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DB CAN IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

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A DISTRICT BOARD HAS TO USE ALL THE MEANS IN ITS POWER TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WORKING IN THE DISTRICT IF IT IS GOING TO MEAN ANYTHING, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ALSO, IT HAS TO GET ITSELF ACCEPTED AS A KIND OF NUCLEUS AROUND WHICH LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WILL REVOLVE, HE ADDED.

+ITS ABILITY TO SECURE THIS ACCEPTANCE WILL BE CLOSELY LINKED TO ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS, OR AT LEAST INITIALLY TO PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE BOARD'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE RESULTS+.

MR BARNES WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS OF THE FIRST TERM OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH HELD ITS LAST MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

THE BOARD WILL HAVE 12 ELECTED AND 12 APPOINTED MEMBERS IN OCTOBER WHEN THE NEW TERM BEGINS.

MR BARNES SAID THE PERFORMANCE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS HAD SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHER BOARDS WHICH WERE SET UP LATER.

+IT HAS ALSO HELPED DISPEL THE RATHER TOO POPULAR FEARS OF SOME THAT DISTRICT BOARDS WERE JUST A NEW KIND OF CHARADE BEING ACTED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES.

+OF COURSE, WE HAVE ALL BEEN LEARNING, AND I AM SURE THAT WE ALL STILL HAVE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT TO LEARN.

+THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NO JUSTICE TO THAT SERVICE EITHER IN TERMS OF THE TIME OR OF THE ENTHUSIASM WHICH YOU HAVE EXPENDED ON YOUR WORK.

+YOU HAVE LAID THE BEST POSSIBLE FOUNDATION FOR THE BOARD IN ITS SECOND TERM WHEN IT WILL INCLUDE ELECTED MEMBERS, AND MORE IMPORTANT YOU HAVE SERVED KWUN TONG WELL,+ MR BARNES SAID.

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CENTRAL-TSIM SHA TSUI FERRY SERVICES TO BE CURTAILED

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FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI OPERATED BY THE STAR FERRY COMPANY WILL BE CURTAILED FROM SUNDAY (AUGUST 15) DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE FERRIES WILL OPERATE FROM 6.30 AM TO 11.30 PM INSTEAD OF 6 AM TO 2 AM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WILL REDUCE OPERATIONAL COST AND KEEP FARES AT A REASONABLY LOW LEVEL.

ACCORDING TO RECENT SURVEYS BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS FOR EARLY MORNING AND LATE NIGHT SAILINGS DOES NOT EVEN REACH 10 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CAPACITY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE FINDINGS INDICATED THAT, WITH REGARD TO THE RISING STAFF AND FUEL COSTS, OPERATION DURING THOSE PERIODS WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNECONOMICAL.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CURTAILMENT WILL ONLY AFFECT A SMALL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.

TRAVELLERS CAN USE OTHER SERVICES LIKE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, ALL NIGHT CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL BUSES AND WALLA-WALLAS.

HOWEVER, RESUMPTION OF LATE-NIGHT FERRY SERVICES DURING FESTIVE SEASONS LIKE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WILL BE CONSIDERED.

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WATER PUMPING STATION TO BE BUILT IN QUARRY BAY

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMPING STATION ON THE RECENTLY RECLAIMED LAND IN QUARRY BAY.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF A SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SALT WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN NORTH POINT AREA AND TO EXTEND SALT WATER SUPPLY TO QUARRY BAY AREA FOR FLUSHING PURPOSES.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 11 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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WORKS PROJECT FOR TAI PO

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THE TAI PO AND FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR ANOTHER PROJECT AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO.

WORK ON THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE FORMATION OF ABOUT 2.35 HECTARES IN THE VICINITY OF YIM TIN TSAI, FOR A FISH MARKET, FUEL DEPOT, ICE PLANT AND SMALL BOATYARDS.

IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 300 METRES OF SEAWALL AND ASSOCIATED ROADWORKS, FOOTPATHS, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE WORKS.

WORK WILL COMMENCE IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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+VOLUNTEERS+ JOIN EXERCISE IN GERMANY

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ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MAJOR MILITARY EXERCISE TO BE HELD IN HAMELN-DETMOLD IN CENTRAL WEST GERMANY IN SEPTEMBER.

THE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE QUEEN'S OWN YEOMANRY, A UNITED KINGDOM TERRITORIAL ARMY UNIT EQUIVALENT TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, DURING THEIR 15-DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY.

THEY WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR NEWCASTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON SEPTEMBER 21 TO JOIN THE YEOMANRY, AND WILL THEN BE FLOWN TO WEST GERMANY BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 25.

THE CHANCE TO TRAIN OVERSEAS IS PART OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME OFFERED TO SELECTED MEMBERS OF HONG KONG'S 870-MAN VOLUNTEER MILITARY UNIT WHOSE PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT IS A PART-TIME VOLUNTEER FORCE WHICH TRAINS FOR AND ACTS IN SUPPORT OF THE REGULAR ARMY, PARTICULARLY DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

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+IN SERVING WITH THE REGIMENT ALL VOLUNTEERS HELP TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN A STABLE SOCIETY WHICH IS VITAL TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE ABLE TO ENJOY COMRADESHIP, AND HEALTHY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEKEND TRAINING PERIODS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CARRIED OUT IN THE REMOTE PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ A SPOKESMAN STATED.

VOLUNTEERS LEARN BASIC MILITARY SKILLS SUCH AS HANDLING WEAPONS, THE USE OF RADIO EQUIPMENT, MAP READING, AND FIRST AID. THEY ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN WITH VEHICLES, HELICOPTERS AND ASSAULT BOATS.

THIS YEAR'S RECRUITMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED. MEN OVER 17-1/2 YEARS OF AGE, WHO ARE AT LEAST 1.63 METRES AND WEIGH 50 KILOGRAMS OR MORE CAN APPLY.

INTERESTED PERSONS CAN CONTACT THE RECRUITING OFFICER AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-761371 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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DCA FOR AIR TALKS IN LONDON

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THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR BRIAN KEEP, WILL ATTEND AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD IN LONDON ON AUGUST 18 AND 19 BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEPAL.

THE TALKS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL, WHICH IS SEEKING RIGHTS FOR THE ROYAL NEPAL AIR CORPORATION TO OPERATE SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES BETWEEN KATHMANDU AND HONG KONG.

MR KEEP IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN THE UK UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER.

DURING HIS ABSENCE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR JOHN THORPE, WILL ACT AS DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION.

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NEW WAGE LIMITS FOR OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS

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WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WILL ONLY ATTEST EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS PROVIDED THEY ARE PAID NOT BELOW THE RANGE OF $1 350 - $1 500 PER MONTH.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS DUE TO A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE WAGES OF LOCAL DOMESTIC HELPERS AND THE FACT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION WILL NOT APPROVE THE ENTRY OF DOMESTIC HELPERS FROM OVERSEAS UNLESS THEY ARE PAID THE CURRENT MARKET RATE.

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WATER CUT IN CENTRAL

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 13) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREAS ARE DES VOUEX ROAD CENTRAL AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN JACKSON ROAD AND ICE HOUSE STREET, AND THE SOUTH SIDE OF QUEENSWAY TO WATERFRONT, BETWEEN ARSENAL STREET AND MURRAY ROAD.

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