



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DOMESTIC EXPORT TRADE RECOVERY CONTINUING

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THE TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN OVERALL DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF OVER 16 PER CENT, INDICATING THAT THE DOMESTIC EXPORT TRADE RECOVERY WAS CONTINUING. A SIMILAR RECOVERY WAS BEING SEEN IN RE-EXPORTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

ASSESSING THE PRESENT STATE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SIGNS THAT THE ECONOMY WAS ALREADY RECOVERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD RECESSION.

THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER SHOWED A YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF 6 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS AND 2 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. THIS WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT ON THE FALLS IN REAL TERMS RECORDED IN EACH OF THE FOUR QUARTERS OF 1982.

PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY WAS AN INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, 9 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE US.

ONE EFFECT OF THE RECOVERY IN THE GROWTH RATES OF EXPORTS WAS THAT THE TRADE GAP, THE PROPORTION OF IMPORTS OF GOODS NOT COVERED BY EXPORTS, HAD NARROWED FROM OVER 19 PER CENT IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO APRIL 1982 TO UNDER 15 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR. THE APRIL FIGURES INDICATED THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT WAS ALSO BEING MAINTAINED.

AS REGARDS THE MONTHS TO COME, REPORTS FROM MANUFACTURERS INDICATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN ORDER BOOKS AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS. AS REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIES OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY IS MAKING A SLOW BUT STEADY RECOVERY FROM THE RECESSION, THIS CONFIDENCE SEEMED TO BE WELL FOUNDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ACCEPTED THAT THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, OF 5.1 PER CENT, WAS HIGHER THAN WAS DESIRABLE AND INDICATED THAT THE RECOVERY IN THE ECONOMY HAD YET TO FEED THROUGH TO THE LABOUR MARKET. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST READING TOO MUCH INTO THE RECENT RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT AS THE CHANGES IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NORMALLY LAGGED BEHIND CHANGES IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY. THE CURRENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMY IS LIKELY TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT IMMEDIATELY. NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT IN SOME SECTORS OF INDUSTRY IN SOME LOCATIONS INCREASED ORDERS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO RESULT IN FACTORY OWNERS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE WORKERS THEY WANT.

US DOLLAR EXPECTED TO REMAIN FIRM

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COMMENTING ON THE MOVEMENT OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE US DOLLAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE JUMP OF US DOLLAR 7 BILLION OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE USM1 FIGURE WAS FAR GREATER THAN EXPECTED. THIS BIG INCREASE HAD REINFORCED THE MARKET VIEW THAT US INTEREST RATES AND THE US DOLLAR WILL REMAIN FIRM. AS A RESULT, OTHER CURRENCIES HAVE WEAKENED AGAINST THE US DOLLAR.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG ON FRIDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, STERLING HAD WEAKENED AGAINST THE US DOLLAR BY 0.25 PER CENT, THE DM BY 0.8 PER CENT, THE SF BY 1.2 PER CENT AND THE YEN BY 0.9 PER CENT. THE HK DOLLAR, ON THE OTHER HAND, STRENGTHENED BY 0.3 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD. THEREFORE THE HK DOLLAR HAD STRENGTHENED AGAINST ALL THE OTHER CURRENCIES SINCE THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON FRIDAY - THAT IS BEFORE THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ANNOUNCED THE INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES.

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN APRIL.

ABOUT 800 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY INDICATE THAT WHEN TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THE BUSINESS SITUATION OF FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1983 WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1982. THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE PREVIOUS PREDICTION FOR A CONTINUED DOWNTREND IN BUSINESS, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE VARIATIONS AMONG FIRMS REGARDING THEIR EXPERIENCE.

AS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983, A STRONG UPTREND IN BUSINESS IS ANTICIPATED.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE 'PLASTICS', 'ELECTRONICS' AND 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' INDUSTRIES.

AS FOR THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR, FIRMS CONTINUED TO REPORT BUSINESS DETERIORATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND ARE STILL PESSIMISTIC ABOUT BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

/FOR THE

FOR THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS' SECTOR, DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER WAS REPORTED BY THE MAJORITY OF FIRMS IN THE SECTOR. THIS COULD PARTLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO SEASONAL FACTORS. BUSINESS IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE MODERATELY FOR THE SECOND QUARTER IN THIS SECTOR.

FIRMS IN THE 'OTHER SERVICES' SECTOR, WHICH INCLUDE BANKING, TRANSPORTATION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES, EXPERIENCED A RATHER SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO THEIR PREVIOUS EXPECTATIONS FOR A SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS UPTURN. THEY PREDICT VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, THE 'TEXTILES', 'FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS', 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'ELECTRONICS' INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND ANTICIPATE A SIGNIFICANT UPTREND TO CONTINUE IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THE OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES EXPERIENCED DECLINES OF VARYING DEGREES IN THE FIRST QUARTER, BUT THEY ALL LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVEMENTS IN BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, ESPECIALLY IN THE 'PLASTICS', 'WEARING APPAREL' AND 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS' INDUSTRIES IN WHICH EXPECTATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE STRONG.

FIRMS IN THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS REPORTED A DECLINE IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS AND EXPECT AN UPTURN FOR THE SECOND QUARTER. AS FOR FIRMS IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL' TRADE AND THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS, FURTHER DECLINE IN BUSINESS IS EXPECTED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, AFTER EXPERIENCING A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THIS IS ALSO MAINLY DUE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS. THE 'BANKS' AND THE 'TRANSPORTATION' BUSINESSES BOTH REPORTED SHARP DECLINES IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THIS HAD NOT BEEN EXPECTED PREVIOUSLY.

PRICE COMPETITION, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS AND UNCERTAINTIES IN EXCHANGE RATES WERE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS IN THE 'MANUFACTURING' SECTOR IN GENERAL DURING THE FIRST QUARTER.

THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS IS EXPECTED TO EASE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, WHILE THE OTHER TWO PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO PERSIST. WITHIN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE ORDER POSITION IS DEFINITELY IMPROVING AS THE NUMBER OF FIRMS INDICATING INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDER SHOWS A MARKED DECLINE.

IN THE 'CONSTRUCTION' SECTOR, PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS AND INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS WERE STILL REPORTED AS THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER. THESE TWO PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN THE 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL' TRADE, FIRMS CONSIDERED PRICE COMPETITION, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AND UNCERTAINTIES IN EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATION TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS BOTH FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS.

AS FOR THE 'RESTAURANTS' BUSINESS, FIRMS' MAIN PROBLEMS INCLUDED INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER, THOUGH THE STRAIN FROM HIGH STAFF TURNOVER IS EXPECTED TO LESSEN SLIGHTLY IN THE SECOND QUARTER. RESPONDENTS IN THE 'HOTELS' BUSINESS CONTINUED TO INDICATE PRICE COMPETITION AS THEIR MAJOR PROBLEM FOR BOTH QUARTERS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER IN THEIR OPINIONS, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE IMMEDIATELY PAST QUARTER AS COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER BEFORE. FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION WILL 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE'. THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED. THE SURVEY REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A SECTION ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS AND A BREAKDOWN OF VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUPS.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT FOR A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

COPIES MAY BE BOUGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3 EACH.

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-423401.

FIRM ACTION TAKEN AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS ADVISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO STOPPING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS INTO HONG KONG AND EVENTUALLY TO ERADICATING DRUG ABUSE FROM THE COMMUNITY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS ON THE SUBJECT OF +NARCOTICS AND THE SEA+.

+THE MAIN DRUG OF ABUSE IN HONG KONG IS HEROIN+, MR MORTIMER POINTED OUT.

+OF THE 11 736 DRUG ABUSERS REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE LAST YEAR, 96.1 PER CENT ABUSED HEROIN, 2.4 PER CENT SMOKED OPIUM AND 1.5 PER CENT ABUSED OTHER DRUGS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THE EXACT NUMBER OF ADDICTS IN HONG KONG WAS NOT KNOWN, THE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE INDICATED THE NUMBER TO BE ABOUT 45 000.

THE ADDICTS, HE ADDED, DEPEND THEIR SUPPLIES OF HEROIN MAINLY ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE BORDER AREAS OF BURMA AND THAILAND, SUPPLEMENTED AT TIMES BY SUPPLIES FROM SOUTH WEST ASIA.

+THE OVERAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG HAS FOUR MAIN ELEMENTS — LAW ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

+THE INTERDICTION OF SUPPLIES OF ILLICIT DRUGS ENTERING HONG KONG IS A VITAL PART OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

+SO FAR THIS YEAR OVER 200 KILOGRAMMES OF ILLICIT OPIATE DRUGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEIZED, MOST OF WHICH REACHED HONG KONG BY SEA, COMPARED WITH AROUND 550 KILOGRAMMES OF OPIATE DRUGS SEIZED FROM ALL SOURCES LAST YEAR AND 300 KILOGRAMMES IN 1981,+ HE POINTED OUT.

THE TASK OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN INTERDICTING ILLICIT DRUG SUPPLIES IS FORMIDABLE, HE ADDED.

+THIS IS BECAUSE HONG KONG IS A FREE PORT WITH A MINIMUM OF CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND TRADE CONTROLS. EACH YEAR SOME 11 200 OCEAN-GOING VESSELS PUT INTO HONG KONG. WITH REGARD TO SMALLER VESSELS, THE INDENTED COASTLINE AND LONELY ISLETS PROVIDE INNUMERABLE PLACES FOR SMUGGLERS TO LAND AND CONCEAL ILLICIT DRUGS FOR COLLECTION AT SOME FUTURE DATE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

/HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, HE SAID, AS A RESULT OF THE JOINT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS HONG KONG IS VIRTUALLY NO LONGER A DRUG EXPORTING TERRITORY.

THERE WERE NO KNOWN CASES OF DRUGS BEING EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG IN 1980. AND THERE WERE ONLY THREE CASES IN 1981 AND IN 1982.

MR MORTIMER QUOTED SOME DETAILS PROVIDED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE OF SEIZURES OF DRUGS ON BOARD OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING HONG KONG TO ILLUSTRATE THE DEVIOUS METHODS USED IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND THE NETWORK OF CRIMINAL INTRIGUE WHICH EXISTS AND WHICH IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, HE SAID, A RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE MARITIME INTERDICTION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC WAS ADOPTED AT THE 30TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS HELD IN VIENNA EARLIER THIS YEAR.

+THE RESOLUTION INDICATES THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ATTACHES TO STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS METHOD OF SMUGGLING,+ HE SAID.

+THE SMUGGLING OF DRUGS BY SEA IS OF COURSE ONLY ONE OF THE ROUTES USED,+ MR MORTIMER SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE TASK OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IS TO SUPPRESS AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS OF SMUGGLING, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN HONG KONG.

+TO ACHIEVE THIS, CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS REQUIRED TOGETHER WITH CLOSE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME IS GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY AND IS AIMED AT STIMULATING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATING THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE,+ HE SAID.

+FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME ADDICTED THERE IS A VARIETY OF READILY AVAILABLE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES. SOME 15 000 PERSONS WERE ADMITTED TO SOME FORM OF TREATMENT AND AFTER-CARE IN 1982,+ HE SAID.

+THROUGH CAREFUL CO-ORDINATION WE ARE ABLE TO MOUNT A CONCERTED ATTACK ON THE OVERALL PROBLEM AND IF WE ALL PLAY OUR PART THE BATTLE CAN EVENTUALLY BE WON,+ HE ADDED.

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GREATER EFFORT TO INTEGRATE DISABLED URGED
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HONG KONG SHOULD KEEP UP ITS EFFORTS IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN REHABILITATION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS, DR HARRY FANG, SAID TODAY.

IN PRESENTING THE COMMITTEE REPORT, DR FANG SAID WHILE WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF WHAT WAS ACHIEVED IN 1981, WE MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE YEAR REALLY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF OUR ON-GOING PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN REHABILITATION.

+FURTHER DETERMINED EFFORTS BY EVERYONE, BOTH ABLE-BODIED AND DISABLED, WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO TRULY SUCCEED IN INTEGRATING THE DISABLED MEMBERS INTO OUR COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

DR FANG ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED TO THE VARIOUS EVENTS HELD IN HONG KONG DURING THE YEAR.

+TOGETHER THEY PROVIDED THE FOCUS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION DURING THE YEAR,+ HE SAID.

DR FANG SAID THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT THEY CREATED WAS SIGNIFICANT: SOME 400 000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE OF THESE EVENTS, LET ALONE THE MANY MORE WHO MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THEIR ORGANISATION OR WHO MIGHT HAVE WATCHED THEM ON TELEVISION.

+PERHAPS OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE THEIR LONGER-TERM EFFECTS ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS ITS DISABLED MEMBERS. THESE EFFECTS ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT TO DISCERN AT PRESENT BUT ARE EXPECTED TO MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN THE YEARS TO COME.+

THE REPORT, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED TODAY, ALSO CONTAINS A SUMMARY OF SOME 250 ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATED BY THE COMMITTEE DURING THE YEAR.

COPIES OF THE REPORT CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WATER SPORTS SCHEME POPULAR

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A WATER SPORTS SCHEME INTRODUCED LATE LAST YEAR BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVED TO BE POPULAR.

IN THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE SCHEME, EACH LASTING FOUR MONTHS, IT ATTRACTED A TOTAL OF 800 PARTICIPANTS.

+THE THIRD STAGE IS TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND WE HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY 100 TO 500,+ RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER OF RSS TAIPO OFFICE, MR CHEUNG CHU-HUN SAID.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE MINIMAL COST OF PARTICIPATION WAS ALSO A BIG ATTRACTION.

PARTICIPANTS CAN ENJOY WIND SURFING, SAILING AND CANOEING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TAI MEI TUK WATER SPORTS CENTRE IN TAI PO. HOWEVER ONLY THOSE WITH CERTIFICATES AND ARE 14 YEARS OF AGE OR ABOVE MAY APPLY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CHARGED \$20 FOR A MEMBERSHIP CARD AND 20 COUPONS ENTITLING THEM TO USE THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES INCLUDING LOCKERS, CANTEEN AND SHOWER ROOMS.

DINGHIES, CANOES AND SURFBOARDS MAY BE RENTED AT NOMINAL FEES RANGING FROM \$5 TO \$13.

MEMBERS MAY USE THE FACILITIES FROM TUESDAYS TO SATURDAYS AND MAY TAKE ALONG THEIR FRIENDS BY PURCHASING COUPONS AT \$1 EACH.

THE SCHEME IS ALSO OPEN TO ANY ORGANISATION WHICH HAS AT LEAST 10 MEMBERS AND SATISFIES CERTAIN OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS WELL.

THE FEE FOR GROUP APPLICATION IS \$200, WHICH COVERS MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND 200 COUPONS.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RSS HEAD OFFICE AND ANY OF ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES.

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 0-6577111 EXTENSION 137-141.

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'MUSIC FOR THE MILLIONS' CONCERT

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THE CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AND THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND WILL GIVE A JOINT CONCERT AT THE KO SHAN THEATRE IN KOWLOON AT 8 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 30).

THE TWO BANDS WILL PERFORM AT A 'MUSIC FOR THE MILLIONS' CONCERT JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

THE 53-MEMBER RAF BAND HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE SUCCESS AS A PATHFINDER AND PACESETTER IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MILITARY BAND MUSIC. SO FAR, THE BAND HAS TRAVELLED MORE THAN FIVE MILLION MILES, SPREADING ITS MUSIC AND GOODWILL ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND, ADMINISTERED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, CONSISTS OF ABOUT 80 TALENTED WIND PLAYERS. BECAUSE OF THE RAPID RISE IN STANDARD, THESE YOUNG MUSICIANS ARE OFTEN INVITED TO PERFORM IN MANY CONCERTS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE TODAY DESCRIBED THIS JOINT CONCERT AS A RARE TREAT TO MUSIC ENTHUSIASTS.

+WITH A MASS BAND OF ABOUT 130 MEMBERS PLAYING A VARIETY OF POPULAR MUSIC, IT IS A CONCERT THAT NO MUSIC LOVER SHOULD MISS,+ HE SAID.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES. FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL 3-7561328.

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41 GOOD CITIZENS GET AWARDS

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FORTY-ONE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE HELPED THE POLICE IN BRINGING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY AT THE PALADIUM OPERA HOUSE, LAI CHI KOK, TOMORROW (TUESDAY) NIGHT.

MR AKERS-JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY AND GIVE A SPEECH.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE MR RICHARD QUINE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE; MR NIGEL RIGG, REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MRS DEACON CHIU, REPRESENTATIVE OF ASIA TELEVISION LTD.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE PALADIUM OPERA HOUSE, LAI KING HILL ROAD AT 8.00 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY). THEY ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT 7.45 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BELILIOS STAR FOR YOUTH
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A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 26) AT THE HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION TO PRESENT THE BELILIOS STAR TO A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY, LAM YING-CHUN FOR COURAGE DURING A FIRE IN WAN CHAI RECENTLY.

THE BELILIOS STAR, AWARDED FOR ACTS OF CONSPICUOUS VALOUR OR SELF DENIAL WITHIN HONG KONG, WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND TUEN MUN

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NEW TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TSIM SHA TSUI AND TUEN MUN FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 25).

IN TSIM SHA TSUI, VEHICLES ON MODY ROAD EASTBOUND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO CHATHAM ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

TO REACH SALISBURY ROAD AND STAR FERRY PIER, THESE VEHICLES WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE ALONG MODY ROAD AFTER CROSSING CHATHAM ROAD AND THEN ENTER SALISBURY ROAD VIA MODY LANE.

HOWEVER, VEHICLES ON MODY ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO CHATHAM ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

IN TUEN MUN, THE NEW ROAD LINKING SIU HONG COURT WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD (LAM TEI) WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 24-HOUR PLB CLEARWAY.

NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

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NEW TRAINING POOL FOR SWIMMERS

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A NEW SWIMMING POOL WILL SOON BE ADDED TO THE WAN CHAI SPORTS GROUND TO PROVIDE MORE TRAINING FACILITIES FOR SWIMMERS.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE NOW BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE POOL, MEASURING 50 METRES BY 25 METRES, IS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD DESIGN FOR TRAINING PURPOSE ONLY AND WILL BE MANAGED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL UPON COMPLETION.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR PIPELINE WORK

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF A 2 200 MM IN DIAMETER PIPELINE BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI RAILWAY STATION AND KIU TAU IN TAI PO.

THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF A SCHEME FOR THE RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF WATER FROM CHINA OVER THE NEXT 12 YEARS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 3 800 METRES OF MAINS ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING TWIN PIPELINE.

IT WILL START IN JUNE AND TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 26) FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG SHOUSON HILL ROAD, SHOUSON HILL ROAD EAST, SHOUSON HILL ROAD WEST AND DEEP WATER BAY, INCLUDING HOUSE NO. 2 AND HONG KONG COUNTRY CLUB AT ISLAND ROAD.

AND FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KOWLOON TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 PM ON THE SAME DAY (MAY 26) FOR MAINS WORK.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE IN BEACON HILL ROAD, EASTBOURNE ROAD, ALNWICK ROAD, BROADCAST DRIVE, MARCONI ROAD, FÉSSENDEN ROAD AND RHONDDA ROAD, INCLUDING LUNG CHEUNG COURT.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 78.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 452.392 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 227.325 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 39.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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