



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1988

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NO DECISION YET ON IMPORTING LABOUR

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THE QUESTION OF IMPORTING LABOUR INTO HONG KONG IS ONE WHICH HAS TO BE FINELY BALANCED AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO MAKE A DECISION ON IT, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE JPC FIGHT CRIME SUMMER CAMP, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF DIFFICULT ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED ALTHOUGH THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM CLEARLY STOOD OUT AS ONE WHICH WAS HAVING AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND INFLATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HE SAID: "THE WAYS TO DEAL WITH IT ALSO CARRY WITH THEM GREAT RISKS -- RISKS IN TERMS OF THE PROBLEM OF THE LABOUR UNION REACTIONS LOCALLY, THE PROBLEM OF WAGE RATES, AND THE PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH IMMIGRATION OF PEOPLE COMING IN HERE.

"IT IS NOT AN EASY DECISION. THE WHOLE QUESTION IS ONE WHICH IS FINELY BALANCED. WE ARE STILL SOME WAY FROM MAKING A DECISION ON IT."

ASKED WHEN A DECISION WOULD BE MADE, SIR DAVID SAID THE CONSIDERATION WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS IF NOT MONTHS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT COULD COME TO A PRELIMINARY DECISION.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE ISSUE OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS HAD GONE DOWN SOMEWHAT THIS MONTH.

"IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT THE REASONS FOR THAT ARE. IT MAY BE SEASONAL, IT MAY BE THE WEATHER, IT MAY BE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THE FLOW," HE SAID.

"AS YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE POINTS THAT WE MADE VERY STRONGLY IN THE HANOI TALKS WAS THAT WE WISH TO SEE A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COMING HERE FROM VIETNAM.

"AND WE HOPE THAT THE HANOI GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND TO THAT AND TAKE ACTION ACCORDINGLY," SIR DAVID SAID.

"BUT I THINK IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THE FIGURES WHICH WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR ARE INDICATIONS OF THAT OR NOT," HE ADDED.

ASKED WHEN THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BE HELD, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE.

"THE WHOLE QUESTION OF WAITING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR REQUESTS TO THE HANOI GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE FLOW IS A FACTOR IN THE TIMING OF THOSE TALKS," HE SAID.

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"AND I THINK WE WOULD WISH TO BE ABLE TO SEE THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION BEFORE WE WENT INTO ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS," SIR DAVID ADDED.

SIR DAVID ALSO DESCRIBED THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL MOVEMENT IN HONG KONG AS "MARVELLOUS".

"IT IS A REAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT CRIME AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO BECOME INVOLVED," HE SAID.

"WE DO STILL HAVE THE JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEM IN HONG KONG, NOT AS BAD AS IT IS IN OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD."

"BUT WE DO HAVE TO TRY TO INCULCATE INTO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE NEED TO AVOID GETTING THEMSELVES INTO CRIMINAL COMPANY AND BECOMING INVOLVED WITH CRIMINAL ELEMENTS," HE STRESSED.

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JPC MEMBERS' ROLE IN FIGHT AGAINST CRIME PRAISED

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, PRAISED JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME WHEN HE VISITED THE JPC SUMMER CAMP AT THE CHINESE YMCA YOUTH VILLAGE THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR RAYMON ANNING, SIR DAVID ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER AT THE CAMP WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY A JPC BAND AND THE 1,600 CAMPERS WHO PERFORMED A WORD DISPLAY TO WELCOME THEIR PROMINENT GUESTS.

ADDRESSING THE YOUNG CAMPERS, SIR DAVID SAID HE, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE THEME FOR THE CAMP WAS "FIGHT YOUTH CRIME".

"OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CRIME COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE, AND WHILE OUR PROBLEM IS MINOR WHEN COMPARED WITH MANY OTHER CITIES, WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN TACKLING THIS PROBLEM," SAID SIR DAVID.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE "FIGHT YOUTH CRIME" THEME, THERE ARE EXPERT TALKS, EXHIBITIONS, A SPEECH CONTEST, DISCUSSIONS AND SEMINARS TO PROMOTE THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS' AWARENESS IN COMBATING CRIME.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE MINOR, BUT EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT MOST CRIMINALS STARTED IN A SMALL WAY BEFORE COMMITTING SERIOUS OFFENCES.

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"IT IS VITAL THEREFORE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A POSITIVE STAND AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME, AND TO RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO ASSOCIATE WITH CRIMINALS AND IN PARTICULAR TRIAD MEMBERS.

"ALTHOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT, ULTIMATELY IT IS UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE WHICH ROAD HE WILL TAKE.

"BY TAKING PART IN THIS 'FIGHT YOUTH CRIME' CAMP, YOU HAVE ALREADY THROWN YOUR WEIGHT BEHIND THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AND HAVE SET YOUR FEET ON THE RIGHT PATH," HE TOLD THE CAMPERS.

SIR DAVID AND MR ANNING THEN SMASHED A CHINESE CHARACTER "CRIME" WITH POLICE TRUNCHEONS -- SYMBOLISING "PEOPLE FIGHTING CRIME TOGETHER".

ON HIS TOUR OF THE CAMP SITE, SIR DAVID SAW THE JPC CAMPERS ENJOY VARIOUS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM SWIMMING, ARCHERY, ORIENTEERING, TRAMPOLINING, ROLLER-SKATING AND A ROPE COURSE TO FILM SHOWS AND BALL GAMES.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THERE WERE ALSO NIGHT PROGRAMMES FOR THE YOUNGSTERS INCLUDING A CONCERT, A FOLK NITE, A DISCO NITE AND A BARBECUE.

THE FIVE-DAY CAMP, WHICH STARTED ON MONDAY, IS ORGANISED BY THE POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH AS ONE OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR JPC MEMBERS IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. SOME 720 JPC CAMPERS WERE JOINED TODAY BY 900 FELLOW MEMBERS WHO VISITED THE CAMP TO HAVE A DAY OF FUN IN THE SCENIC YOUTH VILLAGE.

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THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO VISIT HK

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO 18.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL WILL UNDERTAKE A NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH ORGANISATIONS OF WHICH SHE IS PRESIDENT OR PATRON.

THESE WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO THE TUEN MUN CLOSED CAMP FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN TUEN MUN, HONG KONG ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS, MISSIONS TO SEAMEN, BRITISH FORCES HEADQUARTERS AT HMS TAMAR, AND THE POKFULAM PUBLIC RIDING SCHOOL.

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SHE WILL ALSO OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S PORTLAND STREET CENTRE. SHE WILL ALSO ATTEND A LUNCHEON WITH BRITISH BUSINESSMEN.

IT WILL BE THE PRINCESS'S THIRD VISIT TO HONG KONG. SHE VISITED THE TERRITORY IN OCTOBER 1971 AND IN APRIL 1983.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S VISIT ARE BEING WORKED OUT AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS THEY ARE FINALISED.

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TWO CANDIDATES WITHDRAW NOMINATIONS

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TWO CANDIDATES HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR NOMINATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WHEN THE DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL PASSED AT 5 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO ARE MR GARY AHUJA OF THE COMMERCIAL I FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY AND MR JACKIE CHAN CHAI-KEUNG OF THE SOUTH KOWLOON ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS NOW STANDS AT 46 - 26 CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES AND 20 IN THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

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FS VISITS ELECTRONICS COMPANY

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) VISITED THE WONG'S ELECTRONICS COMPANY LTD IN KWUN TONG.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR MICHAEL CARTLAND, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR ANDREW LEUNG.

MR JACOBS WAS BRIEFED ON THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR WONG WHA-SAN, AND TOURED THE PLANT.

WONG'S ELECTRONICS COMPANY LTD PRODUCES MICROCOMPUTERS, WORK-STATIONS, MONITORS AND TERMINALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, WITH NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN AS ITS MAJOR MARKETS.

THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORT EARNER, ACCOUNTING FOR 21.5 PER CENT OF TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THERE WERE 1,949 ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING A TOTAL OF 106,835 WORKERS - OR 12 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR - AS AT LAST SEPTEMBER.

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PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSE MEASURED AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE

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THE FIRST TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEY ON THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AMONG STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WAS CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE NEED TO AVOID OBTAINING MISLEADING OR BIASED RESULTS FROM THE STUDENTS HAD ALWAYS BEEN EMPHASISED.

THIS WAS STRESSED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR FREDERICK TONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN RESPONSE TO A PRESS REPORT ABOUT THE SURVEY.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT LAST OCTOBER.

"ALL THE 110,000 STUDENTS SURVEYED WERE ASKED TO COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALLY AND ANONYMOUSLY A QUESTIONNAIRE WITH 26 QUESTIONS," MR TONG SAID.

"THE STRUCTURE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS MAINLY ADAPTED FROM THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

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"IT WAS USED IN A SMALL-SCALE SURVEY IN 1985, FURTHER DISCUSSED AND ACCEPTED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AT ITS 62ND MEETING ON DECEMBER 29, 1986, AND THEN PRE-TESTED IN MARCH 1987.

"SUBSEQUENT IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE."

MR TONG SAID THE SURVEY, THE FINDINGS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED LAST MONTH, HAD NEVERTHELESS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE AND MEASURED AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM AMONG STUDENTS.

ABOUT 1.1 PER CENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 2.8 PER CENT OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE SURVEY TO HAVE ABUSED PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS, MAINLY MANDRAX, CANNABIS AND SECONAL.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS PROBLEM IS NOTHING LIKE AS SERIOUS AS HEROIN ADDICTION," MR TONG SAID.

"PUBLICITY HAS, IN FACT, BEEN STEPPED UP SINCE LAST YEAR THROUGH POSTERS, LEAFLETS, EXHIBITIONS AND TV AND RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST TO WARN YOUNGSTERS ABOUT THE DANGER OF ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND TO AROUSE PARENTAL AWARENESS."

"ADDITIONALLY, THE SCHOOL TALKS TEAM IN THE NARCOTICS DIVISION HAS INTENSIFIED ITS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE SECONDARY SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE STUDENTS ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE DRUGS SO AS TO DISSUADE THEM FROM ABUSING OR EXPERIMENTING WITH ILLICIT SUBSTANCES.

"A REGULARLY-UPDATED DRUG EDUCATION TEACHING KIT WHICH COMPRISES AUDIO AND VISUAL AIDS, HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING DRUG EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND TO ASSIST TEACHERS IN EDUCATING THE YOUNGSTERS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ILLICIT DRUGS.

"WITH SUPPORT FROM ACAN, THE FIRST COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSERS, PS 33, HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE EARLY THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED.

"ALL THESE MEASURES CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE SITUATION AND TAKE FURTHER ACTION WHEN NECESSARY.

"SURVEYS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED."

REGARDING THE REPORTS MADE TO THE DIVISION'S CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE (CRDA), MR TONG SAID THE DOWNWARD TREND IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED ABUSERS OF ALL TYPES OF DRUGS, WHICH HAD BEGUN FROM 1984, CONTINUED.

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HOWEVER, THE INCREASE FROM 77 IN 1984 TO 171 IN 1987 IN THE NUMBER OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSERS NEWLY REPORTED WAS ALSO NOTED. OVER 80 PER CENT OF THESE ABUSERS WERE YOUNGSTERS AGED BELOW 21.

"THERE IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING SYSTEM UNDER WHICH REPORTS ON KNOWN OR SUSPECTED DRUG ABUSERS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE CRDA BY A TOTAL OF 41 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY INSTITUTIONS, COMPRISING VIRTUALLY ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND WELFARE AGENCIES IN THE TERRITORY.

"THE STATISTICS PERIODICALLY RELEASED BY THE CRDA SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED TO BE ACCURATE AND RELIABLE," MR TONG ADDED.

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WORK SITE VEHICLES FREE TO USE MARKED OIL

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, IN A MOVE TO ASSIST THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, HAS GIVEN GENERAL PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF INDUSTRIAL DIESEL OIL (MARKED OIL) AS A FUEL IN CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES.

MOTOR VEHICLES, INCLUDING SELF-PROPELLED MACHINES, WHICH ARE NOT REGISTERED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AND ARE USED SOLELY FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES WILL BE FREE TO USE MARKED OIL AS A FUEL FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 19).

THE PERMISSION IS GIVEN FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS, AND AN EXTENSION MAY BE GIVEN AT THE END OF THE PERIOD.

COMMENTING ON THE CHANGES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES HITHERTO HAD TO APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PERMISSION TO USE MARKED OIL AS A FUEL IN CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND MACHINERY USED ON APPROVED SITES.

"NORMALLY, IT TOOK THREE WEEKS TO PROCESS THESE APPLICATIONS AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS HAD TO CONDUCT SITE INSPECTIONS TO VERIFY THE PARTICULARS.

"HENCE, INDUSTRIALISTS HAD TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TOO FREQUENTLY IF THEIR VEHICLES WERE USED ON SEVERAL SITES FOR SHORT PERIODS, AND SOMETIMES THEY WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION IN TIME," HE SAID.

LAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT APPROVED 1,844 APPLICATIONS FOR MORE THAN 7,000 VEHICLES TO USE MARKED OIL.

/THE SPOKESMAN

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THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW PRACTICE WAS INTENDED TO ASSIST THE INDUSTRY SO THAT VEHICLES MIGHT OPERATE IN VARIOUS WORK SITES WITHOUT OPERATORS HAVING TO OBTAIN SEPARATE PERMISSION FROM TIME TO TIME.

"IN VIEW OF THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE VERY MUCH WELCOMED BY THE OPERATORS OF CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND MACHINERY," HE ADDED.

DESPITE THE GENERAL PERMISSION GIVEN, HE SAID CUSTOMS OFFICERS WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL USE OF MARKED OIL BY MOTOR VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADS, AND OFFENDERS WERE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

THE DEPARTMENT MADE 505 PROSECUTIONS LAST YEAR, AND TOOK OUT 240 PROSECUTIONS UP TO JULY THIS YEAR AGAINST ILLEGAL USE OF MARKED OIL AS A FUEL IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

A NOTICE ON PERMISSION FOR WORK SITE VEHICLES TO USE MARKED OIL AS A FUEL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

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TRADE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES COMPUTER SYSTEM

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S COMPUTERISED TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM IS BEING UPGRADED TO CATER FOR THE INCREASING VOLUME OF TEXTILES LICENCES.

THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS DEVELOPED FOR TEXTILES QUOTA ADMINISTRATION AND PROCESSING OF TEXTILES LICENCES COVERING EXPORTS TO ALL MARKETS WITH WHICH HONG KONG HAS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

THESE ARE THE USA, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, CANADA, SWEDEN, FINLAND, AUSTRIA AND NORWAY.

THE SYSTEM, WHEN UPGRADED, WILL BE EXPANDED IN SCOPE TO COVER TEXTILES IMPORT LICENSING, SO THAT EARLY AND PRECISE INFORMATION CAN BE COMPILED ON THE IMPORT FLOW OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM UPGRADING INVOLVES BOTH COMPUTER HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE. THIRTY-THREE TERMINAL VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS AND PRINTERS WILL BE ADDED.

THE NEW CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT (IBM 4381) HAS A CAPACITY EQUAL TO 2.5 TIMES OF THE IBM 4341 MODEL PREVIOUSLY USED.

THE UPGRADED SYSTEM, WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, WILL BE LINKED TO OVER 100 WORK-STATIONS AND TERMINAL PRINTERS AND CAN PROCESS OVER TWO MILLION LICENCE APPLICATIONS A YEAR.

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YUEN LONG DB TO DISCUSS FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS
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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) A PAPER PREPARED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ON THE FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS IN THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WHICH SEEKS TO TACKLE NUISANCES ASSOCIATED WITH VICE ESTABLISHMENTS.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS A GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON PRUDENTIAL REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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FLOOD PREVENTION ON NORTH DB AGENDA
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A PAPER ON THE PREVENTION OF FLOODING IN THE NORTH DISTRICT WILL BE PRESENTED BY A MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE PAPER CALLS FOR SPEEDY ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SO AS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF FLOODING.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S "MEET THE PUBLIC" SCHEME.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO BEGIN AT 9.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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TAI PO DB MEMBERS SEE HOW KCRC OPERATES

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING VISITED THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ITS OPERATIONS.

LED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR HO YUNG-SANG, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MR TANG PUI-TAT, THE PARTY WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM BY THE HEAVY RAIL PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER, MISS ROWENA HO.

THEY FIRST WENT TO THE CONTROL CENTRE IN THE STATION TO LOOK AT HOW TRAIN SERVICES WERE RUN.

THE PARTY THEN BOARDED A SPECIAL TRAIN FOR THE CORPORATION'S HO TUNG LAU WORKSHOPS WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE MAINTENANCE OF TRAINS BY THE STAFF.

THE MEMBERS THEN WENT TO THE RACECOURSE STATION AND WERE TAKEN TO KCR HOUSE IN SHA TIN WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE HEAVY RAIL DIRECTOR, MR F.K. CHOW.

THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE CORPORATION MANAGEMENT AND WERE SHOWN A SLIDE SHOW ON TRAIN SERVICES.

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BOYS' HOME SPREADS HOME SAFETY MESSAGE

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A GROUP OF TRAINEES FROM THE O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING A PROJECT TO BRING THE HOME SAFETY MESSAGE TO THE NEARBY CHEUNG HANG VILLAGE IN KAU WAH KENG.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE HOME, MR LAM HON-KWONG, SAID: "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT OUR BOYS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH' SCHEME (OYS) UNDER WHICH SUBSIDIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION FROM YOUTH GROUPS TO HELP THEM TO CARRY OUT MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS.

"WE ARE VERY HAPPY THAT THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP HAS BEEN SELECTED AS ONE OF THE PROJECTS WORTHY OF SUBSIDY AND THAT IT HAS BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY."

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THE GROUP'S PROJECT AIMS TO BRING THE HOME SAFETY MESSAGE TO THE RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY AND THE CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE WHO ARE USUALLY LEFT BEHIND AT HOME WHEN THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS GO OUT TO WORK DURING THE DAY.

THIS IS BEING DONE THROUGH A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING TALKS, SLIDE SHOW, GROUP DISCUSSIONS, GAMES, AND TEA AND DINNER GATHERINGS.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THE VILLAGERS WILL BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME SAFETY AND THE NEED FOR MUTUAL AID IN BUILDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT," MR LAM SAID.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOYS WILL LEARN TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY SO AS TO ENHANCE THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM THROUGH ORGANISING AND CONDUCTING THE PROJECT.

"FURTHERMORE, THEY WILL LEARN ABOUT THE MEANING OF TEAM WORK AND DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL."

THE PROJECT, WHICH STARTED LAST MONTH, WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH.

MEANWHILE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVITING ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLICATIONS FROM YOUTH GROUPS FOR SUBSIDIES UNDER THE OYS SCHEME.

FORMS AND DETAILS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OFFICES.

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WORKS ON MA ON SHAN WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

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WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR AND THE LAYING OF MAINS AS PART OF THE MA ON SHAN WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WHICH IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTRACT WILL COVER THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 43,000-CUBIC METRE RESERVOIR, AND THE LAYING OF ABOUT 1,400 METRES OF MAINS RANGING FROM 600 MM TO 1,200 MM IN DIAMETER.

THE WORK, WHICH IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO MA ON SHAN DEVELOPMENT, WILL TAKE ABOUT 19 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE OPERATES FROM TOMORROW

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A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE, NO. 38M, WILL START OPERATIONS BETWEEN CHUK YUEN (NORTH) ESTATE AND WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE NEW ROUTE WILL OPERATE DAILY FROM 6.30 AM TO 10.30 PM AT A FREQUENCY OF SIX TO 10 MINUTES. THE FARE WILL BE \$1.30 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

ON JOURNEYS TO WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION, THE MINIBUSES WILL TRAVEL VIA WING CHUK STREET, CHUK YUEN ROAD, NGA CHUK STREET, WONG TAI SIN ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, FUNG TAK ROAD, PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD, LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING TAK STREET.

WHEN HEADING FOR CHUK YUEN, THEY WILL OPERATE ALONG CHING TAK STREET, SHEUNG TAK STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD, PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD, FUNG TAK ROAD, SHATIN PASS ROAD, WONG TAI SIN ROAD, NGA CHUK STREET, CHUK YUEN ROAD AND WING CHUK STREET.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN HAPPY VALLEY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HAPPY VALLEY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 20) FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROADWORKS:

- * CHUN SHING STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
- * KWAI FONG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.
- * MUI HING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY WESTBOUND TO A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.

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