



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1987

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DIRECT ELECTIONS BEFORE 1997 IS POSSIBLE

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CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS OR SOME ELEMENTS IN DIRECT ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG BEFORE 1997, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) ON HIS RETURN FROM A SIX-DAY VISIT TO CHINA.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT THAT CHINESE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO HIM THEIR VIEW ON DIRECT ELECTIONS IF THAT FITTED IN WITH WHAT WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BASIC LAW.

"WHAT I SAID TO THE CHINESE LEADERS ON THE WHITE PAPER AND THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT WAS THAT WE HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISIONS ON IT. THAT WOULD BE DONE IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS," HE SAID.

"THEY ALSO TOLD ME WHAT THEY WERE DOING ON THE BASIC LAW. I WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY ASKING THEM FOR THEIR VIEWS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG BEFORE 1997."

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT HE HAD TOLD CHINESE LEADERS THAT WHEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TOOK DECISIONS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE MATTER IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, THEY WOULD BE TAKING ACCOUNT OF EVERYTHING THAT WAS PUT IN THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT.

"IT'S NECESSARY TO PUT TOGETHER A COMPLETE PACKAGE BECAUSE THE GREEN PAPER DEALT WITH A WHOLE SERIES OF ISSUES AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WANTS TO LOOK AT ALL OF THOSE AND PRODUCE THE PACKAGE WHICH WILL MAKE UP THE WHITE PAPER."

THE GOVERNOR ALSO EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS NOT TIED TO THE TIMING OF THE BASIC LAW PLENARY SESSION.

"IT'S TIED TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED, AND THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED TIME EACH WEEK IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

"WE WILL, HOWEVER, WISH TO PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS COMING OUT OF THE BASIC LAW PLENARY SESSION NEXT WEEK."

IN REPLY TO OTHER QUESTIONS, SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT TRYING TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT OR MAKE ANY COMPROMISE DURING THE VISIT.

HE ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT HAD BEEN A RELATIVELY SHORT TRIP IN CHINA WITH THREE DIFFERENT PLACES -- CANTON, SHANGHAI AND PEKING -- AND MOST OF IT HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS, TRADE RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC LINKS.

IT HAD BEEN A VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY IN PEKING TO DISCUSS WITH SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS ON A RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

/"THE CHINESE

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"THE CHINESE SIDE GAVE ME A BRIEFING ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON THEIR SIDE IN DRAFTING THE BASIC LAW. I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE SURVEY OFFICE REPORT AND REACTIONS TO IT BY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

"I TALKED TO THEM ABOUT THE RECENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON OUR STOCK MARKETS AND THE ACTION WE WERE TAKING TO DEAL WITH THOSE MATTERS."

ASKED WHETHER HE WAS THINKING OF INVITING CHINESE OFFICIALS TO VISIT HONG KONG, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT CHINESE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND LEADERS DEALING WITH HONG KONG AFFAIRS WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME TO COME TO HONG KONG.

HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF THEY COULD SEE HONG KONG FOR THEMSELVES, "JUST AS IN THE SAME WAY I FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THEM IN PEKING".

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT HE HAD INVITED THE GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG TO COME HERE.

"I SAID TO THE MAYOR OF SHANGHAI THAT I WILL WELCOME HIM HERE IF HE IS EVER FREE TO COME. I SAID TO SENIOR OFFICIALS IN PEKING THAT THEY TOO WILL BE WELCOME TO COME HERE IF THEY WISH TO COME.

"I HAVEN'T ARRANGED ANY PARTICULAR PLANS OR DATES. IT'S A GENERAL WELCOME."

SIR DAVID WAS MET ON HIS ARRIVAL BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MISS LYDIA DUNN; AND VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, MR QIAO ZHONGHUI.

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MAJOR PROJECTS EPITOMISE BELIEF IN FUTURE: JACOBS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING EPITOMISED PEOPLE'S BELIEF IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A TOUR OF THE TUNNEL WORKS, MR JACOBS ALSO SAID THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG WAS STRONG DESPITE THE WEAKNESS OF THE U.S. DOLLAR.

"THE SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED FUNDAMENTALLY SINCE I GAVE MY MID-YEAR REVIEW," HE SAID.

/MR JACOBS

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MR JACOBS SAID HE HAD EXPECTED SOME SLIGHT COOLING DOWN OF WHAT WAS A SOMEWHAT OVERHEATED SITUATION IN THE ECONOMY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY REITERATED THAT THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WOULD NOT BE MOVED FROM ITS LINK TO THE U.S. DOLLAR.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DISADVANTAGES OF PEGGING THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO A BASKET OF CURRENCIES, MR JACOBS SAID THAT IT WAS A VERY COMPLEX SUBJECT.

"YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TO PUT IN THE BASKET AND WHAT TO KEEP IN IT AND HOW TO ADJUST THE BASKET FROM TIME TO TIME.

"FLEXIBILITY IS SOMETIMES WHAT PEOPLE DON'T WANT, WHAT THEY WANT IS STABILITY AND CERTAINTY.

"YOU STILL NEED A CURRENCY OF ACCOUNT WHICH WOULD BE THE U.S. DOLLAR," HE SAID.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY VISITS EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING SITE

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, TODAY (SATURDAY) VISITED THE SITE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WORKS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER FOR THE PROJECT, MR MICHAEL TURNER OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, MR NORMAN THOMPSON OF THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL COMPANY AND MR DOUGLAS OAKERVEE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMPANY.

THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, A COMBINED ROAD AND MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TUNNEL, IS BEING BUILT FOR THE GOVERNMENT UNDER A PRIVATE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HONG KONG TUNNEL COMPANY AT A COST OF HK\$3.8 BILLION BY A CONSORTIUM OF CONTRACTORS COMPRISING KUMAGAI GUMI COMPANY OF JAPAN, PAUL Y CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF HONG KONG AND LILLEY CONSTRUCTION (HONG KONG) LIMITED OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

WORK WHICH STARTED ON THE PROJECT IN AUGUST 1986 IS DUE FOR COMPLETION IN FEBRUARY 1990. HOWEVER MR JACOBS WAS INFORMED THAT IF PRESENT PROGRESS IS MAINTAINED THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING COULD BE OPENED TO ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC BY OCTOBER 1989, SOME FOUR MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

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DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SITE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS SHOWN WORK IN PROGRESS ON THE NEW LAM TIN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, ABOVE WHICH A DEVELOPMENT FOR 14,500 PEOPLE IS INTENDED. THE FIRST FLATS ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT OPENS.

MR JACOBS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY PROGRESS ON THE LARGE CONCRETE TUNNEL UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE FABRICATION DOCK AT CHA KWO LING QUARRY.

FIVE TUNNEL UNITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND THE NEXT FIVE UNITS WILL BE READY FOR FLOATING OUT OF THE DOCK AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

EACH UNIT WEIGHS 42,000 TONNES AND IS BEING TEMPORARILY MOORED IN JUNK BAY BEFORE BEING PLACED INTO POSITION IN THE SPECIALLY PREPARED TRENCH WHICH HAS BEEN DREDGED ACROSS THE HARBOUR BETWEEN QUARRY BAY AND CHA KWO LING. THE FIRST TUNNEL UNIT HAS ALREADY BEEN PLACED AND THE NEXT UNIT WILL BE PLACED LATER THIS MONTH.

MR JACOBS CONCLUDED HIS VISIT TO THE SITE AFTER VIEWING THE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS FOR THE NEW MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY QUARRY BAY STATION. THE 7.6M DIAMETER TUNNELS CARVED OUT OF SOLID ROCK ARE NOW BEING LINED WITH CONCRETE, AND TRACK LAYING WORK FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE BY JUNE 1988.

THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IS THE LARGEST PROJECT OF ITS KIND UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG, AND, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL FORM A VITAL PART OF THE TERRITORY'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED RELIEF TO THE PRESENT CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

WHEN THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL IS COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1991 THERE WILL BE A CONTINUOUS DUAL CARRIAGEWAY HIGHWAY CONNECTING THE NORTH EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES' TOWNS OF TAI PO AND SHA TIN TO THE URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND VIA THE NEW KWUN TONG BYPASS, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING. THE MAIN DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR THE PROJECT IS FREEMAN FOX (FAR EAST) LIMITED.

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DIABETICS IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO BE INTRODUCED

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A UNIFORM SERIES OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR DIABETICS IN HONG KONG WILL BE INTRODUCED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "1987 FIGHTING DIABETES CAMPAIGN".

HE NOTED THAT DIABETICS, PARTICULARLY THOSE RECEIVING REGULAR INSULIN, DID SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE EMERGENCIES AND THEREFORE IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR DOCTORS AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT HAVE TO HELP THEM TO BE AWARE OF THEIR CONDITION.

MR CHAMBERS SAID AS A DIABETIC HIMSELF, HE HAD CARRIED IN HIS WALLET A SMALL RED CARD ISSUED BY THE BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION.

"I AM SURE THAT THE NEW CARDS, ADAPTED TO HONG KONG CONDITIONS, WILL BE EQUALLY USEFUL," HE SAID.

THE CAMPAIGN, ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LIONS CLUB DISTRICT 303 AND THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT OF THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SERVICE, IS AIMED AT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE PREVENTION OF DIABETES AND TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE PATIENTS' CONDITION.

MR CHAMBERS SAID DIABETES WAS NOT REALLY A DISEASE, AND WITH PROPER CONTROL, DIABETICS COULD LIVE VIRTUALLY NORMAL LIVES. "BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR CONDITION AND THEIR DOCTORS' PLAN FOR ITS CONTROL," HE SAID.

OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE TO HELP MANAGERS OF CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY TO CARE FOR DIABETICS AMONG THEIR MEMBERS, AND TO ASSIST DIABETICS TO SET UP SELF HELP GROUPS.

"IT IS IMPORTANT FOR DIABETICS TO REALISE THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEMS TO THEIR OWN, AND TO BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN ALSO HIGHLIGHTS SPECIFIC NEEDS OF YOUNGER DIABETICS.

"WHILE DIABETES IN HONG KONG IS COMMONEST AMONG ELDERLY PEOPLE, THERE ARE YOUNGER PEOPLE WHO HAVE THIS CONDITION, AND WHOSE PROBLEMS OFTEN DIFFER FROM THOSE OF THE OLDER PATIENTS. I AM VERY GLAD THAT THEIR NEEDS ARE ALSO BEING TAKEN CARE OF THIS YEAR," MR CHAMBERS SAID.

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BE DISCREET ON ELECTION CALL

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MRS RITA FAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON BOTH THE VOTERS AND THE CANDIDATES TO ACT DISCREETLY IN THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION.

SPEAKING AT A WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE, MRS FAN POINTED OUT THAT ELECTION WAS A FORM OF EXERCISING CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH WHICH CITIZENS COULD SELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF IN INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT POLICY.

WHILE NOTING THAT PARTICIPATION IN VOTING WAS WORTH ENCOURAGING, SHE STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PUBLIC TO APPRECIATE THE IMPLICATIONS OF CASTING A VOTE WHICH THEREFORE MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

"APART FROM HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLATFORM, BACKGROUND AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES, THEY SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CANDIDATES, ONCE ELECTED, COULD LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISE.

"AN UNFULFILED PLATFORM IS NO MORE THAN AN EMPTY MANIFESTO," SHE SAID.

AS FOR THE CANDIDATES, MRS FAN SAID THAT IN STRIVING FOR THE INTEREST OF THEIR VOTERS, THEY SHOULD ANALYSE DIFFERENT VIEWS CALMLY AND OBJECTIVELY, AND BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AND RESPECT POLITICAL VIEWS OPPOSITE TO THEIRS.

"IT IS ONLY BY MEANS OF CREATING A HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE THAT HONG KONG COULD BUILD UP ITS STRENGTH TO FACE UP TO EXTERNAL CHALLENGE," SHE SAID.

"AND THE OBJECTIVE OF CIVIC EDUCATION IS TO FOSTER A SENSE OF CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE SOCIETY AMONGST CITIZENS WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF BUILDING UP A BETTER FUTURE," SHE ADDED.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BOWEN LEUNG, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THROUGH THE ACTIVE PROMOTIONAL WORK BY THE COMMITTEE, CIVIC EDUCATION HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT FOCAL POINT OF THE SOCIETY.

ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE, HE POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM PROVIDING MANPOWER BACK-UP, THERE HAD BEEN A MARKED BOOST TO THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR FINANCIALLY WITH A 70 PER CENT INCREASE IN FUNDS ALLOCATION, FROM \$700,000 IN 1986/87 TO \$1.2 MILLION, WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

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AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, MR LEUNG REPORTED THAT IN THE PAST YEAR, THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE MANY WORKING GROUPS FORMED UNDER THE AEGIS OF EITHER DISTRICT BOARDS OR DISTRICT OFFICES HAD PROVED TO BE WELL SUPPORTED BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

THE HALF-DAY WORKSHOP WAS ORGANISED TO EXPLORE BETTER MEANS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FOLLOW-UP TO A CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR.

ABOUT 100 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION BODIES NOMINATED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, ORGANISERS OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS, AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES, ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP.

DURING THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PLENARY SESSIONS, THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS AND SHARED EXPERIENCE ON THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE WAYS TO PROMOTE IT IN THE CONTEXT OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS HOW TO ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

TWO KEY-NOTE SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED BY GUEST SPEAKERS DR DANIEL TSE AND MR S.L. WAN WHO RESPECTIVELY SPOKE ON THE SUBJECT OF "PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG" AND "IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT" IN THE CONTEXT OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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IN-SERVICE TRAINING GOOD FOR TEACHERS' CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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TEACHERS NEEDED TO DEVELOP AS PROFESSIONALS THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS AND ALL TEACHERS MUST AVAIL THEMSELVES OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING FROM TIME TO TIME, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y. T. LI, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE 1988 IN-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME (INSTEP) ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY AT ITS RAYSON HUANG THEATRE, MR LI SAID THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF INSTEP HAD TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE CHALLENGES PRESENTLY FACING TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM AND THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH TEACHERS HAD MADE FOR COURSES TO SUIT THEIR NEEDS.

MR LI SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS HAPPY TO GIVE INSTEP DIRECT SUPPORT, BY ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS, BY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION TO THEM CONCERNING THE PROGRAMME AND BY PROVIDING HALF OR FULL-FEE REFUNDS FOR RELEVANT COURSES.

/MR LI

MR LI SAID THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, THE INSTITUTION OF THE LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE), THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WERE ALSO HEAVILY INVOLVED IN PROVIDING IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO TEACHERS.

HE SAID THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ORGANISED A TOTAL OF 756 SHORT COURSES FOR SOME 29,300 TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS LAST YEAR AND MOST OF THE COURSES WERE CURRICULUM-RELATED AND SUBJECT-BASED BUT COURSES OF A CROSS-CURRICULUM NATURE AND RELATED TO CIVIC, MORAL AND SEX EDUCATION WERE ALSO PROMINENT.

THE ILE HAD BEEN PROVIDING IN-SERVICE RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS SINCE 1982 WITH THE OBJECT OF RAISING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE TEACHING OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, MR LI SAID.

"TO DATE SOME 2,898 PRIMARY AND 277 SECONDARY SCHOOL LANGUAGE TEACHERS HAVE ATTENDED ITS COURSES."

"REFRESHER TRAINING FOR TEACHERS IS ALSO CONDUCTED IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND A DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING UNIT ORGANISES STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS AND HEADS OF SCHOOLS," MR LI SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS SCHOOL SPONSORING BODIES ORGANISING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES FOR THE SCHOOLS UNDER THEIR CONTROL, AND SCHOOLS SETTING ASIDE A DAY ANNUALLY FOR TEACHERS' SEMINARS.

"I SHALL BE GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT AS TO HOW TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL-BASED IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS ACTIVITIES WHICH SO APPROPRIATELY GO HAND IN HAND WITH PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE FOR MORE SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM INITIATIVES," HE ADDED.

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES VITAL IN PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES

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VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES AND \$625 MILLION OF THE WELFARE BUDGET THIS FINANCIAL YEAR HAS BEEN ALLOCATED AS SUBVENTION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHENG KUNG HUI LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE IN KWAI CHUNG, MRS WONG SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD ALWAYS BEEN IN PACE WITH SOCIAL CHANGES SO AS TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S CHANGING DEMANDS AND GREAT IMPORTANCE HAD ALWAYS BEEN ATTACHED TO ASSESSING SOCIAL NEEDS AND DRAWING UP DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS.

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"AS A RESULT, VARIOUS CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND AN INTIMATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED," SHE SAID.

"THROUGH SUBVENTION AND VARIOUS FORMS OF DIVISION OF LABOUR, DIFFERENT WELFARE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN CO-ORDINATION," SHE ADDED.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THIS PARTNERSHIP WAS ADVANTAGEOUS AS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAN THE DEPARTMENT IN CARRYING OUT PILOT SCHEMES AND PIONEER SERVICES.

"MOREOVER, THE DIFFERENT FOCUSES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY AGENCIES WITH VARIED BACKGROUNDS LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIFARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES WHICH ARE TAILOR-MADE FOR THIS DENSELY-POPULATED AND FAST-CHANGING METROPOLIS," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG COMMENDED THE LADY MACLEHOSE CENTRE FOR ITS NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND FOR ITS CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE IN PROMOTING SERVICES SUCH AS THOSE FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED AND ON MENTAL REHABILITATION.

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ELDERLY HOME LIFE IN KWUN TONG

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT ELDERLY SERVICE JOINT FUNCTION COMMITTEE TODAY (SATURDAY) ORGANISED A "ELDERLY HOME LIFE IN KWUN TONG" PROGRAMME AT THE TELFORD GARDEN MAIN SQUARE, KOWLOON BAY.

SPONSORED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, THE PROGRAMME AIMED AT ENRICHING THE SENIOR CITIZENS' GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ON HOME SAFETY AND PROMOTING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

THE COMMITTEE IS FORMED BY ALL ELDERLY SERVICE UNITS IN KWUN TONG, INCLUDING SOCIAL CENTRES AND MULTI-SERVICES CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, HOMES AND HOSTELS FOR THE AGED AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.

MANY LOCAL SENIOR RESIDENTS FOUND TODAY'S PROGRAMME, WHICH INCLUDED GAMES STALLS, OPERA PERFORMANCE AND TALKS ON SUCH TOPICS AS NUTRITION, HOME SAFETY AND INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING.

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COMPETITIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND HYGIENE
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PARTICIPANTS ARE BEING INVITED FOR TWO TERRITORY-WIDE INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS DESIGNED TO AROUSE THE AWARENESS AND CONCERN AMONG STUDENTS ON PERSONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES.

THE TWO COMPETITIONS, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, ARE A PAINTING COMPETITION FOR ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND A PROJECT EXHIBITION COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THE THEMES FOR THE PAINTING COMPETITION ARE "A CLEAN HONG KONG" AND "CLEAN AND HEALTHY FOOD", WHILE THOSE FOR THE PROJECT EXHIBITION COMPETITION ARE "WE ARE PITCHING IN TO KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN" AND "BE A SMART FOOD CONSUMER".

PARTICIPANTS MAY CHOOSE ANY ONE OF THE TWO THEMES FOR ENTERING THE RESPECTIVE CONTESTS.

FOR THE PAINTING COMPETITION, THE IDEA OF THE THEME MUST BE EXPRESSED THROUGH A COLOUR PAINTING ON WHITE PAINTING PAPER OF A2 SIZE (420 MM X 594 MM). THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON THE KINDS OF DRAWING MATERIAL USED.

THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES SUBMITTED BY EACH SCHOOL, BUT ONLY ONE ENTRY IS ALLOWED FOR EACH STUDENT.

THERE WILL BE 15 PRIZES FOR THIS COMPETITION WITH THE WINNER GETTING A TROPHY AND A BOOK COUPON VALUED AT \$600.

ALL ENTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE ENTRY FORMS, SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH HEADS OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AT ROOM 924, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 393 CANTON ROAD, BEFORE FEBRUARY 8 NEXT YEAR.

AS REGARDS THE PROJECT EXHIBITION COMPETITION, THE THEME CHOSEN SHOULD BE ILLUSTRATED BY A DISPLAY OCCUPYING A FLOOR AREA MEASURING NOT MORE THAN 3.5 METRES BY 3.5 METRES AND THE HEIGHT OF WHICH SHOULD NOT EXCEED 2.5 METRES.

THE DISPLAY MAY INCLUDE PICTURES, PHOTOGRAPHS, MODELS, SPECIMENS, REAL OBJECTS, LIFE INSECTS/ANIMALS, CHARTS, FEATURE ARTICLES, TAPE/SLIDE/VIDEO/FILM PRESENTATIONS, COMPUTERS OR ANYTHING SUITABLE AND RELEVANT WHICH ATTRACTS INTEREST.

THERE WILL ALSO BE 15 PRIZES WITH THE WINNER GETTING A TROPHY AND A BOOK COUPON OF \$3,500.

ENTRY FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 NEXT YEAR.

✓A SUBSIDY

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A SUBSIDY OF \$250 WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL FOR THE PURCHASE OF ART MATERIALS FOR THE COMPETITION.

COMPETING SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO SET UP THEIR DISPLAYS IN THEIR SCHOOLS FROM FEBRUARY 8 TO 12, DURING WHICH JUDGING WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

A JOINT EXHIBITION FOR THE TWO COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL FROM MARCH 11 TO 14. THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 11 IN THE SAME VENUE.

A BEST ARTWORK DESIGN PRIZE, IN THE FORM OF A SPECIAL TROPHY, WILL BE AWARDED TO ONE OF THE 15 PRIZE-WINNING EXHIBITIONS WITH THE BEST ARTWORK, THE JUDGING OF WHICH WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE JOINT EXHIBITION.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE COMPETITIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH ON 3-7236234 OR 3-7230824.

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MARATHON SPARKS OVERSEAS INTEREST
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THE 1988 HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL MARATHON HAS GENERATED KEEN INTEREST AMONG OVERSEAS ATHLETES AND ENQUIRIES ARE BEING RECEIVED FROM LEADING RUNNERS AROUND THE WORLD.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT OLYMPIC-STANDARD RUNNERS WILL BE AMONG COMPETITORS IN THE RACE WHICH WILL HAVE AN ANTI-DRUG THEME.

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (HKAAA), WILL BE HELD ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR ON JANUARY 24, A SUNDAY.

THE RACE DIRECTOR, MR JAMIE SCOTT, CONFIRMED THAT BRITAIN'S STEVE JONES WOULD BE IN HONG KONG TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT, JONES WON THE 1985 CHICAGO MARATHON IN A TIME OF TWO HOURS, SEVEN MINUTES AND 12 SECONDS. THIS WAS THE SECOND FASTEST MARATHON EVER.

"CLEARLY, OVERSEAS RUNNERS ARE BEGINNING TO RECOGNISE THAT A VISIT TO THE HONG KONG MARATHON ENABLES AN ATHLETE TO COMBINE A TRIP TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING CITIES AND TO RUN A MARATHON ON A COURSE WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO REASONABLY FAST TIMES," MR SCOTT ADDED.

/MR SCOTT

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MR SCOTT NOTED THAT ENQUIRIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM OTHER OVERSEAS ATHLETES SUCH AS PETER PFITZINGER, OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO WILL BE A DEFINITE STARTER IN 1989.

THE FIRST FOUR FINISHERS AT THE RECENT OITA WHEELCHAIR MARATHON IN JAPAN HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COMPETING IN THE WHEELCHAIR CATEGORY. TWO ARE FROM CANADA, ONE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ONE FROM AUSTRALIA.

THE 1988 RACE IS SPONSORED BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS, NEW BALANCE ATHLETIC SHOES, WATSON'S DISTILLED WATER, DEL MONTE FRESH FRUIT AND THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ISLANDS TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, FORMED IN JULY THIS YEAR, WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 7).

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO PROMOTE TOURIST INDUSTRY IN THE DISTRICT AND TO ENABLE THE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM PROJECTS.

ITS MEMBERSHIP COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AREA COMMITTEES, HONG KONG AND YAUMATEI FERRY CO. LTD, NEW LANTAU BUS CO. LTD, HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE.

AT MONDAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH LANTAU COAST PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY AND THE SETTING UP OF A WORKING GROUP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PO LIN MONASTERY UNDER THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE HOVERFERRY SERVICES ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND WATER QUALITY AT TONG FUK BEACH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 7) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20/F, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS OF TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP IN A HEALTH WEEK STARTING FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 7).

THE HEALTH WEEK IS AN ANNUAL HEALTH PROJECT BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TWO DISTRICT OFFICES AND YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, AND SPONSORED BY THE TWO DISTRICT BOARDS.

DURING THE WEEK RESIDENTS OF THE TWO DISTRICTS CAN GO, ACCORDING TO THE PUBLICISED TIME AND VENUES, INCLUDING THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY, TO HAVE MEDICAL CHECK-UP BY STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL.

APART FROM BLOOD PRESSURE TEST AND URINE TEST, PARTICIPANTS CAN OBTAIN GENERAL HEALTH ADVICE FROM THE PROJECT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME 400 CHECK-UPS CAN BE CONDUCTED EACH DAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER AN OPENING CEREMONY TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF THE HEALTH WEEK AT 10 AM ON MONDAY (DECEMBER 7) AT THE SPECIALIST CLINIC ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF YAN CHAI HOSPITAL AT KWAN MUN HAU STREET, TSUEN WAN.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RECRUITING PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS IN VIOLIN, CELLO, PIPA, ZHENG AND LIU-YE-QIN.

APPLICANTS FOR THE PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR (WESTERN MUSIC) POSTS SHOULD BE GRADUATES OF EITHER THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OR THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OR HAVE A DIPLOMA OR DEGREE IN MUSIC FROM A REGISTERED POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MAJORING IN THE RELEVANT INSTRUMENT OR POSSESS LRSM, OR LRAM, OR ARCM OR GRSM OR EQUIVALENT IN THE RELEVANT INSTRUMENT.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING AS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS (CHINESE MUSIC) SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED MUSICAL TRAINING IN AN ACCEPTABLE INSTITUTION OR HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN AN ACCEPTABLE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUP OR ACADEMY.

/REMUNERATION IS

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REMUNERATION IS \$125 PER TEACHING OR PERFORMING SESSION OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING CLASSES AND TO PERFORM IN DEMONSTRATION CONCERTS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

NAMES OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE PUT ON A PART-TIME STAFF LIST OF THE OFFICE AND THEIR SERVICE WILL BE CALLED UPON AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

THEY WILL NOT BE PROVIDED WITH PENSION, MEDICAL OR DENTAL BENEFITS, EDUCATION ALLOWANCES, HOUSING ALLOWANCES OR OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

APPLICATION FORMS (G.F. 340) ARE OBTAINABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 25TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI BY DECEMBER 18.

CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT INVITED FOR AN AUDITION OR AN INTERVIEW WITHIN FOUR WEEKS FROM THE CLOSING DATE MAY ASSUME THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL. FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL 5-8235314.

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RECREATIONAL PROJECTS TENDERS INVITED

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TENDERS FOR PHASE II CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE TUEN MUN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO KOWLOON TSAI SPORTS GROUND ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE TUEN MUN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX PHASE I, CONSISTING OF ONE MAIN POOL, TWO PADDLING POOLS, AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, A SPECTATOR STAND AND FOUR SQUASH COURTS, WAS COMPLETED AT A COST OF \$38.7 MILLION IN 1985.

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE II OF THE COMPLEX IN TUEN MUN AREA 16 IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE AND A HALF YEARS.

A SECONDARY POOL, TWO TEACHING POOLS, ONE TRAINING POOL, ONE DIVING POOL AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES WILL BE INCLUDED.

TENDERS FOR THE PHASE II WORKS MUST BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31.

/MAJOR IMPROVEMENT

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MAJOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO KOWLOON TSAI SPORTS GROUND WILL COMPRISE A NEW ALL-WEATHER ATHLETIC TRACK AND A COVERED CONCRETE SPECTATOR STAND WITH SERVICE FACILITIES BENEATH IT, INCLUDING TOILETS, CHANGING ROOMS, FIRST AID ROOM, OFFICE AND STORE ROOM.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, LOCATED IN KOWLOON TSAI PARK, INVERNESS ROAD, WILL ALSO START NEXT FEBRUARY AND TAKE ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON DECEMBER 18.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN MONG KOK AND SHA TIN

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FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 8), THE SECTION OF SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH IN MONG KOK FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DUNDAS STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

MEANWHILE, TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS, THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND IN SHA TIN BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 8 AND 9).

MEANWHILE, FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING ON DECEMBER 20, 21 AND 22, ALL VEHICLES WILL BE BANNED FROM USING THE FAST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE.

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KMB ROUTE RE-NUMBERED

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FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 7), KMB ROUTE NO. 44B PLYING BETWEEN CHEUNG CHING IN TSING YI AND SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER WILL BE RE-NUMBERED AS 43D.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SATURDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE CHANGE AIMED TO UNIFY THE NUMBERING OF BUS ROUTES OPERATING IN CHEUNG CHING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING BUS ROUTE NUMBERING SYSTEM OF KMB.

"THE ROUTEING OF THE BUS ROUTE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED," HE ADDED.

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