



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1989

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FS SEES SCOPE FOR VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY

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HONG KONG HAS AN INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS RECEPTIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE KNOWLEDGE AND CAPITAL INTENSIVE OPERATIONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY. MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC VENTURE CAPITAL CONFERENCE 1989 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR JACOBS SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS "TECHNOLOGY-FRIENDLY" AND THIS BODED WELL FOR THE COMING OF AGE OF ITS VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY.

TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF VENTURE CAPITAL FINANCING IN HONG KONG, HE SAID IT WAS A COMPARATIVELY NEW CONCEPT HERE.

"WITH THE GROWING REALISATION THAT THE UPGRADING OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN HONG KONG IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR COMPETITIVENESS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, MANY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEGUN TO FOCUS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF A METHOD OF EQUITY FINANCING WHICH COULD HELP IN PROJECTS WHICH REQUIRE LONGER START-UP AND PAYBACK PERIODS," MR JACOBS SAID.

MANY OF THESE PROJECTS WERE IMAGINATIVE AND INNOVATIVE, AND OFTEN THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

"BUT THE INITIAL RISK IS USUALLY HIGH. AS A RESULT, IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN CONVENTIONAL FINANCING FROM BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

"HOWEVER, IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO HONG KONG, IT IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE THAT THESE PROJECTS BE PROPERLY SUPPORTED," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS NOTED THAT A WORKING PARTY HAD BEEN FORMED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN NOVEMBER 1986 TO ASSESS THE SUITABILITY OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY.

AS A RESULT OF ONE OF THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE HONG KONG VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1987 TO FACILITATE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION REGARDING VENTURE CAPITAL AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND BETWEEN ITSELF AND OUTSIDE PARTIES WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

THE ASSOCIATION HAD ATTRACTED 25 FULL MEMBERS AND 25 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

"THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE GROWING INTEREST IN AND VITALITY OF THE LOCAL VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

/MR JACOBS

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MR JACOBS SAID THE FORMATION OF AN ORGANISED VENTURE CAPITAL INDUSTRY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE TIMELY AS FAR AS HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WAS CONCERNED.

"MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG HAS RECENTLY BEEN UNDERGOING A QUIET REVOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSTRAINTS OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AT HOME AND STRONG COMPETITION IN OUR MAIN EXPORT MARKETS.

"MANUFACTURERS HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO THINK MORE SERIOUSLY, NOT JUST ABOUT PRODUCTION COST, BUT ALSO ABOUT INCREASED INVESTMENT IN AUTOMATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF QUALITY, PRECISION AND INNOVATION," HE POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THIS CALLED FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN MATERIALS, MANUFACTURING PROCESSES AND ENGINEERING DESIGNS.

"BECAUSE THE PROCESSES ARE OFTEN UNTRIED OR UNTESTED, VENTURE CAPITAL IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE FINANCING MEDIUM," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS OWN PART, RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO UPGRADE.

"WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO LEAVE INDIVIDUAL INVESTMENT DECISIONS TO INDUSTRIALISTS, WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT IN FACILITATING THIS PROCESS OF UPGRADING," HE SAID.

MR JACOBS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE GOVERNMENT'S PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN THE ADOPTION OF AUTOMATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

"OUR THIRD UNIVERSITY, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WILL START ITS FIRST STUDENT INTAKE IN 1991.

"WE HAVE ENGAGED CONSULTANTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AND POSSIBLY A FOURTH, TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIALISED MANUFACTURING PROCESSES WHICH CANNOT BE OPERATED IN ORDINARY MULTI-STORY FACTORY BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN HONG KONG WERE WELL UNDERWAY, HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THIS CENTRE, WHEN ESTABLISHED, WOULD FOSTER CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION.

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MOVE TO PLUG LOOPHOLES IN MONEY CHANGERS LAW

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THE MONEY CHANGERS ORDINANCE IS TO BE REVISED TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR TOURISTS AND OTHERS WHO CHANGE FOREIGN CURRENCY.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED IN THE MONEY CHANGERS ORDINANCE NEEDED AMENDMENT TO REMOVE A NUMBER OF LEGAL LOOPHOLES AND AMBIGUITIES.

A WORKING GROUP SET UP TO STUDY THE PROBLEM HAD FOUND THAT SOME MONEY CHANGERS WERE PROVIDING FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION, AND FAILING TO COMPLY WITH OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE. DIFFICULTIES IN ENFORCEMENT MEANT THAT THESE INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAW WERE NOT BEING PUNISHED, AND THE LAW WAS BEING FLOUTED.

THE WORKING GROUP, ESTABLISHED IN 1986 BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, AND OFFICIALS FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO SPECIFY PRECISELY WHAT MUST BE SHOWN ON THE NOTICE BOARD AND THE TRANSACTION NOTE SO THAT CUSTOMERS HAD A CLEAR IDEA OF THE TERMS OF THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY.

THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF A NEW BILL DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE INCLUDE -

- * A REQUIREMENT THAT A MONEY CHANGER MUST COMPLETE A TRANSACTION NOTE BEFORE THE EXCHANGE TRANSACTION IS FINALISED. THE NOTE IS TO BE BILINGUAL AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD;
- * THE MONEY CHANGER MUST ONLY USE NET RATES OF EXCHANGE, THAT IS AFTER DEDUCTING ALL CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS, IN THE NOTE;
- * THE MONEY CHANGER MUST MAINTAIN A BOARD DISPLAYING CLEARLY THE NET BUYING AND SELLING RATES OF EXCHANGE, FOR CURRENCIES LISTED IN A SCHEDULE TO THE BILL.

FOR OTHER CURRENCIES NOT LISTED ON THE BOARD, THE MONEY CHANGER MUST ADVISE A CUSTOMER IN WRITING OF THE NET RATES HE IS PREPARED TO OFFER;

- * A NEW CLAUSE PROHIBITING A MONEY CHANGER FROM DISPLAYING FALSE OR MISLEADING NOTICES OR MAKING FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS;
- * THE EXTENSION OF CRIMINAL LIABILITY TO DIRECTORS, MANAGERS OR SECRETARIES OF CORPORATE MONEY CHANGERS.

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AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, MR MACLEOD SAID THE PRESENT ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS ENACTED IN APRIL 1985, HAD NOT FULFILLED EXPECTATIONS IN THAT THE CURRENT PRACTICES ADOPTED BY MANY MONEY CHANGERS DID NOT ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO EASILY COMPARE THE RATES ON OFFER.

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE, THERE WAS A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS. HOWEVER, AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF MALPRACTICE CONTINUED WITHIN THE MONEY CHANGING TRADE.

"THIS GENERATES A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS," MR MACLEOD SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS DID NOT REVEAL THE TRUE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM. THIS WAS BECAUSE TOURISTS NORMALLY ONLY STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR A FEW DAYS.

EVEN WHEN DISSATISFIED, THE RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED WAS NOT WORTH THE EFFORT OF THEM MAKING A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE POLICE.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WOULD MAKE ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION MUCH EASIER.

THE CONSUMER COUNCIL RECEIVED 41 COMPLAINTS REGARDING MONEY CHANGERS IN 1987 AND 14 COMPLAINTS FOR THE FIRST 10 MONTHS LAST YEAR.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP WERE MADE PUBLIC IN NOVEMBER 1987 FOR CONSULTATION.

ACCORDING TO MR MACLEOD, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF MONEY CHANGERS DID NOT EXPRESS A VIEW WHILE THE REACTION OF OTHERS NOT IN THE BUSINESS WAS POSITIVE.

THE MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989 IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 20) AND ITS FIRST READING AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND READING DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25.

MR MACLEOD ADDED THAT A MINIMUM OF THREE MONTHS WOULD BE ALLOWED AFTER ENACTMENT FOR THE TRADE TO ADJUST TO THE NEW RULES.

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LAB AGREES TO SET UP NEW INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
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THE NEW LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, AT ITS FIRST MEETING THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO SET UP A NEW COMMITTEE ON APRIL 1 TO ADVISE THE BOARD ON MATTERS CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION.

IT WILL REPLACE THE OLD INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE FORMED UNDER THE BOARD.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD CONCENTRATE ITS RESOURCES ON REVIEWING, DEVELOPING, PUBLICISING AND ENFORCING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION.

THE NEW COMMITTEE WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION, AND WILL RECOMMEND MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING HIGHER STANDARDS OF SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

IT WILL ALSO KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AND ADVISE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INTRODUCING ANY AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS.

THE BOARD ALSO AGREED ON THE NEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXISTING COMMITTEES ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS, LABOUR RELATIONS, AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION.

THE BOARD THEN NOTED A LIST OF AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LABOUR LEGISLATION WHICH WERE CONSIDERED BY THE LAST BOARD DURING 1987 AND 1988, AND A LIST OF NEW ITEMS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE REFERRED TO THE BOARD FOR ADVICE THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS FURTHER NOTED THE BOARD'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION AS WELL AS A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1989.

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BANKING TRAINING CENTRE TO BE OFFICIALLY OPENED
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THE BANKING TRAINING CENTRE OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD, MR DAVID K.P. LI, TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE CENTRE HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE LAST APRIL, PROVIDING UPGRADING TRAINING FOR BANKING STAFF.

/THE COURSES

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THE COURSES OFFERED HAVE PROVED EXTREMELY POPULAR. BY THE END OF 1988, MORE THAN 1,700 PEOPLE HAD RECEIVED TRAINING, THE MANAGER OF THE CENTRE, MR LYLE DAVISON, SAID.

"MOREOVER, IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING THAT THE CENTRE HAS RECEIVED 4,000 APPLICATIONS FOR 10 DIFFERENT TYPES OF COURSES BEING PLANNED FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

"EVENTUALLY, THE CENTRE WILL OFFER A PORTFOLIO OF SOME 40 COURSES TO BANKING STAFF AT ALL LEVELS," MR DAVISON ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BANKING TRAINING CENTRE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE SIXTH FLOOR, VICWOOD PLAZA, 102 CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG. THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

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PRISONER AWARDED CERTIFICATE FOR COMPLETING DEGREE PROGRAMME

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A PRISONER WHO STUDIED HARD IN A PENAL INSTITUTION WAS PRESENTED A CERTIFICATE TODAY (MONDAY) FOR HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE CHINESE DEGREE PROGRAMME - A DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES RUN BY THE EAST ASIA OPEN INSTITUTE IN MACAU.

HE WAS PRESENTED THE CERTIFICATE BY THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA, MACAU, MR E.G. FIELD, AT A CEREMONY AT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS' CLUB.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE CHINESE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, EAST ASIA OPEN INSTITUTE, PROFESSOR CHIU WING-KIN, SAID THE CEREMONY MARKED A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE THREE PARTIES, NAMELY THE PRISONER HIMSELF, THE CSD AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA.

HE SAID THE CHINESE DEGREE PROGRAMME BEGAN IN 1983, AND UP TO NOW, ABOUT 300 PEOPLE HAD BEEN AWARDED BACHELOR DEGREES BY THE UNIVERSITY.

THE 29-YEAR-OLD INMATE, SURNAMED CHAN, ENROLLED IN THE DEGREE PROGRAMME IN 1983. AFTER FIVE YEARS' DILIGENT STUDIES, MR CHAN COMPLETED ALL THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUISITE EXAMINATIONS.

/A CSD

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A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALWAYS MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP ADULT INMATES, IF THEY SO WISHED, IN THEIR PRIVATE STUDIES.

"IN MR CHAN'S CASE, OUR STAFF HAVE RENDERED HIM MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE COURSE, INCLUDING BORROWING REFERENCE BOOKS FOR HIM FROM PUBLIC LIBRARIES, HELPING HIM IN THE ACQUISITION OF NECESSARY STATIONERY AND GIVING HIM PRIVATE TUITION WHENEVER REQUIRED.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO HELPED HIM SEND HIS COURSE ASSIGNMENTS TO THE OPEN INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY," HE ADDED.

AT A SEPARATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT STANLEY PRISON EARLIER TODAY, CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO 10 PRISONERS WHO HAD PASSED THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION AND TO 21 PRISONERS WHO HAD COMPLETED MONOCHROME DRAWING COURSES CONDUCTED BY THE EXTRA-MURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THE CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF EAST ASIA OPEN INSTITUTE, MR K.W.J. TOPLEY.

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NEW YEAR STAMPS ON SALE FROM WEDNESDAY

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THE POST OFFICE REMINDED THE PUBLIC TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE SNAKE SPECIAL STAMPS WILL GO ON SALE ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 18).

THE SET COMPRISES FOUR DENOMINATIONS - 60 CENTS, \$1.40, \$1.80 AND \$5.

A SOUVENIR SHEET CONTAINING A SET OF THE FOUR STAMPS AT \$8.80 EACH AND A STAMP FOLDER AT \$12 EACH WILL ALSO BE ISSUED.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS ARE ALREADY ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES.

ALL POST OFFICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS ON WEDNESDAY AND TO ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO TRANSACT NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS, ADDITIONAL COUNTERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN POST OFFICES.

"EXTRA STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY AT MOST POST OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY BUT QUEUES ARE NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO FORM AND, IF POSSIBLE, THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO TRANSACT THEIR NORMAL POSTAL BUSINESS ON THE PRECEDING DAY OR THE DAY FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE," A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS HOLIDAY FLATS' PROBLEMS

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MEMBERS OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO REVIEW THE LATEST SITUATION CONCERNING HOLIDAY FLATS ON OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THEY WILL LOOK INTO THE SITUATION IN CHEUNG CHAU IN PARTICULAR TO SEE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN IMPROVEMENTS AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF SELF-REGULATORY RULES BY HOLIDAY FLAT OWNERS, AND WILL ADVISE ON FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE OUTLYING ISLANDS WATERTOURS ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND A COST ESTIMATE FOR ORGANISING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN 1989-90.

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF PRINTING PAMPHLETS TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND INSTALLING TOURIST MAP BOARDS IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO OPERATE NON-PROFIT MAKING HOLIDAY CAMPS ON LANTAU, TO SET UP A MINI-FOLK MUSEUM IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT, AND TO PRESERVE THE ROCK INSCRIPTIONS AT TAI SHEK HAU, CHEUNG CHAU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SPORTS GROUND PROJECT

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ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE TO BE PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS IN TUEN MUN.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPORTS GROUND AT AREA 5, ADJACENT TO THE TUEN MUN TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND.

/THE PROJECT

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THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2,000-SEAT COVERED SPECTATOR STAND WITH CHANGING ROOMS AND BOOKING OFFICE.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE SIX SYNTHETIC SURFACED TENNIS COURTS AND TWO CONCRETE TENNIS COURTS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ACTIVITY PLAN

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 1989-90 AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY ON THE VOTING BEHAVIOUR OF MONG KOK RESIDENTS, AND WILL REVIEW THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED UNDER THE DISTRICT'S RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF MEMBERS ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION.

THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS IN THE 1989-90 FINANCIAL YEAR WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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WINNERS OF C AND W DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST SELECTED

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FIVE GROUPS AND 13 SOLOISTS COMPETED IN THE FINALS OF THE SEVENTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT SINGING CONTEST LAST (SUNDAY) NIGHT AT THE THEATRE OF SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE.

THE COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT'S CULTURE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION, WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING INTEREST IN SINGING AMONG THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGING CONTEST WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES: CLASSICAL SONG - SOLO SECTION, POP/FOLK SONG - SOLO SECTION AND POP/FOLK SONG - GROUP SECTION.

THE EVENT HAD RECEIVED VERY GOOD RESPONSE FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS OVER THE YEARS. THIS YEAR'S FINALISTS WERE SELECTED FROM ABOUT 200 ENTRANTS AT AN AUDITION HELD IN DECEMBER.

THE WINNER OF THE CLASSICAL SONG - SOLO SECTION IS MISS CHIK WING-SHEUNG. WINNERS FOR THE POP/FOLK SONG - SOLO SECTION AND POP/FOLK SONG - GROUP SECTION ARE MISS CHAN YUK-LING AND THE CUCKOO.

THE CHAMPION AND THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP IN EACH SECTION WERE AWARDED TROPHIES AND CASH PRIZES OF \$1,000, \$700 AND \$500 RESPECTIVELY. ALL FINALISTS WERE ALSO GIVEN SOUVENIRS.

OFFICIATING AT THE CONTEST, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, MISS LOLLY CHIU, POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPETITION HAD PROVED TO BE A POPULAR EVENT IN THE DISTRICT.

"I MUST CONGRATULATE ALL CONTESTANTS FOR HAVING QUALIFIED FOR TONIGHT'S FINAL. MANY OF THEM MUST HAVE DEVOTED MUCH EFFORT TOWARDS ATTAINING THEIR PRESENT STANDARD. I WOULD LIKE TO WISH THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS," MISS CHIU SAID.

THE FINALS ALSO FEATURED GUEST PERFORMANCES BY THE BAND "BEYOND" AND POP SINGER MR HO KWOK-SING.

ALSO ATTENDING THE EVENT LAST NIGHT WERE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT, MISS LAM KAM-PING; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR CHOW WAI-KEUNG; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR YUEN BUN-KEUNG.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE CULTURAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR FINANCING THE SPRING RECEPTIONS ORGANISED BY THE CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL AND THE WAN CHAI EAST AREA COMMITTEES; THE ANNUAL DRAMA PERFORMANCE BY THE DISTRICT'S ARTS, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION; AND A CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER RECEPTION FOR THE ELDERLY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURAL AND RECREATION COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, EIGHTH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, WAN CHAI.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (YOUTH AND COMMUNITY) (SAI KUNG) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LI WING-WAI, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT AND THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES FOR RESIDENTS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE, REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 10 AM.

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WATER SUSPENSION IN FIVE DISTRICTS

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A WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

* FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI HANG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 18) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY. THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES IN LI KWAN AVENUE, FUK KWAN AVENUE, YIK KWAN AVENUE, WANG FUNG TERRACE, 6-113 TAI HANG ROAD, TAI HANG DRIVE AND CHUN FAI ROAD.

* FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THE SAME DAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES AT 127 TO 133 HOLLYWOOD ROAD (ODD NUMBERS), 76-130 HOLLYWOOD ROAD (EVEN NUMBERS), A SECTION OF LADDER STREET BETWEEN HOLLYWOOD ROAD AND CIRCULAR PATHWAY, CIRCULAR PATHWAY, A SECTION OF SHING WONG STREET BETWEEN HOLLYWOOD ROAD AND GOUGH STREET, 1-2 TSUI ON LANE, 270-276 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND LOWER LASCAR ROW.

* FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 PM THE SAME DAY TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY TA CHUEN PING STREET AND WO YI HOP ROAD.

* FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN STANLEY WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 19) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT AN AREA BOUNDED BY STANLEY GAP ROAD, STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD, STANLEY BEACH ROAD, STANLEY MOUND ROAD, CARMEL ROAD, TUNG TAU WAN ROAD, WONG MA KOK ROAD, HOI FUNG PATH, STANLEY LINK ROAD, STANLEY NEW ROAD, STANLEY MARKET ROAD, STANLEY MAIN STREET, STANLEY PRISON, MA HANG PRISON AND A SECTION OF TAI TAM ROAD FROM RED HILL TO STANLEY GAP ROAD.

* ALSO ON THURSDAY, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 10 PM.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1989

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 38.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 227.118 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 337.884 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 57.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN ICE HOUSE STREET AND BANK STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 4.30 AM FROM THURSDAY (JANUARY 19) FOR THREE NIGHTS FOR FOOTBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE FOLLOWING BUS ROUTES WILL BE DIVERTED:

- * WESTBOUND BUS ROUTES 2, 6, 111, 113 AND 121 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND JUBILEE STREET;
- * WESTBOUND BUS ROUTES 101, 104 AND 105 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL; AND
- * EASTBOUND BUS ROUTES 5B, 10, 101, 104, 105, 111, 113 AND 121 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHATER ROAD AND MURRAY ROAD.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE HUNG MUI KUK SLIP ROAD TIN SAM-BOUND LEADING FROM LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1.30 AM TO 5.30 AM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 19) FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES HEADING FOR TIN SAM AREA FROM KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND AND CHE KUNG MIU ROAD WESTBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE ALL-NIGHT GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 63K WILL ALSO BE RE-ROUTED VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NORTHBOUND AND CHE KUNG MIU ROAD WESTBOUND ON JOURNEYS TO PAK TIN (MUI LEE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA).

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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