



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1979

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1979

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SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES OUTLINES
PLANS FOR YEAR OF THE CHILD
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THE NEED TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD HAS BEEN RECOGNISED FOR SOME TIME AND AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING PARTY APPOINTED TO REVIEW GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THIS AREA HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS AND EXPECTS TO COMPLETE ITS REPORT SHORTLY. THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, MR. E.P. HO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR. HO WAS DELIVERING A LUNCHTIME SPEECH TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ENTITLED '+PLANS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE UNITED NATIONS' YEAR OF THE CHILD+.

MR. HO SAID SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE THE WORKING PARTY'S PROPOSALS AND THE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THEM, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN A GREEN PAPER THIS YEAR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND DEBATE BEFORE A FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN.

+IT IS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THIS REVIEW THAT IT IS LOOKING AT THE WORK OF DAY CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS TOGETHER,+ MR. HO SAID. +ALTHOUGH THE TWO SERVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES, THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES IN THEIR FUNCTIONS AND THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF A COMMON AGE-GROUP. IT IS DESIRABLE THEREFORE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EACH SERVICE SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS POLICY TOWARDS THE OTHER.+

MR. HO SAID THAT AS RIGHTLY OBSERVED BY MANY EDUCATORS, IT WAS NOT DESIRABLE CHILDREN SHOULD BE CRAMMED AT THE KINDERGARTEN STAGE WITH A CURRICULUM DESIGNED FOR OLDER CHILDREN. HENCE, REDUCING THE COMPETITIVENESS FOR ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL HAD BEEN ONE OF THE SUBJECTS UNDER STUDY.

+YET KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, IF PROPERLY CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED IN RELATION TO THE CHILD'S OWN PACE, CAN BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO HIS SUBSEQUENT INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.+

KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION OF THIS TYPE WOULD NOT PLACE EMPHASIS ON ROTE-LEARNING, BUT WOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP THE CHILD'S SKILLS IN COMMUNICATION, SIMPLE MOTOR-SKILLS, THE ABILITY TO MIX WITH OTHERS SUCCESSFULLY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE SOCIAL HABITS.

THERE WERE MANY WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES OF THIS TYPE UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG IN KINDERGARTENS AND IN CHILD CARE CENTRES. THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THESE ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP FURTHER AND TO BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD.

MR. HO SAID PERSONAL SOCIAL WORK AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED OF MORE INTENSIVE PERSONAL GUIDANCE AND HELP WOULD BE STEPPED UP THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK.

ONE FEATURE OF THIS EXTENDED WORK WOULD BE THE INTRODUCTION ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS OF THE STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS SCHEME; THE USE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF TRAINED TEACHERS WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN FURTHER TRAINING IN COUNSELLING GUIDANCE AND SOCIAL WORK TECHNIQUES.

MR. HO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH 1979 WAS THE YEAR OF THE CHILD THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING THE FAMILY AS A UNIT WAS NOT DIMINISHED THEREBY. +ALTHOUGH OUR SERVICES ARE PLANNED ON THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS, THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY IS TO FOSTER CARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN A FAMILY SETTING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WHETHER HE IS A CHILD OR AN OLD PERSON,+ MR. HO SAID.

HE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION TO PROMOTE HARMONY AND MUTUAL HELP AND TRUST AMONG INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS.

+THIS PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEVELOPED IN 1979 AND OUR CHILDREN WILL CERTAINLY BE AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS EFFORT.+

MR. HO SAID THERE WOULD BE IMPROVED PROTECTION FOR YOUNG WORKERS.

+WE HAVE LONG PROHIBITED THE ENTRY OF YOUNGSTERS UNDER 14 INTO INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT. THE WORKING OF OVERTIME IN INDUSTRY BY 14 AND 15-YEAR-OLDS IS ALSO PROHIBITED AND THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE OVERTIME WORKING BY 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS IS REGULATED.

+DURING 1979, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RAISING OF THE AGE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION, WE SHALL ALSO MAKE CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYMENT SCENE.+

FROM THIS SEPTEMBER THE LIMITATIONS CURRENTLY IN FORCE IN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE EXTENDED MORE GENERALLY. THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THAT FROM SEPTEMBER, 1980, THE AGE LIMIT FOR ALL EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE FURTHER EXTENDED TO 15, OR THE COMPLETION OF FORM III.

+WHILE THE PROGRAMME OF SERVICES TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE BUT A PART OF OUR OVERALL SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS, I CAN CONFIDENTLY PREDICT THAT WHEN WE TAKE STOCK AFTER 1979 WE SHALL FIND THAT OUR PROGRESS IN THIS WHOLE FIELD HAS BEEN A FITTING RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS' YEAR OF THE CHILD,+ MR. HO DECLARED.

MR. HO SAID LAST OCTOBER GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED ITS LONG TERM PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY TERTIARY EDUCATION. A NUMBER OF PLANS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR:

- * RECURRENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WHICH ELECTED TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE-
- * A LOAN SCHEME FOR ALL EXISTING STUDENTS OF THE APPROVED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES WHO WERE IN NEED- AND
- * THE BRINGING ON TO FULL SUBSIDY UNDER THE CODE OF AID OF ALL PRIVATE NON-PROFIT MAKING SCHOOLS CUNRRENTLY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE ON A PER CAPITA BASIS SUITABLE FOR AND WILLING TO HAVE THIS CHANGE IN STATUS.

MR. HO ALSO MENTIONED THE LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT KOWLOON TONG WHICH, APART FROM THE FACILITIES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION, WOULD HAVE ACCESS FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED. THERE WOULD BE RAPID IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER SERVICES FOR OUR DISABLED CHILDREN AS WELL.

DURING 1979 THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL SCHOOL PLACES WOULD INCREASE BY 3,700 TO A TOTAL OF 23,500- THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN ORDINARY CHILD CARE CENTRES RESERVED FOR DISABLED CHILDREN WOULD BE DOUBLED FROM 60 TO 120, WHILE PLACES IN SPECIAL CENTRES FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE INTEGRATED WITH ORDINARY CHILDREN WOULD BE INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT TO 260 WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE MORE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED.

THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASE OF OVER 200 PLACES IN RESIDENTIAL AND DAY CARE PLACES FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND IN THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS.

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SHIPPING AND CARGO-HANDLING INDUSTRY COMMENDED
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THE SHIPPING AND CARGO-HANDLING INDUSTRY WAS COMMENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR ITS INITIATIVE IN FORMING A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO KEEP SAFE WORKING METHODS AND EQUIPMENT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE FRUITS OF THE COMMITTEE'S LABOURS WAS THE PRODUCTION OF TWO CODES OF PRACTICE WHICH DEALT WITH LIFT TRUCKS AND CONTAINER HANDLING.

HE WENT ON: +THIS SORT OF SELF-HELP BY AN INDUSTRY IS VITAL FOR THE PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND I WISH THE COMMITTEE EVERY SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EFFORTS. IT IS CERTAINLY A WORTHWHILE EXAMPLE TO OTHER INDUSTRIES.+

MR. HENDERSON MADE THE STATEMENT DURING A ROUTINE VISIT TO HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS LTD. IN KWAI CHUNG TO KEEP HIMSELF UP-TO-DATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS AND TO HELP PROMOTE THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S RECENTLY LAUNCHED INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS LTD., HE SAID, HAD INSTALLED CARGO-HANDLING EQUIPMENT AS MODERN AS ANY TO BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

+APART FROM THE SHEER EFFICIENCY WHICH GIVES GAINS IN SPEED OF OFFLOADING AND CARGO PROTECTION, THE USE OF CONTAINERS REDUCES MAN-HANDLING WHICH MEANS THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS IS GREATLY LESSENER.+

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TOTAL TRADE VALUE FOR JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1978

HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE VALUE FOR JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1978 WAS \$104,584 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1977, TRADE FIGURES ISSUED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SHOWED.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 16 PER CENT TO \$36,398 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 28 PER CENT TO \$56,215 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 35 PER CENT TO \$11,971 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE:

	JAN.-NOV.77 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV.78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
U.S.A.	12,284	13,670	+ 1,386	+ 11
F.R. OF GERMANY	3,183	3,843	+ 661	+ 21
UNITED KINGDOM	2,633	3,414	+ 781	+ 30
JAPAN	1,270	1,658	+ 389	+ 31
AUSTRALIA	1,144	1,362	+ 218	+ 19
CANADA	1,075	1,144	+ 69	+ 6
SINGAPORE	814	988	+ 174	+ 21
THE NETHERLANDS	662	804	+ 142	+ 21
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	515	611	+ 96	+ 19
NIGERIA	408	532	+ 125	+ 31

BY COUNTRY, EXPORTS TO THE US ROSE BY 11 PER CENT, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$5,612 MILLION, +15 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$725 MILLION, +47 PER CENT), WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECLINES IN EXPORTS OF RADIO RECEIVERS (\$522 MILLION, - 39 PER CENT) AND OF PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (\$1,060 MILLION, - 7 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN EXPORTS TO THE UK WERE RECORDED IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$1,711 MILLION, + 30 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$244 MILLION, + 93 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (\$363 MILLION, + 34 PER CENT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (\$188 MILLION, + 63 PER CENT).

EXPORT SALES TO WEST GERMANY, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA WERE BOOSTED BY INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF CLOTHING AND WATCHES.

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS IS PRESENTED BELOW:

	JAN.-NOV.77 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV.78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	12,355	13,980	+ 1,625	+ 13

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	5,213	5,977	+ 764	+ 15
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,911	2,923	+ 1,011	+ 53
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,526	2,542	+ 17	+ 1
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,408	2,519	+ 111	+ 5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	1,578	1,901	+ 323	+ 20

BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE FOUND IN ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$13,980 MILLION, + 13 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$2,445 MILLION, + 61 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (\$2,345 MILLION, + 5 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (\$1,914 MILLION, + 12 PER CENT), TRAVEL GOODS AND HANDBAGS (\$820 MILLION, +28 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES (\$703 MILLION, +30 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECLINES WERE RECORDED IN SHIPMENTS OF RADIO RECEIVERS (\$1,378 MILLION, - 29 PER CENT) AS WELL AS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTER (\$587 MILLION, - 4 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SOURCES ARE:

	JAN.-NOV.77 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV.78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	10,234	12,789	+ 2,555	+ 25
CHINA	7,222	9,431	+ 2,209	+ 31
U.S.A.	5,543	6,819	+ 1,275	+ 23
TAIWAN	2,939	3,759	+ 820	+ 28
SINGAPORE	2,668	2,898	+ 230	+ 9
UNITED KINGDOM	1,964	2,674	+ 710	+ 36
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,309	1,857	+ 548	+ 42
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	1,147	1,851	+ 704	+ 61
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,503	1,587	+ 84	+ 6
AUSTRALIA	883	1,121	+ 238	+ 27

IMPORTS FROM JAPAN ROSE BY 25 PER CENT, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF TEXTILE FABRICS (\$1,702 MILLION, + 21 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$1,150 MILLION, + 33 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES (\$1,114 MILLION, + 43 PER CENT) AND ROAD VEHICLES (\$799 MILLION, +68 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE ALSO RECORDED. THESE INCLUDED FABRICS (\$1,027 MILLION, + 92 PER CENT), LIVE ANIMALS MAINLY FOR FOOD (\$1,054 MILLION, + 5 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (\$692 MILLION, + 23 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (\$686 MILLION, + 60 PER CENT) AS WELL AS ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$564 MILLION, + 35 PER CENT).

THE RISE IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. COULD BE ACCOUNTED FOR MAINLY BY INCREASE IN SHIPMENTS OF TEXTILE FIBRES (\$767 MILLION, + 31 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$681 MILLION, + 71 PER CENT) AND ALSO ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (\$571 MILLION, + 14 PER CENT) AND OFFICE MACHINES (\$545 MILLION, + 14 PER CENT).

THERE WAS ALSO A RISE IN SHIPMENTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (\$1,506 MILLION, +17 PER CENT) FROM TAIWAN AND IN SHIPMENTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$147 MILLION, + 72 PER CENT) FROM SINGAPORE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS:

	JAN.-NOV.77 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV.78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED MAINLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS AND DIAMONDS)	13,168	18,251	+5,082	+ 39
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	8,559	10,982	+2,423	+ 28
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	6,529	7,342	+ 813	+ 12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	5,633	7,860	+2,227	+ 40
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,274	4,161	+ 887	+ 27

/INCREASES WERE

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INCREASES WERE MAINLY RECORDED IN IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS TEXTILE FABRICS (\$4,881 MILLION, + 37 PER CENT) AND YARN (\$2,182 MILLION, +19 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$3,803 MILLION, + 74 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$2,780 MILLION, +42 PER CENT), AND IRON AND STEEL (\$1,818 MILLION, + 46 PER CENT).

IN ADDITION, INCREASES WERE FOUND IN VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (\$1,808 MILLION, +23 PER CENT) AND ROAD VEHICLES (\$1,295 MILLION, + 50 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, SLIGHT DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS OF COCOA, TEA, COFFEE AND SPICES (\$228 MILLION, - 19 PER CENT) AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (\$290 MILLION, - 38 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO MOVE UPWARDS, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASES IN DEMAND FROM JAPAN (\$2,119 MILLION, + 74 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (\$1,258 MILLION, + 32 PER CENT), INDONESIA (\$1,194 MILLION, + 26 PER CENT), U.S.A. (\$1,119 MILLION, + 42 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (\$1,100 MILLION, + 41 PER CENT) FOR PRODUCTS LIKE PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$1,604 MILLION, + 53 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$805 MILLION, + 19 PER CENT), FABRICS (\$726 MILLION, + 65 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (\$591 MILLION, + 29 PER CENT).

THE TRADE INDEX NUMBERS FOR OCTOBER, 1978 (1973=100) WERE RELEASED AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>UNIT VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>QUANTUM INDEX</u>
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	235	142	165
IMPORTS	232	145	160

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX FOR OCTOBER WAS 98.

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A TREAT FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR
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THE PUBLIC WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PICK AND CHOOSE FROM THE VERY RICH ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME ORGANISED ESPECIALLY FOR THE COMING LUNAR NEW YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH RECREATION POINTED OUT TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE URBAN COUNCIL PLUS VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE JOINED HANDS IN PUTTING UP A FUN-FOR-ALL PROGRAMME THAT ENCOMPASSES WELL OVER 300 EVENTS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE THREE SPECIALLY ORGANISED TERRITORY-WIDE FUNCTIONS WHICH WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC.

THE THREE PROGRAMMES WILL BE HELD SEPARATELY ON JANUARY 30 (THIRD DAY OF LUNAR YEAR) AT MORSE PARK; FEBRUARY 4 (EIGHTH DAY OF LUNAR YEAR) AT VICTORIA PARK AND IN THE SAME EVENING, THE GALA YOUTH BALL AT EDINBURGH PLACE. ADMISSION IS FREE FOR ALL THE THREE EVENTS.

THE OPEN-AIR YOUTH BALL ALSO MARKS THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THIS YEAR'S HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL.

THE DISTRICT PROGRAMMES, DESIGNED FOR ALL AGES AND PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, SPAN OVER A PERIOD OF A WHOLE MONTH DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.

THEY RANGE FROM FUN FAIRS TO YOUTH BALLS, DANCE PARTIES, VARIETY SHOWS, OUTINGS, CAMPINGS, VISITS TO THE OCEAN PARK, SPORTS EVENTS AND OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

SEVERAL DISTRICTS WILL ALSO ORGANISE THEIR OWN BEER DRINKING CONTESTS.

FULL DETAILS ON THE DISTRICT EVENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICES, AS WELL AS THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND ITS MEMBER AGENCIES.

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CLEAN-UP OPERATION

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A ONE-WEEK CLEAN-UP OPERATION WILL BE HELD AT TUNG TAU AND MEI TUNG ESTATES TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE OPERATION, DESIGNED TO HELP RESIDENTS IN CLEANING UP THEIR LIVING AREAS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (WONG TAI SIN), THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CIVIC ORGANISATIONS IN THE TUNG TAU AREA.

ABOUT 80 PEOPLE COMPRISING STUDENTS, MEMBERS OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE TWO ESTATES AND STAFF FROM THE ORGANISING OFFICES WILL BE MOBILISED TO SWEEP AWAY RUBBISH AND DISCARDED ARTICLES IN COMMON AREAS.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF JUNK COLLECTION POINTS WILL BE DESIGNATED AT VANTAGE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE ESTATES FOR RESIDENTS TO DISPOSE USELESS ARTICLES IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ACTIVITIES.

A CEREMONY MARKING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE JOINTLY OFFICIATED BY MR. LAM KAM-KWONG, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WONG TAI SIN), MRS. GRACE HO, MEMBER OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR. CHAN PAK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CO-ORGANISERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION AT TUNG TAU AND MEI TUNG ESTATES AT 10 A.M. TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE PLAYGROUND OFF BLOCK 15, TUNG TAU ESTATE.

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INLET SEWER, BY-PASS FOR KWUN TONG SCREENING PLANT
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD AN INLET SEWER AND BY-PASS TO THE FUTURE KWUN TONG SCREENING PLANT IN WING YIP STREET NEXT MONTH.

THE WORKS, WHICH FORM PART OF THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME FOR KWUN TONG, WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

WHEN FINISHED, THE EXISTING SEWAGE OUTLET AT KWUN TONG TYPHOON SHELTER WILL BE DIVERTED THROUGH THE PROPOSED BY-PASS SEWER FOR DISCHARGE INTO THE HARBOUR 440 METRES OUTSIDE THE SHELTER.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE BY-PASS WOULD ALSO SERVE AS AN EMERGENCY OUTLET FOR THE FUTURE SCREENING PLANT TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT A LATER STAGE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED, AND THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED, BY THE DRAINAGE WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF PWD.

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KOWLOON BAY ACCESS ROADS
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WORK ON ACCESS ROADS TO THE NEW VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE WORK WOULD INVOLVE BUILDING ROADS AND DRAINAGE IN KOWLOON BAY NEAR THE CENTRE NOW BEING BUILT.

THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THE VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE ITSELF SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

WORK ON THE ACCESS ROADS AND DRAINAGE WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

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QUARRY BAY SCHOOL RE-OPENS
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PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING QUARRY BAY GOVERNMENT JUNIOR ENGLISH SCHOOL ARE ADVISED THAT THE SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR ALL CLASSES.

REPAIRS TO THE ROOF WHICH NECESSITATED CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL TODAY (TUESDAY) ARE NOW BEING CARRIED OUT AND WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.

TWO CLASSROOMS ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE BUILDING ARE AFFECTED BY THE REPAIRS BUT THE HEADMISTRESS WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO USE THE SCHOOL HALL TO ACCOMMODATE THE TWO CLASSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS WEEK.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO PART OF SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 P.M. ON THURSDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE THE CONNECTION OF WATER MAINS NEAR HA WO CHE.

THE AREA AFFECTED WILL INCLUDE HA WO CHE, SHEUNG WO CHE, FO TAN TSUEN, SHA TIN RACE COURSE, HO TUNG LAU, LOK LO HA VILLAGE, SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND ALL AREAS FROM SHEUNG HA WO CHE VILLAGE TO THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF HOUSES IN SHOUSON HILL ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL ALSO BE CUT FOR TWO NIGHTS ON FRIDAY AND NEXT MONDAY (JANUARY 22).

THE INTERRUPTION, WHICH STARTS FROM 11 P.M. TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY, IS TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

AFFECTED HOUSES ARE BOUNDED BY NOS. 19, 37, 68, 70, 72, 75, 77 AND 80 DEEP WATER BAY ROAD, SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST AND WEST, AND SHOUSON HILL ROAD.

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