DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MORE IMPROVEMENT IN UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY AN ESTIMATED ONE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, WHILE OVER THIS PERIOD THE RATE OF INFLATION (AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)) SLOWED DOWN TO 3.4 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1985 PUBLISHED TODAY.

THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, IN VIEW OF THE DECLINE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984 AND IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS A YEAR AGO.

DOMESTIC DEMAND, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO GROW IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984. REFLECTING THIS, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS GREW BY ABOUT 13 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AND RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS BY ABOUT NINE PER CENT.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION FOR THE LABOUR FORCE AS A WHOLE SHOWED A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 WAS 3.3 PER CENT, AGAINST 4.0 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 3.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1984. THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS 1.3 PER CENT, AGAINST 1.5 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 0.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE DOWNTREND IN THE RATE OF INFLATION CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985. THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WAS 3.4 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, COMPARED WITH 11.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 AND 4.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) WAS ON AVERAGE 3.9 PER CENT HIGHER IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, WHILE THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WAS 4.8 PER CENT HIGHER.

THE REPORT ASSESSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 USING SUCH STATISTICS AS ARE AVAILABLE. IT ALSO UPDATES THE ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE 1984 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND PUBLISHED ON BUDGET DAY. APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

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ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS VARIED. WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY, BY ABOUT 86 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, THOSE TO THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN DECLINED BY ABOUT SIX PER CENT, 13 PER CENT, 20 PER CENT AND THREE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN REAL TERMS.

THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY AND THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR BOTH CONTRIBUTED TO THESE DECLINES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, OVER THE SAME PERIOD IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, AND RE-EXPORTS BY ALMOST 35 PER CENT.

THE REPORT FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985 WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT 19 PER CENT, WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT 11 PER CENT.

IN CONSEQUENCE, A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS, EQUIVALENT TO ONE PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF SIX PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

* FIRST, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINED STEADY AGAINST THE US DOLLAR THROUGHOUT THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985, NOTWITHSTANDING THE LATTER'S STRENGTH INTERNATIONALLY DURING MOST OF THE PERIOD;

* SECOND, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY SLOWED DOWN DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, AS DID THAT OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG; AND

* THIRD, THERE WAS AMPLE LIQUIDITY IN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY MARKET DURING MOST OF THE FIRST QUARTER, WHICH EXERTED DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON LOCAL INTEREST RATES. ADMINISTERED INTEREST RATES WERE TWICE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS IN THE LATTER HALF OF JANUARY AND TWICE AGAIN IN APRIL.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT TOTAL EMPLOYMENT INCREASED BY FIVE PER CENT DURING 1984, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF ONE PER CENT DURING 1983. WHILE INCREASES OCCURRED IN MANUFACTURING AND IN THE SERVICES SECTORS, EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES CONTINUED TO DECLINE DURING THE YEAR.

/THE REPORT .....

THE REPORT FURTHER SAYS THAT EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1984, AS DID THOSE IN THE SERVICES SECTORS.

CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, FELL IN REAL TERMS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SMALL INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT THERE WAS SOME SLOWING DOWN IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, AS EVIDENCED BY THE FIGURES ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING TRENDS:

* FIRST, THE RATE OF TAKE-UP FOR MOST TYPES OF FINISHED PROPERTY IMPROVED OR REMAINED AT A REASONABLY HIGH LEVEL IN 1984 AND VACANCY RATES FOR ALL MAIN TYPES OF PROPERTY FELL DURING 1984, PARTICULARLY FOR OFFICES AND FLATTED FACTORIES;

* SECOND, PRICES AND RENTALS IN CERTAIN SECTORS APPEARED TO HAVE INCREASED SLIGHTLY SINCE MID-1984;

* THIRD, THERE WERE REPORTS OF GOOD CONSUMER RESPONSE TO THE MARKETING OF SMALLER DOMESTIC UNITS IN WELL-LOCATED AND BETTER-PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE REASONABLE PRICING HAD MADE THE PURCHASE OF SUCH FLATS MORE AFFORDABLE TO INTENDING OWNER-OCCUPIERS AND BECAUSE MORE FAVOURABLE FINANCING PACKAGES WERE BEING OFFERED BY SOME DEVELOPERS. THE RENTAL MARKET FOR LARGE DOMESTIC FLATS WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE QUITE ACTIVE; AND

* FOURTH, THE DEMAND FOR BETTER-MANAGED ARCADE SHOPS AND OFFICES IN PRIME LOCATIONS CONTINUED TO BE STRONG, AS STIMULATED BY A FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND THE OFFER OF REALISTIC RENTALS.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE DECELERATION IN THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS DUE TO A NUMBER OF FAVOURABLE DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL FACTORS. FOR EXAMPLE, AGGREGATE DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY WAS NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR STRENGTHENED AGAINST THE CURRENCIES OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES, AND THE RATES OF INFLATION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS REMAINED AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVELS.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1985 IS ON SALE AT $8 A COPY.

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LAND SALES PROGRAMME

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THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, MR JOHN TODD, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FOLLOWING THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, THE DOCUMENTATION FOR FUTURE LAND SALES WOULD BE CHANGED TO REFLECT THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN ANNEX III OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

+TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE CHANGES, SOME RESCHEDULING OF THE LAND SALES PROGRAMME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR WOULD BE NECESSARY, BUT THE AREA OF LAND IN THE PROGRAMME WILL REMAIN THE SAME,+ HE SAID.

+THE AUCTION PROVISIONALLY PROGRAMMED TO BE HELD ON JUNE 20, 1985 WILL BE DEFERRED, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THESE LOTS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING AUCTION PROGRAMMED IN SEPTEMBER 1985.+

HE ADDED THAT THE ABILITY NOW TO SELL LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2047 SHOULD INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN THE PROPERTY MARKET AS PURCHASERS OF FLATS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD GUARANTEE OF A TERM OF ONLY ABOUT 12 YEARS WOULD NOW HAVE A TERM OF SOME 62 YEARS.

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CHIEF SECRETARY LOOKS OVER USD ACTIVITIES

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY COVERED SEVERAL FIELDS OF ACTIVITY WHEN HE MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

SIR PHILIP BEGAN WITH AN INSPECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NEWEST SWIMMING POOL, THE SPECIALIST TRAINING POOL AT WAN CHAI WHICH FEATURES UNDERWATER VIEWING WINDOWS AND IS USED REGULARLY BY THE HONG KONG AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION, VARIOUS SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, SCHOOLS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S LEISURE SERVICES DIVISION.

TURNING FROM SPORT TO CULTURE, SIR PHILIP THEN WENT TO THE GYMNASIUM AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WHERE HE MET MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG DANCE COMPANY IN A PRACTICE SESSION.

CATCHING UP ON ANOTHER INNOVATION IN THE DEPARTMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO LOOKED OVER THE COMPUTER +BRAIN+ OF THE URBTIX (URBAN COUNCIL TICKETING SYSTEM) NOW IN OPERATION FOR PROVIDING BOOKING SERVICES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS.

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FROM THE STADIUM IT WAS BACK TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, WHERE SIR PHILIP WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE NEWLY REORGANISED URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS +SHAKING DOWN+ TO ITS WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES.

SIR PHILIP WAS GIVEN A FULL RUN-DOWN ON THE RELATIVELY SMOOTH TRANSFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS BY THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, AND HIS TWO DEPUTIES, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, WHO LOOKS AFTER ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND ADMINISTRATION, AND MRS HELEN YU, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES.

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GUIDELINES ON 'DOUBTFUL PUBLICATIONS' SET OUT

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH TODAY EXPLAINED THE GUIDELINES USED BY THE BRANCH WHEN CONSIDERING DOUBTFUL PUBLICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO THE CROWN PROSECUTOR FOR LEGAL ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THE PUBLICATIONS IN QUESTION ARE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE, CAP. 150.

THE GUIDELINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. DISPLAY OF HUMAN BODY PER SE IS NOT OBJECTIONABLE. HOWEVER, DISPLAYS IN PICTORIAL FORM (WHETHER PHOTOGRAPHS OR DRAWINGS), AND DESCRIPTIONS IN WRITTEN TEXT MIGHT BE OBJECTIONABLE IF THEY:

   (A) INCLUDE MINORS IN SUCH DISPLAY;

   (B) INVOLVE SEXUAL ACTS OF ANY FORM, INCLUDING DEPICTION OF HOMOSEXUAL AND LESBIAN PRACTICES.

2. OTHER FORMS OF OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE THOSE DISPLAYING PERVERTED BEHAVIOUR, EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE, CRUELTY AND MATTERS OF A REVOLTING NATURE.

/3. MAGAZINES WHICH .....

3. MAGAZINES WHICH MIGHT BE READ BY CHILDREN ARE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL AND MORE STRINGENT RULES. THESE RULES ARE ENUNCIATED IN SECTION 3(3) OF THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE. SECTION 3(3) OF THE ORDINANCE STATES +ANY ARTICLE WHICH IS INTENDED, OR BY REASON OF THE MANNER OF ITS PRESENTATION OR ITS FORM OR OTHERWISE IS OF A KIND THAT IS LIKELY, TO BE READ OR LOOKED AT BY JUVENILES, WHETHER OR NOT IT IS ALSO INTENDED OR LIKELY TO BE READ OR LOOKED AT BY ADULTS, AND CONSISTS OF OR CONTAINS STORIES TOLD IN PICTURES, WITH OR WITHOUT THE ADDITION OF WRITTEN MATTER, BEING STORIES PORTRAYING -

(A) THE COMMISSION OF CRIME IN SUCH A WAY AS TO -

(I) CREATE SYMPATHY FOR OR EXTOL THE CRIMINAL;

(II) BRING INTO CONTEMPT THE FORCES AND INSTITUTIONS ENTRUSTED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ORDER;

(III) INSPIRE OR ENCOURAGE PERSONS TO IMITATE CRIMINALS;

(B) ACTS OF -

(I) EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE OR CRUELTY; OR

(II) TORTURE OR OTHER PHYSICAL AGONY;

(C) ACTS OF A REPULSIVE OR HORRIBLE NATURE OR WHICH TEND TO DEPRAVE;

(D) SEDUCTION, RAPE OR SEXUAL PERVERSION; OR

(E) THE COMMISSION OF CRIME, ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR CRUELTY OR OF A REPULSIVE OR HORRIBLE NATURE, OR OTHER MATTER, IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE STORY AS A WHOLE WOULD TEND TO CORRUPT A JUVENILE,

SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE AN OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLE.+

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AMBULANCE SERVICE REVIEW

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COMMENTING ON A REPORT IN THE HONG KONG STANDARD TODAY (MAY 23) WHICH STATED THAT +THE GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY BOWED TO WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CRITICISM ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SERVICES WILL BE MADE SOON,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN FACT THE REVIEW HAD BEGUN IN 1984 AND THE STEERING GROUP HAD ALREADY MET FIVE TIMES.

NEITHER WAS THE REVIEW CONDUCTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECENT FATAL ACCIDENT IN A FITNESS CLUB NOR AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, AS WAS IMPLIED BY THE REPORT.

+IN 1984 THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS WAS A MERE 11 OUT OF SOMETHING LIKE 300 000 CALLS FOR SERVICE. THE AMBULANCE SERVICE IN HONG KONG IS A VERY GOOD SERVICE WHICH NOT ONLY COMPARES WELL WITH THE UK BUT IS MARKEDLY BETTER IN TERMS OF ITS SERVICES, ITS EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES THAN MOST OF ITS COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE REVIEW OF AMBULANCE SERVICES WAS A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF OPERATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS. +IT IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BECAUSE THE DEMANDS FOR THE SERVICES ARE CHANGING IN LINE WITH THE HEALTH CARE ASPIRATIONS OF THE POPULATION.

+THE DECISION OF THE STEERING GROUP TO RECOMMEND CONSULTANTS TO ADVISE ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS IS BECAUSE OF THE SPECIALISED NATURE OF AMBULANCE SERVICES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF TOP CLASS CONSULTANTS IN THIS FIELD.

+IT IS SEVERAL YEARS SINCE THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW, BUT LIKE ALL OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC, VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AT REGULAR INTERVALS. THE OPPORTUNITY IS BEING TAKEN NOW TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE SERVICE FROM THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE UNDER WHICH IT OPERATES TO THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE REVIEW COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH IS THE MAJOR DEPARTMENT INVOLVED, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHICH USES THE SERVICES AND THE TWO POLICY BRANCHES, SECURITY AND HEALTH AND WELFARE. THE CHAIRMAN IS MR JACK DUNCAN OF THE FINANCE BRANCH.

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HK FIREMEN PRAISED FOR GOOD WORK

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HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES ENJOYED A VERY HIGH REPUTATION HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR COURAGE, EFFICIENCY AND SKILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR D.G. JEAFFRESON SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN A SPEECH BEFORE PRESENTING COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADE LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS TO 58 OFFICERS AND MEN AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT FIREMEN PERFORMED AN ESSENTIAL DUTY REQUIRING SKILL, TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, DETERMINATION, PHYSICAL FITNESS AND COURAGE OF A HIGH ORDER.

+THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE PARTICULARLY NECESSARY IN HONG KONG WHERE FIREMEN HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE UNUSUAL COMPLEXITIES ASSOCIATED WITH MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PREMISES.

+BACKED BY MODERN EQUIPMENT, THEY MANAGE THESE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH CONSPICUOUS SUCCESS,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON WAS LATER PRESENTED WITH A FIREMAN'S AXE AS A SOUVENIR BY THE PARADE COMMANDER TSANG KWONG-YU.

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METERED WATER FOR OLDER HOUSING AREAS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TO METER THE INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLY IN PRE-MARCH 1982 TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS, BRINGING IT INTO LINE WITH THAT IN NEW THAS.

THE DECISION WAS MADE TODAY BY THE AUTHORITY'S OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

+ALL NEW THAS ARE ALREADY PROVIDED WITH METERED WATER SUPPLY AND THE TENANTS PAY FOR THE WATER THEY CONSUME,+ SAID A HOUSING SPOKESMAN.

HE SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT TENANTS IN THE OLDER THAS SHOULD PAY THEIR OWN WATER BILL AS WELL.

+AT PRESENT, THE WATER ACCOUNT FOR THE OLDER THAS IS PAID FOR BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT DIRECT.

/+IN 1984-85, ...

+IN 1984-85, EXPENDITURE ON WATER CHARGES FOR 25 380 HOUSEHOLDS AT 35 OLDER THAS TOTALLED $23.9 MILLION.

+IN 1984-85, INCOME FROM THA RENTS WAS $43.6 MILLION, WHILE EXPENDITURE ON WATER AND MANAGEMENT AMOUNTED TO $65.5 MILLION.+

AND FOR SOME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF WATER CONSUMPTION OR WATER WASTAGE IN THAS WHERE INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLY WAS NOT METERED.

+RECORDS SHOW THAT THE COST OF WATER CONSUMPTION FOR ONE NON-METERED THA HOUSEHOLD IS ON AVERAGE $673 PER ANNUM, COMPARED WITH $209 FOR A METERED HOUSEHOLD.

+THIS ILLUSTRATES THAT WATER IS WASTED. AS THE AVERAGE WATER BILL COMES TO LESS THAN $1 A DAY AND AS RENTS IN THAS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO REGULAR REVIEW AND INCREASES, IT SHOULD BE WELL WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE TENANTS TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN CHARGES, IN LINE WITH THE PRACTICE IN THE NEWER THAS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS NOW CONSIDERED THAT TAXPAYERS SHOULD NO LONGER SUBSIDISE THE WATER CONSUMPTION OF RESIDENTS OF THE OLDER THAS.

+RENTS FOR THESE THAS ARE VERY LOW AND INCLUDE ONLY A NOMINAL CHARGE OF $1.07 PER SQUARE METRE FOR WATER AND MANAGEMENT EXPENSES. THIS AMOUNT HARDLY COVERS THE RELEVANT EXPENDITURE INCURRED.

+WHILE EXISTING RENTS ARE $7.50 A SQUARE METRE PER MONTH FOR URBAN THAS AND $6.50 FOR RURAL THAS, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IS PAYING $5.70 A SQUARE METRE PER MONTH AS WATER CHARGE FOR THE TENANTS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID METERED WATER SUPPLY WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN TURN TO THE 25 OLDER THAS BUILT BEFORE MARCH 1982, BUT NOT IN EIGHT OTHERS WHICH WERE SCHEDULED FOR CLEARANCE THIS YEAR.

+WITH THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE METERED WATER SUPPLY TO 25 OLDER THAS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SAVE A NET SUM OF ABOUT $20 MILLION A YEAR IN WATER CHARGES FOR THA RESIDENTS.

+INDIVIDUAL TENANTS WILL BE GIVEN AT LEAST ONE MONTH'S NOTICE BEFORE METER INSTALLATION WORKS BEGIN. MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED.+

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HK INDUSTRY MISSION TO VISIT UK

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A HONG KONG DELEGATION OF NINE MEMBERS, LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LI AND FUNG LTD., DR VICTOR FUNG, WILL BE LEAVING ON AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 7.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP REPRESENT A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES INCLUDING ELECTRONICS, TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, GARMENTS AND TEXTILES, AS WELL AS PLASTIC PRODUCTS.

THEY ARE: MR ERIC WINKLER, SCI SYS-W LTD; MR EDDIE LO, LOMAK INDUSTRIAL COMPANY LTD; MR PATRICK WANG, JOHNSON ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL MFY LTD; MR CHRIS REARDON, ELEC AND ELTEK COMPUTERS LTD; HARTMUT A. VOELKNER, OPTICHRON LTD; MR JOSEPH WONG, S. MEGGA TELECOMMUNICATIONS LTD; MR RAYMOND YAP, WONG'S INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE) LTD.

MR DONALD FLETCHER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICE IN LONDON WILL ACCOMPANY THE MISSION.

THE GROUP WILL SPEND THREE DAYS IN LONDON BEFORE MOVING ON TO BRISTOL AND BIRMINGHAM FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK. A SEMINAR ON THE ATTRACTIONS OF HONG KONG AS A MANUFACTURING BASE WILL BE HELD AT EACH STOP.

A FULL PROGRAMME OF INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH EXECUTIVES OF BRITISH COMPANIES INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING SOME FORM OF INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION WITH HONG KONG IS BEING ARRANGED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S LONDON OFFICE FOR MISSION MEMBERS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+RESPONSE FROM BRITISH COMPANIES HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING, AND MISSION MEMBERS CAN EXPECT A VERY FULL SCHEDULE,+ HE SAID.

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LADY YOUDE OPENS CENTRE FOR ELDERLY

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LADY YOUDE TODAY (THURSDAY) OPENED THE CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AT TUI MIN HOI IN SAI KUNG.

THE CENTRE PROVIDES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE 60 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE.

THE FITTING OUT WORK OF THE CENTRE WAS FUNDED BY LOTTERIES FUND, WHILE ITS RECURRENT EXPENDITURE WILL BE MET BY GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION.

LADY YOUDE ALSO VISITED THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE, A FAMILY IN THE HOUSING SOCIETY'S TUI MIN HOI RURAL HOUSING ESTATE, AND A RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOL WHEN SHE TOURED SAI KUNG IN THE AFTERNOON.

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VOLUNTEERS TO RUN WELFARE PREMISES SOUGHT

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO OPERATE WELFARE PREMISES IN NEW HOUSING ESTATES AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS.

THIRTEEN SITES, RESERVED AS NURSERIES AND SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

WITH A TOTAL AREA OF ABOUT 4 300 SQUARE METRES, THESE PREMISES WILL BE LOCATED IN SEVEN HOUSING ESTATES AND THREE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED FOR CHUK YUEN, LAM TIN, JUNK BAY, TSING YI, KWAI FONG, SHA TIN, MA ON SHAN, KORNHILL GARDEN, HUNG HOM AND SHAU KEI WAN.

TEN OF THE PREMISES WILL BE USED AS NURSERIES AND THE REST AS SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

A LIST OF THE PREMISES HAS BEEN SENT TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

APPLICATIONS FROM INTERESTED AGENCIES SHOULD REACH THE DEPARTMENT AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 19TH FLOOR, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 1985.

+SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO SUBVENTIONS OR LOTTERIES FUND GRANTS,+ A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

+SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE MADE IN DUE COURSE AND EACH CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS,+ HE ADDED.

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PLACEMENT SERVICE SET UP FOR TEACHERS

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THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF PLACING REDUNDANT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS INTO NEW POSTS HAS ALREADY STARTED WITH THE SETTING UP LAST WEEK OF THE PLACEMENT SERVICE UNIT BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE UNIT, IN OPERATION FOR THREE MONTHS EVERY YEAR, IS STAFFED BY OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOLS DIVISION.

/ESTABLISHED IN .....

ESTABLISHED IN 1975, MORE THAN 3 500 REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY THE UNIT TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE DROP IN POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AS WELL AS A SHIFT OF POPULATION FROM URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS.

+OUR 100 PER CENT SUCCESS RATE IS DUE TO THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS MOST GRATEFUL,+ SAID SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MR TSE KUM-SHING, WHO THIS YEAR HEADS THE PLACEMENT SERVICE UNIT.

MR TSE REMINDED TEACHERS WHO HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED LETTERS OF THEIR REDUNDANCY UNDER THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF +LAST IN, FIRST OUT+ TO REGISTER WITH HIS UNIT ON THE SPECIFIED DATES IF THEY WISHED TO SECURE NEW TEACHING POSTS IN SEPTEMBER 1985. REGISTRATION OF THE FIRST GROUP STARTS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

HELPING MR TSE WITH HIS JOB IS A STAFF OF THREE, ALL EXPERIENCED OFFICERS IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION WORK.

MR TSE SAID THAT THE SERVICE WAS NOT SIMPLY HELPING TEACHERS TO FIND NEW JOBS. THERE MIGHT BE RELATED PERSONAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND THESE HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HE EMPHASISED THAT REDUNDANT PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS SHOULD REGISTER WITH THE PLACEMENT SERVICE UNIT, LOCATED ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 405 NATHAN ROAD. ALL WOULD BE HELPED WHETHER THEY ARE REGISTERED WITH A TEACHERS UNION OR ASSOCIATION OR NOT.

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NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR YIN NGAI SOCIETIES

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A CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE 24 YIN NGAI SOCIETIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY, MAY 25.

THE YIN NGAI CENTRAL COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS AT LAI KOK PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL HAVE A CONFERENCE ROOM AND A REFERENCE LIBRARY FOR MEMBERS OF YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, GROUPS FORMED MAINLY BY HOUSEWIVES TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

/IT WILL .....

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A VENUE FOR TERRITORY-WIDE YIN NGAI ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE, SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS.

JOINTLY OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR SYLVESTER TSE; DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 303, MR LINCOLN LINN; AND PRESIDENTS OF NINE LIONESS CLUBS.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MRS FANNY LAW, AND SPONSORS WHO HAVE DONATED TOWARDS THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW OFFICE.

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FREE COURSE ON MATERIAL SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS

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A FREE COURSE ON TEACHING OF MATERIAL SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE FOR SECONDARY SUBJECT TEACHERS WILL BE HELD ON JULY 3 AND 4.

THE TWO-DAY COURSE, ORGANISED BY THE TECHNICAL SUBJECTS SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD AT THE AUDIO VISUAL THEATRE, ROOM 330, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON TEACHING WITH SCHOOL INSPECTORS OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS AND TEACHERS OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE FROM OTHER SCHOOLS DURING THE COURSE.

IN ADDITION, FILMS ON VARIOUS AREAS IN ENGINEERING WILL BE SHOWN IN THE COURSE.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE COURSE SHOULD APPLY TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR, TECHNICAL SUBJECTS SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 523, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG, BEFORE JUNE 18.

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ADULT EDUCATION CONCERT SET FOR SATURDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES WILL HOLD AN +AE 30 CONCERT+ AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM ON SATURDAY (MAY 25) EVENING TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, WILL ATTEND THE CONCERT WHICH WILL INCLUDE MUSIC PRESENTATIONS BY WINNERS OF THE SINGING COMPETITION IN THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES, THE JOINT CENTRES CHOIR AND THE CHINESE INSTRUMENTAL BAND OF THE CENTRES AND STUDENTS OF THE TEACHERS' COURSE IN MUSIC AND DANCE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PERFORMANCES BY THE WORLD-RENOWNED PIANIST, MR CHOI SOWN-LEE, AND SONGS BY TWO LEADING LOCAL VOCALISTS, MR SIU HOK-LAI AND MISS POON CHI-CHING.

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KAI TAK NULLAH IMPROVEMENT WORK STARTS

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WORK HAS STARTED ON A SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN KAI TAK NULLAH AND THE KOWLOON BAY TYPHOON SHELTER.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A $3.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE POLLUTED CONDITION OF THE NULLAH AND THE TYPHOON SHELTER NEAR KAI TAK AIRPORT HAS REACHED AN UNSATISFACTORY STATE WITH THE RELEASE OF OBNOXIOUS GAS.

AS PART OF THE PROJECT TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, THREE PUMPING STATIONS, AN OXYGEN STORAGE COMPOUND, A CONTROL HOUSE, A TRANSFORMER HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED PIPE-WORKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE PRESENT CONTRACT.

THESE WILL BE BUILT ON LAND ALONG THE SEAWALL AT THE UPSTREAM END OF THE TYPHOON SHELTER FOR INJECTING PURE OXYGEN INTO THE WATER, THUS PREVENTING THE FORMATION OF THE FOUL SMELLING GAS.

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COURTESY TRAINING FOR SWD STAFF

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FRONTLINE STAFF OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WHO DEAL WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF +CUSTOMERS+ DAILY, HAVE BEEN UNDERGOING COURTESY TRAINING SINCE LAST MONTH TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND SERVICE.

SELECTED STAFF, COMPRISING JUNIOR OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS FROM SEVERAL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS, FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE, PROBATION OFFICE AND HEADQUARTERS UNITS, HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE COURTESY EXERCISE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING SECTION.

THE TRAINING INCLUDES WORKSHOPS AND BRIEFING AND WILL LAST UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF JUNE.

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POLICE VETERANS GET MEDALS

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TWENTY-THREE POLICE VETERANS RECEIVED LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, MR KEITH LOMAS, AT THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL TODAY (THURSDAY).

AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR LOMAS PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORCE AND THE COMMUNITY.

THE RECIPIENTS COMPRISED A CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT, A SUPERINTENDENT, THREE CHIEF INSPECTORS, A SENIOR INSPECTOR, AN INSPECTOR, A WOMAN INSPECTOR, A STATION SERGEANT AND NINE SERGEANTS AND CONSTABLES.

LONG SERVICE MEDALS EACH MARKING 18 YEARS' SERVICE WERE PRESENTED TO SP CHAN WAI-CHI, CHIEF INSP NING SHIU-CHEUNG, SEN INSP CHU KAM-YIU AND EIGHT OTHER OFFICERS.

CHIEF SUPT MICHAEL WATSON, CHIEF INSP LI KA-KIN AND EIGHT RANK AND FILE OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE FORCE FOR 25 YEARS WERE PRESENTED FIRST CLASPS TO THEIR LONG SERVICE MEDALS.

SECOND CLASPS EACH SIGNIFYING 30 YEARS' OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE FORCE WERE AWARDED TO CHIEF INSP MATTHEW ATKINSON AND STATION SERGEANT LI YING.

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STUDY ROOMS OPENING HOURS EXTENDED

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THE OPENING HOURS OF TWO TEMPORARY STUDY ROOMS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO WEEKENDS DURING THE SCHOOL EXAMINATION PERIOD, THANKS TO EFFORTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

STUDY ROOMS RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ARE OPENING ON WEEKDAYS ONLY, INCLUDING THE TWO AT THE HOK SHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAH FU ESTATE AND TANG SHIU KIN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE.

UNDER A PILOT SCHEME INITIATED LAST MONTH BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE TWO STUDY ROOMS ALSO OPEN ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS BETWEEN 1 PM AND 6 PM UNTIL JUNE 30.

+IF THE SCHEME IS PROVED SUCCESSFUL, THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE OF STUDY ROOM PROVISION COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING IT ON A PERMANENT BASIS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES ON ISLAND

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHAU KEI WAN, NORTH POINT AND WESTERN DISTRICT OVER THE WEEKEND, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN SHAU KEI WAN, SHING ON STREET BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET, ALONG WITH THE SECTION OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN SHING ON STREET AND HOLY CROSS PATH, WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES FROM 0.15 AM UNTIL 6 AM DAILY ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY (MAY 26 AND 27) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, SAI WAN HO STREET BETWEEN HOLY CROSS PATH AND TAI FOO STREET, AND THE SECTION OF HOLY CROSS PATH BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET, WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS.

EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TAI FOO STREET, SAI WAN HO STREET AND HOLY CROSS PATH WHILE WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA HOLY CROSS PATH, SAI WAN HO STREET AND TAI CHEONG STREET.

PARKING SPACES IN HOLY CROSS PATH AND SAI WAN HO STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 25) UNTIL 6 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 27) TO FACILITATE THE TRAFFIC DIVERSION.

/IN ADDITION, ...

IN ADDITION, CMB ROUTE 2 AND ROUTE 82 WILL FINISH ABOUT 20 MINUTES AND AN HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL RESPECTIVELY ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (MAY 25 AND 26) NIGHT.

IN NORTH POINT, KAM HONG STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND TSAT TSZ MUI ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM SUNDAY (MAY 26) TO JUNE 1 DAILY FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORK.

ALL NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON KAM HONG STREET SOUTH OF KING'S ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TANNER ROAD AND TIN CHIU STREET.

AND IN WESTERN DISTRICT, A COUPLE OF ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY (MAY 26) AND JUNE 2 FOR FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WORK NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN POKFIELD ROAD AND HILL ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1.15 AM TO 2.15 AM ON THOSE DAYS. VEHICLES ON POK FU LAM ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA POKFIELD ROAD, WHILE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON POK FU LAM ROAD AND BONHAM ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HILL ROAD.

FROM 2.15 AM TO 5.30 AM, POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN HILL ROAD FLYOVER AND HILL ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC. VEHICLES ON POK FU LAM ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HILL ROAD FLYOVER WHILE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON POK FU LAM ROAD AND BONHAM ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HILL ROAD.

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TSING YI TRAFFIC CHANGES

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FOR THREE ONE-HOUR PERIODS ON SUNDAY (MAY 26), TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC AT INTERVALS OF FIVE MINUTES ONLY. THESE ONE-HOUR PERIODS WILL START FROM 12 MIDNIGHT, 6.30 AM AND 3 PM.

THIS IS TO ENABLE CONSULTANTS TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIVE WORK.

AND FROM MONDAY (MAY 27) TO SUNDAY (JUNE 2) ONE TRAFFIC LANE ON THE TSING YI ROUNDABOUT, NEAR TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD, AND PART OF THE NEARBY EXIT OF TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 5.30 AM, FOR ROAD WORKS.

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WEAKER WATER PRESSURE

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FRESH WATER PRESSURE TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE WEAK FROM NOON TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO 9 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, DUE TO WATER WORKS IN HO MAN TIN.

PREMISES ALONG THE SOUTH OF AUSTIN ROAD, IN TSIM SHA TSUI AREA, INCLUDING TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, WILL BE AFFECTED.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, AND THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR PETER Y.Y. CHAN, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 3 PM TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF A CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON AN AUTONOMOUS SHIPPING REGISTER IN HONG KONG.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON 5/F, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BRIEFING ON VISIT TO MACAU BY PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT

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AN INFORMAL BRIEFING FOR THE MEDIA WILL BE HELD IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AT 4.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT TO MACAU BY THE PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL ON MAY 27.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN BY TWO OFFICIALS FROM MACAU, MR FERNANDO CORREIRA AND MR EDWARD FARR.

ACCREDITATION FOR THE MEDIA AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED AT TOMORROW'S BRIEFING.

THE MACAU AUTHORITIES ARE OFFERING HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR JOURNALISTS FROM HONG KONG WHO WISH TO SPEND THE NIGHT OF MAY 27 IN MACAU. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO LET MR CORREIRA AND MR FARR KNOW AT TOMORROW'S BRIEFING WHETHER YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE SPENDING THE NIGHT IN MACAU.

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