



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1988

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FUNDS APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VBF DETENTION CENTRE

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED REVISED PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR FUNDS FOR THE PHASED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DETENTION CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE AT WHITEHEAD, WU KAI SHA.

THE FUNDS, TOTALLY \$175.6 MILLION, ARE FOR THE CAPITAL COST FOR THE PHASED CONSTRUCTION OF STAGE I AND II OF THE DETENTION CENTRE.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT STAGE I OF THE CENTRE, COMPRISING TWO MODULES WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY FOR 4,800 PEOPLE, WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED INITIALLY.

IF NECESSARY, AND SUBJECT TO CONTINUOUS REVIEW OF THE SUBSEQUENT ARRIVAL PATTERN OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, A SECOND STAGE COMPRISING ANOTHER TWO SIMILAR MODULES WOULD BE DEVELOPED TO BRING THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE CENTRE TO 9,600.

EARLIER PROPOSALS FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRE WERE WITHDRAWN AT TODAY'S MEETING BECAUSE THE FUNDS WOULD NOT BE NEEDED UNTIL THE CENTRE BECAME OPERATIONAL AND COULD BE SUBMITTED WHEN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECONVENED IN OCTOBER.

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NORWEGIAN DELEGATION IN HK TO SELECT VR'S FOR RESETTLEMENT

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A DELEGATION FROM OSLO IS CURRENTLY VISITING HONG KONG TO SELECT 120 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN NORWAY.

THE DELEGATION WILL INTERVIEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR RESETTLEMENT FROM AMONG HONG KONG'S LONG-STAYER REFUGEE POPULATION.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVE IN OFFERING TO RESETTLE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG'S RESIDUAL CASELOAD OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

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NEW CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES COMMISSION APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED SIR SIDNEY GORDON TO TAKE UP THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INDEPENDENT STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FROM SIR S.Y. CHUNG WHO IS RETIRING AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE STANDING COMMISSION ADVISES THE GOVERNMENT ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES GOVERNING NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVICE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

SIR SIDNEY GORDON IS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT BY PROFESSION.

HE SERVED ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM 1965 TO 1980 AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, WHICH DEALS WITH DIRECTORATE OFFICERS' PAY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, SINCE 1971.

SIR SIDNEY'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

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16TH MEETING OF SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION

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THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE 16TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JULY RELEASED

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IN JULY THIS YEAR, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO BE SUBSTANTIAL, BUT THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS MUCH LOWER.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

/THE VALUE

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JULY 1988 WAS \$20,136 MILLION, \$1,187 MILLION OR 6.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JULY 1987, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 47.1 PER CENT OR \$7,677 MILLION TO \$23,975 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$44,110 MILLION IN JULY 1988, WAS THUS \$8,864 MILLION OR 25.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JULY 1987.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 33.3 PER CENT OR \$11,096 MILLION OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$44,394 MILLION IN JULY 1988.

A SMALL VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$284 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JULY 1988.

THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE SITUATION IN JULY 1987, WHEN A SURPLUS OF \$1,948 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.9 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED.

PUTTING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR JULY IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1988 WAS \$257,049 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$115,754 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$141,295 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1987, IN VALUE TERMS TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$55,884 MILLION OR 27.8 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$11,014 MILLION OR 10.5 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$44,870 MILLION OR 46.5 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$60,634 MILLION OR 29.5 PER CENT, TO \$266,085 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$9,036 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1988.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$4,286 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.1 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JULY 1988, AT 6.3 PER CENT, REPRESENTS A SLOW-DOWN COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 14.6 PER CENT AND 8.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1988.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROWTH RATE OF RETAINED IMPORTS WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONTINUED SURGE IN RE-EXPORTS REFLECTED THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG AS AN ENTREPOT FOR CHINA AND FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JULY 1988.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$20,135	MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$23,975	MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$44,110	MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$44,394	MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$284	MILLION [IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	MAY 88	MAY 87	INCREASE	
	TO JUL 88 HK\$ MN.	TO JUL 87 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	55,529	51,674	3,855	7.5
RE-EXPORTS	67,792	45,685	22,107	48.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	123,321	97,359	25,962	26.7
IMPORTS	127,137	96,597	30,540	31.6
TRADE BALANCE	-3,816	762	-4,578	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JULY	JULY	INCREASE	
	1988 HK\$ MN.	1987 HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	20,135 (45.6%)	18,948 (53.8%)	1,187	6.3
RE-EXPORTS	23,975	16,298	7,677	47.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	44,110	35,246	8,864	25.1
IMPORTS	44,394	33,298	11,096	33.3
TRADE BALANCE	-284	1,948	-2,232	

/LAST MONTH

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LAST MONTH	JULY	JUNE	INCREASE	
	1988	1988	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	20,135 (45.6%)	18,120 (44.8%)	2,015	11.1
RE-EXPORTS	23,975	22,364	1,611	7.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	44,110	40,484	3,626	9.0
IMPORTS	44,394	43,186	1,208	2.8
TRADE BALANCE	-284	-2,702	2,418	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-JUL	JAN-JUL	INCREASE	
	1988	1987	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	115,754 (45.0%)	104,740 (52.1%)	11,014	10.5
RE-EXPORTS	141,295	96,425	44,870	46.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	257,049	201,165	55,884	27.8
IMPORTS	266,085	205,451	60,634	29.5
TRADE BALANCE	-9,036	-4,286	-4,750	

LAST 12 MONTHS	AUG 87	AUG 86	INCREASE	
	TO	TO	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	JUL 88	JUL 87	27,188	15.2
RE-EXPORTS	206,268	179,080	72,275	46.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	227,650	155,375	99,463	29.7
IMPORTS	433,918	334,455	104,669	31.3
TRADE BALANCE	438,581	333,912	-5,206	
	-4,663	543		

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KOWLOON CITY DB TO DISCUSS ENTRY REFUSALS
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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DIFFERENT TREATMENT GIVEN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS SEEKING ENTRY TO THE UK, AND BRITISH PEOPLE COMING TO HONG KONG AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

A BOARD MEMBER, MR FONG PUI-SHEUNG, WILL REFER TO REPORTS IN RECENT MONTHS ABOUT LOCAL RESIDENTS BEING DENIED ENTRY TO THE UK.

HE WILL ALSO NOTE THAT BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE WELL RECEIVED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG. THEY ARE ALLOWED TO STAY FOR SIX MONTHS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AND CAN EXTEND THEIR STAY HERE.

MR FONG WILL PUT FORWARD SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO AVOID THE RECURRENCE OF THE UNHAPPY INCIDENTS INVOLVING LOCAL RESIDENTS.

TWO BOARD MEMBERS, MR WONG SIU-YEE AND MR CHAN KING-WONG, WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS ROLE IN MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY KCRC TRAINS ALONG THE HO MAN TIN SECTION OF THE RAILWAY LINE.

THEY WILL ALSO ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED BY KCRC OF ITS ASSESSMENT OF A CONSULTANCY REPORT ON THE NOISE PROBLEM, AND OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY ITS ENGINEERING DIVISION.

ANOTHER MAJOR AGENDA ITEM IS THE 1988 CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO REDUCE NUISANCES CAUSED BY VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

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REPORT ON 1986 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ON SALE
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A STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED "1986 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION" HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND IS NOW ON SALE AT \$20 PER COPY.

IT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF REPORTS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY ON THE SURVEY.

THE REPORT CONTAINS A WIDE RANGE OF STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURAL AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ECONOMIC SECTORS OF MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; AND ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER IN THE YEAR 1986, BASED ON THE DATA COLLECTED FROM SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS IN THESE SECTORS.

EXAMPLES OF THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE:

- * NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES;
- * GROSS OUTPUT;
- * VALUE ADDED (A MEASURE OF CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT);
- * PURCHASES OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND INDUSTRIAL WORK/SERVICES;
- * OTHER EXPENSES; AND
- * GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS.

APART FROM STATISTICS RELATING TO THE YEAR 1986, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS SOME SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1984 AND 1985 TO SHOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SECTORS IN RECENT YEARS.

THE STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR POLICY FORMULATION, DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH.

PURCHASES OF THE REPORT MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234823.

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THREE GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING TO LET BY TENDER TWO LOTS IN KOWLOON AND ONE LOT ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

ONE OF THE KOWLOON LOTS, LOCATED AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN RECLAMATION, MEASURES ABOUT 7,068 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR OPEN STORAGE PURPOSE.

THE LEASE TERM IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

THE OTHER KOWLOON LOT, MEASURING ABOUT 865 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED AT YEN CHOW STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO.

IT IS ALSO FOR OPEN STORAGE USAGE AND THE LEASE TERM IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE HONG KONG ISLAND LOT IS LOCATED AT WAN SHING STREET, WAN CHAI. MEASURING ABOUT 1,650 SQUARE METRES, IT IS FOR VEHICLE PARKING PURPOSE.

THE LEASE TERM IS FOR SIX MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR ALL THREE SITES WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON SEPTEMBER 9 THIS YEAR.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KENNEDY TOWN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN KENNEDY TOWN FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 27) FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO FACILITATE BUILDING DEMOLITION WORKS IN SMITHFIELD.

THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HAU WO STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SMITHFIELD TO A POINT ABOUT 12 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK. NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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IN ADDITION, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS IN THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SMITHFIELD BETWEEN CATCHICK STREET AND BELCHER'S STREET FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND THERE WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE OF HAU WO STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SMITHFIELD.

PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL ALSO BE BANNED FROM ENTERING DAVIS STREET BETWEEN BELCHER'S STREET AND HAU WO STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING BAN ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN CATCHICK STREET BETWEEN SMITHFIELD AND DAVIS STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

MOREOVER, FIVE GOODS VEHICLE METERED PARKING SPACES IN HAU WO STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SMITHFIELD WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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BUS LANE IN CANAL ROAD EAST TO BE LIFTED
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE BUS LANE IN CANAL ROAD EAST IN CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH LEIGHTON ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE LIFTED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 26).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT CANCELLATION OF THE BUS LANE IS ONE OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING BUS LANE ON CANAL ROAD EAST APPROACHING LEIGHTON ROAD REDUCED THE CAPACITY OF THE SIGNAL INTERSECTION, BUT WAS OF LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO BUS OPERATIONS.

"RESCISSION OF THE BUS LANE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AND SHORTER QUEUES AT THE JUNCTION," HE ADDED.

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