



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR YOUNG AND OLD

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FUN-FILLED ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG AND OLD AND A DISPLAY OF GLITTERING FESTIVE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO ADD SPARKLE TO THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS.

+THE ACCENT WILL BE ON LIGHT-HEARTED RELAXATION SO AS TO ENABLE RESIDENTS IN BOTH THE URBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SHARE IN THE JOY AND GOODWILL OF THE FESTIVE SEASON WITHOUT HAVING TO TRAVEL TOO FAR AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES,+ THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY.

+WITH OVER 100 ACTIVITIES ORGANISED OR SPONSORED BY VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARDS, THE URBAN COUNCIL, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.+

THE CHRISTMAS PACKAGE OF FUN INCLUDES A RANGE OF FUN FAIRS AND CARNIVALS FOR ALL AGES, PARTIES FOR THE ELDERLY, DRAMA AND PANTOMIMES, VARIETY SHOWS, DISCO NIGHTS AND A LASER SHOW.

+AND THE FACT THAT THEY WILL BE STAGED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY - FROM CHAI WAN, KWUN TONG AND WONG TAI SIN TO SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN - MEANS THAT PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE IN THE FUN NEARER HOME,+ HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER, MRS DOROTHY CHAN, WHO DETAILED SPECIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS TO COPE WITH EXPECTED HEAVY DEMAND DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

MRS CHAN SAID ALL THE MAJOR TRANSPORT COMPANIES WOULD BE RUNNING EXTRA OR EXTENDED SERVICES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE STRONGLY ADVISED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE ROADS.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, WHEN DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE HEAVIEST, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WOULD OPERATE TRAINS UP TO ABOUT 3.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY UP TO 1 AM, THE PEAK TRAM UP TO 3 AM, WHILE HONG KONG TRAMWAYS WOULD BE RUNNING ALL NIGHT SERVICES BETWEEN WHITTY STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN.

+FERRIES, BUSES AND MAXICABS WILL ALSO BE RUNNING EXTENDED SERVICES,+ SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SAID SPECIAL PEDESTRIAN SCHEMES IN CENTRAL AND EAST TSIM SHA TSUI AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE POLICE TO ENSURE MAXIMUM CONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT APART FROM THE MAJOR DECORATIVE LIGHTINGS PUT UP BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN CENTRAL AND EAST TSIM SHA TSUI, THOUSANDS OF COLOURFUL BULBS AS WELL AS GARLANDS AND BANNERS OF SEASON'S GREETINGS WOULD BRIGHTEN UP VARIOUS AREAS IN CHAI WAN, TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

/AS IN

AS IN PAST YEARS, HE SAID, A PHASED SWITCH-OFF PROGRAMME OF LIGHTS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT FOR CENTRAL AND EAST TSIM SHA TSUI ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE, STARTING FROM 0.30 AM AND ENDING AT 1.30 AM.

+THIS SHOULD GREATLY ASSIST PEOPLE IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE EXTENDED TRANSPORT SERVICES AND MAKE THEIR WAY HOME IN AN ORDERLY AND UNHURRIED MANNER,+ HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM POINTED OUT THAT THE LIGHTS IN CENTRAL AND EAST TSIM SHA TSUI WOULD REMAIN ON VIEW UNTIL JANUARY AND THERE WAS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY THEM.

+AS LARGE CROWDS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONVERGE IN THESE TWO AREAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND ELDERLY MEMBERS, TO AVOID THE CRUSH ON THAT DAY AND ENJOY THE LIGHTS MORE COMFORTABLY BEFORE OR AFTER DECEMBER 24,+ HE SAID.

+THERE IS CERTAINLY MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM IN THE WIDE RANGE OF DISTRICT ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES LAID ON BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE THIS A HAPPY AND RELAXED CHRISTMAS FOR ALL,+ HE SAID.

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VALUE OF DB IN NEW TOWN PLANNING STRESSED

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THE DISTRICT BOARD PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, WHERE RESIDENTS CAN ENJOY GOOD LIVING CONDITIONS, TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

GOVERNMENT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD BECAUSE OF TERRITORY-WIDE POLICY IMPLICATIONS, BUT RESPECTS SUCH ADVICE, HE SAID.

MR FUNG WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA ON THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

GENERALLY, HE SAID THE BOARD IS GREATLY INVOLVED IN MANY ASPECTS OF WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF LOCAL PEOPLE, SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY BUILDING, PROMOTION OF TOURISM, INVESTMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

MR FUNG SPOKE PARTICULARLY OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY BOARD MEMBERS IN NEW TOWN PLANNING.

SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN 1981, UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS REGULARLY TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS OF PLANNING DOCUMENTS IN THEIR DRAFTING STAGE.

/+THIS PROCEDURE

+THIS PROCEDURE ENABLES PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS TOWN PLANNERS, ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS TO APPRECIATE OTHER FACTORS WHICH ONLY PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVING IN THE VARIOUS PLANNING AREAS COULD BE AWARE OF,+ HE SAID.

+THIS INPUT IS OFTEN VERY PRACTICAL AND ADDS A HUMAN TOUCH TO THE DRAFT PLANS, WHICH ARE BASICALLY DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANNING GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, AND THEIR OPINIONS ARE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE AT A TIME OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY.

IN THE CASE OF TUEN MUN, WHERE THE PACE AND SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT ARE DEMANDING, CO-ORDINATION OF THE WORKS PROJECTS IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY AND MINIMUM DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE TO RESIDENTS.

MR FUNG POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN IS TO SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES.

MR FUNG CITED TWO TYPICAL EXAMPLES WHEN THE DISTRICT BOARD HAD EFFICIENTLY REACTED TO AND TACKLED PROBLEMS.

THE FIRST ONE WAS THE BUS SERVICE PROBLEM A FEW YEARS AGO IN TAI HING ESTATE - THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN TUEN MUN WITH OVER 40 000 PEOPLE - WHERE QUEUES WERE SEEN AT THE BUS TERMINUS AS EARLY AS 4.30 AM.

AS A RESULT OF ACTION BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THEN KNOWN AS THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE BUS COMPANY, A FOUR-MINUTE WAITING TIME FOR SERVICE WAS WORKED OUT. THIS WAS THEN CLOSELY MONITORED TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHEDULE WAS ADHERED TO.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE WAS THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR CHILDREN IN TUEN MUN. AS 37 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WAS UNDER 14, THERE WAS A BIG DEMAND FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES THERE, AND COVERED PLAYGROUNDS OF SOME SCHOOLS HAD TO BE CONVERTED INTO CLASSROOMS.

AGAIN, HE SAID THE DISTRICT BOARD WAS QUICK TO REACT TO THIS SITUATION, AND MADE SUGGESTIONS TO GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM. THE SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE:

- (A) IN THE SHORT-TERM, PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT COVERED PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS IN NEARBY OPEN SPACES;
- (B) IN THE LONG-TERM, CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS;
- (C) RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL CATCHMENT SYSTEM TO CREATE A BALANCE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF SCHOOLS IN EACH CATCHMENT; AND
- (D) CONSTRUCTION OF +FLEXI-SCHOOLS+ WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF BEING CONVERTED INTO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN FUTURE.

INVOLVING PEOPLE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS
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THE EIGHT-MONTH OLD WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED A MAJOR STEP IN INVOLVING RESIDENTS IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE SPIRIT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE ORGANISATION'S FIRST ANNUAL BALL, HE SAID:
+THE ASSOCIATION IS INSTRUMENTAL IN INSTILLING A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY AND IN OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS.

+THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS SAW THE ASSOCIATION GRADUALLY BUILDING UP ITS MOMENTUM, AND IT HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.+

MR LAM ALSO CITED THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT DANCE TROUPE AND A CHILDREN'S CHOIR AS EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

+THEY HAVE INVOLVED THEMSELVES ACTIVELY NOT ONLY IN DISTRICT RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, BUT TERRITORY-WIDE PERFORMANCES AS WELL, SUCH AS THOSE ORGANISED UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY PROGRAMME AND THE COMMUNITY CHEST'S WALK FOR A MILLION.

+I AM PLEASED THAT THEY HAVE SERVED TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF THE DISTRICT, AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT BOARD.

+NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS STILL NEW, THROUGH THE ENTHUSIASM AND HARD WORK OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE ASSOCIATION HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE RECENT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL WAN CHAI DISTRICT FESTIVAL,+ HE SAID.

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EXTENDED TRANSPORT FOR HOLIDAYS

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EXTENDED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (DECEMBER 20).

APART FROM ADDITIONAL BUSES, THE FREQUENCY OF RUNNING SCHEDULES FOR BUSES, TRAMS, TRAINS, MAXICABS AND FERRIES WILL BE INCREASED ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE UNTIL EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNINGS, THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

DETAILS OF THE EXTRA SERVICES ARE:

- * THE STAR FERRY'S KOWLOON POINT TO EDINBURGH PLACE ROUTE WILL RUN ALL NIGHT.
- * HYF'S CENTRAL TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY SERVICE WILL OPERATE UNTIL 1 AM.
- * THE MTR'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 3.30 AM ON CHRISTMAS DAY. ITS NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES WILL FINISH BY 1.30 AM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
- * KCR SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL 1 AM.
- * PEAK TRAM SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 3 AM.
- * TRAM SERVICES, EXCEPT AROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY LOOP AND BETWEEN WHITTY STREET AND KENNEDY TOWN, WILL OPERATE ALL NIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, IT WILL RUN UNTIL 3 AM.
- * CMB WILL EXTEND SERVICES ON SEVEN MAJOR ROUTES - NOS. 2, 4, 7, 10, 23, 38 AND 72.

THE LAST DEPARTURES OF ROUTE 2 FROM SHAU KEI WAN AND MACAU FERRY WILL BE AT 1.30 AM AND 2.15 AM RESPECTIVELY; NO. 4 FROM WAH FU AND CENTRAL WILL BE AT 0.30 AM AND 1 AM; NO. 7 FROM SHEK PAI WAN AND CENTRAL AT 2.30 AM AND 3 AM; NO. 10 FROM NORTH POINT FERRY AND KENNEDY TOWN AT 1 AM AND 2 AM; NO. 23 FROM NORTH POINT FERRY AND POKFIELD ROAD AT 0.30 AM AND 1.15 AM; NO. 38 FROM NORTH POINT AND CHI FU FA YUEN AT MIDNIGHT AND 1 AM; AND NO. 72 FROM ABERDEEN AND CAUSEWAY BAY AT 0.50 AM AND 1.30 AM.

- * KMB WILL ALSO BE EXTENDING SERVICES.

/THE LAST

THE LAST DEPARTURES OF ROUTE 1 FROM WAN TAU HOM AND STAR FERRY WILL BE AT 0.51 AM AND 1.25 AM RESPECTIVELY; NO. 1A FROM SAU MAU PING AND STAR FERRY WILL BE AT 0.43 AM AND 1.40 AM; NO. 5 FROM CHOI HUNG AND TSIM SHA TSUI AT 2.25 AM AND 3 AM; NO. 5C FROM TSZ WAN SHAN AND TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1.20 AM AND 2 AM; NO. 6 FROM LAI CHI KOK AND STAR FERRY AT 2.26 AM AND 3 AM; NO. 7 FROM KOWLOON TONG AND STAR FERRY AT 0.30 AM AND 1 AM; AND NO. 66M FROM TAI HING AND TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AT 0.30 AM AND 1.15 AM.

- * MANY MAXICAB ROUTES WILL ALSO FINISH LATER THAN USUAL:
 NO. 1 (PEAK TO HMS TAMAR) AT 4 AM; 30 (CAUSEWAY BAY TO ADMIRALTY MTR STATION) AT 3 AM; 32 (NORTH POINT TO CENTRAL) AT 3 AM; 3 (TSIM SHA TSUI TO TAI TUNG SUN CHUEN) AT 2 AM; 7 (KOWLOON CITY TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST) AT 3 AM; 30M (ARGYLE MTR STATION TO CALDECOTT ROAD) AT 1.30 AM; 61M (KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION TO LEK YUEN) AT 3.30 AM.

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TRAFFIC PLAN FOR NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY CONCOURSE

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY CONCOURSE ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 22).

THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PROHIBITED ZONE. ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ACCESS ROAD.

THE KERBSIDE LANE OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS, FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH YEUNG UK ROAD TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUS TERMINUS, EXCEPT FOR A 40-METRE LONG SETTING DOWN AND PICKING UP AREA, ABOUT 130 METRES SOUTH OF YEUNG UK ROAD, WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONE.

THE KERBSIDE LANE OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS, FROM THE EXIT OF THE TERMINUS TO ITS JUNCTION WITH YEUNG UK ROAD, WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

/HOVERFERRY

HOVERFERRY SERVICES BETWEEN NORTH POINT AND CENTRAL AND ORDINARY FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND TSING YI, WILL OPERATE FROM THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER FROM 2 PM ON THURSDAY. THE EXISTING FERRY PIER WILL BE CLOSED UPON THE OPENING OF THE NEW PIER.

AND FROM THURSDAY, THE FOLLOWING BUS SERVICES WILL DEPART FROM THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS:

- NO. 31 TO SHEK LEI,
- NO. 32B TO CHEUNG SHAN,
- NO. 34A TO KWAI SHING EAST,
- NO. 35 TO SHEK YAM,
- NO. 36 TO LEI MUK SHUE,
- NO. 39M TO CHAI WAN KOK WEST,
- NO. 43 TO CHEUNG CHING, AND
- NO. 46A TO LAI YIU.

THE FOLLOWING BUS SERVICES WILL REMAIN IN THE EXISTING TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS:

- NO. 33 TO SHAM SHUI PO FERRY,
- NO. 33A TO TAI KOK TSUI FERRY,
- NO. 40 TO KWUN TONG,
- NO. 48 TO SHA TIN, AND
- NO. 52 TO ON TING.

AND NEW TERRITORIES MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 95 TO TSUEN WAN CENTRE WILL DEPART FROM THE NEW TSUEN WAN FERRY BUS TERMINUS.

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SEPARATE TAX BILL DUE FOR FINAL READING
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A BILL PROVIDING FOR SEPARATE TAX ASSESSMENT FOR MARRIED WOMEN WILL BE AMONG FIVE BILLS ON WHICH DEBATE WILL RESUME PRIOR TO FINAL READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW. IT IS THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL 1983.

FOUR OTHER BILLS, INCLUDING A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS AIMED AT PROTECTING HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS, WILL BE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE TO JANUARY 11.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE 18 QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SESSIONAL PAPERS AND MOTIONS TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE COUNCIL.

DUE FOR RESUMED DEBATE AND COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READINGS, IN ADDITION TO THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) BILL, ARE:-

- * THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, AMENDING THE CENTRE'S FINANCIAL YEAR TO RUN FROM JULY 1 TO JUNE 30,
- * THE BUILDING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, CLARIFYING BUILDINGS TERMS,

AND TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' BILLS:

- * THE METHODIST CHURCH, HONG KONG, INCORPORATION BILL 1983, CREATING A NEW LEGAL ENTITY WHICH WILL UNITE VARIOUS METHODIST ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG, AND
- * THE HONG KONG SEA CADET CORPS BILL 1983, INCORPORATING THE AREA COMMITTEE OF THE CORPS.

AND UP FOR SECOND READING ARE:-

- * THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, ADDING HANDCUFFS AND WRIST RESTRAINTS TO THE LIST OF ILLEGAL INSTRUMENTS,
- * THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1983 AND
- * THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, BOTH PROVIDING MORE PROTECTION FOR HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS, AND
- * THE CROWN LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES INCURRED BY OWNERS OF PROPERTY PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON A RESUMPTION NOTICE.

DRUG FIGHTERS NOT DETERRED BY BUMPER CROPS

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THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS ABUSE KEPT UP ITS MOMENTUM LAST YEAR, DESPITE AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND A FALL IN THEIR PRICE.

THIS IS STATED IN THE HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT 1982 (ENGLISH EDITION) PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS. THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS WHO SOUGHT TREATMENT REMAINED HIGH AND DRUG SEIZURES EXCEEDED THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS BY A SIGNIFICANT MARGIN. THE INCREASE IN SUPPLY AND THE FALL IN PRICE RESULT FROM THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE BUMPER OPIUM CROP IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE DURING 1982.

THE REPORT SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF THE 42 000 PERSONS RECORDED IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND DECEMBER 1982 WERE RECEIVING SOME FORM OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION EVERY DAY. IN A FOREWORD THE CHAIRMAN OF ACAN, DOCTOR SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES DESCRIBES THIS AS +A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT BY WORLD STANDARDS+.

HE ALSO PAYS TRIBUTE TO POLICE AND CUSTOMS AND TO THOSE WORKING IN TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES.

SIR ALBERT SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO ENCOURAGE MORE DRUG ADDICTS TO ACCEPT TREATMENT, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR ILLICIT DRUGS AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF DRUG ADDICTION.

EXPANSION OF TREATMENT FACILITIES CONTINUED IN 1982. DURING THE YEAR, THREE NEW OUT-PATIENT METHADONE CLINICS WERE OPENED AT YUEN LONG, SHA TIN AND HUNG HOM. THE DAILY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE WAS 6 976, OR AN INCREASE OF 3.9 PER CENT OVER 1981.

IN MARCH 1982, AN AVERAGE OF 8 317 ATTENDANCES, AN ALL-TIME HIGH, WAS RECORDED.

ON LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE REPORT NOTED THAT DRUG SEIZURES IN 1982 AMOUNTED TO 595 KG, EXCEEDING THE 1981 FIGURE OF 310 KG BY 92 PER CENT.

DURING THE YEAR, 14 HEROIN LABORATORIES WERE SUCCESSFULLY NEUTRALISED. OF THESE, 13 WERE FOUND WITH EVIDENCE OF THE 'CUTTING' OR 'DILUTING' OF HEROIN BASE.

THE REPORT ALSO REVEALED THAT DURING 1982, A TOTAL OF 9 625 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR DANGEROUS DRUGS OFFENCES, AN INCREASE OF 22.4 PER CENT OVER THE 1981 FIGURE OF 7 866.

IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A 23.1 PER CENT RISE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PERSONS UNDER 21 NEWLY REPORTED TO THE CRDA -- FROM 753 IN 1981 TO 927 IN 1982. THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF FEMALE DRUG ABUSE.

SIR ALBERT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING NUMBER OF DRUG OFFENCES AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS. HE NOTED THAT VIGOROUS COUNTERMEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM IN ALL AREAS.

/DURING THE

DURING THE YEAR, A WHOLE SERIES OF PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES, TARGETTED MAINLY AT YOUNG PEOPLE, WAS ORGANISED AND SUPPORTED. THERE WAS ALSO UNRELENTING EFFORTS BY THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS TO DISRUPT AND HARASS THE ACTIVITIES OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS, MORE STRINGENT LEGAL MEASURES AND EXPANSION OF TREATMENT FACILITIES.

DURING 1982, THERE WERE STRONG INDICATIONS OF A RESURGENCE IN BULK IMPORTATION, THROUGH THE RESUMPTION OF THAI TRAWLER TRAFFIC, BULK SHIPMENTS IN CONTAINER CARGO AND OCEAN-GOING VESSELS AND THROUGH THE KAI TAK AIRPORT, THE REPORT REVEALED.

UPON THE ADVICE OF THE ACAN, FOUR AMENDMENTS TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE WERE ENACTED. UNDER ONE OF THESE AMENDMENTS, OWNERS OF SHIPS, CAUGHT SMUGGLING EXCESSIVE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS TO HONG KONG ON TWO OCCASIONS WITHIN 18 MONTHS ARE LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF UP TO \$5 MILLION, AND THE SHIP LIABLE TO FORFEITURE IF THE OWNER FAILS TO PAY THE FINE.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THIS MEASURE WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT,+ SIR ALBERT SAID IN THE FOREWORD.

+IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF MAKING LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEQUESTERING THE ASSETS OF CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS,+ HE ADDED.

THE 110-PAGE REPORT GIVES A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG'S NARCOTICS SCENE DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW AND RECORDS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VARIOUS MAJOR PROGRAMMES BEING UNDERTAKEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION SAID THE REPORT IS AN INFORMATIVE AND HIGHLY READABLE DOCUMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION IN HONG KONG AND WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO COMBAT IT.

THE REPORT IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE EDITIONS. THE CHINESE EDITION IS BEING PRINTED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1983

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RESIDENTS WARNED ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES

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STUFFED SEA TURTLES, PURCHASED AS SOUVENIRS BY HONG KONG RESIDENTS VISITING SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, ARE STILL BEING SEIZED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BECAUSE IT IS ILLEGAL TO IMPORT THEM.

SINCE APRIL THIS YEAR, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS PROSECUTED 20 PEOPLE FOR ILLEGALLY IMPORTING SPECIMENS OF SEA TURTLE, WHICH ARE LISTED AS ENDANGERED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY WARNED RESIDENTS NOT TO BUY THE SPECIMENS.

+SEA TURTLES ARE HIGHLY ENDANGERED TO THE POINT OF EXTINCTION, THAT IS WHY HONG KONG HAS IMPOSED THE CONTROL MEASURES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SINCE APRIL THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED 43 CASES OF ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

FINES TOTALLING \$19 100 WERE IMPOSED AND GOODS VALUED AT \$322 000 WERE CONFISCATED BY COURTS.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO SEIZED SEVEN PIECES OF PYTHON SKIN, SEVEN PIECES OF CROCODILE SPECIMENS, 70 OUNCES OF AMERICAN GINSENG AND ABOUT 1 200 KILOGRAMS OF ELEPHANT TUSKS.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO IMPORT OR POSSESS ENDANGERED SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS, INCLUDING THEIR PARTS, WITHOUT AUTHORISATION.

UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE. A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 MAY BE IMPOSED FOR A FIRST OFFENCE, AND A FINE OF \$10 000 AND SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, FOR A SUBSEQUENT OFFENCE.

THE ORDINANCE GIVES EFFECT TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITIES) WHICH IS A TRADE AGREEMENT ENFORCED AT INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSINGS.

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REMINDER ON STATUTORY HOLIDAY
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A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, NEW YEAR'S DAY (JANUARY 1) IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY FOR ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$8 500 A MONTH.

AS NEW YEAR'S DAY FALLS ON SUNDAY, EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE GIVEN A HOLIDAY ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (JANUARY 2), IF THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY HAPPENS TO BE THEIR NORMAL REST DAY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY-OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS, OTHER THAN OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

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

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE HOLIDAY.

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE : FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638 KOWLOON WEST 3-201652 KOWLOON SOUTH 3-319454 KWUN TONG 3-898520 TSUEN WAN 0-422096 TAI PO 0-6577111 EXT. 114 TUEN MUN 0-818443 HONG KONG ISLAND (WEST) 5-268671 AND HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) 5-282213.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES AUCTIONED

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ALL 100 STALL SITES FOR THE FORTHCOMING TUEN MUN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WERE SOLD AT ABOVE UPSET PRICE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR A FLOWER SITE WAS \$1 350 AND FOR A SITE SELLING DRY GOODS WAS \$470, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE LOWEST PRICE FOR THE STALLS WAS \$200, AS AGAINST THE UPSET PRICE OF \$100.

TODAY'S AUCTION TOOK PLACE AT THE TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL IN TAI HING ESTATE AND WAS CONDUCTED BY STAFF OF THE TUEN MUN URBAN SERVICES OFFICE.

THE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT THE TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND BETWEEN JANUARY 26 AND FEBRUARY 2 NEXT YEAR, AT THE SAME TIME AS SIX OTHER FAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AUCTIONING OF 208 STALL SITES FOR THE TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 30 AT THE CULTURAL ACTIVITY HALL AT TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE VENUE AT 9 AM.

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ARTS FESTIVAL FOR SHAM SHUI PO RESIDENTS

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THE LARGE SCALE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS FESTIVAL, FEATURING MORE THAN 30 ITEMS OF CULTURAL PERFORMANCES, CONCERTS, DRAMA AND FILM SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMPETITIONS, WILL BE HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 18 AND MARCH 4 NEXT YEAR.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMMES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR KWOK CHEONG, SAID THE FESTIVAL AIMS AT PROVIDING A COLOURFUL AND HEALTHY VARIETY OF LOW-COST ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE DISTRICT'S 500 000 PEOPLE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, FOSTERING YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN ART AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SYLVESTER TSE, SAID THE FESTIVAL IS IN LINE WITH THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME'S OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE AT DISTRICT LEVELS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FESTIVAL WILL ALSO PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MANY RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL GROUPS AND CLASSES NOW ACTIVE IN SHAM SHUI PO TO MAKE PUBLIC APPEARANCE.

MORE THAN \$960 000 WILL BE SPENT ON THE FESTIVAL -- \$150 000 FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, \$150 000 FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REST FROM LOCAL DONATIONS AND TICKET INCOME.

/THE FESTIVAL,

THE FESTIVAL, A JOINT VENTURE BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL AND THE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS ASSOCIATION, WILL HAVE A GALA OPENING AT THE PO ON ROAD PLAYGROUND ON FEBRUARY 18.

THE DAY'S PROGRAMME WILL COMPRISE LION AND DRAGON DANCES, MARCHING BAND DISPLAYS, DRUMS AND PIPERS PERFORMANCES, ORIENTAL DANCES, AND A MASS DRAWING AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS.

FESTIVAL EVENTS WILL INCLUDE CHOIR SINGING, CANTONESE OPERAS, CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS EXHIBITIONS, PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS, PUPPET THEATRES, MODERN DANCES, A GUITAR CONCERT, AN INTER-SCHOOL DRAMA NIGHT, A SELECTION OF OVERSEAS FILMS AND VARIOUS COMPETITIONS TO BE STAGED AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

ABOUT 50 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND VARIOUS INDOOR PERFORMANCE PROGRAMMES. THE FREE OUTDOOR PROGRAMMES AND COMPETITIONS ARE LIKELY TO DRAW MORE THAN 100 000 PARTICIPANTS.

POSTAL BOOKING FOR MOST OF THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES AND ENTERTAINMENT SHOWS CAN BE MADE BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 7. BOOKING FOLDERS AND OTHER DETAILS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND SUB-OFFICES. COUNTER BOOKING WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 15.

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NTSD THANKED FOR PROMPT HELP
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STALL HOLDERS OF PAU CHEUNG STREET TEMPORARY MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAAR IN YUEN LONG TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR PROMPT ACTION IN HELPING RE-BUILD THEIR STALLS DESTROYED IN A RECENT FIRE.

THE FIRE, WHICH BROKE OUT AT MIDNIGHT OF DECEMBER 5, DAMAGED 90 STALLS AT THE TEMPORARY MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAAR.

WITHIN THREE DAYS, ALL STALLS WERE RE-BUILT WITH THE HELP OF THE YUEN LONG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE OFFICERS.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT THE TEMPORARY MARKET, THE STALL HOLDERS THANKED THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF YUEN LONG, MR WILLIAM KWONG, AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR HELPFUL EFFORT.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STALL HOLDERS, MR NG HUNG-PEI, THEN PRESENTED A BANNER TO MR KWONG ON BEHALF OF THE TRADERS.

BANNERS WERE ALSO PRESENTED TO THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR (HAWKERS AND MARKETS), MR KONG WAN-FEE, AND THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR (CLEANSING), MR FUNG KWOK-LAU.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1983

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FORTRESS HILL ROAD WORKS
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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 23), THE SECTION OF FORTRESS HILL ROAD FROM 45 TO 155 METRES SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO UPHILL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FOR BUSES ON CMB ROUTE 27, FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, OTHER UPHILL VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD.

ALSO FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 23), THE EXISTING PROHIBITION ON ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AT THE TEMPORARY CHAI WAN FERRY CONCOURSE WILL BE LIFTED.

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HAPPY VALLEY, TAI PO WATER MAINS WORK
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WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN HAPPY VALLEY AND IN TAI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 23) FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

IN HAPPY VALLEY THE SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY WILL BE FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM, AND IN TAI PO IT WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM.

THE AFFECTED AREAS IN HAPPY VALLEY ARE BOUNDED BY BROADWOOD ROAD, HOLLY ROAD, GREEN LANE, BROOM ROAD, BRIAR AVENUE, BLUE POOL ROAD BETWEEN CHEONG MING STREET AND TAI HANG ROAD, HAPPY VIEW TERRACE AND HOUSE NO. 148-150 TAI HANG ROAD.

IN TAI PO, THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE BOUNDED BY : PREMISES ALONG TAI PO ROAD BETWEEN SHAM TO HANG AND KAU LUNG HANG, INCLUDING HONG LOK YUEN, TAI HANG, TA WO AND NAM WAH PO. AREAS AFFECTED ALSO ARE : PREMISES ALONG LAM KAM ROAD, ALL VILLAGES OF LAM TSUEN FROM SAM TO HANG TO PING LONG.

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