



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1987

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR OPENS REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTRE	1
BETTER PRODUCTS TO SAFEGUARD EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS	2
AIDS MONOGRAPH FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS	3
ANTI-LITTER DRIVE IN COUNTRY PARKS PAYS OFF	4
CALL FOR HARMONIOUS LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIP	5
GOVERNOR TO VISIT WONG TAI SIN	6
MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR BORDER TOWN	7
VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN GETS CLEAN LOOK	7
SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTING IN SHA TIN	8
NEW YEAR MARATHON IN SHA TIN	9
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH DRUG PROBLEM	9
NORMAL TOLL FOR TUNNEL USERS FROM MONDAY	10
TRAFFIC CHANGES IN WO HOP SHEK	10

GOVERNOR OPENS REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTRE

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THE REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND PROFESSIONALS IN THE REHABILITATION FIELD, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID THE CENTRE WOULD DO SO TO ENSURE THAT ITS PRODUCTS WERE SUITABLE FOR LOCAL CONDITIONS AND THAT THE BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY WERE USED TO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EXTENT TO ASSIST THE PROCESS OF REHABILITATION.

"IN SOME CASES STANDARD PRODUCTS TO ASSIST THE DISABLED MAY BE WIDELY AVAILABLE. BUT IT IS QUITE OFTEN THE CASE THAT CUSTOM MADE AIDS AND DEVICES ARE NEEDED TO MEET INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

"IT WAS TO MEET THIS PARTICULAR NEED THAT THE IDEA OF A REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTRE WAS DEVELOPED," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID ALSO SAID IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE CENTRE WAS LOCATED IN THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

"FOR SOME YEARS, VOLUNTARY REHABILITATION AGENCIES, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL DISABLED PEOPLE, HAVE APPROACHED THE POLYTECHNIC FOR HELP IN THE MANUFACTURE, DESIGN AND REPAIR OF REHABILITATION AIDS AND DEVICES.

"THEY KNOW THAT THE POLYTECHNIC, WITH ITS PARAMEDICAL DEPARTMENTS, HAS THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE, AND THE TECHNICAL FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES, TO TAKE ON THIS VERY CHALLENGING WORK," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID A GREAT DEAL OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS CENTRE SHOULD GO TO DR HARRY FANG, WHO INITIATED THE IDEA AND FOLLOWED IT UP DILIGENTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK DR FANG FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1977.

"ALSO TO ASSURE HIM, AND ALL OF YOU, OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE WELL BEING OF THE DISABLED IN OUR COMMUNITY," HE STRESSED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB ALSO DESERVED MUCH CREDIT FOR ITS DONATION OF \$41.9 MILLION TO THE CENTRE.

"THIS ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE CONTINUING AND IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE CLUB PLAYS IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

AS TO THE MEANING OF THE TERM 'REHABILITATION ENGINEERING', SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS A COMPARATIVELY RECENT TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE DURING THEIR REHABILITATION PROCESS.

BETTER PRODUCTS TO SAFEGUARD EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

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THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE BETTER PRODUCTS MORE EFFICIENTLY IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE KEY TO SAFEGUARDING HONG KONG'S EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN THE LONG RUN, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID AT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT PROTECTIONISM, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES, REMAINED A THREAT, BUT HONG KONG'S STANCE WOULD REMAIN CLEAR.

"WE BELIEVE IN FREE TRADE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR FURTHER LIBERALISATION OF WORLD TRADE.

"WE FEEL THAT PROTECTIONISM MEASURES WILL ALMOST INEVITABLY BREED THE KIND OF CONFRONTATION WHICH WILL NOT BE IN THE LONGER-TERM INTEREST OF ANY TRADING ECONOMY," HE SAID.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO PROGRESS BEING ACHIEVED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH HONG KONG IS PARTICIPATING.

HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS TO DIVERSIFY ITS MARKETS, TO UPGRADE ITS PRODUCTS AND TO ENHANCE ITS PRODUCTIVITY IN THE FACE OF PROTECTIONISM, MR JACOBS SAID.

"NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE VERVE AND HARD WORK OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, I REMAIN OPTIMISTIC," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S TRADE PATTERN HAD UNDERGONE SOME NOTABLE CHANGES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

IN RESPECT OF MAJOR MARKETS FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE SHARES ATTRIBUTABLE TO CHINA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN HAD INCREASED WHILE THAT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD DECLINED, HE SAID, DESPITE THE FACT THAT UNITED STATES REMAINED BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE MARKET.

COMMENTING ON TRADE PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG, MR JACOBS SAID AFTER 20 MONTHS OR SO OF SUSTAINED BUOYANCY IN HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, SOME SLOW-DOWN WAS LIKELY.

"THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOME SIGNS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF OUR EXTERNAL TRADE IS SLOWING DOWN.

"THE UPHEAVALS IN THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL MARKETS IN OCTOBER COULD LEAD TO A FURTHER SLOW-DOWN," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS SAID AN IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCE OF THE SHARP DECLINE IN WORLD STOCK PRICES WAS AN INCREASED UNCERTAINTY OVER THE WORLD'S BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SHORT-TO-MEDIUM TERM.

/"WHILE PREDICTIONS

"WHILE PREDICTIONS VARY, IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO GROW MORE SLOWLY IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WOULD HAVE A KNOCK-ON EFFECT ON OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES AND ON THOSE ECONOMIES WHICH EXPORTED A LARGE PART OF THEIR PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

MR JACOBS DREW ATTENTION TO HONG KONG'S TRADING POSITION IN RELATION TO THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM, AT THE SAME TIME REPEATING THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF ALTERING THE RATE OR ABANDONING THE SYSTEM.

WHILE THE GROWTH RATE OF U.S. EXPORTS TO HONG KONG WAS THE HIGHEST AMONGST THE ASIAN NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES (NIC'S), THAT OF U.S. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG WAS THE LOWEST, HE SAID.

THE GROWTH RATE OF THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT WITH HONG KONG WAS ALSO THE LOWEST AMONGST THE ASIAN NIC'S, HE ADDED.

"AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, WE ARE A WELL BEHAVING TRADING PARTNER."

ON THE STRONG UPSURGE IN THE TRADE WITH CHINA, MR JACOBS SAID THAT THIS TREND BEGAN SOME YEARS AGO WHEN CHINA STEPPED UP ITS MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES AND INTRODUCED ITS OPEN-DOOR ECONOMIC POLICIES. "WE WELCOME THIS DEVELOPING MARKET," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE, MR JACOBS SAID THAT THE RE-EMERGENCE OF HONG KONG AS AN ENTREPOT WAS REMARKABLE.

"BY MAKING USE OF HONG KONG'S EFFICIENT PORT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES TO CHANNEL HER EXTERNAL TRADE, CHINA IS AGAIN PLAYING A MAJOR PART IN THIS REGARD.

"IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, NEARLY 80 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS BY VALUE WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO CHINA, EITHER AS A SOURCE OR AS A MARKET," HE SAID.

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AIDS MONOGRAPH FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A MONOGRAPH ON AIDS FOR REFERENCE BY DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN HONG KONG.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 24-PAGE MONOGRAPH BY THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT BEGAN LAST WEEK AND WILL EVENTUALLY REACH SOME 5,570 DOCTORS AND DENTISTS REGISTERED ON THE LOCAL LIST WITH THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS.

/ANNOUNCING THIS

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF DISSEMINATING THIS MONOGRAPH TO ALL DOCTORS AND DENTISTS IN HONG KONG WAS TO ENLIST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS.

THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THAT THEY COULD HELP TO DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT AIDS AND ASSIST IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION OF HIGH RISK GROUPS, HE SAID.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WERE ALSO ONE OF THE THREE MAIN TARGET GROUPS ON THE HEALTH EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME ON AIDS, HE NOTED.

THE PUBLICATION OF THIS SPECIAL MONOGRAPH FOR DISTRIBUTION TO DOCTORS AND DENTISTS WAS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE ON AIDS.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS INCLUDE THE ORGANISING OF LECTURES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS AND PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SUCH AS PAMPHLETS, SLIDES AND VIDEOS.

THE MONOGRAPH, APART FROM PROVIDING A BRIEF REVIEW AND UP-DATED INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF AIDS, ALSO GIVES COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AIDS, ITS CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS, THE ASSESSMENT OF SUSPECTED OR INFECTED HIV INDIVIDUALS, COUNSELLING SERVICE, AND METHODS OF PREVENTION, CONTROL AND TREATMENT.

DOCTORS ARE ALSO INFORMED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NOTIFYING VOLUNTARILY CASES OF AIDS TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON A CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS BASIS.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WHO WISH TO ENQUIRE FOR AN EXTRA COPY OF THE MONOGRAPH 'INFORMATION ON AIDS FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS' MAY CALL THE CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT ON 5-721324.

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ANTI-LITTER DRIVE IN COUNTRY PARKS PAYS OFF

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THE VIGOROUS ANTI-LITTER DRIVE LAUNCHED TWO WEEKS AGO BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAS PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN DETECTING LITTER OFFENCES IN COUNTRY PARKS.

UP TO LAST SUNDAY (DECEMBER 13), SUMMONSES HAVE BEEN SERVED ON 111 LITTER OFFENDERS - THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN THE BI-WEEKLY AVERAGE OF 37 IN 1986.

/THE OFFENDERS

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THE OFFENDERS ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN COURT AND WOULD BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS ON CONVICTION.

ANNOUNCING THE PROSECUTION FIGURES TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR COUNTRY PARKS OFFICER, MR S.P. LAU, SAID THE INITIAL RESULTS REFLECTED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAIN-CLOTHES OFFICERS IN ENFORCING THE ANTI-LITTER LAW.

"OF THE 111 PROSECUTIONS TAKEN OUT IN THE LAST FORTNIGHT, 71 WERE INITIATED BY PLAIN-CLOTHES ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, WHO, DRESSED AS HIKERS AND ORDINARY PARK VISITORS, WERE ABLE TO CATCH THE LITTERBUGS OFF GUARD.

"THE REMAINING 40 CASES WERE THE RESULT OF STRICT ENFORCEMENT ACTION BY UNIFORMED PARK WARDENS WHO ALSO GAVE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE ON THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF LITTER TO 37,350 VISITORS FROM 1,180 GROUPS OF VARYING SIZES," HE SAID.

MR LAU SAID THAT DESPITE THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT COLD SPELL ON THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE COUNTRY PARKS, THE SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS STILL RECORDED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF LITTER OFFENCES, WITH 19 AND 74 CASES RESPECTIVELY.

ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, MOST OFFENCES OCCURRED IN THE SAI KUNG AND CLEARWATER BAY COUNTRY PARKS, EACH WITH 23 CASES, FOLLOWED BY PAT SIN LENG AND ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARKS WHERE 14 AND 12 CASES WERE RECORDED RESPECTIVELY.

MR LAU SAID THE PROSECUTION DRIVE WOULD CONTINUE INITIALLY IN THE CURRENT PICNIC SEASON. "BUT THIS OPERATION MAY BE EXTENDED UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SITUATION," HE WARNED.

MR LAU CALLED ON VISITORS TO ANY OF THE 21 COUNTRY PARKS TO DISPOSE LITTER IN THE BINS AND STOCKADES PROVIDED.

"A LITTLE MORE SELF-DISCIPLINE WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT WILL SAVE THEM FROM PROSECUTIONS, HEAVY FINES AND, POSSIBLY, JAIL SENTENCES," HE ADDED.

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CALL FOR HARMONIOUS LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIP

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A GOOD LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIP WILL LEAD TO HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WORKERS' LIVES, AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN THE WIDER CONTEXT, A HARMONIOUS WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL STABILITY OF HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

/SPEAKING AT

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SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF CERTIFICATES TO MORE THAN 200 PARTICIPANTS OF SIX LABOUR RELATIONS COURSES ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR YIU SAID THE DEPARTMENT ALWAYS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ENCOURAGING MORE DIALOGUE BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

"TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS, IT HAS ORGANISED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS, FORUMS AND SYMPOSIA TO PROMOTE THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS BY BOTH PARTIES," MR YIU SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ORGANISED 11 LABOUR RELATIONS CERTIFICATE COURSES THIS YEAR AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND.

BEFORE THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, SENIOR LECTURER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, MR ANDY LAI, GAVE A TALK ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT WONG TAI SIN

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WILL VISIT WONG TAI SIN TOMORROW (DECEMBER 17) TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THEY WILL TOUR THE TERRITORY'S LARGEST SQUATTER AREA AT DIAMOND HILL TO SEE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT THERE. THEY WILL ALSO VISIT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

THEIR VISIT WILL END AT THE WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE WHERE THEY WILL MEET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO WONG TAI SIN ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT THE ENTRANCE OF KAM WAH HOUSE AT HUNG MUI AVENUE, CHOI HUNG ESTATE AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (DECEMBER 17). GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR BORDER TOWN

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MUCH PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE BORDER TOWNSHIP OF SHA TAU KOK IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE SHA TAU KOK GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET, MR CHEUNG SAID A RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TO ACCOMMODATE 3,900 PEOPLE IN THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA WOULD BE COMPLETED IN SHA TAU KOK.

TO COPE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT, THERE WOULD BE AN AIR-CONDITIONED COMMUNITY HALL MANAGED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE WITH A PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE, HE SAID.

A 12-CLASSROOM CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SHA TAU KOK, WHICH COSTS \$10.5 MILLION, WOULD BE OPEN NEXT SEPTEMBER, HE ADDED. EQUIPPED WITH MODERN TEACHING FACILITIES, THE SCHOOL WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR PUPILS IN THE AREA.

TURNING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, MR CHEUNG SAID A NEW SCHOOL WOULD BE COMPLETED, TWO YEARS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, IN 1989 IN NORTH DISTRICT TO MEET THE SHORTFALL IN SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES.

WITH A RISING POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT, THE SHORTAGE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES HAD AROUSED MUCH CONCERN FROM THE RESIDENTS, HE SAID.

TO RELIEVE THE SHORTFALL, THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAD, IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD NOW DECIDED TO ADVANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL, HE ADDED.

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VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN GETS CLEAN LOOK

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POK FU LAM VILLAGE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT GOT A CLEANER LOOK TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTER A SPECIAL OPERATION ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD IN SUPPORT OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

THE CLEAN UP OPERATION COVERED A NUMBER OF BLACK SPOTS IN THE VILLAGE WHERE REFUSE AND BULKY GARBAGE WERE DUMPED.

THE GARBAGE WAS CLEARED DURING THE OPERATION THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND SOME CIVIC-MINDED VOLUNTEERS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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MEANWHILE, THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE LAUNCHED A PUBLICITY DRIVE IN THE VILLAGE TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE AREA CLEAN.

DURING A TOUR OF THE VILLAGE, THE CHAIRMAN, MADAM MAR YUET-HAR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PUT UP POSTERS IN PROMINENT PLACES AND CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE. THEY ALSO ASSISTED THE RESIDENTS TO REMOVE PILES OF GARBAGE.

APART FROM TODAY'S EXERCISE, THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL ALSO ORGANISE CLEAN UP OPERATIONS LATER THIS WEEK IN 12 OTHER REFUSE BLACK SPOTS WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH AREA COMMITTEES.

EARLIER, THE COMMITTEE HAD ORGANISED A CLEAN FORESHORE EXERCISE. OTHER KEEP CLEAN ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT INCLUDE A SPECIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE IN ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER, A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THROWING LITTER FROM BUILDINGS AND A "CLEAN BUILDING" COMPETITION.

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SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTING IN SHA TIN

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FESTIVE LIGHTING DECORATIONS MADE UP OF MORE THAN 18,000 COLOURFUL LIGHT BULBS WILL BE SWITCHED ON IN SHA TIN ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 18) EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE COMING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

THE DECORATIONS WILL ENCIRCLE THE SHING MUN RIVER, LIGHTING UP THE SAND MARTIN BRIDGE, BANYAN BRIDGE AND THE RIVERSIDE PROMENADES.

THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURE WILL BE A PICTURE OF TWO ANGELS ABOUT 100 METRES WIDE AND SEVEN METRES HIGH LINED UP WITH COLOURFUL LIGHT BULBS ON SAND MARTIN BRIDGE.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE SWITCHED ON BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NT), MR MICHAEL SUEN, AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE ROOF GARDEN OF SHA TIN TOWN HALL AT 6.30 PM.

THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION CHILDREN CHOIR WILL ALSO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS DURING THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTING IN SHA TIN, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 6.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 18) AT THE ROOF GARDEN OF SHA TIN TOWN HALL.

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NEW YEAR MARATHON IN SHA TIN

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RUNNERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SCENIC VIEW ALONG SHING MUN RIVER WHILE COMPETING IN A MARATHON RACE IN SHA TIN ON JANUARY 3 NEXT YEAR.

TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR, THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, WITH THE HELP OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, ARE JOINTLY ORGANISING A MARATHON RACE FOR RUNNERS AGED OVER 14 IN THE DISTRICT.

THE RACE WILL START AT 8 AM AT THE SHA TIN SPORTS GROUND ON YUEN WO ROAD. THE ROUTE WILL BE A 11-KILOMETRE SECTION OF THE CYCLING TRACK ALONG SHING MUN RIVER.

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY CENTRE, SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION OFFICE, SHA TIN SPORTS GROUND, SHA TIN OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND VARIOUS COMMUNITY HALLS IN THE DISTRICT.

ENTRIES ARE FREE AND THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 22. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-6989750 AND 0-6915657.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS YOUTH DRUG PROBLEM

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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE BY YOUTHS IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION INCLUDE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON CIVIC EDUCATION; THE STATUS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING SOCIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI BUILDING, TUEN MUN.

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- 10 -

NORMAL TOLL FOR TUNNEL USERS FROM MONDAY

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MOTORISTS AND TAXI PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO KOWLOON VIA THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL HAVE TO PAY THE NORMAL TOLL OF \$3 FROM 3 AM NEXT MONDAY (DECEMBER 21) WHEN THE ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT COMES TO AN END.

AS FOR THOSE TRAVELLING NORTHBOUND THROUGH THE TUNNEL, THEY WILL ONLY HAVE TO PAY \$3 INSTEAD OF THE \$6 TOLL CHARGED DURING THE FOUR-WEEK EXPERIMENT.

THE ONE-WAY TOLL EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE NOVEMBER 23 TO ASSESS WHETHER TRAFFIC FLOW AT THE TUNNEL CAN BE IMPROVED.

WHEN THE EXPERIMENT ENDS AT 3 AM ON MONDAY, THE PRE-EXPERIMENT TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE RESUMED AT THE SAME TIME.

FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND TAI PO ROAD DURING THE EVENING AND MORNING PEAK HOURS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) AND TODAY, RESPECTIVELY:

	LION ROCK TUNNEL		TAI PO ROAD	
	SOUTHBOUND	NORTHBOUND	SOUTHBOUND	NORTHBOUND
DECEMBER 15 (4.30 PM - 7 PM)	7,276	6,686	2,244	2,132
NORMAL WEEKDAY (4.30 PM - 7 PM)	7,274	6,995	2,358	2,085
DECEMBER 16 (7 AM - 10 AM)	9,323	6,426	2,879	2,213
NORMAL WEEKDAY (7 AM - 10 AM)	9,309	6,615	2,812	1,874

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN WO HOP SHEK

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TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK, THE SECTION OF WO HOP SHEK ROAD WEST OF ROAD D6 AND THE NORTH ACCESS ROAD TO WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY IN FANLING HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEASURE WILL CONTINUE FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS DURING WHICH VEHICLES HEADING FOR WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY AND WO HOP SHEK VILLAGE WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TAI WO SERVICE ROAD (WEST) AND KIU TAU ROAD.

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