



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPERIENCED A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988, BUT THEY GENERALLY EXPECT THEIR BUSINESS TO IMPROVE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COMPARISON IS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS. THE FIRST QUARTER OF EACH YEAR IS USUALLY A SEASONAL LOW PERIOD COMPARED WITH OTHER QUARTERS AS FAR AS THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IS CONCERNED.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FIRMS IN ALL INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, REPORTED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

AS REGARDS THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989, FIRMS IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE PLASTICS, ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES, EXPECT AN IMPROVED BUSINESS OVER THE FIRST QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989. THE BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO BE FAVOURABLE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

AS FOR THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR, BUSINESS EXPERIENCES VARIED AMONG FIRMS IN DIFFERENT TRADES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989.

COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988, FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS EXPERIENCED A HIGHER LEVEL OF BUSINESS, WHILE THE HOTELS SURVEYED EXPERIENCED A SEASONAL DECLINE IN BUSINESS.

REGARDING THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989, A SEASONAL UPTURN IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED BY THE HOTELS, WHILE THE RESPONDING RESTAURANTS EXPECT A SEASONAL DECLINE IN BUSINESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FIRMS IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION TO BE FAVOURABLE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

WITHIN THE SECTOR FOR "OTHER SERVICES", WHILE FIRMS IN THE TRADE CATEGORIES OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES, BANKS, AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVED BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 AND EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION TO BE FAVOURABLE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THOSE IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SECTOR EXPERIENCED A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND EXPECT A REDUCTION IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

/ABOUT 1,000

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY AND WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS. THE SURVEY ALSO COVERED BUSINESS PROBLEMS FACED BY FIRMS.

AS REGARDS THE PROBLEMS FACED BY FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AFFECTED MOST OF THE RESPONDING FIRMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

IN ADDITION, HIGH LABOUR TURNOVER WAS ALSO A PROBLEM AFFECTING SOME OF THE INDUSTRIES SURVEYED. THIS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF LABOUR GENERALLY, SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR AND HIGH WAGE RATES WERE REPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS SURVEYED IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

MANY FIRMS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR AS WELL AS THE "OTHER SERVICES" SECTOR WERE AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

IN ADDITION, MANY FIRMS IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY WERE CONCERNED WITH THE SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF, WHILE MANY BANKS WERE CONCERNED WITH HIGH STAFF COSTS. THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD "IMPROVED", "REMAINED THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATED" IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO "IMPROVE", "REMAIN THE SAME" OR "DETERIORATE" IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1989.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED. MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$5 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234779.

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SCHEME FOR IMPORTING SKILLED LABOUR EXPLAINED
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT UP TO 3,000 WORKERS FROM OUTSIDE HONG KONG POSSESSING SKILLS WHICH ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY LOCALLY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO WORK HERE UNDER MORE FLEXIBLE CRITERIA FOR THE IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID SUCH WORKERS INCLUDED TECHNICIANS AND CRAFTSMEN IN THE TECHNICAL SECTOR, AND SUPERVISORS IN THE NON-TECHNICAL SECTORS.

"THE SCHEME WILL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF SUPPLY, SUBJECT TO THE USUAL IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS BEING MET," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT COVER SEMI-SKILLED OR UNSKILLED WORKERS WHO WILL NOT BE ADMITTED INTO HONG KONG TO WORK," HE STRESSED.

"AND THE EXISTING SCHEME WHEREBY THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS TO BE ADMITTED WILL CONTINUE," HE SAID.

MR TSANG SAID THE DECISION TO IMPORT 3,000 WORKERS WITH SKILLS WHICH ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY LOCALLY REPRESENTED A BALANCED RESPONSE TO A TEMPORARY LABOUR SITUATION.

"WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEST SCHEME IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, GIVEN THE VERY DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FORCES AT PLAY," HE SAID.

HE EMPHASISED THAT EMPLOYERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE IMPORTED WORKERS WITH THE FULL RANGE OF BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL WORKERS IN SIMILAR JOBS IN ADDITION TO PASSAGE AND HOUSING.

THE WAGES PAID TO IMPORTED WORKERS SHOULD BE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF LOCAL WORKERS POSSESSING SIMILAR SKILLS.

MR TSANG SAID THAT IN ORDER TO LIMIT THE EFFECT ON THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT IMPORTED WORKERS SHOULD NOT MAKE UP MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF A COMPANY'S LABOUR FORCE AT THE SAME SKILL.

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"THIS WILL HELP ENSURE THAT LOCAL WAGES ARE NOT UNDULY AFFECTED BY IMPORTATION, AND THAT LOCAL WORKERS WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE THE FRUITS OF A BOOMING ECONOMY," HE SAID.

MR TSANG ADDED THAT VISAS FOR IMPORTED SKILLED WORKERS WOULD ONLY BE GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS, AND THAT RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE APPROVED.

"THE IMPORTATION OF SKILLED LABOUR IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO ALLOW TIME FOR COMPANIES TO INTRODUCE HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR SAVING SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

MR TSANG POINTED OUT THAT IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS, PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE INDUSTRIES AND SKILLS WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN THE RELEVANT SKILL CATEGORIES.

"A LIST OF INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES RANKED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES FOR SKILLED MANPOWER, AND A SECOND LIST OF THE RELEVANT JOB TITLES IN EACH INDUSTRY OR SERVICE RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE VACANCY RATES HAVE BEEN COMPILED AND ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS," HE SAID.

"THESE LISTS WILL HELP PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS UNDERSTAND HOW THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED."

APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTING SKILLED LABOUR UNDER THE SCHEME MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION BY THE END OF JUNE.

"WE HAVE IMPROVED THE PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS AND AIM TO COMPLETE ALL VETTING AND INFORM EMPLOYERS OF OUR DECISION IN JULY.

"TO HELP EMPLOYERS TO MAKE USE OF THE SCHEME, A PAMPHLET, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, DESCRIBING THE PROCEDURES FOR IMPORTING SKILLED LABOUR IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM ALL OFFICES OF THE IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR DEPARTMENTS," HE SAID.

THE STEERING GROUP WHICH DREW UP DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND ADJUST IT TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

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FREE TRADE MEANS ECONOMIC GROWTH

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HONG KONG WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE URUGUAY ROUND TO FACILITATE AN EVEN GREATER EXPANSION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE FUTURE. THE MINISTER OF HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON, MR PETER LO, SAID YESTERDAY (MAY 11).

"THE PURSUIT OF A BILATERAL, RETALIATORY AGENDA WILL NOT, IN OUR VIEW, HELP THAT PROCESS," HE SAID.

MR LO WAS SPEAKING IN A PANEL DISCUSSION ON "OPEN ECONOMIES IN EAST ASIA: THE JAPAN EXAMPLE", ORGANISED BY MERIDIAN HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE, IN THE U.S. CAPITAL AS PART OF A SERIES OF LECTURES TO EXAMINE THE DYNAMIC FORCES AFFECTING THE REGION.

HE DREW ATTENTION TO HONG KONG'S RECENT ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN BOTH ITS MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTORS AND ITS ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA.

HE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED HONG KONG'S FREE TRADE PHILOSOPHY AND COMMITMENT TO THE GATT AND SUPPORT FOR THE URUGUAY ROUND.

MR LO SAID WHILE MANY COMMON INGREDIENTS COULD BE IDENTIFIED IN THE ECONOMIC SUCCESSES OF JAPAN AND HONG KONG, ONE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE WAS THAT FOR HONG KONG A FREE TRADE POLICY HAD BEEN THE BEDROCK OF ITS ECONOMY AND GROWTH.

HE SAID DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES OF PENETRATING THE JAPANESE MARKET, TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN HAD BEEN GROWING STRONGLY IN RECENT YEARS - BY 32 PER CENT IN 1987 AND 34 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

JAPAN WAS NOW HONG KONG'S THIRD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AFTER CHINA AND THE U.S. IT HAD ALSO BECOME A MAJOR INVESTOR IN HONG KONG WHERE IT HAD 3.6 PER CENT OF ITS DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE WORLD, COMPARED WITH 18 PER CENT IN THE U.S.

JAPAN WAS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE COUNTRY AFTER THE U.S. IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME WAS BEING CARRIED OUT BY CONSORTIA WITH STRONG JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT.

MR LO SAID HONG KONG ATTRIBUTED ITS SUSTAINED ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN VERY LARGE PART TO FREE TRADE, AND IT BELIEVED THAT FREE TRADE REMAINED A GOOD THING EVEN IF A TRADING PARTNER DID NOT RECIPROCATE.

HE SAID THE REMOVAL OF THE OTHER SIDE'S BARRIERS WOULD BENEFIT BOTH SIDES AND WAS WORTH PRESSING FOR, BUT RETALIATION TO ACHIEVE IT WOULD MAKE MATTERS WORSE, NOT BETTER.

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CSD HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES

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ALTHOUGH THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) HAS THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF LOOKING AFTER SOME 22,000 VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, HAS THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF CUSTODIAN OF SOME 11,000 OFFENDERS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THOSE OFFENDERS INTO SOCIETY, THE SERVICE HAS NEVERTHELESS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THESE FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES.

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, SAID THIS TODAY (FRIDAY) AT THE CSD'S PASSING-OUT PARADE HELD AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY.

MR CARTER SAID THE INFLUX OF LARGE NUMBERS OF BOAT PEOPLE, COINCIDING WITH INCREASES IN CUSTODIAL SENTENCES PASSED ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, HAD HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT.

"MOST OBVIOUSLY, STAFF RESOURCES HAVE BEEN STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT WHILST OVERCROWDING HAS MADE LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR STAFF AND INMATES ALIKE," HE SAID.

"THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BOAT PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF NO CRIME, HAS CALLED FOR NEW MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES. OVERCROWDING AND STAFF SHORTAGES HAVE BEEN MET WITH INGENUITY AND DETERMINATION."

MR CARTER SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO LOWERING OF STANDARDS, AND EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND AFTER-CARE PROGRAMMES CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HIGH PRIORITY.

"OF PARTICULAR NOTE, AND GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TAXPAYERS HAS BEEN THE SUCCESS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES, WHOSE ACTIVITIES HAVE AN IMPORTANT DUAL ROLE, TO KEEP PRISONERS GAINFULLY EMPLOYED AND TO SAVE TAXPAYERS' MONEY BY PRODUCING A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES," HE POINTED OUT.

THE VALUE OF GOODS PRODUCED LAST YEAR HAD INCREASED TO \$178 MILLION, A RISE OF ALMOST 11 PER CENT.

"THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT BY ANY STANDARDS, BUT PARTICULARLY SO AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF RECENT EVENTS," MR CARTER ADDED.

TODAY'S PARADE MARKED THE PASSING-OUT OF 277 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED SIX MONTHS OF BASIC TRAINING AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

MR CARTER PRESENTED SILVER WHISTLES TO THE 11 BEST RECRUITS.

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DB'S BRIEFED ON VBP ACCOMMODATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO DECANT THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT THE SHAM SHUI PO CAMP INTO AN ADJOINING SITE AND OTHER EXISTING REFUGEE CENTRES.

THE SHAM SHUI PO CAMP WILL THEN BE CONVERTED INTO A COMPLETELY CLOSED DETENTION CENTRE WITH STRENGTHENED SECURITY TO HOLD ABOUT 5,000 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE (VBP).

AND THE DISUSED FOUR SEASONS ESTATE IN TSUEN WAN WILL NOT BE USED AS ACCOMMODATION FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

AT MEETINGS WITH SECURITY BRANCH OFFICIALS THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARDS WERE INFORMED OF THESE EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION MEASURES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY A CONTINUING INFLUX OF VBP WHICH ALREADY TOTALLED 3,385 ARRIVALS SO FAR THIS MONTH OR 7,615 SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

ATTENDING THE MEETINGS WERE THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MRS CARRIE YAU.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH FUNDS HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE AND CONVERSION OF THE LO WU CAMP INTO A TEMPORARY HOLDING CENTRE, WORKS WILL TAKE A FEW MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THERE IS THEREFORE AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR NEW VBP ARRIVALS.

ALL THE EXISTING DETENTION CENTRES ARE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT AND ALL THE FOUR FERRIES AVAILABLE FOR USE ARE FULL.

THE SITE ADJOINING THE SHAM SHUI PO CAMP NOW COMPRISES SERVICE HUTS AND OFFICE BLOCKS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THIS SITE WILL BE TURNED INTO A REFUGEE CAMP TO ACCOMMODATE 2,000 OF THE 5,000 REFUGEES NOW STAYING AT THE SHAM SHUI PO CAMP.

THE REMAINING 3,000 REFUGEES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER REFUGEE CAMPS SUCH AS THE BOWRING REFUGEE CENTRE AND THE KAI TAK OPEN CENTRE. THE SERVICE HUTS IN BOWRING SUCH AS SCHOOL BLOCKS AND WORKSHOPS WILL BE CONVERTED FOR ACCOMMODATING REFUGEES.

SINCE ALL THE SPACE CURRENTLY USED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN EXISTING REFUGEE CENTRES WILL BE USED UP FOR ACCOMMODATION PURPOSES, IT IS NECESSARY TO REPROVISION THESE SERVICES TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF PROGRAMMES FOR RESETTLEMENT, SUCH AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

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WHILE THE DISUSED FOUR SEASONS ESTATE WILL NOT BE USED FOR ACCOMMODATING REFUGEES, IT IS PROPOSED TO OFFER THE ESTATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND ITS DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

THESE WILL INCLUDE SCHOOLING FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AT BOWRING CENTRE WHO WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM THE CENTRE, AS WELL AS OTHER SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR OTHER REFUGEES.

NO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WILL RESIDE IN THE ESTATE.

THE PROPOSED PROVISION OF SUCH SERVICES IN THE ESTATE IS SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE UNHCR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

THE ESTATE, IF USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, WILL BE OPERATED BY WORKERS OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAINLY IN THE DAYTIME AND POSSIBLY IN THE EARLY EVENING.

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SECOND BATCH OF VBP REPATRIATED TO HANOI

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A SECOND BATCH OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAD ASKED TO RETURN TO VIETNAM WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) REPATRIATED TO HANOI.

THE VOLUNTARY RETURNEES, TOTALLING 68, FLEW BACK ON A CHARTERED FLIGHT ARRANGED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

THEY COMPRISED 29 MEN, 19 WOMEN, 14 BOYS AND SIX GIRLS.

THEY WERE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY OFFICIALS FROM THE UNHCR AND THE SECURITY BRANCH.

THE FIRST BATCH OF 75 VOLUNTARY RETURNEES WERE REPATRIATED ON MARCH 2 THIS YEAR.

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APPOINTMENTS TO SECURITIES AND FUTURES APPEALS PANEL

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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED MR WONG CHUNG-HIN AND MR LESLIE WRIGHT AS CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES APPEALS PANEL (SFAP).

MR LESTER KWOK CHI-HANG, MRS ALICE LAM LEE KIU-YUE, MR SELWYN MAR, MR FRANK PONG FAI AND MR YAO KANG HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE PANEL, HE SAID.

SECTION 18 OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC) ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN SFAP TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS BY THE SFC IN RELATION TO APPLICATION FOR, OR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION AND THE EXERCISE OF INTERVENTION POWERS BY THE COMMISSION.

THE SFAP WILL HAVE 12 MEMBERS, NAMELY THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, WHO ARE BOTH QUALIFIED IN LAW, THE FIVE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE SFC, AND THE FIVE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS.

EACH APPEAL WILL BE HEARD BY A GROUP OF THREE CONSISTING OF EITHER THE CHAIRMAN OR THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, ONE INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND ONE NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SFC.

"THIS APPEALS PROCEDURE CAN BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CHECKS AND BALANCES OVER THE WAY IN WHICH THE SFC EXERCISES ITS POWERS," MR NENDICK SAID.

MR WONG CHUNG-HIN, AGED 55, IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION. HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOW DISSOLVED SECURITIES COMMISSION AND COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION, AND SERVES ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPANY LAW REFORM.

MR LESLIE WRIGHT, AGED 70, HAS BEEN PRACTISING AS A BARRISTER IN HONG KONG SINCE 1948. HE LED A WORKING GROUP OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION THAT EXAMINED THE SFC BILL.

MR LESTER KWOK CHI-HANG, AGED 39, IS A QUALIFIED BARRISTER AND THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WING ON (HOLDINGS) LTD. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW AND THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

MRS ALICE LAM LEE KIU-YUE, AGED 49, IS A QUALIFIED SOLICITOR AND THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HANG SENG BANK. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES COMMISSION AND SERVES ON THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

MR SELWYN MAR, AGED 53, IS A PRACTISING ACCOUNTANT. HE SERVES ON THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD COUNCIL.

/MR FRANK

MR FRANK PONG FAI, AGED 44, IS A DIRECTOR OF SHIU WING STEEL LIMITED. HE HAS SERVED ON THE SECURITIES COMMISSION FOR FOUR YEARS AND IS A MEMBER OF THE INLAND REVENUE BOARD OF REVIEW.

MR YAO KANG, AGED 64, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAIKOO ROYAL INSURANCE CO. LTD. HE IS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND A MEMBER OF THE DEPORTATION TRIBUNAL AND THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ADVISORY BOARD.

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BILL ON SEPARATE TAXATION OF MARRIED WOMEN GAZETTED

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1989 WHICH PROPOSES TO GRANT SEPARATE SALARIES TAXATION TO MARRIED COUPLES WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL, IF PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL RESULT IN HUSBANDS AND WIVES BEING INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR PERSONAL TAXATION RESPONSIBILITIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN PARTICULAR, MARRIED WOMEN WILL BE PROVIDED WITH INDEPENDENT CONTROL OF THEIR TAXATION AFFAIRS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING ORDINANCE REQUIRES MARRIED COUPLES TO AGGREGATE THEIR SEPARATE INCOMES INTO ONE JOINT INCOME FOR COMPUTING THEIR SALARIES TAX LIABILITY, AND WHILE THEY MAY ELECT TO BE SEPARATELY ASSESSED IN RESPECT OF THEIR OWN INCOMES, THE TAX PAYABLE BY EACH OF THEM REMAINS AN APPORTIONMENT OF THE TOTAL TAX PAYABLE ON THE AGGREGATED INCOME.

"UNDER SEPARATE TAXATION, WORKING HUSBANDS AND WIVES WILL BE SEPARATELY CHARGED TO SALARIES TAX AND, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE NOT ASSESSABLE AT THE STANDARD RATE OF TAX, EACH WILL RECEIVE A BASIC ALLOWANCE.

"IN SINGLE INCOME FAMILIES, THE SOLE-EARNER WILL, AS AT PRESENT, RECEIVE A MARRIED TAXPAYER ALLOWANCE. IN ADDITION, TAXPAYERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM ALLOWANCES IN RESPECT OF THEIR CHILDREN AND DEPENDENT PARENTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN RESPECT OF CHILD ALLOWANCE, HUSBANDS AND WIVES ARE REQUIRED TO NOMINATE WHICH OF THEM WILL CLAIM THEIR FAMILY'S ENTITLEMENT TO THE ALLOWANCE FOR ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN.

"HOWEVER, FOR DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCE, HUSBANDS AND WIVES WILL CONTINUE TO DECIDE, ON AN INDIVIDUAL PARENT BASIS, WHICH OF THEM WILL CLAIM THE ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF EACH ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT PARENT AND/OR DEPENDENT PARENT-IN-LAW," HE ADDED.

IN CASES WHERE ONE SPOUSE'S INCOME IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO ABSORB ALL OF HIS OR HER ALLOWANCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A SYSTEM OF JOINT ASSESSMENT WOULD APPLY.

"THIS WILL MEAN THAT ANY MARRIED COUPLE WHERE ONE SPOUSE HAS ALLOWANCES GREATER THAN HIS OR HER INCOME MAY ELECT, ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR SALARIES TAX LIABILITY COMPUTED ON THEIR JOINT AGGREGATED INCOME. IN VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY AS AT PRESENT, IF THIS WILL RESULT IN THE FAMILY'S OVERALL TAX BURDEN BEING REDUCED," HE POINTED OUT.

CONCURRENTLY WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEPARATE TAXATION INTO SALARIES TAX THE PERSONAL ASSESSMENT LEGISLATION, AS IT APPLIES TO MARRIED COUPLES, IS ALSO TO BE AMENDED.

"IN FUTURE, WHERE ONLY A HUSBAND OR WIFE DERIVES INCOME, HE OR SHE WILL INDIVIDUALLY ELECT TO BE PERSONALLY ASSESSED AND BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE TAX CHARGED.

"WHEN BOTH THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE HAVE EACH DERIVED CHARGEABLE INCOME THEY MUST JOINTLY ELECT TO BE PERSONALLY ASSESSED.

"WHEN A JOINT PERSONAL ELECTION IS MADE THE COUPLE'S RESPECTIVE INCOMES WILL BE AGGREGATED TOGETHER INTO ONE COMPOSITE AMOUNT TO CALCULATE THEIR TAX LIABILITY.

"EACH SPOUSE WILL THEN RECEIVE A SEPARATE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT IN RESPECT OF THE APPORTIONED TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIS OR HER COMPONENT OF THEIR TOTAL INCOME," HE SAID.

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 31.

IF ENACTED, THE SEPARATE TAXATION PROVISIONS WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO 1989-90 FINAL SALARIES TAX ASSESSMENT ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 1990.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BILL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, FOURTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL OR TO OMELCO, 8 JACKSON ROAD, HONG KONG.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1989

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NEW COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT NAMED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT MR GORDON SIU, POSTMASTER GENERAL, WILL SUCCEED MR JAMES SO AS COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

MR SO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO BECOME DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES IN AUGUST.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MR SIU AND MR SO ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MR GORDON SIU KWING-CHUE, JP

AGED 43. MR SIU JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1968. HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR (1977-79), PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (1980-82), DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (STAFF MANAGEMENT) (1982-85), SECRETARY GENERAL, OMELCO (1985-88) AND BECAME POSTMASTER GENERAL IN MARCH 1988.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN DECEMBER 1988.

MR JAMES SO YIU-CHO, JP

AGED 49. JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER 1962. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN AUGUST 1966 AND HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES, INCLUDING FINANCE BRANCH, THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND BRANCH, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

MORE RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED TEMPORARILY AS SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION (1986-87) AND BECAME COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IN MAY 1987.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN OCTOBER 1987.

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MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF MARINE LITTERING

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AN AMENDMENT BILL GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) PROVIDES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF MARINE LITTERING.

THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 FORMS PART OF THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO DEAL WITH THE FLOATING REFUSE PROBLEM.

IT AMENDS THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 228) IN RELATION TO THE OFFENCE OF DEPOSITING LITTER INTO THE WATERS OF HONG KONG OR IN A PLACE WHERE IT MAY BE SWEEPED BY THE TIDE INTO SUCH WATERS.

THESE AMENDMENTS INCLUDED AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MARINE LITTERING OFFENCES.

AUTHORISED OFFICERS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN POWER OF ENTRY, AND POWER TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND PROVE HIS IDENTIFICATION, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PROSECUTIONS AGAINST MARINE LITTERING OFFENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH SAID THAT SECTION 4D OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR PROSECUTIONS AGAINST MARINE LITTERING.

"HOWEVER, THE ORDINANCE DOES NOT EMPOWER PUBLIC OFFICERS TO BOARD VESSELS OR TO ENTER PLACES OR PREMISES TO HELP THEM IDENTIFY SUSPECTS IN MARINE LITTERING," HE SAID.

"SUCH POWER OF ENTRY IS PROVIDED FOR IN OTHER ORDINANCES. EXAMPLES ARE THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 313) WHICH ENABLES AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO STOP AND BOARD ANY VESSEL WHERE THEY HAVE REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR SUSPECTING THAT A CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE HAS TAKEN PLACE.

"THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 132, ALSO EMPOWERS AUTHORISED PUBLIC OFFICERS TO ENTER PREMISES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THAT ORDINANCE INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUISANCE MATTERS SUCH AS LAND LITTERING.

"THE LACK OF POWER OF ENTRY UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE HAS TO SOME EXTENT PREVENTED PUBLIC OFFICERS FROM IDENTIFYING OFFENDERS EFFECTIVELY TO PROSECUTE UNDER SECTION 4D OF THE ORDINANCE AGAINST MARINE LITTERING IN AND FROM SHIPYARDS AND OTHER PRIVATE PREMISES ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

"WE THEREFORE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO ADD SUCH A POWER TO THE ORDINANCE."

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WOULD BE THE AUTHORISATION AUTHORITIES AS IN THE CASE OF AUTHORISATION REQUIRED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE AND SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY.

/"IN ORDER

"IN ORDER TO BE IN LINE WITH THE EXISTING PRACTICE FOR EXERCISE OF POWERS OF ENTRY ETC., AUTHORISED OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE BILL TO REASONABLY SUSPECT THAT AN OFFENCE HAS BEEN OR IS BEING COMMITTED BEFORE AN ENTRY IS MADE." HE SAID.

"THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO CARRY AND PRODUCE, IF NECESSARY, THEIR PROOF OF OFFICIAL IDENTITY AND PROOF OF AUTHORISATION WHEN ON DUTY.

"FINALLY, BEFORE AN ENTRY IS MADE TO A DWELLING VESSEL OR ANY PLACE OR PREMISES USED SOLELY FOR DWELLING PURPOSES IN CASES WHERE CONSENT FOR SUCH ENTRY IS NOT GIVEN, THE PUBLIC OFFICERS CONCERNED ARE OBLIGED TO OBTAIN, CARRY AND PRODUCE, IF REASONABLY PRACTICABLE TO DO SO, A WARRANT FOR SUCH ENTRY."

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AUTHORISED OFFICERS WITH POWER TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO DECLARE HIS NAME AND ADDRESS AND TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF HIS IDENTITY DURING INVESTIGATIONS ON MARINE LITTERING OFFENCES.

"TO DETER SUSPECTS EFFECTIVELY FROM REFUSING TO COMPLY WITH THE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, WE PROPOSE TO MAKE SUCH REFUSAL AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$10,000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE POINTED OUT.

"THE OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR PEOPLE CONVICTED OF MARINE LITTERING OFFENCES PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 4D(1) OF THE ORDINANCE FROM A \$5,000 TO \$10,000 FINE."

HOWEVER, THE MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT SIX MONTHS.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE MAXIMUM PENALTY ON LITTERING ON LAND OR WATERCOURSES UNDER BY-LAW 4 OF THE PUBLIC CLEANSING AND PREVENTION OF NUISANCES (URBAN COUNCIL)/(REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 132," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"WITH REGARD TO THE PROPRIETOR OR OCCUPIER OF THE PRIVATE PREMISES, OR THE OWNER OR MASTER OF THE VESSEL, WHERE THESE OFFENCES ARE COMMITTED, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 4D(2) OF THE ORDINANCE IS TO INCREASE FROM A \$5,000 TO \$50,000 FINE AND FROM SIX MONTHS' TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

"THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE PROVISION IN SECTION 4B(2) OF THE ORDINANCE IMPOSED ON CONTRACTORS ON A SITE CARRYING OUT CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR OR DECORATION WORKS WHERE OBJECTS ARE DROPPED."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL HAD ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS AND THE BILL WAS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 24.

NOTING THAT FLOATING REFUSE WAS A LONG STANDING PROBLEM IN THE HONG KONG WATERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A REPORT COMPILED BY THE THEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND OTHER STUDIES HAD REVEALED THAT NULLAHS AND STORMWATER OUTFALLS WERE A MAJOR SOURCE OF FLOATING REFUSE, AND THAT OTHER NOTABLE SOURCES INCLUDED WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES AND VESSELS.

/"ALTHOUGH SHIPYARDS

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"ALTHOUGH SHIPYARDS ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN FIVE PER CENT OF THE BULK OF FLOATING REFUSE ENTERING THE HARBOUR, THE REFUSE ARISING FROM SHIPYARDS SUCH AS LARGE TIMBER PLANKS, POSES A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS HAZARD TO LOCAL CRAFT," HE SAID.

"DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE NOW DEVISING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO TACKLE THE FLOATING REFUSE PROBLEM.

"ONE OF THE STRATEGIES IS THIS PRESENT PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR CONTROL OVER MARINE LITTERING ESPECIALLY FROM PRIVATE PREMISES SUCH AS SHIPYARDS."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE MAIN TARGET OF THE BILL WAS LITTERING FROM PRIVATE PREMISES ALONG THE WATERFRONT, ALTHOUGH THE FLOATING POPULATION WOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO ITS PROVISIONS.

"THERE ARE 498 LICENSED DWELLING VESSELS MOORED IN EIGHT TYPHOON SHELTERS WITH A FLOATING POPULATION (EXCLUDING FISHING COMMUNITY) OF ABOUT 3,050 PERSONS," HE SAID.

"FREE-OF-CHARGE DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY CONTRACTORS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IN THOSE TYPHOON SHELTERS WITH A LARGER NUMBER OF DWELLING VESSELS - THE YAU MA TEI, ALDRICH BAY, CAUSEWAY BAY, ABERDEEN AND CHUNG MEI TUK TYPHOON SHELTERS.

"THE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE DAILY EXCEPT DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. PLASTIC BAGS ARE DELIVERED TO THE DWELLING BOATS FOR COLLECTION PURPOSES. IN 1988, NEARLY 600 TONNES OF REFUSE WAS RECOVERED IN THIS MANNER."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT FEEDBACK FROM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING THE BOAT DWELLERS, INDICATED THAT THE SERVICES WERE MUCH APPRECIATED.

"APPROXIMATELY 96 PER CENT OF THE PLASTIC BAGS DISTRIBUTED ARE RETURNED FULL OF GARBAGE WHICH ALSO SHOWS A HIGH DEGREE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION," HE SAID.

"THE SERVICES ARE SATISFACTORY AS A MEANS OF CONTROLLING POTENTIAL FLOATING REFUSE AT SOURCE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT REGARDING TYPHOON SHELTERS IN CHEUNG CHAU, SHUEN WAN AND SAM KA TSUEN, WHERE SUCH SERVICES WERE NOT PROVIDED, REFUSE COLLECTION BINS WERE PLACED ON SHORE TO FACILITATE THE FLOATING POPULATION'S DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC REFUSE.

"WE HOPE THAT BOAT DWELLERS WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF EITHER THE COLLECTION SERVICES OR THE REFUSE COLLECTION BINS TO KEEP THE HONG KONG WATERS CLEAN," HE SAID.

"APART FROM THE COLLECTION SERVICES, IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT SPECIAL TEAMS WILL BE SET UP TO PROVIDE DEDICATED SCAVENGING SERVICES IN TYPHOON SHELTERS WITH THE AIM OF FURTHER IMPROVING WATER CONDITIONS THERE."

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1989

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FSD TO UPGRADE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL UPGRADE ITS CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT STATION OFFICERS, FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN.

OFFICERS FROM THE RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND EXAMINATION GROUP OF HEADQUARTERS COMMAND HAVE RECENTLY REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT UNDER WHICH FIVE MOBILE RECRUITING CENTRES WILL BE SET UP ON A ROTATION BASIS IN SHOPPING AREAS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

THESE RECRUITING CENTRES WILL OPEN EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO OFFICER RECRUITMENT WAS BECOMING SERIOUS.

"DESPITE CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT EFFORTS, ONLY 14 STATION OFFICERS WERE RECRUITED LAST YEAR TO FILL 68 VACANCIES, AND THREE OF THEM SUBSEQUENTLY RESIGNED TO TAKE UP OTHER EMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

MR MARCH ADDED THAT A TOTAL OF 98 VACANCIES FOR STATION OFFICERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE FILLED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE 376 VACANCIES FOR FIREMEN, SIX FOR AMBULANCE OFFICERS AND 332 FOR AMBULANCEMEN WHICH NEED TO BE FILLED IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR MARCH ADDED HIS DEPARTMENT HOPED THAT THE STEPPED-UP RECRUITMENT DRIVE WOULD PRODUCE BETTER RESULTS NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE FIRE SERVICES OPERATIONAL STREAMS HAD SPECIAL RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS WHICH WERE UNIQUE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"THE STRENUOUS NATURE OF THE JOB REQUIRES THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF PHYSICAL FITNESS, PHYSIQUE AND EYESIGHT AMONGST ALL THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES," HE SAID.

"THESE REQUIREMENTS POSE RESTRICTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT AS IT CANNOT FOR THIS REASON RECRUIT FEMALE FIRE OFFICERS. IT THEREFORE HAS TO RECRUIT FROM ABOUT 20 TO 30 PER CENT OF THE AVAILABLE LABOUR FORCE."

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RECRUITMENT FOR STATION OFFICERS, FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR STATION OFFICERS, FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN.

"WE ARE OFFERING A CAREER WITH VARIETY, INTEREST AND OPPORTUNITY TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY," A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOR STATION OFFICERS AND FIREMEN, AN APPLICANT SHOULD BE UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE, HAVE GOOD PHYSIQUE AND NORMAL EYESIGHT, AND SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE.

HE SHOULD BE 168 CENTIMETRES TALL OR ABOVE AND WEIGH AT LEAST 55 KILOGRAMS. HIS CHEST MEASUREMENT SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN 86 CENTIMETRES DEFLATED, WITH AN EXPANSION OF AT LEAST FIVE CENTIMETRES.

THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION REQUIRED FOR FIREMEN IS SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF FORM THREE AND APPLICANTS FOR STATION OFFICERS MUST POSSESS AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B) AT GRADE E OR ABOVE IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO JOIN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS AN AMBULANCEMAN SHOULD BE UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE, HAVE GOOD PHYSIQUE AND FIVE YEARS' CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG AND MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE AND READ AND WRITE CHINESE.

HE SHOULD BE WITHIN THE HEIGHT RANGE OF 165 TO 191 CENTIMETRES AND CORRESPONDING WEIGHT RANGE OF 52 TO 86.75 KILOGRAMS IN A SPECIFIC PROPORTIONAL HEIGHT AND WEIGHT SCALE.

HIS CHEST MEASUREMENT SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN 84 CENTIMETRES DEFLATED, WITH AN EXPANSION OF AT LEAST FIVE CENTIMETRES.

THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION REQUIRED IS SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF FORM THREE.

THE STARTING SALARY FOR FIREMEN VARIES FROM \$4,496 TO \$4,940 PER MONTH DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATIONS AND RISES TO A MAXIMUM OF \$7,150.

FOR STATION OFFICERS, THE STARTING SALARY VARIES FROM \$9,275 TO \$11,530, AGAIN DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATIONS AND THE MAXIMUM SALARY IS \$20,490.

THE STARTING SALARY FOR AN AMBULANCEMAN RANGES FROM \$4,355 TO \$4,790, DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATIONS, AND RISE TO \$6,935.

ALL RECRUITS WILL RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AT PAT HEUNG IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

APPLICATION FORMS (GF 340) ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE RECRUITMENT UNIT, FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE RECRUITMENT UNIT ON 3-7337519.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1989

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INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 4TH QUARTER 1988

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988, AT 133, WAS 10 POINTS OR 8.1 PER CENT ABOVE THAT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COMPARES WITH THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF 6.3 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988, 3.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, 6.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, AND OF AN AVERAGE OF 6.0 PER CENT IN THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1988.

COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988, AND BEARING IN MIND THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCE OF SEASONAL FACTORS, THE INDEX SHOWED A DECREASE OF 1 POINT OR 0.7 PER CENT.

INDUSTRIES SHOWING THE LARGEST INCREASES IN PRODUCTION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1987 WERE : PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+34.6 PER CENT); BASIC METALS (+27.9 PER CENT); PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+24.5 PER CENT); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+24.1 PER CENT); AND NEWSPAPER PRINTING, JOB PRINTING AND OTHER PRINTING (+20.3 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES REPORTED A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987 : WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, AND FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (EXCEPT PRIMARILY OF METAL) (-16.9 PER CENT); RUBBER PRODUCTS (-7.7 PER CENT); CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (-7.3 PER CENT); NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS (-6.0 PER CENT); AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-1.0 PER CENT).

COMPARING THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 WITH THAT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN PRODUCTION INCLUDED : TOBACCO (+12.3 PER CENT); WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT KNITWEAR AND FOOTWEAR (+8.5 PER CENT); PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+3.7 PER CENT); AND MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+0.6 PER CENT).

AT THE SAME TIME, 13 INDUSTRIES SHOWED SOME DECREASES IN PRODUCTION COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988.

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES : BEVERAGE (-27.0 PER CENT); PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-16.9 PER CENT); PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (-12.9 PER CENT); AND RUBBER PRODUCTS (-11.8 PER CENT).

COMBINING THE INDEXES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 WITH THE INDEXES FOR THE PRECEDING THREE QUARTERS, THE INDEXES FOR 1988 AS A WHOLE COULD BE COMPUTED.

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING INDEXES FOR 1987, MOST INDUSTRIES SHOWED SOME INCREASES IN PRODUCTION, WITH PARTICULARLY LARGE INCREASES RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES : TOBACCO (+23.7 PER CENT); PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+23.5 PER CENT); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+22.7 PER CENT); PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+21.2 PER CENT); AND NEWSPAPER PRINTING, JOB PRINTING AND OTHER PRINTING (+20.3 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES RECORDED SOME DECREASES IN PRODUCTION : WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, AND FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (EXCEPT PRIMARILY OF METAL) (-11.2 PER CENT); RUBBER PRODUCTS (-8.3 PER CENT); PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-4.7 PER CENT); TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) (-2.6 PER CENT); AND WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT KNITWEAR AND FOOTWEAR (-0.9 PER CENT).

IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO REFLECT THE CHANGES OVER TIME OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

A TABLE SHOWING CHANGES IN THE INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN GREATER DETAIL IS ATTACHED.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 4TH QUARTER 1988", WHICH IS ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8234832.

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/Indexes of

Indexes of industrial production by industry group
(1986=100)

Industry group	Indexes for 4th Qtr. 1988	Percent change over		Percent change in the index for 1988 as a whole over the preceding year
		4th Qtr. 1987	3rd Qtr. 1988	
Food	122	+18.4	0.0	+12.7
Beverage	103	+8.4	-27.0	+8.6
Tobacco	182	+19.0	+12.3	+23.7
Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	127	+4.1	+8.5	-0.9
Textiles (including knitting)	124	+4.2	0.0	-2.6
Paper and paper products	183	+24.5	-12.9	+21.2
Newspaper printing, job printing and other printing	154	+20.3	-0.6	+20.3
Chemicals and chemical products	118	+15.7	-4.1	+13.1
Rubber products	120	-7.7	-11.8	-8.3
Plastic products	98	-1.0	-16.9	-4.7
Non-metallic mineral products	125	-6.0	0.0	0.0
Basic metals	142	+27.9	-3.4	+16.2
Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	149	+19.2	-3.9	+19.8
Machinery, except electrical	175	+24.1	+0.6	+22.7
Consumer electrical and electronic products	140	-7.3	-1.4	0.0
Electrical and electronic parts, accessories and machinery	171	+13.2	0.0	+18.7
Professional and scientific equipment, photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks	140	+34.6	+3.7	+23.5
Leather products and footwear (except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear)	147	+1.4	-2.0	+2.3
Wood and cork products, and furniture and fixtures (except primarily of metal)	98	-16.9	-2.0	-11.2
Transport equipment	108	0.0	-4.4	+10.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries, not elsewhere classified	125	-0.8	-5.3	+7.6
All manufacturing industries	133	+8.1	-0.7	+6.0

CORRECTIVE TRAINING HELPS TURN OFFENDERS INTO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

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CORRECTIVE TRAINING IN HONG KONG IS AIMED AT TURNING OFFENDERS INTO RESPONSIBLE, CONTRIBUTIVE AND LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS, THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR JOSE LEI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, MR LEI SAID CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES EMBRACED A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, AND ORGANISING EDUCATIONAL COURSES LEADING TO EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION WAS ONE FACET OF THE PROGRAMMES.

"THE GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES TO CANDIDATES SIGNIFIES THE RECOGNITION OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE STANDARDS OF THE RECIPIENTS ATTAINED IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS," MR LEI SAID.

"ALL THESE YOUNG PERSONS HAVE PERFORMED EXCEEDINGLY WELL IN THEIR STRIVE FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ACADEMIC FIELD, AND THIS WILL NO DOUBT BRING ABOUT FURTHER FULFILMENT IN LIFE ON THEIR SUBSEQUENT RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, MR CHAN HING-HUNG. SAID AT THE OCCASION THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAD RECENTLY DONATED ABOUT \$137,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE DONATION WILL BE USED FOR SETTING UP A LANGUAGE LABORATORY AT THE INSTITUTION.

"THE DONATION ALSO INDICATES THAT THE DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK THE INMATES HAD MADE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF STUDIES AND ACADEMIC ATTAINMENTS HAD BEGUN TO BE APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC," MR CHAN SAID.

THE LANGUAGE LABORATORY, WHICH CAN BE USED BY 24 INMATES AT ONE TIME, WILL BE READY FOR USE LATER THIS YEAR.

AT TODAY'S CEREMONY, 77 PRISONERS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES FOR HAVING SUCCESSFULLY PASSED VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS OFFERED BY THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, PITMAN EXAMINATION INSTITUTE, HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA, MACAU.

THEY OBTAINED A TOTAL OF 39 DISTINCTIONS, 32 CREDITS AND 113 PASSES AMONG THE 210 PAPERS THEY SAT FOR, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE PASS RATE OF 87 PER CENT.

MR JOSE LEI AND A JUSTICE OF PEACE, MR DAVID WRIGHT, OFFICIATED AT TODAY'S CEREMONY.

MORE RESOURCES TO PROMOTE STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD PROVIDED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS TO PROMOTE COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES.

SPEAKING AT THE CAREERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS SEMINAR, MR WINFIELD SAID SINCE 1982 THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD PROVIDED FIVE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS IN STAGES FOR EACH STANDARD-SIZED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO IMPROVE SPECIFIC SERVICES.

THESE INCLUDED CAREERS ADVICE AND GENERAL GUIDANCE.

TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE SERVICE FOR THEIR PUPILS, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS IN 1986 A COMPREHENSIVE PAMPHLET WHICH SET OUT THE SUGGESTED ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION METHODS OF GUIDANCE SERVICES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND SHOWED HOW THE SERVICES COULD BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY, MR WINFIELD SAID.

A REVIEW REPORT ON THE GUIDE HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS.

RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE IN THE REPORT BY A WORKING GROUP ON THE BASIS OF THE FEEDBACK. THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS CAREFULLY STUDYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

IN FACT, A GUIDANCE TEACHERS RESOURCES CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BASED ON ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

THIS WOULD BE SEEN AS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS STUDENT GUIDANCE WORK, MR WINFIELD SAID.

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SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE VISITS AUDIT DEPARTMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR HARNAM GREWAL, TODAY (FRIDAY) VISITED THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT TO UPDATE HIMSELF ON THE WORK AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MR GREWAL WAS BRIEFED ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, MR ROBERT HUTT, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR Y.K. LI.

/HE ALSO

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HE ALSO TOOK A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES OF THE HEADQUARTERS REGISTRY, WORKS AND LANDS DIVISION AND CENTRAL ACCOUNTS BRANCH.

MR GREWAL LATER HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES ON STAFF MATTERS.

HE WILL VISIT THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ON MAY 26.

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KWUN TONG DB TO DISCUSS RECENT FLOODINGS

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY (MAY 15) TO DISCUSS THE RECENT FLOODINGS IN THE DISTRICT.

BOARD MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE CHAOTIC CONDITIONS ON MAY 2 WHEN THE TERRITORY WAS AFFECTED BY TORRENTIAL RAIN.

A SPECIAL MEETING HAS THEREFORE BEEN CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE CAUSES OF THE FLOODINGS IN THE DISTRICT AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE PREVENTIVE MEASURES, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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STEERING GROUP BRIEFED ON FARMS VISITS

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MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS, FORMED UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, WERE BRIEFED TODAY (FRIDAY) ON VISITS BEING MADE BY FARMERS TO SEE WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS IN OPERATION.

THE FARMERS, WHO WISH TO CONTINUE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN CONTROL AREAS, ARE VISITING PRIVATE FARMS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS.

THE FIRST IN THE SERIES OF VISITS WAS MADE EARLIER THIS WEEK TO A POULTRY FARM IN SHEUNG SHUI WHICH HAS IMPLEMENTED THE DRY MUCK-OUT METHOD.

MEMBERS LEARNT THAT DURING THE VISIT THE FARMERS EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE OPERATION OF THE TREATMENT FACILITY AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH BOTH THE FARM OPERATOR, MR WU WAH-KIT, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM.

THEY ALSO LEARNT THAT MORE FARM VISITS OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE ARRANGED TO ENABLE THE LIVESTOCK FARM OPERATORS TO CONSIDER THE VARIOUS OPTIONS WHICH THEY COULD CHOOSE IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH ANTI-POLLUTION REGULATIONS.

EPD REPRESENTATIVES GAVE A BRIEFING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS.

THE REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAINED THAT SO FAR FIVE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, COMPRISING THREE DRY MUCK-OUT AND TWO PIG-ON-LITTER METHODS, HAVE BECOME OPERATIONAL AND BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE FARM OPERATORS.

ANOTHER PIG-ON-LITTER SYSTEM, COVERING SIX PIG HOUSES, IS IN FACT OPERATIONAL, BUT ONE PIG HOUSE HAS REQUIRED MINOR MODIFICATION AND THIS IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

THE OPERATORS OF THE TWO FARMS EMPLOYING THE HYBRID METHOD WILL BE TRAINED ON THE SYSTEM AS SOON AS ITS COMMISSIONING HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

AS FOR THE FARM THAT HAS ADOPTED THE MORE COMPLICATED WET MUCK-OUT SYSTEM, MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, ALLOWING FOR EARLY COMMISSIONING OF THE SYSTEM.

AFTER THE MEETING, THE STEERING GROUP MEMBERS JOINED MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN VISITING A FARM IN THE NORTH DISTRICT TO MONITOR THE OPERATION OF THE TREATMENT SYSTEMS THERE.

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APPROVED CENTRAL DISTRICT OZP GAZETTED

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THE OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT, APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT WAS LAST APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1969.

IT WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR AMENDMENTS IN 1975. SINCE THEN, THE PLAN HAD BEEN FURTHER AMENDED AND GAZETTED FOR A FEW TIMES. A NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENTS WERE RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED.

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 106 HECTARES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH IS THE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT, CONSULAR, BANKING, BUSINESS AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN IS TO IMPOSE STATUTORY PLANNING CONTROL OVER DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA THROUGH LAND USE ZONING.

THE PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE APPROVED 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.

THE PLAN IS \$10 FOR EACH UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$50 FOR EACH COLOURED PRINTED VERSION.

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HANG HAU TOWN TO BE CLEARED TWO MONTHS LATER

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THE D-DAY FOR THE CLEARANCE OF HANG HAU TOWN IN SAI KUNG HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO JULY 17, 1989 TO ENABLE BOTH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE CLEARANCE.

MOST OF HANG HAU TOWN IS DUE TO BE CLEARED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF JUNK BAY NEW TOWN. FOLLOWING THE GAZETTING OF THE RESUMPTION IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, IT HAD BEEN INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT THE CLEARANCE EARLY THIS YEAR.

ALTHOUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REHOUSED, A NUMBER OF COMPLICATIONS RELATING TO COMPENSATION AND REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE LED TO DELAYS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CLEARANCE.

/A NUMBER

A NUMBER OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED TO EASE THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY NON-INDIGENOUS OWNERS OF POSTWAR DOMESTIC PREMISES.

THESE INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY, WHERE ELIGIBLE, OF USING THE HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE TO BUY HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS; HELP THE OWNERS WITH TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION; AND ASSISTANCE FOR OWNERS WHOSE ORIGINAL FLATS WERE SMALLER THAN THE MINIMUM-SIZED FLATS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE AREA TO BUY THE MINIMUM-SIZED FLATS AVAILABLE.

FULL DETAILS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS, TOGETHER WITH RENEWED OFFERS OF COMPENSATION, WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL OWNERS IN WRITING BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE IN THE NEXT WEEK.

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HOME SAFETY EXHIBITION AT CHOI WAN ESTATE

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THE SEVENTH IN A SERIES OF NINE EXHIBITIONS TO DISSEMINATE HOME SAFETY MESSAGES WILL BE STAGED AT THE SHOPPING CENTRE OF CHOI WAN ESTATE IN NGAU CHI WAN ON SUNDAY (MAY 14) FROM 11 AM TO 4 PM.

"THIS YEAR UNTIL THE END OF LAST MONTH, HOME ACCIDENTS HAVE CLAIMED 38 LIVES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY", A SPOKESMAN OF THE HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY COMMITTEE SAID.

"MANY OF THESE ACCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS AND IGNORANCE.

"THEY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF GREATER ATTENTION HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO HOUSEHOLD SAFETY," HE ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF THE COMMITTEE'S PUBLICITY PROGRAMME TO ALERT THE PUBLIC OF HIDDEN DANGERS IN THE HOME AND ADVISE THEM ON PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

THE THEME OF THE EXHIBITION IS "HOW TO KEEP YOUR KITCHEN SAFE".

A NEW BOOKLET "SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME" WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE VENUE.

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KWAI CHUNG ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BE AMENDED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO THE WORKS FOR IMPROVING KWAI CHUNG ROAD BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE AND TSUEN WAN ROAD.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS AND INCREASE THE TRAFFIC CAPACITY OF ROADS LEADING TO THE CONTAINER PORT AND THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME OF WORKS WERE ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND 23 LAST YEAR.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WORKS INCLUDE :

- * ADDITIONAL SLOPEWORKS NEAR LAI KING TERRACE;
- * RESUMPTION OF A PORTION OF A SLOPE AT CHING CHEUNG ROAD REQUIRED FOR SLOPE WORKS.

THE WORKS WILL START JULY THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1993.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME OF THE AMENDMENT MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES :

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 10TH-11TH FLOORS, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES;
- * KOWLOON WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON;
- * SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND, FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, 37-39 TONKIN STREET, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE AMENDED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BY JULY 11 THIS YEAR.

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FOOTBRIDGES TO BE BUILT IN TUEN MUN

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO BUILD A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR CHI LOK FA YEUN AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE PROPOSED WORKS ALSO INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF A PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE BRIDGE OVER PUI TO ROAD AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TUEN MUN NULLAH; AND A FOOTBRIDGE EXTENSION LINKING THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE WITH THE PODIUM OF THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT SIU HONG COURT.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE PUBLISHED IN A NOTICE IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY) GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A NOTICE, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, HAS BEEN POSTED ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BY JULY 11 THIS YEAR.

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AMENDMENTS TO LAM KAM ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON A SECTION OF LAM KAM ROAD BETWEEN LAM KAM ROAD INTERCHANGE AND KADOORIE FARM IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

NOTICES ON THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE ORIGINALLY GAZETTED ON OCTOBER 16 AND 23, 1987.

THE AMENDMENTS MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ADDITION OF A TWO-METRE VERGE ADJACENT TO THE CARRIAGEWAY, AN INCREASE OF CARRIAGEWAY WIDTH ON THE STEEP SECTION OF THE ROAD, CONSTRUCTION OF SLOPE EMBANKMENT AND ASSOCIATED RIVER TRAINING WORKS, AND OTHER MINOR CHANGES.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT WORKS, AN ADDITIONAL 5,220 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL AND ORCHARD LAND WILL BE RESUMED.

/ADDITIONAL ROADS

ADDITIONAL ROADS TO BE CLOSED INCLUDE :

- * A SECTION OF THE EXISTING ACCESS ROAD TO EDINBURGH YOUTH CAMP;
- * THE EXISTING BUS BAY BETWEEN CHUNG UK TSUEN AND TONG MIN TSUEN; AND
- * THE EXISTING BUS BAY AT THE EASTERN EXTREMITY OF KADOORIE FARM.

PERMANENT ALTERNATIVE ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED AND TEMPORARY ACCESS WILL BE MAINTAINED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

A NOTICE ON THE AMENDMENT WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLANS AND SCHEME MAY BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES :

- CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- TAI PO DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE AMENDMENT WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, BY JULY 11 THIS YEAR.

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PROPOSED TEMPORARY PIER ON CHEUNG CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BUILD A TEMPORARY PIER WITH LOADING AND UNLOADING FACILITY WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 330 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TUNG WAN BEACH, CHEUNG CHAU.

THE TEMPORARY PIER IS FOR DELIVERING BUILDING MATERIALS TO ENABLE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE AT NAM SHE TONG.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANS 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, SHA TAU KOK.

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

/THE EXTENT

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN THE GAZETTE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE WORKS MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE MAY 11, 1990.

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PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR BUILDING TUNNEL SEWER
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A TUNNEL SEWER IS TO BE BUILT FROM SAN WAI NEAR TIN SHUI WAI TO LUNG KWU SHEUNG TAN IN SOUTHWEST TUEN MUN.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PROJECT IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, TOGETHER WITH SITE FORMATION WORKS FOR THE INTENDED SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AND THE DRAINAGE RESERVE AT SAN WAI, WILL SOON BE INVITED FROM A LIST OF PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS.

THE CONTRACT WILL INVOLVE BUILDING NINE KILOMETRES OF THREE-METRE DIAMETER TUNNEL THROUGH ROCK, ASSOCIATED SPECIAL CHAMBERS AND ACCESS ADITS, TWO SHORT LENGTHS OF SEWER, SITE FORMATION WORKS FOR THE TREATMENT WORKS AND DRAINAGE RESERVE.

A NOTICE ON THE TENDER WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

DOCUMENTS ON APPLICATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION SHOULD BE FILED BEFORE MAY 19 WHILE THE COMPLETED DOCUMENTS, GIVING ALL REQUISITE INFORMATION, SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE CONSULTING ENGINEER BEFORE NOON ON MAY 29.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE EXTENDS TO HUNGARY
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THE POST OFFICE TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO HUNGARY WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 15.

"THIS WILL BRING THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDED IN THE SPEEDPOST NETWORK SERVED FROM HONG KONG TO 59," A SPOKESMAN FROM THE POST OFFICE SAID.

AS A FAST AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR FORWARDING DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE CAN DELIVER ITEMS ADDRESSED TO MAJOR CITIES AND TOWNS IN HUNGARY ON THE SECOND DAY AFTER POSTING THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

/"ITEMS ADDRESSED

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"ITEMS ADDRESSED TO VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE SECOND WORKING DAY AFTER POSTING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT BOTH "CONTRACT" AND "ON DEMAND" SERVICES WERE ALSO AVAILABLE.

"THE MAXIMUM WEIGHT IS 20 KILOGRAMS AND THE POSTAGE RATE FOR ITEMS WEIGHING NOT OVER 250 GRAMS, IS \$80; WHILE ITEMS WEIGHING NOT OVER 500 GRAMS, IS \$100. WITH EACH SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL 500 GRAMS COSTING \$30," HE SAID.

THE RATE FOR KILOPAK IS \$120 AND THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL COST FOR PICK-UP SERVICE BY THE POST OFFICE FROM THE CUSTOMERS' PREMISES.

CUSTOMERS REQUIRING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO HUNGARY AND THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IN GENERAL CAN CONTACT THE POSTAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES ON 5-8683868.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN LAM TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (MAY 14), TSUI LAM ROAD IN LAM TIN FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH PO LAM ROAD NORTH TO A POINT ABOUT 500 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO TSUI LAM BUS TERMINUS AND TSUI LAM ESTATE.

AT THE SAME TIME, NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE TSUI LAM BUS TERMINUS 24 HOURS DAILY.

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LANE CLOSURES ON TUEN MUN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, THREE TRAFFIC LANES OF THE TUEN MUN BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TUEN MUN ROAD BETWEEN SO KWUN WAT AND SAM SHING HUI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC IN TURN FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON FOUR SUNDAYS STARTING FROM MAY 14.

THE FAST AND MIDDLE LANES NEAR SO KWUN WAT BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 14; WHILE THE SLOW AND MIDDLE LANES WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 21.

THE FAST AND MIDDLE LANES NEAR SAM SHING HUI WILL BE CLOSED ON MAY 28; AND THE SLOW AND MIDDLE LANES WILL BE CLOSED ON JUNE 4.

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