



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1982

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NEW TAXI FARES
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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED INCREASES IN TAXI FARES OF 12.5 PER CENT FOR URBAN TAXIS AND 25 PER CENT FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS.

THESE INCREASES, WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THOSE PROPOSED BY THE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS, WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED ON OCTOBER 31.

AT THE SAME TIME PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR A REDUCTION IN FARES FOR TRIPS THROUGH THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID SEVERAL TAXI ASSOCIATIONS HAD APPLIED FOR HIGHER FARES TO MEET AN INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS SINCE FARES WERE LAST RAISED TWO YEARS AGO.

IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE APPLICATIONS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE TAXI TRADE. THE LEVEL OF FARES PROPOSED BY THE OPERATORS WAS FOUND NOT TO BE JUSTIFIED AND MORE MODEST INCREASES HAVE BEEN APPROVED WITH A VIEW TO RESTORING THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF TAXI OPERATIONS TO THAT OF EARLY 1981.

FOR URBAN TAXIS THE NEW FARES WILL BE \$4.50 FOR THE FIRST 2 KILOMETRES (AT PRESENT \$4.00), 90 CENTS FOR EVERY 0.4 KILOMETRE THEREAFTER (AT PRESENT 50 CENTS FOR EVERY 0.25 KILOMETRE THEREAFTER) AND 90 CENTS FOR EVERY 3 MINUTES OF WAITING TIME (AT PRESENT 50 CENTS FOR EVERY 2 MINUTES OF WAITING TIME).

FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS THE NEW FARES WILL BE \$3.00 FOR THE FIRST 2 KILOMETRES (AT PRESENT \$2.40), 30 CENTS FOR EVERY 0.2 KILOMETRE THEREAFTER (AT PRESENT 30 CENTS FOR EVERY 0.25 KILOMETRE) AND 30 CENTS FOR EVERY 1.5 MINUTES OF WAITING TIME (AT PRESENT 30 CENTS FOR EVERY 2 MINUTES OF WAITING TIME).

THE EXISTING CHARGE OF 50 CENTS FOR EACH PIECE OF HEAVY LUGGAGE CARRIED WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

UNDER EXISTING REGULATIONS, TAXI DRIVERS MAY CHARGE TWICE THE APPROPRIATE TOLL FOR TRIPS THROUGH A TOLL TUNNEL, TO COVER THE EXTRA EXPENSE OF RETURNING TO THEIR BASE WITHOUT A FARE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THIS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY IN RESPECT OF THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL, AS TAXI DRIVERS APPEARED TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP ANOTHER FARE AT EITHER END OF THE TUNNEL. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE DOUBLE TOLL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED TODAY TO EXTEND THE ABOLITION OF THE DOUBLE TOLL TO THE LION ROCK TUNNEL.

WHILE TAXI METERS ARE BEING RECALIBRATED TO REGISTER THE NEW FARES, CONVERSION TABLES ISSUED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO USE. DETAILS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT URGED FOR THE ELDERLY
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, CALLED TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO HELP ELDERLY PEOPLE.

ADDRESSING A LUNCH MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF BEACON HILL, HE SAID THAT WHILE HONG KONG AS A SOCIETY SHOULD LOOK TO THE FAMILY FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE MUST ALSO RECOGNISE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

+THIS IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE ELDERLY, AS EXPRESSED IN THE 1979 WHITE PAPER 'SOCIAL WELFARE INTO THE 1980'S', HAS FOCUSED ON THE CONCEPT OF 'CARE IN THE COMMUNITY',+ HE SAID.

MR ALLEYNE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING CASH BENEFITS AND DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT OR SUBVENTED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WERE TO ENSURE THAT OLD PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES COULD CONTINUE TO LIVE TOGETHER WITHOUT THE STRAINS OF FINANCIAL DEPENDENCE, ILL HEALTH OR MENTAL DECLINE PROVING TOO MUCH FOR THEM TO COPE WITH.

HE STRESSED THAT IF FAMILY SUPPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE OR WAS INADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLD PEOPLE, RESIDENTIAL CARE MUST BE PROVIDED AS A LAST RESORT.

TURNING TO HOUSING WHICH IS CONSIDERED THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM FOR MANY OLD PEOPLE, MR ALLEYNE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE PARTICULAR EFFORTS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO OLD PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL HOUSING NEEDS.

THESE INCLUDED COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING QUOTA, ACCOMMODATION FOR GROUPS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE AND HOSTELS IN ALL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

IT IS PLANNED THAT THE NUMBER OF OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES AND CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES FOR THOSE WHO NEED PERSONAL CARE AND ASSISTANCE WILL BE EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, MR ALLEYNE SAID.

THE PROPORTION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL POPULATION OVER THE AGE OF 60 IS INCREASING AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED STANDARDS OF LIVING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE, HE SAID.

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BUT HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG COULD NOT IGNORE THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THIS TREND.

IN MARCH 1981, PEOPLE AGED 60 OR OVER ACCOUNTED FOR 10 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION. THE PERCENTAGE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO NEARLY 12 PER CENT OVER THE NEXT DECADE AND TO ABOUT 13 PER CENT BY THE EARLY 1990'S.

MR ALLEYNE CONCEDED THAT +HONG KONG IS NOT THE EASIEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO DEVELOP WELFARE SERVICES FOR ANY GROUP IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ELDERLY FACE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE CROWDED, FAST-MOVING AND OFTEN IMPERSONAL LIVING CONDITIONS OF THIS CITY+.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT I SINCERELY BELIEVE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE GOVERNMENT, AS A WHOLE, ARE ENDEAVOURING TO DO IS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS AND TO FORMULATE SOLUTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JULY 1982
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PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY SEVEN PER CENT AND THOSE OF IMPORTS BY FOUR PER CENT IN JULY 1982, AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1981, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) ROSE BY THREE PER CENT.

THE VOLUMES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS DROPPED BY TWO PER CENT AND THREE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT WITH THE VOLUME DOWN BY FOUR PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY EIGHT PER CENT AND A DECREASE BY THREE PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR THE VOLUME.

FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD TO JULY 1982 AS COMPARED WITH THE 12 MONTHS TO JULY 1981, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY NINE PER CENT, 10 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS EXPANDED BY THREE PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS BY SIX PER CENT, GIVING A FOUR PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS AS AGAINST AN INSIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN BELOW:-

PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING
JULY 1982 WITH JULY 1981

	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 9	+12	- 3
TEXTILE FABRICS	-13	+ 5	-17
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-15	- 9	- 6
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-11	+ 9	-19
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	-16	- 8	- 9
FOOTWEAR	- 2	+19	-18
METAL MANUFACTURES	- 3	+ 9	-11
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-31	-12	-22
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	- 5	-16	+12
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 4	+ 7	- 2

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM FIVE PER CENT FOR TEXTILE FABRICS TO 19 PER CENT FOR FOOTWEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-8 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-9 PER CENT), METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-12 PER CENT), AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-16 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR MOST COMMODITY GROUPS, INCLUDING TEXTILE FABRICS (-17 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (-18 PER CENT), TEXTILE MADE-UPS (-19 PER CENT) AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-22 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS REGISTERED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+12 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:-

PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING
JULY 1982 WITH JULY 1981

	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+21	+ 6	+14
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 4	+ 4	INSIGNIFICANT
FUELS	-30	- 8	-24
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	- 5	+ 2	- 7
CAPITAL GOODS	+20	+13	+ 7
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 1	+ 4	- 3

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUELS, THE PRICES OF WHICH DROPPED BY EIGHT PER CENT, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY INCREASED MODERATELY, RANGING FROM TWO PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 13 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

MOST OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD, MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FRUIT DROPPED.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES, PASSENGER MOTOR CARS, FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING. THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS AS WELL AS TEXTILE MADE-UPS DECLINED CONSIDERABLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 24 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECLINED, AMONG WHICH DYEING, TANNING AND COLOURING MATERIALS; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; MAN-MADE FIBRES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR AS WELL AS YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES DROPPED SUBSTANTIALLY. THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF RAW COTTON AND PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS ROSE CONSIDERABLY.

MOST OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED CAPITAL GOODS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND OFFICE MACHINES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:-

PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING
JULY 1982 WITH JULY 1981

	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+32	+18	+12
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 2	+10	- 8
FUELS	+55	+ 4	+48
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	INSIGNIFICANT	+10	- 8
CAPITAL GOODS	+25	+12	+11
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 6	+11	- 4

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORT VOLUME VARIED, RANGING FROM AN EIGHT PER CENT DECREASE FOR CONSUMER GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO A 48 PER CENT INCREASE FOR FUELS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JULY 1982 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, WHICH WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$2 PER COPY.

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FS CONTINUES FACTORY VISITS
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PAUL WONG, CONTINUED HIS REGULAR VISITS TO FACTORIES TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR BREMRIDGE FIRST VISITED ELECTRONIC DEVICES LTD AT KWAI CHEONG ROAD, WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR TOMMY ZAU.

ESTABLISHED IN 1969, ELECTRONIC DEVICES LTD IS A JOINT VENTURE FORMED BY HK AND NETHERLANDS INTERESTS. ITS PRODUCTS, INCLUDING TRANSISTORS, DIODES, LED DISPLAY AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS ARE SOLD TO EEC MARKETS.

MR BREMRIDGE ALSO VISITED REGATEX MANUFACTURES LTD AT LAM TIN STREET, KWAI CHUNG, AND WAS CONDUCTED ON A TOUR OF THE FACTORY BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR DAVID CHU.

THE FACTORY IS A LOCALLY OWNED LIMITED COMPANY, SET UP IN 1972. IT PRODUCES RAINCOATS, JACKETS, CARCOATS, SLACKS, SKIRTS, LADIES' DRESSES AND SUITS FOR EXPORT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

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SECOND POLYTECHNIC TO BE IN KOWLOON TONG WEST
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HONG KONG'S SECOND POLYTECHNIC, DESIGNED INITIALLY FOR 8 000 FULL TIME AND EQUIVALENT PART-TIME STUDENTS AND CAPABLE OF EXPANSION TO 13 500 FULL TIME AND EQUIVALENT PART-TIME STUDENTS, IS TO BE LOCATED IN TAT CHEE AVENUE IN KOWLOON TONG WEST.

THE LOCATION WAS CHOSEN AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF ALL SUITABLE SITES BY A SPECIAL WORKING PARTY SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND WAS ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THE COUNCIL'S DECISION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE WORKING PARTY.

IN REACHING THIS DECISION, THE COUNCIL TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE EASY ACCESSIBILITY OF THIS SITE, ITS SIZE AND ITS EARLY AVAILABILITY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SITE CHOSEN WAS WITHIN THE MAIN URBAN AREA AND WAS ONLY SOME 200 METRES FROM THE MTR/KCR INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG.

+FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF STUDENTS WHO WILL COME FROM ALL OVER THE TERRITORY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE POLYTECHNIC SHOULD BE IN A CENTRAL LOCATION, AND BE CLOSE TO A FAST, HIGH CAPACITY, PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

THE SITE, AT PRESENT ZONED FOR MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 12.2 HECTARES AND IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE FORMAL, ESTIMATED REQUIREMENT, MAKING UP FOR THE HILLY TERRAIN.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON AT LEAST PART OF THE SITE WILL START IN 1986 AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PRELIMINARY SITE CLEARANCE AND FORMATION WORK. IN THIS WAY, THE SECOND POLYTECHNIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT CLASSES ON ITS OWN PERMANENT SITE BY SEPTEMBER 1988, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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FULL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR SHA TIN NEW TOWN

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CONSTRUCTION WILL START SHORTLY ON THE SECOND STAGE OF THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ON THE RECLAMATION JUST NORTH OF THE NEW RACECOURSE TO PROVIDE FULL SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES TO SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

A \$205-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING WORKS FOR THE PROJECT WAS AWARDED TODAY BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS FORMALLY SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON BY MR JOHN DON, DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, AND MR TAI TUNG NGOK OF CHUI HING CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE AND SLUDGE TREATMENT UNITS, PUMPING STATIONS, ACCOMMODATION BLOCKS, THE LAYING OF ALL PIPELINES ON PILED FOUNDATIONS, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ROADS AND OTHER APPURTENANCES.

MR DON SAID THAT THE PLANT, DESIGNED TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, REPRESENTED PART OF THE ONGOING COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES FOR DISCHARGES INTO TOLO HARBOUR AND WAS COMPLEMENTED BY WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR WATER QUALITY STUDY.

STAGE ONE OF THE PLANT, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED RECENTLY AND WILL BE COMMISSIONED LATER THIS YEAR, WILL BE CAPABLE OF SERVING ABOUT 240 000 PEOPLE IN THE NEW TOWN.

+ADDITIONAL TREATMENT FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN STAGE TWO WILL BE ABLE TO COPE WITH A FURTHER INCREASE IN POPULATION OF ABOUT 265 000, BRINGING THE TOTAL SERVICE CAPACITY OF THE TREATMENT PLANT TO 505 000,+ MR DON SAID.

+THE ADDITIONAL WORKS, WHEN COMPLETED IN ABOUT 2-1/2 YEARS, WILL SERVE THE GROWING POPULATION IN SHA TIN AND THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT IN MA ON SHAN.+

HE SAID THAT PLANS WERE AT HAND TO EXPAND THE PLANT FURTHER.

A FINAL STAGE OF THE PLANT, THE DESIGN WORK ON WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE NEXT YEAR, WILL ENABLE THE PLANT TO SERVE THE COMPLETE DEVELOPMENTS AT SHA TIN NEW TOWN, INCLUDING MA ON SHAN.

MR DON SAID THAT A FEATURE OF THE PLANT WAS ITS ABILITY PARTLY TO SELF-PERPETUATE ITS OWN OPERATING POWER.

+METHANE GAS, A BY-PRODUCT OF THE SLUDGE TREATMENT PROCESS, IS BEING USED TO GENERATE POWER FOR RUNNING THE PLANT, THEREBY SAVING SOME 30 TO 40 PER CENT OF THE POWER COSTS,+ HE SAID.

+ALSO, THE TREATED EFFLUENT FROM THE PLANT WILL BE USED FOR IRRIGATION OF LANDSCAPED AREAS IN THE NEW TOWN AND A PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE EFFLUENT FOR FLUSHING WATER PURPOSES IS NOW UNDER STUDY.+

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR VOTING AT ELECTIONS

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MANY PEOPLE WHO TURNED UP TO VOTE AT THE RECENT URBAN AREAS DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HAD TO BE TURNED AWAY BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT REGISTERED AS ELECTORS, THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE DISCLOSED TODAY (TUESDAY).

UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, NO PERSON MAY VOTE AT AN ELECTION UNLESS HE IS REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR IN THE FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS IN FORCE ON POLL DAY.

THE REGISTRATION OFFICER, MR C.W. WONG, REMINDED VOTERS THAT THE NEXT URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM WILL BE HELD IN MARCH 1983 AND THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED, TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION.

HOWEVER, THEY WILL HAVE TO APPLY BY MONDAY (OCTOBER 11), WHEN THE CURRENT REGISTRATION WHICH STARTED ON AUGUST 31, ENDS.

ANY PERSON IN POSSESSION OF A HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD, IS AGED 21 YEARS OR ABOVE AND WHO HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN OR MORE YEARS, IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION.

+THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE IS VERY SIMPLE AND EASY,+ MR WONG SAID. ONE CAN PICK UP AN APPLICATION FORM (IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH) AT ANY DISTRICT OFFICE, POST OFFICE OR ANY DISTRICT/HEALTH OFFICE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND RETURN IT BY POST AFTER COMPLETION TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE ON OR BEFORE MONDAY. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED.

MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR REGISTERED ELECTORS LIVING IN THE URBAN AREAS TO RE-APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AS VOTERS FOR THE COMING URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE AT BOTH THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

IN CASE OF DOUBT IN ANY REGISTRATION MATTER, ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, TELEPHONE NUMBERS 5-270369 AND 5-270380.

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MORE VOLUNTARY PATROLS TO PREVENT FIRE

PUBLIC-SPIRITED VOLUNTEERS FROM SQUATTER AREAS AND VILLAGES HAVE TURNED OUT IN FORCE TO GUARD THEIR COMMUNITIES AGAINST FIRES BY FORMING AN ADDITIONAL 48 FIRE-WATCH PATROLS THIS YEAR.

THIS IS THE LARGEST NUMBER FORMED IN A YEAR SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE FIRE WATCH SCHEME IN FEBRUARY 1979, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER TO 164.

THESE NEW TEAMS WILL BE INAUGURATED BY MR R. HOLMES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE SHEUNG WAN DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 8).

OF THE 48 TEAMS, 29 ARE IN URBAN AREAS AND 19 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY WILL BE TRAINED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON FIRE PRECAUTION AND DETECTION MEASURES AS WELL AS ON FIRE FIGHTING, AND WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH BASIC FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT.

THE SCHEME, IMPLEMENTED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, IS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY VILLAGERS AND RESIDENTS OF SQUATTER AREAS IN FIRE PREVENTION.

AT THE CEREMONY, THE NEW TEAMS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SOUVENIRS BY MR HOLMES; MR TONY MILLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING; MR KEITH KWOK AND MR W.K. LAM, BOTH PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION; AND MR ARTHUR HACKER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

MR HOLMES WILL ALSO PRESENT PENNANTS TO LAST YEAR'S SIX OUTSTANDING FIRE WATCH TEAMS.

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FIRE FIGHTING DEMONSTRATION JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DIAMOND HILL FIRE WATCH TEAM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE SHEUNG WAN DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, SHEUNG WAN RECLAMATION, HONG KONG AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 8). A SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE STATION IS BEING TRANSMITTED OVER THE FACSIMILE NETWORK.

G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN PRAISED
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CHILDREN IN FISHERMEN'S SCHOOLS COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES WITH SATISFACTORY RESULTS BY DOUBLING THEIR EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES, MR CHAN KAM-CHUEN, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION'S SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

MOST OF THE STUDENTS HAVE TO ASSIST THEIR PARENTS WITH THEIR FISHING OPERATIONS, THUS REDUCING THE TIME SPENT ON SCHOOLWORK. AND MANY LIVE IN A SUB-STANDARD ENVIRONMENT, STUDYING ON REMOTE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS WHERE ELECTRICITY IS VERY PRECIOUS, HE SAID.

DESPITE THE +UNFAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS+, THE CHILDREN DID NOT +SLACKEN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LEARN,+ MR CHAN SAID.

HE ALSO COMMENDED THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION FOR THEIR FORESIGHT AND DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATION STANDARD OF FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN.

SINCE THE FIRST EIGHT FISHERMEN'S SCHOOLS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AND 1948 THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS INCREASED FROM 770 TO ALMOST 4 000. AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION IS NOW OPERATING 13 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND A TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL IN VARIOUS FISHING AREAS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+ON TOP OF THEIR PRESENT ACHIEVEMENTS, THE STUDENTS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF FISHERMEN'S SCHOOLS ARE CONTINUOUSLY STRIVING FOR THE FURTHER EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

+PROGRAMMES ON INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CLASSES ARE WELL UNDERWAY IN SAI KUNG, AP LEI CHAU AND SHA TAU KOK.

+ELECTRICITY WILL SOON BE SUPPLIED TO SCHOOLS ON REMOTE OFF-SHORE ISLANDS LIKE KAU SAI AND SAI LAU KONG,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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TRAINING COURSES FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

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THE KINDERGARTEN SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WILL ORGANISE TWO IN-SERVICE COURSES FOR TEACHERS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

THE COURSES WILL CATER FOR PRACTISING PERMITTED AND REGISTERED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, INCLUDING HEAD-TEACHERS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY TEACHING IN ENGLISH KINDERGARTENS OR IN KINDERGARTENS WITH AN ENGLISH SECTION.

EACH COURSE WILL CONSIST OF 12 HALF-DAY SESSIONS AND WILL BE CONDUCTED BY AN OVERSEAS EXPERT IN KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION, MRS BETTY LOWE, WHO IS A FORMER SENIOR LECTURER OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN WEST LONDON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE COURSES, WHICH WILL START ON OCTOBER 18 AND NOVEMBER 4 RESPECTIVELY, ARE TO PROMOTE AN AWARENESS OF THE LATEST TRENDS IN KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND TO ENABLE TEACHERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

TEACHERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES.

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NEW SHA TIN PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY OPENS

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THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS ACROSS BUSY HIGHWAYS IN SHA TIN WAS OPENED TODAY FOR PEOPLE TRAVELLING BETWEEN THE TAI WAI INDUSTRIAL AREA AND MEI LAM PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE URGED RESIDENTS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THE NEW WALKWAY, THE 26TH BUILT IN THE NEW TOWN, TO AVOID THE HEAVY TRAFFIC ON TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE SHING MUN RIVER CHANNEL.

HE SAID 20 MORE SIMILAR SUBWAYS WERE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN VARIOUS CONVENIENT LOCATIONS TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE PROVISION OF SAFE CROSSINGS.

BUILT BY THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT A COST OF \$2.1 MILLION, THE 50-METRE-LONG NEW SUBWAY IS DESIGNED FOR PEDESTRIANS AS WELL AS BICYCLISTS, WITH STAIRCASES AND ACCESS RAMPS AT BOTH ENDS.

ITS WALLS ARE FINISHED WITH MOSAIC TILES ARRANGED IN A SPECIAL PATTERN TO COMPLEMENT THE CONTINUOUS CENTRAL LIGHTING.

OFFICIATING AT THE SUBWAY'S OPENING CEREMONY TODAY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR WAI HON-LEUNG, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1982

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON HO SIU-CHEUNG ON JULY 24, 1981, SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

HO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF TWO WOMEN, HO SIU-TUEN AND LEUNG KIM, IN A HOLLYWOOD ROAD FLAT ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1980.

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CHEUNG CHAU WATER MAINS WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN CHEUNG CHAU WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 8) FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL AFFECT PREMISES ON TAI SUN STREET, HING LUNG STREET, TAI SUN PRAYA, CHEUNG CHAU FIRE STATION, THE PRAYA AND THE MARKET.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND SHA TIN

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IN SHEUNG SHUI, SAN FUNG AVENUE BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND THE KCR'S SHEUNG SHUI STATION WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 2 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR WORK ON KCR ELECTRIFICATION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA A NEW ROAD STRETCHING FROM TAI PO ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH FAN KAM ROAD TO SHEK WU HUI.

IN SHA TIN, SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES ALONG TAI PO ROAD WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO SHING CHUEN ROAD FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 7).

HOWEVER, THEY MAY USE A NEW ACCESS ROAD LINKING TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND NEAR SHING CHUEN ROAD VILLAGE.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST KOWLOON WAY

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IN HUNG HOM, A SOUTHBOUND LANE ON EAST KOWLOON WAY BETWEEN SAN SHAN INTERCHANGE AND WUHU INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FOR 17 DAYS FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 7) FOR ROAD WORK.

HOWEVER, NORMAL TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED ON THE ADJACENT LANE.

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