DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1987

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CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS PROPOSED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A CAPITAL GRANT AND LOAN SCHEME FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MISS CHUNG SAID THE NEW SCHEME DEMONSTRATED GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY IN ASSISTING LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION.

SHE SAID THE INTENTION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 WAS TO REDUCE THE SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE INDISCRIMINATE DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AROUND 50,000 TONNES PER MONTH OF LIVESTOCK WASTE ARE CURRENTLY DISCHARGED UNTREATED INTO HONG KONG'S WATERCOURSES AND COASTAL WATERS.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE CAPITAL GRANT AND LOAN SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MISS CHUNG SAID THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED SCHEME, CAPITAL GRANTS WOULD BE GIVEN TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN CONTROLLED AREAS TO HELP THEM COMPLY WITH CONTROLS IMPOSED UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL PROGRAMME AND THAT AGRICULTURAL LOANS WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED TO FARMERS TO COVER ALL OR PART OF THE REMAINING COSTS OF INSTALLING TREATMENT FACILITIES.

"THE SCHEME WILL ENABLE THE MAJORITY OF LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN CONTROLLED AREAS TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS IF THEY SO WISH. LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN BANNED AREAS WILL, AS ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY, BE ELIGIBLE FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES FOR HAVING TO CEASE BUSINESS," SHE SAID.

"IT IS PROPOSED THAT FARMERS IN CONTROLLED AREAS SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION OF CHOOSING EITHER THE EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR CEASING BUSINESS OR A CAPITAL GRANT WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF DATE OF NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED CONTROLS FOR EACH AREA," SHE ADDED.

THE SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON A PHASED BASIS TO COINCIDE WITH THE PHASING OF THE CONTROL SCHEME. FARMERS IN AREAS NOT YET UNDER CONTROL WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS.

"DIFFERENT LIVESTOCK FARMS MAY REQUIRE DIFFERENT TREATMENT FACILITIES. AS CAPITAL COSTS FOR TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR PIG AND POULTRY FARMS ARE DIFFERENT, IT IS PROPOSED THAT DIFFERENT SETS OF RATES, BASED ON ROUGHLY HALF THE ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, SHOULD BE APPLIED TO DIFFERENT FARMS," MISS CHUNG SAID.

/SHE SAID .....

SHE SAID GRANTS WOULD BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF "DOLLARS PER SQUARE METRE" ALTHOUGH THE UNIT RATE WOULD BE LESS FOR LARGER FARMS DUE TO ECONOMIES OF SCALE.

THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE GRANT RATES FOR PIG FARMS ARE $32.6 PER SQUARE METRE FOR FARMS PRACTISING DRY MUCK-OUT AND $211.3 PER SQUARE METRE FOR FARMS PRACTISING WET MUCK-OUT. FOR CHICKEN FARMS, THE RATES ARE $80 PER SQUARE METRE FOR FARMS PRACTISING DRY MUCK-OUT AND $176 PER SQUARE METRE FOR FARMS PRACTISING WET MUCK-OUT.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE APPROXIMATE CAPITAL GRANT FOR A 1,000-PIG FARM PRACTISING DRY MUCK-OUT IS $29,000 AND $169,000 FOR A SIMILAR SIZE FARM PRACTISING WET MUCK-OUT. THE APPROXIMATE CAPITAL GRANT FOR A 10,000-CHICKEN FARM PRACTISING DRY MUCK-OUT IS $43,000 AND $88,000 FOR A SIMILAR SIZE FARM PRACTISING WET MUCK-OUT.

MISS CHUNG SAID FARMERS IN FINANCIAL NEED COULD ALSO APPLY TO AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR LOANS UP TO AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THAT OF THE CAPITAL GRANT TO FINANCE THE REMAINING COST OF TREATMENT FACILITIES.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT AND LOAN SCHEME WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF $100.3 MILLION OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS. THE TWO MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE ARE CAPITAL GRANTS AND STAFF COSTS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DR STUART REED, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ANNOUNCED THAT LIVESTOCK FARMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THE VARIOUS METHODS OF TREATING AGRICULTURAL WASTE ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AT TA KWU LING.

OFFICERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE HAPPY TO GIVE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON ANTI-POLLUTION MATTERS TO FARMERS.

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64 RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN HAWKER WORKING PARTY REPORT - "A MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH" TO IMPROVE HAWKER PROBLEM

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SIXTY-FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON HAWKER AND RELATED POLICIES WHICH WAS MADE PUBLIC TODAY.

"THESE RECOMMENDATIONS COVER A WIDE FIELD AND REPRESENT A MULTI-PRONGED-APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE HAWKER PROBLEM," SAID A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN.

/"BASICALLY THE .....

"BASICALLY THE REPORT RECOGNISES THAT HAWKING IS A FACT OF LIFE IN HONG KONG. WHILE WE MUST TRY TO REDUCE ON-STREET HAWKING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, WE MUST ACCEPT IT TO SOME EXTENT SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT CAUSE UNACCEPTABLE CONGESTION OR HYGIENE PROBLEMS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A FEW OF THE SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO FORCE, SUCH AS THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME FOR LICENSEES OF ON-STREET AND OFF-STREET COOKED-FOOD STALLS.

BUT THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS STILL HAD TO GO TO THE COUNCIL'S MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS SELECT COMMITTEE FOR DELIBERATION AND DECISION, AND THENCE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

"IN THE MEANTIME, PUBLICATION OF THE WORKING PARTY REPORT TODAY WILL NOT CHANGE THE PRESENT SITUATION OF HAWKERS," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

"ALL EXISTING POLICIES AND REGULATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN OPERATION AS BEFORE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENFORCED BY THE GENERAL DUTIES TEAMS."

INTRODUCING THE REPORT, MRS ELSIE TU, CHAIRMAN OF THE HAWKER WORKING PARTY, SAID THAT THE HISTORY OF THE WHITE PAPER WENT BACK TO EARLY 1984, WHEN THE COUNCIL REALISED IT HAD TO CARRY OUT A PAINSTAKING AND IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE HAWKER PROBLEM.

SHE SAID: "THE FACT THAT IT HAS TAKEN UNTIL NOW -- 3-1/2 YEARS LATER -- TO PRODUCE THE FINAL REPORT ILLUSTRATES THE DEPTH OF THE WORKING PARTY'S ENQUIRIES AND HOW, SINCE THE PARTY'S GREEN PAPER WAS ISSUED IN DECEMBER 1985, THE WORKING PARTY HAS REAPPRAISED THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THAT DOCUMENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS IT GENERATED.

"AS A RESULT IT HAS ADDED TO, ALTERED OR AMENDED THOSE ORIGINAL IDEAS IN THE LIGHT OF THE WEALTH OF THIS ADVICE AND THE VARIOUS COUNTER-PROPOSALS RECEIVED.

"IN SHORT, THE WHITE PAPER IS A VERY DIFFERENT DOCUMENT IN MANY RESPECTS FROM THE GREEN PAPER -- AND A BETTER ONE."

MRS TU ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT, WHEN THE REPORT WAS BEING DRAFTED AND THE MASSIVE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN IMPROVED HAWKER CONTROL BECAME INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS, AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE RELEVANT CHAPTERS WAS SENT TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

AS A RESULT, A TOP LEVEL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF MANPOWER FOR HAWKER CONTROL MANAGEMENT.

/THIS WAS .....

THIS WAS A "PLEASING AND BUSINESSLIKE RESPONSE" TO THE REVELATION THAT WITHIN A FEW YEARS IT COULD COST MORE THAN $500 MILLION A YEAR TO BRING THE HAWKER SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, SHE ADDED.

TURNING TO SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT, THE WORKING PARTY HAS ACCEPTED TWO MAIN POINTS -- THE NECESSITY FOR VIABILITY OF MARKETS, AND THE NEED FOR ENFORCEMENT.

SOME COUNCIL MARKETS, IT ADMITS, ARE POORLY DESIGNED -- ALSO SOME ARE POORLY LOCATED. THE REPORT SETS DOWN NEW GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE PLANNING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF MARKETS, COMMENTING ON LOCATION, SIZE, THE IMPORTANCE OF ELIMINATING OUTSIDE COMPETITION, MARKET MANAGEMENT, THE SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF STALLS, THE NUMBER OF FLOORS, HEADROOM, ENTRANCES, VENTILATION AND LIGHTING. THE AIM IS THAT MARKETS SHOULD BE MADE INTO ATTRACTIVE AND VIABLE PLACES SO THAT CUSTOMERS WILL USE THEM AND STALL-HOLDERS WILL NOT LEAVE THEM TO TRADE ILLEGALLY OUTSIDE.

ON ENFORCEMENT, THE WORKING PARTY CALLS FOR GREATER POLICE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTROL OF ILLEGAL HAWKING, BUT DEVELOPMENTS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BRANCH'S WORKING GROUP LOOKING INTO THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF MANPOWER FOR HAWKER MANAGEMENT CONTROL.

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CALL TO RESETTLE MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

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THE UNITED KINGDOM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR JOHN SANKEY, HAS URGED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO RESETTLE THE RISING POPULATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO THEIR PART BY ACCEPTING MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN GENEVA, AMBASSADOR SANKEY SAID THE UK GOVERNMENT WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAD HELPED WITH THE PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAD RESETTLED LONG-STAYERS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT RESETTLEMENT ALONE COULD NOT BE THE ANSWER. "THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST FIND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL REMOVE THE CAUSE OF REFUGEE FLOW," HE SAID.

/HE TOLD .....

HE TOLD THE CONVENTION THAT THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG AWAITING RESETTLEMENT WAS AGAIN RISING. THERE ARE NOW SOME 9,200, WHICH IS THE SECOND LARGEST GROUP OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF LONG-STAYERS.

"SIXTY PER CENT OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN IN HONG KONG FOR OVER THREE YEARS AND 12 PER CENT FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION IS WORSENING; ARRIVALS THIS YEAR HAVE INCREASED BY 45 PER CENT, WHILE THE RESETTLEMENT RATE HAS DECREASED BY 48 PER CENT COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

ON UK'S RESETTLEMENT PROGRMME, AMBASSADOR SANKEY POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ALREADY SETTLED IN BRITAIN, UK WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ACCEPTING A FURTHER 468 REFUGEES WITH RELATIVES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"HONG KONG ITSELF, DESPITE SEVERE IMMIGRATION PRESSURES, HAS SINCE APRIL 1986 OFFERED OVER 250 PLACES TO LONG-STAYING REFUGEES, IN ADDITION TO THE 14,500 ABSORDED SINCE 1975," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR TO GIVE SUMMARY OF ADDRESS ON TV

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL APPEAR ON TELEVISION TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) EVENING TO GIVE A SUMMARY OF HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED EARLIER IN THE DAY AT THE OPENING OF THE 1987-88 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PROGRAMME, PRODUCED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL BE BROADCAST ON BOTH OF HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL TELEVISION STATIONS.

FOR ENGLISH VIEWERS, SIR DAVID WILL APPEAR ON TVB PEARL AT 8 PM, AND ON ATV DIAMOND AT 8.30 PM, BOTH SLOTS AFTER THE STATIONS'NEWSCASTS.

FOR CHINESE VIEWERS, THE GOVERNOR CAN BE SEEN ON TVB JADE AT 7 PM AND ON ATV GOLD AT 6.55 PM.

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CLOSE LIAISON VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT : LIAO

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CLOSE LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD RESULTED IN THE FRUITION OF AN IMPRESSIVE MODERN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN TSUEN WAN, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF CALTEX'S RIVIERA GARDENS, MR LIAO SAID : "FOR TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 700,000 PEOPLE, LIVING IN RELATIVELY CONGESTED CONDITIONS ALONGSIDE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREAS, THERE IS A NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH IMAGINATIVE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, LANDSCAPING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES."

MR LIAO SAID RIVIERA GARDENS WAS SUCH AN EXAMPLE AS THE PROJECT CONTAINED INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPING, SHOPPING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

"IT SHOWS JUST WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT," HE SAID.

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INMATES PASS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

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SIXTY-THREE PRISONERS WERE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR SUCCESSFULLY PASSING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

THE RECIPIENTS, AGED BETWEEN 19 TO 25, OBTAINED A TOTAL OF 40 DISTINCTIONS, SIX CREDITS AND 59 PASSES IN VARIOUS EXAMINATIONS OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA, MACAU; THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE PITMAN EXAMINATIONS INSTITUTE AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATION AUTHORITY.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR RON BRIDGE, COMMENDED THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR PROVIDING OFFENDERS EASY ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE EDUCATION FACILITIES DURING THEIR DETENTION.

"THE CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES IN HONG KONG, THROUGH ITS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, HELP PRISONERS BECOME RESPONSIBLE AND LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY," MR BRIDGE SAID.

/MR BRIDGE .....

MR BRIDGE ALSO URGED PARENTS OF THE INMATES TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR STUDIES AFTER RELEASE SO THAT THEY COULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF SECURING EMPLOYMENT.

AT PRESENT, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROVIDES COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 21, AND REMEDIAL EDUCATION FOR ADULT OFFENDERS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

THE BASIC SUBJECTS OFFERED INCLUDE CHINESE, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SOCIAL STUDIES, MORAL EDUCATION AND CIVIC EDUCATION. IN ADDITION, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COURSES LEADING TO PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES, FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES, BOOK-KEEPING, TYPEWRITING, ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS STATISTICS ARE ALSO CONDUCTED.

SINCE 1979, 685 PRISONERS HAVE SAT FOR VARIOUS EXAMINATIONS WITH A PASS PERCENTAGE OF ABOVE 90 PER CENT.

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SEPTEMBER SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL BEING CONDUCTED

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING THE SEPTEMBER 1987 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 88,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS), THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES), WITH FULL ENUMERATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS.)

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH. REMINDERS ARE NOW BEING SENT TO ESTABLISHMENTS NOT RESPONDING TO THE INITIAL QUESTIONNAIRES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZATTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

/INFORMATION IS .....

INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1987 FOR EACH SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THIS SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD JULY-SEPTEMBER 1987.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY CAN CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AT 5-8235076.

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WIDENING OF FOOTPATH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LRT RESERVE

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO WIDEN THE FOOTPATH AT 95-97 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, IN CONNECTION WITH REALIGNMENT OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT RESERVE.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID THE WORKS WOULD NOT NECESSITATE ANY PERMANENT CLOSURE OF ROADS AND FOOTPATHS.

HE SAID THE AREA OF LAND AFFECTED WOULD BE RESUMED TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN FLOW, AND TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE FOOTWAYS WOULD BE MAINTAINED TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC IF THE FOOTWAYS WITHIN THE WORKS LIMIT WERE CLOSED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

ALSO, THE EXISTING WATERMAINS, GAS PIPES, TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICITY CABLES, AND OTHER SERVICE APPARATUS LYING WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE WORKS AREA WILL BE ALTERED OR DIVERTED.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BY NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1.

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MORE VENUES TO CASH TAXI VOUCHERS

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THREE MORE VENUES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR TAXI DRIVERS TO CASH TAXI VOUCHERS FROM WHEELCHAIR-BOUND PASSENGERS AS PAYMENT FOR TAXI FARES, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THREE TAXI ASSOCIATIONS FOR TAXI DRIVERS TO CASH TAXI VOUCHERS AT THESE ASSOCIATIONS, IN ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S FOUR LICENSING OFFICES AND THE STUDENT TRAVEL OFFICE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN APRIL THIS YEAR FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS. ITS AIM IS TO SUBSIDISE THE WHEELCHAIR-BOUND IN RIDING TAXIS - A VERY IMPORTANT MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED.

UNDER THE SCHEME, AN ELIGIBLE PERSON IS ISSUED WITH TAXI VOUCHERS AMOUNTING TO $55 PER MONTH. THE VOUCHERS ARE VALID FOR SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, TAXI DRIVERS CAN CONTINUE TO CASH THE VOUCHERS DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD AFTER THE VOUCHERS EXPIRE.

TAXI DRIVERS CAN CASH THE VOUCHERS AT THE FOLLOWING TAXI ASSOCIATIONS BY SHOWING THEIR TAXI DRIVING LICENCES:

* HONG KONG KOWLOON TAXI AND LORRY OWNERS ASSN. LTD, 290 HENNESSY ROAD, 5/F, TAK WAH BUILDING, HONG KONG;

* KOWLOON TAXI OWNERS ASSN. LTD, FLAT 10, 1/F, LUCKY BUILDING, 294-312 MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON; AND

* THE TAXI OPERATORS ASSN. LTD, FLAT C-1, 2/F, LOONG KAI MANSION, 23-35 MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON.

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COLOURING CONTEST TO BOOST CIVIC-MINDEDNESS

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STUDENTS OF TAI PO DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A COLOURING COMPETITION TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT.

THE COMPETITION, ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE 1987 AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, IS AIMED AT BOOSTING CIVIC-MINDEDNESS AMONG STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

/STUDENTS AGED .....

STUDENTS AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 12 YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST.

WINNERS WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 9.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON 0-6586520 OR 0-6577111 EXTENSION 257.

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TUEN MUN FOLK SONG CONTEST

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PROMISING SINGERS FROM ALL OVER THE TERRITORY WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENT IN THE TUEN MUN FOLK SONGS CONTEST ON NOVEMBER 15 (SUNDAY) AS PART OF THE TUEN MUN FESTIVAL 1987.

THE COMPETITION, TO BE HELD FROM 10 AM TO 9 PM IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN PARK OPEN THEATRE, AIMS AT PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC LOVERS TO DISPLAY THEIR SINGING SKILL AND FOR THEM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH EACH OTHER.

ORGANISED BY THE TUEN MUN FESTIVAL 1987 ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE CONTEST INVITES RESIDENTS AGED 14 OR ABOVE TO TAKE PART IN THE SOLO OR CHORUS SECTIONS OF THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH SONGS CATEGORIES. HOWEVER, EACH COMPETING CHORUS SHOULD NOT COMPRISE MORE THAN EIGHT MEMBERS.

A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING CELEBRITIES FROM THE MUSIC INDUSTRY WILL SELECT A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS FROM EACH SECTION.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE ON 2/F., GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY OCTOBER 20 (TUESDAY). AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM OCTOBER 27 TO 31 IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 0-4513044/5.

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL LANTERN CARNIVALS

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RESIDENTS IN KENNEDY TOWN AND SAI YING PUN WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 8) EVENING AT LANTERN CARNIVALS NEAR WHERE THEY LIVE.

THE 'KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL LANTERN CARNIVAL' WILL BE HELD AT 7 PM IN THE FORBES STREET TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND IN KENNEDY TOWN.

THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF HANDICRAFTED LANTERNS AND CHILDREN MAY BRING ALONG THEIR OWN LANTERNS TO THE CARNIVAL.

APART FROM SINGING PERFORMANCE, MAGIC SHOW AND ACROBATICS, THE PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES FOLK ART SUCH AS PALMISTRY AND LANTERN RIDDLES.

THE FUNCTION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS AREA COMMITTEE AND VARIOUS LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, AND SPONSORED BY URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE 'SAI YING PUN MID-AUTUMN LANTERN CARNIVAL' JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, SAI YING PUN AREA COMMITTEE AND WESTERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE, WILL ALSO START AT 7 PM THAT EVENING IN THE KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PARK IN EASTERN STREET.

THE CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE CANTONESE OPERA, IN ADDITION TO LANTERN RIDDLES, PALMISTRY AND STALL GAMES.

BOTH FUNCTIONS ARE BEING ORGANISED IN SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT 'WE CARE' ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT AMONG PARTICIPANTS.

FREE GAMES TICKETS FOR KENNEDY TOWN'S LANTERN CARNIVAL ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES. FOR THE SAI YING PUN'S CARNIVAL, ADMISSION IS FREE.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ELIZABETH TSE, AND SOME DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ATTEND BOTH FUNCTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS AND THE SAI YING PUN MID-AUTUMN LANTERN CARNIVALS WILL BE HELD AT 7 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 8) AT THE FORBES STREET TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND AND THE KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PARK RESPECTIVELY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH EVENTS.

WAN CHAI CELEBRATES MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
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WAN CHAI RESIDENTS WERE TONIGHT (TUESDAY) TREATED TO AN EVENING OF SONGS AND DANCES AT THE DISTRICT'S MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL VARIETY SHOW AT SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND, WHICH FEATURED DRAGON AND LION DANCES, AND CANTONESE OPERATIC AND POP SONGS.

THE FUNCTION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION (WCDACRSA) AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD, WAS AIMED AT CULTIVATING A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY AMONG RESIDENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE SHOW, DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALLAN CHOW, PRAISED THE WCDACRSA FOR ORGANISING VARIOUS SORTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR PEOPLE IN WAN CHAI WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE VERY POPULAR, AND WHICH HAD GONE A LONG WAY TOWARDS HELPING COMMUNITY BUILDING WORK IN THE DISTRICT.

MR CHOW SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT WORK WOULD SOON START ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CLUB HOUSE FOR THE ASSOCIATION ON A SITE RECENTLY GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE FACILITY, LOCATED UNDER THE TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER, WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH OFFICE AND TRAINING FACILITIES, HE SAID.

GUESTS AT THE VARIETY SHOW INCLUDE OMELCO MEMBER MR ALLEN LEE; CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE FUNCTION, MR CHOW YUM-WAH; PRESIDENT OF THE WCDACRSA, MR HO PAK-TAO AND URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS
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A LANTERN CARNIVAL ORGANISED FOR WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 8), THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

THE CARNIVAL, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM IN THE MORSE PARK OPEN-AIR THEATRE.

THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY WELL-KNOWN SINGERS AND LANTERN RIDDLES.

WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR MICHAEL CHENG; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MISS CECILIA YEUNG; CHAIRMAN OF THE ARTS COUNCIL, MR FUNG KWONG-CHUNG; AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CARNIVAL.

/OTHER OFFICIATING .....

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARTS COUNCIL, MR WONG FOOK-YU, AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR ALBERT LI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 8) AT 8 PM AT THE MORSE PARK OPEN-AIR THEATRE.

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UC KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO REVIEW THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN ACTIVITIES AND TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL HEAR THE PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE YOUTH RALLY ON OCTOBER 11, THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PARADE IN MID-NOVEMBER, AND THE TWO SCHOOL COMPETITIONS TO BE ORGANISED FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER THIS YEAR TO SUPPORT THE 'CLEAN SCHOOL' PHASE OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, 4/F., URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH PLACE.

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LRT JOINT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS RESTRICTION ZONE

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MEMBERS OF THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICE WILL MEET ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9) TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF LRT RESTRICTION ZONE IN YAU OI ESTATE, TUEN MUN.

THE RESTRICTION ZONE WILL STRETCH FROM THE ENTRANCE OF OI FAI CAR PARK TO THE SOUTHERN EXIT OF YAU OI ESTATE. ITS PURPOSE IS TO SEPARATE LRT VEHICLES FROM OTHER VEHICLES FOR SAFETY REASON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9) AT 10.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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BUSY AGENDA FOR SHA TIN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

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THE LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL AND SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT SERVICES AS WELL AS CLEANLINESS OF GRASS BELTS WILL BE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

DB MEMBER MR LAU KONG-WAH WILL ASK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS TUTORIAL SERVICES OFFERED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES; VANDALISM IN PLAYGROUNDS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND WAYS TO MEET THE SHORTFALL IN SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STANDARD OF SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT SERVICES AND ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO DEVELOP SUCH SERVICES IN VIEW OF THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN SHA TIN'S POPULATION.

THE STANDARD OF CLEANLINESS OF GRASS BELTS AS WELL AS THE MANAGEMENT OF AFFORESTATION AND LANDSCAPING IN THE DISTRICT WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER, MISS CHAN BO-LING; COMMUNITY PHYSICIAN/NEW TERRITORIES (EAST), DR LAM KWONG-HUEN; DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR LEE KA-YIN, AND DISTRICT LEISURE MANAGER, MR LAU TAK-SIU; WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE WORKING GROUPS, APPLICATION FOR FUNDS AND PROGRESS OF DB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NAM NING STREET

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THE SOUTHERN ARM OF NAM NING STREET IN ABERDEEN BETWEEN FUNG TIN STREET AND CHENGTU ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT FOR LOCAL ACCESS BETWEEN 7.30 PM AND 10.30 PM ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 8),FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT THE ABERDEEN CENTRE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NORTHERN ARM OF NAM NING STREET.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHAM SHUI PO AND QUARRY BAY

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NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE U-TURN MOVEMENT FROM NORTHBOUND NAM CHEONG STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO TO SOUTHBOUND NAM CHEONG STREET AT ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI PO ROAD FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 9).

AT THE SAME TIME, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES ARE BANNED FROM ENTERING HONG ON STREET IN QUARRY BAY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHA TIN FOR MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHA TIN FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.

FROM 3 PM ON OCTOBER 7 TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, GOLDEN HILL ROAD LEADING TO KOWLOON RESERVOIR WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

MEANWHILE, NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 61M WILL BE STRENGTHENED ON OCTOBER 7 AND 8. THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE SERVICE FROM TAI WAI TO KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION WILL BE EXTENDED FROM 11.50 PM ON OCTOBER 7 TO 3 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHILE ADDITIONAL JOURNEYS FROM LEK YUEN/WO CHE TO KOWLOON TONG MTR STATION WILL BE OPERATED BETWEEN 1 AM AND 3 AM ON OCTOBER 8.

ALSO, ADDITIONAL JOURNEYS FROM LEK YUEN/WO CHE TO MONG KOK MTR STATION WILL BE PROVIDED BETWEEN 4.30 AM AND 5.30 AM ON OCTOBER 8.

AS FOR THE OVERNIGHT SERVICE OF NT GMB ROUTE 65K (SIU LEK YUEN TO MONG KOK MTR STATION), THE SERVICE WILL BE STEPPED UP FROM 4.30 AM TO 5.30 AM ON OCTOBER 8.

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