



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1987

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OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY ANSWER TO CRIME IN SHA TIN

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COPING WITH A POPULATION THAT GROWS BY 5 000 EVERY MONTH IS BOUND TO PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR A POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN GREENE, SHATIN'S DISTRICT COMMANDER SINCE 1983, KNOWS THE SITUATION WELL, AND HE CONSIDERS THE MOST EFFECTIVE ANSWER LIES IN OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.

SHATIN'S POPULATION HAS GROWN FROM LESS THAN 50 000 IN THE MID-1970S TO ALMOST 500 000 IN TODAY'S NEW TOWN, AND IN A FEW YEARS THERE WILL BE MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN THE DISTRICT'S PRESENT BOUNDARIES.

THIS TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN SO SHORT A TIME MEANS THAT POLICING PROCEDURES HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED OR ADAPTED TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS, MR GREENE EXPLAINS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1976 THERE WAS ONLY ONE HOUSING ESTATE (LEK YUEN) IN SHATIN. NOW THERE ARE 13, AS WELL AS PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS. THERE ARE ALSO THREE ESTATES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN TAIPO - WHICH IS TO BECOME A SEPARATE DISTRICT NEXT YEAR.

THE CONTINUAL MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE GIVES RISE TO THE DISTRICT'S MAIN CRIME PROBLEM - BURGLARY, AND MR GREENE PLACES THE BLAME MAINLY ON "OUTSIDERS".

"THERE TENDS TO BE GREAT CONFUSION IN HOUSING ESTATES AS NEW TENANTS MOVE IN - NEIGHBOURS DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER, PEOPLE ARE COMING AND GOING, AND THE WHOLE PLACE IS IN A STATE OF FLUX," SAYS MR GREENE.

THERE CAN BE SOME FORM OF ORGANISATION IN THESE BURGLARIES, BUT IN OTHERS THE OFFENDERS MAY BE ACTING ALONE. INVARIABLY THEY ARE FROM OUTSIDE SHATIN.

MANY ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE, BOTH OF INDIVIDUALS AND GANG MEMBERS, BUT THE DISTRICT COMMANDER FEELS THE PROBLEM "WILL NOT SETTLE DOWN" UNTIL THE POPULATION STABILISES.

OFFICERS ARE ACTIVE IN BUILDING UP COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND RELIANCE AS A DETERRENT AGAINST CRIME AND, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, ALL NEW GROUPS OF RESIDENTS MOVING INTO HOUSING ESTATES HAVE BEEN VISITED BY POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS.

IT IS A TIME-CONSUMING JOB, BUT MR GREENE CONSIDERS IT IS WELL WORTHWHILE.

"EVERYONE IS BRIEFED ON WHERE THE POLICE STATIONS ARE, WHAT TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR, AND HOW TO GET HELP IF REQUIRED. THIS IS ALL IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE GET PEOPLE TO REALISE THAT THEY ARE WELCOME AND THEY KNOW WE ARE THERE TO HELP."

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BUILDING UP GOOD COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN SHATIN AND TAIPO NEW TOWNS.

MR GREENE SAYS THE SEPARATION OF TAIPO WILL HELP IN POLICING SHATIN. THE DISTRICT'S PRESENT MANPOWER IS 775 DISCIPLINED OFFICERS, WITH AN ESTABLISHMENT FIGURE OF 1 005, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR THE STAFFING OF TAIPO DISTRICT.

AFTER TAIPO SEPARATES, THE SHATIN DISTRICT WILL COMPRISE THE TIN SUM DIVISION, (WHERE THE DIVISIONAL STATION OPENED EARLIER THIS YEAR), SHATIN DIVISION, AND SIU LEK YUEN DIVISION, WHICH WILL COME INTO BEING EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WILL ALSO BE INITIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MA ON SHAN, WHERE MUCH HOUSING DEVELOPING IS TAKING PLACE.

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GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION UNIT

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THE GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION UNIT (GIU) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1984 BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE (GCO) TO PROVIDE A GEOTECHNICAL DATA BANK SERVICE TO THE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

ALTHOUGH ITS POTENTIAL VALUE MAY NOT BE FULLY REALISED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE GIU HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF USEFUL GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR AUTHORISED PERSONS, REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS, UNIVERSITY LECTURERS AND STUDENTS.

THE GIU HAS THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF GEOTECHNICAL INFORMATION IN HONG KONG, CONTAINING OVER 50,000 BOREHOLE LOGS, 10,000 VOLUMES OF SITE INVESTIGATION AND LABORATORY TESTING REPORTS, LANDSLIP RECORDS, AND OTHER DATA. IT ALSO CONTAINS SOME OLD SURVEY MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF HONG KONG WHICH ARE OF GREAT HISTORICAL VALUE.

"THE INFORMATION SHOULD BE VERY VALUABLE IN THE PLANNING OF SITE FORMATION AND BUILDING WORKS AND MAY LEAD TO FINANCIAL SAVINGS IN SITE INVESTIGATION," SAID THE GCO GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF THE GIU, MR JOHN MAK.

THE GIU IS NOW HOUSED WITHIN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING LIBRARY (CEL), WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE 9TH FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE, 68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST. APART FROM GEOTECHNICAL AND GEOLOGICAL LITERATURE, THE LIBRARY CONTAINS OVER 35,000 DOCUMENTS WHICH COVER VARIOUS FIELDS OF CIVIL ENGINEERING.

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IN THE 12 MONTHS SINCE AUGUST 1986 THAT THE CEL HAS BEEN IN OPERATION, IT HAS RECORDED 7,073 USERS, INCLUDING 675 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO USE THE GIU AND THE LIBRARY," SAID MRS KATHERINE WONG, THE CEL LIBRARIAN. "ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO BORROWING PRIVILEGE, READING AND PHOTOCOPYING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PREMISES."

OPENING HOURS FOR THE GIU AND THE LIBRARY ARE 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AND 2 PM TO 4.15 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS). FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE LIBRARIAN ON 3-7215516, 3-7215968 OR 3-7224905.

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FREE POSTGRAMMES TO SEEK VIEWS ON GREEN PAPER

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FREE POSTGRAMMES IN QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED IN NORTH DISTRICT TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE POSTGRAMMES, PRODUCED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, OUTLINE THE VARIOUS OPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE GREEN PAPER ON THE ROLE, FUNCTION AND RELATIONS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS, MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF ELECTIONS.

APEAL LETTERS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF THE POSTGRAMMES HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DISTRICT'S FOUR RURAL COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

COMPLETED POSTGRAMMES, TOGETHER WITH THE RESPONDENT'S NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30. THEY WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE SURVEY OFFICE. THE POSTGRAMMES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, ITS SUB-OFFICES AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES.

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ACTIVITIES TO BOOST VOTER REGISTRATION
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A HOST OF ACTIVITIES WAS ORGANISED IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT TODAY (SUNDAY) TO SPREAD THE VOTER REGISTRATION MESSAGE TO THE 150,000 POTENTIAL ELECTORS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED.

THE MAJOR FUNCTION WAS A VOTER REGISTRATION CARNIVAL HELD AT KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND WHICH STARTED OFF WITH THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO TUNG-CHING AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT PUBLICITY COMMITTEE FOR 1987 VOTER REGISTRATION, MR ALAN SIU HOISTING A HELIUM BALLOON CARRYING THE SLOGAN "REGISTER AS A VOTER".

MR COAK DISCLOSED THAT THE REGISTRATION RATE OF THE DISTRICT STOOD AT 38.7 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE 1986 FINAL REGISTER.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERED WAS ON THE INCREASE SINCE THE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN THE DISTRICT ON JULY 20. A NUMBER OF DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS HAD THEN BEEN CONDUCTED AND MOBILE REGISTRATION COUNTERS WERE SET UP, HE ADDED.

A REGISTRATION COUNTER WAS ALSO SET UP AT TODAY'S CARNIVAL WHERE COMMUNITY ORGANISERS WERE ON HAND TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN UP.

THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. ANYONE AGED 21 OR OVER BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND IS A HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENT OR HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS, WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AND VOTE IN THE NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION.

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REGISTRATION MESSAGE VIA CARNIVAL.
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A CARNIVAL HELD THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON SERVED A DUAL PURPOSE WHEN PARTICIPANTS WERE URGED TO SIGN UP AS ELECTORS WHILE BEING ENTERTAINED AT THE SHUN LEE ESTATE PODIUM FLOOR, KWUN TONG.

THE 'BE A VOTER, BE A GOOD CITIZEN' CARNIVAL, FEATURING AN EXHIBITION, MUPPET SHOWS AND A 'MOCK ELECTION', AIMED AT DRIVING HOME THE REGISTRATION MESSAGE THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, KWUN TONG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE, CALLED ON THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE BUT HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN PARTICULAR, YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OLD.

/SHE SAID

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SHE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE NEARLY HALF OF THE ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS IN SHUN LEE HAD REGISTERED AS ELECTORS, COMPARING WITH THE FIGURE OF ABOUT 40 PER CENT IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT AS A WHOLE.

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS TOOK PART IN TODAY'S CARNIVAL WHICH WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, SHUN LEE AREA COMMITTEE, THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION SHUN LEE CENTRE, HONG KONG FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS SHUN LEE CENTRE AND HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE SHUN LEE TSUEN CENTRE.

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KOWLOON CITY BASKETBALL COMPETITION

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ABOUT 400 YOUTHS FROM KOWLOON CITY WILL COMPETE IN THE ANNUAL LOK SIN TONG CUP BASKETBALL COMPETITION IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS AFTER AN OPENING CEREMONY AT THE TO KWA WAN INDOOR GAMES HALL THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE COMPETITION ATTRACTED A TOTAL OF 32 MEN'S TEAMS AND 16 WOMEN'S TEAMS FROM THE DISTRICT AND THE FINAL MATCH WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 3.

THE AIM OF THE FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL YOUNG BASKETBALL PLAYERS TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILL AND SPORTSMANSHIP AND FOSTER A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT THROUGH COMPETITION.

IT IS SPONSORED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL, URBAN COUNCIL, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALEX FONG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MISS CHAN YING; CHAIRMAN OF LOK SIN TONG, MR WONG CHUNG-MING AND HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS COUNCIL, MR TANG TAI-CHUEN.

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CYCLING PROFICIENCY SCHEME TO BE IMPLEMENTED

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IN A BID TO REDUCE ROAD ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CYCLISTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPLEMENT A PILOT SCHEME ON CYCLING PROFICIENCY STARTING TOMORROW (AUGUST 24).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON THE SCHEME SAID, "THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO PROVIDE FREE BASIC TRAINING TO INTERESTED AND INEXPERIENCED YOUNG CYCLISTS, SO THAT THEY MAY BE MORE SKILLFUL IN THEIR TECHNIQUE, AND MORE ADVERTENT TO ROAD CONDITIONS; THUS LESS PRONE TO ACCIDENTS."

"INITIALLY THE COURSE WILL ACCOMMODATE 30 YOUNGSTERS AGED OVER 11, BUT WILL BE EXTENDED TO MORE PEOPLE IF FOUND SUCCESSFUL," HE ADDED.

THE COURSE WILL COMPRISE FOUR STAGES, EACH OF FOUR TWO-HOUR SESSIONS. IT WILL COVER SUCH ASPECTS AS ROAD USERS' KNOWLEDGE, TECHNIQUES IN CYCLING, AS WELL AS BICYCLE MAINTAINENCE.

"MEMBERS OF THE COURSE ARE REQUIRED TO SIT FOR A TEST IN EACH OF THE STAGES AND THOSE WHO PASSED THE STAGE 4 BADGE WILL BE ENTITLED TO TRY FOR THE INSTRUCTOR'S CERTIFICATE TEST," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE COURSE WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG CYCLING ASSOCIATION AT SHATIN CYCLE PARK, AND WILL START FROM TOMORROW FOR FOUR DAYS, FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM DAILY.

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REMINDER ON YEAR'S SECOND FLOATING HOLIDAY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE SECOND FLOATING HOLIDAY FOR THIS YEAR FALLS ON AUGUST 31, THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, IF EMPLOYERS HAVE NOT ALREADY FIXED THE DATE FOR THAT HOLIDAY AND THEIR EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT REQUESTED IT TO BE ADDED TO THEIR PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, THE EMPLOYEES SHALL BE GRANTED THE SECOND FLOATING HOLIDAY ON THAT DATE.

"ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$11,500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO BE PAID FOR THAT HOLIDAY IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HOLIDAY PAY

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, THE HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE OR SHE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY-OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ALL BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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FIGHT CRIME MEMBERS VISIT CUSTOMS TRAINING SCHOOL

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL VISIT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG TOMORROW (MONDAY).

LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR CHEUNG CHUN-HOI, THE PARTY WILL TOUR THE VARIOUS FACILITIES OF THE SCHOOL BEFORE ATTENDING A SEMINAR AND A SLIDE SHOW ON THE WORK OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE VISIT TOMORROW (MONDAY). TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE POST OFFICE ON GROUND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SAI KUNG TOWN BY 9 AM.

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YUNG SHUE AU MARINE CULTURE ZONE ON AGENDA
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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 25) TO DISCUSS THE MARINE CULTURE ZONE AT YUNG SHUE AU.

SENIOR TERRITORIAL FISHERIES OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR K.W. CHAN, WILL BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE MARINE CULTURE ZONE AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD AND APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 25) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE AT 152-172 KWONG FUK ROAD.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN SHEUNG WAN
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TO FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE JUNCTION OF HILLIER STREET AND BONHAM STRAND IN SHEUNG WAN, HILLIER STREET BETWEEN BONHAM STRAND AND JERVOIS STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 26) FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA MERCER STREET. IN ADDITION, PARKING METERS AND MOTORCYCLE PARKING SPACES AT THE SAME SECTION OF HILLIER STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

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TAI PO WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI PO WILL BE SUSPENDED ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 26) FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY PO HEUNG STREET, KWONG FUK ROAD, PAK SHING STREET, SUI ON STREET, HEI YUEN STREET, YAN HING STREET, YAN WO LANE, SHUNG TAK STREET AND WAI YI STREET.

SOME OTHER PREMISES IN THE VICINITY MAY EXPERIENCE WEAK WATER PRESSURE.

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