



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1988

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HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 RELEASED

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FOLLOWING TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF DOUBLE-DIGIT ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY SETTLED TO A MORE MODERATE PACE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IN PARTICULAR, SLOWED DOWN MARKEDLY. HOWEVER, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE RAPIDLY, MAINLY DUE TO THE FLOURISHING RE-EXPORT TRADE WITH CHINA.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE DISCUSSED IN THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THIS REPORT, USEFUL COMMENTS AND ADVICE WERE RECEIVED FROM THE ECONOMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SLOW DOWN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WAS ABOUT 8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 27 PER CENT AND 20 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987.

CURRENT INFORMATION ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND ON THE ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS SUGGESTS THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE MODERATE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC DEMAND, THE GROWTH RATE OF LOCAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, PARTICULARLY ON CONSUMER GOODS, WAS PROBABLY SLOWING DOWN.

RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS GREW BY ABOUT 2 PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1987.

THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES RECORDED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1987 WERE 9 PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT. HOWEVER, UP TO MAY 1988 THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WAS STILL RECORDING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

INVESTMENT DEMAND ALSO DECELERATED, IN LINE WITH THE REDUCTION IN THE GROWTH MOMENTUM OF THE ECONOMY.

REFLECTING THIS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS GREW BY ABOUT 12 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, COMPARED WITH GROWTH RATES OF 25 PER CENT AND 26 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FIRST AND SECOND HALVES OF 1987.

/WITHIN OVERALL .....

WITHIN OVERALL IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR RECORDED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR 1987 AS A WHOLE WAS 18 PER CENT.

INDICATIVE OF THE CONTINUED TIGHT LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT VERY LOW LEVELS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WERE 1.8 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988.

ALTHOUGH THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND THUS THAT OF MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY, CONTINUED TO SLOW DOWN IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, THE OVERALL DEMAND FOR LABOUR, PARTICULARLY IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND THE SERVICE SECTORS, REMAINED STRONG.

THE RATE OF INFLATION CONTINUED TO RISE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE FROM 5.6 PER CENT AND 6.7 PER CENT IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1987 RESPECTIVELY, TO 6.8 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 7 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988.

THE MOST RECENT INFLATION RATES, THOUGH HIGHER THAN IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, ARE NOT PARTICULARLY HIGH COMPARED WITH THE LEVELS EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG AT TIMES DURING THE PAST DECADE.

THE PRESSURE OF DEMAND RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLY OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE ECONOMY, THE LAGGED EFFECTS OF THE RAPID MONETARY AND CREDIT EXPANSION AND OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING 1987, INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED FROM CHINA, AND THE UPSURGE IN WORLD COMMODITY PRICES ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE RECENT INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION..

BETWEEN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987 AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, THE CPI (B) AND THE HANG SENG CPI ROSE BY 7 PER CENT AND 8.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 UPDATES THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1988.

APART FROM PROVIDING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS, AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS SLOWED DOWN MARKEDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 COMPARED WITH THE SECOND HALF OF 1987.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, IN PARTICULAR, RECORDED A DECLINE IN REAL TERMS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST MARKET, GREW BY ABOUT 27 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THE CONTINUED UPSURGE IN IMPORTS BY CHINA TO SATISFY ITS OWN DEMAND APPARENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THIS GROWTH. THE CONTINUED EXPANSION IN OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE WAS PROBABLY ANOTHER CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY GREW BY ABOUT 15 PER CENT, 12 PER CENT, AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, RE-EXPORTS WERE 42 PER CENT HIGHER IN REAL TERMS THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987, DUE MAINLY TO A CONTINUED SURGE IN THE RE-EXPORT TRADE WITH CHINA.

AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE TO 55 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, FROM 48 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

RE-EXPORT TRADE WHICH DID NOT HAVE CHINA, EITHER AS A SOURCE OR AS A MARKET, ALSO GREW RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, REFLECTING HONG KONG'S INCREASING IMPORTANCE AS AN ENTREPOT SERVING THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AS A WHOLE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 23 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, BUT RETAINED IMPORTS ROSE MUCH MORE SLOWLY, AT ABOUT 6 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$8,752 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THE SIZE OF THIS VISIBLE TRADE GAP (THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY RECEIPTS FROM TOTAL EXPORTS) WAS SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, THE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR MOVED WITHIN A NARROW MARGIN CLOSE TO THE LINKED RATE OF HK\$7.8 TO US\$1 DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988. SPECULATION ON A REVALUATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR LARGELY SUBSIDED AFTER JANUARY.

SECONDLY, REFLECTING THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. DOLLAR, THE OVERALL EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX, ROSE FROM 100.5 AT THE END OF 1987 TO 102.7 AT THE END OF JUNE 1988.

/THIRDLY, LOCAL .....

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THIRDLY, LOCAL INTEREST RATES WERE ON A GRADUAL UPTREND SINCE JANUARY, ELIMINATING THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE U.S. DOLLAR INTEREST RATES TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE.

FOURTHLY, FOLLOWING THE OUTFLOW OF SPECULATIVE FUNDS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY SHOWED MORE MODERATE GROWTH DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

LASTLY, THE STOCK MARKET STABILISED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1988, WITH MODEST RALLIES IN APRIL AND JUNE.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT WHILE EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED A DECLINE BETWEEN MARCH 1987 AND MARCH 1988, EMPLOYMENT IN FINANCIAL AND RELATED BUSINESS SERVICES, IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, AND IN TRANSPORT SERVICES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES ALSO SHOWED SOME INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD. REFLECTING TIGHT LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS WAS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER IN MARCH 1988 THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

WHILE NOMINAL EARNINGS CONTINUED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY BETWEEN MARCH 1987 AND MARCH 1988, RISING INFLATION RESULTED IN SMALLER RATES OF INCREASE IN REAL TERMS.

NEVERTHELESS IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN WAGES, BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS, REMAINED SUBSTANTIAL.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AN INDICATOR OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT, INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SLOW-DOWN FROM THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 9 PER CENT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND OF 19 PER CENT IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1987 COMBINED.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION HAS PROBABLY GROWN AT A SLOWER PACE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, AS REFLECTED BY THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND ON THE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY INDUSTRY.

THE PROPERTY MARKET WAS LEFT RELATIVELY UNSCATHED BY THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF LAST OCTOBER. AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION IN THE LATTER PART OF 1987, PRICES AND RENTALS FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF PROPERTY CREPT UP AGAIN DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988.

THE MARKET FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FLATS WAS SUPPORTED BY INCREASED HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND A GENERAL DESIRE TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR SELF-OCCUPANCY. MOREOVER, THERE WERE SOME SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES ON A SELECTIVE BASIS.

/THE DEMAND .....

THE DEMAND FOR LARGE-SIZED FLATS, SHOPS AND OFFICES REMAINED STRONG GENERALLY BUT, REFLECTING THE SLOW-DOWN IN DOMESTIC EXPORT GROWTH, THE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY WAS LESS STRONG.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1988 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$15 A COPY.

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CS VISITS SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

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THE PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SHAU KEI WAN EAST AND WEST FOOTHILLS WILL ULTIMATELY PROVIDE MORE THAN 10,300 HOMES FOR NEARLY 40,000 PEOPLE WHEN COMPLETED IN MID-1995.

THE TWO SITES ARE AMONG THE SEVEN IN THE URBAN AREA IDENTIFIED IN 1984 FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLIC HOUSING TO MEET THE URGENT DEMAND FOR FLATS IN THE URBAN AREA UNDER THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS TOLD TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, THIS AFTERNOON DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SHAU KEI WAN DISTRICT TO BE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST SQUATTER CLEARANCES AND PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

ON ARRIVAL AT A VANTAGE POINT OVERLOOKING THE SHAU KEI WAN EAST PUBLIC HOUSING SITE, SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED BY THE CHIEF HOUSING MANAGER (CLEARANCE), MR CHENG HON-BIU ON THE EXTENSIVE CLEARANCE AND REHOUSING WORK OF THE SITE INVOLVING MORE THAN 11,000 PEOPLE FROM 3,400 FAMILIES.

OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, ABOUT 7,700 PEOPLE FROM 2,055 FAMILIES WERE REHOUSED IN PUBLIC HOUSING, WITH MOST OF THEM TAKING UP FLATS IN CHAI WAN, 3,133 PEOPLE FROM 1,177 FAMILIES BEING GIVEN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA ACCOMMODATION, AND 44 PEOPLE FROM 13 FAMILIES BUYING HOME OWNERSHIP FLATS.

INTRODUCING THE BACKGROUND OF THE SHAU KEI WAN FOOTHILLS PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, THE CHIEF ARCHITECT IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECTS, MR WARREN TU SAID THE DEVELOPMENTS WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "DIFFICULT" TYPE OF URBAN AREA SITES THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY MUST DEVELOP TO FILL THE REQUISITE THAT PEOPLE WILL BE HOUSED WHERE THEY WANT TO LIVE.

UNDER THE SHAU KEI WAN EAST FOOTHILL PROJECT, SEVERAL PLATFORMS HAVE TO BE FORMED TO COPE WITH THE DIFFICULT TOPOGRAPHY. MOST OF THE DOMESTIC BLOCKS WILL BE LOCATED ON UPPER PLATFORMS WHERE THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. THIS WILL MAXIMISE THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE AREAS SERVED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR) AND THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL SLOPES AND GREENERY ON THE CATCHWATER AREAS SLOPES WITHIN AN ADJACENT COUNTRY PARK AND PRESERVATION OF THE NAM ON FONG VILLAGE NUNNERY (THE KIK LOK TUNG RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION) WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PARK.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD BY THE CHIEF CIVIL ENGINEER, MR MARTIN CHEUNG THAT THE \$300 MILLION SITE FORMATION WORK WAS THE LARGEST EVER CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. IT COMMENCED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND WILL INVOLVE THE FORMATION OF SOME OF THE LARGEST CUT SLOPES IN HONG KONG.

THE ESTATE WILL INCLUDE THREE TRIDENT-3 AND TWO TRIDENT-4 BLOCKS ON UPPER PLATFORMS AND 11 LINEAR BLOCKS ON LOWER PLATFORMS, WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY PROVIDE 5,474 FLATS FOR 20,800 PEOPLE.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A PRIMARY SCHOOL, TWO FIVE-ROOM KINDERGARTENS, COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, SHELTERED HOUSING AND A HOME-CUM-CARE UNIT FOR THE ELDERLY, RECREATION AREAS, A PARK AND TWO MULTI-STOREY CARPARKS.

A MODESTLY SIZED SHOPPING CENTRE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH SHOPS ACCESSIBLE TO THE ESTATE VIA A LANDSCAPE COURT TO FORM A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO PLATFORM LEVELS.

A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY WITH FIVE LIFTS AND FOUR ESCALATORS WILL OVERCOME THE 60-METRE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLATFORM LEVELS AND ADJACENT DEVELOPMENTS.

THE FIRST OCCUPATION OF THE PROJECT HAS BEEN TARGETTED FOR THE END OF 1994.

MOVING TO ANOTHER VANTAGE POINT TO VIEW THE SHAU KEI WAN WEST PUBLIC HOUSING SITE, SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT THE SITE IS BEING CLEARED IN TWO PHASES WITH THE FIRST GROUP OF RESIDENTS ALREADY REHOUSED IN MAY THIS YEAR. OF THE 269 PEOPLE FROM 81 FAMILIES, THOSE ELIGIBLE WERE GIVEN PERMANENT HOMES EITHER IN THE NEW TSUI WAN ESTATE IN CHAI WAN OR IN CASUAL VACANCIES IN EASTERN DISTRICT.

THE REMAINING 11,120 PEOPLE IN 3,400 FAMILIES WILL BE CLEARED IN THE LATER PHASE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

HE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE DIFFICULT TOPOGRAPHY OF THE SITE, THE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL HAS BEEN MAXIMISED BY CREATING TWO PLATFORMS RISING IN A SERIES OF STEPS.

SITE FORMATION WORKS ARE PROGRAMMED TO COMMENCE IN MARCH 1989 AND THE EXCAVATED MATERIAL WILL BE PARTLY USED FOR THE RECLAMATION OF ALDRICH BAY AND PARTLY FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED TO EXPLOIT THE VIEWS OVER THE EXISTING BUILT-UP AREA AND TOWARDS THE HARBOUR, WITH THE COMMERCIAL BLOCK OCCUPYING AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE CENTRAL LOCATION. NATURAL SLOPES ARE BEING PRESERVED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

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EACH OF THE TWO PLATFORM LEVELS IS TO HAVE FOUR 35-STORY TRIDENT-4 BLOCKS PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 4,896 FLATS FOR 18,605 PEOPLE.

THE ESTATE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH TWO CARPARKS, A SECONDARY SCHOOL AND TWO EIGHT-CLASSROOM KINDERGARTENS.

A SHOPPING CENTRE WITH PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES TO RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

LIKE ITS SISTER ESTATE, THE SHAU KEI WAN WEST FOOTHILL PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT WILL HAVE ESCALATORS AND LIFTS TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT PLATFORMS.

THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF 1995.

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#### NEW REFUSE COLLECTION VESSEL UNDER TRIAL

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS ASSESSING NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN FLOATING REFUSE RECOVERY AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE TECHNIQUES ARE APPLICABLE IN HONG KONG WITH A VIEW TO MODERNISING ITS PRESENT SERVICE.

SEVERAL ADVANCED DESIGN VESSELS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR TRIAL AND THE FIRST - AN ITALIAN-MADE VESSEL CALLED "PELICAN" - COMMENCED A SIX-MONTH ASSESSMENT EARLIER THIS MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE "PELICAN" IS A MULTI-FUNCTION ANTI-POLLUTION CRAFT, CAPABLE OF RECOVERING OIL SPILLS IN ADDITION TO THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF COLLECTING FLOATING REFUSE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SIX-MONTH ASSESSMENT TOOK THE FORM OF A HIRE AGREEMENT OF \$22,200 PER MONTH, WITH AN OPTION TO PURCHASE THE VESSEL AT THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

"DURING THIS PERIOD, THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VESSEL IN RESPECT OF SUCH ASPECTS AS EASE OF OPERATION IN VARIOUS SEA STATES, MANOEUVRABILITY IN CONGESTED WATERS, FUEL COSTS, MAINTENANCE AND DOWNTIME WILL BE MONITORED IN ADDITION TO ITS EFFICIENCY IN RECOVERING FLOATING REFUSE," HE SAID.

A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO TAKE UP THE OPTION TO PURCHASE THE VESSEL WILL BE MADE EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG WATERS HAD BEEN COLLECTED BY LOCAL SAMPANS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SINCE 1960.

/"THESE SAMPANS .....

"THESE SAMPANS HAD PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE, IF RATHER QUaint, REFUSE RECOVERY SERVICE SINCE THEN AND EVEN NOW CONTINUE TO PERFORM FUNCTIONS IN CONGESTED MOORING AREAS OF TYPHOON SHELTERS AND SIMILAR RESTRICTED WATERS," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE CHANGING NATURE AND INCREASED QUANTITY OF REFUSE ENTERING THE HARBOUR HAD MADE IT NECESSARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO LOOK FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SERVICE.

IN MARCH 1979, THE DEPARTMENT PURCHASED THE FIRST STATE-OF-THE-ART REFUSE COLLECTION VESSEL, "WATERWITCH 1", AND A FURTHER FIVE "WATERWITCHES" AND A CUSTOM DESIGN VESSEL FOR OFFSHORE WATERS, THE "HARBOUR SWEEPER", HAD SINCE BEEN ADDED TO THE FLEET, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FLOATING REFUSE COLLECTED IN THE HARBOUR BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FLEET TOTALLED 3,631 TONNES IN 1986, 4,440 TONNES IN 1987 AND 2,220 TONNES IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

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#### REPAIR ORDERS SERVED ON MIRADOR MANSION OWNERS

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A CONTINUING FULL SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) AT MIRADOR MANSION IN TSIM SHA TSUI HAS RESULTED IN THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ISSUING FOUR REPAIR ORDERS ON CO-OWNERS.

ONLY ONE ORDER IS CONNECTED WITH THE RECENT FIRE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOO SAID THAT STAFF HAD BEEN CARRYING OUT A SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF THE BUILDING AND WERE IN THE PROCESS OF SERVING ORDERS TO THE CO-OWNERS WHEN THE FIRE BROKE OUT.

THE ORDERS, UNCONNECTED WITH THE FIRE, REQUIRE:

- \* OWNERS OF THE BASEMENT UNITS AND THE INDIVIDUAL UNITS ON THE THIRD FLOOR AND UPWARDS TO CARRY OUT GENERAL CONCRETE AND OTHER REPAIR WORKS WITHIN THEIR UNITS;
- \* ALL THE CO-OWNERS OF THE WHOLE BUILDING TO CARRY OUT REPAIR TO THE EXTERNAL WALLS AND COMMON AREAS; AND
- \* ALL THE CO-OWNERS OF THE WHOLE BUILDING TO REPAIR THE WASTE PIPES, RAINWATER PIPES, SOIL AND VENT PIPES OF THE BUILDING.

THE ONLY ORDER ISSUED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRE REQUIRES THE OWNERS OF THE GROUND TO THE SECOND FLOORS OF MIRADOR MANSION TO INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT AND SEVERITY OF THE FIRE DAMAGE TO THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL UNITS AND TO CARRY OUT REMEDIAL WORKS AS FOUND TO BE NECESSARY.

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"COPIES OF THESE ORDERS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT CONSPICUOUS PLACES OF THE PREMISES, SUCH AS AT THE MAIN STAIRCASES TO THE BUILDING.

"COPIES OF THE SAME ORDERS AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN SERVED TO THE LAST KNOWN PLACE OF BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL OWNER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, AN AUTHORISED PERSON, THAT IS AN ARCHITECT, AN ENGINEER OR A SURVEYOR REGISTERED WITH THE BUILDING AUTHORITY, IS REQUIRED TO CO-ORDINATE THE WORKS AND A REGISTERED CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO CARRY THEM OUT TO THE AUTHORITY'S SATISFACTION.

IN THE EVENT THAT CO-OWNERS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDERS BY DUE DATES, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY MAY WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE CARRY OUT THE WORKS AND RECOVER THE APPORTIONED COSTS FROM THEM UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

"IF THE COSTS AND INTEREST ACCRUED THEREON HAVE NOT BEEN WHOLLY RECOVERED, SUCH COSTS AND INTEREST MAY BE REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE AGAINST THE TITLE OF THE PREMISES CONCERNED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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#### LAND COMMISSION HOLDS 16TH MEETING

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THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HELD ITS 16TH MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY). THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR WOULD BE \$2,150 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE LAND COMMISSION CONFIRMED THAT THE 1988-89 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO PROVIDE 60 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY LAND SALES PROGRAMME, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO INCLUDE A FURTHER 1.9 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE 1988-89 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME. FURTHER SIMILAR REVIEWS WOULD TAKE PLACE LATER IN THE YEAR.

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HKIEC ANNOUNCES LAND PREMIUM INCREASES

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THE BOARD OF THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED LAND PREMIUM INCREASES FOR ITS TWO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES.

WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE LAND PREMIUM AT YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WILL GO UP FROM \$900 TO \$1,100 PER SQUARE METRE WHILE THAT AT TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1,100 TO \$1,250 PER SQUARE METRE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED THE INCREASES REASONABLE IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT INDUSTRIAL LAND PRICES.

"AT FANLING, WHERE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SELLING INDUSTRIAL LAND THIS YEAR, PREMIUM PAID HAS RISEN FROM ABOUT \$4,000 PER SQUARE METRE IN JANUARY TO ABOUT \$6,600 PER SQUARE METRE IN JULY WHEN DISCOUNTED TO AN EQUIVALENT PLOT RATIO OF 2.5, WHICH APPLIES TO THE CORPORATION'S ESTATES," MR CHEONG SAID.

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YAU TSIM DB TO DISCUSS CRIMES BILL

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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

THE BILL, GAZETTED ON JULY 1, PROPOSES TO IMPLEMENT A CLOSURE ORDER SCHEME TO HELP ABATE THE NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3, AND WHETHER THE LAW GOVERNING HOMOSEXUAL AND LOITERING OFFENCES SHOULD BE CHANGED.

IN ADDITION, PROGRESS REPORTS ON VARIOUS COMMITTEES WILL BE TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS;

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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YUEN LONG BUS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT UNDER STUDY

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT 1989-90 BUS ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR YUEN LONG DISTRICT AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSAL TO BUILD A BRIDGE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE LINK BETWEEN LONG PING ESTATE AND YEUNG UK TSUEN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS LANDFILL, REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

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THE KOWLOON BAY REFUSE TRANSFER STATION PROJECT AND THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL WILL BE TOPPING THE AGENDA OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ON THE KOWLOON BAY REFUSE TRANSFER STATION PROJECT, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE REASONS FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION AND THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS IN RELATION TO ITS FUTURE OPERATION.

WHILE THE KOWLOON BAY PROJECT IS STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGE, THE EXISTING JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL HAS RECENTLY BECOME A SUBJECT OF INCREASING CONCERN BECAUSE OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE SHUN LEE AREA.

THE LANDFILL WILL, THEREFORE, BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE HAWKER PROBLEM IN THE DISTRICT, AND CONSIDER ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAINSHELTER AT PAU TOI SHAN IN YAU TONG AND A BASKETBALL COURT IN MA WAN VILLAGE.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS ON WORKS PROJECTS AND MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET.

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KWUN TONG DB COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT LANDFILL

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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, WHO WILL DISCUSS THE JORDAN VALLEY LANDFILL AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW, CONDUCTED A SITE VISIT THIS (THURSDAY)MORNING TO UPDATE THEMSELVES ON THE LANDFILL'S OPERATIONS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

THE COMMITTEE LAST INSPECTED THE LANDFILL SITE, LOCATED IN SHUN LEE AREA, IN MAY THIS YEAR. THE MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON SITE TODAY BY A SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR KO HON-SHEUNG.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE PLANT HAD BEEN USED TO SPREAD, LEVEL AND COMPACT THE REFUSE, AND THAT MORE LORRIES HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO TRANSPORT ENOUGH EARTH FILLING TO THE SITE TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF REFUSE BEING EXPOSED IN AIR.

THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD HELP ABATE THE FLY AND ODOUR NUISANCES WHICH HAD BECOME A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN OF RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF SHUN LEE AREA.

MEMBERS ALSO LEARNED THAT STAFF OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD STEPPED UP THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTROL FLIES AT THE SITE WITH PESTICIDES.

TODAY'S VISIT, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF AND SHUN LEE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WAS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS TO MONITOR THE LANDFILL SINCE IT STARTED OPERATIONS IN APRIL, 1986.

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YOUTHS HELP RENOVATE HOUSES FOR ELDERLY ISLANDERS

\* \* \* \* \*

TWENTY ELDERLY RESIDENTS OF TAI O ON LANTAU HAD THEIR HOUSES RENOVATED WITH THE HELP OF A GROUP OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO WISHED TO SPEND A MEANINGFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY.

THE "RENOVATION OF VILLAGE HOUSES" PROJECT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE YWCA TAI O COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, WAS PART OF THE DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED BY THE COMMUNITY BUILDING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN TAI O WERE LIVING IN SQUATTER HUTS AND MOST OF THEM WERE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT RENOVATION WORKS BY THEMSELVES.

THE RENOVATION WORKS WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT TODAY (THURSDAY) AND YESTERDAY, HAD GIVEN YOUTHS IN THE DISTRICT A CHANCE TO SERVE THEIR ELDERLY NEIGHBOURS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO SHOW MORE CONCERN FOR THE ELDERLY AND GAIN EXPERIENCE IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ISLANDERS AGED 60 AND ABOVE WHO WERE LIVING IN SQUATTER HUTS AND TILTED STRUCTURES ALONG TAI O CREEK WERE INVITED TO REGISTER MANY WEEKS AGO.

HOUSEHOLD VISITS WERE ORGANISED TO EXPLORE THEIR NEEDS AND A WORK SCHEDULE WAS DRAWN UP. PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO THOSE ELDERLY LIVING ALONE.

"WORKS CARRIED OUT INCLUDED PAINTING AND SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE DISTRICT OFFICE PLANS TO EXTEND THE PROGRAMME TO OTHER VILLAGES AND A SIMILAR PROJECT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SAI WAN ON CHEUNG CHAU NEXT MONTH," HE SAID.

"GREATER SUPPORT FROM LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS IS EXTREMELY ESSENTIAL FOR THIS KIND OF SERVICE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND TO BENEFIT MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE LATEST GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THE E. COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A TWO AND A HALF MONTH PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF BEACHES, AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY. SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, FIVE BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

/THESE BEACHES .....

THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY. THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE FIVE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 11.8.88)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 25.8.88)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	A	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	A	A
DEEP WATER BAY	A	B
HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	C	C
REPULSE BAY	B	C
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	A	B
ST STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	A	A
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A
ISLAND DISTRICT -----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	B
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A

KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	B	B
SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	B	B
TUNG O*	A	A

## SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	A	B
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	B	B
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	B	B
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A

## TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	B	B
CASAM	B	B
GEMINI	B	B
HOI MEI WAN	B	B
LIDO	B	B
TING KAU	B	C
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A

TUEN MUN DISTRICT  
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OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	B	B
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE BEACH	A	B
BUTTERFLY	B	B

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.  
\* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

DEEP WATER BAY, SOUTH BAY, CLEAR WATER BAY FIRST AND KADOORIE,  
FROM "A" TO "B".

THE CHANGE FROM "A" TO "B" OR VICE VERSA IS CONSIDERED TO BE  
WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY  
OF THESE BEACHES.

REPULSE BAY AND TING KAU, FROM "B" TO "C".

THE USUAL GRADING OF REPULSE BAY BEACH IS "B".

THE BEACH IS AFFECTED BY STORMWATER DRAINS DISCHARGING  
IMPROPERLY TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM THE BUILDINGS IN ITS  
HINTERLAND.

THE RECENT RAINFALL HAS CAUSED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE  
STORMWATER DRAINS TO BE WASHED TO THE BEACH.

THE WATER QUALITY OF TING KAU BEACH NORMALLY FLUCTUATES  
BETWEEN "B" AND "C".

IT IS POLLUTED BY TSUEN WAN HARBOUR WATER AND BY SEWAGE FROM  
TING KAU VILLAGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR CATHERINE LAM, ACTING  
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, AT  
3-7211044.

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TUEN MUN CHOIR SEEKS ASSISTANT CONDUCTORS, ACCOMPANISTS  
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THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL NEED TWO MORE ASSISTANT CONDUCTORS AND TWO MORE ACCOMPANISTS TO COPE WITH ITS EXPANSION SCHEME THIS YEAR.

FORMED IN 1981, THE CHOIR NOW HAS 120 MEMBERS RANGING FROM EIGHT TO 14 YEARS AND IT PLANS TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS THIS YEAR.

EXPERIENCED CONDUCTORS AND PIANISTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT CONDUCTORS AND ACCOMPANISTS RESPECTIVELY.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD WRITE TO THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR, C/O TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS SEPTEMBER 3 AND APPLICANTS WILL BE SHORT-LISTED FOR INTERVIEW IN MID-SEPTEMBER. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-4509686.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE  
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL GOVERNMENT CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 27), WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

HOWEVER, EIGHT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL BE OPEN ON MONDAY (AUGUST 29), THE LIBERATION DAY, FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL POLYCLINIC AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; THE KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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REMINDER ON FERRY ROUTE WITHDRAWAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TSING YI OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY LIMITED (HYF) WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SATURDAY (AUGUST 27).

AFFECTED PASSENGERS CAN MAKE USE OF THE BUS ROUTE NO. 43B OPERATING FROM CHEUNG CHING TO TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER.

SINCE AUGUST 15, THE FREQUENCY OF THE BUS SERVICE HAS BEEN INCREASED TO EIGHT/NINE MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS. THE FARE IS \$1.20 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE FERRY SERVICE WAS MADE IN VIEW OF THE DRASTIC DECLINE IN ITS PATRONAGE FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE TSING TSUEN BRIDGE IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND THE AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE LAND TRANSPORT SERVICE.

THE CANCELLATION OF THE FERRY ROUTE IS ONE OF THE HYF'S PROPOSALS TO RATIONALISE ITS CROSS HARBOUR FERRY NETWORK SO AS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE FERRY SERVICE AT REASONABLE FARE LEVELS.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A 400-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE NORTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR TOLO HIGHWAY WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 28).

THE NORTHBOUND FAST LANE OF THE SAME SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM ON THE NEXT DAY (AUGUST 29).

THE CLOSURES ARE TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK.

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