



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW BILL AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING GAZETTED

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A BILL AIMED AT CONFISCATING THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND COUNTERING DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING IN HONG KONG WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

MODELLED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM'S DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES ACT 1986, THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) BILL 1989 IS ONE OF THE FIRST PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

UNDER THE BILL, WHEN A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF A DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCE IN THE HIGH COURT OR DISTRICT COURT, THE COURT WILL, BEFORE SENTENCING AND ON APPLICATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, FIRST DETERMINE WHETHER THE DEFENDANT HAS BENEFITTED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

IF SO, THEN THE COURT WILL ASSESS THE VALUE OF HIS PROCEEDS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MAKE A CONFISCATION ORDER AGAINST THEM.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE DEFENDANT HAS BENEFITTED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND OF ASSESSING THE VALUE OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF, THE COURT MAY ASSUME THAT THE WHOLE OF HIS PROPERTY AT THE TIME OF HIS CONVICTION, TOGETHER WITH ANY PROPERTY WHICH HE HAD HELD AT ANY TIME DURING THE PRECEDING SIX YEARS, REPRESENTS HIS PROCEEDS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

HOWEVER, THE COURT IS NOT REQUIRED TO MAKE THIS ASSUMPTION AND NEED NOT EXAMINE ALL THE DEFENDANT'S FINANCIAL DEALINGS IN DEPTH IF, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS SATISFIED THAT HIS DRUG TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES WERE CONFINED TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS.

THE AMOUNT OF A CONFISCATION ORDER WILL BE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE DEFENDANT'S PROCEEDS AS DETERMINED BY THE COURT.

NEVERTHELESS, IF THE COURT FINDS THE AMOUNT THAT CAN BE RECOVERED THROUGH REALISATION OF PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO IT IS LESS THAN THE DETERMINED VALUE OF THE DEFENDANT'S PROCEEDS, IT WILL ONLY ORDER CONFISCATION OF THE REALISABLE AMOUNT.

AFTER A CONFISCATION ORDER HAS BEEN MADE, IF THE COURT IS SATISFIED, ON APPLICATION BY THE DEFENDANT, THAT THE REALISABLE PROPERTY IS INADEQUATE TO SATISFY THE CONFISCATION ORDER IN FULL, IT MAY REDUCE THE AMOUNT TO BE RECOVERED BY VARYING THE CONFISCATION ORDER.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE CONFISCATION ORDER WILL BE SATISFIED IN FULL, THE COURT MAY APPOINT A RECEIVER TO REALISE ANY OF THE DEFENDANT'S ASSETS.

ADDITIONALLY, ASSETS HELD BY RECIPIENTS OF GIFTS TRANSFERRED TO THEM BY THE DEFENDANT IN THE PREVIOUS SIX YEARS WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO REALISATION, ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT TO BE REALISED MAY NOT EXCEED THE VALUE OF THE GIFTS.

/WHEN MAKING

WHEN MAKING A CONFISCATION ORDER, THE COURT WILL AT THE SAME TIME FIX A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 10 YEARS ACCORDING TO THE AMOUNT OF THE ORDER IN THE EVENT THAT THE ORDER IS NOT FULLY COMPLIED WITH. THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY TERM OF IMPRISONMENT DETERMINED FOR THE DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCE.

TO PREVENT A SUSPECTED DRUG TRAFFICKER FROM DISPOSING OF REALISABLE PROPERTY IN ORDER TO FRUSTRATE THE ENFORCEMENT OF ANY CONFISCATION ORDER, THE COURT WILL BE EMPOWERED TO MAKE RESTRAINT AND CHARGING ORDERS IN RESPECT OF REALISABLE PROPERTY, EITHER AFTER PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST A PERSON FOR A DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCE, OR WHEN SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE ABOUT TO BE INSTITUTED.

THERE IS ALSO PROVISION IN THE BILL FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CONFISCATION ORDERS MADE OVERSEAS.

AS A MEASURE TO COUNTER DRUG MONEY LAUNDERING, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF 14 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF ASSISTING A DRUG TRAFFICKER TO RETAIN OR OTHERWISE BENEFIT FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING PROCEEDS.

UNDER THIS PART OF THE BILL, PERSONS WILL BE OBLIGED TO REPORT TO THE POLICE OR CUSTOMS FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WHICH THEY KNOW OR SUSPECT TO BE CONNECTED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING.

TO ENCOURAGE THOSE CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES, TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION, THE BILL STIPULATES THAT SUCH DISCLOSURE WILL NOT BE TREATED AS BREACH OF CONTRACT OR PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR SEEKING DAMAGES FOR ANY LOSS THUS ARISING.

IT ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE IDENTITY OF PERSONS MAKING DISCLOSURE TO THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED.

WHERE THE HIGH COURT IS SATISFIED THAT AS A RESULT OF A SERIOUS DEFAULT IN THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF A SUSPECT WHO IS EVENTUALLY NOT CHARGED OR IS CHARGED BUT ACQUITTED, A PROPERTY HOLDER HAS SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL LOSS, THEN THE HIGH COURT MAY, ON APPLICATION BY THE PROPERTY HOLDER, ORDER COMPENSATION PAID TO THE APPLICANT.

ELABORATING ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, SAID THAT THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION, THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) HAD BEEN CONSULTED THROUGHOUT THE DRAFTING STAGES OF THE BILL.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS, THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION, THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND HIMSELF, THE TWO ASSOCIATIONS HAD DRAWN UP THEIR OWN GUIDELINES WHICH LAID DOWN A MODEL INTERNAL REPORTING MECHANISM FOR BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEGISLATION, AND ALSO DESCRIBED CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SUSPICION MIGHT BE GENERATED THAT A TRANSACTION WAS DRUG RELATED.

HE CONTINUED: "ONCE THE NEW LEGISLATION IS ENACTED, A REPORTING FACILITY, TO BE JOINTLY MANNED BY POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS, WILL BE SET UP TO RECEIVE REPORTS ABOUT KNOWN OR SUSPECTED DRUG-RELATED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS."

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, THE CHAIRMAN OF ACAN, DR GERALD CHOA, SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, ENDORSED BY HIS COMMITTEE, WAS CLEARLY AN INDICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO STRIKE AT THE ROOT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING.

"DRUG TRAFFICKING GENERATES HUGE PROFITS WHICH ARE USED BY TRAFFICKERS NOT ONLY TO FURTHER THEIR DRUG TRADE AND FINANCE OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, BUT ALSO TO INVEST IN LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES TO EARN FURTHER PROFITS," HE SAID.

"THE ENORMOUS FINANCIAL RESOURCES THUS PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAVE GREATLY ENHANCED THEIR ABILITY TO COUNTERACT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST THEM.

"THE NEED TO ATTACK THE ASSETS OF TRAFFICKERS IS THEREFORE PARAMOUNT," HE SAID.

DR CHOA ADDED THAT SIMILAR LEGISLATION ALREADY OPERATED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, USA, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA AND THE PROVISION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ASSIST THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH A SERIOUS CRIME WHICH HAD BECOME A WORLD-WIDE MENACE AND HELP MUTUAL CO-OPERATION IN THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUGS.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 8 FOR ITS FIRST READING AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND READING DEBATE AND IT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME LAW IN THE COMING TWO TO THREE MONTHS.

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HK TO TAKE PART IN MEETING ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) TO TAKE PART IN A MEETING TO BE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR ON MARCH 7 TO 9 AS PART OF THE PROCESS LEADING TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE ASYLUM SEEKERS LATER THIS YEAR.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL COMPRISE THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, AND THE GOVERNMENT REFUGEE COORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ASEAN AND MAJOR RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES AND THE UNHCR.

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CIVIL SERVICE MEETS THE CHALLENGE: SCS

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DESPITE THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF THE MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT AND RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS, THE CIVIL SERVICE HAS PROVED EQUAL TO THE CHALLENGE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WAS ADDRESSING A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WHICH HE HOSTED FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

"THIS ABILITY ON THE PART OF THE CIVIL SERVICE TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND INCREASINGLY HEAVY DEMANDS WHILE MAINTAINING ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY IS BOTH A TRIBUTE TO ITS RESILIENCE AND A REFLECTION OF ITS CONTINUED DETERMINATION TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE," HE SAID.

MR GREWAL POINTED OUT THAT THE PAST 12 MONTHS, WHICH HAD BEEN EVENTFUL FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, HAD SEEN A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF MAJOR PAY-RELATED ISSUES.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, SEVERAL THORNY ISSUES REMAINED WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DETAILED CONSIDERATION.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S AIM WOULD, AS ALWAYS, BE TO DEAL WITH THEM FAIRLY AND SENSIBLY IN CONSULTATION WITH STAFF, FOR SUCH MATTERS COULD BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY THROUGH DISCUSSION AS INDEED HAD BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, HE ADDED.

/HE NOTED

HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE UNDERSTANDING, CO-OPERATION AND PARTICIPATION OF LEADERS OF STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

AT THE RECEPTION, MR GREWAL ALSO PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION TO FIVE WINNERS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME.

HE PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR INITIATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVENESS IN PUTTING FORWARD TO THE STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY.

"THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED A KEEN SENSE OF OBSERVATION IN AREAS OF WORK WHICH FALL OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL SCOPE OF DUTIES, AND HAVE DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF THEIR OWN TIME TO DEVELOPING THEIR IDEAS," HE SAID.

AMONG THE WINNERS, MR WONG TIN-WAI, A CERTIFICATED MASTER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WON A CASH AWARD OF \$500 FOR HIS SUGGESTION ON USING MORE DURABLE AND PRESENTABLE PLASTIC-PLATE CLASS SIGNS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS. THIS HAD BEEN ADOPTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE OTHER OFFICERS AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION WERE MR E.J. SPAIN, MR YIP CHUEN-FONG, MR LO SIU-CHUEN AND MR CHIANG TIN-POR. THEIR WINNING SUGGESTIONS RANGED FROM COMPUTERISATION OF LEAVE RECORDS TO IMPROVEMENTS TO CLEANING SERVICES AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

THE RECEPTION, HELD AT A HAPPY VALLEY CLUBHOUSE, WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 380 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS, SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME COMMITTEE.

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APPOINTMENTS TO URBAN COUNCIL ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS REAPPOINTED THREE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND APPOINTED TWO NEW MEMBERS FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1989, TO MAY 31, 1991.

THE APPOINTMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE THREE MEMBERS REAPPOINTED ARE MR GERRY FORSGATE, MR TONG KAM-BIU AND MR SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI.

THE NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED ARE MR JASON YUEN KING-YUK AND DR STAN CHEUNG TSANG-KAY.

IN COMMENTING ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE TWO OUTGOING MEMBERS -- MR WALTER SULKE AND MRS NELLIE FONG WONG KUT-MAN.

"DURING THEIR TERM OF SERVICE, THEIR EXPERIENCE AND VALUABLE SERVICE HAS BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED," HE SAID.

OF THE NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEIR PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE TO THE COUNCIL.

MR YUEN IS AN ARCHITECT. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. HE IS A SPECIALIST ON THE RESTORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS, AND IS THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD WHICH HE HAS SERVED FOR ABOUT 12 YEARS.

DR CHEUNG IS A DIRECTOR OF SEVERAL BUSINESS FIRMS. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND A MEMBER OF DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

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REGIONAL SECRETARY SPEAKS ON DISTRICT BOARDS

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GIVING DISTRICT BOARDS CERTAIN SPECIFIC EXECUTIVE TASKS MIGHT PLACE THE BOARDS UNDER CONSTRAINT BECAUSE THEY WOULD THEN BE BOUND BY THE "ULTRA VIRES" PRINCIPLES, LIKE MOST LOCAL COUNCILS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

FURTHERMORE, GIVEN THE PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG, IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE TO SET UP 19 AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS EACH HAVING EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OVER TRANSPORT, HYGIENE, EDUCATION, ETC, HE ADDED.

MR LAN WAS REFERRING TO CRITICISMS THAT THE LACK OF EXECUTIVE POWERS FOR DISTRICT BOARDS HAD CAUSED FRUSTRATION TO SOME MEMBERS, WHEN HE GAVE A TALK ON "MY PERCEPTION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TODAY" AT A LIONS CLUB ZONE IV JOINT DINNER MEETING.

UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, HE SAID, DISTRICT BOARDS OPERATED UNDER THE "INTRA VIRES" PRINCIPLE.

"THE BOARDS ARE NOT LEGALLY RESTRICTED TO DISCUSS THIS OR THAT TOPIC SO LONG AS THE TOPIC AFFECTS THE LIVELIHOOD OF RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

"DB'S, UNTRAMMELLED BY LIMITS OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, ARE FREE TO DISCUSS WHATEVER THEY FEEL IS AFFECTING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR DISTRICTS," HE NOTED.

TO ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE WORK OF DISTRICT BOARDS, MR LAN SAID THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR THE 19 BOARDS ALTOGETHER CONSIDERED 812 DISCUSSION PAPERS ON SUCH DISTRICT ISSUES AS TRANSPORT, SOCIAL SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, INITIATED OR SPONSORED 3,669 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, AND CARRIED OUT NUMEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$10 MILLION.

IN FULFILLING THEIR CONSULTATIVE ROLE, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MET INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS IN THEIR DISTRICTS UNDER THE "MEET-THE-PUBLIC" SCHEME.

THE MEMBERS LISTENED TO THE RESIDENTS' PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS, AND REFLECTED THEM TO RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR NECESSARY ACTION WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT DB'S HAVE MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT, AND THEIR ACTIVITIES HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG," HE NOTED.

MR LAN SAID THAT OVER THE YEARS, DISTRICT BOARDS HAD ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS AN INFLUENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND THEIR ADVICE HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN FORMULATING VARIOUS POLICIES.

"I FIND OUR DB'S OCCUPY A VERY UNIQUE POSITION CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT POLICY EVEN AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL SO LONG AS THE POLICY GENERALLY AFFECTS RESIDENTS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHERE THERE IS SO READILY AVAILABLE AND PROPERLY ORGANISED A BODY AS THE DISTRICT BOARD THAT IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION OF POLICY AND OTHER MAJOR ISSUES."

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER ON "THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: THE WAY FORWARD" LAST FEBRUARY, A SERIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES (IN THE FORM OF A CENTRAL DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY) HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS OF DISTRICT BOARDS WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING THE RESPONSIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO BEEN GRADUALLY INCREASING THE RESOURCES PROVIDED TO DISTRICT BOARDS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM HAS SERVED US WELL. OUR TASK AHEAD WILL BE TO BUILD UPON THIS EXISTING SYSTEM SO THAT THE GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF THE HONG KONG PUBLIC COULD BE BETTER MET IN THE FUTURE," HE CONCLUDED.

MORE DAY NURSERIES TO MEET DEMAND

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY PLANNING AND SETTING UP DAY NURSERIES IN NEW TOWNS TO MEET INCREASING DEMAND AS A RESULT OF THE COMPLETION OF NEW HOUSING ESTATES AND THE STEADY POPULATION GROWTH, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK 86 HIN KENG NURSERY IN SHA TIN, MR CHAU SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT DURING 1989-90 AS MANY AS 11 DAY NURSERIES WOULD GO INTO OPERATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND ANOTHER 13 WOULD BE OPENED BETWEEN 1990 AND 1992.

AT PRESENT, THERE WERE 245 REGISTERED DAY NURSERIES PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 28,256 PLACES IN HONG KONG AND 93 OF THEM WERE LOCATED IN NEW TOWNS.

MR CHAU ATTRIBUTED THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES TO THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN RECENT YEARS.

"A LARGE NUMBER OF MARRIED WOMEN HAVE JOINED THE WORK FORCE, RESULTING IN A GREAT DEMAND FOR DAY CARE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN," HE EXPLAINED.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE THE CHILD CARE CENTRE ONE OF THE STANDARD SOCIAL SERVICES."

UNDER THE EXISTING POLICY, EACH AREA WITH A POPULATION OF 20,000 WAS PROVIDED WITH 100 AIDED DAY CARE PLACES FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

MR CHAU PAID TRIBUTE TO PO LEUNG KUK WHICH HE SAID HAD EVOLVED THROUGH THE YEARS INTO A DIVERSIFIED SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE HIN KENG NURSERY, THE KUK HAD ESTABLISHED 20 NURSERIES, HE NOTED.

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MEETING TOMORROW TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF FUTURES EXCHANGE EGM
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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, WILL HAVE AN INITIAL MEETING WITH MR WILFRID NEWTON, EX-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE, AND MR DOUGLAS FORD, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FUTURES EXCHANGE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE'S EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD LAST (THURSDAY) NIGHT.

"THIS INITIAL MEETING WILL MAINLY BE A FACT-FINDING ONE, AIMED AT OBTAINING FROM THE FUTURES EXCHANGE FIRST HAND INFORMATION AND PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE EGM ITSELF AS WELL AS ON THE VARIOUS OPTIONS NOW OPEN TO THE EXCHANGE," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOW BE ASKED TO INTERVENE IN THE EXCHANGE'S RECONSTITUTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS SITUATION HAD YET TO ARISE AND STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD STILL TO DETERMINE WHAT ITS STANCE WOULD BE WERE IT TO BE SO ASKED.

GIVEN THE INTENTION ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO EXTEND THE PERIOD BY WHICH THE NEXT AGM NEEDED TO BE HELD, THERE WAS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OPTIONS TO BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT THROUGH BEFORE COMING TO ANY FIRM CONCLUSION.

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HK NOT TO PURSUE APPLICATION
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IT HAS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE HONG KONG'S APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATED TERRITORY STATUS (DTS) UNDER THE UK FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT FOR THE TIME BEING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS DECISION HAS BEEN ARRIVED AT JOINTLY BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION (UTA) AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR DTS UNDER SECTION 87 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986 WAS LODGED WITH THE UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN MAY LAST YEAR BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BUT WILL NOT NOW BE PROCEEDED WITH.

"THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF ATTAINING DESIGNATION IS THAT IT WOULD ENABLE UNIT TRUSTS AUTHORISED AND MANAGED IN HONG KONG TO BE MARKETED TO THE INVESTING PUBLIC IN THE UNITED KINGDOM," HE SAID.

/TO ENSURE

TO ENSURE DESIGNATION IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO CONSIDER PUTTING FORWARD SUCH PROPOSALS IF IT HAD HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE UNIT TRUST INDUSTRY.

THE UTA HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND HAS DECIDED THAT THE CURRENT UK REQUIREMENTS ARE TOO COMPLEX AND BURDENSOME FOR HONG KONG TO FOLLOW.

THEY WOULD ENTAIL SUBSTANTIAL COSTS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE BORNE AT THE END OF THE DAY BY LOCAL SUBSCRIBERS.

"THIS THE UTA SEES AS UNDESIRABLE AND UNNECESSARY AS THE BENEFITS OF DTS CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH OTHER MEANS GIVEN THAT THE MAJORITY OF HONG KONG AUTHORISED FUNDS ARE BASED OFFSHORE, A NUMBER OF THEM IN PLACES WHICH HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED SUCH STATUS," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE SITUATION FROM TIME TO TIME AND MAY REVIVE THE APPLICATION AT SOME FUTURE DATE SHOULD THERE BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES, HE ADDED.

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PLANNING FOR FUTURE BEGINS AT CAREERS CENTRES

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A LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER TODAY (FRIDAY) CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYERS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

THE NEED FOR MORE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT WAS STRESSED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE, MR CHAN YUN-CHEE, WHEN OPENING A NEW CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN SHA TIN.

MR CHAN SAID CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES OPERATED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN HELPING MANY YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE CAREERS BEST SUITED TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

NOTING THE DIFFERENCE IN REALITY BETWEEN SCHOOL LIFE AND THE WORLD OF WORK, HE SAID SCHOOL LEAVERS MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY IN CHOOSING A SUITABLE CAREER.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE VARIOUS TRADES IN THE WORLD OF WORK, AND THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR THEM TO PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE," MR CHAN SAID.

THE SHA TIN OFFICE, THE FOURTH OF ITS KIND SET UP BY THE DEPARTMENT, IS EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CAREERS MATERIALS, INCLUDING SOME 1,500 REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS AND 430 VIDEO CASSETTE TAPE RECORDINGS, SLIDE PRESENTATIONS AND TAPE RECORDINGS OF SPECIALIST TALKS BY EXPERTS.

THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES ALSO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR 20,826 STUDENTS TO VISIT THE CENTRES IN GROUPS IN 1987-88.

"IN ADDITION, THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE ORGANISED OTHER GROUP ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE CAREERS GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS, SUCH AS CAREERS TALKS, QUIZZES, EXHIBITIONS AND CAREERS DAYS WHICH ATTRACTED MORE THAN 287,000 PARTICIPANTS DURING THE PERIOD," MR CHAN ADDED.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, ALSO SPOKE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

MR KWOK SAID THE SHA TIN OFFICE WAS INTENDED TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES IN SEEKING CAREERS INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE.

THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE USE OF THE CENTRE TO FURTHER EXPAND ITS GROUP ADVISORY SERVICES IN NEW TERRITORIES EAST AND DEVELOP CLOSER LINKS WITH CAREERS TEACHERS, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES IN THE REGION, HE ADDED.

LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET, THE NEW OFFICE IS OPEN DAILY TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JANUARY PUBLISHED
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JANUARY 1989.

THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) (OCT. 84/SEP. 85 = 100) FOR JANUARY 1989 WERE 123.1 AND 123.0 RESPECTIVELY, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 9.5 PER CENT AND 9.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER JANUARY 1988.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1988 AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 1.0 PER CENT.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 1989, BOTH AT 118.4, WERE 7.7 PER CENT AND 7.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 1988.

/DURING THE

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JANUARY 1989, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 1.1 PER CENT PER MONTH AND THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(B), AT 1.0 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR JANUARY 1989 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1988 AND JANUARY 1988, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

SECTION	(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100) CPI(A)			CPI(B)		
	INDEX FOR JAN.89	% CHANGE OVER DEC.88	% CHANGE OVER JAN.88	INDEX FOR JAN.89	% CHANGE OVER DEC.88	% CHANGE OVER JAN.88
FOODSTUFFS	123.2	+2.4	+12.7	124.2	+2.3	+12.8
HOUSING	117.7	+0.4	+5.5	113.7	+0.6	+4.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	94.0	+1.4	+1.3	94.6	+1.3	+1.5
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	125.7	+0.2	+7.0	126.8	+0.3	+7.4
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	130.6	-1.5	+9.1	132.6	-2.0	+9.2
DURABLE GOODS	120.3	+0.3	+5.2	119.5	+0.2	+5.4
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	130.2	-0.6	+8.6	129.4	-0.6	+8.2
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	123.9	+1.3	+5.5	123.6	+1.4	+6.1
SERVICES	134.2	+0.6	+10.3	134.4	+0.7	+10.9
ALL ITEMS	123.1	+1.2	+9.5	123.0	+1.0	+9.1

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1988, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 2.4 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 2.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES, LIVE POULTRY AND SALT-WATER FISH AND IN THE AVERAGE CHARGE FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 0.4 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

THE INDEX FOR FUEL AND LIGHT INCREASED BY 1.4 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF KEROSENE AS WELL AS THE FULL EFFECT OF THE RECENT INCREASED CHARGES FOR TOWNGAS AND THE RECENT UPWARD FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT FOR ELECTRICITY.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DECREASED BY 1.5 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 2.0 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF LOWER PRICES OF OUTERCLOTHING.

THE INDEX FOR MISCELLANEOUS GOODS DECREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) DUE TO LOWER PRICES OF JEWELLERY.

THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER BUS AND TAXI FARES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.7 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR HAIR-DRESSING AND MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND ALSO HIGHER EXAMINATION FEES.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR JANUARY 1989, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$3.5 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES MAY BE MADE TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8235089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 128.5 IN JANUARY 1989, UP BY 0.4 PER CENT OVER DECEMBER 1988 AND UP BY 10.5 PER CENT OVER JANUARY 1988.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984-85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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NEW LIQUOR LICENCE FEES IN APRIL

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THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (LIQUOR LICENCES) (SPECIFICATION OF FEES) (REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA) NOTICE 1988, SPECIFYING NEW LIQUOR LICENCE FEES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

FEES FOR THE LIQUOR LICENCE WITH BAR WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$2,000 TO \$2,320, LIQUOR LICENCE WITHOUT BAR WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1,000 TO \$1,160, WHILE CLUB LIQUOR LICENCE WILL BE \$580 INSTEAD OF \$500.

MISCELLANEOUS FEES INCLUDING FEES FOR THE TRANSFER OF LICENCE AND FOR THE AMENDMENT OF A LICENCE WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN UNCHANGED AT A CURRENT CHARGE OF \$65.

THE REVISION OF LIQUOR LICENCE FEES AIMS TO RECOVER THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE LIQUOR LICENSING SYSTEM, A REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

A RECENTLY COMPLETED REVIEW ON THE SYSTEM SHOWED THAT THE OLD FEE CHARGES WOULD BRING TO AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF \$113,644 IN 1989-90, REPRESENTING A SUBSIDY LEVEL OF 13 PER CENT, HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A BREAKEVEN IN ADMINISTERING THE SYSTEM BY 1989-90, THE LIQUOR LICENCE FEES HAVE TO BE INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE REVISION WAS APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD AND ENDORSED BY THE FULL COUNCIL IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1989

- 15 -

SEMINAR ON TEENAGERS' PROBLEMS

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A SEMINAR TO HELP PARENTS BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS OF TEENAGERS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT ABOUT 100 PEOPLE, ALL PARENTS OF PRIMARY 5 TO FORM 3 STUENTS, WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIMECOMMITTEE (DFCC), THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND THE YANG MEMORIAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE.

THE SEMINAR WILL START WITH A DRAMA DEPICTING THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR TEENAGE CHILDREN. THEN SOCIAL WORKERS WILL GIVE TALKS ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TEENAGERS, AND THE METHODS TO DEAL WITH THEIR COMMON BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE GROUP DISCUSSIONS LED BY SOCIAL WORKERS.

THE DFCC HAS ALSO PRINTED CARDS BEARING THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF ORGANISATIONS OFFERING SERVICES TO TEENAGERS, FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE PARTICIPANTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON TEENAGERS' PROBLEMS TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

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TRADE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR CRAFTSMEN INSTITUTED

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS INSTITUTED A TRADE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM TO ASSESS THE SKILL LEVELS OF CRAFTSMEN IN INDUSTRIES.

THE FIRST FOUR TRADES SELECTED FOR TRADE TESTING WILL BE ELECTRICIAN, MECHANICAL FITTER, TYPESETTER AND VEHICLE MECHANIC.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL, MR HORACE KNIGHT, SAID THAT AS A START IN THIS SUMMER, CRAFTSMEN IN THE FOUR TRADES WOULD BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE TRADE TESTS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

/"CANDIDATES WHO

"CANDIDATES WHO PASS THE TEST - COMPRISING A SHORT PAPER ON THEORY OR TRADE KNOWLEDGE, AND A PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT OF SEVERAL HOURS' WORK - WILL BE AWARDED A TRADE TEST CERTIFICATE," HE SAID.

"THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE COMPETENCE OF THE CANDIDATE IN HIS RESPECTIVE TRADE. THE TEST IS ALSO A MEASUREMENT OF THE STANDARDS ACHIEVED BY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GONE THROUGH ANY FORMAL TRAINING IN THEIR CAREERS."

AS THE PIONEER OF ORGANISED APPRENTICE TRAINING IN HONG KONG, MR KNIGHT POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS IN 1976 THAT HONG KONG ENACTED THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH APPRENTICE TRAINING IN MANY PRINCIPAL TRADES IS REGULATED IN INDUSTRY.

IN OTHER WORDS MANY CRAFTSMEN IN THEIR LATE TWENTIES OR OLDER WOULD NOT HAVE EITHER UNDERGONE ANY RECOGNISED TRAINING OR BEEN GIVEN ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION DUE TO THEM.

THE COUNCIL, WITH THE SUPPORT OF ITS TRAINING BOARDS, BELIEVES A TRADE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM WILL FACILITATE SKILLED WORKERS IN THE ACQUISITION OF RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS WHICH IN TURN WILL ENHANCE THEIR STATUS AS QUALIFIED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

"APART FROM SETTING A STANDARD OF SKILLS FOR EACH TRADE, SUCH A SYSTEM, WHEN FURTHER DEVELOPED AT A LATER STAGE, WILL ALSO HELP ESTABLISH A SKILLS HIERARCHY OF CRAFTSMAN AND MASTER CRAFTSMAN SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH EXISTS IN WESTERN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES.

"SUCH A HIERARCHY WILL PROVIDE A CAREER LADDER FOR SKILLED WORKERS," MR KNIGHT SAID.

INDUSTRY WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF TRADE TEST. THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE AWARDED AS A RESULT OF THE TEST PROVIDES EMPLOYERS WITH A YARDSTICK WHICH THEY CAN USE WHEN SELECTING CRAFTSMEN.

TO MAINTAIN SAFETY STANDARDS AND TO ENSURE A HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICE IN SOME TRADES, HONG KONG HAS BEEN FORMULATING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF SKILLED WORKERS, SUCH AS ELECTRICIANS, MR KNIGHT SAID.

SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE LICENSING OR REGISTRATION AUTHORITIES, A TRADE TEST CERTIFICATE AWARDED BY THE COUNCIL CAN BE RECOGNISED AS AN ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LICENSING OR REGISTRATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, A TRADE TEST REGISTRY HAS BEEN SET UP TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR TAKING THE TEST.

THE ORGANISERS OF THE TESTS INCLUDE THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD AND PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD.

THEY WILL ADVERTISE THE TESTS IN NEWSPAPERS AND INVITE VEHICLE MECHANICS, ELECTRICIANS, MECHANICAL FITTERS AND TYPESETTERS TO APPLY FOR SITTING THE TESTS IN JULY AND AUGUST THIS YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TRADE TEST REGISTRY, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HAND TO THE REGISTRY BETWEEN MARCH 6 AND APRIL 7.

APPLICANTS ACCEPTED FOR THE TEST WILL BE CHARGED A FEE OF \$100 AND INVITED TO TAKE THE TEST AT THE COUNCIL'S TRAINING CENTRES AT KOWLOON BAY OR KWAI CHUNG.

A CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED TO CANDIDATES WHO PASS BOTH THE TRADE KNOWLEDGE TEST AND THE PRACTICAL TEST AT THE SAME SITTING OR AT DIFFERENT SITTINGS WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

CANDIDATES PASSING ONE OR THE OTHER TEST WILL BE ISSUED A STATEMENT OF RESULTS.

FOUR GUIDEBOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE TRAINING BOARDS SETTING OUT THE TEST SYLLABUS, ELIGIBILITY FOR AND PROCEDURES OF APPLICATION AND THE TEST REGULATIONS FOR THE TESTS.

THESE GUIDEBOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE TRADE TEST REGISTRY. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TESTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE RESPECTIVE TRAINING BOARD ON 5-8932341.

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CYC HOLDING CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT

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THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE 19 DISTRICT BOARDS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND OF THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE FORTNIGHT WILL INCLUDE EXHIBITIONS, STALL GAMES AND VARIETY SHOWS ON CIVIC EDUCATION THEMES ORGANISED BY CYC MEMBERS WITH SUBSIDIES FROM DISTRICT BOARDS.

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE MAINLY OVER THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEKEND AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

/THE HIGHLIGHT

THE HIGHLIGHT WILL BE A CIVIC EDUCATION DAY ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE CYC AND FOUR DISTRICT BOARDS ON HONG KONG ISLAND - THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD.

THIS WILL BE HELD AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM ON SUNDAY.

THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE FOLK DANCES, CHINESE ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES, AND CHOIR SINGING AS WELL AS STALL GAMES AND EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY 20 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE FOUR DISTRICTS.

IT WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI; DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BOWEN LEUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR LAU HON-CHUEN; CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, MRS PEGGY LAM; CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; AND MRS LINA LO OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT WILL INCLUDE THOSE ORGANISED BY CYC MEMBERS AT ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL BETWEEN FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 2 AND AT THE TAI PO TOWN CENTRE SQUARE ON MARCH 5.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS AND EXHIBITION ORGANISERS PARTICIPATING IN THE FORTNIGHT WILL BE INVITED TO STAGE TWO PERFORMANCES AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI ON APRIL 9.

AN EXHIBITION OF OUTSTANDING DISPLAYS SELECTED FROM THE FORTNIGHT WILL BE MOUNTED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM ON APRIL 9.

THE EXHIBITION WILL MOVE TO TAIKOO SHING ON APRIL 10 - 11, THE NEW WORLD CENTRE ON APRIL 12 - 13, AND TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE ON APRIL 14 - 15 TO ENABLE MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE CYC MOVEMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CYC CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL AT 10 AM ON SUNDAY.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1989

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EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE KWAI TSING INDUSTRY, COMMERCE

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AN EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN KWAI TSING DISTRICT WILL BEGIN AT NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

OVER 20 STALLS WILL BE SET UP BY FACTORY OWNERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT TO DISPLAY THEIR PRODUCTS, INCLUDING TOYS, CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD WARE, COSMETICS AND SPECTACLES.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO INCLUDE A FASHION SHOW AND A VIDEO WALL ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

THE KWAI TSING INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE PROMOTION EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD, KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED AT 11 AM TOMORROW BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBER, MR JAMES TIEN; KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE WING-TAT; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI AND MR SO HOI-PAN; AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG.

THE EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 26).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE PROMOTION EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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PART-TIME LECTURERS FOR ADULT EDUCATION REQUIRED

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADULT EDUCATION SECTION IS INVITING QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND PERSONS TO APPLY FOR THE POSTS OF EVENING PART-TIME LECTURERS FOR THE 1989-90 SCHOOL SESSION.

THEY ARE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT COURSES RUN BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION.

THESE INCLUDE TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE, ENGLISH COURSE, GOVERNMENT EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE, THE EVENING SCHOOL OF HIGHER CHINESE STUDIES, GENERAL AND PRACTICAL BACKGROUND ADULT EDUCATION COURSES AND OTHER COURSES CONDUCTED IN THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES.

/APPLICANTS FOR

APPLICANTS FOR VARIOUS TEACHING POSTS SHOULD BE QUALIFIED TEACHERS WITH A GENUINE INTEREST IN TEACHING PART-TIME ADULT EDUCATION COURSES.

APPLICANTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING AT SENIOR SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY LEVELS AND/OR POSSESSING A DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION OR ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN TEACHER TRAINING WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

FINAL YEAR STUDENTS OF THE TWO LOCAL UNIVERSITIES MAY ALSO APPLY AND THEIR APPOINTMENT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THEIR DEGREE COURSES.

APPLICANTS FOR TEACHING DRESSMAKING, SEWING AND KNITTING, COOKERY AND WOODWORK COURSES OF PRACTICAL BACKGROUND NATURE SHOULD BE QUALIFIED TEACHERS WITH SPECIAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN THE RELATED SUBJECTS.

APPLICANTS FOR POSTS OF HOBBY INSTRUCTORS IN SINGING, MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PLAYING AND CONDUCTING, SOCIAL DANCE, AEROBIC DANCE, PAINTING, HAIR-STYLING AND HANDICRAFTS AS WELL AS JAPANESE AND PUTONGHUA SHOULD BE HOLDERS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE OR EQUIVALENT, WITH SPECIAL SKILLS IN THE RELATED SUBJECTS OR HOBBIES.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICATIONS FROM SERVING TEACHERS WITH ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE IN ORGANISING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OR FROM EXPERIENCED COMMUNITY WORKERS.

PART-TIME LECTURERS ARE PAID \$165 PER HOUR WITH QUALIFICATIONS AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL, \$140 AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL, \$110 AT JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL, \$100 AT PRIMARY LEVEL AND \$90 FOR HOBBY COURSES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT LEE GARDENS, FIFTH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE MARCH 31. TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8392309 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1989

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GAZETTE NOTICE ON RATEABLE VALUES

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT PUBLISHED A NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDING THE PUBLIC THAT IF THEY WISH TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1989 THEY MAY DO SO NEXT MONTH (MARCH).

FORMS FOR THIS PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT AT HENNESSY CENTRE, 17TH FLOOR, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG AND ALSO FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

PROPOSALS MUST BE LODGED WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT RATEABLE VALUES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE THE SAME AS FOR THIS YEAR.

WHERE AN ALTERATION WAS MADE TO THE RATEABLE VALUE AS A RESULT OF A PROPOSAL LODGED IN MARCH 1988, THE REVISED FIGURE WILL APPLY NEXT YEAR AND SO NO FURTHER PROPOSAL NEED BE MADE.

HE EMPHASISED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE LODGING OF A PROPOSAL OR APPEAL, RATES MUST STILL BE PAID BY THE DUE DATE.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE RATES PERCENTAGE CHARGE FOR THE 1989-90 FINANCIAL YEAR.

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COLOURFUL SHOW AT CENTRAL PRECINCT

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT CHINESE ARTS AND CULTURE EXTRAVAGANZA WILL PROVIDE VARIED AND COLOURFUL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 26).

DETAILS OF THE EVENT WERE GIVEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR LEUNG SIK-WAH, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT A CENTRAL HOTEL THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE EVENT WILL BE SHOWN LIVE ON TELEVISION.

MR LEUNG THANKED THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG FOR EARMARKING \$300,000 FOR THE EVENT WHICH IS AIMED AT PROMOTING TRADITIONAL CHINESE ARTS AND CULTURE THROUGH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

/OFFICIATING WITH

OFFICIATING WITH MR LEUNG AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN; CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR AMBROSE LAU; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MS MARIA WAN; AND CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER.

MR LAU SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE BOARD HAD MADE USE OF LIVE TELEVISION TO PROMOTE A LARGE SCALE COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT.

MS WAN SAID THE ACTIVITIES IN THE EXTRAVAGANZA WERE HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE, WITH THE LIKELY HIGHLIGHT BEING A PERFORMANCE BY THE POPULAR SINGER, JENNY.

IN ADDITION, THERE WOULD BE CHINESE AND WESTERN MEDLEYS WITH THE PERFORMERS INCLUDING THE BEYOND BAND, YAN CHOR-SIN, HUI CHI-ON AND KONG YAN-YIN, SHE SAID.

"THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY THE TAMAR BAND AND THE HONG KONG JING YING DANCE GROUP.

"THE ONE-HOUR PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON THE TVB JADE CHANNEL FROM NOON TO 1 PM."

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, A CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MS YIP SAU-WAH, SPOKE ABOUT THE LAUNCHING OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION FORTNIGHT AT THE SAME VENUE ON SUNDAY MORNING.

MS YIP SAID THE EVENT, INCLUDING GAMES STALLS AND AN EXHIBITION TO BE SET UP BY FOUR DISTRICT COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE EXTRAVAGANZA'S ACTIVITIES.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT SHAU KEI WAN OZP ANNOUNCED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT SHAU KEI WAN OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID ONE OF THE SIX AMENDMENT ITEMS WAS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AT SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS (WEST).

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS TO DESIGNATE THE FORMER LEI YUE MUN BARRACKS FOR "OTHER SPECIFIED USES (COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AREA)".

IT IS PLANNED TO DEVELOP THE SITE INTO A PARK PROVIDED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES TO SERVE THE TERRITORY.

THE A KUNG NGAM BOATYARDS SITE IS REZONED FROM "INDUSTRIAL" TO "OTHER SPECIFIED USES" ANNOTATED "BOAT BUILDING/REPAIR YARDS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES" SO AS TO REFLECT THE EXISTING AND INTENDED FUTURE USE.

THE PLAN IS ALSO AMENDED BY REZONING A SITE AT SHAN PIN TERRACE FROM "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" TO "OPEN SPACE" AND REZONING ANOTHER SITE AT THE REAR OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD TO "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" FROM "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION COMMUNITY".

"TO REFLECT THE MAJOR USE, A PORTION OF THE SITE FOR THE PROPOSED ALDRICH BAY PLAYGROUND AT NAM ON STREET, WHERE AN ELEVATED SECTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR IS LOCATED, IS REZONED TO 'ROAD' USE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS PIECE OF LAND, THOUGH NOT SUITABLE FOR ACTIVE RECREATION DEVELOPMENT, CAN BE USED FOR AMENITY PLANTING AND SOME PASSIVE RECREATIONAL PURPOSES."

THE AMENDED PLAN MAY BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 880-886 KING'S ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, AT A COST OF \$10 EACH UNCOLOURED AND \$60 EACH COLOURED.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BEFORE MARCH 17.

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RESIDENTS REMINDED TO GET TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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RESIDENTS INTENDING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS SHOULD APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG WILL GREATLY INCREASE DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR," HE SAID.

"IN ORDER TO AVOID A LAST MINUTE RUSH, RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT OR CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAVEL."

IT NORMALLY TAKES 10 WORKING DAYS TO ISSUE A BRITISH (HONG KONG) PASSPORT IF APPLICATIONS ARE MADE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS BUT LONGER IF MADE IN THE BRANCH OFFICES.

THE PROCESSING TIME ON A BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT AND HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WILL BE THE SAME IF THE APPLICANT IS IN POSSESSION OF A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, OTHERWISE IT WILL TAKE ABOUT FIVE WEEKS BECAUSE THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR THE APPLICANT TO BE ISSUED WITH A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD AT THE SAME TIME.

A RE-ENTRY PERMIT OR A DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY BUT DELAY IS LIKELY IF THERE ARE MANY APPLICANTS COMING AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, ON A SATURDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PERIOD BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAYS IS THE BUSIEST TIME OF THE YEAR.

"BY APPLYING EARLY, IT WILL NOT ONLY SPREAD THE WORKLOAD OF THE DEPARTMENT BUT WILL ALSO GIVE APPLICANTS EXTRA TIME TO MEET ANY FURTHER VISA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS WHERE NECESSARY," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED TRAVELLERS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS DURING THEIR TRAVEL.

"QUITE A NUMBER OF HONG KONG ISSUED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND IDENTITY CARDS HAD BEEN REPORTED LOST BY PEOPLE WHILST ABROAD IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS AND MANY OF THESE DOCUMENTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN.

"IT IS THEREFORE ADVISABLE TO PUT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE, SUCH AS A HOTEL SAFE DEPOSIT BOX," HE SAID.

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FULL-TIME COURSE FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS
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THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL RUN A FULL-TIME ONE-YEAR TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COURSE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE STARTING SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE COURSE IS INTENDED FOR MATURE STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING UP TEACHING AS A PROFESSION AND WHO HAVE ACQUIRED SOME YEARS OF INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

APPLICANTS MUST POSSESS A HIGHER DIPLOMA, HIGHER CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING OR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, AWARDED BY A POLYTECHNIC OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, OR AN EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION.

INDUCEMENT GRANTS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS DURING THEIR COURSE OF STUDY AT A RATE BETWEEN \$1,650 AND \$2,500 EACH MONTH BASED ON THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF RELEVANT POST-QUALIFICATION INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AT 373 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI.

APPLICANTS MUST HAND IN THEIR COMPLETED FORMS TO THE COLLEGE BEFORE MARCH 16 AND OBTAIN AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPT.

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EXTENDED A & E SERVICE FOR CHAI WAN HEALTH CENTRE
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THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AT CHAI WAN HEALTH CENTRE WILL BE EXTENDED NEXT MONTH, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

AS FROM MARCH 6 (MONDAY), THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AT THE CENTRE WILL BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOUR.

AT PRESENT, THE OPERATION HOURS ARE BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9.30 PM. THE NEW OPERATION HOURS WILL BE FROM 8 AM TO 10.30 PM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WAS THE RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD TO FACILITATE RESIDENTS IN THE REGION.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 27,600 ATTENDANCES WERE RECORDED AT THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT CHAI WAN HEALTH CENTRE.

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OLD-TYPE ID CARDS INVALID AS FROM FEBRUARY 27
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN BETWEEN 1963 AND 1969 THAT THEIR OLD-TYPE IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BEFORE JULY 1, 1987 WILL CEASE TO BE VALID DOCUMENTS FROM FEBRUARY 27, 1989.

"THIS IS THE FOURTH BATCH OF ID CARDS DECLARED INVALID SINCE THIS NEW ID CARD RE-ISSUE SCHEME STARTED IN JULY, 1987," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT ONCE AN OLD CARD WAS DECLARED INVALID, IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY PURPOSE.

"FOR EXAMPLE, WOMEN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUP HOLDING AN INVALID OLD-TYPE ID CARD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE IT FOR TRAVELLING ABROAD OR TO APPLY FOR A TRAVEL DOCUMENT," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THOSE WHO HAVE MISSED THEIR SPECIFIED CARD RENEWAL PERIODS DUE TO THEIR ABSENCE FROM HONG KONG OR ANY OTHER REASONS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY APPROACH ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW ID CARD ISSUE OFFICES."

THESE CASES WILL BE LOOKED INTO THOROUGHLY AND DEALT WITH ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL MERITS.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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RECLAMATION, TEMPORARY PIER PROPOSED
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS AT SHA TAU KOK AND TO BUILD A TEMPORARY PIER AT CHEUNG CHAU.

AT SHA TAU KOK, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 0.27 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE PIER AT YIM LIU HA.

THIS IS FOR THE FORMATION OF A ROCKFILL REVETMENT TO ENHANCE THE STABILITY OF THE PIER AND TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO THE EXPOSED FLANK OF THE PIER AND ITS FOUNDATIONS UNDER STORM CONDITION.

AT CHEUNG CHAU, IT IS PROPOSED TO ERECT A TEMPORARY PIER WITH LOADING/UNLOADING FACILITIES WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 330 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TUNG WAN BEACH.

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THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELIVERING BUILDING MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE AT NAM SHE TONG.

DETAILS OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE APRIL 23 THIS YEAR.

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HIGHLIGHT TOUR FOR TUEN MUN COMMUNITY LEADERS

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ABOUT 100 COMMUNITY LEADERS TAKING PART IN THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME WILL TOUR THE DISTRICT ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 26) TO SEE LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENTS.

THE TOUR WILL CONCLUDE THE FIVE-MONTH SCHEME WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE IN OCTOBER.

THE PROGRAMME HAS INCLUDED A TRAINING CAMP AND A SERIES OF LECTURES ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

TAKING PART IN THE TOUR WILL BE OFFICE-BEARERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, VILLAGE OFFICES AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THEY WILL FIRST BE BRIEFED ON INDUSTRIAL, HOUSING AND TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENTS BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF THE TUEN MUN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR SIU CHUEN.

THE ITINERARY WILL INCLUDE THE BUTTERFLY BAY RECREATION AREA, TUEN MUN HOSPITAL AND THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT DEPOT OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

DURING A BUFFET LUNCH IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL, THE PARTICIPANTS WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS ON COMMUNITY MATTERS.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, WILL GIVE A SPEECH TO THE PARTICIPANTS AND PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED A COURSE ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS HELD LAST MONTH.

THE COURSE COVERED SUCH MATTERS AS THE STRUCTURE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, HOW TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS, TECHNIQUES IN CHAIRING MEETINGS, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND MANAGEMENT OF MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS.

/THE TOUR

THE TOUR WILL CONCLUDE WITH AN EXPERIENCE-SHARING SESSION DURING WHICH PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME AND TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TOUR OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES ON SUNDAY.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT 9.30 AM AT THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT NO.1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THOSE WISHING TO TAKE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT TO TUEN MUN ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 8.45 AM AT THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT KOWLOON BAY THA

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MESSAGES ON FIRE PREVENTION WILL BE BROUGHT TO RESIDENTS OF THE KOWLOON BAY TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA THROUGH AN EXHIBITION TO BE HELD THERE ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 26), FROM NOON TO 3 PM.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF EIGHT FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITIONS, WHICH ARE GENERALLY HELD IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES OR SHOPPING CENTRES.

"THIS EXHIBITION WILL BE THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WITH THE AIM OF ENHANCING THE AWARENESS OF PEOPLE IN THIS SPECIAL LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID.

"RESIDENTS WILL ALSO BE TAUGHT HOW TO REACT IF A FIRE OCCURS."

THE EXHIBITION WILL FOCUS ON THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN "IF THERE IS A FIRE, SOUND THE ALARM".

ON DISPLAY WILL BE PANELS CONTAINING GRAPHICS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON GENERAL FIRE PREVENTION AND COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION.

OFFICERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS.

/VISITORS TO

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VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL RECEIVE A NEW FIRE PREVENTION LEAFLET AND SOUVENIRS SPONSORED BY THE KWONG ON BANK LTD.

THE EXHIBITIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE STAGED IN ROTATION ON ALTERNATE SUNDAYS IN DENSELY POPULATED AREAS.

THE NEXT EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 12 AT THE YAN OI TOWN SQUARE, TUEN MUN.

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FIRING PRACTICE IN MARCH

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 22 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE	TIME
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MARCH 1 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM
MARCH 2 (THURSDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM
MARCH 3 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 4 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 6 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 7 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 8 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 9 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 11 PM
MARCH 10 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 11 (SATURDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 14 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 11.59 PM

/MARCH 15 (WEDNESDAY)

MARCH 15 (WEDNESDAY)	MIDNIGHT - 5 PM
MARCH 16 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 17 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 20 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 21 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 22 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 23 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 28 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 29 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 30 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
MARCH 31 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON CITY, TUEN MUN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT VEHICLES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM NGA TSIN WAI ROAD EASTBOUND TO LION ROCK ROAD SOUTHBOUND FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 27) FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FOR ROADWORKS.

AFFECTED VEHICLES ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, FUK LO TSUN ROAD, CARPENTER ROAD AND LION ROCK ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN AND CHAINAGE 15.8 OF TUEN MUN ROAD AT TELFORD BRIDGE WILL BE REDUCED FROM 70 TO 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR FOR ABOUT 12 WEEKS.

THIS IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS ON TUEN MUN ROAD WESTBOUND.

THE SPEED LIMIT ON OTHER SECTIONS OF TUEN MUN ROAD WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAU KEI WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 27), THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE TRAM OPERATIONS :

- * THE TRAM TRACK ON HOI AN STREET BETWEEN HING MAN STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A TRAM LANE;
- * HOI NING STREET BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND HING MAN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND;
- * HING MAN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND; AND
- * HOI AN STREET BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND HING MAN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

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