



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
HONG KONG IS A VERY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR UK: LORD YOUNG	1
VISIT USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE: DAVIES	2
SUFFICIENT TIME GIVEN TO FARMERS	3
\$350M TUNNEL-RELATED CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED	4
GROWING IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO SERVICES FOR ELDERLY	5
45 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN APRIL	6
APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME	7
SHA TIN DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REVISIONS	8
EASTERN DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY	9
LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO BENEFIT ISLANDERS	9
CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE RENAMING OF YAU TSIM DISTRICT	11
WATER CUT IN SAN PO KONG	12

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 1 -

HONG KONG IS A VERY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR UK: LORD YOUNG

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, LORD YOUNG, SAID HE HAD COME OUT TO SEE HONG KONG IN THIS PARTICULAR TRIP BECAUSE HONG KONG IS A VERY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ARRIVING HERE TODAY (SUNDAY) FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT, LORD YOUNG TOLD REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE UK NOW DID FAR MORE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG THAN WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"SO I HAVE REALLY COME OUT TO HAVE A LOOK AT COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN HONG KONG AND TO SEE HOW THE UK ACTUALLY COULD HELP TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

BRITISH EXPORTS TO HONG KONG HAD GONE UP BY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT IN THE PAST YEAR, REACHING OVER A BILLION POUNDS FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE NOTED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, LORD YOUNG SAID HONG KONG IS IMPORTANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

"IT IS ALSO OF COURSE IMPORTANT IN RELATION TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT IN ITSELF. I HAVE COME OUT TO LOOK AT A LOT OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND OTHER PROJECTS, WHICH I HOPE WILL BE PROCEEDING IN HONG KONG, AND IN WHICH I THE HOPE UK CAN HAVE ITS SHARE," HE SAID.

LORD YOUNG SAID THE UK HAD A FAST IMPROVING ECONOMY AND HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE WINNING ITS SHARE OF EXPORTS ROUND THE WORLD AND LOOKED TOWARDS HONG KONG AS BEING ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE THE UK WOULD IMPROVE EXPORTS.

HE DID NOT THINK THE STRENGTH OF THE POUND WOULD HINDER THAT DEVELOPMENT.

"WE HAVE GOT TO BE COMPETITIVE WHATEVER THE EXCHANGE RATE IS AND, IN MANY OF THESE CASE, IT IS OF COURSE QUALITY AND DESIGN AND OTHER AREAS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT," HE ADDED.

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/2

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 2 -

VISIT USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE: DAVIES

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THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, MR EMRYS DAVIES, HAS DESCRIBED AS "PRODUCTIVE" AND "USEFUL" HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT TO HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE LEAVING HONG KONG TODAY (SUNDAY), MR DAVIES SAID HE HAD HAD EXTREMELY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE ISSUE.

"I WAS ABLE TO TELL THEM IN SOME DETAILS OF THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND IMMEDIATE REACTION OF THE VIETNAMESE TO THE NEW POLICY," MR DAVIES SAID.

"IT IS ALSO GOOD FOR ME TO FEEL THAT I AM FULLY UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, AND THE FEELINGS, THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION."

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE MEETING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHILE IN LONDON, MR DAVIES SAID: "I SHALL DISCUSS WITH THE PEOPLE IN LONDON AS TO WHAT WE DO NOW, WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, DEPENDING ON THE VIETNAMESE REACTION."

HE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THERE WOULD BE A SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE FROM THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE END OF THEIR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON UNHCR'S REACTION TO HONG KONG'S NEW POLICY ON VIETNAMESE ARRIVALS, MR DAVIES SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG THAT IT HAD NO OBJECTION AS LONG AS THE MATTER WAS MANAGED IN A PROPER MANNER.

"BUT THE TIMING, THEY FELT, OR MR HOCKE (THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES) FELT, WAS PERHAPS A LITTLE UNFORTUNATE GIVEN HIS EFFORTS TO PRODUCE A SOLUTION ON A MULTI-LATERAL BASIS.

"THAT'S A MATTER OF JUDGEMENT. IT MAY BE THE CASE ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY HERE THAT I DON'T THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE ACTION WHEN THEY DID."

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/3

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 3 -

SUFFICIENT TIME GIVEN TO FARMERS

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IN ORDER TO ALLOW AFFECTED FARMERS SUFFICIENT TIME TO ADJUST TO THE INTRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROLS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH, FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, DURING THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTROLS.

LIVESTOCK KEEPING IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE PROHIBITION AREAS COVERING HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE BANNED FROM JUNE 24 (FRIDAY).

THE PROHIBITION AREAS ARE: SHA TIN, TAI PO, FANLING, SHEUNG SHUI, TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHING, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TIN SHUI WAI AND JUNK BAY.

CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS COVERING TOLO HARBOUR AND TOLO CHANNEL, MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH AREAS WILL ALSO BE EFFECTIVE FROM THE SAME DATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE CONTROLS TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN WATER QUALITIES IN TOLO HARBOUR, SILVERMINE BAY AND ANGLER'S BEACH, WHILST LIVESTOCK KEEPING WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HAD TO BE BANNED IN PROHIBITION AREAS.

UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, FARMERS IN CONTROL AREAS CAN APPLY TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT FOR CAPITAL GRANT AMOUNTING TO 50 PER CENT OF THE CAPITAL COST FOR INSTALLATION OF THE NECESSARY TREATMENT FACILITIES, WHILST THE REMAINING 50 PER CENT CAN BE COVERED BY LOW INTEREST LOANS FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

FARMERS IN PROHIBITION AREAS AND THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS CAN RECEIVE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT UPON CESSATION OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING OPERATIONS.

THE EIGHT TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAMS -OF EPD- HAVE VISITED ALL THE FARMERS IN THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS WHO WISHED TO CONTINUE LIVESTOCK KEEPING OPERATION AND HAVE ADVISED THEM ON HOW TO COMPLY WITH CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.

EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON ADVISING FARMERS CONCERNED TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW CONTROLS.

PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN ONLY IF REGULATIONS WERE STILL BEING BREACHED AFTER VERBAL AND WRITTEN WARNINGS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE FARMER CONCERNED.

FARMERS SHOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY TREATMENT FACILITIES INSTALLED AND PUT INTO OPERATION BEFORE THE NEW CONTROLS COME INTO EFFECT.

FARMERS IN THE PROHIBITION AREAS AND THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR THE CAPITAL GRANT OR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES ARE URGED TO DO SO WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. FOR ENQUIRIES, THEY CAN CONTACT EPD AT TELEPHONE 3-7801165 OR 3-7800126.

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\$350M TUNNEL-RELATED CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED

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WORK ON THE SHA TIN CONNECTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL WILL BEGIN EARLY NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT WORTH \$350 MILLION ON FRIDAY (JUNE 24).

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CONTRACT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2.2-KILOMETRE DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY AND INTERCHANGES.

THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL IS DUE TO OPEN IN JULY 1991. IT WILL EXPEDITE TRAFFIC FLOW BETWEEN THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON AND ALSO WITHIN THE SHA TIN AREA.

DESIGNATED TRUNK ROAD T6, THE 2.2-KILOMETRE CARRIAGEWAY WILL HELP CHANNEL TRAFFIC FROM NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES TO THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, AND VICE VERSA, WITHOUT IT HAVING TO GO THROUGH SHA TIN'S INTERNAL ROAD NETWORK.

TRUNK ROAD T6, 1.4 KILOMETRES OF WHICH WILL BE ELEVATED, WILL START FROM TOLO HIGHWAY NEAR THE KCR UNIVERSITY STATION AND SPAN THE SHING MUN RIVER NORTH OF THE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO JOIN THE MA ON SHAN ROAD NEAR TAI SHUI HANG.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES BUILDING OF TWO GRADE SEPARATED INTERCHANGES AT MA LIU SHUI AND TAI SHUI HANG, AN ACCESS ROAD TO AREA 73, FOOTPATH, CYCLE TRACK, A CYCLE SUBWAY, CYCLE PARKS AND A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE ADJACENT TO UNIVERSITY STATION.

ADDITIONALLY, STANDARD FEATURES SUCH AS EMERGENCY TELEPHONES AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS FOR SURVEILLANCE PURPOSES ARE INCORPORATED.

THE TRUNK ROAD T6 CONTRACT, TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR CONSTRUCTING TRUNK ROAD T5, WILL FORM THE MAIN CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS FOR THE SHA TIN CONNECTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE \$350 MILLION TRUNK ROAD T6 AND INTERCHANGES CONTRACT SIGNING TO TAKE PLACE AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 24) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SHA TIN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN.

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GROWING IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO SERVICES FOR ELDERLY

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SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING IN A BALANCED WAY IN PAST YEARS IN ORDER TO HELP ALL PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN NEED BUT SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE DRAWN INCREASING ATTENTION IN RECENT YEARS, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR STEPHEN LAW, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR LAW POINTED OUT THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE ACCOUNTED FOR SOME 11 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, AND CARE IN THE COMMUNITY WAS STILL THE MAIN EMPHASIS IN PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

"IT IS CONSIDERED THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS TO ENJOY THEIR OLD AGE IN THEIR HOMES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE METHODIST EPWORTH SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AT HING MAN ESTATE, CHAI WAN, MR LAW NOTED THAT SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE FORM OF HOME HELP, SOCIAL AND MULTI-SERVICES CENTRES, DAY CARE CENTRES AND VISITS BY VOLUNTEERS WERE THUS PROVIDED.

ON SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, HE SAID THE PLANNING RATIO WAS ONE CENTRE FOR EVERY 30,000 POPULATION AND THAT 120 SUCH CENTRES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED THE PAST DECADE TO PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SERVICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

"THE WARM RESPONSE TO THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE METHODIST EPWORTH SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY FULLY DEMONSTRATES THE DEMAND FOR THIS SERVICE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR LAW STRESSED THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE CENTRES SHOULD NOT BE UNDER-ESTIMATED.

"AT THESE CENTRES, THE ELDERLY CAN ATTAIN SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, DEVELOP THEIR HOBBIES AND EVEN RENDER SERVICES FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

"IN THIS WAY THEY WILL FEEL THAT THEY ARE STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE THEIR FAMILIES CAN SHARE THEIR JOY AND CONTINUE TO TAKE UP THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOOKING AFTER THEM AT HOME," HE SAID.

MR LAW COMMENDED THE METHODIST EPWORTH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR DEVELOPING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1963, INCLUDING SERVICES FOR WORKERS, YOUTH AND THE ELDERLY, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, COUNSELLING AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR FUNG TUNG.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 6 -

45 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN APRIL

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PLANS FOR THREE HOTELS WERE AMONG THE 45 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN APRIL.

THE HOTELS WILL BE SITUATED AT 51-57 GLOUCESTER ROAD AND 77-91 JAFFE ROAD, ON HONG KONG ISLAND; 112-124 SOY STREET, KOWLOON; AND KWAN MUN HAU STREET, TSUEN WAN.

THE HOTEL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE THE HIGHEST. IT WILL BE A 31-STOREY BUILDING WITH 1,034 GUEST ROOMS.

OF THE 45 PLANS APPROVED, 20 WERE FOR PROJECTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 13 FOR PROJECTS IN KOWLOON AND 12 FOR PROJECTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

EIGHTEEN WERE FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND 27 WERE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

CONSENT TO START WORK WAS GIVEN TO 46 PROJECTS DURING THE MONTH. THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA WAS 407,106.4 SQUARE METRES, INCLUDING 220,018 SQUARE METRES FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND 187,088.4 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH TOTALLED 249,068.8 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 92,724.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC AND THE REST FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN APRIL WAS \$841 MILLION, BRINGING THE TOTAL FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR TO \$3.837 BILLION.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 26 OCCUPATION PERMITS. EIGHT OF THESE WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, TWO FOR KOWLOON AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE ISSUED 22 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AND 60 BUILDINGS WERE AFFECTED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 624 COMPLAINTS REGARDING ILLEGAL BUILDINGS AND ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 871 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 118 REMOVAL ORDERS DURING THE MONTH.

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/7

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 7 -

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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PARENTS REQUIRING FEE ASSISTANCE FOR THEIR CHILDREN ATTENDING DAY NURSERIES OR KINDERGARTENS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS NOW, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

EXISTING RECIPIENTS OF SUCH ASSISTANCE ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO APPLY AGAIN.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE, SHOWING THE APPROVED AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND VALID FOR ONE SCHOOL YEAR, WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WHO SHOULD THEN PRESENT TO THE DAY NURSERIES OR KINDERGARTENS WHICH THEIR CHILDREN WERE ATTENDING.

ONCE THE CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED, HE SAID, NO ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT WOULD BE MADE TO REFLECT INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE RECIPIENTS' FAMILY DISPOSABLE INCOME WITHIN THE PAYMENT YEAR.

THIS NEW MEASURE WAS INTRODUCED TO STREAMLINE THE PROCEDURE.

THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES AIMS TO HELP LOW-INCOME FAMILIES PAY THE FEES CHARGED IN DAY NURSERIES OR KINDERGARTENS.

TO QUALIFY FOR FEE ASSISTANCE IN A DAY NURSERY, A CHILD MUST BE AGED AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND LESS THAN SIX YEARS. TO QUALIFY FOR FEE ASSISTANCE IN A KINDERGARTEN, THE CHILD MUST BE AT LEAST THREE YEARS OLD.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR FEE ASSISTANCE MUST BE MADE BY THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD, WHO MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO ATTEND A BRIEF INTERVIEW PERSONALLY WITH THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

COPIES OF A LEAFLET CONTAINING AN APPLICATION FORM ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES; ALL DAY NURSERIES; DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION; AS WELL AS THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
RM 326, 3RD FLOOR,
LEE GARDENS,
HYSAN AVENUE,
CAUSEWAY BAY,
HONG KONG.

/EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- 8 -

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT KOWLOON REGIONAL OFFICE
RM 612, 6TH FLOOR,
KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
405 NATHAN ROAD,
KOWLOON.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEW TERRITORIES REGIONAL OFFICE
9TH FLOOR, TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
165 MA TAU WAI ROAD,
KOWLOON.

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SHA TIN DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REVISIONS

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MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (JUNE 21) MORNING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING GROUP AND THE CREATION OF A NEW SUBHEAD TO PROVIDE ABOUT \$20,000 AS PART OF FUNDING FOR AN EYE CARE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY.

THREE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS WILL ALSO BE PROCESSED TO PROVIDE COVERS TO THE SURFACE CHANNELS AT TAI WAI NEW VILLAGE, AND FOR PRINTING OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERSHIP LISTS AND THE DISTRICT BOARD TERM REPORT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1987-88, AS WELL AS A FIVE-YEAR FORECAST OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR 1988-89 TO 1992-93.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY (JUNE 21) AT THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 9 -

EASTERN DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH POLICY
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE REPORT ON YOUTH POLICY AT THEIR MEETING ON TUESDAY (JUNE 21) AFTERNOON.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

THE CHIEF RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, MR RAYMOND CHAN, WILL ALSO BRIEF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON "THE WAY AHEAD - A CONSULTANCY REPORT ON SPORTS IN HONG KONG".

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE REPORTS OF THE FOUR WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY (JUNE 21) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO BENEFIT ISLANDERS
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AMIDST ALL THE MAJOR GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PACKAGES IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT, THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME (LPW) CONTINUES TO PLAY A MODEST YET IMPORTANT ROLE OF IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE ISLANDERS.

ADMINISTERED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, THE LPW HAS BEEN MAINTAINING ITS BASIC FUNCTION FOR NEARLY SEVEN DECADES ALTHOUGH ITS FORM HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LPW IS EVIDENT FROM ALL THE FOOTPATHS AND ACCESS ROADS THAT CRISS-CROSS VARIOUS SETTLEMENTS ON THE ISLANDS, THE NUMEROUS RAINSHELTERS AND SITTING-OUT AREAS AT SCENIC VANTAGE POINTS AS WELL AS WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES TO REMOTE VILLAGES.

/EARLY HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY OF LPW REVEALED THAT IT WAS INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1919 AS A SELF-HELP SCHEME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHEREBY MATERIALS SUCH AS CEMENT, BARS AND PIPES WERE SUPPLIED TO VILLAGERS FOR THEM TO UNDERTAKE MINOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

AT THAT TIME THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WAS RELATIVELY SECLUDED, THUS THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE PROVISION OF BASIC FACILITIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE ISLANDERS SO AS TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

HITHERTO THE 1960S, AGRICULTURE WAS THE MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF THE ISLANDERS. SMALL IRRIGATION PROJECTS OF THE LPW HAD LED TO AN INCREASE IN THE ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION WHICH WAS SUFFICIENT TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE WELFARE OF THE VILLAGERS CONCERNED.

BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE LPW EVEN STRETCHED TO THE FRINGE AREAS AS THE BREAKWATER BUILT IN 1960 ON SOKO ISLANDS AND THE TWO DIESEL ELECTRICITY GENERATORS INSTALLED IN PO TOI COULD ILLUSTRATE.

HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS, THE VARIETY OF PROJECTS HAS INCREASED AND THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE LPW HAVE GRADUALLY GROWN BEYOND THE VILLAGERS' ABILITY TO HANDLE THEM.

IN 1959, A WORKS SECTION WAS SET UP IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO TAKE UP FORMALLY THE CO-ORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LPW PROJECTS.

EMPHASIS OF THE LPW HAS ALSO SHIFTED TO CATER FOR THE RECREATIONAL AND TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF THE ISLANDERS. HENCE, PLAYGROUNDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, VAN TRACKS AND FOOT BRIDGES BECAME POPULAR PROJECTS.

AT PRESENT, PROJECTS ARE NORMALLY INITIATED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES OR RURAL COMMITTEES OR BY DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF IN THE COURSE OF THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

WHEN A REQUEST FOR A LPW PROJECT IS RECEIVED, STAFF OF THE WORKS SECTION WILL FIRST MAKE A BRIEF APPRAISAL, FOLLOWED BY SITE VISIT AND PREPARATION OF A WORK PLAN.

ALMOST ALL PROJECTS ARE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CONTRACT SYSTEM WHEREBY STAFF OF THE WORKS SECTION PRODUCE SETS OF DETAILED DRAWINGS AND BILLS OF QUANTITIES, AND TENDERS ARE CALLED.

USUALLY A PROJECT WILL TAKE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE AFTER IT HAS BEEN CONTRACTED OUT.

THIS YEAR, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LPW HAS INDEED COME A LONG WAY WITH A RECORD ALLOCATION OF MORE THAN \$4 MILLION WHEN COMPARED WITH THE MEAGRE \$5,000 FOR THE WHOLE NEW TERRITORIES IN 1919.

IN 1988-89, IT WILL BE ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR THE WORKS SECTION OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT AS 57 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO UTILISE THE LPW FUND.

AS REGARD THE USE OF LPW FUND, \$2.3 MILLION WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTING NEW FACILITIES, \$1.6 MILLION FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKS AND \$110,000 FOR SQUATTER IMPROVEMENT.

COMPLEMENTARY TO THESE, THERE ARE OTHER PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE WORKS SECTION THROUGH THE LPW MACHINERY WHICH ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE ISLANDERS' LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALREADY ALLOCATED \$1.03 MILLION TO CARRY OUT MINOR ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WHILE THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO CHANNELLED \$875,000 TO THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE FOR ITS ENVIRONMENT HYGIENE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES PROJECTS.

APART FROM THE GOVERNMENT SOURCE OF FUNDS, THE DONATIONS OF CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME WILL FORM AN INJECTION TO THE LPW MACHINERY. IN 1988, FOR INSTANCE, \$1.5 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WILL BE USED FOR BUILDING A PIER AT PO TOI.

IN VIEW OF THE REMOTENESS AND THE COMPARATIVELY MINOR NATURE OF THE PROJECTS WHICH MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ACCORDED HIGH PRIORITY IF THEY ARE DEALT WITH BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AS PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS, THE VALUE OF LPW TO THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL STILL BE IRREPLACEABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE RENAMING OF YAU TSIM DISTRICT

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A FOUR-MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT SHORTLY TO PROMOTE THE NEW NAME OF THE DISTRICT.

THE NEW NAME, A SHORT FORM FOR YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI, HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE APRIL TO REMOVE ANY MISCONCEPTION THAT TSIM SHA TSUI WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT SEPARATE FROM YAU MA TEI.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL INCLUDE CONTESTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY, BASKETBALL AND TABLE-TENNIS COMPETITIONS, A FAMILY DAY CAMP AND A CARNIVAL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"THE COLOUR-PHOTO CONTEST TO BE HELD IN JULY IS OPEN TO RESIDENTS, STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN THE DISTRICT. PARTICIPANTS CAN USE EITHER DISTRICT LANDMARKS AS BACKGROUND OR PHOTOGRAPH SOMETHING TO SHOW CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

/"TEN PRIZES

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988

- 12 -

"TEN PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AND THE CHAMPION WILL RECEIVE PRIZES WORTH \$1,500," HE SAID.

IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, AN OPEN COMPETITION IN TABLE-TENNIS AND AN INTER-SCHOOL BASKETBALL CONTEST WILL BE HELD RESPECTIVELY. A YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED TO THE CHAMPION OF EACH CONTEST.

"ON JULY 31, WE SHALL ORGANISE A FAMILY DAY CAMP IN THE LEI YUE MUN PARK FOR 300 RESIDENTS. WE WILL PUBLICISE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AS WELL AS THE NEW NAME FOR THE DISTRICT THROUGH MASS GAMES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A CARNIVAL IN THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16 (SUNDAY) AS A FINALE TO THE CAMPAIGN.

"AN EXHIBITION OF PRIZE-WINNING ENTRIES IN THE PHOTO CONTEST WILL BE HELD, AND THERE WILL BE GAMES-STALLS AND OTHER PERFORMANCES TO ADD FUN TO THE DAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE ACTIVITIES IS UNDERWAY, AND WE ARE ALSO PREPARING SPECIALLY DESIGNED T-SHIRTS, BOOKMARKS AND STICKERS TO HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE," HE ADDED.

THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED \$50,000 FOR THE CAMPAIGN, HE SAID.

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WATER CUT IN SAN PO KONG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 22) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET, TSEUK LUK STREET, KING FUK STREET AND KING HONG STREET.

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