



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CS: CHANGES MAKE FOR MORE RESPONSIVE GOVT

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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS NOW TAKING PLACE MAKE FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT AND, IN MANY WAYS, A STRONGER GOVERNMENT ALSO, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN THE NEW SITUATION, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD TO BE SURE IT HAD POLITICAL SUPPORT BEFORE INTRODUCING NEW LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID TOLD A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHEAST.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE ADMINISTRATION COULD AIR AND TEST IN THE PUBLIC ARENA PROPOSALS WHICH IN THE PAST MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED TOO CONTROVERSIAL FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO BRING FORWARD ON THEIR OWN ACCOUNT.

"THIS HAS ENCOURAGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE BOLDER IN ITS APPROACH TO DIFFICULT PROBLEMS," HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH WHICH WAS ABOUT THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SIR DAVID SAID THE INCREASING PACE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WAS HAVING A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT UPON THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SOME CIVIL SERVANTS TOOK MORE READILY TO THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES THAN OTHERS, HE SAID, BUT MOST SAW THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING PART OF A SYSTEM WHICH WAS BECOMING MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

"ALTHOUGH PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION FOCUS INCREASINGLY UPON MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, AND ON DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, THE SYSTEM STILL DEPENDS HEAVILY UPON SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE TO PRESENT, DEFEND AND ARGUE FOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM," HE SAID.

"OUR POLICY SECRETARIES AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS THEREFORE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PUBLIC PRESENTATION AS WELL AS THE HARD WORK THEY HAVE TO DO BEHIND THE SCENES BEFORE NEW POLICY SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY.

"THEY SHOULD NOT FEEL INHIBITED IN THE CHANGED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE FROM ASSUMING A HIGH PUBLIC PROFILE. I BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE EXPECT SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO STAND UP AND SPEAK UP FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

"THAT IS WHAT LEADERSHIP IS ALL ABOUT AND WE WOULD BE FAILING IN OUR DUTY IF WE WERE NOT TO RECOGNISE IT."

/BUT SIR

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BUT SIR DAVID STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF NON-OFFICIALS. THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EXCO, LEGCO, FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE WIDE RANGE OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WAS VITAL IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO CONTINUE TO GOVERN BY CONSENSUS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT BY ESTABLISHING THE NEW AUTHORITIES, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CERTAINLY NOT ABROGATING ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY AND FINANCIAL CONTROL IN MAJOR AREAS OF ITS OPERATIONS.

POLICY-MAKING REMAINED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. IT WAS THE POLICY SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR AN AUTHORITY WHO APPEARED IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS. AND IT WAS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT APPROVED FUNDS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO THE AUTHORITIES.

THE RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHING AUTHORITIES WAS VERY CLEAR, HE SAID.

THE AUTHORITIES PROVIDED A WAY OF MAKING USE OF THE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY BUT NOT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE AUTHORITIES WERE ABLE TO OPERATE IN A MORE FLEXIBLE WAY, IN TERMS OF THEIR MANAGEMENT STYLE AND FINANCIAL CONTROL THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

IN ADDITION, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTHORITIES PROVIDED A WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE DID NOT GROW TOO DRAMATICALLY.

"THE OVER-RIDING ADVANTAGE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH BODIES IS THAT THEY ALLOW A MUCH GREATER DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES WHICH ARE OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

"THAT MUST BE A PROGRESSIVE AND WELCOME DEVELOPMENT AND I AM SURPRISED THAT SOME OF OUR CRITICS HAVE FAILED TO RECOGNISE IT AS SUCH."

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS PROUD TO HEAD THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND EXPLAINED THAT DESPITE WHAT CARTOONISTS AND COMMENTATORS WOULD HAVE THE PUBLIC BELIEVE, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A TYPICAL CIVIL SERVANT.

THERE WERE OVER 180,000 CIVIL SERVANTS IN 435 GRADES IN SOME 60 DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, AND THEY DID "A VARIETY OF JOBS NOT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH PUSHING PENS".

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG WAS LUCKY TO BE SERVED BY SUCH A HARD-WORKING AND LOYAL TEAM, HE SAID.

"THE WAY THE PUBLIC SERVICE RESPONDS TO A CHALLENGE, AND IS PREPARED TO TACKLE DIFFICULT TASKS IN SUCH AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND UNCOMPLAINING WAY, IS, I BELIEVE, UNIQUE," HE REMARKED.

SIR DAVID REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO HOW, FOLLOWING THE LARGE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE, MEMBERS OF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD WORKED LONG HOURS AND GAVE UP THEIR FREE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED.

"FOR ALL THE JOKES AND CRITICISM ONE HEARS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, I BELIEVE THE COMMUNITY SHOULD, AND I HOPE DOES, RECOGNISE THAT HERE IN HONG KONG OUR PARTICULAR BREED OF CIVIL SERVANT DOES INDEED EARN HIS RICE," HE SAID.

"CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TOGETHER REPRESENT SOME 12 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION AND THEY DO, OF COURSE, SHARE THE SAME FEARS, THE SAME WORRIES AS THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

"IN COMMON, WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, THEY ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

"BUT, LIKE THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE HERE, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM ALSO KNOW THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR HOME IN HONG KONG AND ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE THE BEST OF WHATEVER THE FUTURE MAY HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM."

SIR DAVID SAID THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF MOST OF THE MORE SENIOR PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY.

"IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE OLD FASHIONED CONCEPT OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND LOYALTY TO THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS A STRONG FACTOR IN THEIR MOTIVATION," HE SAID.

"THEY REALISE ALSO THAT, AS FAR AS THE FUTURE IS CONCERNED, MANY EYES ARE UPON THEM.

"THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, IN THE FUTURE, WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE INTEGRITY, EFFICIENCY AND LOYALTY OF THE SERVICE AS A WHOLE AND THE PERFORMANCE OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN PARTICULAR.

"IT IS PERHAPS FOR THIS REASON THAT, COMPARED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE PROPORTION OF THEM CHOOSING TO EMIGRATE REMAINS VERY SMALL.

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"LONG MAY IT REMAIN SO BECAUSE THEIR EXPERIENCE IS DIFFICULT TO REPLACE. IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WE CERTAINLY CANNOT, AND INDEED WOULD NOT, TRY TO BUY IN REPLACEMENTS BY OFFERING HIGH SALARIES OR HEFTY SIGN-ON BONUSES."

CONCLUDING, SIR DAVID SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE STYLE AND SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE CHANGING, THE PACE REMAINED AS DYNAMIC AS EVER. DYNAMIC, NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, BUT ALSO IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

BUT, OF COURSE, THE POWER HOUSE WAS FUELLED BY A BUOYANT ECONOMY AND THAT, IN TURN, BY THE EFFORTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTERWARDS, SIR DAVID SAID WASTAGE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS HAS BEEN ON A VERY EVEN KEEL, AND HAS NOT MATCHED THE UPSURGE IN EMIGRATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE SAID OVERALL WASTAGE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WAS ABOUT FOUR PER CENT, COMPARED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FIGURE OF ABOUT TEN PER CENT.

"OBVIOUSLY IN SOME AREAS THERE HAVE BEEN GREATER FIGURES THAN THAT, IN PARTICULAR WHERE OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE MADE ATTRACTIVE OFFERS TO PARTICULAR CIVIL SERVANTS, BUT IN BROAD TERMS, THE FIGURE IS LOWER THAN IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND I THINK VERY ENCOURAGING TOO," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD HAVE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ROLE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

HE SAID: "THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST AND THAT DEPENDS UPON OUR CIVIL SERVANTS STAYING IN PLACE AND PROVIDING THE SORT OF SERVICE THEY PROVIDE NOW."

"I THINK THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF LOYALTY WITHIN THE SERVICE AND I AM SURE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THEM WILL FEEL THAT LOYALTY SHOULD CARRY THEM THROUGH BEYOND 1997," HE SAID.

ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANY CONTINGENCY PLAN IN CASE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVIL SERVANTS LEAVING, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE OPTIONS OPEN.

IF THAT EVENTUALITY SHOULD OCCUR AND VACANCIES WERE STILL LEFT UNFILLED AFTER LOCAL RECRUITMENT, THE GOVERNMENT COULD RECRUIT OVERSEAS AS IT HAD BEEN DOING, HE ADDED.

"BUT IT IS NOT AN EVENTUALITY I THINK THAT IT IS WISE TO PLAN FOR BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN," THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED.

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"WE ARE STILL RECRUITING OVERSEAS FOR A NUMBER OF GRADES WITHIN THE SERVICE, AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULDN'T CONTINUE TO DO THAT IN THE FUTURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT A THIRD TO HALF OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS WOULD STILL BE EXPATRIATES UP TO AND BEYOND 1997, AND THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY IN KEEPING WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL LOOKING FOR SOME ADDITIONAL FIGURES AND THE STUDY WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.

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HONG KONG WELCOMES HANOI INITIATIVE

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO DISCUSS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

REFERRING TO A REPORT OF A VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN BROADCAST ON HANOI RADIO, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IS MOST WELCOME.

"THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN HANOI HAS RECEIVED AN INVITATION FOR HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO VISIT HANOI TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AND WE SHALL BE RESPONDING POSITIVELY" THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED A NEW POLICY ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ON JUNE 16 WHEREBY THEY ARE TREATED AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS UNLESS, AFTER SCREENING, THEY ARE DETERMINED TO BE GENUINE REFUGEES.

THOSE SCREENED OUT WILL BE DETAINED WITHOUT ACCESS TO RESETTLEMENT UNTIL THEY CAN BE REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AND SEEK THEIR COOPERATION IN STOPPING THIS UNHAPPY OUTFLOW AND IN REPATRIATING THOSE WHO ARE NOT GENUINE REFUGEES.

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REGIMENT VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN BOAT PEOPLE OPERATION
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VOLUNTEERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT WILL MAN A YAU MA TEI FERRY COMPANY VESSEL WHICH IS BEING RENTED TO ACCOMMODATE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

THIRTY OFFICERS WILL BE DEPLOYED ON MONDAY (JULY 11) TO ASSIST THE CIVIL AID SERVICES.

THE FERRY WAS RENTED THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON AND ABOUT 500 BOAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAKEN THERE FROM THE GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF ARRIVALS UNTIL THE CHI MA WAN DETENTION CENTRE IS READY EARLY NEXT MONTH.

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS NOW TAKING URGENT STEPS TO IMPLEMENT A PACKAGE OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES AIMED AT GIVING SOME RELIEF TO TRAFFIC USING THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND TO TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR JAMES SO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WERE LISTED IN THE REPORT ON CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC STUDY COMPILED JOINTLY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND A CONSULTANCY FIRM.

THEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT SHORTLY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF MINIMISING THE EFFECT OF TUNNEL TRAFFIC ON NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC, REDUCING CONFLICT CAUSED BY MERGING TRAFFIC ON APPROACHES TO THE TUNNEL AND IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES.

AFTER LENGTHY DELIBERATIONS ON THE VARIOUS MEASURES, INCLUDING PROPOSALS ON TOLLS, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE YESTERDAY RECOMMENDED THAT CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLLS SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED.

AT THE SAME TIME, TAC MEMBERS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PACKAGE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MR SO NOTED THAT TRAFFIC QUEUES AT THE TUNNEL HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC USING THE SAME ROADS, SUCH AS CHATHAM ROAD, EAST KOWLOON WAY, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND CANAL ROAD.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE EFFECT OF THESE QUEUES CAN BE REDUCED BY DIVERTING NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC TO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

THIS CAN ALSO BE ACHIEVED BY SEGREGATING TUNNEL TRAFFIC FROM NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC BY USING ROAD MARKINGS TO REDUCE CONFLICT OF TRAFFIC MERGING AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE TUNNEL.

THE MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON GLOUCESTER ROAD, CONVENTION AVENUE, CANAL ROAD ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND CHATHAM ROAD NORTH IN KOWLOON.

MR SO POINTED OUT THAT FRANCHISED BUSES AT PRESENT CARRY SOME 70 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGER TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL. THEY ARE THE MOST EFFICIENT CARRIERS AND ANY METHODS TO IMPROVE THEIR OPERATION WILL BENEFIT THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

MEASURES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO REDUCE THE DELAYS CAUSED BY THE TUNNEL QUEUES AND BY THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE TOLL PLAZA LAYBY AT THE KOWLOON ENTRANCE.

THESE INCLUDE BUS ROUTE DIVERSIONS, RELOCATION OF CROSS HARBOUR BUS STOPS ON CHATHAM ROAD, THE WIDENING OF THE BUS LAYBY, AND AS THE PROVISION OF NON-STOP AND SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES.

ALTHOUGH THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE SOME RELIEF TO NON-TUNNEL TRAFFIC AND TO BRING SOME IMPROVEMENT TO THE OPERATION OF CROSS HARBOUR BUSES, THEY CANNOT INCREASE THE CAPACITY OR THE TUNNEL THROUGHOUT, MR SO SAID.

THE CONSULTANCY REPORT HAS PROJECTED THAT THE LEVEL OF DAILY TRAFFIC FLOW THROUGH THE TUNNEL WILL INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT 117,000 TO ABOUT 129,000 BY OCTOBER NEXT YEAR.

THIS WOULD RESULT IN LONG QUEUES FORMING AND EXTENDING FROM AS EARLY AS 7.30 AM TO AS LATE AS 8 PM OR 9 PM, CAUSING SERIOUS DISRUPTION AND DELAYS TO OTHER TRAFFIC AS WELL.

THE REPORT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT EVERY 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN TRAFFIC WOULD RESULT IN A 50 PER CENT INCREASE IN QUEUE LENGTH. THIS MEANS THAT BY OCTOBER NEXT YEAR, QUEUES OF TRAFFIC EXTENDING FROM THE TUNNEL PORTALS COULD REACH FOUR TO FIVE KILOMETRES.

MR SO SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AND WILL DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO EASE CONGESTION.

BUT THE PROJECTION IS THAT THE CONGESTION PROBLEM WILL GET WORSE AND THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT RELIEF UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BY THE LATER PART OF NEXT YEAR, HE SAID.

"I THEREFORE HOPE THAT MOTORISTS WILL BE PATIENT, TRY TO AVOID USING THE TUNNEL DURING PEAK HOURS AND SWITCH TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT," MR SO ADDED.

EXCO APPROVES DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TO BE MANAGED BY THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (HKIEC).

THE HKIEC HAS INDICATED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TO BE LOCATED IN JUNK BAY, CLOSE TO THE SITE OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE CORPORATION IS AWARE OF THE INCREASING NEED FOR GREATER INTERACTION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE RESEARCH AND ABSORPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

THE SITE IN JUNK BAY WILL OCCUPY A GROSS AREA OF ABOUT 100 HECTARES.

EXCLUDING THE LAND REQUIRED FOR ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE, THE NET AMOUNT OF INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE SHOULD BE IN THE ORDER OF 75 HECTARES,

BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON JUNK BAY AS THE SITE FOR THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONDUCT STUDIES ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE COST OF SITE FORMATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS, TRANSPORT LINKS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT.

TIME HAS TO BE ALLOWED FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, SETTLING ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HKIEC AND TENDERING OUT OF CONTRACTS.

BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SITE FORMATION FOR THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE COULD START IN EARLY 1990, WITH THE FIRST FORMED LAND AVAILABLE IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1992.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, DRAINS AND OTHER SERVICES WOULD TAKE A FURTHER TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO SELL THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL SITES IN 1993.

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NEED FOR MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO WORLD TRADE

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ANY PROLIFERATION OF BILATERAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE U.S.-CANADA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT COULD RESULT IN AN EROSION OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM, HONG KONG'S MINISTER IN THE UNITED STATES, MR PETER LO, SAID IN SEATTLE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING DELEGATES AT A THREE-DAY SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE MANSFIELD CENTRE FOR PACIFIC AFFAIRS IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON STATE, MR LO EMPHASISED THAT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE OF MULTILATERALISM AS ENSHRINED IN THE GATT.

"ANY PROLIFERATION OF BILATERAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS IS BOUND TO BE CHARACTERISED BY AN ARRAY OF DIFFERENT AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND REQUIREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED," MR LO POINTED OUT.

"THE RESULT OF ALL THESE SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE TO ERODE FURTHER THE MOST-FAVoured-NATION PRINCIPLE AND SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE GATT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR MULTILATERAL RULES AND AS A FORUM FOR MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS."

TURNING TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FTA, MR LO PINPOINTED TWO ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH HE BELIEVED COULD PROVE HELPFUL IN THE PROCESS OF TRADE LIBERALISATION IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE FIRST ELEMENT IS IN THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM WHICH PROVIDES FOR BINDING ARBITRATION OF TRADE DISPUTES, A FEATURE NOT AT PRESENT AVAILABLE IN THE GATT," HE SAID.

"THE SECOND ELEMENT WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY PROVE HELPFUL IS IN THE AREA OF SERVICES WHERE A FRAMEWORK OF GENERALLY APPLICABLE RULES HAS BEEN AGREED."

EXPANDING ON THE THEME OF TRADE IN SERVICES, MR LO SAID HE BELIEVED HONG KONG COULD SUPPORT A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING SUCH TRADE WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF MOST FAVoured NATION, NON-DISCRIMINATION, TRANSPARENCY AND NATIONAL TREATMENT.

HONG KONG ALREADY PROVIDES ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST OPEN ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE TRADE IN SERVICES. BY ALLOWING RELATIVELY UNFETTERED ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE PROVIDERS, HONG KONG HAS BENEFITTED FROM A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SITUATION THAT HAS ENSURED A RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY SERVICES, NOT ONLY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION BUT ALSO FOR EXPORT.

/"COMPETITION FROM

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"COMPETITION FROM ABROAD HAS THUS PROVIDED A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE STIMULUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SERVICES SECTOR," MR LO SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL PERCEPTIONS OF TRADE PATTERNS, MR LO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE PRACTICE OF GROUPING FOUR QUITE DISSIMILAR TRADING ENTITIES "UNDER THE EXPENDIENT TAG 'THE FOUR ASIAN NIC'S'."

"THIS IS A TERM WHICH HAS NEITHER POLITICAL NOR ECONOMIC LEGITIMACY. THESE FOUR 'NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES' ARE NOT IN ANY FORM OF ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL UNION," HE SAID.

"THEY EACH HAVE THEIR OWN AND QUITE DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC POLICY. GEOGRAPHICALLY THEY ARE NEITHER CLOSE NOR HOMOGENOUS.

"LUMPING THESE ECONOMIES TOGETHER IS UNJUSTIFIED AND UNFAIR, ESPECIALLY WHEN COUPLED WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES THAT THE NIE'S SHOULD GENERALLY ASSUME GATT OBLIGATIONS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR STAKE IN WORLD TRADE.

HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE DO NOT NEED LESSONS FROM THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES IN GATT OBLIGATIONS," MR LO POINTED OUT. "THEY HAVE NEITHER TARIFF NOR NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE, AND OFFER ENVIRONMENTS MOST CONDUCIVE TO FURTHER EXPANSION OF TRADE."

MR LO WELCOMED SIGNS OF GREATER DISCERNMENT IN THE MOST RECENT REPORT OF THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE ARE TREATED SEPARATELY, AND PARTICULAR REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE FACT THAT THESE TWO ECONOMIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE INCREASED SPECIALISATION OF WORLD TRADE WITHOUT PUTTING UNDUE STRAIN ON THE PROCESS OF GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.

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LEAFLET AND HOTLINE ADVICE ON HYGIENIC WAYS TO PREPARE VEGETABLES

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IN VIEW OF THE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER RECENT INCIDENTS OF FOOD POISONING BY CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, A LEAFLET PROVIDING BRIEF GUIDANCE ON WHAT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID THE RISK OF CONSUMING VEGETABLES TAINTED WITH AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REFERENCE.

PRODUCED BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH UNDER THE AUSPICES OF URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, COPIES OF THE LEAFLETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES STARTING FROM TUESDAY (JULY 12).

BEGINNING TODAY (FRIDAY), A 24-HOUR HOTLINE - 5-8916443 - MAINTAINED BY THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF MSB, ALSO PROVIDES A TAPED MESSAGE ON VEGETABLE AND FOOD HYGIENE.

THE TWO-MINUTE MESSAGE IN CANTONESE WILL GIVE ADVICE ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN.

THESE ARE:

- * DO NOT BUY VEGETABLES WHICH HAVE STRANGE SMELL;
- * WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY WITH WATER;
- * SOAK THEM IN WATER FOR SOME TIME;
- * BOIL THEM FOR A WHILE AND DRAIN THE WATER; AND
- * COOK THEM THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO LEAVE THEIR QUESTIONS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS WHICH WILL BE RECORDED AFTER THE MESSAGE.

THEIR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY BY STAFF OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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LABORATORY TEST RESULTS ON VEGETABLES RECEIVED

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THE HYGIENE ADVISOR OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, DR RONALD PERRY, THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON SAID THAT THE LABORATORY TEST RESULT OF THE SAMPLE OF FOOD RESIDUES TAKEN FROM THE PATIENTS' HOME YESTERDAY IN THE INCIDENT ON SUSPECT CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, HAD CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF THE PESTICIDE 'METHAMIDOPHOS'.

"WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE TEST RESULTS OF OTHER SAMPLES WE HAVE COLLECTED BEFORE WE DECIDE WHAT FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE BRANCH WOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN BORDER CHECKS OF IMPORTED VEGETABLES ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE SUSPECTED FARMS IN SHENZHEN UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THESE VEGETABLES ARE SAFE.

DR PERRY ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CONTACTED THE SHENZHEN IMPORT AND EXPORT COMMODITY INSPECTION BUREAU REQUESTING THEM TO TIGHTEN UP THEIR PESTICIDE CONTROL IN THEIR FARMS.

"AN OFFICIAL OF THE BUREAU HAS VERBALLY AGREED TO INVESTIGATE AND LOOK INTO THE INCIDENTS," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY STANDARD OF FOOD AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED TO HONG KONG.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH THIS CHANNEL OUR CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE WILL BE FULLY REFLECTED TO THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITY," HE ADDED.

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PRIVATE SECTOR PITCHES IN TO CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN

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THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN WILL SEE ITS GREATEST EVER COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN AN APPEAL DAY FUNCTION TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

IN RESPONSE TO A CALL FOR MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN OPERATION, SOME 500 RETAIL OUTLETS OF LOCAL CHAIN-STORES, SUPERMARKETS, SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS, TOGETHER WITH 1,900 COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTING KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STICKERS TO THE PUBLIC THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

/"WE FEEL

"WE FEEL ENCOURAGED TO SEE SO MANY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY BODIES SUPPORTING US," SAID DR PANG HOK-TUEN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

"IT IS THIS KIND OF SUPPORT THAT IS MOST VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN," HE ADDED.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, A CEREMONY TO SIGNIFY THE DELEGATION OF MISSION OF THE APPEAL DAY TO THE PARTICIPATING PARTIES WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM TOMORROW AT THE STATUE SQUARE IN CENTRAL.

AN EXHIBITION FEATURING A SELECTION OF LITTER BINS OF INTERESTING DESIGNS WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT THE SAME VENUE TO ADD COLOUR TO THE EVENT.

URBAN COUNCILLORS, REGIONAL COUNCILLORS, TV ARTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING PARTIES WITH THEIR UNIFORM TEAMS AND CYC MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY AND WILL DISTRIBUTE STICKERS TO PASSERS-BY AT THE STATUE SQUARE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE STATUE SQUARE AT 8.45 AM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TUEN MUN PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON LRT, ROAD SAFETY

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THE 1988 TUEN MUN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE WILL LAUNCH TWO MAJOR EVENTS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVING ROAD REGULATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF CARELESSNESS BY PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS.

THE EVENTS ARE A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) VILLAGE STATIONS OPEN DAY AND AN EXHIBITION ON ROAD SAFETY.

SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, THE CAMPAIGN IS PRESENTED JOINTLY BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S LIGHT RAIL DIVISION, AND VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

/IN THE

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IN THE MORNING, THE STATIONS OPEN DAY PROGRAMME, WHICH INCLUDES A LION DANCE, WILL BEGIN AT 9.15 AM AT THE CHUNG UK TSUEN STATION TO ENABLE THE VILLAGERS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LRT SYSTEM AND ROUTES.

THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN, AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

SIMILAR ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT NAI WAI STATION AT 9.35 AM, NAM TEI STATION AT 9.55 AM AND KEI LUN WAI STATION AT 10.15 AM.

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONCLUDE WITH A TEA RECEPTION AT THE LRT DEPOT IN LUNG MUN ROAD.

AT 12.30 PM, A GRAND OPENING OF THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD AT THE PODIUM ADJACENT TO THE MUSIC FOUNTAIN IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU; DIRECTOR OF THE KCRC'S LIGHT RAIL DIVISION, MR JOE WADE; AND THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR DAVID PITT.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN EXHIBITION COMPRISING 20 PANELS ILLUSTRATED WITH CARTOON DRAWINGS, TWO GAMES STALLS, AND SCREENING OF PROMOTIONAL FILMS ON THE VIDEO WALL IN THE TOWN PLAZA.

THE EXHIBITION PINPOINTS COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY PEDESTRIANS AND DRIVERS, SAFETY ASPECTS RELATING TO THE LRT, AND THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT CAN RESULT FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

RESIDENTS WILL HAVE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE THE EXHIBITION.

IT WILL CONTINUE IN THE TOWN PLAZA UNTIL JULY 16 AND WILL THEN BE MOUNTED IN THE BUTTERFLY SHOPPING ARCADE FROM JULY 17 TO 22; SHAN KING COMMUNITY HALL FROM JULY 23 TO 25; SHEK PAI TAU PLAYGROUND ON JULY 26; OPEN SPACE ADJACENT TO TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL FROM JULY 27 TO 31; SIU HONG COURT OPEN SPACE FROM AUGUST 1 TO 6, AND FINALLY IN THE HUNG KIU RECREATION AREA ON AUGUST 7.

THE NINE-MONTH CAMPAIGN WILL ALSO COMPRISE VISITS, A STICKER AND SLOGAN COMPETITION, DRIVING CARNIVAL, SELECTION OF MODEL DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS, SEMINARS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ROAD SAFETY ITEMS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE LRT VILLAGE STATIONS OPEN DAY AND THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT 9.15 AM IN THE CHUNG UK TSUEN STATION AND AT 12.30 PM IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA RESPECTIVELY. YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH EVENTS.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO TAKE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT 8.15 AM AT THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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SPECIAL STAMP SET FEATURES PEAK TRAMWAY

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A SET OF FOUR SPECIAL STAMPS FEATURING THE CENTENARY OF THE PEAK TRAMWAY WILL BE ISSUED ON AUGUST 4, THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE STAMPS ARE IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, \$1.30, \$1.70 AND \$5. A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING THE FOUR STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED AT \$8.50.

IN ADDITION, STAMP BOOKLETS CONTAINING THREE SOUVENIR SHEETS WILL BE PUT ON SALE ON AUGUST 25. THESE WILL BE PRICED AT \$26.

THE PEAK TRAMWAY IS HONG KONG'S OLDEST FORM OF MECHANISED PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ITS ORIGINS CAN BE TRACED BACK WELL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS, A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SUGGESTION THAT A PEAK TRAMWAY SYSTEM BE CONSTRUCTED WAS INITIATED BY A MERCHANT, MR ALEXANDER FINDLAY SMITH, IN 1881.

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN 1885, AND THE RAILWAY WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR WILLIAM DES VOEUX, ON MAY 28, 1888. IT WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC TWO DAYS LATER.

THE ROLE OF THE TRAMWAY HAS UNDERGONE CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN 100 YEARS, FROM PRIMARILY A MEANS OF TRANSPORT FOR COMMUTERS TO LARGELY A RECREATIONAL SERVICE FOR BOTH RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS.

TODAY, THE PEAK TRAM IS ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST FAMOUS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND LAST YEAR CARRIED OVER 2.7 MILLION PASSENGERS.

THE STAMPS AND SOUVENIR SHEET WERE DESIGNED BY MISS LILIAN TANG, ILLUSTRATED BY MISS KATHRYN BLOMFIELD AND PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA BY LEIGH-MARDON PTY. LTD.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AT 50 CENTS EACH WILL BE PUT ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES ON JULY 21.

FOR THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, A SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR HANDSTAMPING FIRST DAY COVERS ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE DAY OF ISSUE.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT ZONING PLAN PUBLISHED

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT WANG TAU HOM AND TUNG TAU OUTLINE ZONING PLAN WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID A MAJOR AMENDMENT WAS TO REZONE A SITE TO THE NORTH OF TIN MA COURT IN MA CHAI HANG FROM 'GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY' TO 'RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)'.

THE SITE IS ABOUT ONE HECTARE AND IS PROPOSED TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AS AN EXTENSION TO TIN MA COURT FOR ABOUT 2,650 PERSONS WITH SUPPORTING FACILITIES.

ANOTHER MAJOR AMENDMENT RELATES TO THE REZONING OF AN AREA TO THE SOUTH OF THE EXISTING LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE FROM 'OPEN SPACE' TO 'COMMERCIAL' AND 'GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY' FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE SHOPPING CENTRE AND A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE RESPECTIVELY.

TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF OPEN SPACE, THE AREA CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY BLOCKS 18 TO 20 OF LOK FU ESTATE IS REZONED FROM 'RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A)' TO 'OPEN SPACE'.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE TOWN PLANNING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 4TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG; AND
- * WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, GROUND AND 4TH FLOOR, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENT PLAN MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 4TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BY JULY 28, 1988.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MAP SALES COUNTER, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, OR 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, AT \$10 PER UNCOLOURED COPY AND \$60 PER COLOURED COPY.

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RATE OF NEW INSOLVENCIES DECREASES

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THERE WERE 87 NEW CASES OF COMPULSORY WINDING-UP AND 114 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTICES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH THE 138 AND 167 RESPECTIVELY IN 1987, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR GLEESON SAID IT COULD BE SEEN, THEREFORE, THAT THE RATE OF NEW INSOLVENCIES HAD DECREASED BY 34.1 PER CENT. THIS HAD BEEN A CONTINUING TREND SINCE 1986.

BY COMPARISON, THERE WAS ALSO A 15.98 PER CENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986.

MORE COMPLICATED OR SIGNIFICANT INSOLVENCIES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE: G.F. MARK FIVE KNITTING FACTORY LTD., QUALIMAX ELECTRONICS LTD., AND CLEVEDON CO. LTD.

TOTAL DIVIDENDS DECLARED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1988 AMOUNTED TO \$34.41 MILLION IN 233 INSOLVENCIES, AS AGAINST \$123.96 MILLION IN 190 INSOLVENCIES FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1987.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSOLVENCIES BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT THE END OF LAST MONTH WAS 3,114 COMPRISING 1,668 CASES OF COMPULSORY WINDING-UP AND 1,446 PERSONAL BANKRUPTICES.

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AT THE END OF JUNE THIS YEAR TOTALLED \$1,418 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 5.19 PER CENT AS AGAINST \$1,348 MILLION AT THE END OF JUNE, 1987.

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CYC MEMBERS TO TOUR JAPAN AND SINGAPORE

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TWENTY-THREE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHO WON OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL TOURS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES IN THE CYC MERIT AWARD SCHEME THIS YEAR WILL BE LEAVING FOR TOKYO AND SINGAPORE ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) AND THURSDAY (JULY 14) RESPECTIVELY.

ADDRESSING THE CYC MEMBERS AT A JOINT FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND A TEA PARTY FOR 11 BOYS AND 12 GIRLS AS WELL AS THEIR PARENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, CALLED ON THEM TO PROMOTE THE SPIRIT AND THE GOOD WORK OF CYC WHILE VISITING THE TWO COUNTRIES.

/MR LI

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MR LI TOLD THE CYC MEMBERS THAT THEY REPRESENTED THE 230,000 MEMBERS IN HONG KONG AND WOULD HELP PASS ON THE MESSAGE OF THE CYC MOVEMENT TO YOUTHS IN JAPAN AND SINGAPORE.

MR LI ALSO SAID THEY SHOULD SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR FELLOW MEMBERS ON THEIR RETURN.

THE TOUR WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CYC MERIT AWARD SCHEME WHICH AIMS AT BUILDING UP STRONG COMMUNITY SPIRIT THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CHILDREN.

MEMBERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE TRIPS WERE SPONSORED BY THE LAW'S FOUNDATION TRUST, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE SINGAPORE COMMISSION IN HONG KONG AND JAPAN AIRLINES.

TO MARK THE DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATION, MR LI PRESENTED TWO FLAGS TO THE DELEGATION LEADERS MR HON PO-SUM, PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (SPECIAL SERVICES) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND MR KO KAM-CHEUNG, THE CHAIRMAN OF CYC COUNCIL (SOUTH DISTRICT).

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MORE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES THIS WEEKEND
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THE ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, WHICH AIMS AT PROVIDING HEALTHY RECREATIONAL, SPORT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTHS BETWEEN THE AGE OF SIX AND 25, WILL BE LAUNCHED IN SHAM SHUI PO AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICTS TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) RESPECTIVELY.

THE SHAM SHUI PO SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL KICK OFF WITH A VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD AT 4 PM AT MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND. YOUTHS AND RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND TO SHARE THE FUN.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GREGORY LEUNG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI TUNG-NGOK; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SHAM SHUI PO SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR RAYMOND CHOY.

THE WONG TAI SIN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL OPEN WITH A CARNIVAL AT 2.30 PM AT THE OPEN SPACE AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

/THE CARNIVAL

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THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE A VARIETY SHOW OF SINGING AND CHINESE DANCING PERFORMANCES AND GAME STALLS PROVIDED BY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT. FREE GAME STALL TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE VENUE.

OFFICIATING GUESTS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL LEE; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WONG TAI SIN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MISS MARGARET HONG.

OVER 1,000 ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR YOUTHS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICTS THIS SUMMER, ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OF THE SHAM SHUI PO AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME OPENING TO BE HELD AT 1 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT MAPLE STREET PLAYGROUND, SHAM SHUI PO, AND THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE, KOWLOON.

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YAU TSIM DISTRICT TO LAUNCH SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

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MORE THAN 100 RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT THIS SUMMER.

THE ACTIVITIES, ORGANISED BY 18 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND CO-ORDINATED BY THE DISTRICT'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM SUNDAY (JULY 10) TO SEPTEMBER 4.

CENTRED ON THE THEME OF "SHARING THE FUN, SERVING THE COMMUNITY", THE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE FILM SHOWS, TRAINING CLASSES, EXHIBITIONS, CARNIVALS AND VARIETY SHOWS.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, CAMPING, WATER SPORTS, CYCLING, BALL-GAMES, HIKING AND VISITS TO FARMS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED.

/THE ENTIRE

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THE ENTIRE PROGRAMME COSTS \$288,372, WITH \$232,700 DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, \$50,000 BY YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND THE REST BY PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP.

BOOKLETS CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490 NATHAN ROAD AND TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-OFFICE AT 40 CARNARVON ROAD.

A CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME COMMITTEE, MR PETER S.T. LEE; YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, AND YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH.

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY, A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING CHINESE DANCE, BALLET AND PERFORMANCE BY A CHINESE ORCHESTRA WILL BE STAGED BY LOCAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO BE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON SUNDAY (JULY 10) AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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INTERESTING SUMMER FOR TSUEN WAN YOUTH

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A FUN-FILLED AND MEANINGFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY IS IN STORE FOR THE 90,000 YOUNGSTERS LIVING IN TSUEN WAN.

THEY CAN PICK AND CHOOSE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED SOLELY FOR THEM IN THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME (SYP) THIS YEAR.

THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS, TOTALLING 234 IN NUMBER, INCLUDE TRAINING COURSES ON SPORTS ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP TRAINING, VISITS, OUTINGS, CAMPING, EXHIBITIONS, COMPETITIONS, SEMINARS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

/ORGANISED BY

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ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, WITH SPONSORSHIP OF \$192,600 FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR ARE IN LINE WITH THE THEME OF "SHARE THE FUN AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY".

IN ORDER TO BOOST THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT OF YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AND VARIOUS PARTICIPATING VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AWARDS ON "OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS" AND "EXCELLENT ACTIVITIES" WILL BE GIVEN BY THE DISTRICT SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE TO DESERVING YOUNGSTERS AND AGENCIES.

TO LAUNCH THE 1988 TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SYP, AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

OFFICIATING WILL BE THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN; REGIONAL COUNCIL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN LAU-FONG; CHAIRMAN OF YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, MADAM YEUNG PO-CHUN; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE, MR CHIU CHUN-TUNG; CHAIRMAN (DESIGNATE) OF TSUEN WAN ROTARY CLUB, MR LAU KWOK-CHEUNG; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SYP CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR CHU CHUNG-SHING.

TO HIGHLIGHT THE OPENING OF THE PROGRAMME, A "SERVE THE COMMUNITY SCHEME" IS PLANNED.

SOME 500 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WILL BE MOBILISED TO CARRY OUT DIFFERENT COMMUNITY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT TOMORROW MORNING.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A TEA GATHERING IN THE AFTERNOON WHICH WILL PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE AFTER PERFORMING VARIOUS COMMUNITY WORK.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1988 TSUEN WAN SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME OPENING CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND, TSUEN WAN.

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SAI KUNG SYP TO BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW

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THE 1988 SAI KUNG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW (SATURDAY) WITH A FLOATS PARADE AT THE SAI KUNG TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND CARPARK.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE SAI KUNG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS BETTY CHING; TWO YOUTH AMBASSADORS FROM THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES.

IN ADDITION TO THE FLOATS PARADE, THERE WILL BE CYCLING DEMONSTRATION, MURAL PAINTING, MAGIC SHOW AND SINGING PERFORMANCE BY THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (SAI KUNG OFFICE).

MORE THAN 70 PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE BETWEEN JULY 9 AND END OF AUGUST.

ABOUT \$132,000 INCLUDING \$96,400 ALLOCATED FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB FUNDS HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY CUM FLOATS PARADE OF THE 1988 SAI KUNG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AT 2 PM TOMORROW (JULY 9) AT THE TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND CARPARK, FUK MAN ROAD, SAI KUNG TOWN. (THE VENUE WILL BE CHANGED TO SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL OPPOSITE TO THE SPORTS GROUND IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.)

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KWAI TSING SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO START TOMORROW

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THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

OFFICIATING WILL BE THE REGIONAL SECRETARY OF NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN; KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN COAK; CHAIRMAN OF KWAI TSING DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR SO HOI-PAN; AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE WING-TAT.

/AFTER THE

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AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY PUPILS OF SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT, AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT CULTURE AND ARTS CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION, JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND MUSIC OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND (NEAR KWAI FONG MTR STATION).

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BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES

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SECONDARY 3 AND SECONDARY 5 GRADUATES OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WILL IN FUTURE HAVE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE FURTHER STUDIES.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) BY MR DOMINIC WONG, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE COTTON SPINNERS ASSOCIATION PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT FROM 1989, THE CLASS STRUCTURE OF PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD BE IMPROVED FROM 77722 TO 66844.

"THIS WILL PROVIDE MORE PROMOTION PLACES FOR SECONDARY 3 GRADUATES WHO WISH TO CONTINUE WITH SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION WITHIN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

ALSO, FROM 1991, SECONDARY 6 AND 7 CLASSES WOULD BE GRADUALLY INTRODUCED INTO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

THIS FOLLOWED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO YEARS OF SIXTH FORM AND THAT SUCH COURSE SHOULD BE EXTENDED ALSO TO PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

MR WONG SAID THAT IN ORDER TO CATER FOR A WIDER RANGE OF ABILITY AND ADTITUDE, THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM WOULD BE BROADENED.

"IT WILL INCLUDE SUBJECTS OF A LESS ACADEMIC NATURE, INCLUDING TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS, AT BOTH THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND THE NEW INTERMEDIATE LEVEL. THESE EXAMINATIONS CAN ALSO BE TAKEN IN EITHER THE CHINESE OR ENGLISH LANGUAGES.

/ "ALL THIS

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"ALL THIS MEANS THAT IN FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS WILL BE OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM PREOVATIONAL SCHOOLS," MR WONG SAID.

HE NOTED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS NO.3 REPORT REGARDING THE STRUCTURE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION HAD ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW MONITORING PUBLIC RESPONSE RECEIVED ON THIS SUBJECT AND WILL ANALYSE VIEWS CAREFULLY BEFORE TAKING A DECISION LATER THIS YEAR," HE ADDED.

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WASTE TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES TO BE INSTALLED

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MEMBERS OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE'S STEERING GROUP LEARNED THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING THAT THE INSTALLATION OF WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES ON PRIVATE FARMS UNDER THE DEMONSTRATION SCHEME WILL COMMENCE NEXT MONTH.

AT TODAY'S GROUP MEETING, AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTED A LIST OF 12 LIVESTOCK FARMS RECOMMENDED BY A CONSULTANT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

AFTER EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS GATHERED FROM A SERIES OF VISITS TO THE RECOMMENDED FARMS EARLIER IN THIS WEEK, MEMBERS AGREED TO EIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDED FARMS TO FACILITATE AN EARLY INTRODUCTION OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED THAT THE CONSULTANT SHOULD MAKE A FURTHER ASSESSMENT OF FOUR LIVESTOCK FARMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE STEERING GROUP NEXT WEEK.

THE SELECTED LIVESTOCK FARMS WERE LOCATED AT MA ON SHAN, FANLING, SHA TAU KOK AND SHEUNG SHUI. THEY INCLUDED FIVE PIG FARMS AND THREE CHICKEN FARMS.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED THAT THE CONSULTANT SHOULD START IMMEDIATELY TO DESIGN AND APPOINT CONTRACTORS TO CARRY OUT THE INSTALLATION WORKS FOR THE FARMS ALREADY SELECTED.

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PRIVATE LOT TO BE RESUMED FOR OPEN SPACE

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A PRIVATE LOT IN WAN CHAI ON HONG KONG ISLAND IS TO BE RESUMED FOR A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROJECT.

THE LOT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 96.5 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED AT 12 KWONG MING STREET.

TOGETHER WITH THE LAND SURRENDERED BY THE OWNER OF AN ADJOINING DEVELOPMENT AND A LOT OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT, IT WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO A PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FOR USE AS A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND SITTING OUT AREA.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN MID 1990.

THE RESUMPTION NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) AND POSTED ON THE PROPERTY WHICH WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING.

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WAN CHAI TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY SERVICE TO BE WITHDRAWN

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THE PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND JORDAN ROAD OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF) WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM JULY 16 (SATURDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THIS SERVICE WAS PART OF HYF'S PROGRAMME TO RATIONALISE ITS CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES SO THAT THE COMPANY CAN IMPROVE ITS SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TO THE OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SERVICE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN 1986 AND ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1987 IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUOUS DECLINE IN PATRONAGE AND THE OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF OTHER CROSS-HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL BUSES.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE CANCELLATION OF THE FERRY ROUTE, A NEW FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND KOWLOON POINT STARTED OPERATION IN APRIL THIS YEAR AND IS OPERATING AT A BASIC FREQUENCY OF 10 MINUTES.

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SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO BE WIDENED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO WIDEN AND RECONSTRUCT SECTIONS OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD FROM PING CHE ROAD TO SHA TAU KOK IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO COPE WITH INCREASING TRAFFIC VOLUME.

THE EXISTING SHA TAU KOK ROAD IS A SINGLE CARRIAGEWAY VARYING IN WIDTH FROM SIX METRES TO SEVEN METRES AND IS SUBSTANDARD BOTH IN WIDTH AND CONSTRUCTION STRENGTH.

THE DAILY TRAFFIC ALONG SHA TAU KOK ROAD FROM PING CHE ROAD TO SHA TAU KOK IS ABOUT 3,600 VEHICLES INCLUDING CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE WU TUNG SHAN TUNNEL IN THE CHINESE SIDE BETWEEN CENTRAL SHENZHEN AND SHA TAU KOK IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1987, THE CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC OF MOSTLY HEAVY VEHICLES HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING FROM ABOUT 700 VEHICLES A DAY PREVIOUSLY TO 1,300 VEHICLES A DAY RECENTLY.

THE PREDICTED TRAFFIC FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO REACH 5,000 A DAY BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

THE PROPOSED WORKS INCLUDE WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SECTIONS OF EXISTING SHA TAU KOK ROAD, FROM PING CHE ROAD TO SHA TAU KOK, TO A 7.3 METRES WIDE CARRIAGEWAY WITH 1.6 METRE WIDE FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES FOR A TOTAL LENGTH OF ABOUT 6.5 KILOMETRES; AND ASSOCIATED EARTHWORKS, DRAINAGE AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

STRIPS OF EXISTING SHA TAU KOK ROAD AND AN EXISTING PORTION OF LUK KENG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED; AND SECTIONS OF EXISTING SHA TAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN PING CHE ROAD AND SHA TAU KOK WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GAZETTE.

THE PLANS SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; AT THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND AT THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, FANLING.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 6, 1988.

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KWAI CHUNG ROAD TO BE PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR ROAD WORKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWAI CHUNG FROM MONDAY (JULY 11) TO FACILITATE ROAD SURFACE REPAIR WORKS ALONG KWAI CHUNG ROAD NORTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

THE REPAIR WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT DAILY BETWEEN 9 PM AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FROM JULY 11 TO AUGUST 3 ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK BRIDGE AND TSUEN WAN ROAD.

DURING THE NIGHT-TIME WORKING HOURS, AT LEAST ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL REMAIN OPENED TO TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, IN THE DAY TIME, TWO TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE MAINTAINED.

MEANWHILE, THE NORTHBOUND SLIP ROAD FROM CHING CHEUNG ROAD LEADING TO KWAI CHUNG ROAD WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON JULY 12 (TUESDAY) AND 15 (FRIDAY).

MOTORISTS HEADING FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NEW CONTAINER PORT ROAD OR LAI KING HILL ROAD.

FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON JULY 21 (THURSDAY) AND 26 (TUESDAY), THE NORTHBOUND SLIP ROAD FROM KWAI CHUNG ROAD LEADING TO CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

VEHICLES INTENDING TO GO TO CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL HAVE TO USE TSUEN WAN ROAD, KWAI TSING ROAD AND KWAI FUK ROAD.

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TEMPORARY RESTRICTED ZONE ON HOSPITAL ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT HOSPITAL ROAD IN WESTERN DISTRICT BETWEEN HOUSE NOS. 30 AND 32 WILL BE MADE A DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE ROUND-THE-CLOCK FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JULY 11).

THIS MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FOR ROADWORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TRAFFIC REROUTEING IN KWUN TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JULY 11), THE SECTION OF SHUI WO STREET IN KWUN TONG BETWEEN WAN HON STREET AND KA LOK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY OPERATION INTO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.

THE MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR ROAD WORKS. MOTORISTS FROM KA LOK STREET HEADING FOR HIP WO STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHUI WO STREET, SHUI NING STREET, WAN HON STREET AND REJOIN HIP WO STREET.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN WONG TAI SIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIRS, THE SECTION OF FUNG SHING STREET NEAR CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD IN WONG TAI SIN HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

KMB ROUTES NO. 10 (TAI KOK TSUI FERRY TO CHOI WAN), 21 (KOWLOON STATION TO CHOI WAN) AND 21M (CHOI HUNG MTR STATION TO CHOI WAN) HAVE BEEN DIVERTED VIA CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD ON THEIR JOURNEYS TO CHOI WAN ESTATE.

THE MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FOUR DAYS.

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SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO THREE AREAS

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WATER SUPPLY TO THREE AREAS WILL BE SUSPENDED ON MONDAY (JULY 11) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT MEI TIN ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, TAI WAI ROAD, TSUEN NAM ROAD AND CHIK FAI STREET.

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME KOWLOON TONG PREMISES WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM THE SAME DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY BROADCAST DRIVE, FESSENDEN ROAD, MARCONI ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, NAM CHEONG STREET AND CORNWALL STREET INCLUDING CHAK ON ESTATE, KOWLOON KITCHEN AND CHAK YAN CENTRE.

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME HUNG HOM PREMISES WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM THAT DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY BULKELEY STREET, DOCK STREET, PO LOI STREET, HUNG HOM WAN STREET, ON CHING ROAD, CHEONG HANG ROAD, WINSLOW STREET AND CHATHAM ROAD INCLUDING HUNG HOM FERRY PIER.

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