



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1988

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GOVT TO REVIEW SECTION OF PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO REVIEW SECTION 27 OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

"THE FORM OF THE REVIEW AND THE METHOD OF CONSULTATION WILL BE CONSIDERED NEARER THE TIME," SIR DAVID SAID WHEN OPENING A SEMINAR ON PRESS FREEDOM ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION.

"I AM SURE IT WILL BE ACCEPTED THAT IF THAT REVIEW IS TO BE MEANINGFUL, A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THE EFFECT OF THE LAW TO BE MONITORED."

SIR DAVID EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION IN RETAINING SECTION 27 OF THE ORDINANCE WAS LIMITED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AGAINST THE DAMAGING EFFECTS WHICH THE SPREAD OF FALSE NEWS COULD HAVE IN SUCH A CLOSE COMMUNITY AS HONG KONG'S.

"AS I SAID AT THE TIME, THE MEASURE WAS INTENDED TO BE ONE OF LAST RESORT AND IN NO WAY INTENDED TO INHIBIT THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS," HE SAID.

"IN THE EVENT, IT WAS INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY AND IT IS OF CONCERN TO ME THAT THE MEDIA REACTION TO IT SHOULD HAVE HAD A DAMAGING EFFECT BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS."

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROUD OF THE PRESS FREEDOM THAT EXISTED IN HONG KONG AND HAD DONE MUCH, OVER MANY YEARS, TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE EXERCISE OF THAT FREEDOM.

OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDIA, HE SAID: "IT IS THE NATURE OF SUCH RELATIONSHIPS, IF THEY ARE TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY BALANCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THAT BOTH SIDES REMAIN A LITTLE WARY, A LITTLE ARGUMENTATIVE AND CERTAINLY MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE CRITICAL."

OBJECTIVE CRITICISM WAS INDISPENSABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUND ADMINISTRATION, AND ESPECIALLY SO IN A TIGHTLY KNIT, CLOSELY INTERACTING SOCIETY SUCH AS HONG KONG'S.

HONG KONG HAD A VERY FREE SOCIETY, A FREEDOM WHICH STEMMED FROM THE PRINCIPLE OF THE RULE OF LAW, HE SAID.

THERE WAS FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL.

"I HOPE THAT CREATES IN THE MINDS OF JOURNALISTS A SENSE OF FREEDOM THAT THEY CAN GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS WITHOUT FEELING OPPRESSED OR THREATENED BY AUTHORITY OR BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE," HE SAID.

/I HOPE

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"I HOPE TOO THAT JOURNALISTS WILL NOT THEMSELVES MAKE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT WHETHER THEIR OWN POSITION WILL BE AFFECTED BY WHAT THEY PUBLISH. SELF CENSORSHIP STEMS FROM FEAR AND FEAR HAS NO PLACE IN A FREE SOCIETY."

BUT IT WAS A FREEDOM THAT ALSO CARRIED A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY, AND IT WAS FOR JOURNALISTS TO MAKE A PERSONAL DECISION WHETHER THEY WERE MAKING A WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY, AND WHETHER THEY WERE USING THEIR INFLUENCE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE OR DESTRUCTIVE WAY.

JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO EXERT A TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC OPINION, AND VERY FEW PEOPLE IN ANY COMMUNITY RELIED ON THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT WHEN COMING TO A VIEW ON MATTERS OF TOPICAL INTEREST.

SIR DAVID SAID THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE MEASURED PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF LAW.

"THE LAW WILL INEVITABLY PROVIDE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE NEED TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMUNITY FROM THE UNREASONABLE EXERCISE OF POWER BY THE MEDIA, ON THE OTHER," HE SAID.

"HERE WE ENTER A VERY CONTENTIOUS AREA FOR THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SAY THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS CAN NEVER BE UNREASONABLE AND THAT THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS SHOULD ONLY BE EXERCISED BY INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES SEEKING RECOURSE TO LAW.

"THE PROPONENTS OF ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WOULD ARGUE THAT ANY LIMITATION OR CURB ON ITS FREEDOM IS A DENIAL OF A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT THAT CANNOT BE TOLERATED."

SIR DAVID SAID SOME JOURNALISTS WOULD ARGUE THAT ONLY A COMPLETE BODY OF LAW GOVERNING PRESS FREEDOM COULD ENSURE THAT PRESS FREEDOM WAS INVOLABLE. "FRANKLY I DOUBT IT, BECAUSE ANY SET OF LAWS MUST PROVIDE FOR THE FREEDOM OF SOME TO BE INHIBITED TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF OTHERS," HE REMARKED.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE STANDARDS OF CENSORSHIP IMPOSED ON TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN COUNTRIES WHICH PRIDED THEMSELVES ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA WERE OFTEN VERY STRICT.

OVERALL, SIR DAVID SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS FORTUNATE IN HAVING ESTABLISHED A TRADITION OF PRESS FREEDOM OF WHICH IT COULD BE TRULY PROUD. "WE HAVE LONG RECOGNISED THAT THE MEDIA HERE HAS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN VOICING THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY AND BRINGING THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

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TRADERS PREPARE FOR MEASUREMENT CHANGE

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TRADERS IN HONG KONG ARE NOW ENJOYING A "GRACE PERIOD" OF AT LEAST 12 MONTHS SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE 1987 IN JULY LAST YEAR.

THIS IS TO ALLOW THEM TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THEIR WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT WILL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION.

WHERE A TRADER DOES NOT RESPOND TO EARLIER GOVERNMENT ADVICE TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGISLATION HE MAY BE PROSECUTED AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE GRACE PERIOD.

THE NEW ORDINANCE, WHICH IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF BOTH THE CONSUMER AND THE TRADER, PROVIDES A LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO CONTROL QUANTITY IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

THIS HAS REPLACED THE FORMER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD, WHICH RELATED ONLY TO BRITISH IMPERIAL AND CHINESE UNITS.

ACCORDING TO MR STEVE BARCLAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH, THIS NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES FUNDAMENTAL PROTECTION FOR ANYONE PURCHASING ANY GOODS SOLD BY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

"THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE EVEN THE MOST DILIGENT CONSUMER CANNOT BE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO CHECK THE SCALES USED BY A SHOPKEEPER. HE MUST ASSUME THEY ARE ACCURATE," HE SAID.

MR BARCLAY POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THIS MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE LEGISLATION WAS THAT THE STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENTS WERE BASED ON THE METRIC SYSTEM, BUT IT DOES ALLOW COMMON UNITS OF THE CHINESE AND BRITISH IMPERIAL SYSTEMS TO BE USED.

"ULTIMATELY, HOWEVER, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PHASE OUT THE NON-METRIC UNITS BUT THIS WILL BE DONE AS AND WHEN CONDITIONS ARE APPROPRIATE," HE ADDED.

MR BARCLAY SAID THAT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THAT ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC ARE INFORMED OF ITS REQUIREMENTS.

"WE HAVE ALERTED ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS HAWKERS' ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, AND SPECIFIC TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, INFORMING THEM OF THE NEW LEGISLATION AND OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND AND COMPLY WITH IT," HE SAID.

/HE THOUGHT

HE THOUGHT THAT THE RESPONSE HAD BEEN QUITE ENCOURAGING. THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD ASKED FOR AN ARTICLE ON THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR IN-HOUSE MAGAZINE TO HELP ENSURE MEMBERS WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE LEGISLATION.

"WE ARE HAPPY TO DISCUSS AND EXPLAIN THE NEW LEGISLATION TO ANY GROUP OF ORGANISATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PREPARED TO GIVE LECTURES OR ATTEND SEMINARS ON THE SUBJECT.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY FOR THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, WHEN IT DOES COME INTO OPERATION LATER THIS YEAR.

OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, WHO WILL ACT IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC, HAVE POWERS TO CONDUCT SPOT CHECKS ON TRADERS' PREMISES TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THEIR EQUIPMENT AND TO TAKE ACTION WHERE THE EQUIPMENT IS FOUND TO BE INACCURATE OR INEFFECTIVE.

MR BARCLAY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL POLICY ON CONSUMER PROTECTION WAS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS ADEQUATE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS IN AREAS WHERE A PRUDENT CONSUMER WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIMSELF.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE PROTECTS THE CONSUMER AGAINST FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION IN THE DAY TO DAY PRODUCTS HE BUYS.

IT ALSO PROTECTS THE TRADER AGAINST UNFAIR COMPLAINT FROM CONSUMERS AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES FROM OTHER TRADERS WITH WHOM HE MAY BE IN COMPETITION.

"THOSE WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS ORDINANCE INCLUDE TRADERS WHOSE GOODS ARE SOLD BY WEIGHT OR MEASURE SUCH AS HAWKERS, SHOPKEEPERS, MANUFACTURERS OF PRE-PACKED FOOD; AND EVERY CONSUMER WHO BUYS FROM THESE TRADERS," MR BARCLAY ADDED.

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MORE DISABLED PERSONS PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT

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THE NUMBER OF DISABLED PERSONS PLACED IN JOBS BY THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN 1987 REGISTERED A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DURING THE YEAR, 1,030 DISABLED PERSONS WERE FOUND JOBS IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DIVISION COMPARED WITH 1,000 IN 1986.

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OF THE TOTAL, 422 WERE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, 217 DEAF, 193 FORMERLY MENTALLY ILL, 140 MENTALLY RETARDED AND 58 BLIND.

THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE DIVISION, MR HOUDINI HO, SAID IT WAS MOST ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE PLACEMENT OF THE EX-MENTALLY ILL AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED HAD SHOWN A MARKED INCREASE OF 75 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER 1986.

"THIS INDICATES A POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYERS IN PROVIDING WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS TYPE OF PEOPLE," MR HO SAID.

MR HO DESCRIBED DISABLED PERSONS AS "HIGHLY MOTIVATED, RELIABLE, STABLE AND AS PRODUCTIVE AS ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY".

"OVER THE PAST YEARS, THE DIVISION HAS BROUGHT MANY SATISFIED EMPLOYERS AND DISABLED EMPLOYEES TOGETHER," HE SAID.

"MANY EMPLOYERS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYING DISABLED WORKERS REGULARLY THROUGH US AFTER A SUCCESSFUL FIRST PLACEMENT.

"THESE EMPLOYERS ARE HAPPY BECAUSE THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DISABLED WORKERS IS OFTEN ON PAR WITH THEIR ABLE-BODIED EMPLOYEES."

THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION PROVIDES A FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE DISABLED WHO WISH TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE OPEN MARKET.

A DISABLED PERSON WHO REGISTERS WITH THE DIVISION WILL HAVE AN IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW WITH A PLACEMENT OFFICER WHO WILL FIND OUT THE CLIENT'S RESIDUAL ABILITIES, EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING BACKGROUND, WORK EXPERIENCES, APTITUDES AND ASPIRATIONS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, A DISABLED JOB-SEEKER WILL BE COUNSELLED ON THE PREVALENT LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS, AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO ENABLE THE PERSON TO MAKE A REALISTIC CHOICE OF EMPLOYMENT.

BEFORE BEING INTERVIEWED BY A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER, THE JOB-SEEKER WILL BE GIVEN A BRIEFING ON SUCH MATTERS AS HOW TO DRESS PROPERLY FOR THE OCCASION, HOW TO PUT ACROSS TO THE EMPLOYER HIS OR HER BEST POINTS, OR HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PROPERLY. TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, THE PLACEMENT OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY THE JOB-SEEKER TO THE INTERVIEW.

MR HO POINTED OUT THAT THE WORK OF THE PLACEMENT OFFICER DOES NOT END WITH EFFECTING A PLACEMENT.

"FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT THREE MONTHS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF EMPLOYMENT, THE OFFICER WILL PERIODICALLY VISIT THE WORKER AT THE WORK PLACE TO ENSURE THAT HE OR SHE IS SETTling DOWN WELL IN THE JOB," HE SAID.

/"ALTHOUGH SOME

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"ALTHOUGH SOME EMPLOYERS MAY REGARD THE VISIT AS A NUISANCE, THE MAJORITY AGREE THAT IT CAN BE VERY USEFUL TO THEM BECAUSE THEY MAY BE DEALING WITH EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITY FOR THE FIRST TIME."

AT PRESENT THE DIVISION OPERATES FROM THREE BRANCH OFFICES AT THE DOMINION CENTRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI; NGAU TAU KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN ON WAH STREET, KOWLOON; AND EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE IN TEXACO ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THESE OFFICES PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, MENTALLY RETARDED AND EX-MENTALLY ILL PERSONS SEEKING OPEN EMPLOYMENT.

MR HO APPEALED TO ALL EMPLOYERS TO TAKE ON DISABLED PERSONS AS A MEANS OF FULFILLING THEIR MANPOWER NEEDS. THIS HELPS THE DISABLED NOT ONLY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITIES AT WORK BUT ALSO TO LEAD AN INDEPENDENT AND MEANINGFUL LIFE.

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SHA TIN TAKES FIRST STEP TO PROMOTE DB ELECTIONS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE HAS SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED THE FIRST EVENT TO PROMOTE THE COMING DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS CHOSEN THE BEST CHINESE SLOGAN FROM ENTRIES TO A COMPETITION. THE SLOGAN, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "SHA TIN ELECTORS COME FORWARD, 90,000 VOICES ON MARCH 10", WILL BE USED IN A DISTRICT-WIDE PUBLICITY TO CALL ON THE 90,294 REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT TO CAST THEIR VOTES.

MISS LU PIK-FUNG, WHO WROTE THE SLOGAN DEFEATING 79 OTHER ENTRIES, ATTRIBUTED THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN SHA TIN TO THE SUCCESS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND HOPED THAT PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SCHEME BY VOTING ON MARCH 10.

SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG, SAID A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE DB ELECTIONS HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THE DISTRICT.

THESE INCLUDE A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION FOR ALL SHA TIN CANDIDATES ON FEBRUARY 13, A CANDIDATES' FORUM ON FEBRUARY 28 AND A LARGE-SCALE BICYCLE PARADE ON MARCH 5.

"PUBLICITY MATERIALS SUCH AS BANNERS, POSTERS AND A HUGE SIGNBOARD NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL BE PUT UP WHILE A VARIETY OF SOUVENIRS AND A NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS. A BROADCASTING VAN WILL ALSO TRAVEL ROUND THE DISTRICT TO APPEAL FOR VOTERS NEARER THE TIME OF ELECTION," HE ADDED.

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DWELLING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION

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A LUNAR YEAR-END DWELLING BOAT CLEANING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT CHEUNG CHAU TYPHOON SHELTER AS PART OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

ALL DWELLING BOATS ANCHORED IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER, INCLUDING FISHING BOATS WHICH COME BACK FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE COMPETITION.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE BOAT TYPES - PURSE SEINER, SHRIMP TRAWLER, TRAWLER AND LONG LINER - , AND MARKS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE CLEANLINESS OF BOTH THE INTERIOR AND APPEARANCE OF THE BOAT AS WELL AS THE METHOD THEY ADOPTED TO DISCHARGE RUBBISH.

FOUR FINALISTS WILL BE CHOSEN FROM EACH SECTION BY THE RESPECTIVE FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATIONS AND A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MARINE DEPARTMENT, FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATIONS AND ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE WILL INSPECT THE FINALISTS AND SELECT THE CHAMPIONS ON FEBRUARY 11.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND IS AIMED AT AROUSING THE BOAT DWELLERS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE TYPHOON SHELTER.

A KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN CARNIVAL WILL ALSO BE HELD IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER ON FEBRUARY 11 DURING WHICH A BROADCASTING BOAT WILL BE HIRED TO MAKE APPEALS TO THE BOAT DWELLERS AND FAI CHUN (SPRING SCROLLS) WITH KEEP CLEAN MESSAGES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

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MORE SPORTS VENUES IN NORTH DISTRICT

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CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON THREE LARGE SPORTS VENUES IN NORTH DISTRICT, WHICH COST A TOTAL OF \$100 MILLION, WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, DISTRICT OFFICER MR MATTHEW CHEUNG SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THEY INCLUDE A SWIMMING POOL, AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE WHICH OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 3,300 SQUARE METRES, AND A STANDARD ATHLETIC GROUND EQUIPPED WITH AN ALL-WEATHER TRACK AND A 2,500-SPECTATOR STAND.

/MR CHEUNG

MR CHEUNG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST NORTH DISTRICT LONG-DISTANCE RACE ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE FRONTIER POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE AND THE NORTH DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID APART FROM ORGANISING A DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS VENUES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

HE BELIEVED THAT WITH THE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND RESIDENTS' ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN NORTH DISTRICT WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED.

TODAY'S RACE STARTED AND FINISHED AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND, AND COVERED THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD (FANLING SLIP ROAD), JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND THE ROUNDABOUT NEAR SO KWUN PO, COVERING A DISTANCE OF NINE KILOMETRES.

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ROAD SAFETY DAY AT VICTORIA PARK

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AN AVERAGE OF THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED OR INJURED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT EACH DAY LAST YEAR, THE POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER (EASTERN), MR R.M.A. HARPER, DISCLOSED AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY DAY AT VICTORIA PARK TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR HARPER SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING INJURIES HAD INCREASED FROM 956 IN 1986 TO 1159 IN 1987, AND THE NUMBER OF FATAL ACCIDENTS FROM 20 IN 1986 TO 25 IN 1987.

"WHILST THIS MAY BE ATTRIBUTED PARTLY TO THE INCREASE IN POPULATION AND IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES ON THE ROADS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR THESE ACCIDENTS IS CARELESS BEHAVIOUR ON THE ROADS."

HE POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 33 PER CENT OF ALL ACCIDENT VICTIMS IN HONG KONG WERE PEDESTRIANS, OF WHICH SOME 44 PER CENT WERE OVER 60 YEARS OLD.

"ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN IS THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LIGHT VANS AND IT IS CLEAR THAT DRIVERS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED ONES, ARE NOT APPRECIATING THAT THEIR SPEED AND LIGHT WEIGHT REQUIRE MORE CAUTIOUS DRIVING," HE CONTINUED.

"WHEN INVOLVED IN EVEN A MINOR COLLISION, THERE IS LITTLE BODYWORK TO PROTECT THE PASSENGERS OF THESE VEHICLES FROM INJURY. THEREFORE, DRIVERS OF THESE VEHICLES SHOULD TAKE GREATER CARE," HE SAID.

/ALSO SPEAKING

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ALSO SPEAKING AT THE ROAD SAFETY DAY, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG, SAID THAT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE THIRD PHASE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, AS WELL AS THE RECONSTRUCTION OF KING'S ROAD, THERE WOULD BE A BETTER ROAD NETWORK AND IMPROVED TRAFFIC FOR THE DISTRICT.

MR YEUNG ALSO URGED VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT TO CAST THEIR VOTES AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 10.

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VOLUNTEERS VISIT ELDERLY IN TAI PO

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ABOUT 100 VOLUNTARY WORKERS VISITED 50 OLD PEOPLE LIVING IN OLD BUILDINGS AND REMOTE VILLAGES IN TAI PO DISTRICT TODAY (SUNDAY).

THEY ALSO HELPED THE ELDERLY CLEAN UP AND PAINT THEIR HOMES.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING A SENSE OF CARE FOR THE AGED AND ASSISTING THE ELDERLY TO PREPARE FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE VISIT WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ELDERLY SERVICES PROJECT INITIATED BY THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD.

APART FROM THE VISIT, ABOUT 800 ELDERLY WERE TREATED TO A VARIETY SHOW AT THE TAI PO CIVIC CENTRE ON JANUARY 10.

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NEW CONDITIONS FOR TRANSPORTING LONG AND WIDE LOADS

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH NEW RULES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF LONG LOADS AND WIDE LOADS FROM MARCH 1 THIS YEAR.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS STIPULATE THAT A LONG LOAD PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF ANY LOAD WHICH PROTRUDES MORE THAN 1.5 METRES BEYOND THE FOREMOST PART, OR MORE THAN 1.4 METRES BEHIND THE REARMOST PART OF THE CONVEYANCE VEHICLE.

IN ADDITION, A WIDE LOAD PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE CARRIAGE OF ANY LOAD WHICH EXCEEDS 2.5 METRES IN WIDTH.

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UNDER THE NEW PERMIT CONDITIONS, A LONG LOAD OR WIDE LOAD PERMIT WILL ONLY BE ISSUED TO THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A MEDIUM OR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE WHOSE OVERALL LENGTH IS AT LEAST 9.1 METRES.

IN THE CASE OF LOADS WHICH OVERHANG MORE THAN TWO METRES TO THE FRONT OR MORE THAN THREE METRES TO THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE, THE LENGTH OF THE CONVEYANCE VEHICLE MUST BE AT LEAST 10 METRES.

ESCORT VEHICLES TO THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE LOAD-CARRYING VEHICLE ARE ALSO MADE MANDATORY.

AN ESCORT VEHICLE MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH AN AMBER FLASHING LIGHT AND MUST DISPLAY IN A PROMINENT POSITION EITHER A "LONG LOAD" OR "WIDE LOAD" SIGN, DEPENDING ON THE LOAD ESCORTED, TO WARN OTHER MOTORISTS.

"TO ENSURE THAT THE 'LONG LOAD' OR 'WIDE LOAD' SIGNS ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE TO OTHER ROAD USERS, THE SIGN ON THE FRONT ESCORT VEHICLE MUST BE DISPLAYED TO THE FRONT FACING ONCOMING VEHICLES, WHILE THAT ON THE REAR ESCORT VEHICLE SHOULD BE DISPLAYED TO THE REAR FACING TRAFFIC TRAILING BEHIND.

"ALTERNATIVELY, THE SIGNS MAY BE MOUNTED ON THE ROOF OF THE ESCORT VEHICLES AND IN THAT CASE, THE SIGNS MAY BE DOUBLE-SIDED," A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT THE DESIGN, COLOUR AND DIMENSIONS OF THE "LONG LOAD" AND "WIDE LOAD" SIGNS MUST COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN THE PERMIT CONDITIONS.

MOREOVER, THE FITTING OF FLASHING AMBER LIGHTS ON ESCORT VEHICLES SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS. APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINATION DIVISION HAS FIRST TO BE SOUGHT BEFORE THESE LIGHTS ARE FITTED.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER STRESSED THAT EVEN WITH A LONG LOAD OR WIDE LOAD PERMIT, THE HEIGHT OF ANY LOAD WHEN PLACED ON THE GOODS VEHICLE MUST NOT EXCEED 4.6 METRES ABOVE THE GROUND.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LONG LOAD OR WIDE LOAD PERMIT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICES WHILE ENQUIRIES ON THE NEW REQUIREMENTS MAY BE MADE ON 5-262982 OR 3-7714306.

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FIRE STATION OFFICERS BEING RECRUITED

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE TO FILL SOME 30 VANCANCIES IN THE STATION OFFICER RANK.

THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (MONDAY) UNTIL FEBRUARY 15.

APPLICANTS SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE PASSED FIVE SUBJECTS IN THE HKSCEE INCLUDING ENGLISH (SYLLABUS B).

THEY SHOULD HAVE GOOD PHYSIQUE AND NORMAL EYESIGHT AND STAND AT LEAST 168 CM TALL AND WEIGH 55 KG. THEIR CHEST SHOULD MEASURE AT LEAST 86 CM AND ABLE TO EXPAND AT LEAST FIVE CM WHEN INFLATED.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO 26 WEEKS' TRAINING AT THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE FIRE SERVICES RECRUITMENT OFFICE AT 1 HONG CHONG ROAD, TSIMSHATSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7337673.

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MUSIC OFFICE RECRUITS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE IS RECRUITING PART-TIME WORKERS AS PIANO ACCOMPANISTS AND INSTRUCTORS IN CHINESE MUSIC; WIND AND STRING INSTRUMENTS, CHORAL SINGING, AND IN AURAL TRAINING AND MUSIC THEORY.

APPLICANTS FOR JOBS AS PART-TIME PIANO ACCOMPANISTS AND INSTRUCTORS IN WESTERN MUSIC SHOULD POSSESS LRSM, LTCL, ARCM, LRAM, LGSM, DRAM, GRSM, GTCL, GGSM, OR GRNCM OR EQUIVALENT; OR HAVE A DIPLOMA IN MUSIC FROM THE HONG KONG CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, OR THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, OR THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE; OR HAVE A DEGREE IN MUSIC FROM A RECOGNISED UNIVERSITY.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN APPLYING AS PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS IN CHINESE MUSIC SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED MUSICAL TRAINING IN AN ACCEPTABLE INSTITUTION OR HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN AN ACCEPTABLE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUP OR ACADEMY.

PART-TIME PIANO ACCOMPANISTS WILL BE PAID \$80 FOR THE FIRST ONE-HOUR SESSION AND \$20 FOR EVERY 15 MINUTES' SERVICE THEREAFTER.

/THEIR DUTIES

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THEIR DUTIES INCLUDE PROVIDING PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT FOR TRAINEES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE DURING REHEARSALS, EXAMINATIONS AS WELL AS COMPETITIONS, AND GIVING AURAL TRAINING TO THE TRAINEES WHEN REQUIRED.

RUMUNERATION FOR PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS IS \$125 PER TEACHING OR PERFORMING SESSION OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HOUR. THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING CLASSES AND TO PERFORM IN DEMONSTRATION CONCERTS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

NAMES OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE PUT ON A PART-TIME STAFF LIST OF THE OFFICE AND THEIR SERVICE WILL BE CALLED UPON AS AND WHEN REQUIRED.

APPLICATION FORMS (GF 340) ARE OBTAINABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. COMPLETED FORMS, TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DIPLOMAS, SHOULD REACH THE MUSIC OFFICE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 25TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI BY FEBRUARY 15.

CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOT INVITED FOR AN AUDITION OR AN INTERVIEW WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OF THE CLOSING DATE MAY ASSUME THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 5-8235340.

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WORK ON TOWN PARK TO START SOON
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WORK ON THE MAIN PART OF THE FANLING TOWN PARK IS EXPECTED TO START SOON.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE DEVELOPING A 6.31-HECTARE SITE ADJACENT TO FANLING WAI VILLAGE. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED INCLUDE A LAKE WITH A WATER CASCADE, FLOWER AND ROCK GARDENS, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS, AN OPEN AIR PERFORMANCE AREA, REFRESHMENT FACILITIES, PUBLIC TOILETS AND OPEN LANDSCAPED AREAS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT 12 MONTHS.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THIS PROJECT AND THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 26.

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STRING OF 'GOOD LUCK' FOR SALE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL BE OFFERING A STRING OF 'GOOD LUCK' FOR SALE. IT WILL BE IN THE FORM OF AUSPICIOUS CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS TO GREET THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON.

TOPPING THE LIST IS THE NUMBER '8', WITH NO PREFIX. EIGHT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED A LUCKY NUMBER WITH ITS PHONETIC MEANING OF 'FAT CHOY' OR PROSPERITY.

THE AUCTION BEING HELD IN THE YEAR OF 1988 MEANS THAT THREE 8'S WILL BE ON OFFER. TO GIVE AN EXTRA 'FAT CHOY' TO LOVERS OF AUSPICIOUS CAR REGISTRATION NUMBERS, THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING PUTTING UP THE NUMBER '8' AS THE EIGHTH NUMBER FOR BIDDING ON THE DAY OF THE AUCTION.

THE SPECIAL LUNAR NEW YEAR AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY) AT CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

ANOTHER 18 ESPECIALLY SELECTED LUCKY NUMBERS WILL BE PUT UP FOR BIDDING.

MISS HONG KONG, MISS PAULINE YEUNG, WHO WON THE TITLE OF ASIA'S QUEEN OF BEAUTY AT THE FINALS OF THE RECENT MISS WORLD PAGEANT, WILL BE THE HONORARY AUCTIONEER FOR THE REGISTRATION NUMBER '8'.

THIS WILL BE THE 121ST AUCTION HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE THE FIRST ONE TOOK PLACE ON MAY 9, 1973. PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL GO TO THE LOTTERIES FUND WHICH PROVIDES GRANTS OR LOANS TO FINANCE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, THE ELDERLY AND THE DISABLED.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED DURING THE PAST 120 AUCTIONS IS NEARLY \$50 MILLION. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER WHICH FETCHED THE HIGHEST PRICE IN THE PAST AUCTIONS WAS '3', WHICH WAS SOLD FOR \$1,030,000, FOLLOWED BY '38' FOR \$540,000, AND 'HK3' FOR \$420,000.

IN ADDITION TO THE AUSPICIOUS NUMBER '8', THE OTHER 18 LUCKY NUMBERS WHICH WILL BE PUT UP FOR BIDDING AT THE AUCTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AL 99	CY 3
BB 2623	CM 600
AA 818	CP 22
AW 2	DW 1
CL 33	AF 18
AY 125	BM 821
CW 888	CL 9
213	AP 11
HK 77	XX 28

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NEW EXPRESS BUS ROUTE BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND CENTRAL

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A NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE NO. 141 PLYING BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND MACAU FERRY PIER IN CENTRAL WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 2), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE AT A 10-MINUTE FREQUENCY DURING MORNING AND EVENING PEAK HOURS FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

AS THE BUS ROUTE WILL BE AN EXPRESS SERVICE TRAVELLING ALONG THE EAST KOWLOON WAY AND THE AIRPORT TUNNEL THE FARE WILL BE \$3.2 FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY. HOWEVER, ON ITS JOURNEYS TO CENTRAL, A SECTION FARE OF \$2.8 WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER PASSING THE EAST KOWLOON WAY. ON ITS JOURNEYS TO KWUN TONG, PASSENGERS BOARDING THE BUS IN KOWLOON WILL ONLY HAVE TO PAY \$ 1.7.

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