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TRAFFICKING OFFENCE TO COVER FAKE DRUGS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE TO MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR PEOPLE TO TRAFFIC IN SUBSTANCES HELD OUT OR PURPORTED TO BE DANGEROUS DRUGS.

UNDER THE PROPOSED DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, WHICH WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), ANYONE ARRESTED FOR TRAFFICKING IN SUBSTANCES PURPORTING TO BE A DANGEROUS DRUG WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $500 000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS ON CONVICTION, ON INDICTMENT= AND ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF $100 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR.

THE BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT SITTING ON JUNE 25.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, SAID TODAY THAT THE EXISTING DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE PROHIBITED TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS BUT DID NOT DEAL WITH THE CASE OF PERSONS TRAFFICKING IN SUBSTANCES REPRESENTED OR HELD OUT TO BE DANGEROUS DRUGS BUT WHICH THEY KNEW WERE IN FACT NOT SUCH.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT A PERSON WHO OFFERS TO TRAFFIC IN A SUBSTANCE WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE A DANGEROUS DRUG IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT IN FACT A DANGEROUS DRUG.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1979, OWING TO THE SHORTAGE OF ILLICIT DRUG SUPPLIES, THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ATTEMPTED SALES OF NARCOTICS WHERE EITHER THE DRUGS WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE OR WERE POWDERS PURPORTING TO BE HEROIN OR AMPHETAMINES.

+IN 1979, A TOTAL OF 338 CASES OF COUNTERFEIT HEROIN AND NUMEROUS OTHER COUNTERFEIT SUBSTANCES PURPORTING TO BE DANGEROUS DRUGS WERE DETECTED.+

HE SAID THE EXISTING ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR THE OFFENCE OF OFFERING TO TRAFFIC IN A DANGEROUS DRUG, BUT DID NOT COVER THE CASE WHERE THE PARTY OFFERING TO TRAFFIC IN A SUBSTANCE PURPORTING TO BE A DANGEROUS DRUG KNOWS THAT WHAT HE IS OFFERING IS NOT SUCH.

+WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT SUCH A PERSON MAY BE CHARGED WITH DECEPTION, IN THE NECESSARY COVERT CIRCUMSTANCES OF SUCH AN OFFENCE, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SECURE CONVICTION BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A DISHONEST INTENTION.

+IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SUCH CASES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE OFFENCE UNDER THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TRADE STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980.

THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT COMMODITY ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE COMMODITY ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED.

FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS WERE WEARING APPAREL, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, TEXTILES, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS. THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 80 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980.

INCREASES IN VALUE OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1979 WERE HIGHEST IN THE CASE OF AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION (244%)= NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS, MAINLY CEMENT, TILES, GLASS PRODUCTS, AND PORCELAIN WARES (97%)= NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (78%)= TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (76%)= AND FOOTWEAR (65%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR OCEAN AND COASTAL FISHING (-24%)= PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS (-17%)= FOOD (-5%)= AND RUBBER PRODUCTS (-1%).

FOR IMPORTS, PRODUCTS OF THE TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, CHEMICAL, METAL, PETROLEUM AND COAL, AND FOOD INDUSTRIES TOGETHER TOOK UP 60 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980.

THE LARGEST INCREASES IN VALUE WERE FOUND IN PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS (114%)= FOOTWEAR (84%)= WEARING APPAREL (77%)= WOOD PRODUCTS (70%)= AND FORESTRY AND LOGGING (61%).

A DECREASE IN VALUE WAS RECORDED FOR MINING AND QUARRYING PRODUCTS (-44%).

FURTHER DETAILS OF EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. 5-274203.

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CLOSE LOOK AT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

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MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE SPENT THIS MORNING TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF SEVERAL MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THE TOUR, LED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, WAS ARRANGED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IT PROVIDED MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE PROGRESS ON VARIOUS PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE (PWSC) COMPRISES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE (CHAIRMAN), MR ROGER LOBO, MR LI FOOK-WO, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, MR FRANCIS TIEN, MR CHEN SHOU-LUM, MISS LYDIA DUNN, DR HENRY HU, MR LEUNG TAT-SHING, THE REV PATRICK MCGOVERN, MR PETER C. WONG, MR HU FA-KUANG, MR WONG PO-YAN AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD. THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE IS MR C.K. TAYLOR OF THE FINANCE BRANCH.

EACH YEAR THE SUB-COMMITTEE HOLDS TWO MEETINGS TO REVIEW PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, AND TO CONSIDER NEW ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAMME.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE TOUR TODAY WAS DR HO KAM-FAI, A NON-PWSC UMELCO MEMBER.

THE VISITORS WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE TOUR BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR JACK STEAN= THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID STEAD= THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, MR JOHN AITKEN= THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT, MR EDDIE SHORT= THE TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF THE PWD, MR JOHN MARSHALL AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE PWD.

THE PARTY VISITED A NUMBER OF MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE SECOND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT LAUNDRY AT PIK UK, THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL), THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS STAGE TWO AND RECLAMATION PROJECT AND THE SAM TUNG UK VILLAGE RESITE PROJECT IN SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG.

THEY STARTED WITH A VISIT TO THE SECOND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT LAUNDRY AT PIK UK WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY MR S.C. KWAN, CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE PWD.

WORK ON THE $30 MILLION PROJECT BEGAN LAST APRIL AND WILL BE COMPLETED AND READY FOR HANDING OVER BY FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE LAUNDRY, WHICH IS A FIVE-STOREY REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURE, WILL HANDLE SOILED CLOTHING AND LINEN FROM GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. IT WILL HAVE A CLEANING CAPACITY OF ABOUT 454 000 KG PER MONTH.

/THE PARTY .....

THE PARTY THEN WENT TO THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL (THE SECOND MENTAL HOSPITAL) AT LAI CHI KOK WHERE THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY MR KWAN.

THE 1 340-BED HOSPITAL, SITUATED NEAR PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, COMPRISES A 10-STOREY BLOCK FOR MALE PATIENTS AND AN EIGHT-STOREY BLOCK FOR FEMALE PATIENTS.

THESE BLOCKS WILL BE LINKED BY A SYSTEM OF SUBWAYS AND COVERED WALKWAYS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE HOSPITAL, AT JUST OVER $111 MILLION TO BUILD, IS MULTI-LEVEL SO THAT AS MUCH OPEN SPACE AS POSSIBLE IS LEFT TO BE LANDSCAPED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

MR KWAN SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION WAS CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES. WORK ON THE FIRST STAGE, WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE 1976, HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND WORK ON THE SECOND AND FINAL STAGE WOULD BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

FROM LAI CHI KOK, THE MEMBERS PROCEEDED TO THE TSUEN WAN RECLAMATION WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED AND BRIEFED BY MR NORMAN TUCKER, ACTING PROJECT MANAGER OF THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PWD, ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TSUEN WAN BY-PASS STAGE TWO AND TSUEN WAN RECLAMATION PROJECT.

MR TUCKER SAID THAT TSUEN WAN BY-PASS WOULD BE AN ELEVATED ROAD JOINING THE KWAI CHUNG ROAD TO TUEN MUN ROAD BYPASSING CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN THE CENTRE OF TSUEN WAN.

HE SAID THE PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES. WORK ON THE FIRST STAGE WAS MAKING HEADWAY AND WOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR WHILE WORK ON THE OTHER STAGE STARTED IN FEBRUARY.

THE $145 MILLION CONTRACT, THE BIGGEST SINGLE CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACT LET BY THE PWD TO DATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN, INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL AND RECLAMATION AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF TSUEN WAN BAY, SITE FORMATION WORKS ON TSING YI ISLAND AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS.

THE GROUP ENDED THEIR TOUR WITH A VISIT TO THE SAM TUNG UK VILLAGE RESITE PROJECT IN SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG.

THE PROJECT AIMS TO RESITE THE VILLAGERS FROM SAM TUNG UK VILLAGE, PART OF WHICH HAS HAD TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TSUEN WAN DEPOT FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY EXTENSION.

WORK ON THE PROJECT INCLUDES THE FORMATION OF THREE PLATFORMS AND CONSTRUCTION OF 78 HOUSES.

FACILITIES SUCH AS A NEW 'CHI-TONG', A VILLAGE OFFICE AND A BASKETBALL COURT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BY THE VILLAGERS THEMSELVES WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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COOLER, CLOUDIER MAY - BUT RAINFALL BELOW AVERAGE

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MAY WAS COOLER AND CLOUDIER THAN USUAL, BUT RAINFALL WAS SLIGHTLY BELOW AVERAGE.

IN ITS MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SAID TODAY THAT THE 278.2 MM OF RAIN RECORDED WAS 11.1 MM BELOW NORMAL AND THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR TO THE END OF MAY WAS 534.0 MM, TWO PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE.

THE SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORM DURING THE FIRST 11 DAYS OF THE MONTH BROUGHT 224.3 MM OF RAINFALL WHICH REPRESENTED 80 PER CENT OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL.

THERE WERE FOUR TROPICAL CYCLONES - TYPHOONS DOM AND ELLEN, SEVERE TROPICAL STORMS GEORGIA AND FORREST - WHICH DEVELOPED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC.

BUT ONLY SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GEORGIA MOVED CLOSE TO HONG KONG, CAUSING TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS TO BE HOISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH WAS CLOUDY WITH SOME SCATTERED SHOWERS - MIST AND FOG DEVELOPED ON MAY 2 AND PERSISTED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY. VISIBILITY WAS REDUCED TO 100 METRES AT WAGLAN ISLAND AND 200 METRES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE NEAR THE SOUTH CHINA COAST COUPLED WITH DISTURBANCES IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE BROUGHT HEAVY THUNDERY SHOWERS ON MAY 3. THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RECORDED 85.7 MM OF RAIN BETWEEN 2 PM AND 9 PM ON THAT DAY.

WEATHER CONDITIONS REMAINED UNSETTLED FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS AND THE PASSAGE OF A COLD FRONT BROUGHT HEAVY THUNDERY SHOWERS AGAIN ON MAY 8 AFTER WHICH THE WEATHER IMPROVED BUT STILL REMAINED CLOUDY WITH SOME SHOWERS.

STRONG EASTERLIES WERE EXPERIENCED DURING THE MORNING OF MAY 7 AND ON THE EVENING OF MAY 9.

THERE WERE LONG SUNNY PERIODS ON MAY 12 TO 14 AND CONDITIONS WERE WARM AND HUMID WITH MIST AND FOG.

ANOTHER COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 15, ACCOMPANIED BY SOME THUNDERSTORMS. THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS REMAINED CLOUDY WITH SHOWERS.

THE WEATHER BECAME COOLER AND ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17, THE TEMPERATURE FELL TO 19 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS THE LOWEST RECORDED IN THE MONTH.

TWO MORE PERIODS OF STRONG EASTERLY WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED DURING MAY 16 AND 17 AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE COLD FRONT.

/THE WEATHER .....

THE WEATHER WAS FINE AND SUNNY FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS BUT BECAME CLOUDY ON MAY 21 WHEN SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GEORGIA APPROACHED HONG KONG.

SCATTERED SHOWERS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING DAY AND BECAME MORE FREQUENT ON MAY 23 WHEN GEORGIA MOVED CLOSE TO HONG KONG. GALES WERE EXPERIENCED OFF-SHORE AND ON HILL TOPS AND TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL NO 3 WAS HOISTED.

HOWEVER, WINDS WEAKENED DURING THE NIGHT AS GEORGIA CROSSED OVERLAND TO THE NORTHEAST OF HONG KONG.

THERE WERE LONG SUNNY PERIODS IN THE MORNING OF MAY 24, BUT IT BECAME CLOUDY LATER IN THE DAY AND REMAINED THE SAME FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS WITH SOME SHOWERS.

THE PASSAGE OF A COLD FRONT ON MAY 26 BROUGHT FRESH TO STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS AND DRIER CONDITIONS AND THE WEATHER WAS FINE AND SUNNY ON MAY 28 AND 29.

HEAVY THUNDERY SHOWERS OCCURRED IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30 AND A FACTORY WORKER WAS ELECTROCUTED WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO CLOSE A WINDOW WHERE THERE WAS A LEAKAGE FROM AN ELECTRIC CABLE.

THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH WAS FINE AND SUNNY. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 31.1 DEGREES CELSIUS FOR THE MONTH WAS RECORDED ON MAY 25 AND 31.

DURING THE MONTH 12 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MAY 3 TO 8, 15, 26, 30 AND 31 WHILE A THUNDERSTORM AND HEAVY RAIN WARNING WAS ISSUED ON MAY 8.

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FOUR NT SITES SOLD FOR $32.7 MILLION

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FOUR NEW TERRITORIES SITES WERE SOLD TODAY FOR A TOTAL OF $32.7 MILLION.

THE TOP PRICE OF $15 MILLION WAS PAID FOR A RESIDENTIAL SITE OF 11 700 SQUARE METRES ($1 282 PER SQUARE METRE) AT CHEUNG SHA, LANTAU. THE BUYER, MAI HON ENTERPRISES LIMITED, WILL BE REQUIRED TO FULFIL A BUILDING COVENANT OF $4.7 MILLION WITHIN THREE YEARS. BIDDING OPENED AT $15 MILLION, WITH MAI HONG THE ONLY BIDDER.

A 1 080 SQUARE METRE SITE IN AREA 9 OF TUEN MUN FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN DEVELOPMENT WAS SOLD FOR $13 MILLION ($12 037 PER SQUARE METRE). BIDDING OPENED AT $4.5 MILLION. BEFORE SELLING THE LOT, GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR TONY HARLAND, POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS THE LAST INDUSTRIAL SITE TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON INSTALMENT TERMS.

/THE PURCHASER .....

THE PURCHASER WAS ROAD TRY LIMITED WHO WILL BE REQUIRED UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF SALE TO BUILD SMALL FACTORY UNITS NOT EXCEEDING 75 SQUARE METRES IN AREA. A BUILDING CONVENANT OF $1.74 MILLION HAS TO BE FULFILLED BY JUNE 30, 1983.

A 645 SQUARE METRE RESIDENTIAL SITE IN SHA TIN WITH A PLOT RATIO OF ONLY 0.4 WAS SOLD FOR $3.2 MILLION ($4 961 PER SQUARE METRE), WITH BIDDING OPENING AT $2.5 MILLION. THE SITE, IN AREA 46 OVERLOOKING THE RACECOURSE, IS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TWO-STOREY HOUSING. A BUILDING COVENANT OF $520 000 HAS TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN THREE YEARS BY THE BUYER, XONWAKE ENTERPRISES LIMITED.

A 913 SQUARE METRE SITE ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND, WHICH IS ALSO FOR HIGH QUALITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, REALISED $1.5 MILLION ($1 643 PER SQUARE METRE). THE PURCHASER WAS MAXIMUM PROFIT LIMITED, WHICH PUT IN THE ONLY BID. THE SITE, WHICH HAS A BUILDING COVENANT OF $600 000 TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN THREE YEARS, HAS A PLOT RATIO OF 0.6.

THE AUCTION, WHICH TOOK ABOUT ONE HOUR TO COMPLETE, WAS HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DRAGON BOAT EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY

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ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR C.T. WONG, WILL DOT THE EYES OF TWO NEW DRAGON BOATS AT TAI PO ON SATURDAY (JUNE 14).

THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 AM AT TAI WONG YEH TEMPLE NEAR ISLAND HOUSE, YUEN CHAU TSAI.

AN EXHIBITION RACE BETWEEN THE TWO NEW BOATS WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL LATER BE INVITED TO JOIN A LAUNCH TRIP TO THE NEW RACE VENUE AT SHUEN WAN HOI, ALONG THE MAIN DAM OF PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, WHERE THE DRAGON BOAT RACES ARE TO BE HELD ON JUNE 17.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO COVER THE DRAGON BOAT EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY AT TAI PO ON SATURDAY AND TO JOIN THE LAUNCH TRIP TO THE NEW RACE VENUE. A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE (AM 3214) WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.45 AM SHARP. MR DONALD STRANGE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION PRESS UNIT WILL HELP MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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CONTRACT FOR NEW ROADS

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NEW ROADS WILL BE BUILT SHORTLY IN YAU TONG TO PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO YAU TONG CENTRE, A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE ROADS AND ASSOCIATED DRAINS WAS AWARDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO KWAN LEE CONSTRUCTION WORKS COMPANY.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH MORE THAN $1.3 MILLION, WAS SIGNED BY MR TOM ARMOUR, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PWD HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTOR.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE CONTRACT, YAN WING STREET WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE JUNCTION OF CHA KWO LING ROAD AND SHUNG SHUN STREET.

THIS EXTENSION WILL BE ABOUT 230 METRES LONG AND 10.3 METRES WIDE, WITH FOOTPATHS ON BOTH SIDES, HE SAID.

INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT WILL BE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER 7.3 METRE TWO-LANE SERVICE ROAD TO JOIN THE NEW YAN WING STREET EXTENSION.

CONSTRUCTION WORK, TO BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION, WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK AND WILL TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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MACHINES FOR AIR MAIL CENTRE

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A $4.6 MILLION CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF POSTAL MECHANISATION EQUIPMENT IN THE NEW AIR MAIL CENTRE.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR A.C. HEATHCOTE AND MR P.J. COOPE, DIRECTOR OF THE JARDINE ENGINEERING CORPORATION LIMITED.

THE AIR MAIL CENTRE, AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED IN TEMPORARY PREMISES AT THE AIRPORT, WILL BE REPROVISIONED IN A PURPOSE-DESIGNED BUILDING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE NEW CENTRE WILL BE USED TO TRANSFER AIR MAIL WITH AIRLINES AND TO PROCESS AIR PARCELS POSTED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

ITS BUILDING WILL HOUSE MODERN POSTAL EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE BRITISH POSTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE OF THE BRITISH POST OFFICE.

THE EQUIPMENT WILL INCORPORATE A CHAIN CONVEYOR AND A PARCEL SORTING MACHINE TO COPE WITH THE EVER-INCREASING VOLUME OF AIR MAIL HANDLED AT THE AIRPORT.

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MORE RECRUITS JOIN PRISONS SERVICE

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ANOTHER BATCH OF NEW PRISON OFFICERS WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY ON SATURDAY (JUNE 14).

THE CAPTAIN-IN-CHARGE OF THE ROYAL NAVY IN HONG KONG, CAPTAIN R.W. MOLAND, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AND PRESENT GOLDEN WHISTLES TO THE BEST TWO RECRUITS.

ON PARADE WILL BE 22 OFFICERS AND 67 ASSISTANT OFFICERS, INCLUDING THREE FEMALE ASSISTANT OFFICERS, WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF PRISON OFFICERS AT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE IN STANLEY AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 14).

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED, LEAVING THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 9 AM SHARP.

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SAI KUNG CROSS-HARBOUR SWIM

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SWIMMERS WISHING TO ENTER THE SAI KUNG CROSS-HARBOUR SWIM HAVE ONLY UNTIL SATURDAY (JUNE 14) TO SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS.

MORE THAN 200 ENTRIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE EVENT WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11 AM ON SUNDAY, JULY 6. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE AS MANY AS 300 PARTICIPANTS.

THE RACE, OVER A 1 300 METRE COURSE, STARTS AT PAK SHA CHAU AND FINISHES AT SAI KUNG RECLAMATION PIER.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SECTIONS. TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE FIRST 10 SWIMMERS TO FINISH IN BOTH SECTIONS. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A SOUVENIR.

ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG SPORTS ASSOCIATION WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE EVENT AIMS AT PROMOTING SWIMMING AS A HEALTHY PASTIME AND SAI KUNG AS A SWIMMING RESORT.

LAST YEAR, WHEN THE EVENT WAS FIRST HELD, 180 SWIMMERS AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 60 TOOK PART.

APPLICATIONS TO ENTER CAN BE MADE AT THE SAI KUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHERE DETAILS OF THE EVENT ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

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TRANSPORT COUNTERS TO CLOSE ON SATURDAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ALL COUNTERS AT ITS LICENSING OFFICES FOR VEHICLE DOCUMENT TRANSACTIONS WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY (JUNE 14).

THIS IS TO ENABLE THE SMOOTH SWITCH-OVER TO A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR THE LICENSING OF VEHICLES AND DRIVERS.

THE NEW COMPUTER SERVICE WILL START ON MONDAY (JUNE 16).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT WILL VISIT THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE, AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, TO SEE THE NEW SYSTEM IN OPERATION ON MONDAY (JUNE 16) AT 11 AM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE COMMISSIONER'S VISIT.

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WATER SAFETY PROMOTION COMPETITION

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AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY CALLED ON HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN A WATER SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION.

+BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPETITION THE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE A GREATER AWARENESS OF WATER SAFETY,+ HE SAID.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG LIFE GUARD CLUB.

THERE IS A SENIOR SECTION FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 21, AND A JUNIOR SECTION FOR ALL UNDER 14.

THE BEST ENTRY WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR USE AS THE DESIGN FOR NEXT YEAR'S WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN POSTER, TO BE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

THE SIZE OF THE ENTRY MUST NOT BE SMALLER THAN 20.3 CM BY 30.5 CM.

THERE WILL BE SEVEN PRIZES IN EACH SECTION: $300, $200, AND $100 FOR THE FIRST THREE WINNERS, PLUS FOUR CONSOLATION PRIZES OF $50 EACH.

ALL ENTRIES SHOULD REACH THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, 12TH FLOOR, HONG KONG BY JULY 16, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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