



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH 1991

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 22% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

THIS IS ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 15% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 18% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4%. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECREASED BY 1%.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF MARCH 1991 WITH MARCH 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 11%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 7%.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 8%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 3%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECLINED IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990, INCLUDING FOOTWEAR (-51%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-48%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-45%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-34%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-21%); CLOTHING (-18%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-16%); METAL MANUFACTURES (-13%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-11%); AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-6%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+20%); AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+6%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990.

/THESE INCLUDED

THESE INCLUDED FOOTWEAR (+6%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+5%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+5%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+4%); CLOTHING (+3%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+3%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+3%); AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+2%).

HOWEVER, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS; AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS BOTH DECLINED BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 17% IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990.

IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FRUIT; CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS; RICE; VEGETABLES; LIVE POULTRY; AND WHEAT AND FLOUR.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND SUGAR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 7%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; AND FOOTWEAR.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 13% IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR MAN-MADE FIBRES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; COTTON YARN AND THREAD; CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS; AND WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC., EXCEPT GLASS; AND SILK FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 37% IN VOLUME IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME DECREASED BY 9% IN MARCH 1991 OVER MARCH 1990.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, AN INCREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY.

COMPARING MARCH 1991 WITH MARCH 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+29%); CAPITAL GOODS (+5%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); FOODSTUFFS (+3%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING MARCH 1991 WITH MARCH 1990, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 7% : FOODSTUFFS (+16%); CAPITAL GOODS (+8%); CONSUMER GOODS (+7%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+7%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FUELS DECREASED BY 36%.

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN MARCH 1991 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990: FUELS (+41%); FOODSTUFFS (+4%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%); AND CAPITAL GOODS (+1%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND JUNE 15 AT \$4 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 823 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MAR 1991 WITH MAR 1990			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1991 WITH JAN-MAR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-15	3	-18	7	3	4
TEXTILE FABRICS	-8	3	-11	-2	3	-4
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-17	5	-21	-10	3	-13
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-44	3	-45	-28	1	-29

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RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-31	5	-34	-15	5	-19
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	20	-1	20	40	-1	42
FOOTWEAR	-48	6	-51	-27	6	-31
METAL MANUFACTURES	-9	4	-13	2	4	-3
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-5	*	-6	18	-1	19
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	6	-1	6	4	*	3
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-47	2	-48	-22	2	-23
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-16	1	-16	2	1	2
ALL COMMODITIES	-9	2	-11	4	2	2

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1991 WITH MAR 1990			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1991 WITH JAN-MAR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	21	3	17	12	4	8
CONSUMER GOODS	11	3	7	25	3	20
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	15	2	13	21	2	19
FUELS	76	29	37	71	35	27
CAPITAL GOODS	-5	5	-9	20	5	15
ALL COMMODITIES	12	3	8	23	4	18

/TABLE 3:

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1991 WITH MAR 1990			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1991 WITH JAN-MAR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	21	4	16	13	3	10
CONSUMER GOODS	11	3	7	34	3	30
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	9	2	7	15	2	14
FUELS	-10	41	-36	2	46	-30
CAPITAL GOODS	9	1	8	22	1	21
ALL COMMODITIES	10	3	7	26	3	22

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GOVERNOR TO OFFICIATE AT ABERDEEN DRAGON BOAT RACES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE 1991 ABERDEEN DRAGON BOAT RACES TO BE HELD ON JUNE 16 TO CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SUNDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANNUAL EVENT'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MRS SO CHAU YIM-PING SAID 65 TEAMS FROM ALL OVER THE TERRITORY WERE EXPECTED TO COMPETE IN THE RACES WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE ALONG A 330-METRE COURSE OFF THE ABERDEEN WATERFRONT FROM 8.30 AM TO 5 PM.

"THERE WILL BE A RECORD 11 TEAMS IN THE FISHERMEN'S LARGE DRAGON BOAT DIVISION AND 54 TEAMS IN THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF MEDIUM-SIZED DRAGON BOAT RACES.

"THE RACES WILL REVOLVE AROUND 10 TITLES," SHE SAID.

MRS SO SAID THERE WOULD BE ALTOGETHER 38 RACES, WITH HEATS MAINLY IN THE MORNING AND SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS IN THE AFTERNOON.

WHILE THE ABERDEEN PROMENADE WOULD PROVIDE A VANTAGE POINT FOR THE PUBLIC TO WATCH THE RACES, A 600-SEAT SPECTATORS' STAND WOULD BE PUT UP NEAR THE FINISH LINE FOR GUESTS, SHE ADDED.

/THE EVENT

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

AN EYE-DOTTING AND EMBLEM-HANGING CEREMONY TO LAUNCH SEVEN DRAGON BOATS WAS HELD AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS CO-CHAIRER BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN.

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VOLUNTEERS BOLSTER HK'S SECURITY

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NEWLY TRAINED RECRUITS IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED OF THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE OF SUPPORTING THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN MAINTAINING THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE TERRITORY.

THE REMINDER CAME FROM THE DEPUTY COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, BRIGADIER M.R.I. CONSTANTINE, WHEN ADDRESSING 124 RECRUITS AT THEIR PASSING OFF PARADE HELD AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS IN HAPPY VALLEY.

HE SAID SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE REGIMENTS HELPED SUSTAIN THE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG WHICH WAS VITAL TO ITS WELL-BEING.

"IN JOINING THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, YOU WILL BE PLAYING YOUR PART IN THIS IMPORTANT ROLE.

"I AM SURE YOU WILL DISCHARGE THAT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE REGIMENT, AS INDEED HAVE DONE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE YOU," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE RECRUITS HAD BEEN TAUGHT ALL THE BASIC SKILLS AND DISCIPLINES NECESSARY TO EQUIP THEM TO TAKE THEIR PLACE AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT, BRIGADIER CONSTANTINE SAID THE TRAININGS ENABLED THEM TO DEVELOP IN MIND AND BODY.

THE TRAININGS RANGED FROM FOOT DRILLS AND WEAPON HANDLING TO MAP READING, FIRST AID AND BASIC FIELD CRAFT.

WHILE CONGRATULATING THE RECRUITS ON ACHIEVING THE REQUIRED HIGH STANDARDS, BRIGADIER CONSTANTINE ALSO URGED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND THE NEED FOR HIGH PERSONAL STANDARDS.

"THIS WILL HAVE BOOSTED YOUR SELF-RESPECT AND YOUR OWN CONFIDENCE AND I THINK YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO FEEL PLEASED WITH YOURSELVES AT HAVING COMPLETED YOUR RECRUIT TRAINING," HE SAID.

BRIGADIER CONSTANTINE TOOK THE SALUTE AS THE 109 MEN AND 15 WOMEN MARCHED PAST.

DURING THE CEREMONY, 72-YEAR-OLD STEPHEN CHOW, A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS, WAS PRESENTED HIS WAR MEDALS - 50 YEARS IN ARREARS OF THE BATTLE FOR HONG KONG THAT BROKE OUT IN DECEMBER 1941.

THEN 22-YEAR-OLD, AS A PRIVATE, CHOW WAS MOBILISED WITH HIS COMRADES OF NO. 3 COMPANY ON DECEMBER 8, 1941.

ON DECEMBER 18, WHILE ENGAGING THE JAPANESE TROOPS IN A BITTER FIGHT, THE COMPANY WAS DISPERSED AND HE WAS SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF HIS COMPANY.

HE WAS FORCED TO JOIN THE CORPS' HEADQUARTERS AT CENTRAL UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, AFTER WHICH HE JOINED THE BRITISH ARMY AID GROUP IN CHINA.

AS AN ENGINEER BY PROFESSION, CHOW WAS LATER TRANSFERRED TO WORK FOR THE AMERICANS IN LAYING AN AIRFIELD.

SUBSEQUENTLY, HE WAS EVACUATED FROM GUILIN AND STAYED IN KUNMING UNTIL JAPANESE SURRENDER IN AUGUST 1945.

THE MEDALS PRESENTED TO HIM TODAY INCLUDED A 39/45 STAR, A PACIFIC STAR, A WAR MEDAL AND A DEFENCE MEDAL.

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GOVT AND AAB KEEN ON HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD (AAB) ARE KEEN ON PRESERVING VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF HONG KONG'S ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE, AND UP TO NOW 44 BUILDINGS AND SITES HAVE BEEN DECLARED AS MONUMENTS BY THE BOARD.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF A RESTORATION PROGRAMME FOR THE KUN TING STUDY HALL IN PING SHAN, YUEN LONG TODAY (SUNDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AAB, MR EDWARD HO, SAID THE TANG CLAN HAD DEMONSTRATED THE APPRECIATION THAT ITS HERITAGE WAS OF SIGNIFICANCE NOT JUST TO FELLOW CLAN MEMBERS, BUT ALSO TO ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

"THE AAB IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE STUDY HALL MANAGEMENT HAS AGREED TO THE DECLARATION OF THE BUILDING AS A MONUMENT, SINCE THE KUN TING STUDY HALL IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF ITS TYPE," HE SAID.

IN A BID TO ENCOURAGE EFFORTS BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PRESERVE THEIR HERITAGE, A \$15 MILLION FUNDING FROM BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP HAD BEEN INJECTED TO START A RESTORATION PROGRAMME OF ANOTHER FIVE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS EARLY THIS YEAR, MR HO ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S CEREMONY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (RHKJC), MR GORDON MACWHINNIE, AND MRS MACWHINNIE; THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO; THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR KENNETH CHAN; THE HEAD OF TANG SHUNG TAK TONG, MR TANG KAI-KWONG; AND MANAGERS OF THE TONG, MESSRS TANG NAI-MAN AND TANG CHUN-HUNG.

/DURING THE

DURING THE CEREMONY, MR JAMES SO PRESENTED A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT TO A MANAGER OF TANG SHUNG TAK TONG, MR TANG CHUN-HUNG, FOR THE CLAN'S CO-OPERATION.

THE 121-YEAR-OLD STUDY HALL WAS BUILT IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY BY DESCENDANTS OF THE TANG CLAN TO COMMEMORATE THEIR 21ST GENERATION ANCESTOR, MR TANG KUN-TING (1815-1838).

THE STUDY HALL HAD BEEN USED AS FACILITIES FOR BOTH ANCESTRAL WORSHIP AND EDUCATION. CHILDREN WERE TAUGHT ARTS AND CLASSICS, WITH THE AIM OF HELPING THEM TO PASS THE IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS AND TO BECOME OFFICIALS IN THE QING ADMINISTRATION, TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE CLAN'S POWER AND POSITION.

BY THE 1970'S, THE STUDY HALL SHOWED SIGNS OF DILAPIDATION. IN 1981, THE AAB RECOMMENDED TO PRESERVE THE STUDY HALL ON THE GROUNDS OF ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. WITH A GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE RHKJC, A RESTORATION PROGRAMME WAS CARRIED OUT EARLY LAST YEAR TO BRING THE STUDY HALL BACK TO ITS FORMER SPLENDOUR.

THE \$2.3 MILLION RESTORATION WORK WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH AND THE ANTIQUITIES SECTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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ORDINARY AIR LETTER MAIL SERVICE TO KUWAIT RESUMES

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ORDINARY AIR LETTER MAIL SERVICE TO KUWAIT, WHICH WAS SUSPENDED ON JANUARY 17 THIS YEAR, HAS RESUMED, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

OTHER SERVICES TO KUWAIT, INCLUDING SURFACE MAIL, REGISTERED MAIL, PARCEL, SPEEDPOST, EXPRESS AND POSTFAX REMAIN SUSPENDED, HE ADDED.

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1,317 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY

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A TOTAL OF 1,742 CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN 1,317 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST MONTH.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT 335 OF THESE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 687 IN KOWLOON AND 295 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR MAY SHOWED THAT 33 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 333 PEOPLE WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 1,376 SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THESE ACCIDENTS.

THESE FIGURES REPRESENTED A 6.3 PER CENT AND A 4.4 PER CENT INCREASE RESPECTIVELY IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES RECORDED OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

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KWAI TSING RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN DB WORKING GROUPS

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KWAI TSING RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE VARIOUS WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE FIVE DB COMMITTEES.

THEY ARE THE COMMUNITY, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE; THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE; THE HOUSING AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; AND THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

DESCRIBING THE MOVE AS A "FIRST", THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS BUT PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN THE DISTRICT WOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY.

"THE CHAIRMEN OF THE WORKING GROUPS WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT AN APPLICATION OR NOT," HE SAID.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT THE KWAI TSING DB SECRETARIAT ON TEL. 423 4002.

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STATUTORY HOLIDAYS REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT TUEN NG FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON JUNE 16 (SUNDAY), IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.

"IF THAT DAY IS ALREADY A REST DAY FOR AN EMPLOYEE, HE SHOULD BE GRANTED A HOLIDAY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THAT IS JUNE 17 (MONDAY)," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS ARE ENTITLED TO BE PAID FOR THE HOLIDAY IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HOWEVER, JUNE 17 SHOULD BE A FLOATING HOLIDAY, BEING THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, UNLESS AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY HAS BEEN FIXED BY THE EMPLOYER.

"IF JUNE 17 IS GRANTED AS A FLOATING HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE GIVEN ANOTHER DAY OFF ON JUNE 18 (TUESDAY) FOR TUEN NG FESTIVAL," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE FOR AN EMPLOYER NOT TO GRANT AN EMPLOYEE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

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IN A RECENT CASE, THE PROPRIETOR OF SIU LAM KUNG RESTAURANT IN WESTERN DISTRICT WAS FINED \$6,000 BY A WESTERN MAGISTRATE FOR NOT GRANTING HER TWO EMPLOYEES STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR THE OFFENCE IS \$10,000.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNING ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS, SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, THE HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNING DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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46 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN MARCH

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED A TOTAL OF 46 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN MARCH.

OF THESE, 18 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 FOR KOWLOON AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 23 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, EIGHT FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TWO FOR FACTORY AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 53 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 272,873.4 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 207,776 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$4,196 MILLION, USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 203,742.8 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 185,030.2 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 28 OCCUPATION PERMITS: SIX FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, FOUR FOR KOWLOON AND 18 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 35 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 79 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 628 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED TWO EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 449 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 984 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 2,096 REMOVAL ORDERS, WHICH IS MORE THAN 10 TIMES THE AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE FOR ORDERS ISSUED IN 1990.

THE PHENOMENAL INCREASE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONGER SANCTIONS AGAINST UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS FOR WHICH A NUMBER OF LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS TARGETTED AT THE REMOVAL OF ILLEGAL PROJECTIONS FROM BUILDINGS WERE LAUNCHED DURING THE MONTH.

THESE ILLEGAL PROJECTIONS INCLUDED METAL CAGES, CANOPIES AND METAL FLOWER RACKS.

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CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN SPACE IN YAU MA TEI

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YAU MA TEI RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITH THE COMPLETION OF AN OPEN SPACE IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OPEN SPACE AT THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD, CANTON ROAD AND RECLAMATION STREET.

PLANTERS, PERGOLA, ARBOURS, SITTING BENCHES, A STORE/SWITCH ROOM AND A SET OF PLAY EQUIPMENT WITH SAFETY MATTINGS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE 440-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 5.

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WATER SUSPENSION IN SHA TIN

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FRESH AND FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON TUESDAY (JUNE 11) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE AREA BOUNDED BY AH KUNG KOK FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE, CHEVALIER GARDEN, TAI SHUI HANG VILLAGE, SHING ON TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, HANG ON ESTATE, KAM ON COURT, YIU ON ESTATE, KAM HAY COURT, YMCA CAMP, WU KAI SHA VILLAGE, TO TAU VILLAGE, WHITEHEAD DETENTION CAMP AND ALL PREMISES ALONG MA ON SHAN ROAD, MA ON TERRACE, ON LUK STREET AND ON SHAN LANE.

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