



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1980

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NORMAL SCHOOL RESUMES IN
LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING ON MONDAY
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THE 15 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS AND THE EIGHT CHILD CARE CENTRES IN LAM TIN AND SAU MAU PING WHICH SUSPENDED CLASSES EARLIER THIS WEEK WILL RESUME NORMAL SCHOOL ON MONDAY (JUNE 9), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE DECISION, TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERVISORS OF THE SCHOOLS, FOLLOWS EXHAUSTIVE SURVEYS AND SCIENTIFIC TESTS DESIGNED TO DETECT GASEOUS POLLUTANTS, INCLUDING OFFENSIVE ODOURS, IN THE AMBIENT AIR.

+THE DETAILED WORK DONE BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS HAS SHOWN NO EVIDENCE OF HARMFUL CONCENTRATIONS OF GASES STILL IN THE AIR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ASSURED PARENTS THAT WITH THE RESUMPTION OF CLASSES, SPECIAL PRECAUTIONARY ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT'S TWO HEALTH CENTRES IN LAM TIN AND SAU MAU PING TO GIVE EARLY MEDICAL ADVICE AND ATTENTION TO SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO MIGHT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO BEEN BRIEFED ON GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR ATTENDING TO STUDENTS REPORTING SICK DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DETAILED SURVEYS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN A WIDE AREA AROUND THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS SINCE THE INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED EARLIER THIS WEEK.

SOME 150 OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS HAD COMBED THE AREA FOR POSSIBLE SOURCES OF OFFENSIVE ODOURS OR GAS LEAKS WHICH MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE SHORT TERM ILL EFFECTS OF NAUSEA AND VOMITTING BY THE CHILDREN.

+OFFICERS FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ENTERED 2 163 PREMISES AND MADE A DETAILED SURVEY OF 296, INCLUDING 157 RESTAURANTS AND FOOD SHOPS IN THE AREA,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY CONDUCTED TESTS TO DETECT GASEOUS POLLUTANTS.

RESULTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, SHOWED THAT TRACE QUANTITIES OF ETHYL MERCAPTAN AND BUTANE WERE PRESENT IN THE AIR OF CLASSROOMS AT SIU KEUNG PRIMARY SCHOOL AT LAM TIN.

+SIMILAR CHECKS AT THE REMAINING SCHOOLS FAILED TO REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF ANY NOXIOUS GASES,+ HE SAID.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT ETHYL MERCAPTAN IS KNOWN TO POSSESS A POWERFUL AND OFFENSIVE ODOUR EVEN AT VERY LOW CONCENTRATIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS QUALITY, A SMALL AMOUNT OF THIS CHEMICAL IS DELIBERATELY MIXED WITH LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) TO GIVE THE GAS A SMELL SO THAT SMALL LEAKS CAN EASILY BE DETECTED, THEREBY IMPROVING OVERALL SAFETY.

+HOWEVER, EARLY SUSPICION THAT THE SOURCE OF ODOUR AFFECTING THE SCHOOLS COULD HAVE COME FROM A NEARBY LPG HANDLING PLANT WERE SOON DISPELLED BECAUSE THE SENSITIVE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLED AT THE PLANT HAD NOT BEEN TRIGGERED AND THERE HAD BEEN NO DELIVERIES OF LPG OVER THE PERIOD IN QUESTION.

+SIMILARLY, EARLY FEARS THAT NOXIOUS GASES HAD BEEN GENERATED IN THE CONTROLLED REFUSE TIP AT MA YAU TONG WERE UNFOUNDED BECAUSE TESTS BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST SHOWED THAT VENTS FROM THE TIP DID NOT GIVE OFF HARMFUL CONCENTRATIONS OF GASES.

+THE CONTROLLED TIP IS SUPERVISED AND THE AUTHORITIES WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR VIGILANCE OVER ITS OPERATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE GROUND SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE SOURCES OF OFFENSIVE ODOURS DID NOT REVEAL UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AND DID NOT IDENTIFY A SINGLE SOURCE OF POLLUTANT WHICH COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRESENT INCIDENTS.

+IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT A HIGHLY LOCALISED DISCHARGE OF GAS, PROBABLY LPG, HAD AFFECTED SIU KEUNG SCHOOL.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, AS INFORMATION BECAME AVAILABLE, OTHER SCHOOLS WERE ALERTED TO A POTENTIAL GAS LEAK BUT NO EVIDENCE WAS FOUND OF HARMFUL GASES BEING PRESENT AT ANY OF THEM,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +FROM MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED HOSPITAL IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE SYMPTOMS SOON DISAPPEARED AND THE CHILDREN RECOVERED COMPLETELY WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD.+

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH OFFENDERS ON PROBATION * * * * *

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH OFFENDERS PUT ON PROBATION AND TO HELP REFORM THEM.

UNDER A VOLUNTEER SCHEME INTRODUCED IN 1976 AS A COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT, VOLUNTEERS SPEND THEIR FREE TIME WITH PROBATIONERS ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PROBATION OFFICERS.

MR PETER LIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHEME'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.

HE SAID

HE SAID ANY ONE AGED 21 YEARS AND ABOVE, WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS, A MATURE AND SOCIABLE PERSONALITY AND A FLAIR TO HELP OTHERS, COULD APPLY.

+PROFESSION IS NOT ESSENTIAL NOR IS KNOWLEDGE IN SOCIAL WORK REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH PEOPLE WITH PARTICULAR TRADE SKILLS ARE MOST WELCOME,+ HE SAID.

PEOPLE CAN APPLY OR MAKE ENQUIRIES AT LOONG SAN BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 140-142 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL (TEL NO 5-445098), OR AT ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROBATION OFFICES IN THE DISTRICTS, HE SAID.

MR LIN SAID VOLUNTEERS HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING RE-INTEGRATE PROBATIONERS INTO THE COMMUNITY AND IN WIDENING THEIR SOCIAL CONTACTS.

WHILE PROBATION OFFICERS ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GUIDING PROBATIONERS IN BEHAVIOURAL DEVELOPMENT, VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP BY PROVIDING FRIENDSHIP OR PARTICULAR SERVICES, HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE PROFESSIONALS MAY PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR OWN FIELD OF SPECIALTY, OR THEY CAN BE HOUSEWIVES WHO CAN TEACH IN MANAGING HOUSEHOLD CHORES.

OTHERS MAY ACT AS TUTORS IN SCHOOL WORK OR HELP PROBATIONERS TO DEVELOP WHOLESOME INTERESTS AND HOBBIES, HE ADDED.

MR LIN SAID THAT VOLUNTEERS, ON JOINING THE SCHEME, WOULD BE BRIEFED ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PROBATION SERVICE.

ARRANGEMENTS WILL THEN BE MADE TO SUITABLY MATCH THEM WITH A PROBATIONER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST AND ABILITY, HE SAID.

+FROM TIME TO TIME, OUR COMMITTEE ALSO ORGANISES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR SERVING VOLUNTEERS, PROBATIONERS AND PROBATION OFFICERS,+ HE SAID.

+WE WILL HOLD SUCH A FUNCTION TOMORROW AT THE WU KAI SHA YOUTH CAMP IN SHA TIN,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIN SAID THAT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME, 49 VOLUNTEERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR ASSIGNMENTS WHICH NORMALLY LAST SIX MONTHS.

THEY INCLUDED CIVIL SERVANTS, MANAGERS, SECRETARIES, CLERKS, DESIGNERS, TEACHERS AND STORE PROPRIETORS, HE SAID.

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DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL A STATUTORY HOLIDAY
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THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17, IS ONE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$3 500 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY.

THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAD 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 VARIED 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 THE 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 STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

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

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS COULD 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= KWUN TONG 3-898520= TSUEN WAN 12-422096= TUEN MUN 12-818443 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT 60.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CHILDREN'S AWARD SCHEME
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APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVITED FROM SHA TIN CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CHILDREN'S AWARD SCHEME FROM OCTOBER.

THE FIRST PHASE WAS HELD LAST YEAR AND WAS CONSIDERED A GREAT SUCCESS.

THE SCHEME, OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 12, IS ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE.

ON JOINING THE SCHEME, CHILDREN ATTEND WEEKLY GROUP SESSIONS OVER A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

A CONTINUOUS AND PROGRESSIVE CULTURAL AND SPORTS PROGRAMME IS ARRANGED TO HELP THEM DEVELOP HEALTHY PERSONALITIES WHICH IN TURN BENEFITS SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SHA TIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, MR TANG KWOK-CHO, SAID THAT THROUGH GROUP SESSIONS THE CHILDREN LEARN TO RESPECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS. THEY ALSO LEARN HOW TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

EACH CHILD'S PERFORMANCE IS ASSESSED AND THOSE WHO MEET ALL THE SET REQUIREMENTS ARE PRESENTED WITH AWARDS AT THE END OF THE PROGRAMME.

A TOTAL OF 100 CHILDREN JOINED THE SCHEME LAST YEAR AND 75 WERE AWARDED BRONZE STARS.

MR TANG SAID MOST OF LAST YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS WERE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE SCHEME THIS YEAR AND IF THEY DID WELL AGAIN THEY WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH SILVER STAR AWARDS. THOSE SUCCESSFUL COULD JOIN THE THIRD PHASE NEXT YEAR AND TRY TO OBTAIN GOLD STAR AWARDS.

HE SAID THE SCHEME HAD PROVED POPULAR WITH PARENTS AND WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD.

AT A RECENT MEETING, THE BOARD ALLOCATED \$8 000 TO THE CENTRE TO HELP COVER RUNNING COSTS. LAST YEAR \$6 000 WAS ALLOCATED.

A WORKING GROUP WHICH OPERATES THE SCHEME INCLUDES A SUPERVISOR, TWO PART-TIME WORKERS AND 30 VOLUNTEERS.

THEY GUIDE PARTICIPANTS AND LIAISE WITH PARENTS THROUGH REGULAR HOME VISITS TO STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF PARENTS IN THEIR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE'S OFFICE IN LEK YUEN ESTATE.

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PART-TIME LECTURERS IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WANTED
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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING INVITED FOR PART-TIME LECTURING POSTS IN THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 900 PART-TIME LECTURERS TEACHING IN OVER 600 PART-TIME CLASSES OF THE INSTITUTES WITH AN ENROLMENT OF OVER 20 000 STUDENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

+MOST OF THESE LECTURERS ARE IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION, AND MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN TEACHING IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS PART-TIME LECTURERS FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS,+ HE SAID.

THE CLASSES CONDUCTED ARE EVENING, PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE AND SHORT COURSES.

+APART FROM BEING CONDUCTED IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PREMISES, EVENING CLASSES ARE ALSO ACCOMMODATED IN A NUMBER OF OUTLYING CENTRES IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TEACHING VACANCIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE 12 DISCIPLINES OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, INCLUDING HOTEL-KEEPING AND TOURISM, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, GENERAL STUDIES, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, PRINTING, TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, MARINE AND FABRICATION, AND DESIGN.

THE COURSES OFFERED ARE MAINLY AT CRAFT (POST FORM III) AND TECHNICIAN (POST FORM V) LEVELS.

+THEY ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FURTHER STUDIES TO PEOPLE WORKING IN THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICES FIELDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE PART-TIME LECTURING POSTS VARY WITH THE LEVEL OF THE COURSES AND THE SUBJECTS.

FULL DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE EITHER IN PERSON OR IN WRITING FROM THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

RATES OF PAYMENT RANGE FROM \$28 TO \$50 PER HOUR AT PRESENT, BUT THESE ARE UNDER REVIEW, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE RESPECTIVE INSTITUTES APPLIED TO ON JUNE 28.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN ADMIRALTY
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A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN ADMIRALTY WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 9).

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF QUEENSWAY BETWEEN COTTON TREE DRIVE AND ARSENAL STREET=
- * THE WESTBOUND GROUND-LEVEL SECTION OF HARCOURT ROAD AND ITS PARALLEL SLIP ROAD BETWEEN ARSENAL STREET AND COTTON TREE DRIVE EXCEPT THE LAY-BY AREA FRONTING THE ADMIRALTY CENTRE=
- * THE SOUTHBOUND SECTION OF COTTON TREE DRIVE BETWEEN HARCOURT ROAD AND THE UP-RAMP TO THE COTTON TREE DRIVE FLYOVER=
- * THE SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND SLIP ROAD EAST OF THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION (WEST) BUS TERMINUS BETWEEN QUEENSWAY AND HARCOURT ROAD=
- * THE SECTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND ACCESS ROAD TO THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION AREA LYING TO THE EAST OF ADMIRALTY CENTRE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH HARCOURT ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH THE WESTBOUND SLIP ROAD NORTH OF THE MTR STATION (EAST) BUS TERMINUS.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED PUBLIC OMNIBUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE CLEARWAYS.

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CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTOR ON LEAVE
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MR BRIAN D. KEEP, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, WILL BE AWAY FROM HONG KONG ON LEAVE FROM MONDAY, JUNE 9, TO JULY 28.

DURING HIS ABSENCE, MR J.T. THORPE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WILL ACT AS DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MR NORMAN LATHAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WILL ACT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

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PLAN TO BUILD LIGHT BEACON
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BUILD A LIGHT BEACON OFF PEARL ISLAND, TUEN MUN, TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA.

THE AREA OF SEABED INVOLVED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ALL PERSONS HAVING OBJECTIONS OR CLAIMS OF PRIVATE RIGHT SHOULD SUBMIT THEM IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION.

THE NOTICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA OF SEABED INVOLVED CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE PORT WORKS DIVISION, FIRST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG OR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, OR THE DISTRICT OFFICE (TUEN MUN), TUEN MUN BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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TENDER FOR FLOWER POTS
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TENDERS WERE INVITED FOR THE PROVISION OF 180 CONCRETE FLOWER POTS FOR KOWLOON.

THE FLOWER POTS WILL BE STRATEGICALLY PLACED THROUGHOUT KOWLOON TO BEAUTIFY THE AREA.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) WORK WOULD COMMENCE IN JULY AND TAKE ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON JUNE 12 (THURSDAY) FROM 8.30 AM TO 4.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF PRACTICE.

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