DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1983

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PRESS FREEDOM TREASURED BY GOVERNMENT - SIR PHILIP

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THE GOVERNMENT TREASURES FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND LISTENS TO PUBLIC OPINION, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

THE CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH PUBLIC OPINION MIGHT BE EXPRESSED WERE MANY AND VARIED, SPREADING OUTWARDS AND DOWNWARDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, HE SAID.

+WE VALUE THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE MEDIA IN FURTHERING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC.

+WE STUDY ALSO THE VIEWS OF THE PRESS, NO MATTER HOW OUTSPOKEN. PUBLIC OPINION AND THE VIEWS OF THE PRESS INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY WHEN STRONGLY HELD FEELINGS ARE SUPPORTED BY A FAIR REHEARSAL OF THE FACTS AND COGENT ARGUMENT,+ SIR PHILIP ADDED.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW SING PAO BUILDING.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG ITSELF HAD GROWN UP TO BECOME A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CITY WITH A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY AND A SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY WHICH HAD A RECOGNISABLE IDENTITY OF ITS OWN.

HOWEVER, ONE CHARACTERISTIC OF HONG KONG HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED, THAT WAS, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP ALSO SAID THE SING PAO DAILY NEWS HAD, SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1939, BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG, GROWING FROM A FOUR-PAGE BLACK AND WHITE COPY TO THE PRESENT-DAY 24 PAGES, WITH FULL-COLOUR PRODUCTION.

+THIS MAGNIFICENT 25-STOREY BUILDING IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS STORY OF THIS NEWSPAPER AND A CLEAR INDICATION OF ITS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SERVE ITS READERSHIP,+ HE SAID.

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PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE

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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 5 PER CENT SO THAT, FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY 5 PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1983 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1982, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT. THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 9 PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 6 PER CENT SO THAT AN 8 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT.

/A COMPARISON .....

A COMPARISON OF THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE THIS YEAR WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1982 SHOWS THAT THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORS AND IMPORTS BOTH ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 4 PER CENT AND THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS BY 6 PER CENT. THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, ON AVERAGE, INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT A 2 PER CENT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. MEANWHILE, A 2 PER CENT INCREASE WAS ALSO RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM 3 PER CENT FOR FOOTWEAR TO 33 PER CENT FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-1 PER CENT), RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-3 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-10 PER CENT).

CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+152 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+31 PER CENT FOR EACH CATEGORY). HOWEVER, MODERATE DECREASES IN EXPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-7 PER CENT), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-11 PER CENT) AND FOOTWEAR (-17 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, RANGING FROM 4 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 9 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SUGAR AND SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF LIVE POULTRY AND FRUIT DECLINED SLIGHTLY.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR WATCHES, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS, CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO MANUFACTURES AND PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE, AMONG WHICH YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES, THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS, CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS, AND WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF BASE METAL INCLUDING IRON AND STEEL, CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC. EXCEPT GLASS AND WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK DROPPED MODERATELY.

/IMPORTS OF .....

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED CAPITAL GOODS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TEXTILE MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF OFFICE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY INCREASED MODERATELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL END-USE CATEGORIES (EXCEPT FUELS) INCREASED, RANGING FROM A 1 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO A 12 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JUNE 1983 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$2 PER COPY.

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUNE 1983 WITH JAN.-JUNE 1982

COMMODITY GROUP	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+10%	+ 6%	+ 3%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+26%	+ 5%	+20%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+30%	- 1%	+31%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+17%	+14%	+ 3%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	- 9%	- 3%	- 7%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+59%	+33%	+19%
FOOTWEAR	-15%	+ 3%	-17%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+ 9%	+ 4%	+ 5%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+205%	+21%	+152%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+18%	-10%	+31%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	- 3%	+ 9%	-11%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+10%	INSIGNIFI-CANT	+10%
ALL COMMODITIES	+14%	+ 5%	+ 9%

/TABLE 2 : .....

TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUNE 1983 WITH JAN.-JUNE 1982

END-USE CATEGORY	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+13%	+ 9%	+ 4%
CONSUMER GOODS	+13%	+ 8%	+ 4%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+13%	+ 4%	+ 9%
FUELS	- 5%	+ 6%	-10%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 6%	+ 8%	- 2%
ALL COMMODITIES	+11%	+ 7%	+ 4%

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING JAN.-JUNE 1983 WITH JAN.-JUNE 1982

END-USE CATEGORY	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+20%	+10%	+ 9%
CONSUMER GOODS	+19%	+ 6%	+12%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 3%	+ 2%	+ 1%
FUELS	+ 8%	+ 9%	INSIGNIFI-CANT
CAPITAL GOODS	+14%	+10%	+ 4%
ALL COMMODITIES	+12%	+ 5%	+ 6%

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY VISITS TWO FACTORIES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE TODAY CONTINUED HIS SERIES OF VISITS TO FACTORIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR PETER KIANG, SIR JOHN FIRST VISITED ELEC AND ELTEX CO. LTD. AT LUK HOP STREET, SAN PO KONG, WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE COMPANY'S CHAIRMAN, MR DAVID SO, AND THE GENERAL MANAGER, MR JOHN TREPANIER. HE WAS SHOWN AROUND THE PRODUCTION FLOORS WHERE WORKERS WERE MANUFACTURING CORDLESS TELEPHONES FOR MARKETS IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. THE COMPANY'S SAN PO KONG FACTORY IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING INTO THE MANUFACTURE OF MULTILAYER PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS AND NEW MACHINERY WORTH OVER $40 MILLION WAS SEEN BEING INSTALLED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO VISITED TEK-DEVICES LTD. AT CHIAP HUA BUILDING, HUNG HOM.

ON A TOUR OF THE FACTORY, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR JOHN LO EXPLAINED TO SIR JOHN THAT HIS COMPANY SPECIALISED IN MANUFACTURING CORE AND SEMI-CONDUCTOR MEMORIES AND SYSTEMS. THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN USED IN EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE SHUTTLE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, OIL RIGS AND DEEP SEA RESEARCH FACILITIES OPERATED IN SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

THE COMPANY HAS RECENTLY INSTALLED COMPUTERISED HIGH POSITION MEASURING EQUIPMENT AND WILL SET UP ITS OWN ANODISING AND ELECTRO PLATING SHOP AS PART OF ITS EXPANSION PLAN.

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JUNE CASUALTY CASES HIT RECORD HIGH

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THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAD THEIR BUSIEST MONTH ON RECORD IN JUNE.

CASUALTY ATTENDANCES DURING THE MONTH TOTALLED 95 500, AN INCREASE OF 13.4 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURE FOR MAY, THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT SHOWS.

THIS REPRESENTS A DAILY AVERAGE OF 3 183 ATTENDANCES — A 12 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE DAILY AVERAGE FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CASES — 25 857 — WAS DEALT WITH AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, FOLLOWED BY PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL, WITH 15 170 CASUALTY CASES. THE FIGURE AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL WAS 11 217.

INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE FIGURES COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH WERE ALSO RECORDED AT TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL AND FANLING HOSPITAL, AS WELL AS AT THE THREE MAJOR GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED HOSPITALS — KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL AND CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE.

AT CHAI WAN HEALTH CENTRE, WHERE AN ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SECTION WAS SET UP IN APRIL TO PROVIDE PRIMARY TREATMENT TO EMERGENCY CASES IN EASTERN DISTRICT, THE NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES INCREASED FROM 1 589 IN MAY TO 1 804 IN JUNE.

NOTIFICATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS CASES CONTINUED TO DECREASE IN JUNE, DROPPING TO 182 FROM 251 THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

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MANPOWER SURVEY OF CLOTHING INDUSTRY STARTING

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A MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY ORGANISED BY THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 8) TO SEPTEMBER 16.

+IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE REMARKABLE GROWTH IN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY,+ A SPOKESMAN OF THE TRAINING BOARD SAID.

+THE INDUSTRY'S UPTURN IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE, JUDGED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF OVERSEAS ORDERS RECEIVED,+ HE SAID.

+THE TIGHTENING MANPOWER SUPPLY HAS BEEN FELT AT ALL LEVELS, FROM TECHNICIANS TO UNSKILLED WORKERS,+ HE ADDED.

THE SURVEY IS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANPOWER TRAINING.

THE SPOKESMAN URGED MANUFACTURERS SELECTED FOR THE SURVEY TO CO-OPERATE BY GIVING ACCURATE INFORMATION.

HE STRESSED THAT THE DATA COLLECTED WOULD BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ABOUT 850 CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENTS SELECTED AT RANDOM.

OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CALL AT THESE FACTORIES DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD TO COLLECT THE QUESTIONNAIRES AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING THEM.

ALSO HELPING WITH THE SURVEY ARE THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY.

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TIMBER AND FURNITURE MEASURES TO GO METRIC

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THE TIMBER AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES WILL BE THE NEXT TO GO METRIC FOLLOWING THE ELECTRIC WIRES AND CABLES TRADE, THE METRICATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

AS FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), LINEAR MEASUREMENTS COMMONLY USED IN THE TIMBER AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES WILL BE EXPRESSED IN METRES AND MILLIMETRES RATHER THAN IN FEET AND INCHES.

TO FACILITATE THE ADOPTION OF METRIC UNITS BY THESE TWO INDUSTRIES, TWO POSTERS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE COMMITTEE.

COPIES OF THE POSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS FOR DISPLAY IN WORKSHOPS AND TO TIMBER MILLS AND RETAIL SHOPS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THEIR WORKERS.

/THE FEDERATION .....

THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS, THE HONG KONG FURNITURE DEALERS AND DECORATORS GENERAL ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CARPENTERS GENERAL UNION, THE HONG KONG WOODEN AND STEEL FURNITURE IMPORT AND EXPORT ASSOCIATION, AND THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON TIMBER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION HAVE ALL AGREED TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN DISTRIBUTING THE POSTERS TO THEIR MEMBERS.

+THE POSTERS WHICH CONTAIN BASIC INFORMATION ON LINEAR MEASUREMENT CONVERSION WILL SERVE AS EASY REFERENCE FOR WORKERS OF THE TWO INDUSTRIES,+ A METRICATION COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A WOOD, RATTAN WARE AND FURNITURE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED UNDER THE METRICATION COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THE METRICATION PROGRAMME OF THE TIMBER AND FURNITURE TRADES.

+THE GROUP WILL KEEP THE PROGRESS OF ITS PROGRAMME UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW WITH A VIEW TO EFFECTING A COMPLETE CHANGEOVER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+WITH SUPPORT FROM THE RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF THE TWO TRADES, IT IS HOPED THAT THE ENTIRE CONVERSION PROCESS COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN 18 MONTHS,+ HE ADDED.

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MONG KOK BOARD TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC CONTROL

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A COMPARISON OF THE TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN MONG KOK AND IN COVENTRY, BRITAIN WILL BE MADE BY THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS HAD VISITED THE COVENTRY URBAN TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE DURING THEIR RECENT UNITED KINGDOM STUDY TOUR AND, UPON THEIR RETURN, ALSO VISITED THE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE IN KOWLOON.

AT TOMORROW'S MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT BASED ON THE EXPERIENCES THEY GAINED FROM THE TWO VISITS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS MEASURES TO TACKLE GOLDFISH TRADERS AT LUEN WAN ROAD, WHICH WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORKS CONNECTED WITH THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY MONG KOK STATION RE-MODELLING EXERCISE.

THEY WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE LAYOUT PLAN OF THE FA YUEN STREET COMPLEX WHICH WILL HAVE A MARKET, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE, OFFICES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

AN INFORMATION PAPER ON THE WAITING LIST FOR PUBLIC HOUSING WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE ORGANISING OF AN ELDERLY MONTH AND A LARGE-SCALE COMMUNITY PROJECT ENTITLED +COMMUNITY IN PERSPECTIVE+, AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

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WELCOME SIGNBOARD PUT UP IN WAN CHAI

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PEOPLE PASSING BY MONMOUTH TERRACE IN WAN CHAI WILL BE ATTRACTED BY A HUGE +WELCOME TO CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT+ SIGNBOARD.

THE SIGNBOARD, MEASURING 2.28 METRES BY 1.9 METRES, HAS BEEN PUT UP BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE URBAN COUNCIL AS PART OF THE KENNEDY ROAD BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME.

THE BOARD ALSO CARRIES LOGOS OF THE BOARD AND THE COUNCIL, AND ITS REVERSE SIDE WILL SERVE AS A NOTICE BOARD ON ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SITE HAS ALSO BEEN TURNED INTO A SITTING-OUT AREA WITH FLOWER BEDS AND BENCHES.

+THE BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME, COSTING $110 000, IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT, PROMOTING THE DISTRICT'S IMAGE AND ENHANCING RESIDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING.

+BOARD MEMBERS ARE IN FAVOUR OF PUTTING UP MORE WELCOME SIGNBOARDS AND HAVING MORE SITTING-OUT AREAS IN THE DISTRICT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY.

TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW IN THE SITTING-OUT AREA.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR LEE TAT-YU; THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRANK YUE; THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER (CENTRAL), MR MOK SHU-WING ; AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS.

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MAJOR TUEN MUN ROAD PROJECT STARTING

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THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED A $74.7 MILLION CONTRACT TO AOKI CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR ROAD PROJECT IN THE NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER OF THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR T.D. ARMOUR, AND MR S. HORII, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HONG KONG OFFICE OF AOKI CORPORATION.

+THE PROJECT, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN, INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGE AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR TSENG TAU TSUEN HA TSUEN AND A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY TO THE WEST OF THE INTERCHANGE, ACROSS THE TUEN MUN RIVER CHANNEL TO SAN WAI TSAI NEAR TAI HING ESTATE.+

+THEY WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE EXISTING AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE TOWN,+ MR ARMOUR SAID.

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE CONTRACT, SECTIONS OF A SEWER AND A STORM WATER BOX CULVERT WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED TO SERVE MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED FOR THIS PART OF THE NEW TOWN.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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'CYCLE BALL' TRAINING COURSE OFFERED

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A COURSE IN +CYCLE BALL+ FOR MEN IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG CYCLING ASSOCIATION.

THE 13-SESSION COURSE ON +CYCLE BALL+ - PLAYED BY MEN ON BICYCLES - WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY SATURDAY, FROM OCTOBER 1 TO THE END OF DECEMBER.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAN CHAI, STARTING AT 1.30 PM.

THOSE WHO ARE EFFICIENT IN BICYCLE RIDING, AND ARE AGED 14 AND ABOVE, MAY APPLY. THE FEE IS $20 PER PERSON.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RSS HEADQUARTERS IN WING ON CENTRE, CENTRAL, AND FROM ITS 19 DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WORKSHOPS ON REMEDIAL TEACHING

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE WILL HOLD EIGHT IDENTICAL WORKSHOPS ON REMEDIAL ENGLISH TEACHING IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FOR REMEDIAL TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

EACH WORKSHOP WILL LAST FOR EITHER ONE WHOLE DAY OR TWO HALF-DAYS, AND WILL INTRODUCE TO PARTICIPANTS THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MATERIALS FOR TEACHING READING AND WRITING TO REMEDIAL GROUPS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO DESIGN TEACHING MATERIALS FOR USE IN THEIR OWN CLASSES.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG OR ITS KOWLOON OFFICE IN MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

EACH WORKSHOP CAN ACCOMMODATE 20 TEACHERS, AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 27.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE CENTRE ON 5-482537.

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NEW ADDRESS FOR SWD UNIT

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S LAI CHI KOK FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE HAS MOVED TO THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE NEW OFFICE, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF FAT TSEUNG STREET AND KWONG LEE ROAD, SHAM SHUI PO, WILL SERVE RESIDENTS IN THE LI CHENG UK, SO UK, CHEUNG SHA WAN, LAI KOK, MEI FOO AND LAI CHI KOK AREAS.

THE CENTRE'S NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE 3-619486 AND 3-619324.

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NEW MAXICAB ROUTE STARTING

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NEW MAXICAB ROUTE NO. 31M, A CIRCULAR ROUTE RUNNING FROM ARGYLE MTR STATION TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, WILL BE INTRODUCED ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 9).

IT WILL OPERATE VIA FIFE STREET, SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET, SHANGHAI STREET, JORDAN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, AUSTIN ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, GRANVILLE ROAD, SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, MODY ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, OBSERVATORY ROAD, KIMBERLEY ROAD, AUSTIN AVENUE, AUSTIN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, JORDAN ROAD, FERRY STREET, SAIGON STREET, CANTON ROAD, PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, SHANGHAI STREET, MONG KOK ROAD, NATHAN ROAD AND FIFE STREET.

THE SERVICE RUNS FROM 7.30 AM TO 9 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 8.30 AM TO 8.30 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, AT FREQUENCIES OF 12 MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS AND 15 MINUTES DURING OFF PEAK HOURS. THE FARE IS $1.50.

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SITE OFFERED FOR TENANCY

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA IN YUEN LONG.

THE SITE COVERS ABOUT 530 SQUARE METRES AND IS TO BE USED FOR THE STORAGE OR REPAIR OF TENANT'S GOODS OR FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES NOT EXCEEDING TWO TONNES.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON SEPTEMBER 23.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON WEST), KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON; AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (YUEN LONG), CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

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