOURAGING GROWTH.

PRODUCT INNOVATION WAS ANOTHER AREA WHERE HONG KONG HAD TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN ORDER TO COMPETE EFFECTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

A NUMBER OF AGENCIES WERE ALREADY ACTIVE IN THIS FIELD INCLUDING THE HONG KONG DESIGN INNOVATION COMPANY AND THE SWIRE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

- 2 -

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG'S OVERWHELMINGLY EXPORT-ORIENTED INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT MEANT THAT IT HAD TO ALWAYS BE READY TO FACE AND MATCH COMPETITION FROM OTHERS.

"WE NOW FACE INCREASING COMPETITION FROM WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED THE "SECOND WAVE" OF ASIAN COMPETITORS - THOSE WHO CAN RELY ON RELATIVELY LOWER LAND AND LABOUR COSTS.

"WE HAVE ONE SIGNIFICANT GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE. WE ARE ADJACENT TO THE DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THIS GAVE HONG KONG, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM, AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE ITS LAND AND LABOUR COSTS BY MOVING SOME LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROCESSES INTO CHINA.

HE ALSO SAID HONG KONG INDUSTRY HAD GREAT STRENGTHS: ITS FLEXIBILITY, ITS RESPONSIVENESS TO MARKET DEMANDS, ITS PUNCTUAL DELIVERIES, AND, ABOVE ALL, ITS COMPETITIVENESS.

"HOW WELL WE ACTUALLY DO IN 1988 MUST STILL HOWEVER DEPEND TO A GREAT EXTENT ON FACTORS OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL: THAT IS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMIES OF OUR MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES," SIR DAVID ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE EXPECTED SLOWDOWN IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH MADE IT UNLIKELY THAT EXPORTS COULD CONTINUE TO GROW AT THE SAME RATE AS IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS.

HE SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, HOWEVER, REMAINED BASICALLY STRONG AND ITS INDUSTRIES WOULD MEET ANY NEW CHALLENGES AS EFFECTIVELY AS THEY HAD DONE IN THE PAST.

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION FOR ALWAYS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS AN INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION AND SAID ITS ADVICE HAD ALWAYS BEEN VALUED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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ANOTHER YEAR OF LOW NUMBER OF INSOLVENCIES

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LAST YEAR WAS THE SECOND YEAR IN SUCCESSION WHICH SHOWED A DOWNWARD TREND IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES REACHING THE COURTS, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THERE WERE 222 NEW COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 298 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING FIGURES OF 304 AND 391 DURING 1986.

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IT COULD BE SEEN, THEREFORE, THAT NEW INSOLVENCIES DECREASED BY 25.18 PER CENT, MR GLEESON SAID.

"THIS CONTINUATION OF THE DOWNWARD TREND IN INSOLVENCIES REFLECTED THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND THE ECONOMY GENERALLY."

HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO FORECAST HOW THE OCTOBER STOCK MARKET CRASH MIGHT AFFECT THE VOLUME OF INSOLVENCIES DURING 1988 BUT SAID IT HAD NO VISIBLE EFFECT SO FAR.

BY COMPARISON THERE WAS A DECREASE OF ONLY 0.57 PER CENT IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES IN 1986 OVER 1985.

NOTABLE COMPANY FAILURES IN 1987 INCLUDED N.F.F. CO. LTD, AUSTRAVEL CO. LTD, MARIGOLD RESTAURANT LTD, UNITED STATES LINES, INC., JAN SIN MEE (HOLDINGS) LTD, JAN SIN MEE GARMENTS MANUFACTURING (1981) CO. LTD, RIGHT TIME CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD, THAI GEAR CO. LTD, AND STANDFAST INSURANCE CO. LTD.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSOLVENCIES BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT THE END OF THE YEAR WAS 3,037.

OF THESE, 1,643 WERE COMPULSORY WINDINGS-UP AND 1,394 PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AT THE END OF THE YEAR TOTALLED \$1,369 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF OVER 1.25 PER CENT AS AGAINST \$1,352 MILLION AT THE END OF 1986.

TOTAL DIVIDENDS DECLARED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DURING 1987 AMOUNTED TO \$173.9 MILLION IN 356 INSOLVENCIES, AS AGAINST \$43.2 MILLION IN 211 INSOLVENCIES IN 1986.

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TENANCIES SOUGHT FOR SIX NT LOTS

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SIX LOTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE TO BE LET ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

ONE OF THE LOTS, MEASURING ABOUT 135 SQUARE METRES, IS AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG. IT IS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,800 SQUARE METRES, THE SECOND LOT IS AT KWAI CHUNG AREA 10B, NEAR TAI WO HAU ROAD.

/IT IS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1988

- 4 -

IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF NON-DANGEROUS AND NON-OFFENSIVE GOODS, BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS INITIALLY FOR SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

THE THIRD LOT, OF ABOUT 2,385 SQUARE METRES, IS AT TUEN MUN AREA 44, NEAR WU SHAN ROAD. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE AFTERWARDS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

THE REMAINING THREE LOTS WITH AREAS OF BETWEEN 493 AND 522 SQUARE METRES AT SHA PO, YUEN LONG, ARE FOR THE STORAGE OF GOODS, EXCEPT DERELICT MOTOR VEHICLES OR DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE EVERY THREE MONTHS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS FOR THE SIX LOTS IS NOON ON JANUARY 22.

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OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN ENDORSED
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THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ENDORSED AN INTENSIVE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO BE SUPPORTED BY MAJOR PUBLICITY EFFORTS FOR THE 1988/89 TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TODAY, MEMBERS ALSO LEARNED THAT THE PUBLICITY BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN SET AT \$2.1 MILLION, TO BE CONTRIBUTED JOINTLY BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

THE BUDGET IS MAINTAINED AT A LEVEL SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CURRENT YEAR SO THAT THE IMPACT OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE SUSTAINED.

NEXT YEAR'S CAMPAIGN WILL BE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT OPERATIONAL PHASES, NAMELY, CLEAN ENVIRONMENT; CLEAN BEACH; CLEAN ROAD; CLEAN SCHOOL; CLEAN HARBOUR; CLEAN COUNTRYSIDE; CLEAN YOUR HOME; AND CLEAN VILLAGE AND SQUATTER AREA.

EACH PHASE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A PUBLICITY PACKAGE IN THE FORM OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ADS (ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST), POSTERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED TO TIE IN WITH THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

/IN ORDER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1988

- 5 -

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SECURE SUPPORT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COUNCIL COMMITTEE AGREED THAT GREATER EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP.

MEMBERS ALSO REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AT TODAY'S MEETING.

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NEW ADDRESS FOR FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISIONAL OFFICE

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THE DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION AT KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN KWAI CHUNG HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE 12TH FLOOR OF YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE MOVE IS TO ENABLE STAFF MEMBERS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH A BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE.

ENQUIRIES ON FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES CAN NOW BE MADE ON 0-779200.

FACTORY PROPRIETORS OR WORKERS WHO WISH TO SEEK ADVICE ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MATTERS CAN CONTACT THE DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR ON 0-779240 OR 0-779353.

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RESTRICTED ZONES IN QUARRY BAY

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THE EXISTING 24-HOUR DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES AT FOUR LOCATIONS IN QUARRY BAY WILL BECOME PEAK HOUR (THAT IS 7 - 10 AM AND 4 - 7 PM) DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 9).

THEY ARE:

- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KORNHILL ROAD FROM ITS WESTERN JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 195 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION;
- * THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KORNHILL ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HONG ON STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 220 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION;
- * THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KORNHILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THAT JUNCTION; AND
- * HONG ON STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KORNHILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES SOUTH OF THAT JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KORNHILL ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 195 METRES EAST OF THAT JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY GOODS VEHICLE RESTRICTED ZONE.

ALL GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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CENTRAL URBAN CLEARWAYS TO BE EXTENDED

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THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAYS AT TWO LOCATIONS IN CENTRAL WILL BE EXTENDED SOUTHWARDS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 9).

THE 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DUDELL STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND A POINT ABOUT 15 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE EXTENDED SOUTHWARDS FOR ABOUT 25 METRES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY ON PEDDER STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED SOUTHWARDS FOR ABOUT 30 METRES EXCLUDING THE LAYBY AT THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF PEDDER STREET.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES ARE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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