



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SWD REGIONALISES ITS WELFARE SERVICES

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THE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ON A NEW LOOK TOMORROW (MONDAY) AS THE DEPARTMENT REGIONALISES ITS WELFARE SERVICES TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

AS FROM TOMORROW, THE DEPARTMENT'S DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE WILL BE DECENTRALISED.

WITH REGIONALISATION COMING INTO EFFECT, THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE SPLIT INTO A DEPARTMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, FOUR REGIONAL OFFICES AND 11 DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE FOUR REGIONAL OFFICES COVER HONG KONG ISLAND, EAST KOWLOON, WEST KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. EACH IS HEADED BY A REGIONAL OFFICER ACTING AS THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERALL ADMINISTRATOR IN HIS REGION.

THE DEPARTMENTAL HEADQUARTERS WILL RETAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPING NEW SERVICES, FOR ADMINISTERING SUBVENTIONS AND FOR TRAINING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) EXPLAINED THAT THE ORGANISATIONAL OVERHAUL WAS AIMED AT INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND COORDINATING WELFARE SERVICES BETTER AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EACH OF THE 11 DISTRICT OFFICES WOULD VIRTUALLY BE A +MINI-SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT+, RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE SERVICES CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT -- FAMILY SERVICES, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL SECURITY, SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOR YOUTH, AND PROBATION AND CORRECTION WORK -- AS WELL AS FOR LIAISON WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CARRYING OUT SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

+THROUGH BETTER CONCENTRATION AND COORDINATION OF SERVICES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, THE DEPARTMENT HOPES TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE ACCOMMODATION FOR SOME OF THE DISTRICT OFFICES WAS STILL TEMPORARY AT THE MOMENT, BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM TO MOVE INTO PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION IN SUITABLE LOCATIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRESENT ADDRESSES OF THE 11 DISTRICT OFFICES :-

HONG KONG ISLAND REGION

CENTRAL/WESTERN/ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE -
WESTERN MAGISTRACY BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR, 2 POKFULAM ROAD.

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EASTERN/WANCHAI DISTRICT OFFICE -
CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, SEVENTH FLOOR,
20 ELECTRIC ROAD.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE -
ABERDEEN HARBOUR MANSION, 52-64 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD,
GROUND FLOOR.

EAST KOWLOON REGION

KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE -
KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING, 17 TSUI PING ROAD.

WONG TAI SIN/SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE -
SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR,
692 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

WEST KOWLOON REGION

KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE -
FOOK TAO MANSION, 8-12 SUNG WONG TOI ROAD.

SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE -
299-301 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, SECOND FLOOR.

YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE -
KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, EIGHTH FLOOR,
405 NATHAN ROAD.

NEW TERRITORIES REGION

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE -
KWAI KING BUILDING, 31 KWONG FAI CIRCUIT, FIRST FLOOR,
KWAI CHUNG.

SHA TIN/TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE -
LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL, LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN.

YUEN LONG/TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE -
YUEN LONG TOWN HALL, TAI YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

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RESPONDING TO CHANGING NEEDS
IN NEW TERRITORIES

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THE RENAMING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS YEAR, BECAME EFFECTIVE TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR. H.S. GREWAL, WHO HEADED THE REGIONAL OFFICE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR (NEW TERRITORIES) PRIOR TO THE RENAMING, ASSUMES THE TITLE OF DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES.

+THE REORGANISATION WILL HELP THE DEPARTMENT TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES ARISING FROM THE RAPID AND EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT IS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ MR. GREWAL SAID.

AS TO WHY THE NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD REMAIN WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE USD UNDER THE OVERALL CONTROL OF THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR. GREWAL POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE TWO OVERRIDING REASONS.

HE SAID: +THE FIRST REASON IS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN UNIFORMITY OF SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AND THIS AIM CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IF THE TWO DEPARTMENTS WERE TO BE SEPARATED ALTOGETHER.

+THE SECOND REASON IS THAT THE EFFECTIVE USE OF STAFF RESOURCES AND THE RELATED QUESTION OF STAFF MORALE AND STAFF RELATIONS DICTATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT REMAIN A UNIFIED WHOLE.+

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT, ON REORGANISATION, THE NEW DEPARTMENT WILL COMPRISE FOUR MAIN DIVISIONS, INCLUDING: THE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, THE CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DIVISION AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION PLUS A MEDICAL ADVISORY SECTION.

+AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ORGANISATION, THERE IS THE INTENTION TO ESTABLISH TWO REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- THE REGIONAL OFFICE (NORTH) AND THE REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTH) -- WHICH WILL ASSUME OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES ON A REGIONAL BASIS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CULTURAL SERVICES AND CERTAIN OTHER SERVICES WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED CENTRALLY,+ HE SAID.

THE NORTH REGION WILL COVER TAI PO, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG WHEREAS THE SOUTH REGION WILL COVER TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND THE ISLANDS.

+ASSUMING THAT ALL THE POSTS ASKED FOR ARE APPROVED, THE CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION, THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND THE TWO REGIONAL OFFICES WILL EACH BE HEADED BY AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,+ MR. GREWAL ADDED.

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CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE CROWN LESSEES IN THE N.T.
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THE GOVERNMENT IS LAUNCHING A MINI-CAMPAIGN THIS MONTH (APRIL) TO MAKE CROWN LESSEES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MORE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES TO PAY CROWN RENTS WHEN THEY BECOME DUE.

THE DRIVE -- IN THE FORM OF PUBLICITY, PROMOTION AND ADVICE -- HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND WILL BE STAGED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE SEVEN DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM WEDNESDAY.

IT AIMS TO EDUCATE MORE THAN 68,000 CROWN LESSEES IN RURAL AREAS OF THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS +LAND OWNERS+ TO PAY RENTS DUE ON JULY 1 THIS YEAR AND TO REPAY ANY OUTSTANDING RENTS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

IT WILL ALSO GIVE THEM A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN MAKING SUCH PAYMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) UNDER THE LAW, ALL CROWN LESSEES ARE LIABLE TO PAY CROWN RENT WHICH NORMALLY FALLS DUE IN JULY EVERY YEAR. RENTS UNDER \$5 CAN BE PAID ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS.

+THE ANNUAL CROWN RENT ROLL FOR LEASES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS NOW ABOUT \$850,000 AND THE RENTS VARY FROM A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS TO SUMS AS SMALL AS \$5,+ HE SAID.

+WE ARE CONCERNED THAT DESPITE THE SMALL SIZE OF INDIVIDUAL AMOUNTS, QUITE A SUBSTANTIAL SUM HAS REMAINED UNPAID OVER THE YEARS.+

IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1976-77 ALONE, HE SAID, ABOUT 30 PER CENT OF THE ROLL OF \$850,000 WAS NOT COLLECTED.

THE OUTSTANDING FIGURE INCLUDED NOT ONLY ARREARS OF CROWN RENTS DUE, BUT ALSO ARREARS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS AS WELL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH EXISTING MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY DISTRICT OFFICES IN CONTACTING CROWN LESSEES WERE GENERALLY EFFECTIVE, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IS UNDERMINED BY THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE LESSEES ARE ILLITERATE AND THAT SOME OF THE REGISTERED ADDRESSES ARE INCOMPLETE AND OUT OF DATE.

IMPROVED MEASURES WERE BEING ADOPTED IN AN ATTEMPT TO +CLOSE THE PAYMENTS GAP.+

THESE MEASURES INCLUDE CONSTANT UP-DATING OF THE ADDRESSES OF CROWN LESSEES, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING NOTICE, DELIVERY SERVICE, PARTICULARLY IN REMOTE AREAS, AND A GREATER PUBLICITY EFFORT.

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TO AID THE PUBLICITY DRIVE, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PREPARED A SIMPLE BI-LINGUAL LEAFLET SETTING OUT THE PROCEDURES FOR THE PAYMENT OF CROWN RENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

COUPLED WITH THE LEAFLET IS AN ATTRACTIVE POSTER WHICH GIVES THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE SEVEN DISTRICT OFFICES TO WHICH PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE AND ENQUIRIES DIRECTED.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, COPIES OF THE LEAFLET AND THE POSTER WILL BE ISSUED TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK, RURAL COMMITTEES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ORGANISATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THEIR MEMBERS.

COPIES CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM TOWN MANAGEMENT OFFICES AND PUBLIC ENQUIRIES CENTRES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAM WILL ALSO MAKE VILLAGE-TO-VILLAGE BROADCASTS DURING THEIR ROUNDS OF VISITS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+WE HOPE, BY PUBLICITY AND ADVICE, TO MAKE LESSEES REALISE THAT NON-PAYMENT IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE AND MAY LEAD TO THE CROWN RE-ENTERING THEIR PROPERTIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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KIDNEY MACHINE FOR FIREMAN

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THE FIRE SERVICES HAS COME TO THE AID OF A STRICKEN COLLEAGUE BY PURCHASING A DIALYSIS MACHINE NEEDED TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

THE SPECIAL KIDNEY MACHINE WAS AIRFREIGHTED FROM THE UNITED STATES LAST WEEK AND HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE RENAL UNIT OF PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR FIREMAN CHUI WOON-MING, 42, WHO HAS BEEN SUFFERING FROM A MALFUNCTIONING KIDNEY SINCE 1974.

FIREMAN CHUI WAS ADMITTED SEVERAL TIMES TO PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL LAST DECEMBER WHEN HIS CONDITION DETERIORATED TO A POINT WHERE HE REQUIRED REGULAR DIALYSIS.

+HOWEVER, IN MID-JANUARY HE WAS FOUND TO BE A HEPATITIS B ANTIGEN CARRIER AND COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR FURTHER DIALYSIS IN THE RENAL UNIT AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL OR OTHER HOSPITAL UNITS,+ A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE COST OF THE MACHINE -- \$28,000 -- HAS COME FROM THE FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND WHEN MR. CHUI'S DOCTORS ADVISED THAT HE HAD TO HAVE CONTINUOUS FREQUENT TREATMENT. THIS MEANT HAVING A MACHINE AT HOME WHERE HE COULD DIALYSE HIMSELF WITH THE HELP OF HIS WIFE.

A VASCULAR ACCESS OPERATION WAS PERFORMED ON MR. CHUI ON FEBRUARY 12 TO ENABLE HIM TO RECEIVE DIALYSIS AT HOME. HE HAS SINCE BEEN PLACED IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A SIX-WEEK OBSERVATION PERIOD BEFORE HE CAN RECEIVE HOME DIALYSIS.

+MR. CHUI WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE MACHINE AS LONG AS THE NEED EXISTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEANWHILE, MR. CHUI'S WIFE IS SPENDING FOUR WEEKS WITH THE RENAL UNIT AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL TO OBSERVE AND LEARN HOW TO OPERATE THE MACHINE SO THAT SHE CAN TREAT HER HUSBAND AT THEIR HUNG HOM HOME.

FIREMAN CHUI JOINED THE SERVICES IN 1965 AND HAS THREE CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN FOUR AND TEN.

+MY HUSBAND AND I WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THE FIRE SERVICES FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE,+ SAID MRS. CHUI.

+THE PURCHASE OF THE MACHINE HAS GIVEN A NEW RAY OF HOPE TO MY FAMILY AND WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW MY HUSBAND'S COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS, SYMPATHETIC AND PATIENT WITH US IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS,+ SHE ADDED.

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214 STUDY ROOMS TO OPEN TOMORROW
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SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF 214 STUDY ROOMS FINANCED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB STARTING FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY).

MORE THAN 9,000 STUDY ROOM PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG BETWEEN TOMORROW AND JUNE 29, EXCLUDING SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK.

THE 106 STUDY ROOMS RUN BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB ARE EXCLUSIVELY FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS. THE OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RUNS 108 STUDY ROOMS FROM 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. MAINLY FOR PRIMARY PUPILS, BUT SECONDARY STUDENTS MAY ALSO USE THEM IF THEY WISH.

SUPERVISORS WILL BE POSTED AT THE STUDY ROOMS TO SEE THAT ALL ATTENDANTS ARE PROVIDED WITH A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO STUDY AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK.

THREE COORDINATORS WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED AMONG EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF TO OVERSEE THE GENERAL RUNNING OF THESE ROOMS.

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HEALTH EXHIBITION TO BE EXTENDED
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND ITS ROTATIONAL +HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY EXHIBITION+ TO INCLUDE AS MANY DISTRICTS AS POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC.

THE EXHIBITION, HELD RECENTLY AT FOUR SEPARATE CENTRES -- THE OCEAN TERMINAL, CAUSEWAY BAY, TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG -- HAVE SO FAR ATTRACTED MORE THAN 100,000 VISITORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE DISPLAY WILL AGAIN BE PUT UP ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY -- THIS TIME IN THE DENSELY POPULATED AREA OF KWUN TONG.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. DAILY. IT WILL THEN MOVE ON TO THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON APRIL 10 AND 11.

APART FROM ILLUSTRATED DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, CARTOONS, MODELS AND SLIDE SHOWS, FREE COPIES OF +HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY MANUAL+ WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE EXHIBITION.

A FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKING SERVICE WILL ALSO BE OFFERED TO VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON WHAT IS NORMAL HEALTH IN OLD AGE AND THE PROCESS OF AGEING, AND HOW TO OBTAIN OPTIMAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

ANOTHER OBJECTIVE IS TO IMPART KNOWLEDGE TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE VARIOUS FACTORS LEADING TO ILL HEALTH IN THE ELDERLY AND TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF EXISTING HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HE ADDED.

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DISPLAY OF TEACHING PROJECTS ON CHINESE SPEECH TECHNIQUES
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A JOINT DISPLAY OF TEACHING PROJECTS ON SPEECH TECHNIQUES IN CHINESE AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL WILL BE HELD AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD, KOWLOON, ON APRIL 18 AND 19.

THESE PROJECTS ARE THE SELECTED WORK OF TEACHERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SHORT COURSES ON +HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR PUPILS' SPEECH TECHNIQUES IN CHINESE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS+ HELD IN MAY, JULY AND SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

+THE DISPLAY IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO TEACHERS OF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

+THE DISPLAY AIMS AT EMPHASISING THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEECH TRAINING IN LANGUAGE TEACHING AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL AND ALL PROJECTS ON DISPLAY TRY TO SIMULATE THE DIVERSIFIED ASPECTS OF DAILY COMMUNICATION BEING PRACTISED IN REAL LIFE, SO AS TO BRING OUT THE PRACTICALITY OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE DISPLAY WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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SPEED LIMIT
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MILES PER HOUR WILL BE IMPOSED ON A SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY.

THE SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD AFFECTED STARTS FROM A POINT ABOUT 1 KM. EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KWONG FUK ROAD (NEAR TAI PING CARPET FACTORY) TO A POINT ABOUT 4.4 KM. EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION (AT THE WESTERN END OF PLUMMERS VILLAGE).

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE STOPPED FOR 12 HOURS FROM 8 P.M. ON TUESDAY TO 8 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY 438-524, 524A AND 524B NATHAN ROAD= 40-42 WATERLOO ROAD INCLUDING THE AMBULANCE DEPOT= 2-8 AND 11 WING SING LANE= METHODIST COLLEGE= 80 AND 81 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET= 1-11 AND 2 CLIFF ROAD AND 50 GASCOIGNE ROAD.

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