



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG UNDER CONTROL
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HONG KONG HAS MANAGED TO KEEP THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE UNDER CONTROL, WHILE IT REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN MANY COUNTRIES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG HOST LUNCHEON, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN SOME COUNTRIES, ABUSE WAS EVEN INCREASING AND VERY FEW COUNTRIES WERE UNAFFECTED.

+ABUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE GRAVELY IMPERILS COUNTRIES' FUTURES,+ HE SAID.

+THE WORLD SITUATION WITH REGARD TO DRUG ABUSE HAS MOVED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO LAUNCH UNPRECEDENTED AND COMPREHENSIVE COUNTER-ATTACKS AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFICKING.

+IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP THE CONSUMPTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL.

+THE COMMUNITY IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DRUG ABUSE IN ALL ITS FORMS AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS WHICH ARE BEING MADE TO ERADICATE THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID.

MR MORTIMER STRESSED THAT THE MESSAGE BEING PUT TO THE PUBLIC WAS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL, THAT THE ABUSE OF ADDICTIVE DRUGS WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, AND COULD RUIN LIVES AND SHOULD NOT BE TRIED - NOT EVEN ONCE.

HE WARNED THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE ADDICTIVE POWER OF THE MAJOR ILLICIT DRUGS AND ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO ABUSED THEM WAS COURTING DISASTER.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG AND THE INCREASED AWARENESS BY THE PUBLIC, MR MORTIMER URGED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH OVER THEIR OWN CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY TEENAGERS AND TO STEER THEM AWAY FROM DRUGS.

+AS ABOUT 980 YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 ARE NEWLY REPORTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN DRUGS EACH YEAR, I FEEL THAT PARENTS COULD DO MORE IN HELPING THEIR CHILDREN,+ HE ADDED.

MR MORTIMER REASSURED THAT COMBINED EFFORTS COULD HELP PROTECT PEOPLE FROM ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD TODAY AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL DRUG ABUSE CEASED TO BE +A MENACE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHOSE BRIGHT FUTURE SHINES BEFORE THEM+.

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PRAISE FOR VOLUNTARY +WEATHER SHIPS+
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THE CONTRIBUTION THAT VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS MAKE TO HONG KONG'S MARINE WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEM WAS PRAISED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR JOHN YAXLEY.

AN ACCURATE AND RELIABLE WEATHER SERVICE ENABLED SHIPS TO PLAN THEIR MOVEMENTS SO AS TO MAXIMISE BOTH EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY, HE SAID.

THE LOCAL SYSTEM HAD A DIRECT BENEFIT FOR PARTICIPATING VESSELS AS WELL AS ALL SHIPPING APPROACHING OR DEPARTING HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

MR YAXLEY WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY, HELD AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, AT WHICH PLAQUES WERE PRESENTED TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VOLUNTARY WEATHER SHIPS.

+THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG AS A TRADING CENTRE, AND ALSO AS A GROWING TRANSHIPMENT POINT (LARGELY FOR CARGO TO AND FROM CHINA) HAS MADE INCREASING DEMANDS ON THE PORT AS BOTH THE NUMBER OF VESSELS ENTERING HONG KONG AND THE VOLUME OF CARGO MOVED CONTINUE TO INCREASE,+ HE SAID.

MORE THAN 13 000 OCEAN-GOING SHIPS AND 80 000 RIVER TRADE VESSELS CALLED AT HONG KONG LAST YEAR, AND ALL BENEFITTED FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S EXCELLENT MARINE WEATHER SERVICE AND THUS FROM THE DATA PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS.

MR YAXLEY ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE SCHEME.

HE THEN PRESENTED THE PLAQUES TO 75 MASTERS AND OFFICERS FROM VOLUNTARY WEATHER OBSERVING SHIPS, INCLUDING FIVE ROYAL NAVY VESSELS, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICES TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (WMO) VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS (VOS) SCHEME.

AMONG THE GUESTS AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR PETER Y.Y. CHAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION, MR KENNETH K.W. LO.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY MOUNTED AN EXHIBITION ON +PORT AND MARINE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES+ WHICH SHOWED HOW THE WORLD'S METEOROLOGICAL AND SHIPPING COMMUNITIES HAD BENEFITTED FROM THE VOS SCHEME.

IN HIS SPEECH, THE DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY, MR PATRICK SHAM, NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD TAKEN PART IN THE WMO'S VOS SCHEME SINCE 1949.

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+AS AT MAY 1, THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG VOLUNTARY OBSERVING SHIPS WAS 70, WHICH STOOD VERY NEAR THE ALL-TIME HIGH OF 73 IN 1960,+ HE SAID.

WORLDWIDE, WELL OVER 7 000 SHIPS OPERATING UNDER THE SCHEME MADE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS EACH YEAR.

MR SHAM SAID THE METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS WAS USED FOR THE DESIGN OF MARINE STRUCTURES AND FOR THE PLANNING OF SHIPPING ROUTES OR OTHER OCEAN OR COASTAL ACTIVITIES.

ON PORT AND MARINE WEATHER SERVICES, HE SAID THAT AFTER CLOSER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND MARINE DEPARTMENT AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SHIPPING, FERRY AND WHARFING COMPANIES, THE OBSERVATORY WAS NOW +BETTER PREPARED TO PROVIDE SPECIALISED WEATHER SERVICES TO MEET THEIR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS+.

+THESE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE METEOROLOGICAL WATCH AND WARNINGS FOR SPECIFIC FERRY ROUTES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE HONG KONG WATERS, THE FORECASTING OF WINDS, WAVES AND SWELLS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS WELL AS A COMPREHENSIVE WEATHER SERVICE TO CATER FOR OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING AND OTHER OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT JAPAN
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL VISIT JAPAN AS THE GUEST OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM MAY 25 TO MAY 27, 1986.

SIR EDWARD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE HIGH-LEVEL MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG-JAPAN BUSINESS CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE.

DURING HIS STAY IN JAPAN THE GOVERNOR WILL MEET WITH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

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GOVERNOR RETURNING TUESDAY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG FROM LONDON ON TUESDAY (MAY 20) INSTEAD OF SUNDAY AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. THIS WILL ENABLE HIM TO HAVE MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS.

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CHANGES PROPOSED IN STRUCTURE OF ANTIQUITIES BOARD

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO CHANGE THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 PROVIDED FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD TO BE A PERSON APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT STATUTORY ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE SAME GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES, IS BOTH THE ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD WHICH ADVISES IT, IS CONSIDERED OUTDATED, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE CHECKS AND BALANCES.

THE BILL ALSO REMOVES THE PRESENT LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. THE CURRENT LIMIT OF NINE WHICH INCLUDES THE CHAIRMAN AND THE POST OF VICE-CHAIRMAN HAS PROVED UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE AND HAS HAMPERED THE WORK OF THE BOARD.

+TO ALLOW FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF A WIDER RANGE OF EXPERTISE, THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE REMOVAL OF THIS STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL DELETE THE POST OF VICE-CHAIRMAN, PROVIDE FOR MEMBERS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN TO ELECT FROM AMONG THEMSELVES A PERSON TO PRESIDE AT A MEETING AND FOR A QUORUM AT A MEETING OF NOT LESS THAN HALF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BILL HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD WHICH SUPPORTED THE PROPOSALS.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 28. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BILL CAN WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES AT HARBOUR CENTRE, 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, OR TO UMELCO AT 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL.

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BILL PROPOSES TO CORRECT ACCOUNTING ANOMALIES
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PROVISIONS TO REMEDY MINOR ACCOUNTING ANOMALIES IN THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (1933) LTD AND THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY ARE CONTAINED IN THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

UNDER THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE, OPERATION OF THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME CONTAINED THEREIN IS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL EVERY TWO YEARS. EARLIER REVIEW OF THE SCHEME INDICATED THAT IT WAS WORKING SATISFACTORILY, EXCEPT FOR A SMALL NUMBER OF ANOMALIES.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BUS COMPANIES, IT WAS DECIDED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO BRING THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME MORE IN LINE WITH STANDARD ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR TRANSPORT BRANCH EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL, IF ENACTED, WOULD SERVE THREE MAJOR PURPOSES:

- * CURRENCY EXCHANGE PROFITS OR LOSSES ARISING FROM TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO THE FRANCHISES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME;
- * INCOME FROM THE SALE OF STORES AND SPARE PARTS BY THE TWO BUS COMPANIES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME; AND
- * TAX CHARGES RELATING TO OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE SCHEME WOULD BE EXCLUDED.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING ON MAY 28.

COMMENTS ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL CAN BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, ST JOHN'S BUILDING, EIGHTH FLOOR, OR TO UMELCO AT 8, JACKSON HOUSE, CENTRAL.

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QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE REMAINED LARGELY STABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1985.

HOWEVER, FIRMS ACROSS DIFFERENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1986 COMPARED TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986.

THIS IS PART OF SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPERIENCED A CONTINUED UPTREND IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986 AND EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER TO IMPROVE FURTHER.

A MILD DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE +WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS+ SECTOR AND THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER IS EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS WAS EXPERIENCED BY FIRMS IN THE +OTHER SERVICES+ SECTOR DURING THE FIRST QUARTER AND THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

ABOUT 1 000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY AND WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE AND EXPECTATIONS.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, A DECLINE IN BUSINESS WAS REPORTED BY FIRMS IN THE +FOOD, BEVERAGE AND TOBACCO+, +WEARING APPAREL+, +FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS+ AND +WATCHES AND CLOCKS+ INDUSTRIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

BY CONTRAST, RESPONDING FIRMS IN THE +ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES+ AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES ACHIEVED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER WHILE THOSE IN THE TEXTILES, PRINTING AND PLASTICS INDUSTRIES REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE.

REGARDING BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, RESPONDING FIRMS ACROSS ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES EXPECT AN UPTURN IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

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FIRMS IN THE +WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS+ SECTOR REPORTED A STABLE LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THE HOTELS TRADE, HOWEVER, EXPERIENCED A SEASONAL DECLINE IN BUSINESS.

FIRMS IN THE +WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES+ EXPECT THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER TO REMAIN SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FIRST QUARTER. A SEASONAL DOWNTREND IN BUSINESS IS PREDICTED BY RESPONDENTS IN THE RESTAURANTS SECTOR. ON THE CONTRARY, FIRMS IN THE HOTELS TRADE EXPECT A SEASONAL UPTREND IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

WITH REGARD TO THE +OTHER SERVICES+ SECTOR, A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS WAS ACHIEVED BY FIRMS IN THE BANKS AND +REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES+ SECTORS WHEREAS FIRMS IN THE +TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION+ SECTOR EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE +OTHER SERVICES+ SECTOR ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, PARTICULARLY FOR FIRMS IN THE +REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES+.

THE SURVEY ALSO COVERED BUSINESS PROBLEMS FACED BY FIRMS.

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE RESPONDENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INDICATED INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS, PRICE COMPETITION FROM FIRMS IN HONG KONG AND FROM FIRMS OVERSEAS AS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS IS EXPECTED TO LEVEL OFF IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIAL PRICES IS EMERGING AS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS CONTRACTS AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS FIRMS WERE REGARDED AS MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR BOTH THE FIRST AND THE SECOND QUARTERS.

AS FOR THE +WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES+ BUSINESS, PRICE COMPETITION WAS CONSIDERED THE MOST PROMINENT PROBLEM. THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF FIRMS INDICATING UNCERTAINTIES THROUGH EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS AS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS, PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER CONTINUED TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEMS FACED BY RESTAURANTS FOR THE FIRST AND THE SECOND QUARTERS.

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THE MAJOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY RESPONDENTS IN THE HOTELS BUSINESS WERE PRICE COMPETITION AND HIGH STAFF COSTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND THESE PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

ALL TRADES ACROSS THE +OTHER SERVICES+ SECTOR CONSIDERED PRICE COMPETITION AS A PREDOMINANT PROBLEM IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND THE SECOND QUARTER. MOREOVER, THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS WAS ALSO ENCOUNTERED BY RESPONDENTS IN THE +TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION+ INDUSTRY WHILE FIRMS IN THE +REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES+ SECTOR HAD THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE SURVEY RESULTS OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG PROVIDED ONE SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD IMPROVED, REMAINED THE SAME, OR DETERIORATED IN THE QUARTER JUST ENDED AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER, THEY WERE ALSO 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 CONTAINED 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 IN 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 ACCORDED WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS AND STATISTICAL TABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN COPIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$3 PER COPY.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TALKS ON DEEP BAY END
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A SEVEN-MEMBER DELEGATION LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, DR STUART REED, RETURNED TO HONG KONG TODAY (FRIDAY) AFTER A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO GUANGDONG FOR TALKS ON THE COLLABORATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN DEEP BAY.

THE TALKS WERE HELD IN TWO STAGES WITH THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR FRANKLIN CHUNG, HEADING FIRST STAGE DISCUSSIONS IN HONG KONG BETWEEN MAY 12 AND 14.

THE TALKS WERE AIMED AT FINALISING THE REPORTS PREPARED BY THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU.

DURING THE SECOND STAGE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU, MR QIANG BING-HUAN, AND DR REED FORMALLY AGREED ON THE RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE TWO-YEAR-LONG COLLABORATIVE STUDY AND DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION IN THIS AREA.

+THE STUDIES WE HAVE CARRIED OUT HAVE CONFIRMED OUR WORST FEARS+, DR REED SAID ON HIS ARRIVAL. +ANY POLLUTANTS EMITTED INTO THE DEEP BAY WATERS OR THE AIR IN THAT REGION ARE LIKELY TO HANG AROUND FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY ARE DISPERSED.+

HE WARNED THAT WITH PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE POPULATION EXPECTED TO DOUBLE BEFORE 1996 AROUND THE DEEP BAY AREA, THERE WAS A NEED TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL POLLUTION.

THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT LIQUID EFFLUENT DISCHARGED INTO DEEP BAY COULD HANG AROUND FOR 15 DAYS OR MORE BEFORE THEY WERE DISPERSED INTO THE MORE TURBULENT WATERS OUTSIDE DEEP BAY.

THE STEEP TERRAIN IN THE VICINITY OF TAI MO SHAN ALSO CAUSED LOW WIND-SPEEDS AND RECIRCULATION IN DEEP BAY. COMBINED WITH A 40 PER CENT INCIDENCE OF GROUND BASED INVERSIONS, THIS WOULD MEAN THAT AIR POLLUTANTS WERE LIKELY TO BE TRAPPED IN THE AREA FOR LONG PERIODS.

+THIS IS NOT A VERY PROMISING SITUATION FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL POINT OF VIEW, BUT THE OPTIMISTIC SIDE TO IT IS THAT WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR COUNTERPARTS IN GUANGDONG AND THERE IS PROSPECT OF ARRIVING AT A COORDINATED ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR THE AREA RATHER THAN EACH AUTHORITY ACTING ALONE,+ DR REED SAID.

THE STUDY WAS CARRIED OUT BETWEEN JULY 1984 AND DECEMBER 1985 BY A JOINT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP COMPRISING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU.

BESIDE DR REED, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AIR AND NOISE CONTROL DIVISION, MR CHUNG MOON-KUN, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS, MR FRED TROMP AND MR PAUL HOLMES, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS, DR MICHAEL CHIU AND MR TSUI WING-SING, AND SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER DR W.L. CHANG FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

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ITALIAN BANK GRANTED LICENCE
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AN APPLICATION FROM AN ITALIAN BANK, BANCA NAZIONALE DELL'AGRICOLTURA, FOR A BANKING LICENCE HAS BEEN APPROVED.

THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG TO 152, OF WHICH FOUR ARE ITALIAN, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

ESTABLISHED IN 1921, BANCA NAZIONALE DELL'AGRICOLTURA IS THE LARGEST PRIVATE BANK IN ITALY AND HAS OVERSEAS PRESENCE IN SIX COUNTRIES.

+THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF FOREIGN BANKS IN ESTABLISHING BRANCHES HERE REFLECTS THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF HONG KONG AND ENHANCES ITS STATUS AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A NOTICE OF THE GRANT OF LICENCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

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REPRESENTATIONS FOR COMPENSATION HEARING
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FORMER SHAREHOLDERS OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK WHO WISH TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT COMPENSATION ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL OF THEIR INTENTION.

IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL, THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MORTIMER, INDICATED THAT THE TRIBUNAL INTENDS TO CONDUCT A HEARING AT WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE BY OR ON BEHALF OF A REGISTERED HOLDER OF SHARES OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK OR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INCORPORATED.

SHAREHOLDERS WHO INTEND TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS MUST GIVE NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL AT 11TH FLOOR, SUPREME COURT, QUEENSWAY, BY JUNE 9, 1986.

A DATE FOR THE HEARING HAS YET TO BE FIXED, MR JUSTICE MORTIMER SAID.

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NEW WAGE CEILING IN FORCE
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A MOTION PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEDNESDAY TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES FROM \$9 500 TO \$10 500 UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE COMES INTO OPERATION TODAY (FRIDAY).

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID A NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN RAISED PERIODICALLY TO MAINTAIN ITS REAL VALUE AND IN THE LIGHT OF WAGE INCREASES. THE LAST REVISION WAS MADE IN DECEMBER 1984.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AFTER THE REVISION ABOUT 2.3 PER CENT OF EMPLOYEES WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF O AND S (CREDIT) LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 14(2) OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

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HONG KONG PAVILION SHOW AMONG THE BEST
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THE HONG KONG PAVILION'S AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION AT EXPO '86 IN VANCOUVER HAS BEEN RATED AMONG THE BEST BY VISITORS TO THE WORLD FAIR.

LAYMEN AND AUDIO-VISUAL SPECIALISTS ALIKE HAVE ALL EXPRESSED HOW MUCH THEY ENJOYED THE NINE-AND-A-HALF MINUTE SLIDE SHOW WHICH ALSO FEATURED LIVE DANCING.

THEY CONSIDERED THAT IN TERMS OF CONCEPT, PRESENTATION AND CONTENT, IT HAD IMPRESSIVELY DESCRIBED HOW WELL HONG KONG WAS DOING AT PRESENT.

UP TO MAY 12, THE HONG KONG PAVILION HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 82 000 VISITORS, REPRESENTING SEVEN PER CENT OF EXPO VISITORS.

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\$16 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR PERFORMING ARTISTS
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LOCAL PERFORMING ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANISATIONS WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$16 MILLION IN PUBLIC SUBSIDIES IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR UNDER THE GRANT APPLICATION SCHEME (GAS) OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE COUNCIL HAD ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT THAT SOME \$15 MILLION BE AWARDED AS GENERAL SUPPORT GRANTS TO ASSIST EIGHT OF HONG KONG'S MOST PROMINENT ORGANISATIONS TO MEET PART OF THEIR RECURRENT COSTS.

A FURTHER \$1.2 MILLION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE AWARD OF PROJECT GRANTS, CAPITAL GRANTS AND GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS. THESE GRANTS ARE TO HELP GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS MOUNT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES AND PROJECTS OR PURCHASE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

GROUPS WHICH WILL RECEIVE GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT UNDER THE GAS 1986 INCLUDE THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, THE CHUNG YING THEATRE COMPANY, THE SEALS PLAYERS FOUNDATION, THE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY AND THE HONG KONG BALLET COMPANY.

GENERAL SUPPORT GRANTS WILL ALSO GO TO TWO TRAINING ORGANISATIONS, THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF BALLET, WHICH LATER THIS YEAR WILL BECOME PART OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY, WHICH ORGANISES HONG KONG'S ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL, WILL ALSO RECEIVE A GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT UNDER THE GAS 1986.

PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM 21 LOCAL GROUPS AND PERFORMERS ARE CURRENTLY BEING SCRUTINISED BY THE COUNCIL AND RESULTS WILL BE KNOWN AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE GAS 1986 IS THE COUNCIL'S FIRST FULL-SCALE GRANT-AWARDING EXERCISE. THE LARGELY EXPERIMENTAL GAS 1985 SAW THE SUM OF \$255 000 AWARDED AS PROJECT GRANTS TO FIVE PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AND ONE INDIVIDUAL ONLY.

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MAGISTRATES TAKE LOOK AT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY
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TEN MAGISTRATES SPENT THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IN KOWLOON.

THE VISIT WAS PART OF A PROGRAMME ARRANGED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO FAMILIARISE MAGISTRATES WITH INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MATTERS IN FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

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ACCOMPANIED BY A FACTORY INSPECTION SUPERINTENDENT, MR LEE HUNG-KWONG, THE MAGISTRATES SAW FOR THEMSELVES HOW EFFECTIVE GUARDS AND SAFETY DEVICES WERE PROVIDED AT DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY AND PLANT.

THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY THE GENERAL PLANT LAYOUT AND HIGH STANDARD OF HOUSE KEEPING OF THE FACTORY WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

MR LEE SAID SIMILAR VISITS WOULD BE ORGANISED FOR OTHER MAGISTRATES IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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SHA TAU KOK FORESHORE TO BE RECLAIMED
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AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SHA TAU KOK, 22.1 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED TO THE SOUTH OF THE TOWN ARE TO BE DREDGED AND RECLAIMED.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE. IT WILL PROVIDE LAND FOR A RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, ROADS, A SEAWALL, PROMENADE AND MAIN DRAINAGE OUTFALL.

THE ENTIRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, COSTING \$200 MILLION, IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1994. IT INCLUDES THE PROVISION OF RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING FOR 4 500 SQUATTERS FROM YIM LIU HA AND TSOI YUEN KOK WHO MAKE UP 90 PER CENT OF SHA TAU KOK'S POPULATION.

THE SCHEME ALSO INCLUDES A LANDSCAPED TOWN SQUARE, A PRIMARY SCHOOL, RECREATION GROUND, NEW POLICE STATION, SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND A SHELTERED ANCHORAGE FOR THE AREA'S FISHING FLEET.

OBJECTORS TO THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY JULY 15.

PLANS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY OFFICE, FIFTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND AT THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, FANLING.

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CHINESE PAINTING, CALLIGRAPHY ON DISPLAY TOMORROW

MORE THAN 300 PIECES OF CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY WILL BE ON DISPLAY FOR FOUR DAYS IN THE MIDDLE SECTION OF PARK LANE BOULEVARD IN NATHAN ROAD STARTING TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD, IS AIMED AT STIMULATING PUBLIC INTEREST IN ARTS AND CULTURE.

THE EXHIBITS WERE PRODUCED BY LOCAL PAINTERS AND CALLIGRAPHISTS AT GATHERINGS ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR KEVIN MAK, WILL DOT THE EYES OF A DRAGON ON A PAINTING TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION OF CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY TO BE HELD AT 2 PM TOMORROW IN THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE PARK LANE BOULEVARD IN NATHAN ROAD.

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TREE PLANTING DAY AT SHAN KING ESTATE

ABOUT 60 COMMUNITY LEADERS, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL TAKE PART IN A TREE PLANTING DAY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT SHAN KING ESTATE IN TUEN MUN.

ORGANISED BY THE CLEAN TUEN MUN CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT IS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE CLEAN HONG KONG DRIVE, ENCOURAGING THE PLANTING OF TREES AND BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ESTATE, WHICH WILL HAVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 36 000 WHEN INTAKES ARE COMPLETED.

EACH GUEST WILL PLANT A SIX-FEET-TALL TREE ON THE HILLSLOPE.

/TUEN MUN

TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN SELBY, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR CHAN WING-HING, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR TSO SHIU-WAI, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOUSING, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS AND THE POLICE WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 11 AM AT THE HILLSLOPE NEAR KING ON HOUSE IN THE ESTATE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHAN KING ESTATE TREE-PLANTING DAY AT 11 AM TOMORROW AT THE HILLSLOPE NEAR KING ON HOUSE, SHAN KING ESTATE IN MING KUM ROAD (SOUTH-WEST OF TAI HING ESTATE) IN TUEN MUN.

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CONTEMPORARY DANCE TREAT IN STANLEY
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VISITORS TO STANLEY THIS SUNDAY (MAY 18) WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH AN OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE BY HONG KONG'S FIRST FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE GROUP.

STAGED BY THE CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, THE 90-MINUTE SHOW, ENTITLED +CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN 1986+, HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE SEVEN GROUP AND SOLO DANCES CHOREOGRAPHED BY THE COMPANY'S RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS WILLY TSAO AND SUNNY PANG. THEY ARE +VERNAL FANTASIES+, +DUET FROM REQUIEM+, +THE SUN RISING+, +SOME DANCE SOME DUET+, +THE TREACHEROUS ROADS TO SHU (PART III)+, +SONG OF THE GOOD EARTH+, +LOVE SONG+ AND +GAMES+.

THE MUSIC RANGES FROM CHINESE FOLK TUNES, WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY J.S. BACH AND GABRIEL FAURE, TO AMERICAN SYNTHESIZER MUSIC BY HERBIE HANCOCK.

+VERNAL FANTANSIES+ USES CHINESE POET LI PO'S POEMS TO PORTRAY A PERSON'S LOVE FOR BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND WOMEN, WHILE +THE SUN RISING+ DEPICTS THE ENERGY AND STRIVINGS OF HUMAN BEINGS SEEKING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW. ANOTHER DANCE, +GAMES+, EXPRESSES JOY AND YOUTHFULNESS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF GAMES ONCE PLAYED IN THE OLD TIMES.

THE PROGRAMME WILL START AT 12.30 PM IN THE STANLEY URBAN COUNCIL PLAYGROUND, STANLEY NEW STREET. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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ESTATE STREET TO BE CLOSED
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY FU MOU STREET IN WANG TAU HOM ESTATE, KOWLOON.

THE CLOSURE, UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE, FORMS PART OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR THE ESTATE.

IT WILL PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTING BERMS AND THE REPROVISIONING OF A PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AS PART OF PHASE FIVE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT.

ANYONE OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BY JULY 15.

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MAINTENANCE WORK AT LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD
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LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD LANES WILL BE SEPARATELY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC TEMPORARILY TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORK.

NORTHBOUND, THE FAST LANE ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN TUNNEL TOLL BOOTHS AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON MAY 19 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE SLOW LANE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON MAY 21 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE FAST LANE ON THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND TSANG TAI UK WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON MAY 23 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE SLOW LANE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON MAY 26 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

SOUTHBOUND, THE FAST LANE ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN TUNNEL TOLL BOOTHS AND HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON JUNE 9 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE SLOW LANE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON JUNE 17 TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE FAST LANE ON THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE AND TSANG TAI UK WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON JUNE 20 TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE SLOW LANE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 PM ON JUNE 21 TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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