



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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PRESSING HARDER ON 'BASELINE' TO RESTRAIN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

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THE NEED TO RESTRAIN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE MEANS THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PRESS HARDER ON "THE BASELINE" -- THE COST OF EXISTING SERVICES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCH MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR MACLEOD SAID THIS WOULD INVOLVE NOT ONLY DOING THINGS MORE EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY, BUT ALSO REVIEWING IMAGINATIVELY WHETHER SOME OF THE SERVICES WERE NEEDED AT ALL, OR WHETHER THEY COULD BE CARRIED OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"IT WILL ALSO MEAN THAT WE WILL BE LOOKING WITH A HARDER, COLDER EYE AT PROPOSALS FOR NEW SERVICES," HE SAID.

WHILST THERE WOULD STILL BE NEW SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENTS, HE STRESSED THAT THEY MUST REPRESENT REAL VALUE FOR MONEY AND SHOULD BE FUNDED BY RESOURCES RELEASED BY SAVINGS FROM OTHER ON-GOING ACTIVITIES.

MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE. THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM WAS TWOFOLD.

THE FIRST WAS NOT SO MUCH THE INCREASING SIZE, BUT THE INCREASING COST, OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

WHILE STRESSING THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST PAY REASONABLE WAGES IF IT WANTED AN EFFICIENT CIVIL SERVICE, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, IN ADDITION TO "NORMAL" ANNUAL PAY REVISIONS, THERE HAD BEEN A ROUND OF OTHER REVISIONS AS A RESULT BASICALLY OF THE RENNIE AND STANDING COMMISSION EXERCISES.

"THE LATTER IS STILL UNDER WAY.

"AS THIS SPECIAL ROUND OF PAY REVIEWS DRAWS TO A CLOSE, AS THE VARIOUS PAY BODIES COME NEARER TO COMPLETING THEIR WORK, BOTH THE TAXPAYER AND THE EMPLOYER CAN REASONABLY ASK FOR INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY," HE SAID.

THE SECOND PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS THE LOWER GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GROWTH RATE.

WHILE REAL GDP GROWTH IN THE FOUR YEARS TO 1990 WAS ABOUT 14 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT, 2.5 PER CENT, AND 3 PER CENT, REAL GROWTH IN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS ABOUT 3 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT, 6.5 PER CENT, AND 9.5 PER CENT, HE SAID.

"IT WILL NOT TAKE A STATISTICIAN TO DISCERN THAT WHILE THE GDP GROWTH RATE HAS BEEN TRENDING DOWN, THE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE GROWTH RATE HAS BEEN TRENDING UP," HE SAID.

/MR MACLEOD

MR MACLEOD ALSO REFUTED THE NOTION THAT THE NEED FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 40 PER CENT TO 60 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF \$127 BILLION WOULD BE MET BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THAT EXPENDITURE WOULD BE SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

"BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE IS THAT WE ARE TALKING BASICALLY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE," HE SAID.

"BY ITS NATURE, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IS OF LESS CONCERN TO US THAN RECURRENT EXPENDITURE -- IT HAS A LIMITED LIFE, CAN BE PHASED, AND TO AN EXTENT IS AN INVESTMENT -- IT PRODUCES IN THE LONGER RUN NOT ONLY ECONOMIC BENEFITS BUT ALSO IN SOME CASES REVENUE -- MOST NOTABLY ARISING FROM THE DEVELOPMENT MADE POSSIBLE BY THE RELEASE OF KAI TAK.

"FURTHERMORE, IN TOTAL ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IS CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN ANNUAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE - CRUDELY SPEAKING, ABOUT \$21 BILLION AS COMPARED WITH ABOUT \$65 BILLION IN 1990-91," HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FRAMEWORK PROPOSED

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A BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAA THE BILL ALSO SETS OUT THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PAA.

ESSENTIALLY, THE PAA'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION WILL BE TO SPEARHEAD THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW AIRPORT. TO DO THIS THE PAA WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, ENGAGE STAFF, ACQUIRE ASSETS AND ACCEPT LIABILITIES.

"SINCE THE PAA WILL HAVE A LIMITED LIFE AND WILL BE REPLACED BY AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY (AA) IN DUE COURSE, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION LEAVES MATTERS THAT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE OF NO CONCERN TO THE PAA, SUCH AS THE DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE AIRPORT, FOR CONSIDERATION AND RESOLUTION WHEN PREPARING THE MORE COMPLEX LEGISLATION THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SET UP THE AA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR THE PAA GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE PRECEDENT USED TO ESTABLISH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) WHERE A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY WAS INITIALLY SET UP PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRESENT CORPORATION.

"LIKE THE MTRC, WE ENVISAGE THAT THE AA WILL, UPON ITS ESTABLISHMENT, TAKE OVER THE STAFF, ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND ON-GOING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PAA," HE SAID.

ON THE PAA'S COMPOSITION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN EX-OFFICIO AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WILL BE AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

"THERE WILL BE BETWEEN EIGHT AND 15 OTHER MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR," HE SAID.

"WHILE IT IS INTENDED THAT THE MAJOR SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THE PAA WOULD BE ADVANCES FROM GOVERNMENT FUNDS, THE BILL ALSO ENABLES IT TO BORROW OR RAISE MONEY EVEN THOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE PAA WILL NEED TO EXERCISE THIS POWER," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IS TO REPLACE THE PAA WITH THE AA BY 1992.

THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL 1990 IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 14.

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IMMIGRATION RECRUITS IN PASSING-OUT PARADE
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, INSPECTED A BATCH OF 168 IMMIGRATION SERVICE RECRUITS AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE HELD AT THE AUXILIARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON BAY TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE 79 ASSISTANT IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND 89 IMMIGRATION ASSISTANTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR INDUCTION COURSES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING SECTION, WHICH COVERED A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS RANGING FROM IMMIGRATION LAWS AND PROCEDURES TO PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND FOOTDRILL.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR ASPREY SAID THE RECRUITS HAD CHOSEN A CHALLENGING CAREER.

"IN THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK, THEY WILL COME INTO CONTACT WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE - FROM BUSINESSMEN TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"TO DEAL FAIRLY BUT FIRMLY WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR PROBLEMS IS A REAL CHALLENGE AND REQUIRES NOT ONLY TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO QUALITIES OF PATIENCE, COURTESY AND HUMANITY, AND A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN NATURE," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE REMINDED THE RECURITS THAT THEY WOULD BE WORKING IN A VERY BUSY DEPARTMENT.

/"APART FROM

"APART FROM REGULAR INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS THROUGH HONG KONG WHICH NOW EXCEED 1.2 MILLION PERSONS PER WEEK, AND A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VISAS, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAS HAD TO UNDERTAKE MUCH COMPLETELY NEW WORK IN RECENT YEARS.

"THIS HAS INCLUDED THE SCREENING OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW IDENTITY CARDS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

"THE NEW NATIONALITY PACKAGE WOULD BE A FURTHER AREA OF NEW WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY CONGRATULATED THE RECRUITS ON THE HIGH STANDARD THEY HAD ACHIEVED IN THEIR BEARING AND TURNOUT ON PARADE AND ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THEIR INITIAL TRAINING WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD THEIR CAREER.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT THERE REMAINED MUCH FOR THEM TO LEARN, BOTH ABOUT THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THEIR WORK, AND ABOUT DEALING WITH PEOPLE.

"THIS LEARNING WOULD COME PARTLY THROUGH EXPERIENCE, AND PARTLY THROUGH FURTHER STUDY AND TRAINING," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE WITH ENTHUSIASM.

BEST RECRUIT SHIELDS WERE PRESENTED TO THE BEST ALL-ROUND RECRUIT OF EACH OF THE EIGHT PASSING-OUT SQUADS ON PARADE.

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MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO EDUCATION ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY INTRODUCE INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AN AMENDMENT BILL SEEKING TO MAKE MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE WHICH INCLUDE THE UPDATING OF TERMINOLOGY AND PENALTY LEVELS.

OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDE THE REMEDYING OF CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF ADMINISTERING THE ORDINANCE, THE REPEAL OF THE POWER TO REGULATE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, AND THE PROVISION OF APPEALS UNDER REGULATIONS.

THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT EDUCATION ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1971 AND CERTAIN PROVISIONS WERE OUT-OF-DATE OR NO LONGER APPROPRIATE.

"AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER IS THE PROVISION OF A POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO CONTROL POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS," HE SAID.

"CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN RECENT YEARS THAT THIS PROVISION INHIBITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN INVOKED, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT IT IS TIMELY TO REMOVE IT FROM THE STATUTE BOOK.

"THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE SHOULD PROPERLY CONFINE ITS SCOPE TO SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF PUPILS AND THE INTERESTS OF EDUCATION GENERALLY."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REST OF THE BILL DEALT WITH A VARIETY OF MATTERS.

"IT REMEDIES DEFICIENCIES SUCH AS MAKING PROVISION FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RESIGN, AND FOR THE SERVING OF AN ATTENDANCE ORDER WHENEVER A CHILD IS NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE," HE SAID.

"IT ALSO SEEKS TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR GIVING THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION THE POWER TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL TO ADMIT A CHILD NAMED IN AN ATTENDANCE ORDER TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF PLACING CHILDREN WITH A BACKGROUND OF TRUANCY OR BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS FOR ENTRY BY SCHOOL INSPECTORS TO PREMISES SUSPECTED OF BEING 'ILLEGAL' SCHOOLS, UNDER A WARRANT ISSUED BY A MAGISTRATE.

"THE BILL FURTHER PROVIDES FOR AN APPEAL MECHANISM AGAINST THE UNREASONABLE EXERCISE BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OF POWERS WHICH MIGHT BE ARGUED TO AFFECT CIVIL RIGHTS."

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21, WITH A VIEW TO COMPLETING THE PROCESS BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

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STOPPING ON YELLOW STRIPED MARKING AT CROSSINGS PROHIBITED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS MAKING IT AN OFFENCE FOR MOTORISTS TO OBSTRUCT YELLOW STRIPED LIGHT SIGNAL CROSSINGS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 1, CARRY A FIXED PENALTY OF \$200 FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE NO OBSTRUCTION REQUIREMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID EXISTING REGULATIONS MAKE NO PROVISION PROHIBITING VEHICLES FROM STOPPING ON LIGHT SIGNAL CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

THIS HAS CAUSED SAFETY PROBLEMS AND INCONVENIENCE TO PEDESTRIANS.

TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, A NEW YELLOW STRIPED MARKING WAS INTRODUCED ON A TRIAL BASIS AT 32 LIGHT SIGNAL CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS.

THE TRIAL HAS PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS AS, AT THE 32 CROSSINGS USED DURING THE TRIAL, VEHICULAR OBSTRUCTION WAS REDUCED BY 60 PER CENT AND ACCIDENTS TO PEDESTRIANS BY 18.2 PER CENT.

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR IMPOSITION OF THE FIXED PENALTY IN THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) ORDINANCE WILL BE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS MONTH.

MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF OTHER AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO THE REGULATIONS. DETAILS OF THESE REGULATIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE GAZETTE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ONE AMENDMENT CLARIFIES THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO ERECT PRESCRIBED TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS AT ROAD WORKS IS APPLICABLE AT ALL TIMES OF THE DAY, INSTEAD OF ONLY DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS AS REQUIRED AT PRESENT.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT AUTHORIZES THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO ISSUE PERMITS TO ALLOW MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAILERS EXCEEDING 16 METRES IN COMBINED LENGTH TO BE DRIVEN ON THE ROAD.

TO ENSURE THAT NO LOAD IS CARRIED ON THE TAILGATE OF GOODS VEHICLES, ANOTHER AMENDMENT STIPULATES THE PROPER WAY OF FASTENING OVERHANGING LOADS ON GOODS VEHICLES. THE PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE THAT LOADS ARE NOT CARRIED IN A PRECARIOUS MANNER.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS AND ROAD MARKINGS ARE PRESCRIBED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS TO RECTIFY CERTAIN MINOR ANOMALIES OR TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

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COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990 GAZETTED
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PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, WHICH WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY), WILL ENABLE THE COMPANIES REGISTRY TO INTRODUCE A NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM OF KEEPING COMPANY RECORDS AND MAKING THEM AVAILABLE FOR SEARCH BY THE PUBLIC ON MICROFILM.

THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD APPLY TO ALL COMPANY RECORDS, EXCEPT SHAREHOLDERS LISTS WHICH WERE NOT EASY TO MICROFILM BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE, AND WOULD ALSO ACHIEVE SAVINGS IN COMMERCIAL FLOOR SPACE, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID.

"SEARCHES OF COMPANY RECORDS IN FUTURE WOULD BE BY THE YEAR OR A MULTIPLE OF YEARS AT A FEE OF \$10 PER YEAR, AND A DOCUMENT INDEX WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM WHICH SEARCHERS COULD, IF NECESSARY, ASCERTAIN THE YEAR OF FILING OF ANY PARTICULAR DOCUMENT," HE SAID.

MR GLEESON SAID A HANDOUT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT THE COMPANIES REGISTRY, AND A CIRCULAR WOULD BE SENT TO ALL PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND OTHERS WHO USE THE FACILITIES OF THE COMPANIES REGISTRY ON A REGULAR BASIS, EXPLAINING THE OPERATION OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

"IN ADDITION, PRACTICE RUNS ON THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE GIVEN DURING MARCH AND APRIL IN THE COMPANIES REGISTRY FOR MAJOR USERS," HE SAID.

MR GLEESON EXPECTED THE BILL TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21 AND THE NEW SYSTEM TO COME INTO OPERATION IN EARLY MAY THIS YEAR.

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280,000 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WORK TOWARDS A BETTER COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS HAVE FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS A BETTER COMMUNITY BY TAKING PART IN A WIDE VARIETY OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CYC MOVEMENT, WITH WARM SUPPORT FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, HAD GROWN TO MORE THAN 280,000 REGISTERED MEMBERS TODAY, MR LI SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT-RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG TV SERIES, "CYC THINK TANK", TO PROMOTE THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES.

MR LI BELIEVED THE 10-EPISEODE SERIES, TO BE BROADCAST EVERY SATURDAY STARTING TOMORROW (SATURDAY) ON TVB JADE, WILL MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE CLUB AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

TO FURTHER IMPROVE ITS EFFICIENT OPERATION, HE SAID, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD HELP SCHOOLS FORM THEIR OWN MANAGEMENT TEAMS.

ELEVEN SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN IN A "RE-STRUCTURING" PILOT SCHEME AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL MEMBER SCHOOLS.

THE 10-EPISEODE CYC THINK TANK FEATURES LEADERSHIP TRAINING, CONSUMER KNOWLEDGE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HOME SAFETY, FIRE PREVENTION AND HELPING THE HANDICAPPED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE LAUNCH WERE THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MISS CHEUNG MAN-YEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF SIK SIK YUEN, MR WONG WAN-TIN, WHO HAS GIVEN FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CYC MOVEMENT.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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FEE FOR BILINGUAL PRIVATE BILLS

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO SET A FEE FOR BILINGUAL PRIVATE BILLS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THE PRIVATE BILLS BILL 1990 PROPOSES THAT THE FEE CHARGEABLE FOR A PRIVATE BILL DRAFTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE BE SET AT \$50,000, THAT IS TWICE THAT FOR A BILL DRAFTED IN ONLY ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FEE FOR PRIVATE BILLS DRAFTED IN ONLY ONE LANGUAGE, CURRENTLY \$25,000, WOULD NOT BE REVISED FOR THE TIME BEING.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE BILL TO BE INTRODUCED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXISTING PRIVATE BILLS ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS ENACTED IN 1915, ONLY PROVIDED FOR A FEE TO BE LEVIED FOR PRIVATE BILLS DRAFTED IN ONE LANGUAGE.

"FOLLOWING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ORDINANCE WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON APRIL 7, 1989, ALL ORDINANCES, EXCEPT THOSE WHICH ARE URGENT OR ARE TO AMEND EXISTING ORDINANCES, SHOULD BE ENACTED AND PUBLISHED IN BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

"A NEW FEE HAS TO BE SET SINCE IT TAKES MORE TIME FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS TO VET A BILINGUAL BILL THAN A BILL DRAFTED IN ONLY ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES," HE SAID.

"IN THE CASE OF PRIVATE BILLS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "THE CHIEF SECRETARY MAY WAIVE PAYMENT OF THE FEE UPON APPLICATION FROM THE PROMOTER."

THE PRIVATE BILLS BILL 1990 IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21.

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PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN DEC AND IN 1989

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED LITTLE GROWTH IN THE YEAR 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988, WHILE THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 19 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) ROSE BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1989 WITH DECEMBER 1988, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 8 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME DECREASED BY 8 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR DECEMBER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN 1989 COMPARED WITH 1988, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-41 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-26 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-19 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-18 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-17 PER CENT) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (-12 PER CENT).

NEVERTHELESS, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+22 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+11 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+9 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+6 PER CENT) AND CLOTHING (+4 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN 1989 COMPARED WITH 1988.

THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+10 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+6 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+5 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+5 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+3 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+1 PER CENT); AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-3 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-1 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR DECEMBER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN 1989 COMPARED WITH 1988. INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS (OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR); SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND RICE. DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; AND FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT. INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR FOOTWEAR; CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A DECREASE IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN 1989 COMPARED WITH 1988. INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR RAW COTTON; SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES. SOME OTHER COMMODITY ITEMS RECORDED DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME, NOTABLY CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; BASE METALS AND IRON AND STEEL.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988. THERE WERE INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; OFFICE MACHINES AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND TEXTILE MACHINERY.

COMPARING THE IMPORT PRICES IN 1989 WITH THOSE IN 1988, ALL END-USE CATEGORIES SHOWED SOME INCREASES: FUELS (+12 PER CENT); CONSUMER GOODS (+5 PER CENT); CAPITAL GOODS (+3 PER CENT); FOODSTUFFS (+3 PER CENT) AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR DECEMBER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIODS IN 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FUELS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 135 PER CENT IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988. THOSE OF CONSUMER GOODS; CAPITAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 34 PER CENT, 17 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN 1989 AS COMPARED WITH 1988: FUELS (+11 PER CENT); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+7 PER CENT); CONSUMER GOODS (+6 PER CENT); CAPITAL GOODS (+5 PER CENT) AND FOODSTUFFS (+5 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MARCH 12 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 8234918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING DEC 1989 WITH DEC 1988			COMPARING JAN-DEC 1989 WITH JAN-DEC 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-3	4	-7	7	3	4
TEXTILE FABRICS	5	3	2	10	1	9
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-14	6	-19	9	3	6
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-25	3	-27	-12	6	-18
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-42	-2	-41	-41	*	-41
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	6	*	6	18	-3	22
FOOTWEAR	-19	1	-20	-20	*	-19
METAL MANUFACTURES	-20	5	-24	-4	10	-12
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-28	-3	-25	12	1	11
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-6	-2	-4	-1	-1	*
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-2	5	-6	-13	5	-17
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-29	1	-29	-22	5	-26
ALL COMMODITIES	-6	2	-8	3	3	*

* LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 2:

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING DEC 1989 WITH DEC 1988			COMPARING JAN-DEC 1989 WITH JAN-DEC 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-2	3	-5	6	3	3
CONSUMER GOODS	7	5	2	23	5	17
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	-12	*	-12	7	2	4
FUELS	45	23	18	42	12	26
CAPITAL GOODS	-21	3	-23	9	3	6
ALL COMMODITIES	-5	3	-8	13	4	9

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING DEC 1989 WITH DEC 1988			COMPARING JAN-DEC 1989 WITH JAN-DEC 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-18	3	-20	1	5	-4
CONSUMER GOODS	23	7	15	42	6	34
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	-8	5	-13	10	7	3
FUELS	179	32	111	160	11	135
CAPITAL GOODS	-7	4	-11	23	5	17
ALL COMMODITIES	5	6	*	26	6	19

* LESS THAN 0.5%

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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PREQUALIFICATION FOR HOSPITAL EXTENSION PROJECT
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING CONTRACTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR STAGE III OF THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME, INVOLVING ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO BLOCK B AND THE PATHOLOGY BUILDING.

THE RENOVATION PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE UPGRADING OF FINISHES, FITTINGS, BUILDING SERVICES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DANGEROUS GOODS STORE AND PLANT ROOMS AND OTHER ITEMS.

THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY 1994.

ONLY CONTRACTORS ON THE PUBLIC WORKS APPROVED CONTRACTORS LIST 1 GROUP 'C' FOR "BUILDING" OR LIST 2 FOR "BUILDING" MAY APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION.

THOSE WHO HAVE SENT IN THEIR SUBMISSION IN THE PREVIOUS PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR THE PROJECT SHOULD RE-APPLY DUE TO CHANGES IN CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE CONTRACT IS A LUMP SUM TENDER UNDER WHICH SELECTED BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACTORS WILL ENTER INTO DOMESTIC SUB-CONTRACTS WITH THE MAIN CONTRACTOR.

INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES (ATTN. CHIEF ARCHITECT/6), 40TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, BEFORE MARCH 23.

A NOTICE ON THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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VILLAGERS, FISHERMEN CELEBRATE HUNG SHING FESTIVAL
* * * * *

HUNDREDS OF VILLAGERS AND FISHERMEN TODAY (FRIDAY) CELEBRATED THE HUNG SHING FESTIVAL AT KAU SAI ISLAND IN SAI KUNG WITH OPERAS AND A "FA P'AAU" LUCKY DRAW CEREMONY.

THE HUNG SHING FESTIVAL IS A BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL FOR THE POPULAR DEITY HUNG SHING KUNG, WHO TRADITION SAYS WAS BORN ON THE 13TH DAY OF THE SECOND MOON.

ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAND, MR MA WING-DOR, HIS ANCESTORS STARTED CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO AND IT HAD BECOME A VILLAGE TRADITION SINCE THEN.

/THOUGH WORSHIPPED

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THOUGH WORSHIPPED BY MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING ON THE WATER, THE ORIGIN OF THE DEITY IS LITTLE KNOWN.

ONE STORY IS THAT HE WAS AN OFFICIAL OF KWANGTUNG PROVINCE IN THE TANG DYNASTY (618 - 907 AD) WHO KNEW HOW TO FORETELL THE WEATHER. ANOTHER SAYS HE IS THE DRAGON KING WHO RULES THE SOUTHERN SEAS.

BOTH VERSIONS EXPLAIN HIS IMPORTANCE TO SEAFARERS AND FISHERMEN. THIS MAY ALSO EXPLAIN WHY MANY FISHERMEN GROUPS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TERRITORY SUCH AS SHAU KEI WAN, ABERDEEN, TAI PO AND LANTAU CAME TO JOIN TODAY'S CELEBRATION ON KAU SAI ISLAND.

THE CLIMAX OF THE CELEBRATION WAS THE "FA P'AAU" LUCKY DRAW CEREMONY AFTER THE VILLAGE LUNCH.

THE "FA P'AAU" IS A TOWERING FLORAL SHRINE. USUALLY ABOUT 20 FEET TALL, IT IS MADE OF BAMBOO AND COLOUR PAPER AND HUNG WITH LETTUCES AND GINGER AND, IN A SMALL GLASS CASE, THE WOODEN STATUS OF THE SAINTLY LORD HUNG.

THERE WERE 34 "FA P'AAUS" FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION.

EACH WINNER OF THE LUCKY DRAW WAS GIVEN A "FA P'AAU" WHICH IS CONSIDERED A GUARANTEE OF GOOD FORTUNE AND GOOD HEALTH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, OR VILLAGE, FOR THE COMING 12 MONTHS.

MANY LOCAL DIGNITARIES, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED THE CELEBRATIONS.

AMONG THEM WERE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG, WHO ALSO MADE THE FIRST DRAW, AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LISA CHAN.

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NEW REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WSD OPENS

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A NEW REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (FRIDAY) TO TAKE CHARGE OF DAILY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, LANTAU ISLAND, PENG CHAU, CHEUNG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND.

IT WAS OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR K.L. WONG.

THE HONG KONG AND ISLANDS REGIONAL OFFICE ALSO PROVIDES TECHNICAL SERVICES TO CONSUMERS IN THESE AREAS.

THE OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.15 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAYS.

/THE OFFICE'S

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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THE OFFICE'S TECHNICAL COMPLAINTS CENTRE OPERATES ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

COMPLAINTS OF TECHNICAL FAULTS IN THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS SUCH AS A WATER MAIN BURST OR WEAK WATER PRESSURE TO THE CONSUMER'S TAP OCCURRING IN THESE AREAS CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 8802500 BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 8 AM, AND 8110788 BETWEEN 8 AM AND MIDNIGHT.

THE FOUR-STOREY OFFICE AT 611 KING'S ROAD IN NORTH POINT REPLACES THE OFFICE IN BULLOCK LANE, WAN CHAI.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE BEGAN IN APRIL 1988 AND WAS COMPLETED LAST MONTH.

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TSEUNG KWAN O TO HOLD VARIETY SHOW ON SUNDAY
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A "LOVELY HOMES IN TSEUNG KWAN O" VARIETY SHOW, AND A PRIZE PRESENTATION TO WINNERS OF A RELATED SLOGAN COMPETITION, WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 11).

THE SHOW IS ORGANISED BY THE TSEUNG KWAN O AREA COMMITTEE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD.

IT AIMS AT CULTIVATING A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG RESIDENTS, AND GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SERVICES IN THE NEW TOWN.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES, AN INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL, SINGING, DANCES AND A MAGIC SHOW. THESE WILL BE GIVEN BY SCHOOLS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

IN ADDITION, THE SCHOOLS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL JOINTLY STAGE AN EXHIBITION ON THEIR WORK AND SERVICES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FREDERICK TONG; CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, MR WILLIAM WAN; SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (SAI KUNG) OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR YUEN HON-KEUNG; AND POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER AT KWUN TONG POLICE STATION, MR LAW WAI-SHING.

/ADMISSION IS

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ADMISSION IS FREE AND TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. COACHES WILL DEPART THE TIU KENG LENG BUS TERMINAL AND THE OPEN SPACE OFF CARMEL DIVINE GRACE FOUNDATION SECONDARY SCHOOL AT 1.30 PM AND 1.45 PM RESPECTIVELY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE "LOVELY HOMES IN TSEUNG KWAN O" VARIETY SHOW ON SUNDAY (MARCH 11) AT TSUI LAM AMPHITHEATRE, TSUI LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE SHOW WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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CLEANING AND PLANTING FOR CHARITY

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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT CLEAN AND PLANT FOR CHARITY CAMPAIGN WILL BE LAUNCHED ON THE PAVEMENT OUTSIDE CAUSEWAY BAY PLAZA, 485 HENNESSY ROAD, AT NOON TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, FUNDS WILL BE RAISED FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST IN WAN CHAI AND TREES PLANTED IN THE QUARRY BAY COUNTRY PARK BY BOY SCOUTS FROM THE DISTRICT.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST, MR DENIS BRAY; AND MISS HONG KONG 1989, MISS MONICA CHAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WILL BE HOSTED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN AFTER THE CEREMONY AT 1 PM IN NOVEL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, FOURTH FLOOR, 6 TONNOCHY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY AND TO ATTEND THE COCKTAIL RECEPTION.

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TAI PO FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL

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RESIDENTS IN TAI PO ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL TO BE HELD AT TAI PO CENTRAL TOWN SQUARE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE CARNIVAL, ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD, IS AIMED AT SPREADING THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A POLICE BAND PERFORMANCE, MAGIC SHOW, FILIPINO DANCE AND A DISPLAY BY THE POLICE DOG UNIT.

THERE WILL ALSO BE STALL GAMES, AN INFLATABLE CARTOON FIGURE, AND EXHIBITIONS ON ROAD SAFETY, FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-BURGLARY.

THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG, ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER MISS MARY CHOW, AND POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR S.P. CORRICK, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT TAI PO CENTRAL TOWN SQUARE.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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FLAG DAY ORGANISERS DISCUSS RESPONSIBILITIES

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ABOUT 30 REPRESENTATIVES FROM ORGANISATIONS ALLOCATED A FLAG DAY IN 1990 MET TODAY (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT BE ENCOUNTERED IN ORGANISING FLAG DAYS.

ARRANGED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE BRIEFING SESSION DREW AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM PARTICIPANTS.

"PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSION AGREED THAT THEY HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE PUBLIC IN THE ORGANISATION OF FLAG DAY ACTIVITIES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON COMMON PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT BE ENCOUNTERED AND HOW THESE MIGHT BE TACKLED.

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ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN, SUCH AS TWO ORGANISATIONS MISTAKENLY SELLING FLAGS ON THE SAME DAY AND FLAG SELLING BY PERSONS SUSPECTED TO BE IMPOSTORS, WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

"PARTICIPANTS WERE REMINDED OF THE RULES AND CONDITIONS BY WHICH FLAG DAY ORGANISATIONS HAVE TO ABIDE; THE RULES AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF VOLUNTEERS; THE NEED TO ISSUE CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO VOLUNTEERS AND THE LOCATIONS TO BE COVERED BY FLAG SELLERS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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NEW ENQUIRY CENTRE FOR TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS

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THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES (PESC'S) IN TSUEN WAN ARE AMONG THE MOST POPULAR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MAKING UP ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE REGION, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TSUEN WAN SOUTH PESC AT THE TOWN CENTRE, MR SHIU SAID THE FIVE ENQUIRY CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT HANDLED AN AVERAGE OF 60,000 GENERAL ENQUIRIES, 2,100 DECLARATIONS, 20 LEGAL ADVICE CASES AND DISTRIBUTED OVER 50,000 GOVERNMENT FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS EACH MONTH.

"THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PESC'S ARE WELL RECEIVED BY THE RESIDENTS AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITH THE GROWING POPULATION PUBLIC DEMAND ON THESE SERVICES WILL INCREASE ACCORDINGLY," MR SHIU SAID.

"THE SCOPE OF SERVICES OFFERED BY THE PESC'S WILL ALSO HAVE TO EXPAND TO TIE IN WITH THE STEADY DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

"MOREOVER, THE PESC'S WILL ALSO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE CHANNEL BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS."

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF TSUEN WAN CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE, MR CHU CHUNG-SHING.

THE TSUEN WAN SOUTH PESC IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR, 43-45 SHIU WO STREET, AND THE ENQUIRY TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 4931451.

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FIVE RETAILERS FINED FOR IMPROPER FOOD LABELLING

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS WERE REMINDED TODAY (FRIDAY) NOT TO SELL FOOD ITEMS IN PREPACKAGED FORM, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKAGED, WITHOUT PROPER LABELLING AS REQUIRED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

GIVING THE ADVICE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH POINTED OUT THAT THE PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING THE REGULATIONS WAS A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH FIVE RETAILERS WERE FINED FROM \$1,000 TO \$4,000.

IN THE FIRST CASE, HEARD IN THE NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY, A BAKERY IN SHAM SHUI PO WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$4,000 FOR SELLING PREPACKAGED SLICED BREAD AND COOKIES WITHOUT THE REQUIRED MARKING OR LABELLING.

THE ITEMS DID NOT HAVE THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER, THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OR NET VOLUME OF THE FOOD.

IN ANOTHER CASE, HEARD IN THE CENTRAL MAGISTRACY, A SUPERMARKET IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WAS FINED A TOTAL OF \$1,000 FOR SELLING TWO PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS -- FROZEN MIXED VEGETABLES AND FROZEN BABY CARROTS -- WITHOUT MARKING OR LABELLING WITH STORAGE CONDITIONS AS WELL AS THE AFOREMENTIONED FIVE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE REGULATIONS.

THE REMAINING THREE CASES WERE HEARD AT THE WESTERN MAGISTRACY. THREE RETAIL OUTLETS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WERE FINED \$1,000 EACH FOR SELLING PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS -- RADISH WITH CHILLI AND FRIED PIG SKIN -- WITHOUT PROPER LABELLING.

THE BOTTLE OF RADISH WITH CHILLI SOLD BY ONE OF THE ABOVE RETAIL OUTLETS HAD NOT BEEN MARKED OR LABELLED WITH THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER, AND THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OR NET VOLUME OF THE FOOD.

BESIDES NOT HAVING THIS INFORMATION, THE PLASTIC BAG OF FRIED PIG SKIN SOLD BY THE OTHER TWO RETAILERS HAD ALSO NOT BEEN MARKED OR LABELLED WITH THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD.

THE RETAIL OUTLETS WERE PROSECUTED UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS, SECTION 55 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDINANCE.

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RECLAMATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LANDING FACILITIES PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION AT TAI A CHAU AND CONSTRUCT A SMALL BOAT PONTOON LANDING FACILITY AT SAI KUNG.

THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 9.51 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TAI A CHAU.

IT IS TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE BERTHING OF BOATS, CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROADS.

ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT A SMALL BOAT PONTOON LANDING FACILITY FOR USE BY THE MARINE POLICE WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 1,125 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE OPERATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE NEW MARINE POLICE DIVISION BASE BEING CONSTRUCTED AT THE TUI MIN HOI SITE.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE MAY 8 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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PETROL FILLING STATION TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE TENANCY OF A PETROL FILLING STATION AT MIDDLE ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK, KOWLOON.

THE AREA MEASURES ABOUT 43.2 SQUARE METRES, AND IS TO BE USED FOR PETROL FILLING STATION PURPOSES ONLY.

THE LEASE IS FOR SEVEN YEARS COMMENCING FROM THE DATE OF POSSESSION.

THE FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SECTION OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, FIRST FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

TENDERS CLOSE AT NOON ON APRIL 6.

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GOVT PROPERTIES FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING FIVE GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MARCH 27.

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM IN THE HALL OF THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, KOWLOON.

THE LOCATIONS AND DETAILS OF THE PROPERTIES ARE:

- * FIFTH FLOOR OF 456 SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, KOWLOON; WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 58.3 SQUARE METRES; FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
- * FLAT NO. 7 ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF BLOCK A, TUNG LO COURT, 136-154 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON; WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 36.9 SQUARE METRES; FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
- * ELEVENTH FLOOR AND ROOF OF 42 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON; WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 66.8 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 56 SQUARE METRES FOR THE 11TH FLOOR AND ROOF RESPECTIVELY; FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES;
- * GROUND FLOOR OF 1D UN CHAU STREET, KOWLOON; WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 47.4 SQUARE METRES; FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES;
- * SHOP NO. 11 ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF CHI FAI COURT, 31-35 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON; WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 6.8 SQUARE METRES; FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

ALL THE PROPERTIES WILL BE SOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

INSPECTION OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE MADE DURING THE FOLLOWING OPENING HOURS:

PROPERTY -----	DATE ----	OPENING HOURS -----
FIFTH FLOOR, 456 SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, KOWLOON.	MARCH 14 MARCH 16	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM 2 PM - 5 PM
FLAT NO. 7, 12TH FLOOR, BLOCK A, TUNG LO COURT, 136-154 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON.	MARCH 14 MARCH 21	2 PM - 5 PM 9.30 AM - 12.30 PM

/11TH FLOOR

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11TH FLOOR AND ROOF, 42 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON.	MARCH 16 MARCH 21	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM 2 PM - 5 PM
GROUND FLOOR, 1D UN CHAU STREET, KOWLOON	MARCH 12 MARCH 19	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM 2 PM - 5 PM
SHOP NO. 11, FIRST FLOOR, CHI FAI COURT, 31-35 TAI PO ROAD, KOWLOON.	MARCH 12 MARCH 19	2 PM - 5 PM 9.30 AM - 12.30 PM

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NEW ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR TSING YI NORTH

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THE TSING YI CHEUNG FAT ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER OF THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE IS NOW OPEN TO SERVE RESIDENTS IN NORTHERN TSING YI.

THE SERVICE AREA INCLUDES CHEUNG FAT ESTATE, CHEUNG ON ESTATE, TSING YI ESTATE, CHING TAI COURT, CHING NGA COURT, GREENFIELD GARDEN; FUNG SHUE WO, TSING KIN, TSING YAN, TSING TSUI, TSING FAI TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS; AND CHEUNG HANG ESTATE WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS MAY APPLY TO USE THE HALL OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS OR SPORTS ACTIVITIES. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE CHEUNG FAT ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MAY WAIVE CHARGES FOR USING THE HALL IF THE ACTIVITIES ARE NON-PROFIT MAKING.

WHEN THE HALL IS NOT BOOKED, IT WILL BE OPEN TO FREE ADMISSION FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTER LOCATED AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE PROVIDES SERVICES OF COUNSELLING, DECLARATION OF OATHS AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND FORMS.

THE DECLARATION SERVICE IS AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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CLEAN-UP OPERATION IN TIU KENG LENG

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A CLEAN-UP OPERATION AIMED AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT WAS HELD AT TIU KENG LENG IN SAI KUNG TODAY (FRIDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, IT WAS PART OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES BEING ARRANGED IN THE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WAS HELD AT TIU KENG LENG SECONDARY SCHOOL BEFORE THE OPERATION BEGAN. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN, OFFICIATED.

THE OFFICIATING GUESTS AND VOLUNTEERS GAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF CLEAN-UP WORK AFTER THE CEREMONY.

THE VOLUNTEERS CAME FROM TIU KENG LENG SECONDARY SCHOOL, TIU KENG LENG PRIMARY SCHOOL, MING YUEN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MING YUEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, QUEEN MAUD MIDDLE SCHOOL AND QUEEN MAUD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

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NEW RAMP FOR WONG TAI SIN FOOTBRIDGE TO HELP DISABLED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE RAMP AND WIDENING OF PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH FUNG TAK ROAD IN WONG TAI SIN.

A TENDER NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE JUNCTION OF PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AND FUNG TAK ROAD WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED.

THE NEW RAMP TO THE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE WILL ASSIST THE DISABLED IN CROSSING PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

LANDSCAPE WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT ALONG PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN EARLY MAY AND BE COMPLETED BY MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

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WITHDRAWAL OF AIRPORT GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 14, OPERATING BETWEEN LOK FU AND THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SERVICE FROM SUNDAY (MARCH 11) DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TRAVELLING TO THE AIRPORT MAY USE THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE BUS SERVICES:

- * KMB ROUTE A4, WHICH PLIES BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND MONG KOK KCR STATION, ALSO SERVES PRINCE EDWARD MTR STATION AND MONG KOK MTR STATION EN ROUTE; AND
- * KMB ROUTE 11D, WHICH PLIES BETWEEN LOK FU AND KWUN TONG FERRY, ALSO SERVES THE AIRPORT EN ROUTE.

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RE-OPENING OF PEKING ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 12), PEKING ROAD IN TSIM SHA TSUI BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH NATHAN ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES TO THE WEST WILL BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF WORK ON AN ADDITIONAL MTR ENTRANCE.

SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON NATHAN ROAD WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT ONTO PEKING ROAD, BUT THE RIGHT-TURN ONTO MIDDLE ROAD WILL BE BANNED.

AT THE SAME TIME, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 8, ON JOURNEYS TO TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL OPERATE VIA PEKING ROAD, ASHLEY ROAD AND MIDDLE ROAD.

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