



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FINANCE SECTOR BACKS HOMES SCHEME
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THE FINANCIAL SECTOR HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS) AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME (PSPS).

A RECENTLY COMPLETED EXERCISE INVITING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO COMMIT FUNDS FOR FINANCING MORTGAGES FOR HOS AND PSPS FLATS TO BE SOLD IN 1985 WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SAID TODAY.

THE ESTIMATED MORTGAGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 1985 FLATS IS NEARLY \$4 000 MILLION, WHICH IS TWO-AND-A-HALF TIMES MORE THAN THE REQUIREMENT IN 1984. BUT THE COMMITMENT OF FUNDS BY PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS GREATLY EXCEEDED THIS AMOUNT, HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, 54 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TOOK PART IN THE EXERCISE THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 47 IN 1984.

SUCH ENCOURAGING RESPONSE WAS ALSO AN INDICATION OF THE GENERAL INCREASE IN THE INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PROPERTY MARKET, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ELIGIBLE PURCHASERS OF HOS AND PSPS FLATS REQUIRING LOANS TO MEET THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THEIR FLATS CAN APPROACH ANY OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE JOINED THE MORTGAGE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT.

A LIST OF THE 54 PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR 1985 IS AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE AT THE SALES OFFICE, HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE, 01 MAN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 1ST FLOOR, 01 MAN ESTATE, KOWLOON.

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+MEXICO COMMUNIQUE+ RELEASED
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A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED COPIES OF THE +MEXICO COMMUNIQUE+ ISSUED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT THE END OF A MEETING ON TEXTILES PROBLEMS HELD IN MEXICO CITY.

A HONG KONG DELEGATION LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TOOK PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, CHINA, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, KOREA, MACAU, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, TURKEY, URUGUAY AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND HOSTED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

+THE MEETING WAS CRUCIAL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN FORMULATING, BEHIND THE SCENES, A COMMON POSITION ON WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN WHEN THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT EXPIRES IN MID-1986,+ COMMENTED MR MACLEOD.

/+AT THIS

+AT THIS STAGE ONLY A PRELIMINARY POSITION IS NECESSARY, AND THE COMMUNIQUE IS NECESSARILY IN GENERAL TERMS. BUT THIS WILL NEED TO BE DEVELOPED IN GENEVA, AS DISCUSSIONS IN THE GATT WORKING PARTY ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING ARE NOW REACHING A CRITICAL STAGE, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS FORMALLY BEGIN AT A GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING TENTATIVELY SET FOR JULY 23.

+A MORE DETAILED LINE WILL THEN BE DRAWN UP AT THE NEXT COORDINATION MEETING TO BE HELD IN SEOUL, KOREA IN SEPTEMBER 1985,+ MR MACLEOD SAID.

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NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR DECEMBER 1984

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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1984, AT 121.1, INCREASED BY 8.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE DECEMBER 1983 INDEX AND BY 0.6 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SEPTEMBER 1984 INDEX, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE DECEMBER 1984 AND DECEMBER 1983 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 8.2 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 6.7 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 10.7 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 9.5 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 5.7 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE DECEMBER 1984 AND SEPTEMBER 1984 INDEXES SHOWS THAT THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 0.4 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.3 PER CENT AND FOR BOTH THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 0.6 PER CENT WHILE THAT FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR SHOWED NO CHANGE.

THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1983 TO DECEMBER 1984 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 2.

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX, AT 97.9 IN DECEMBER 1984, WAS 3.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1983 AND 0.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1984.

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1983 AND DECEMBER 1984, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 3.5 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.9 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 5.7 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 4.6 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 1.1 PER CENT.

/COMPARING DECEMBER

COMPARING DECEMBER 1984 WITH SEPTEMBER 1984, THE REAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT, FOR THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR BY 1.4 PER CENT, FOR THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR BY 0.2 PER CENT, FOR THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR BY 0.7 PER CENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR BY 0.9 PER CENT.

THE REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1983 TO DECEMBER 1984 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THESE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED EACH QUARTER BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT COVERING BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING WORKERS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE WHOLESALE-RETAIL, IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE TRANSPORT SERVICES SECTOR, THE BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AND THE PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR.

SUCH INDEXES MEASURE CHANGES IN WAGE RATES BY HOLDING THE STRUCTURAL PATTERN OF THE LABOUR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, SEX AND MODE OF PAYMENT THE SAME AS THAT OF MARCH 1982, WHICH IS THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURE CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF WAGES (ALTHOUGH THE SAME DEFLATOR IS USED FOR EACH INDUSTRY TO DERIVE THE REAL WAGE INDEX FROM ITS NOMINAL COUNTERPART, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MOVEMENTS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX AND THE REAL WAGE INDEX BETWEEN ANY TWO TIME PERIODS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY FROM INDUSTRY TO INDUSTRY DUE TO ROUNDING).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE ALSO PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE.

IN ADDITION, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES THAT ARE PAID LESS FREQUENTLY THAN MONTHLY, ARE CONVERTED TO AN EQUIVALENT MONTHLY RATE WHEN COMPILING THE WAGE RATE INDEXES.

/TOTAL PAYROLL,

TOTAL PAYROLL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENTS THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS. APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASH RECEIPTS, IT ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGE RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE REPORT OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOLUME I, DECEMBER 1984 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

THE VOLUME II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN EARLY MAY 1985.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NOS. 5-455774 OR 5-416062.

TABLE 1 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

| SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS | INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100) | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | DEC 1983 | MAR 1984 | JUN 1984 | SEPT 1984 | DEC 1984 |
| MANUFACTURING | 111.6 | 116.7 | 118.9 | 120.3 | 120.8 |
| WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS | 109.7 | 113.6 | 113.8 | 115.6 | 117.1 |
| TRANSPORT SERVICES | 119.8 | 125.3 | 129.7 | 132.6 | 132.6 |
| BUSINESS SERVICES | 110.6 | 116.5 | 120.3 | 120.4 | 121.1 |
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 110.5 | 113.4 | 116.1 | 116.1 | 116.8 |
| ALL SECTORS ABOVE | 111.9 | 116.8 | 118.8 | 120.4 | 121.1 |

/TABLE 2 :

TABLE 2 : NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)

| INDUSTRY | DEC 1983 | MAR 1984 | JUN 1984 | SEPT 1984 | DEC 1984 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| GARMENTS | 109.5 | 113.0 | 114.7 | 115.4 | 116.5 |
| GLOVES | 109.6 | 117.6 | 124.7 | 130.2 | 131.1 |
| HANDBAGS | 107.4 | 112.9 | 114.6 | 115.6 | 116.3 |
| COTTON SPINNING-WEAVING | 111.3 | 118.9 | 120.0 | 120.3 | 120.5 |
| KNITTING | 114.5 | 120.1 | 123.4 | 123.7 | 124.0 |
| BLEACHING AND DYEING | 111.7 | 117.1 | 119.8 | 121.2 | 121.8 |
| PRINTING | 112.3 | 115.7 | 122.0 | 123.4 | 123.5 |
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | 111.9 | 118.5 | 121.3 | 123.3 | 122.9 |
| METAL PRODUCTS | 113.4 | 118.9 | 120.1 | 121.1 | 123.3 |
| ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES | 115.2 | 126.1 | 127.8 | 129.4 | 128.2 |
| ELECTRONICS | 113.2 | 119.9 | 120.9 | 123.9 | 124.1 |
| WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 113.2 | 121.2 | 123.5 | 124.6 | 124.6 |
| MANUFACTURING | 111.6 | 116.7 | 118.9 | 120.3 | 120.8 |

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)

| SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS | DEC 1983 | MAR 1984 | JUN 1984 | SEPT 1984 | DEC 1984 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| MANUFACTURING | 94.4 | 96.6 | 96.8 | 97.1 | 97.7 |
| WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADE AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS | 92.8 | 94.0 | 92.6 | 93.3 | 94.6 |
| TRANSPORT SERVICES | 101.4 | 103.8 | 105.6 | 107.0 | 107.2 |
| BUSINESS SERVICES | 93.6 | 96.5 | 98.0 | 97.2 | 97.9 |
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 93.5 | 93.9 | 94.5 | 93.7 | 94.5 |
| ALL SECTORS ABOVE | 94.7 | 96.7 | 96.7 | 97.2 | 97.9 |

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LEI CHENG UK REDEVELOPMENT ENTERS SECOND PHASE

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ONE OF HONG KONG'S EARLIEST PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, LEI CHENG UK ESTATE, IS ENTERING ITS SECOND PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT AIMED AT RELIEVING OVERCROWDING AND UPGRADING LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE TENANTS.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF FIVE MORE MARK I RESETTLEMENT BLOCKS IN THE ESTATE TO MAKE WAY FOR HIGH-RISE BLOCKS PROVIDING MODERN, SELF-CONTAINED FLATS.

+DEMOLITION WORK WILL BEGIN IN JULY AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE,+ SAID A HOUSING SPOKESMAN TODAY.

HE SAID THAT ON THE SITE WOULD RISE FOUR 23/25-STOREY LINEAR BLOCKS HOUSING 9 000 PEOPLE BY 1988.

/+THREE BLOCKS

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+THREE BLOCKS AND A SHOPPING CENTRE WERE ALREADY COMPLETED UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT FOR THE ESTATE LAST DECEMBER ON THE SITE OF FOUR OLD BLOCKS.

+THESE NEW BLOCKS WITH 2 254 FLATS ARE AT PRESENT TAKING IN TENANTS FROM THE ESTATE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE SECOND PHASE OF REDEVELOPMENT.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD EMBARKED ON AN ACCELERATED PROGRAMME UNDER WHICH ALL MARK I/II ESTATES WOULD BE REDEVELOPED BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

+AS A RESULT, THE REMAINING 10 OLD BLOCKS AT LEI CHENG UK ESTATE ARE PLANNED TO BE DEMOLISHED WITHIN A SHORTER TIME SPAN OF FOUR YEARS.

+WHEN THE ESTATE IS FULLY REDEVELOPED, ITS POPULATION WILL BE THINNED OUT FROM 32 000 PEOPLE TO 23 000 PEOPLE.+

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7 000 TREES PLANTED UNDER NEW SCHEME
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NEARLY 7 000 TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED UNDER THE 1985 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, TO MAKE HONG KONG A NICER AND GREENER PLACE.

YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) ALONE, WHICH WAS THE LAST OF SIX TREE-PLANTING DAYS SET FOR THE SCHEME, OVER 2 000 TREES WERE PLANTED BY ORGANISED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS AT PAK TAM CHUNG, THE BRIDE'S POOL, QUARRY BAY, POK FU LAM, NAM SHAN AND THE TWISK, THE SIX COUNTRY PARKS DESIGNATED FOR THE ACTIVITY.

MR K.C. IU, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS) SAID THE RESULTS WERE +MOST ENCOURAGING CONSIDERING THE UNFAVOURABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS+.

HE SAID: +DESPITE THE DULL AND WET WEATHER WHICH COVERED ALMOST THE ENTIRE TREE PLANTING PERIOD, PARTICIPANTS HAD INCREASED BY ABOUT 1 000 TO NEARLY 6 500 COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR'S FIGURES.

+THE NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER THE SCHEME TOTALLED 6 896.+

AMONG THOSE TAKING PART THIS YEAR WERE STUDENTS, SCOUTS, COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS AS WELL AS SOME 750 PARTICIPANTS OF THE +CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME+.

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RECORD ENTRIES FOR URBAN COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW

THE URBAN COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW 1985 WHICH IS DUE TO OPEN ON FRIDAY (APRIL 19) PROMISES TO BE THE YEAR'S MOST INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR PLANT LOVERS, AS WELL AS A BIG ATTRACTION FOR YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE.

THE 18TH TO BE HELD, THE SHOW HAS ATTRACTED A RECORD NUMBER OF 1 423 COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS FROM 501 INDIVIDUALS. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE MEMORIAL GARDEN AND THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CITY HALL UNTIL SUNDAY (APRIL 21).

THERE WILL BE 13 COMPETITIVE SECTIONS PROVIDING PLANT LOVERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS IN THE ART OF CULTIVATION.

THEY INCLUDE CUT FLOWERS, SCENTED CUT FLOWERS, ORCHIDS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, POT PLANTS, BONSAI TYPE PLANTS, FLORAL ARRANGEMENT, FLORAL ART BY CHILDREN, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT GARDENS COMPETITION AND SCHOOL GARDENS COMPETITION.

TO AROUSE INTEREST AMONG PARTICIPANTS, THE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SECTION WILL BE SPLIT INTO WESTERN AND ORIENTAL STYLES.

FURTHERMORE, A +MINIATURE BONSAI+ CLASS IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE BONSAI TYPE PLANTS SECTION.

APART FROM THE COMPETITIVE SECTIONS, THERE WILL BE 24 COMMERCIAL STALLS SELLING A WIDE RANGE OF FLOWERS, PLANTS AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

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WAN CHAI BOARD MEETS TOMORROW

THE NEW WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE HOLDING ITS FIRST MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

PRIOR TO DEALING WITH THE AGENDA, MEMBERS WILL ELECT A BOARD CHAIRMAN.

THEY WILL THEN DEAL WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD STANDING ORDERS, FORM VARIOUS COMMITTEES, SET OUT THE SCHEDULE FOR MEETINGS, AND CONSIDER THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE PREVIOUS TERM.

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SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS GET CASH PRIZES

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A TOTAL OF \$29 000 IN CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THE COMPETITION, CO-ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND THE SING TAO NEWSPAPER LIMITED, WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

THE TOP PRIZE WINNER, MR CHING YUEN-FAI WILL RECEIVE A CASH COUPON OF \$10 000. THE RUNNERS-UP, MR NG YUEN-WAI, WILL RECEIVE A \$5 000 COUPON AND THE NEXT PRIZE WINNER, MISS FOK YIM-CHAU WILL GET A \$3 000 COUPON.

IN ADDITION, CASH COUPONS OF \$500 AND \$200 WILL BE AWARDED TO 40 OTHER WINNERS.

THE PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED BY MR DARWIN CHEN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, AT A CEREMONY AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL MAIN CONCOURSE, AT 11 AM ON MAY 1. A FIVE-DAY EXHIBITION OF THE WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE HELD AFTER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

MORE THAN 1 000 ENTRIES WERE SUBMITTED, AND THE WINNERS WERE CHOSEN LAST WEEK.

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TENDER AWARDED FOR HAPPY VALLEY SITE

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY AWARDED A TENDER FOR A 2 516-SQUARE-METRE SITE NEAR SING WOO ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, TO HAYNES ESTATES LIMITED, A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CHEUNG KONG (HOLDINGS) LIMITED.

THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT (HONG KONG), MR T.J. MILLS SAID THE SITE, SITUATED BEHIND THE TWO PETROL FILLING STATIONS ON SING WOO ROAD, IS FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES WITH GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION BEING PROVIDED ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND A PUBLIC CAR PARK ABOVE FOR NOT LESS THAN 200 VEHICLES.

HE SAID CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS SHOWN BY PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND THE COMPANY'S BID FOR THE SITE WAS THE HIGHEST OF 11 TENDERS RECEIVED.

THE PURCHASER HAD TO PAY \$1 MILLION ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE TENDER AND THE BALANCE OF THE PREMIUM WITHIN ONE MONTH.

UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF SALE, THE BUYER WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE THE WHOLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

MR MILLS SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE GOOD RESPONSE RECEIVED FOR THE HAPPY VALLEY SITE, CONSIDERABLE INTEREST COULD BE EXPECTED FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AT THURSDAY'S AUCTION FOR THE QUEENSWAY SITE.

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FIRE HAZARD CHECKS
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FIRE HAZARD INSPECTION ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 17).

THE INSPECTION IS A JOINT OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG FIRE COMMAND AND THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE JOINT INSPECTION WHICH WILL START AT 9.45 AM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE NORTH POINT FIRE STATION AT HEALTHY STREET EAST. AN INFORMATION OFFICER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TRAFFIC LIGHTS INSTALLED HERE
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FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 18), TRAFFIC AT THE JUNCTION OF CHEUNG WING ROAD AND KWOK SHUI ROAD WILL BE CONTROLLED BY TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS.

AT THE SAME TIME, TRAFFIC ON KWOK SHUI ROAD BETWEEN CHEUNG WING ROAD AND TAI YUEN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND, AND TRAFFIC ON KWOK SHUI ROAD BETWEEN TAI YUEN STREET AND LEI MUK ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO WAYS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 60.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 352.267 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 408.393 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 69.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WAN CHAI WATER WORK
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 18) FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY MONMOUTH PATH, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, QUEENSWAY, HENNESSY ROAD AND ANTON STREET INCLUDING RODNEY BLOCK.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE FOR MAINS WORK
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TRAFFIC ON YUK WAH STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH YUK WAH CRESCENT AND TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 16).

THIS IS TO ALLOW MAINS LAYING WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

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