



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1984

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BORDER LIAISON MATTERS DISCUSSED

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A DELEGATION OF OFFICIALS FROM GUANGDONG PROVINCE, LED BY MR ZHANG JIANNAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU, AND INCLUDING MR FU FEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU, IS IN HONG KONG FOR THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF BORDER LIAISON MATTERS. THE REVIEW MEETING WAS HELD IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE HONG KONG TEAM WAS LED BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND INCLUDED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALAN MASON, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JAMES MURPHIE. THE BORDER LIAISON OFFICERS OF BOTH SIDES ALSO TOOK PART.

THE BORDER LIAISON SYSTEM WAS SET UP IN 1981, AND THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO REVIEW ITS OPERATION OVER THE PAST YEAR. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE LIAISON OFFICERS WHO CONSTITUTE A VERY USEFUL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON IMMIGRATION, POLICE AND CUSTOMS MATTERS.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY VALUABLE OVER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY, DURING WHICH LIAISON OFFICERS WERE IN DAILY CONTACT TO ENSURE THAT THE FLOW OF PASSENGERS REMAINED SMOOTH DESPITE THE 25 PER CENT INCREASE IN NUMBERS OVER THE PREVIOUS RECORD.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO HOLD A FURTHER REVIEW MEETING IN NOVEMBER, IN GUANGDONG.

MR MCLAREN GAVE A DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE VISITORS FROM GUANGDONG YESTERDAY AND THE GUANGDONG TEAM WILL HOST A LUNCH TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

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IMPROVEMENT TO FIXED PENALTY PROCEDURE PROPOSED

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TWO BILLS CONTAINING AMENDMENTS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE FIXED PENALTY PROCEDURE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS AN ANOMALY IN THE LAW IN THAT PERSONS WHO NEITHER PAY A FIXED PENALTY FINE NOR DISPUTE LIABILITY FOR THE OFFENCE ARE SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY, WHEREAS THE SAME PERSONS WHO SATISFY A MAGISTRATE THAT THEY DID NOT PAY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE NOTICE BUT SUBSEQUENTLY CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE FINE ARE NOT GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL PENALTY.

UNDER THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE ADDITIONAL PENALTY, WHICH IS THE SAME AMOUNT AS THE FIXED PENALTY, WILL ALSO APPLY TO THESE OFFENDERS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FINES WITHIN TIME LIMITS SET OUT IN THE TWO BILLS.

ANOTHER LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT PROPOSED WILL ALLOW THE POLICE AT ANY TIME TO APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE TO RESCIND ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF A FIXED PENALTY OR SUBSEQUENT RELATED ORDERS.

THIS IN PRACTICE GIVES THE POLICE POWERS TO RECTIFY A MISTAKE WHICH DOES NOT SURFACE FOR SOME TIME, SUCH AS THOSE BROUGHT ABOUT BY INCORRECT DATA INPUT.

BOTH BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR FIRST READING ON FEBRUARY 15 AND TO GO THROUGH THE REMAINING LEGISLATIVE STAGES ON MARCH 14.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON THEIR PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMEICO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, AT ST JOHN'S BUILDING, 8TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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LAW EXAM PROPOSED FOR ACCOUNTANTS

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ACCOUNTANTS WHO WISH TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG MAY BE REQUIRED IN FUTURE TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE ACQUAINTED WITH LOCAL LAW AND PRACTICE BY SITTING AN EXAMINATION AND BY HAVING HAD NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR FULL-TIME APPROVED ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE LOCALLY.

THIS REQUIREMENT WILL AMPLIFY THE EXISTING LAW WHICH STIPULATES THAT APPLICANTS FOR PRACTISING CERTIFICATES MUST BE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG AND MUST POSSESS THE NECESSARY LOCAL EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.

PRACTISING CERTIFICATES, WHICH ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY, WILL ONLY BE RENEWED, AS AT PRESENT, IF THEIR HOLDERS HAVE STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS WITHIN THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THESE PROPOSALS, UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 PUBLISHED TODAY, ARE INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD AND CONTINUE TO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL PRACTICE ARE GIVEN PRACTISING CERTIFICATES.

THE PROPOSALS WERE INITIATED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, THE STATUTORY REGULATORY BODY FOR THE PROFESSION, WHO WISH TO ENSURE THAT THE HIGH STANDARDS OF ITS MEMBERS ARE MAINTAINED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO INCREASES THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CHANGES THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY, AND INTRODUCES A SIMPLER WAY TO CHANGE THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURES.

IT WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15) AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS THIRD READING ON MARCH 14.

ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COMMENT ON ITS PROVISIONS MAY WRITE TO UMEICO, AT SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, OR TO THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG.

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TAX RESERVE INTEREST NOW 7.8 PER CENT
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THE TAX-FREE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE FROM TODAY (FEBRUARY 10) ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 7.8 PER CENT, AS AGAINST THE PREVIOUS RATE OF 9.6 PER CENT.

A NOTICE OF THIS APPEARS IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE 65 CENTS PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX, THE COMMISSIONER FOR INLAND REVENUE EXPLAINED.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE, HE ADDED.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED BEFORE TODAY WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

- 8.16% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 16TH OCTOBER 1980 AND BEFORE 21ST NOVEMBER 1980;
- 9.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 21ST NOVEMBER 1980 AND BEFORE 31ST JULY 1981;
- 13.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 31ST JULY 1981 AND BEFORE 16TH OCTOBER 1981;
- 14.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 16TH OCTOBER 1981 AND BEFORE 4TH DECEMBER 1981;
- 12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 4TH DECEMBER 1981 AND BEFORE 4TH JUNE 1982;
- 10.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 4TH JUNE 1982 AND BEFORE 27TH AUGUST 1982;
- 9% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 27TH AUGUST 1982 AND BEFORE 3RD DECEMBER 1982;
- 7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 3RD DECEMBER 1982 AND BEFORE 27TH MAY 1983;
- 10.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 27TH MAY 1983 AND BEFORE 28TH OCTOBER 1983;
- 12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 28TH OCTOBER 1983 AND BEFORE 7TH NOVEMBER 1983; AND
- 9.6% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER 7TH NOVEMBER 1983 AND BEFORE 10TH FEBRUARY 1984

/BUT ALWAYS

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON 10TH FEBRUARY 1984, 10TH MARCH 1984 AND 10TH APRIL 1984 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON 10TH MAY 1984 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:-

ON \$1 000, 10TH FEBRUARY 1984 TO 10TH MAY 1984, 3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$6.5 PER MONTH	=	\$19.50
ON \$1 000, 10TH MARCH 1984 TO 10TH MAY 1984, 2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$6.5 PER MONTH	=	\$13.00
ON \$1 000, 10TH APRIL 1984 TO 10TH MAY 1984, 1 COMPLETE MONTH AT \$6.5 PER MONTH	=	\$ 6.50

		\$39.00

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NEW NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL TO BE BUILT
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A GENERAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR 400 NURSES WILL BE BUILT AT LAI KING HILL ROAD NEAR PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL.

THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT.

THE NEW SCHOOL WILL BE HOUSED IN A 16-STOREY BUILDING WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 22 800 SQUARE METRES.

IT WILL OCCUPY TWO LOWER STOREYS, WHILE THE UPPER STOREYS WILL BE USED AS QUARTERS FOR 750 GENERAL AND STUDENT NURSES. DINING AND COMMUNAL FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL START IN APRIL AND BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1985.

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MORE LAND FOR RECREATION PLANNED

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A CONTROLLED TIP WILL BE BUILT AT JORDAN VALLEY AND THEN WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION.

IT IS PART OF A PROJECT OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH ALSO INVOLVES CONSTRUCTING AN ACCESS ROAD TO THE TIP AS WELL AS 400 METRES OF DRAINAGE TO DIVERT STORM WATER IN THE AREA.

TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE SANITARY LANDFILL METHOD WILL BE USED TO BUILD THE TIP, WHICH WILL HAVE A DAILY CAPACITY OF 680 TONS OF REFUSE COLLECTED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

ONE MILLION TONS OF REFUSE WILL HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED, BY THE TIME THE TIP IS COMPLETELY FILLED IN 1989.

THE SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND PROVIDED WILL THEN BE CONVERTED TO RECREATIONAL AND AMENITY USES.

THE WORKS CONTRACT, COVERING THE ACCESS ROAD, DRAINAGE AND PART OF THE TIP PROJECT, WILL TAKE 29 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

OTHER TENDERS WILL BE INVITED LATER TO CARRY OUT THE REMAINING WORK ON BUILDING THE TIP.

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EARLY MORNING TRAFFIC CHANGES AT NORTH POINT

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KING'S ROAD BETWEEN OIL STREET AND SHU KUK STREET WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORKS FROM MIDNIGHT TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 11) UNTIL 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, DURING WHICH THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED :

- * JAVA ROAD BETWEEN NORTH POINT ROAD AND SHU KUK STREET WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS.
- * NORTH POINT ROAD BETWEEN JAVA ROAD AND KING'S ROAD WILL BECOME ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- * OIL STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND JAVA ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.
- * ALL VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHU KUK STREET, JAVA ROAD AND NORTH POINT ROAD.
- * KING'S ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN SHU KUK STREET AND TONG SHUI ROAD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO VEHICLES REQUIRING LOCAL ACCESS.

/* ALL VEHICLES

- * ALL VEHICLES ON KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR QUARRY BAY WILL BE DIVERTED VIA OIL STREET AND JAVA ROAD.
- * KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN OIL STREET AND TONG SHUI ROAD WILL BE RESTRICTED TO VEHICLES REQUIRING LOCAL ACCESS.
- * VEHICLES OVER 2-1/2 TONS UNLADEN ON FORTRESS HILL ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR JAVA ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KING'S ROAD AND OIL STREET.
- * TRAFFIC FROM CAUSEWAY BAY HEADING FOR FORTRESS HILL ROAD SHOULD USE TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD.

AND, FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 13), THE WESTERN END OF THE UNNAMED ROAD NORTH OF THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT IN NORTH POINT WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR WORK ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON JAVA ROAD HEADING FOR KING'S ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TONG SHUI ROAD OR KAM HONG STREET.

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FESTIVAL TREAT FOR ALL IN DISTRICT

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+A TREAT FOR ALL+ WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FOURTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH OPENS NEXT FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 17) EVENING WITH A PERFORMANCE BY THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AT LUT SAU HALL.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE 15-DAY FESTIVAL TODAY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MADAM LEUNG SING-TAK, STRESSED THAT THE WIDE VARIETY OF PROGRAMMES HAD BEEN SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND DIFFERENT ARTISTIC INTERESTS.

SHE SAID THE FESTIVAL WOULD FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY WELL KNOWN ORCHESTRA, DRAMA AND OPERA GROUPS, BALLET AND DANCE TROUPES, SINGERS AND A CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

OTHER EVENTS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED FESTIVAL WOULD INCLUDE FILM SHOWS, SEMINARS AND EXHIBITIONS.

THE PERFORMING GROUPS WOULD INCLUDE THE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, HONG KONG CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, HONG KONG ACADEMY OF BALLET COMPANY, SEALS THEATRE, CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, CHOR FUNG MING CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE AND THE YUEN LONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

/MADAM LEUNG

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MADAM LEUNG SAID THE FESTIVAL ALSO AIMED AT PROMOTING VARIOUS PERFORMING ARTS.

+WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE MORE PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL PEOPLE. TO THIS END, TWO PLAYS BY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ORGANISED AS PART OF THE PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

AND EVENTS WOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT TO REMOTE VILLAGES, SHE ADDED.

ADMISSION TO 22 OF THE FESTIVAL'S 34 EVENTS IS FREE OF CHARGE.

THE ARTS FESTIVAL IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT ARTS COMMITTEE AND THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (N.T.).

THE BOARD IS CONTRIBUTING \$300 000 TOWARDS THE \$700 000-FESTIVAL. THE BALANCE WILL COME FROM TICKET PROCEEDS AND LOCAL SPONSORSHIP.

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ABILITY OF DISABLED STRESSED AT SEMINAR

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REHABILITATION WHICH ENDS IN THE SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OF A DISABLED PERSON IS AN INVESTMENT IN INDEPENDENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEE, REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MR KARL STUMPF, SAID TODAY.

+IT CONTRIBUTES TO PRODUCTION, REDUCES PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, SUSTAINS THE WELLBEING OF THE DISABLED PERSON AND HIS OR HER FAMILY,+ HE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON 'EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED' AT A SEMINAR THIS EVENING.

HE SAID THAT +MANY EMPLOYERS ALL OVER THE WORLD COULD TESTIFY THAT GIVEN THE CHANCE, A DISABLED PERSON IS CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING HIS RESIDUAL RESOURCES TO AN UNEXPECTED DEGREE, AND OF BECOMING AN ECONOMIC ASSET TO HIS COMMUNITY, INSTEAD OF BEING A BURDEN ON HIMSELF, ON HIS FAMILY AND HIS COMMUNITY.+

ABOUT 400 000 PEOPLE IN HONG KONG SUFFERED FROM SOME FORM OF DISABILITY BUT WERE AN IMPORTANT HUMAN RESOURCE.

+IT SHOULD BE THE CONCERN OF ALL OF US THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE OFFERED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND THUS ENTER OR RE-ENTER THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE IN HONG KONG,+ MR STUMPF STRESSED.

ANOTHER SPEAKER AT THE SEMINAR, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MARTIN LEWIS, ECHOED MR STUMPF'S VIEW THAT THE DISABLED SHARED THE RIGHTS OF ALL HUMANITY TO GROW, TO LEARN, AND TO WORK.

+GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THIS GROUP, AND CO-ORDINATES SERVICES UNDER ONE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR \$841 MILLION IS EARMARKED FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES.

THESE RANGE FROM EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF MEDICAL DEFECTS TO SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, WORK ACTIVITY CENTRES, SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, RESIDENTIAL HOMES, AND MEDICAL REHABILITATION.

TO ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED, THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PLACING THE DISABLED IN APPROPRIATE JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR LEWIS POINTED OUT.

AS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN HONG KONG, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYS 1 428 DISABLED PERSONS, OVER TWICE AS MANY AS THREE YEARS AGO, AND CAN STILL DO BETTER, HE ADDED.

+IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PLACE THE DISABLED IN APPROPRIATE JOBS WHENEVER POSSIBLE, AND DISABLED PERSONS APPLYING FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE CONSIDERED ON EQUAL TERMS AS OTHER APPLICANTS.

+IF THEY ARE FOUND SUITABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT, THEY ARE GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF PREFERENCE FOR APPOINTMENT OVER OTHER APPLICANTS,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

ELABORATING ON THE RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE DISABLED, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE IN CHARGE OF APPOINTMENTS, MR PETER LAI, SAID THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH MADE IT A PRACTICE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE SELECTION INTERVIEWS OF DISABLED APPLICANTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE GIVEN DUE AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

+IF A DISABLED CANDIDATE IS NOT SELECTED, THE SELECTION BOARD'S FINDINGS ARE REQUIRED TO BE CONSIDERED BY AN OFFICER AT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LEVEL OR ABOVE WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE FINDINGS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED OR THE SELECTION BOARD SHOULD BE ASKED TO RECONSIDER THEM,+ HE ADDED.

DESCRIBING THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DISABLED OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AS ENCOURAGING, HE NEVERTHELESS DISCLOSED THAT WAYS AND MEANS OF BOOSTING THE FIGURE WERE BEING EXPLORED.

ANOTHER PANELIST, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, MR J.R. DEVEREUX, BRIEFED PARTICIPANTS ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE DISABLED.

MR DEVEREUX DISCLOSED THAT ALL NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, AND THERE ARE THREE IN THE PIPELINE, WOULD BE BUILT WITH SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

+IN ADDITION WE HAVE SET ASIDE \$2 MILLION TO BE SPENT ON MODIFYING AND IMPROVING THE OTHER EXISTING TECHNICAL INSTITUTES TO PROVIDE FREE ACCESS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS,+ HE NOTED.

GOVERNMENT IS NOW OPERATING TWO SKILLS CENTRES FOR THE DISABLED OFFERING ABOUT 350 PLACES. MOREOVER, THERE ARE FOUR SUBVENTED CENTRES OPERATED BY PRIVATE NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING ANOTHER 230 TRAINING PLACES.

MR DEVEREUX POINTED OUT THAT ON TOP OF THESE FACILITIES, THERE WERE SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT TO HELP A DISABLED PERSON TO PLAN HIS CAREER AND TO EXPLORE HIS POTENTIAL.

A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE RUN BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH IS A FREE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE AND EMPLOYERS WAS GIVEN BY SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MR CHU PING-IM DURING THE SEMINAR.

THE SPEECHES WERE FOLLOWED BY A SLIDE SHOW ON SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE AND GENERAL DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.

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ADVICE FOR FIRE OFFICERS FROM OUT-GOING CHIEF

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FIRE OFFICERS MUST BE PATIENT, FIRM, COMPASSIONATE AND SYMPATHETIC EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY SOMETIMES BE ABUSED, THE OUT-GOING DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR F.M. WATSON SAID TODAY.

+OTHER PEOPLE'S MISFORTUNES ARE OUR BUSINESS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK OR INJURED, OR HAVE LOST THEIR HOME OR CHILD THROUGH FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY, ARE UNDER A GREAT STRAIN AND USUALLY EXCITED AND GRIEF STRICKEN,+ MR WATSON TOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF STATION OFFICERS AND AMBULANCEMEN AT THE FIRE SERVICES PAT HEUNG TRAINING SCHOOL.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THEM TO PROTECT OTHER PEOPLE'S BELONGINGS AND PROPERTY IF THEY ENTER THEIR HOMES IN THE COURSE OF DUTIES, AND NEVER TO ABUSE OR ALLOW OTHERS TO ABUSE SUCH POWERS.

MR WATSON TOLD THEM THAT DISCIPLINE WAS ESSENTIAL IN AN EMERGENCY SERVICE AND THAT THEY WERE EXPECTED TO OBEY ORDERS AT ALL TIMES WITHOUT QUESTION.

+BY YOUR DISCIPLINE, SKILL AND BEHAVIOUR YOU ARE JUDGED BY THE PUBLIC,+ MR WATSON SAID.

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UK EXPERT TO TALK ON NURSERY EDUCATION
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AN EXPERT IN KINDERGARTEN FROM BRITAIN, MRS BETTY LOWE, WILL GIVE TWO TALKS ON NURSERY EDUCATION AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, ON MARCH 1 AND 2.

MRS LOWE IS THE VISITING ADVISOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND FORMER SENIOR LECTURER IN EDUCATION, WEST LONDON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. SHE WILL SPEAK ON +INTEREST AND ABILITIES OF CHILDREN AT THREE YEARS OLD+ AND +PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN NURSERY CLASSES+.

THE TALKS WILL BE PARTLY INTERPRETED IN CHINESE.

HEADS OF KINDERGARTENS WISHING TO SEND TEACHERS TO THE TALKS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, KINDERGARTEN SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 21.

OWING TO LIMITED SEATING CAPACITY, ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE KINDERGARTEN SECTION ON 5-8392485.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GALA DAY AT CUSTOMS
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A GALA DAY TO CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE SERVICE'S TRAINING SCHOOL AT TAI LAM CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12), WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN, OFFICIATING.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT. COACHES TO TAKE GUESTS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL WILL LEAVE HUNG HOM FERRY PIER AT 9 AM AND TSUEN WAN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION (OPPOSITE THE STATION BUS TERMINUS AT SAI LAU KOK ROAD) AT 9.30 AM.

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KEEP PARKS CLEAN, VISITORS TOLD

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A TOTAL OF 139 PEOPLE WERE FINED FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES - 89 OF THEM FOR LITTERING - INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS LAST MONTH.

+THIS UNDERLINES THE SEVERITY OF THE LITTER PROBLEM IN COUNTRY PARKS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

HE WARNED THAT PARK WARDENS AND RANGERS WOULD BE CONSTANTLY ON THE ALERT AGAINST OFFENDERS.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO USE THE 5 000 LITTER RECEPTACLES PROVIDED IN THE PARKS.

LAST YEAR 1 703 PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED IN COUNTRY PARKS -- 1 356 OF THEM FOR LITTERING.

OTHER OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THE COUNTRY PARKS LAST MONTH INCLUDED LIGHTING OF FIRES IN PROHIBITED AREAS, ENTRY TO CLOSED COUNTRY PARKS, POSSESSION OR DAMAGE OF PLANTS, AND ILLEGAL ENTRY BY VEHICLES AND HAWKING.

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SUNDAY MARRIAGES OFFERED

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THE MARRIAGE REGISTRY AT RAWLINSON HOUSE, VICTORIA BARRACK, COTTON TREE DRIVE, CENTRAL, WILL OPEN ON SUNDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AS FROM MARCH 4.

+THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MARRIAGE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE REGISTRY NOW OPENS FROM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS FROM 8.45 AM TO 12.45 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4.45 PM AND ON SATURDAYS FROM 9 AM TO 11.45 AM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES MAY TELEPHONE 3-7333111.

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FUN FOR TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS
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TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WILL HAVE A DAY OF FREE ENTERTAINMENT ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12).

STARTING AT 12.30 PM, A LUNAR NEW YEAR CARNIVAL FOR THE ELDERLY AND YOUNGSTERS WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

APART FROM GAMES, THERE WILL ALSO BE LION DANCES, CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCES AND SINGING.

AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND STARTING AT 2 PM, PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE LION DANCES, HORSE-RIDING AND MILITARY DOG DEMONSTRATIONS, TRAMPOLINING, CHINESE FOLK DANCES, BMX CYCLING AND MOTOR-CYCLING DEMONSTRATIONS, AND PERFORMANCES BY THE KOO CHIU MAN SCHOOL, THE TAI WO HAU SYMPHONIC BAND AND THE GURKHA BAND.

THE DAY WILL END WITH A VARIETY SHOW AT THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND IN THE EVENING.

THE ACTIVITIES ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, THE TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CULTURAL PRESENTATION OFFICE.

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR ADOLF HSU, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM IN THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, AT THE NEW YEAR CARNIVAL AT 12.30 PM IN THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES IN THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND STARTING AT 12.30 PM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AND IN THE KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND STARTING AT 2 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CHILDREN'S PARTY
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARTY ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 12) AT THE CENTRAL LAWN, WEST WING, KOWLOON HOSPITAL BETWEEN 2 PM AND 6 PM.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES A LION DANCE, KUNG FU DEMONSTRATION, FOLK DANCE, MAGIC AND ACROBATIC SHOW.

MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND A MARCHING DISPLAY WILL BE GIVEN BY THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES SCOTTISH PIPER BAND AND BRASS BAND.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT WILL PUT ON A SILENT DRILL.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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DANCING AND DRAMA IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT
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MORE THAN 800 RESIDENTS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE TREATED TO AN EVENING OF SINGING, DANCING AND DRAMA PERFORMANCES TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THE TWO-HOUR SOUTHERN DISTRICT CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA, SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL OF CHAN PAK SHA SCHOOL IN SHAM WAN ROAD, ABERDEEN STARTING AT 7.30 PM.

PERFORMING GROUPS WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRICT'S YOUTH CHOIR, THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, MEMBERS OF THE ABERDEEN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND CHILDREN FROM LOCAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

FREE TICKETS TO THE VARIETY SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ENQUIRY COUNTER OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT IN ABERDEEN CENTRE.

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NEW ROADS FOR KOWLOON BAY
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TWO ROADS, TOTALLING 300 METRES IN LENGTH, WILL BE BUILT ON KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION TO IMPROVE ACCESS IN THE AREA.

THE ROADS WILL BE SITUATED TO THE WEST OF HOI BUN ROAD AT THE SOUTHERN END OF KOWLOON BAY AND WILL LINK ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT SITES TO OTHER PARTS OF KOWLOON BAY DEVELOPMENT AREA.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORK WILL START IN MAY AND TAKE SIX MONTHS TO FINISH.

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