



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (OCTOBER) WAS \$7 118 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$5 322 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$1 796 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

WITH IMPORTS AT \$8 299 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR OCTOBER WAS \$1 181 MILLION.

FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, TOTAL EXPORTS WERE VALUED AT \$61 134 MILLION AND IMPORTS AT \$69 318 MILLION, GIVING A TOTAL VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$8 184 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF LAST MONTH'S TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 41 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP BY 40 PER CENT, RE-EXPORTS BY 45 PER CENT AND IMPORTS BY 48 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PEAK SEASON FOR IMPORTS USUALLY OCCURRED IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR IN PREPARATION FOR THE INCREASED RETAIL SALES AROUND THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND AS MANUFACTURERS BOUGHT IN RAW MATERIALS FOR THEIR SPRING ORDERS.

+SO, INCREASED MONTHLY VISIBLE TRADE DEFICITS ARE NORMAL AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. BUT THE INCREASE THIS YEAR SEEMS TO HAVE STARTED SLIGHTLY EARLIER THAN IT DID LAST YEAR,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE FIRST TEN MONTHS TAKEN TOGETHER, THE TRENDS EMERGING FOR THIS YEAR AS A WHOLE CONTINUED TO BE ENCOURAGING ON TWO COUNTS.

FIRSTLY, THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS. THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS, IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, 42 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR, COMPARED WITH 39 PER CENT FOR THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

SECONDLY, THE SIGNIFICANT FIGURE WAS NOT THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT AS SUCH BUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH IMPORTS WERE NOT BEING PAID FOR BY EXPORTS, THE SO-CALLED VISIBLE TRADE GAP. THE GAP NARROWED FROM 13.2 PER CENT IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1978 TO 11.8 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE YEAR TO DATE WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE FORECASTS FOR THE YEAR, INDICATING THAT THE ECONOMY WAS STILL ON THE COURSE PREDICTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

HE SAID DETAILED FIGURES FOR OCTOBER WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT THOSE UP TO SEPTEMBER SHOWED THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS HAD SLOWED DOWN, INDICATING THAT DOMESTIC DEMAND WAS BEING DAMPENED DOWN.

+IN FACT THE GROWTH IN IMPORTS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO RAPID INCREASES IN IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS, SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND CAPITAL GOODS. IN OTHER WORDS THE INCREASES HAD DERIVED FROM GOOD EXPORT PROSPECTS RATHER THAN FROM GROWING DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION,+ HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:-

LATEST 3 MONTHS	AUG-OCT	AUG-OCT	INCREASE OR	
	1979	1978	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	16 425	11 590	+ 4 836	+ 41.7
RE-EXPORTS	5 283	3 658	+ 1 625	+ 44.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	21 709	15 248	+ 6 461	+ 42.4
IMPORTS	23 266	16 434	+ 6 832	+ 41.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 557	- 1 186	- 371	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	INCREASE OR	
	1979	1978	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 322 (74.8%)	3 806 (75.4%)	+ 1 517	+ 39.8
RE-EXPORTS	1 796	1 238	+ 558	+ 45.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 118	5 044	+ 2 074	+ 41.1
IMPORTS	8 299	5 605	+ 2 694	+ 48.1
TRADE BALANCE	-1 181	- 561	- 620	

LAST MONTH	OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER	INCREASE OR	
	1979	1979	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 322 (74.8%)	5 316 (75.4%)	+ 6	+ 0.1
RE-EXPORTS	1 796	1 734	+ 62	+ 3.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 118	7 051	+ 68	+ 1.0

/IMPORTS

IMPORTS	8 299	7 648	+ 651	+ 8.5
TRADE BALANCE	-1 181	- 597	- 584	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-OCT 1979	JAN-OCT 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	45 002 (73.6%)	32 582 (75.5%)	+12 420	+38.1
RE-EXPORTS	16 132	10 572	+ 5 560	+52.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	61 134	43 154	+17 980	+41.7
IMPORTS	69 318	49 740	+19 579	+39.4
TRADE BALANCE	-8 184	-6 586	-1 598	

LAST 12 MONTHS	NOV 1978 TO OCT 1979	NOV 1977 TO OCT 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	53 131	39 214	+13 917	+35.5
RE-EXPORTS	18 757	12 415	+ 6 342	+51.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	71 888	51 630	+20 259	+39.2
IMPORTS	82 634	58 981	+23 653	+40.1
TRADE BALANCE	-10 746	-7 351	- 3 395	

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE THREE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUDICIARY SAID TODAY (MONDAY) UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, ANY OF THE THREE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS WILL NOW ACCEPT A CLAIM LODGED WITH IT WHETHER OR NOT THE DEFENDANT LIVES OR OPERATES A BUSINESS WITHIN THE AREA OF THE JURISDICTION OF THAT TRIBUNAL.

THE THREE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNALS ARE IN VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT, POK FUN LAM ROAD- THE KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT, GASCOIGNE ROAD AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT, SHA TSUI ROAD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS ARE TO REDUCE FORMALITY AND MEET THE CONVENIENCE OF THE CLAIMANTS.

/HE SAID:

HE SAID: +IN THE PAST PROCEEDINGS HAVE HAD TO BE TAKEN IN THE TRIBUNAL WHICH HAS JURISDICTION IN THE AREA WHERE THE DEFENDANT RESIDES OR HAS HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS.

+BUT WITH THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, A CLAIMANT CAN USE WHICHEVER TRIBUNAL SUITS HIM BEST.+

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TRIBUNAL STILL RETAINS THE POWER TO TRANSFER A CLAIM TO ANOTHER TRIBUNAL IF IT THINKS DESIRABLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTEREST OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND THE NEED FOR SPEEDY DESPATCH OF BUSINESS.

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NARCOTICS REPORT 1978 ON SALE

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THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, WITH ITS COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS AND OTHER INDICATORS, NOW HAS A SOPHISTICATED MECHANISM ON WHICH TO BASE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF ACAN, SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, STATED THIS IN THE FOREWORD OF THE HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT 1978, OF WHICH THE ENGLISH EDITION IS ON SALE TODAY (MONDAY) AT \$20 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE. THE CHINESE VERSION IS BEING PRODUCED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

SIR ALBERT SAID SINCE THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ADDICTS BECAME FULLY COMPUTERISED IN SEPTEMBER 1976 OVER 76 000 REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON 29 000 ADDICTS AT THE END OF 1978.

HE SAID : +THIS NEW FACILITY GIVES US, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A MEANS OF CHECKING AT VERY FREQUENT INTERVALS ANY CHANGES OF TRENDS IN, AND CHARACTERISTICS OF, OUR ADDICT POPULATION, AND MARKS A MAJOR ADVANCE IN OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE DATA BASE ON WHICH REALISTIC ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICIES CAN BE FORMULATED.+

IN OTHER FIELDS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK, SIR ALBERT SAID, STEADY PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE.

+THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE) HAVE SUCCEEDED, THROUGH THEIR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO LIMIT IMPORTS OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS, IN KEEPING THE RETAIL PRICE OF DRUGS ON THE STREET AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL.

+THIS, IN TURN, HAS INDUCED MANY ADDICTS TO CONTINUE IN TREATMENT IN OUR VARIOUS PROGRAMMES.

+THE CO-ORDINATED EFFORTS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES (RUN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PRISONS DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS) HAVE ALSO HAD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS FULL EMPLOYMENT, IMPROVEMENTS IN LIVING STANDARDS, THE SUCCESS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE, PROVISION OF FREE UNIVERSAL EDUCATION UP TO FORM 3 LEVEL, THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION, A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON CRIME AND ON THE PRISON POPULATION,+ SIR ALBERT SAID.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO SAID : +WITH SUCH A FERMENT OF PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY, WE CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT PROGRESS IN OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS STRUGGLE IS BEING WELL-MAINTAINED, AND THAT WE NOW HAVE A MORE ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT MEANS OF MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF OUR WORK.+

THE HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT 1978, PUBLISHED IN FULL-COLOUR WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, IS COMPILED BY ACAN.

THE 127-PAGE REPORT GIVES A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG'S NARCOTIC SCENE AS WELL AS ALL IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE VARIOUS MAJOR ACTION PROGRAMMES BEING CARRIED OUT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR ACAN SAID THE REPORT IS AN INFORMATIVE AND HIGHLY READABLE DOCUMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE SERIOUS LONG-STANDING SOCIAL PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS ADDICTION IN HONG KONG.

IT IS PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDED TO TEACHERS, STUDENTS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF OTHER PROFESSIONS WHOSE WORK MAY BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NARCOTIC ISSUE, HE SAID.

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CLOSING CEREMONY OF WHO TRAINING COURSE * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG WILL ATTEND THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S FIRST INTER-REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR PHYSICIANS ON THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG DEPENDENT PERSONS AND ADDRESS THE GATHERING AT 9.30 AM. ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 28) IN THE GIS THEATRE, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR. PETER LEE, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

THE COURSE STARTED ON OCTOBER 30 WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY INTO THE LATEST ANTI-NARCOTICS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION POLICIES AND METHODS OF HONG KONG.

TWENTY-FIVE PHYSICIANS FROM AFGHANISTAN, BURMA, EGYPT, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND TOOK PART IN THE COURSE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WHO TRAINING COURSE FOR PHYSICIANS ON THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG DEPENDENT PERSONS AT 9.30 AM. ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 28) IN THE GIS THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

TV CREWS ARE ADVISED TO USE HAND-HELD CINE CAMERAS BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATION.

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LAND SALE RESULTS

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A 1 400-SQUARE METRE SITE IN SUN YIP STREET, CHAI WAN, WAS SOLD FOR \$32 MILLION AT AN AUCTION CONDUCTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SITE, FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODWON PURPOSES, WAS BOUGHT BY HYALINE REALTY LTD AT \$22 857.14 PER SQUARE METRE.

ANOTHER LOT, IN KUT SHING STREET, CHAI WAN, WAS SOLD TO HONG FOK LAND CO LTD FOR \$14 MILLION OR \$29 227.50 PER SQUARE METRE. IT IS ALSO FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

A LOT LOCATED AT 43 STATION LANE, HUNG HOM, FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WAS SOLD TO PERFECT ENTERPRISES LTD WITH AN AREA OF 75 SQUARE METRES. THE SITE WAS SOLD FOR \$1.7 MILLION OR \$22 666.67 PER SQUARE METRE.

AT THE SAME AUCTION, A LOT AT 2A NEW STREET, HONG KONG, MEASURING 95.5 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO HON CHOR CO LTD FOR \$2.7 MILLION, OR \$29 189.19 PER SQUARE METRE.

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DHA TO VISIT HOLIDAY CAMP

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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN WILL VISIT THE PO LEUNG KUK HOLIDAY CAMP AT PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG AT 2.30 PM. TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MR. WALDEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF PO LEUNG KUK, MRS. KITTY SIU HON-SUM AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. C.B. CHIU.

THE CAMP, OPERATED ON A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BASIS, PROVIDES LODGING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC.

PHASE I OF THE CAMP WHICH WAS OPENED IN APRIL THIS YEAR COMPRISES SEVEN TWO-STOREY HOSTELS FOR 130 PEOPLE.

FACILITIES IN THE CAMP, INCLUDE RECREATION ROOMS, VOLLEY BALL/BASKETBALL COURTS BADMINTON COURTS, AN ARCHERY YARD AND A CHILDREN PLAYGROUND.

THE ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY WILL BE INCREASED AND MORE FACILITIES BE PROVIDED WHEN PHASE II DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAMP COMPLETES EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE VISIT BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN TO THE PO LEUNG KUK HOLIDAY CAMP AT PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 2.30 PM. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOMED TO USE THE TRANSPORT LEAVING PO LEUNG KUK IN LEIGHTON ROAD FOR THE CAMP AT 12.15 PM.

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CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY BRIDGE IN SHA TIN
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$5 MILLION CONTRACT TO GAMMON (HONG KONG) LTD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER FO TAN NULLAH IN SHA TIN.

THE BRIDGE WILL CARRY THE NEW RACECOURSE LOOP LINES AND DEPOT ACCESS LINES OVER THE NULLAH.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH IS PART OF THE MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT MONTH (DECEMBER) FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER 1980.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA FOR TRANSMARK (TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND MARKET RESEARCH LTD) ON BEHALF OF CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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SAFETY COMPETITION FOR FORK LIFT OPERATORS
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A COMPETITION TO PROMOTE GREATER SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG FORK LIFT OPERATORS WILL BE HELD THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 2).

THE COMPETITION, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINALS LTD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

IT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS, ONE FOR TEAMS AND ONE FOR INDIVIDUALS.

WINNERS OF EACH SECTION WILL BE SELECTED BY A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CENTRAL CONTAINER HANDLING SAFETY COMMITTEE, THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WILLIAM HUNT AND CO INTERNATIONAL LTD AND CLARK INTERNATIONAL MARKETING S.A.

CASH PRIZES TOGETHER WITH CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP OF BOTH SECTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE SAFETY COMPETITION FOR FORK LIFT OPERATORS TO BE HELD IN THE TRUCK PARK OUTSIDE THE HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINALS LTD OPPOSITE THE GOVERNMENT CARGO OFFICE BLOCK NEAR THE EAST GATE OF THE AIRPORT.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1979

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WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN AP LEI CHAU WILL BE
SUSPENDED FOR FOUR HOURS FROM 1 PM. TO 5 PM. ON WEDNESDAY
(NOVEMBER 28).

THE SUSPENSION IS TO FACILITATE ESSENTIAL WORK ON THE
WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

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