DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1985

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503 VIE FOR DB SEATS

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A TOTAL OF 503 PEOPLE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AS CANDIDATES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 7.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESPONSE FROM CANDIDATES AND NOTED THAT THE ELECTORS HAD A WIDE CHOICE.

+I AM HAPPY THAT SO MANY MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE COME FORWARD AND ARE WILLING TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS UP TO THE VOTERS NOW TO DO THEIR PART BY VOTING ON MARCH 7.

+THE MORE PEOPLE THAT VOTE, THE STRONGER WILL BE THE VOICE OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES,+ HE SAID.

SOME 1.4 MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS WHICH ARE TO FILL 237 VACANT SEATS ON 19 DISTRICT BOARDS.

IN THE FINAL DAY OF NOMINATIONS, 24 CANDIDATES FILED IN THEIR NOMINATIONS, BRINGING TO 503 THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.

THESE INCLUDE 472 MEN AND 31 WOMEN FROM A WIDE BACKGROUND, INCLUDING EXECUTIVES, TEACHERS, DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, FACTORY WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN AND HOUSEWIVES.

THE LARGEST GROUP COMES FROM THE BUSINESS SECTOR, REPRESENTING 41 PER CENT; FOLLOWED BY EXECUTIVES (16 PER CENT); EDUCATIONALISTS (12 PER CENT); AND PROFESSIONALS (7 PER CENT).

AGES OF CANDIDATES RANGE FROM 21, THE MINIMUM LEGAL AGE REQUIREMENT, TO 75.

THE 31-40 AGE GROUP IS THE LARGEST, WITH 156 CANDIDATES IN THIS GROUP. THERE ARE 115 BETWEEN THE AGES OF 41 AND 50, AND 115 AGED BETWEEN 51 AND 60.

AMONGST THE 503 CANDIDATES ARE 120 SERVING MEMBERS SEEKING ELECTION FOR A NEW TERM.

FOURTEEN OF THE 145 CONSTITUENCIES ARE UNCONTESTED AND THE 22 CANDIDATES IN THESE CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE RETURNED UNOPPOSED.

/THE MOST .....

THE MOST KEENLY CONTESTED CONSTITUENCY IS TAI PO SOUTH WHERE FIVE CANDIDATES ARE COMPETING FOR THE ONE VACANT SEAT.

IN EACH OF THE SINGLE-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES OF LAM TIN NORTH, PENG CHAU, HANG HAU, AND YUEN LONG RURAL NORTH, FOUR CANDIDATES ARE BIDDING FOR THE SEAT, WHILE IN KWAI CHUNG EAST EIGHT CANDIDATES ARE VYING FOR TWO SEATS.

THE TWO-SEAT CONSTITUENCIES OF WAH FU, NORTH POINT WEST, KWAI CHUNG WEST, YUEN LONG TOWN NORTH, YUEN LONG RURAL WEST, AND YUEN LONG RURAL SOUTH, WILL EACH BE CONTESTED BY SEVEN CANDIDATES.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED IN EACH OF THE 19 DISTRICTS:

HONG KONG AND KOWLOON

EASTERN	43	SOUTHERN	23
WONG TAI SIN	39	MONG KOK	22
KWUN TONG	38	WAN CHAI	21
KOWLOON CITY	30	CENTRAL AND WESTERN	19
SHAM SHUI PO	28	YAU MA TEI	17

NEW TERRITORIES

KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI	38	TSUEN WAN	18
TUEN MUN	35	ISLANDS	17
YUEN LONG	32	TAI PO	17
SHA TIN	32	SAI KUNG	12
NORTH	22		

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1984

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY IN DECEMBER, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE INCREASE DURING THE MONTH WAS NEVERTHELESS AT LEAST IN PART SEASONAL, ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CREDITING OF HALF-YEARLY INTEREST TO SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AT YEAR-END. THE PAYMENT OF YEAR-END BONUSES MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THE RISE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS DURING THE MONTH.

THERE WAS ALSO A SEASONAL INCREASE DURING THE MONTH IN HONG KONG DOLLAR CASH DEMAND, AS REPRESENTED BY LEGAL TENDER NOTES AND COIN HELD BY THE PUBLIC.

REFLECTING THE CHANGES IN HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS IN THE MONTH, BOTH THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THE FOREIGN CURRENCY COMPONENTS OF THE MONEY SUPPLY ROSE, ON ALL DEFINITIONS.

DEMAND FOR LOANS REMAINED WEAK. WHILE LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG REGISTERED A SMALL INCREASE, LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE FELL IN DECEMBER.

TABLE 1 SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1984 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 SETS OUT FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

(NOTE: THESE TWO TABLES ARE BEING SENT BY FACSIMILE NETWORK, AND WILL ALSO BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.)

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE FURTHER, BY 3.3 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 4.9 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 THE INCREASE WAS 11.1 PER CENT BRINGING THE GROWTH RATE FOR 1984 AS A WHOLE TO 25.9 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ALSO ROSE, BY 4.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, AGAINST A FALL OF 1.6 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER, THEY ROSE BY 5.3 PER CENT AND OVER THE YEAR AS A WHOLE BY 26.2 PER CENT.

/TOTAL DEPOSITS .....

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS CONTINUED TO GROW FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH, RISING BY 4.7 PER CENT FOLLOWING 2.3 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES GREW ONLY MARGINALLY BY 0.2 PER CENT, AFTER HAVING FALLEN BY 0.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. WHILE DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 10.5 PER CENT OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER, THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 0.2 PER CENT. THERE WAS THUS A SHIFT OF DEPOSITS IN FAVOUR OF BANKS, WHICH COULD BE EXPLAINED AT LEAST IN PART BY THE NARROWING DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES AND HKAB DEPOSIT RATES DURING MOST OF THIS PERIOD.

FOR THE FIRST TIME STATISTICS ON SWAP DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FROM BANKS ON A FORMAL BASIS. THESE INDICATE THAT AT THE END OF DECEMBER SOME $20 BILLION OR 14.6 PER CENT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH BANKS WERE IN FACT HELD ON A SWAP BASIS, I.E. WHERE THE CUSTOMER HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE BANK TO PURCHASE HONG KONG DOLLARS AT A PRE-DETERMINED RATE WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT AT MATURITY. AN INFORMAL SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE SUMMER OF 1983 SUGGESTED THAT SWAP DEPOSITS MIGHT THEN HAVE TOTALLED SOME $45 BILLION. THE RELATIVE ATTRACTION OF SWAP DEPOSITS WAS REDUCED BY THE ABOLITION OF INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS IN OCTOBER 1983, BUT CLEARLY THERE CONTINUE TO BE OCCASIONS WHEN THE MARGIN BETWEEN MARKET INTEREST RATES AND THE MAXIMUM DEPOSIT RATES PERMITTED BY HKAB RULES CREATES A SIGNIFICANT INCENTIVE TO PLACE FUNDS ON A SWAP BASIS. IT HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNISED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SWAP DEPOSITS MAY DISTORT THE UNDERLYING TREND IN THE MONETARY STATISTICS AND HENCE RENDER INTERPRETATION DIFFICULT. THIS DIFFICULTY IS NOT RESOLVED BY THE POSSESSION OF JUST ONE MONTH'S FIGURES ON SWAP DEPOSITS, BUT THE AVAILABILITY OF SWAP STATISTICS SHOULD AID INTERPRETATION FROM NOW ON.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY IN DECEMBER. WHILE HK$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) ROSE BY 4.2 PER CENT, THE BROADER DEFINITIONS HK$M2 AND HK$M3 WERE UP BY 4.5 PER CENT AND 3.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN NOVEMBER WERE 4.3 PER CENT, 6.4 PER CENT AND 4.5 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER, HK$M1 ROSE BY 10.4 PER CENT, HK$M2 BY 15.3 PER CENT AND HK$M3 BY 10.5 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES WERE 17.9 PER CENT, 24.3 PER CENT AND 24.0 PER CENT.

/TOTAL MONEY .....

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ALSO ROSE ON ALL DEFINITIONS. TOTAL M1 ROSE BY 5.3 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 4.6 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 3.8 PER CENT, FASTER THAN THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES OF 4.1 PER CENT, 2.2 PER CENT AND 1.6 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER WERE 9.6 PER CENT, 10.0 PER CENT AND 7.9 PER CENT, AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS WERE 19.1 PER CENT, 21.9 PER CENT AND 24.8 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS CONTINUED TO GROW ONLY SLOWLY, BY 0.3 PER CENT IN DECEMBER FOLLOWING 1.0 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER, THESE GREW BY 1.8 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS BY 7.6 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE FELL BY 0.7 PER CENT IN DECEMBER, AFTER A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.4 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. WHILE THEY FELL BY 1.4 PER CENT OVER THE LATEST THREE MONTHS, THEY WERE STILL 10.1 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG SHOWED A SMALL INCREASE OF 0.7 PER CENT FOLLOWING A RELATIVELY STRONGER RISE OF 1.5 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER, THEY ROSE BY 2.4 PER CENT AND OVER THE TWELVE MONTHS BY 5.7 PER CENT.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL BY 4.5 PER CENT DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER, AGAINST AN INCREASE OF 3.2 PER CENT DURING THE THIRD QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR SUCH LOANS SHOWED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF ONLY 0.7 PER CENT. THE IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE EXTERNAL TRADE SECTOR APPEARS TO HAVE PROVIDED MANUFACTURERS WITH AMPLE LIQUIDITY. LOANS TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES WERE 10.2 PER CENT HIGHER, IN CONTRAST TO A FALL OF 2.9 PER CENT DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, THE INCREASE WAS 7.5 PER CENT. LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR FELL BY 0.7 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, AFTER INCREASING RAPIDLY BY 6.1 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER. FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 2.1 PER CENT. LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME ROSE FURTHER BY 3.8 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 2.3 PER CENT DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR THESE INCREASED BY 16.3 PER CENT.

/FOREIGN CURRENCY .....

FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF THE MONETARY SECTOR ROSE TO $4.6 BILLION AT THE END OF DECEMBER, COMPARED WITH $2.5 BILLION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOWED SIMILAR MOVEMENTS, RECORDING $3.3 BILLION OF NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AT THE END OF DECEMBER, COMPARED WITH $1.2 BILLION A MONTH EARLIER. THE RISE IN NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DECREASE IN NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF THE MONETARY SECTOR FROM $21.3 BILLION TO $20.5 BILLION. THESE CHANGES PROBABLY REFLECTED SOME FURTHER REDUCTION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS AS INTERBANK MONEY MARKET RATES REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW.

LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS FELL SLIGHTLY TO 49.6 PER CENT FROM 51.4 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S.24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED, AT 43.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 43.9 PER CENT A MONTH EARLIER.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF OPERATING LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 1 TO 140, WHILE THE NUMBER OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 33. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL TO 310.

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NOVEMBER RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT $5 630 MILLION, WAS NINE PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN NOVEMBER 1983, AND THE VOLUME WAS SEVEN PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RETAIL SALES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1984, WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, ROSE BY NINE PER CENT IN VALUE AND FIVE PER CENT IN VOLUME.

/A COMPARISON .....

A COMPARISON OF NOVEMBER 1984 SALES WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1984, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, SHOWS RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY ONE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

IN NOVEMBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983. CONSUMER DURABLE SALES ALSO INCREASED - BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 14 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY EIGHT PER CENT IN VALUE AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS, INCREASED BY SEVEN PER CENT IN VALUE AND FIVE PER CENT IN VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, FUELS DECREASED BY THREE PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND ONE PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

A COMPARISON OF SALES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1984 WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, SHOWS RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, AT 26 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. CONSUMER DURABLES ALSO REGISTERED INCREASES OF 17 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY NINE PER CENT IN VALUE AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED LESS RAPIDLY, BY FIVE PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND TWO PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. HOWEVER, FUELS RECORDED A DROP OF TWO PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1984 FIGURES, RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS RECORDED AN INCREASE OF FIVE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, WHICH SHOWED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE, REGISTERED A DECREASE OF FOUR PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES, AND FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ALSO DECREASED, EACH BY TWO PER CENT IN VALUE AND ONE PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF FUELS DROPPED BY THREE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983. SUPERMARKETS ALSO SHOWED LARGE INCREASES WHILE CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

/COMPARISON OF .....

COMPARISON OF THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1984 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, SHOWS RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, WHILE THOSE OF SUPERMARKETS, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED LARGE INCREASES IN VALUE BUT SMALLER INCREASES IN VOLUME. WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1984, APART FROM DEPARTMENT STORES, RETAIL SALES OF ALL OTHER SELECTED TRADES DECREASED IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1984 SURVEY RESULTS WILL SHORTLY BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT $1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 3-7216024).

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SIR PHILIP VISITS LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TODAY INSPECTED THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH AND TWO OF THE SIX DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE BRANCH HOUSED IN MURRAY BUILDING.

HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE WORK OF THE OFFICES AT FIRST HAND AND TO MEET THE STAFF INFORMALLY AT THE END OF THE VISIT.

THE TOUR BEGAN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WHERE SIR PHILIP WAS BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR, MR JOHN TODD ON THE LATEST STATE OF THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME AND THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS URBAN RENEWAL.

AT THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, THE DIRECTOR, MR CHAMSON CHAU EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THE WORK OF THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE AND THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, WITH THE HELP OF MODELS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF MAJOR CULTURAL AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. ALSO ON DISPLAY WERE VARIOUS EQUIPMENT USED TO TEST THE QUALITY OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND SAMPLES OF THE MATERIALS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS LATER BRIEFED BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR NICKY CHAN AND THE GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY ENGINEER, DR Y.L. CHOI, ON DETAILS OF THE LUTO (LAND USE AND TRANSPORT OPTIMISATION) STUDIES, WHICH MAKE PROJECTIONS ON FUTURE LAND USE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

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TAXI AD APPROVAL STARTS TOMORROW

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AUTHORISATION FOR TAXIS TO CARRY ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 1), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW.

INTERESTED TAXI OWNERS SHOULD APPLY IN WRITING FOR THE AUTHORISATION, TO THE PUBLIC VEHICLE SECTION, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, ROOMS 906-909, HUTCHISON HOUSE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG. THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF $100.

A LETTER OF AUTHORISATION WILL BE ISSUED TO EACH VEHICLE, AND IT WILL BE VALID UNTIL THE SPECIFIED VEHICLE IS RECLASSIFIED, SCRAPPED OR SUCH PERMISSION IS WITHDRAWN IN WRITING.

ADVERTISEMENTS MAY BE DISPLAYED ON BOTH FRONT DOOR PANELS BELOW THE WINDOW BY PAINTING OR BY STICKERS. LUMINOUS OR REFLECTING MATERIAL IS NOT PERMITTED.

ALL ADVERTISING MATTER MUST COMPLY WITH THE LAWS OF HONG KONG AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

SIMPLIFIED ADVERTISING GUIDELINES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAXI OWNERS, FREE OF CHARGE, AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, THE KOWLOON REGIONAL OFFICE AND ALL LICENSING OFFICES.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR A BREACH OF CONDITIONS IMPOSED WILL BE $10 000 FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ADVERTISING SCHEME MIGHT BE EXTENDED TO PLBS AND MAXICABS IF SUCCESSFUL.

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YOUTH LEADERS TO GET CERTIFICATES

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EASTERN DISTRICT YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHEME PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES AT A PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 2).

ABOUT 110 YOUTHS TOOK PART IN THE SCHEME HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND JANUARY, WHICH FOCUSED ON TRAINING YOUTHS IN LEADERSHIP SKILL, COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE, TEAM WORK AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

/THE WINNERS .....

THE WINNERS OF A MODEL-MAKING CONTEST AND A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ENTITLED 'EASTERN DISTRICT IN PERSPECTIVE' WILL ALSO RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT THE CEREMONY.

ABOUT 130 ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION, WHICH HAD THEMES OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT, SUCH AS THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE.

ABOUT 30 PARTICIPANTS TOOK PART IN THE MODEL-MAKING CONTEST, WITH SOME INTERESTING CONCEPTS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AN INDOOR GAMES HALL, A MUSEUM, AND THE SECOND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT YOUTH CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE COMPETITIONS AND THE TRAINING SCHEME WERE SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN HOUR-LONG LASER SHOW, FEATURING MODERN AND ORIENTAL DANCES, PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR ENTERTAINERS.

THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MODEL-MAKING CONTESTS, AS WELL AS A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED LAST YEAR BY THE COMMITTEE, WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY AT THE VENUE.

THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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REFLECTIVE PLATE DEADLINE - JUNE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED VEHICLE OWNERS TO FIT REFLECTIVE NUMBER PLATES TO THEIR VEHICLE BEFORE JUNE 1.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, ALL VEHICLES MUST BE FITTED WITH A FRONT WHITE REFLECTIVE AND A REAR YELLOW REFLECTIVE PLATE BY THAT DATE.

HOWEVER, MOTOR CYCLES AND TRAILERS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO FIT FRONT NUMBER PLATES.

/+CAR OWNERS .....

+CAR OWNERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR REFLECTIVE NUMBER PLATES ARE OF AN APPROVED TYPE, WHICH BEARS THE SPECIFICATION NUMBER BSAU 145 (A) AND THE NAME OR TRADEMARK OF THE MANUFACTURER. EACH RETAIL OUTLET FOR THESE NUMBER PLATES SHOULD HOLD A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT. PROSPECTIVE BUYERS SHOULD CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON 5-259494 WHEN IN DOUBT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IS A FINE OF $2 000.+

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT CAS CAMP

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL VISIT THE CIVIL AID SERVICES YUEN TUN CAMP AT TSING LUNG TAU, TSUEN WAN, ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 2) MORNING.

HE WILL FIRST TOUR THE SITE FACILITIES AND THEN VISIT THE 250-YEAR-OLD YUEN TUN VILLAGE WITHIN THE CAMP SITE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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BIDS SOUGHT FOR FERRY SERVICE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO OPERATE PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES FROM MA LIU SHUI TO WU KAI SHA AND MA LIU SHUI TO MA ON SHAN.

BIDS MAY BE MADE FOR ONE OR BOTH ROUTES, TO START FROM APRIL 1, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS ARE AVAILABLE FROM TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH FLOOR, GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS SHOULD BE IN DUPLICATE AND IN SEALED ENVELOPES, MARKED +TENDER FOR PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND WU KAI SHA+ OR +TENDER FOR PASSENGER FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND MA ON SHAN+ AND ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TENDER BOARD.

THE FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX ON THE LOWER GROUND FLOOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING), LOWER ALBERT ROAD BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1985.

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HOUSING (TRAFFIC) BY-LAW CHANGES START TOMORROW

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT CHANGES TO THE TRAFFIC BY-LAWS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WOULD COME INTO EFFECT TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

+THIS FOLLOWS AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE HOUSING (TRAFFIC) BY-LAWS, BRINGING THEM INTO LINE WITH THE NEW PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING) REGULATIONS,+ SAID A HOUSING SPOKESMAN.

HE SAID THE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, INCREASED CHARGES FOR THE IMPOUNDING, REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF VEHICLES ILLEGALLY PARKED ON RESTRICTED ROADS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

+EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE PRESENT CHARGES ARE TOO LOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO OFFENDING MOTORISTS.

+NEW CHARGES FOR IMPOUNDING A VEHICLE WILL BE $140; FOR REMOVING A VEHICLE, $200; AND FOR STORING A VEHICLE, $50 FOR EACH DAY AFTER THE FIRST DAY DURING WHICH THE VEHICLE IS DETAINED.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN AMENDMENTS INCLUDED THE ABANDONING OF THE CONCEPT OF +NO WAITING+ AND REPLACING IT WITH +NO PARKING+, AS WELL AS THE ADOPTION OF NEW SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS.

+ALSO INCLUDED ARE THE INCREASING OF THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES FROM $500 TO $2 000, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SOME DEFINITIONS, OFFENCES AND OTHER PROVISIONS BASED ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC (PARKING) REGULATIONS.+

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SAFETY DRIVE AIMS AT YOUTHS

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YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE THE TARGET OF A CAMPAIGN WHICH STARTS TOMORROW, TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS AND HOME SAFETY IN THE SHEUNG SHUI TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

THE MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN IS PART OF THE THREE-MONTH +ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY PROJECT+ LAUNCHED EARLIER THIS MONTH.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE TALKS, FORUMS AND FILM SHOWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

PAMPHLETS CONTAINING INFORMATION ON HOME SAFETY WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS OF THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, AND MAJOR YEAR-END CLEAN-UP WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE THA ON FEBRUARY 15.

THE PROJECT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT.

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REGISTRATIONS REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT THEIR OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 14(2) OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE:

ESTATE FINANCE LIMITED

DB FINANCE (HONG KONG) LIMITED

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CANDIDATES TO MEET THE PRESS

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL INTRODUCE CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE FORTHCOMING SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO THE MEDIA, AT A +MEET THE PRESS+ SESSION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 3.30 PM IN THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE, ABERDEEN.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, WILL INTRODUCE EACH OF THE CANDIDATES, WHO WILL SPEAK ON THEIR ELECTORAL PLATFORMS.

THERE WILL BE A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AFTERWARDS.

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INTELPOST GOES TO ISRAEL

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THE INTELPOST NETWORK FROM HONG KONG WILL BE EXTENDED TO ISRAEL FROM MONDAY (FEBRUARY 4), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

INTELPOST ITEMS POSTED IN HONG KONG BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE DELIVERED THE SAME DAY IN JERUSALEM, HAIFA AND TEL AVIV AND OTHER AREAS IN ISRAEL THE NEXT DAY, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CHARGE FOR THE SERVICE TO ISRAEL WILL BE:

FOR THE FIRST SIDE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER	$65
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIDE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME	$30

/INTELPOST WAS .....

INTELPOST WAS ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, DENMARK, FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE IRISH REPUBLIC, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, LUXEMBOURG, MACAU, MALAYSIA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, QATAR, SINGAPORE AND SWEDEN, HE SAID.

PEOPLE USING THE SERVICE SHOULD HAND IN THEIR DOCUMENTS AT EITHER THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HENNESSY ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD AND WYNDHAM STREET POST OFFICES ON THE HONG KONG ISLAND OR THE TSIM SHA TSUI, GRANVILLE ROAD, INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE, KOWLOON CENTRAL, KWUN TONG AND MONG KOK POST OFFICES IN KOWLOON.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INTELPOST REPRESENTATIVE ON TELEPHONE 5-2671148.

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ENGLISH COURSE FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS

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A REFRESHER COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE HELD AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL, AT 253-261 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI FROM MARCH 11 TO JUNE 6.

COMMISSIONED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE COURSE AIMS TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH THE REVISED PRIMARY ENGLISH SYLLABUS, TO INTRODUCE THEM TO COMMUNICATIVE TEACHING TECHNIQUES, AND TO IMPROVE THEIR FLUENCY AND ACCURACY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, FROM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM.

THERE WILL BE PLACES FOR 25 IN THE COURSE.

A THREE-MONTH FOLLOW-UP COURSE ON ORAL PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH WILL THEN BE HELD FOR THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE REFRESHER COURSE.

THIS COURSE WILL BE FREE.

SCHOOL HEADS WISHING TO SEND TEACHERS TO THE COURSE SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS BY FEBRUARY 28 TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (ENGLISH), EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 5/F, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8392442.

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TRAFFIC CHANGE FOR CLEAN-UP JOB

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN SHAM SHUI PO ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 2) FOR THE PEI HO STREET YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON THAT DAY:

* TAI NAN STREET, BETWEEN KWEILIN STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

* KI LUNG STREET, BETWEEN KWEILIN STREET AND PEI HO STREET.

* PEI HO STREET, BETWEEN LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND YU CHAU STREET.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, THERE WILL BE NO LEFT TURN FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD SOUTHBOUND ONTO PEI HO STREET EASTBOUND, AND NO LEFT TURN FROM NAM CHEONG STREET EASTBOUND ONTO TAI NAN STREET NORTHBOUND.

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EARLY MORNING ROAD WORK

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THE KOWLOON BOUND SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI SECTION) BETWEEN PUI TO ROAD AND ROAD D9 ROUNDABOUT, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5.30 AM ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 2-3), FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, GENERAL TRAFFIC AND KMB ROUTES 68 AND 68M CASTLE PEAK ROAD HEADING FOR TSUEN WAN OR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ROAD D9, ROAD D8 AND PROCEED ONTO TUEN MUN ROAD.

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