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PROGRESS IN TACKLING POLLUTION, ILLEGAL HAWKERS OUTLINED

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, VISITED TUEN MUN AND KWUN TONG DISTRICTS THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TO SEE THE PROGRESS MADE BY DEPARTMENTS IN TACKLING POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND HAWKERS.

SIR DAVID ARRIVED IN TUEN MUN BY HELICOPTER AND WAS MET BY THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR PETER NG, AND THE ACTING TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU.

AT A PUMPING STATION NEXT TO SIU HONG COURT, SIR DAVID WAS INFORMED THAT THE STATION ACTED AS A POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICE TO INTERCEPT FAECALLY POLLUTED RIVER WATER FROM THE STREAMS WHILE RUBBISH ACCUMULATED AT SCREENS WAS CLEARED REGULARLY BY REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WATER AND WASTE) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, MR MIKE STOKOE, TOLD SIR DAVID THAT CONTINUOUS EFFORTS WERE MADE BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT WORKING GROUP ON WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT TO MONITOR AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY.

SIR DAVID ALSO WENT TO A FOOTBRIDGE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF THE NEW TOWN TO SEE THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS SUCH AS ANIMAL WASTE AND INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS ON THE QUALITY OF WATER IN THE TUEN MUN NULLAH.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE WORKING GROUP HAD IDENTIFIED THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM AND WAS CONSIDERING VARIOUS SOLUTIONS AND STEPPED UP MEASURES TO CLEAR THE NULLAH OF POLLUTANTS.

THESE INCLUDED PROPOSALS TO DREDGE AND SILT CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE NULLAH, IMPLEMENTING MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS ON ANIMAL WASTE AND URGING FACTORIES TO DISCHARGE THEIR INDUSTRIAL WASTE INTO THE SEWAGE SYSTEM AND NOT THROUGH THE STORM WATER DRAINS.

LATER SIR DAVID VISITED BUTTERFLY BEACH WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE WATER QUALITY THERE AND FUTURE PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR S.K. KWEI, ALSO TOLD SIR DAVID THAT THE TUEN MUN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WOULD BE OPENED NEXT MONTH AND THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL WOULD RESUME LATER THIS MONTH.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR LATER TOURED THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA AND INSPECTED COOKED FOOD FACILITIES THERE.

/HE WAS .....

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR A.L. PURVES; DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION), MR T.K. CHOY; (KWUN TONG) DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN; AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR ANTHONY SIU.

THE PARTY WALKED THROUGH HING YIP STREET AS SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED BY MR SIU ON THE PREVIOUS ILLEGAL COOKED FOOD HAWKING ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD NOW DISAPPEARED.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT HING YIP STREET HAD BEEN A BLACK SPOT FOR ILLEGAL COOKED FOOD HAWKERS BEFORE THE CURRENT CRACKDOWN WAS LAUNCHED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT EVEN BEFORE THE CURRENT OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA, THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REGULARLY CARRYING OUT RAIDS AGAINST ILLEGAL COOKED FOOD HAWKERS.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 1 551 ILLEGAL COOKED FOOD HAWKERS WERE ARRESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN KWUN TONG, WHILE 466 UNLICENSED COOKED-FOOD HAWKERS WERE PROSECUTED DURING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. SO FAR THIS MONTH, 44 SUCH HAWKERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

SIR DAVID ALSO WALKED ALONG TO HUNG TO ROAD WHERE HE VISITED A FACTORY CANTEEN.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA HAD 85 LICENSED FACTORY CANTEENS WHICH HELPED TO SOLVE THE LUNCH PROBLEM OF WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA.

THE PARTY PROCEEDED TO TSUN YIP STREET WHERE THE ACTING GOVERNOR INSPECTED AN URBAN COUNCIL COOKED FOOD MARKET.

THE $10.4 MILLION TWO-STOREY MARKET WAS OPENED IN MAY LAST YEAR AND ACCOMMODATES 56 COOKED FOOD STALLS WITH A REST GARDEN ON THE ROOF-TOP.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE FOUR URBAN COUNCIL COOKED FOOD MARKETS WITH A TOTAL OF 144 STALLS TO HELP PROVIDE PROPER EATING FACILITIES IN THE KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE NINE LICENSED RESTAURANTS AND FIVE LICENSED FOOD FACTORIES IN THE AREA.

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NUCLEAR VISITS EXTREMELY VALUABLE -- ACTING GOVERNOR

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THE OVERSEAS FACT-FINDING VISITS BY UMELCO MEMBERS ON THE OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WILL BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN HELPING HONG KONG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE SUBJECT, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER SEEING SOME OF THE COOKED FOOD FACILITIES IN KWUN TONG, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE UMELCO GROUPS HAD WORKED VERY HARD DURING THEIR VISITS.

/HE SAID: .....

HE SAID: +IT'S SORT OF A NON-STOP, VERY INTENSIVE PROGRAMME. THEY'VE TALKED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, FOR AND AGAINST, AND A LOT OF EXPERTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIENNA WHERE THEY TALKED TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AT THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.

+SO, ARMED WITH THAT INFORMATION AND WITH ALL THE BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS AND SO ON THAT THEY BROUGHT BACK, I THINK WE'LL FIND THAT WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR REPORTS, THEY WILL HAVE SOMETHING WHICH IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE FOR US.+

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PLAN TO CHANNEL THE REPORTS TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, SIR DAVID SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE BUILDING OF THE DAYA BAY NUCLEAR PLANT WOULD TAKE NOTICE OF THESE REPORTS WHICH WOULD BECOME PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

+I SHOULD THINK THEY WILL BE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THEM AS WELL ... AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

ON WHETHER THE REPORTS SHOULD BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE CONTRACTS FOR THE NUCLEAR PLANT WERE FINALISED, SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE TIMING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE REPORTS WAS.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE UMELCO GROUPS WERE WORKING TO GET THEIR REPORTS OUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. +SO LET US WAIT AND SEE HOW THE TIMING DEVELOPS OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO.+

ASKED TO COMMENT ON LEAKS OF THE HARWELL REPORTS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT LEAKS.

+AS YOU KNOW IT'S NOT CONFINED TO THE HARWELL REPORTS. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE LEAKS,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE LEAKS ON THE HARWELL REPORTS ONLY REFLECTED THE SITUATION OF SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND NOT AN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

ON HIS VISIT TO KWUN TONG, SIR DAVID SAID THE RECENT CHOLERA CASES HAD IN FACT ALERTED US ALL IN THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, TO THE PROBLEMS OF ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKING, TO THE PROBLEMS OF THIS VERY LARGE FACTORY AREA HERE, THE NEED TO PROVIDE EXTRA FACILITIES, THE NEED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN FOOD HYGIENE, AND ALSO THE NEED FOR CONTINUED ENFORCEMENT ACTION, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKERS ALTHOUGH IT WAS A NEVER-ENDING PROBLEM.

HOWEVER, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE EATING HABIT WITH FOOD BOXES AND THE GROWING NUMBER OF FACTORY CANTEENS IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO.

/NOTING .....

NOTING THAT THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 80 SUCH CANTEENS IN KWUN TONG, HE SAID IT WAS MUCH BETTER NOW TO HAVE THIS SORT OF INSIDE EATING FACILITIES RATHER THAN FACILITIES OUT ON THE STREET.

SIR DAVID SAID SOME WORKERS STILL HAD TO WALK QUITE A LONG WAY TO GET A MEAL, THUS GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ILLEGAL HAWKERS.

+SO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DISTRICT STAFF GENERALLY WILL BE LOOKING AT THIS QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF COOKED-FOOD FACILITIES TO SEE WHERE AND HOW IT CAN BE IMPROVED.+

SIR DAVID ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD VISITED TUEN MUN EARLIER IN THE MORNING.

HE SAID TUEN MUN HAD A VERY SERIOUS POLLUTION PROBLEM, BUT HE WAS ABLE TO SEE THE STEPS WHICH WERE BEING TAKEN THERE TO CLEAN UP THE NULLAH.

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HK TEAM OFF FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION IN UK

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A TEAM OF THREE OFFICIALS WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UK ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY (UKAEA) ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE HARWELL CONSULTANCY.

THE TEAM COMPRISES MR JOHN WILSON (REPRESENTING ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH), DR M.C. WONG (ROYAL OBSERVATORY) AND MR GRAHAM OSBORNE (DIRECTOR, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT).

THEY WILL BE VISITING TWO OF THE UKAEA ESTABLISHMENTS - THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY DIRECTORATE AT CULCHETH IN LANCASHIRE AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT AT HARWELL NEAR OXFORD.

THE PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT CULCHETH IS TO FINALISE THE CONTENT OF THE STUDY IN RESPECT OF THE SECOND STAGE OF THE ACCIDENT ASSESSMENT REPORT. AT HARWELL THE TEAM WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE CONSULTANTS HOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH CONTINGENCY PLANNING MAY BE REQUIRED FOR HONG KONG SHOULD BE DETERMINED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FACILITIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA TO COVER THE DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TEAM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT AT 8.15 PM TOMORROW.

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SIR DAVID INSPECTS QE HOSPITAL
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE 1 938-BED QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WHICH IS THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR KOWLOON.

HE WAS MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HOSPITAL.

SIR DAVID FIRST WENT TO THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WAS TOLD THAT THE AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES IS ABOUT 700 AND THAT THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES RECORDED IN ONE DAY WAS 996 CASES. TWO-THIRDS OF THE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS ARE ADMITTED THROUGH THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS LAST YEAR WAS 139 124.

SIR DAVID NEXT TOURED THE RADIODIAGNOSTIC DEPARTMENT AND THE RADIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT WHICH ARE HOUSED IN THE INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.

THE TWO CONSULTANTS IN CHARGE OF THE INSTITUTE EXPLAINED TO HIM THE FUNCTIONS OF VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING THE LINEAR ACCELERATOR, RADIOTHERAPY COMPUTER PLANNING SYSTEM, ULTRA-SOUND MACHINE AND THE CAT SCANNER.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT IN ONE YEAR OVER 57 000 TREATMENTS ARE GIVEN TO PATIENTS BY THE RADIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT AND THAT 250 000 RADIOGRAPHIC EXAMINATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE RADIODIAGNOSTIC DEPARTMENT.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR LATER ALSO VISITED THE CORONARY CARE UNIT, THE PAEDIATRIC UNIT AND THE INTENSIVE THERAPY UNIT IN THE HOSPITAL.

AT THE END OF THE VISIT, SIR DAVID HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION IN THE HOSPITAL LIBRARY WITH THE DIRECTOR AND THE SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HOSPITAL.

DURING THE DISCUSSION, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE HOSPITAL HAS ABOUT 4 000 STAFF INCLUDING 405 DOCTORS AND 1 695 NURSES.

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE HOSPITAL LAST YEAR WAS $437 MILLION AND THE COST OF MAINTAINING EACH BED IS ABOUT $900 DAILY.

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UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVES APRIL-JUNE
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE WHILE THE UNDER-EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVED IN THE QUARTER APRIL - JUNE 1986, COMPARED WITH THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1986 WAS 3.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.2 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986 AND 2.9 PER CENT FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE INCREASE OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER APRIL - JUNE 1986 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 80 600, COMPARED WITH 85 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986 AND 75 100 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1986 WAS 1.9 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH THE RATE OF 2.3 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986. THE RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1985 WAS 1.5 PER CENT.

THE DECREASE OF 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE INCREASE OF 0.4 PERCENTAGE POINT COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT - THAT IS, THE CHANGES ARE GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER APRIL - JUNE 1986 WAS 52 200, COMPARED WITH 61 700 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1986 AND 40 400 FOR APRIL - JUNE 1985.

CONSISTENT WITH THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR MAY - JULY 1986 WAS 3.0 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.7 PER CENT. (THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR APRIL - JUNE 1986 WAS 3.0 PER CENT.)

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 15 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 53 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1986 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND SEPTEMBER 20.

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YOUNG PEOPLE A TARGET OF VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

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YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY BECOME QUALIFIED FOR THE ELECTORAL ROLL HAVE BEEN URGED TO RESPOND TO THIS YEAR'S REGISTRATION EXERCISE TO BE HELD FROM TOMORROW (AUGUST 15) TO SEPTEMBER 30.

+THE EXERCISE THIS YEAR, APART FROM PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE BUT HAVE NOT YET MADE THE EFFORT TO GET REGISTERED, WILL ALSO TRY TO SOLICIT REGISTRATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEWLY BECOME QUALIFIED,+ PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ELECTORAL SERVICES), MR WAN YIU-SING, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD THIS AFTERNOON (THURSDAY).

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, ANYONE WHO IS AGED OVER 21 OR WILL BE 21 BY THE END OF THE YEAR, AND WHO IS EITHER A 'HONG KONG BELONGER' AS DEFINED IN THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE OR HAS BEEN AN ORDINARY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION, WILL BE ENTITLED TO REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR.

+THOSE WHO BECOME REGISTERED WILL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN 1987 AND THEREAFTER AT ANY ORDINARY ELECTION AND BY-ELECTION FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS,+ MR WAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THIS IS ALSO A PRE-REQUISITE FOR THOSE WHO ARE OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO BE REGISTERED AS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORS BEFORE APPLYING FOR ENROLMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORAL ROLL NEXT APRIL.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION MAY BE MADE IN ENGLISH OR CHINESE AND THE PROCEDURE IS SIMPLE.

+ALL A PERSON HAS TO DO IS TO FILL IN HIS NAME, IDENTITY CARD NUMBER AND HOME ADDRESS, AND AFFIX HIS SIGNATURE BEFORE FOLDING UP THE FORM AND DROPPING IT IN A POST BOX FOR FREE DELIVERY,+ MR WAN EXPLAINED.

+HOWEVER, CARE MUST BE EXERCISED IN FILLING THE FLOOR NUMBER, AND THE WESTERN WAY OF RECKONING SHOULD BE USED,+ MR WAN ADDED.

APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED IN WRITING OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR APPLICATIONS WITHIN OCTOBER. THE NOTICE WILL CONTAIN THE REGISTERED PARTICULARS OF THE ELECTOR AND THE CONSTITUENCY AND POLLING STATIONS IN WHICH HE IS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

THE REGISTER IS 'ROLLED OVER' FROM YEAR TO YEAR, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR AN ELECTOR TO MAKE ANY FRESH APPLICATIONS AS LONG AS HIS ENTRY REMAINS ON THE REGISTER.

HOWEVER, MR WAN POINTED OUT THAT ELECTORS SHOULD NOTIFY THE REGISTRATION OFFICER OF ANY CHANGE OF REGISTERED PARTICULARS, ESPECIALLY THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS- OTHERWISE IT WOULD LEAD TO THEIR POLL CARDS NOT BEING DELIVERED AND THE SUBSEQUENT OMISSION OF THEIR ENTRIES FROM THE REGISTER.

+IN SUCH CASE, THE ELECTORS WILL HAVE TO RE-APPLY FOR REGISTRATION,+ HE ADDED.

+ALTHOUGH 1987 IS NOT AN ELECTION YEAR, IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO SIGN UP AS AN ELECTOR, THUS HELPING TO CONSOLIDATE THE BASE OF THE ELECTORATE,+ MR WAN SAID.

/IT IS .....

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE POTENTIAL ELECTORS NUMBER 1 630 000, AND IN ORDER TO MOBILISE THEM TO GET REGISTERED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL EMBARK ON A TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME FROM AUGUST 15. THE PUBLICITY PACKAGE INCLUDES PROMINENT POSTER DISPLAY, RADIO AND TELEVISION APPEAL MESSAGES, AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WITH ELECTORAL SERVICES OFFICERS.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, IMMIGRATION OFFICES, AND THE 400 BRANCHES OF THE HONG KONG BANK AND THE HANG SENG BANK.

DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD, DISTRICT OFFICES STAFF WILL PROVIDE A FREE ENQUIRY SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORMS.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS MR LAI KWAN-TAT, THE REGISTRATION OFFICER.

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FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CATER TO DIFFERENT NEEDS

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WELL EDUCATED AND PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED PERSONS ARE THE CREAM AND VALUABLE ASSETS OF HONG KONG SOCIETY, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, SAID.

AND PLACEMENT OF THESE HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONS IN SUITABLE JOBS WOULD NOT ONLY ENABLE THEM TO DERIVE SATISFACTION FROM THEIR WORK, BUT WOULD ALSO HELP OPTIMISE THE USE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE -- YOUNG PEOPLE, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CLUB TODAY (THURSDAY), MR CHEN SAID AN AVERAGE OF 4 900 STUDENTS WENT ABROAD EACH YEAR TO STUDY IN UNIVERSITIES IN BRITAIN, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO STATISTICS SHOWING THE NUMBER WHO RETURN TO HONG KONG, ABOUT 3 000 OVERSEAS GRADUATES LAST YEAR REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHICH PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO JOB-SEEKERS WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, IN PARTICULAR HONG KONG STUDENTS EDUCATED OVERSEAS.

+THEY FIND OUR SERVICE USEFUL IN LEARNING ABOUT HONG KONG'S JOB MARKET AND MANY OF THEM ARE SUBSEQUENTLY PLACED THROUGH THE SERVICE IN JOBS CLOSELY RELATED TO THEIR TRAINING,+ MR CHEN SAID.

/HE NOTED .....

HE NOTED THAT THIS SERVICE WAS ALSO USED BY GRADUATES OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTES WHO WERE IN EMPLOYMENT BUT WISHED TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE JOBS.

TO ENABLE IT TO BE OPERATED MORE EFFECTIVELY, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO COMPUTERISE RECORDS OF JOB-SEEKERS AND EMPLOYERS' VACANCY ORDERS SO THAT JOB-MATCHING CAN BE DONE THOROUGHLY AND MORE QUICKLY. IN ADDITION, IT ALSO PLANS TO CONDUCT A NUMBER OF JOB-HUNTING SEMINARS LATER THIS YEAR.

MR CHEN SAID THAT APART FROM CATERING TO THE MORE SOPHISTICATED NEEDS OF JOB-SEEKERS WITH UNIVERSITY AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO OPERATES A LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AND A CENTRAL RECRUITMENT UNIT.

+ANY PERSON WHO IS LOOKING FOR A JOB, IRRESPECTIVE OF HIS BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS, MAY REGISTER AT ANY ONE OF THE 15 BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

+EMPLOYERS WISHING TO RECRUIT STAFF MAY ALSO CONTACT THE SERVICE BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON, GIVING PARTICULARS OF THE VACANT POSTS, SUCH AS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, AND THE REQUIRED SKILLS, QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE.+

THE CENTRAL RECRUITMENT UNIT PROVIDES A SPECIAL SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF VACANCIES. IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR STAFF IN THE CIVIL SERVICE SUCH AS WATCHMEN, PLUMBERS, LIFE-GUARDS, DRIVERS AND ELECTRICIANS.

LAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 166 152 REGISTRATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AND 84 671 JOB VACANCIES NOTIFIED BY EMPLOYERS. AT THE SAME TIME, 191 569 REFERRALS TO EMPLOYERS FOR INTERVIEWS WERE MADE AND 39 899 PLACEMENTS RECORDED.

MR CHEN REITERATED THAT OPTIMISING THE USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES WAS THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VARIOUS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ULTIMATELY DEPENDED ON THE TYPE AND NUMBER OF VACANCIES OFFERED BY EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS ON THE QUALITY AND NUMBER OF JOB-SEEKERS REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

+UNDOUBTEDLY, IT IS A CASE OF 'THE MORE THE MERRIER' ON BOTH COUNTS,+ HE SAID.

+I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON PERSONNEL MANAGERS AND INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS TO MAKE FULL AND FREQUENT USE OF OUR FREE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SO THAT WE CAN PLAY OUR ROLE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

+WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN HELP, AND ARE INDEED HELPING TO FILL ALL LEVELS OF VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO US,+ MR CHEN ADDED.

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FIRST QUARTER CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS RELEASED

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THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO $9 323 MILLION, WHICH WAS 5.9 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 0.3 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND OTHER MINOR WORK LOCATIONS) IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO $6 153 MILLION. THIS GAVE AN INDEX OF 93.4, WHICH WAS 5.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 1.7 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985. THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1982 WAS TAKEN AS 100.

DIFFERENT FROM THE FIGURES ON CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS, THE FIGURES FOR MAIN CONTRACTORS ARE FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF DOUBLE COUNTING OF CONSTRUCTION VALUE DUE TO THE SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO $4 806 MILLION, WHICH WAS 5.1 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 0.5 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985. THE FALL WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DECREASE IN CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ON BUILDINGS, AS A NUMBER OF LARGE COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS WERE NEAR COMPLETION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WAS $432 MILLION, REPRESENTING DECREASES OF 38.3 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 37.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 WAS $1 724 MILLION. THIS SHOWED A FALL OF 5.3 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, BUT AN INCREASE OF 5.1 PER CENT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES WAS $789 MILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 60.0 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, BUT WAS 8.8 PER CENT LOWER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR. THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER WAS RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED ON THE FINAL PHASE OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE PROJECT.

/MORE DETAILED .....

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS GIVEN IN THE +REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 1ST QUARTER 1986+ RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE QUARTERLY SURVEY REPORT IS PRICED AT $2. IT CAN BE BOUGHT AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE MADE TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 3-7224490.

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NO NEW CHOLERA CASES CONFIRMED

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THERE WAS NO REPORT OF CONFIRMED CHOLERA CASE TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES REMAINS AT 22.

MEANWHILE, A TOTAL OF 16 CONFIRMED CHOLERA PATIENTS HAS SO FAR BEEN DISCHARGED FROM PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

UP TO 4 PM TODAY, A TOTAL OF 1 206 PEOPLE RECEIVED VACCINATION AT THE EIGHT VACCINATION CENTRES AND THREE PORT HEALTH OFFICES.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE VACCINATED TODAY (YESTERDAY'S FIGURES ARE IN BRACKETS):

SAI YING PUN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC	107	(147)
SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC	80	(150)
KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE	216	(320)
YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB POLYCLINIC	203	(245)
LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, TSUEN WAN	190	(250)
YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE	70	(163)
SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC	31	(51)
TAI PO JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC	35	(86)
PORT HEALTH OFFICES	274	(438)

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FIREMEN RECEIVE LONG SERVICE MEDALS

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THIRTY-ONE FIREMEN FROM THE HEADQUARTERS COMMAND WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDALS BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR LAM SAID THE AWARDS REPRESENTED MANY YEARS OF GOOD CONDUCT AND LOYAL SERVICE BY THE RECIPIENTS.

HE SAID THAT THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES HAD ATTAINED ITS REPUTATION WORLDWIDE THROUGH THE UNSELFISH DEVOTION OF ITS STAFF.

+EACH OF YOU, THROUGH YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, HAS CONTRIBUTED IN MANY WAYS YOUR SHARE IN BUILDING UP THIS ELITE BRIGADE.

+THE LONG SERVICE AWARDS YOU ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE ARE DUE RECOGNITION OF YOUR MANY YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, A WELL DESERVED AWARD TO REMIND YOU CONSTANTLY OF THE APPRECIATION THAT IS DUE TO YOU,+ MR LAM SAID.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS, NORTH POINT. AMONG THE RECIPIENTS WERE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MR R.B. JOHNSTON, AND SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR R.H. BRUCE.

THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 149 FIRE AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE DEPARTMENT BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDAL.

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DB MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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PROPOSALS TO CONSTRUCT A FOOTPATH AND DRAINAGE IN SHA TIN TAU AND A SITTING-OUT AREA IN NGAU PEI SHA WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING THE FOOTPATH AND DRAINAGE IS $60 000, AND $10 000 FOR THE SITTING-OUT AREA.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF 20.28 HECTARES OF LAND AREA IN TAI SHUI HANG TO PROVIDE A DETAILED RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT FOR THE AREA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS.

THEY WILL RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON INSCRIBING COUPLETS ON THE PAVILION OF THE SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LAYOUT PLAN FOR FU SHAN, THE NAMING OF ROADS AND THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SIXTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, KCR HOUSE TOMORROW AT 9.30 AM.

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JOINT EFFORTS TO COMBAT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS MAINLY THROUGH EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING AT FAMILY, SCHOOL AND SOCIETAL LEVEL, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE +FIGHT CRIME AND CARE FOR SOCIETY 1986 SCHEME+ AT THE WU KAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE, MR LEUNG SAID THAT PARENTS SHOULD SET GOOD EXAMPLES AND PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR CHILDREN.

+WHILE AT SCHOOL, EXTRA EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF MORAL AND CIVIC EDUCATION AMONG STUDENTS AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCES SHOULD BE RENDERED TO STUDENTS WITH DIFFICULTIES STUDYING SO AS TO INCREASE THEIR LEARNING INTEREST.

+AT SOCIETAL LEVEL, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL AND HEALTHY ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

HE THANKED THE LIONS CLUB OF BRAEMAR HILL, THE LIONESS CLUB OF BRAEMAR HILL AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT JUNIOR POLICE CALL FOR THEIR FUNDS AND EFFORTS TO MAKE +FIGHT CRIME AND CARE FOR SOCIETY 1986 SCHEME+ A SUCCESSFUL EVENT IN INCREASING THE KNOWLEDGE OF FIGHT CRIME AND CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG YOUNGSTERS.

TODAY'S CEREMONY WAS PART OF A FIGHT CRIME CAMP HELD TO MARK THE CONCLUSION OF THE SCHEME, TO ANNOUNCE THE FINDINGS OF SURVEYS AND TO PRESENT PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF A TRAINING COURSE WHICH WAS HELD DURING THE SCHEME.

/ALSO OFFICIATING .....

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY WERE EASTERN DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR J.L. PETTENGELL, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR LEUNG SAU-CHI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE +FIGHT CRIME AND CARE FOR SOCIETY SCHEME+ WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE LATER TODAY.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION FESTIVAL

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A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE YAU MA TEI CIVIC EDUCATION FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MRS ENA CHAN, AND THE CONVENOR OF THE THREE WORKING GROUPS OF THE COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 3 PM TOMORROW IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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TOWN SQUARE TO BE BUILT IN TAI PO

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND $9 MILLION ON BUILDING THE FIRST TOWN SQUARE IN TAI PO.

THE TOWN SQUARE WILL BE BUILD ON A SITE OF MORE THAN ONE HECTARE SOUTH OF TAI YUEN ESTATE.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDE INCLUDED TWO PONDS, AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, SITTING-OUT AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS, FORMING A MAJOR CIVIC PLAZA.

THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AWARDED THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CONTRACT WILL START WORK NEXT WEEK AND IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE THE JOB COMPLETED IN NINE MONTHS.

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HOLIDAY MAIL

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THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE MAIL DELIVERY ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 23) AND NO DELIVERY ON MONDAY (AUGUST 25), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED. BOTH DAYS ARE GENERAL HOLIDAYS.

ON AUGUST 23, 42 POST OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO NOON. THESE INCLUDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICES; AND SHA TIN CENTRAL AND TAI PO POST OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON AUGUST 25.

DETAILS OF THE POST OFFICES WHICH WILL BE OPEN ON AUGUST 23 CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY POST OFFICE OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU AT 5-231071.

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SAN PO KONG SLIP ROAD TO CLOSE

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THE SLIP ROAD ON THE FLYOVER AT SAN PO KONG INTERCHANGE, LEADING FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST EASTBOUND TO CHOI HUNG ROAD, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 8 AM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 17) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS HEADING FOR CHOI HUNG ROAD FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST EASTBOUND ARE ADVISED TO USE THE GROUND LEVEL CARRIAGEWAY LEADING FROM PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST TO CHOI HUNG ROAD.

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