



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BIGGER THAN EXPECTED SURPLUS FOR HK, FS SAYS
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HONG KONG WILL END THE FINANCIAL YEAR WITH A SURPLUS +WELL IN EXCESS OF THE BUDGETED FIGURE OF \$7 800 MILLION,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION AT A DINNER TONIGHT.

THE HIGHER SURPLUS WOULD RESULT DESPITE, INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT, FROM REVENUE COLLECTIONS WHICH, SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS, MAINLY BECAUSE OF HIGHER THAN EXPECTED INTEREST TAX, STAMP DUTIES AND LAND SALES.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT TOO WOULD BE GREATER THAN FORECAST, ATTAINING A FIGURE OF TEN PER CENT GROWTH IN REAL TERMS.

+THIS IS, OF COURSE, A VERY HIGH FIGURE TO ACHIEVE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORLDWIDE RECESSION -- PARTICULARLY FOR AN EXPORT-ORIENTED ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF GDP GROWTH, HONG KONG WAS TO BE ENVIED FOR THE +LITTLE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT, CONSIDERABLY INCREASED EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, AND, RESULTING FROM RECENT TIGHTER IMMIGRATION CONTROL, RENEWED GROWTH IN PER CAPITA GDP,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE AVERAGE SHARE OF INCOME PER HEAD OF THE POPULATION WOULD INCREASE, REAL WAGES WOULD NOT GO UP SO FAST BECAUSE THE LABOUR FORCE WAS INCREASING SHARPLY -- BY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT A YEAR.

BUT REAL WAGES WOULD INCREASE OVERALL, THOUGH MORE IN SOME INDUSTRIES THAN IN OTHERS, HE SAID.

+THUS I HOPE THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE AVERAGE MAN AND WOMAN IN HONG KONG CAN BE IMPROVED, THOUGH THIS CAN ONLY COME FROM GENERAL ECONOMIC SUCCESS -- ITSELF DEPENDENT ON PRUDENT GOVERNMENT AND THE WORK AND ENTERPRISE OF OUR PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT THE ECONOMY WAS CONTINUING TO GROW AT A RAPID RATE -- BUT WITH FASTER THAN DESIRABLE INCREASES IN PRICES -- RAISED FROM 12 PER CENT TO 14 PER CENT -- PARTICULARLY THOSE PRICES THAT AFFECT CONSUMERS, PLUS A WIDENING TRADE DEFICIT.

THIS SITUATION WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST THE REST OF THE YEAR, BARRING EVENTS OUTSIDE HONG KONG'S CONTROL -- AND THERE WAS NO WAY HONG KONG COULD INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF INTEREST RATES IN THE UNITED STATES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY WAS BEING LED MORE BY DOMESTIC DEMAND THAN BY EXPORTS, WHICH IS A SITUATION THAT COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED INDEFINITELY. THE WIDENING TRADE DEFICIT AND THE DIFFERENTIAL IN REAL INTEREST RATES IN FAVOUR OF THE US DOLLAR HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A FALL IN THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AND MORE MARKEDLY IN A FALL IN ITS EXCHANGE VALUE AGAINST THE US DOLLAR.

+THIS INDICATES THAT AN ADJUSTMENT IN HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS IS UNDERWAY,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THOUGH HONG KONG EXPORTS WERE MORE COMPETITIVE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY TERMS, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS BECAME MORE EXPENSIVE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR TERMS.

FOR MANUFACTURERS, THIS ALSO MEANT THAT HIGHER IMPORT PRICES IN TERMS OF HONG KONG DOLLARS TENDED TO OFFSET SOME OF THE GAINS IN TERMS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY PRICES OF THEIR EXPORTS.

+BUT AS LONG AS THEIR EXPORTS HAVE A REASONABLE HONG KONG VALUE ADDED CONTENT, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SHOULD IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THEIR EXPORTS, AT LEAST VIS-A-VIS THE EQUIVALENT TERMS PRODUCED BY OTHER MANUFACTURERS IN THEIR EXPORT MARKETS.

+THE MAIN EXCEPTION THAT COULD OCCUR WOULD BE IF THE DEPRECIATION IN TERMS OF THE CURRENCIES OF THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS IMPORT WAS GREATER THAN THAT IN TERMS OF THE CURRENCIES OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY EXPORT.

+FORTUNATELY THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE RECENT PATTERN,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO SAID : +THE INCREASE IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR PRICE OF IMPORTS IS AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MINIMISE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS IMPORT INFLATION INDUCES INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC INPUTS. IF THE INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES IS MATCHED WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME BY INCREASES IN DOMESTIC PRICES, MOST OF THE BENEFITS OF THE DEPRECIATION WILL BE LOST.

+THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS OCCURS DEPENDS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH EITHER THE SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES ARE OUT OF BALANCE OR THE GROWTH IN THE MONEY SUPPLY ACCOMMODATES THE EXTRA SPENDING IN MONEY TERMS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF SPENDING IN REAL TERMS, AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES.

+BOTH OF THESE FACTORS IMPLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO WHAT IT CAN TO PREVENT THE BENEFITS OF A DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR BEING DISSIPATED. ALTHOUGH I ACCEPT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING ECONOMIC STABILITY THE SCOPE FOR BENEFICIAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IS NEVERTHELESS LIMITED.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT REVISED ESTIMATE ON CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT, AS SEEN AFTER FIVE MONTHS PERFORMANCE, WAS NEARLY \$31 000 MILLION, AND THIS WOULD BRING THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO ABOUT 24 PER CENT OF GDP. ALTHOUGH A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$28 300 MILLION AND THE REVISED ESTIMATE WAS DUE TO PRICE INCREASES NOT ALLOWED FOR IN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATES, THIS DID MEAN THAT THE PACE AT WHICH THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS INCREASING ITS SHARE OF DEMAND ON THE RESOURCES OF THE ECONOMY IS FASTER THAN EXPECTED.

+THE RATE OF GROWTH OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE NEEDS TO BE MONITORED STRICTLY IF WE ARE NOT TO RUN THE RISK OF FALLING OUT OF STEP TO AN UNACCEPTABLE EXTENT WITH THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE THEN STATED THAT CRITICISMS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SHOULD BE COUPLED WITH MENTION OF SPECIFIC SECTORS OF EXPENDITURE WHICH SHOULD BE CUT.

+GENERALISATIONS WILL NOT DO. HONG KONG CONSISTS OF PEOPLE, NOT STATISTICAL FIGURES, AND GOVERNMENT CANNOT IGNORE POLITICAL FACTORS. I TRY TO REMIND MYSELF EVERY DAY THAT WHAT MAKES SENSE TO ME MAY WELL NOT DO SO TO A SIGNIFICANT SECTOR OF THE POPULATION. CRITICS PLEASE BEAR IN MIND,+ HE SAID.

DISCUSSING THE MONEY SUPPLY HE SAID THE RAPID INCREASE IN CREDIT CREATION IN HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS INDICATED THAT THE WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF LENDERS WAS MATCHED BY CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF BORROWERS.

+MOREOVER, THE SUSTAINED HIGH GROWTH RATE OF THE GDP AND THE SUSTAINED INCREASE IN PRICES, PARTICULARLY OF THOSE ITEMS MOST COMMONLY PURCHASED WITH THE HELP OF CREDIT, SUCH AS PROPERTY, HAVE SHOWN THAT THIS CONFIDENCE HAS, AT ANY RATE SO FAR, BEEN WELL FOUNDED. WHETHER IT WILL CONTINUE IS A MATTER FOR SPECULATION, AND I USE THE WORD DESIGNEDLY,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE REFERRED TO DEMANDS FOR MORE CONTROL OF CREDIT CREATION AND SAID AT PRESENT THERE WAS ONLY ONE MONETARY INSTRUMENT WHICH COULD BE USED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG TO AFFECT ECONOMIC EVENTS.

+THIS IS THE LEVEL OF INTEREST RATES, WHICH HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVELY RAISED UNTIL IT IS NOW AT AN UNPRECEDENTEDLY HIGH LEVEL.

+UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH PRESENT LENDING RATES ARE HIGH IN REAL TERMS THEY ARE NOT SO HIGH, OR AT LEAST HAVE NOT BEEN SO HIGH UNTIL RECENTLY, IN RELATION TO THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL APPRECIATION THAT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE IN FOR EXAMPLE THE PROPERTY MARKET. THIS HAS MEANT THAT ONE MAJOR USER OF CREDIT HAS NOT BEEN DETERRED BY HIGH INTEREST RATES FROM BORROWING AT A TIME WHEN OTHER CREDIT USERS, SUCH AS MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS, ARE FINDING THAT HIGH INTEREST RATES THREATEN THE VIABILITY OF THEIR BUSINESSES.

+IT IS BECAUSE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF INTEREST RATES IS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVING PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR IMPORTANT SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY AND THEIR LABOUR FORCE THAT I AM LOATHE TO SEE FURTHER INCREASES, EVEN THOUGH IT MUST BE ACCEPTED THAT THE SITUATION IN TERMS SIMPLY OF INFLATION MIGHT DEMAND THEM. THE BALANCE IS VERY FINE.

+THE WISH TO SEE THE RATE OF CREDIT CREATION RESTRAINED WITHOUT FURTHER INCREASES IN INTEREST RATES OR IN TAXATION, WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY AGAINST OUR BUDGETARY SURPLUSES, HAS LED TO CALLS FOR OTHER METHODS OF RESTRAINT TO BE ADOPTED. I WISH THAT THIS COURSE WAS AS SIMPLE AS SOME OF GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS IMPLY.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE SURE THAT ANY CASE FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IS BASED ON AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF THE RELEVANT DATA.

+GIVEN THAT THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR GREAT CAUTION, IF WE CAN CONTRIVE A SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING CREDIT CREATION IN HONG KONG WHICH DOES NOT HAVE UNDESIRABLE AND UNAVOIDABLE SIDE-EFFECTS, WE WILL CONSIDER ITS INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. BUT I MUST STRONGLY EMPHASISE THREE CAVEATS.

+FIRSTLY, WE HAVE TO BE CERTAIN THAT WE ARE CORRECTLY INTERPRETING TOTALLY RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL DATA.

+SECONDLY, WE HAVE TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM ADOPTING SUCH A SYSTEM WILL BE WORTHWHILE IN THE LIGHT OF ANY LONG-TERM DAMAGE WHICH MIGHT BE DONE TO THE MARKETS' VIEW OF HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE BASED ON STABLE POLICIES, AND NOT PRONE TO SUDDEN CHANGES OF COURSE WHETHER IN FISCAL OR MONETARY OR ECONOMIC MATTERS.

+THIRDLY, I WOULD MUCH PREFER TO SEE SELF CONTROL AND A DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY EXERCISED BY THE WHOLE FINANCIAL SECTOR WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.+

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE MAIN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE THE NEED TO ABATE INFLATION, THE NEED TO PROPERLY CONTROL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN THE FACT OF CLEAR SOCIAL NEED AND CONSIDERABLE SURPLUSES AND RESERVES, AND THIRDLY THAT PROTECTIONISM WAS NOT LIKELY TO DECREASE IN THE MAJOR MARKETS.

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RABIES UNDER CONTROL

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THE CURRENT OUTBREAK OF RABIES HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE INFECTED AREA.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), THE SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR THOMAS YIP SAID WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT THE INFECTED AREA WILL BE CONFINED TO THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA ONLY. UP TO NOW THE INFECTED AREA COVERS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND INCLUDES THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT IS CONTAINED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

MR YIP SAID THE INFECTED AREA WAS DESIGNATED TO RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF DOGS TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE AFTER THE FIRST CASE OF RABIES WAS CONFIRMED ON OCTOBER 4 LAST YEAR.

+IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE OUTBREAK, THE DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCES WERE MOBILISED TO ROUND UP AND ELIMINATE STRAY DOGS, AND TO INOCULATE OTHERS.+

CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES INCLUDING STAFF AND VEHICLES WERE RE-DEPLOYED FROM THEIR ON-GOING WORK FOR THE CONTROL OF RABIES.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE OPERATION, MORE THAN 300 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND TEMPORARY WORKERS WERE ENGAGED IN RABIES CONTROL WORK. IN ADDITION, MANY OFFICERS WERE REQUIRED TO WORK OVERTIME.

OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT ALSO ASSISTED IN SUCH WORK AS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF DOG CARCASSES.

THE FEE OF \$15 PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF LICENSING FOR DOGS WAS WAIVED SO AS TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO INOCULATE AND LICENSE THEIR DOGS.

ALL GOVERNMENT KENNELS STAYED OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION. MOBILE TEAMS AND STATIC CENTRES ALSO OPERATED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK TO ASSIST IN THE OPERATION.

ROAD BLOCKS WERE SET UP ON THE FRINGES OF THE INFECTED AREA TO CHECK DOG MOVEMENTS SO THAT POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS ANIMALS WERE KEPT AWAY FROM THE NON-INFECTED AREA. THEY WERE MANNED BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND THE POLICE.

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HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED INSIDE THE INFECTED AREA. DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF SUCH OPERATIONS THE AIM WAS TO REMOVE ALL UNINOCULATED ANIMALS, BUT AS THE WORK OF CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE PROGRESSED EFFECTIVELY, SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED TO INOCULATE YOUNG DOGS WHICH WERE BORN AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF RABIES WAS REPORTED AND TO REMOVE UNWANTED ANIMALS.

SINCE OCTOBER LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 117 043 DOGS HAVE BEEN INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES AND 81 477 DESTROYED.

MR YIP STRESSED THAT EFFORTS TO CHECK THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE WOULD NOT BE RELAXED.

+ORGANISED OPERATIONS TO CATCH ALL UNINOCULATED DOGS ARE STILL BEING CARRIED OUT ON A TERRITORY-WIDE BASIS.+

+IT IS CONSIDERED THAT MOST DOGS IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES. THE DOG POPULATION IS NOW LARGELY IMMUNE AND ANY POSSIBLE FUTURE OUTBREAK COULD BE CONTAINED,+ MR YIP SAID.

WHILE THE EXISTING FOUR CHECKPOINTS AT LAM TEI, TAI PO, TAI MO SHAN AND TAI MEI TUK IN THE INFECTED AREA WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY FROM TODAY, DOG MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED AT THE ENTRY POINTS TO THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA.

NO DOGS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO OR OUT OF THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT. SPECIAL DOG MOVEMENT AUTHORISATION PERMITS MAY BE OBTAINED FOR SPECIAL CASES.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR BREACHING THE REGULATION IS \$2 000.

MR YIP EMPHASISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST RABIES, TO CATCH STRAY DOGS IN HONG KONG AND TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DISEASE RE-APPEARING.

HE URGED ALL DOG OWNERS TO EXERCISE PROPER CONTROL OVER THEIR PETS AND KEEP THEM ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES WHEN OUT OF DOORS.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM STRAY DOGS AND REPORT THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

+WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, AND WE HOPE EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO CO-OPERATE,+ MR YIP SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER MR THOMAS YIP WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS BY THE MEDIA BETWEEN 2 AND 3 PM TODAY (FRIDAY). MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO PROCEED TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

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SIR Y.K. KAN REAPPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF TDC
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SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN HAS BEEN RE-APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR TWO YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

SIR Y.K. SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TDC FROM 1970 TO 1975 AND WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN AGAIN IN 1979 FOR TWO YEARS.

HE HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, AND SERVED ON THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND URBAN COUNCILS.

IN 1979, HE WAS MADE A KNIGHT GRAND CROSS (GBE), THE HIGHEST OF THE FIVE CLASSES IN THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. THE ONLY OTHER HOLDER OF THE GBE IN HONG KONG IS HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, AND SIR Y.K. IS THE FIRST HONG KONG RESIDENT TO RECEIVE THE AWARD.

THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1966 AS A STATUTORY BODY TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

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REMINDER ON OLD \$5-COIN
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THE TEN-SIDED FIVE DOLLAR COIN WILL CEASE TO BE LEGAL TENDER IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FROM OCTOBER 8 THERE WILL BE NO LEGAL OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT THE COIN IN SATISFACTION OF DEBTS.

A PROCLAMATION TO DEMONETISE THE OLD COIN WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JULY 3.

THESE COINS CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR THE NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COINS OR FOR THE EQUIVALENT IN OTHER COINS OR NOTES AT ANY BANK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE NEW, ROUND FIVE-DOLLAR COIN WAS INTRODUCED ON MAY 11, AND SINCE THEN THE OLD COINS, LEGAL TENDER SINCE AUGUST 16, 1976 HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE 52 MILLION OLD COINS THAT HAD BEEN IN CIRCULATION WERE WITHDRAWN BY SEPTEMBER 10, 1981, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ABOUT 14 MILLION NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COINS WERE ALREADY IN CIRCULATION AND THERE WAS AMPLE STOCK FOR REPLACING REMAINING OLD COINS WHICH HAD YET TO BE WITHDRAWN.

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MTR SHARP STREET PLAN DEPOSITED

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THE RAILWAY AREA PLAN FOR PART OF THE ISLAND LINE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AT SHARP STREET EAST HAS BEEN DEPOSITED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE LAND OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE.

THE PLAN SHOWS THE AREAS IN WHICH LAND MAY BE RESUMED OR EASEMENTS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF BUILDING AND RUNNING THE RAILWAY. LAND AND BUILDINGS WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, OWNERS OF LAND AND PROPERTIES ACTUALLY AFFECTED BY THE RAILWAY MAY CLAIM COMPENSATION.

IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS MAY ENTER ANY LAND OR BUILDING SITUATED WHOLLY OR PARTLY WITHIN THE RAILWAY AREA OR WHOLLY OR PARTLY WITHIN 70 METRES THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY.

COPIES OF THE PLAN MAY BE INSPECTED FREE OF CHARGE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG, AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICES, MURRAY BUILDING (19TH FLOOR), GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND AT ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

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A RECORD SET IN AUGUST WEATHER

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AUGUST WAS MUCH DRIER AND HOTTER THAN USUAL, AND ONE RECORD WAS SET IN THAT THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.1 DEGREES WAS THE HIGHEST EVER, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

TOTAL RAINFALL CAME TO 101.2 MM, THE FOURTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR AUGUST WHILE THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.1 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST, ONLY 0.1 DEGREE LOWER THAN THAT OF AUGUST, 1962.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL FROM JUNE TO AUGUST WAS ONLY 524.8 MM, THE SECOND DRIEST ON RECORD FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THE DRIEST WAS IN 1906 WITH 426.9 MM OF RAINFALL.

FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL STOOD AT 1 090.8 MM, 37 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE 237.9 HOURS OF SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH WAS 31.9 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL.

THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE CLOUDY AND THERE WERE SOME SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ON AUGUST 2.

/THE SHOWERS

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THE SHOWERS BECAME HEAVY ON AUGUST 3 AND A MINOR LANDSLIP OCCURRED AT SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

IN LAM TIN, ON AUGUST 4, A SIX-TONNE BOULDER CRASHED INTO A HILLSIDE SQUATTER HUT.

THE WEATHER REMAINED SUNNY AND VERY HOT FROM THAT DAY TO AUGUST 8, WHILE TROPICAL STORM ROY DEVELOPED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

WINDS FRESHENED FROM THE EAST-SOUTHEAST ON AUGUST 8 AND THEN GRADUALLY MODERATED AS ROY WEAKENED INTO AN AREA OF LOW PRESSURE NEAR DONGSHA DAO.

IT WAS SUNNY AND HOT FROM AUGUST 9 TO 15, THOUGH THERE WERE DAILY SHOWERS BETWEEN AUGUST 9 AND 12, AS THE REMNANTS OF TROPICAL STORM ROY MOVED WESTWARDS ACROSS THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND DISSIPATED OVER NORTH VIETNAM.

SOME THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED ON AUGUST 16 BUT IT WAS MAINLY FINE FROM AUGUST 17 TO 20.

THERE WERE A FEW SHOWERS DURING THE PERIOD, AS A TROPICAL DEPRESSION NEAR XISHA DAO CROSSED HAINAN AND INTENSIFIED INTO A TROPICAL STORM NAMED WARREN OVER THE GULF OF TONKIN.

THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON WAS ACTIVE OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA BETWEEN AUGUST 21 AND 26 AND THE WEATHER CONTINUED TO BE SUNNY AND HOT APART FROM ISOLATED SHOWERS ON AUGUST 23 AND 24.

TEMPERATURES ROSE TO 33.3 DEGREES ON BOTH AUGUST 21 AND 26, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE CROSSED HONG KONG AND BROUGHT THUNDERSTORMS ON AUGUST 27 AND THE NEXT MORNING, BUT IT BECAME SUNNY DURING THE DAY.

AFTER SOME SHOWERS ON AUGUST 29 AND 30, THUNDERSTORMS RECURRED ON THE NEXT DAY AS THE TROUGH MOVED BACK AGAIN.

THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH WAS 24.6 DEGREES, RECORDED DURING A THUNDERSTORM ON AUGUST 31.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER DURING THE MONTH, BUT THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON SIX DAYS.

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NEW CLINIC FOR LAMMA ISLAND
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MEDICAL FACILITIES ON LAMMA ISLAND WILL BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED WITH THE OPENING OF A CLINIC AT SOK KWU WAN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE DOCTOR FROM THE CHEE HONG FLOATING CLINIC TO SEE PATIENTS AT THE NEW CLINIC ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY MORNINGS.

+THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL BENEFIT BOTH THE MEDICAL OFFICER AND PATIENTS, AS THE CLINIC PROVIDES MORE SPACE THAN THE VESSEL CHEE HONG,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CLINIC IS SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SOK KWU WAN RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE, WHICH WILL BE MANNED BY A REGISTERED NURSE DURING WEEKDAYS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTMENT HAS POSTED A DOCTOR AT THE NORTH LAMMA CLINIC IN YUNG SHUE WAN.

THERE WILL THUS BE A DOCTOR AND A NURSE AT NORTH LAMMA CLINIC THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE STATIC CLINIC AT SOK KWU WAN BY MR CHAN PAK-YIP, CHAIRMAN OF LAMMA ISLAND SOUTH RURAL COMMITTEE- DR. C.Y. SAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEW TERRITORIES REGION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT- AND MR RICKY FUNG, DISTRICT OFFICER, ISLANDS, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 3 PM. THE MARINE LAUNCH +CLEMENTI+ WILL LEAVE THE MARINE PIER, NEXT TO THE OUTLYING ISLANDS PIER, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, AT 2 PM SHARP.

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FIRST BLOCK-RELEASE INSTRUCTORS COURSE

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THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WILL BE RUNNING ITS FIRST BLOCK-RELEASE COURSE IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR IN OCTOBER FOR TRADE INSTRUCTORS AND WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS.

+THE COURSE OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INSTRUCTORS AND SUPERVISORS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR DAY TO DAY DUTIES,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION BASED ON THE STUDY OF EDUCATION THEORY AND EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY, HE SAID.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASSES FOR TWO WEEKS FULL-TIME. TUTORS WILL VISIT STUDENTS AT THEIR OWN PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT TO GIVE FURTHER ADVICE WHEN THE COURSE IS COMPLETED.

APPLICATIONS TO THE COURSE ARE NOW OPEN TO WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS WHO ARE FULLY SKILLED IN THEIR TRADE, AND EXPERIENCED WORKERS WHO WILL SOON TAKE UP INSTRUCTION DUTIES.

THE FEE IS \$100, AND THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE CANTONESE BUT SOME ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY WILL BE USED.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE AT 373 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE COLLEGE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26.

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GOVT WATER ENGINEER RETIRES

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A GOVERNMENT WATER ENGINEER (DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING) MR LAU TO-HIN IS RETIRING AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRESENTED MR LAU WITH A GIFT FROM COLLEAGUES IN THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WORKS DEPARTMENTS.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT MR LAU HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY MAJOR ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S WATER SUPPLY.

AS HEAD OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING BRANCH, MR LAU HAD BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO RECEIVE INCREASED QUANTITIES OF WATER FROM CHINA.

+THE TIME SCALE IN WHICH THE FACILITIES HAVE TO BE PROVIDED IS LIMITED, WITH LITTLE PROVISION FOR DELAY AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS AND SUSTAINED MOMENTUM HAS BEEN MET PRIMARILY THROUGH HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS AND DETERMINATION,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

/MR LAU'S

MR LAU'S ASSOCIATION WITH WATER FROM CHINA HAD NOT BEEN LIMITED TO ITS RECEPTION IN HONG KONG. HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TEAMS WHICH VISITED GUANGZHOU IN 1978, 1979 AND 1980 TO DISCUSS FURTHER SUPPLIES.

MR LAU HAD RECEIVED THREE COMMENDATIONS FOR HIS WORK: ONE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION DURING THE WATER EMERGENCY IN 1963/64- ANOTHER FOR HIS INITIATIVE AND SPEED IN RESTORING THE ISLAND WATER SUPPLY AFTER DISASTROUS RAINSTORMS IN JUNE 1966- AND ANOTHER ALSO FOR HIS PERFORMANCE DURING THE WATER EMERGENCY IN 1977.

MR LAU JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1956 AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER IN THE PORT WORKS OFFICE AND WAS CONFIRMED TO THE PRESENT POST IN 1976. HE WAS IN OVERALL CONTROL OF THE ENGINEERING TEAM FOR MUCH OF THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME, BEING THE ENGINEER FOR THE WESTERN TUNNEL AND SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL.

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN
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A SERIES OF EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN BESIDES THE GRAND MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS AT SHA TIN RACECOURSE.

ABOUT 2 000 YUEN LONG RESIDENTS WILL GATHER AT THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY EVENING FOR A TWO-HOUR VARIETY PROGRAMME, INCLUDING SINGING, DANCES AND OPERAS, ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, THE OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS AND OTHER LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

ALSO, 15 GAMES STALLS WILL BE SITED AT THE DISTRICT MINI SOCCER PITCH.

AT TUEN MUN ON SUNDAY RESIDENTS OF TAI HING WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND A VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD NEAR THE ESTATE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNIT STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

IT IS ORGANISED BY TAI HING COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL, TUEN MUN CARITAS SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SHOW WILL START WITH LION DANCES AND A LANTERN PARADE FOLLOWED BY A VARIED PROGRAMME OF ENTERTAINMENT.

TUEN MUN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SARAH WU, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING AND PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF LANTERN DESIGN AND RIDDLE COMPETITIONS.

A SIMILAR SHOW, ALSO SPONSORED BY TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, WILL BE HELD AT SAN FAT ESTATE ON SEPTEMBER 26.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1981

- 13 -

HOLIDAY FOR WINNERS OF SAFETY QUIZ PROGRAMME
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FIVE WORKERS OF EITHER THE MANUFACTURING OR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES WILL FLY TO LONDON IN NOVEMBER BY BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS FOR AN EIGHT-DAY, ALL-EXPENSES PAID HOLIDAY.

THIS TRIP IS THE GRAND PRIZE IN THE RTHK PRODUCED TELEMATCH/ QUIZ TV PROGRAMME ENTITLED '+SAFETY AT WORK+', JOINTLY ORGANISED BY RTHK, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, AND CO-SPONSORED BY BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DAVID LIN, SAID THAT THE TV PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DESIGNED FOR WORKERS OF BOTH THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR AWARENESS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

MR LIN SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME, COMPRISING 10 HALF-HOUR EPISODES, WILL BEGIN TO SCREEN TOMORROW ON RTV CHANNEL 1 FROM 6 PM TO 6.30 PM AND THEREAFTER EVERY SATURDAY FOR A TOTAL OF TEN WEEKS, ENDING ON NOVEMBER 14.

EIGHTEEN TEAMS FROM BOTH THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES WILL BE COMPETING FOR \$300 000 WORTH OF PRIZES, INCLUDING COLOUR TELEVISION SETS, REFRIGERATORS, WASHING MACHINES, STEREO RADIO RECORDERS, SUMPTUOUS CHINESE DINNERS, ELECTRONIC TV GAMES AND WRIST WATCHES.

HOME-VIEWERS WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN EITHER A THREE-IN-ONE MUSIC CENTRE OR A REFRIGERATOR EVERY WEEK AND IN THE FINAL EPISODE AN ADDITIONAL 26" COLOUR TV SET DONATED BY PHILIPS HONG KONG LIMITED WILL BE GIVEN TO A LUCKY VIEWER.

SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION'S LABOUR CONDITIONS COMMITTEE, MR STANISLAUS TSAO, SAID INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WAS '+A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.+

THE SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE OF BRITISH CALEDONIAN AIRWAYS, MR RICHARD HA, SAID THE INVOLVEMENT OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT IN THE COMPETITION INDICATED THE COMMITMENT OF HONG KONG TO CREATE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

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