DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THE FOLLOWING IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 AM ON MONDAY (MARCH 9).

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1981

QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE
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THE QUEEN, IN HER COMMONWEALTH DAY MESSAGE THIS YEAR, SAID THE COMMONWEALTH IS A WORKING PARTNERSHIP WHICH GROWS AND CHANGES ALL THE TIME. IN THE PAST 50 YEARS, IT HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL NUCLEUS OF COUNTRIES INTO A WORLD-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF 44 STATES AS MORE AND MORE NEW NATIONS JOINED ON ACHIEVING THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

+THE COMMONWEALTH TO WHICH THEY HAVE ALL CHOSEN TO BELONG IS A COMMUNITY OF GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES WHICH IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF NEARLY A THOUSAND MILLION MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS BOUNDS.+

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE:

+THE COMMONWEALTH ABOUT WHICH WE ARE ALL THINKING TODAY IS A WORKING PARTNERSHIP WHICH GROWS AND CHANGES ALL THE TIME. THIS YEAR IS ONE OF ITS ANNIVERSARIES, WHEN WE LOOK BACK FIFTY YEARS TO THE PASSING BY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT OF THE STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER WHICH NOT ONLY GAVE THE COMMONWEALTH ITS NAME BUT ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AMONG ITS MEMBER NATIONS. FROM THE SMALL NUCLEUS OF COUNTRIES ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ACT, THE COMMONWEALTH HAS GROWN INTO A WORLD-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF FORTY-FOUR STATES AS MORE AND MORE NEW NATIONS HAVE JOINED ON ACHIEVING THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

+THE COMMONWEALTH TO WHICH THEY HAVE ALL CHOSEN TO BELONG IS A COMMUNITY OF GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES WHICH IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF NEARLY A THOUSAND MILLION MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS BOUNDS.

+THROUGH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FORTY-FOUR GOVERNMENTS, AIDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT AND THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION, AND THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME THREE HUNDRED UNOFFICIAL BODIES, THE COMMONWEALTH TOUCHES EVERY ASPECT OF THE LIVES OF THESE PEOPLE. THE RELATIONSHIPS OF NORTH AND SOUTH, RURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AMONG THE MANY FIELDS IN WHICH WORK IS GOING ON. IN A SPECIAL WAY THROUGH THE FUND FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH ARE ABLE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WHICH THEY HAVE BUILT UP THROUGH THEIR OWN HIGHLY RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.

+IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO SET UP MACHINERY FOR CO-OPERATION AND TO ORGANISE CONFERENCES, BUT LASTING RESULTS DEPEND ON SYMPATHY, UNDERSTANDING AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE WILL TO SUCCEED. THIS IS WHERE THE COMMONWEALTH, WITH ITS HABIT OF DIRECT TALKING IN A SHARED LANGUAGE, ITS SHARED HISTORY, AND ITS ABILITY TO GET TOGETHER AND TO GET THINGS DONE, HAS SO MUCH TO GIVE TO MANKIND.+

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SIR JACK IS DEPUTY TO GOVERNOR

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE DEPARTURE OF SIR MURRAY TODAY.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL BE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY WHEN SIR JACK IS AWAY ON A VISIT TO GUANGDONG THIS WEEK AND WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR.

MR HENRY CHING, DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY, WILL BE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY DURING THIS PERIOD.

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LARGEST TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE SITE BEING TENDERED

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THE FOURTH - AND LARGEST - OF THE TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE SITES IS BEING OFFERED TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS (LETTERS A AND B) ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE 24 407 SQUARE METRES SITE IS LOCATED IN WHAT WILL BE THE HEART OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

IT HAS A BUILDING COVENANT OF $217 MILLION TO BE FULFILLED WITHIN 56 MONTHS.

UNDER SALE CONDITIONS, THE PURCHASER WILL BE REQUIRED TO BUILD A FIVE-LEVEL PODIUM ON EITHER SIDE OF TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AND A THREE-LEVEL PODIUM BRIDGING THE HIGHWAY.

A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL ZONES, OPEN ARCADES, PARKING AND SERVICE ZONES, TWO-WAY ESCALATORS, A RESTAURANT, MARKET, TWO-LEVEL DEPARTMENT STORE, AN AIR-CONDITIONED SHOPPING MALL AND EXTENSIVE LANDSCAPING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE TWO DOUBLE AND ONE SINGLE CRUCIFORM STYLE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS CONTAINING 1 120 FLATS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON FRIDAY (MARCH 13).

THERE ARE SEVEN TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE SITES, OF WHICH THREE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISPOSED OF.

THE FIRST WAS SOLD BY AUCTION IN JANUARY, 1980, FOR $191 MILLION. THE OTHER TWO WERE DISPOSED OF BY LETTER A AND B TENDER LAST JULY. THE REMAINING THREE SITES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

UPON COMPLETION, THE TOWN CENTRE WILL HAVE A CIVIC AND CULTURAL CENTRE, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, A LIBRARY, MAGISTRACY, BUS TERMINUS, POST OFFICE, AUDITORIUM AND MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK. THERE WILL ALSO BE LARGE COMMERCIAL AREAS.

A POLYCLINIC AND PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED. THE TOWN PARK, ADJACENT TO THE TOWN CENTRE, WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE MID-1980S.

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THE TOWN CENTRE WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF EIGHT DOUBLE AND SEVEN SINGLE CRUCIFORM STYLE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS, CONTAINING 5 000 FLATS FOR ABOUT 25 000 PEOPLE.

TUEN MUN IS BEING DEVELOPED INTO A MODERN, BALANCED AND SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY OF ABOUT 550 000 PEOPLE. THE PRESENT POPULATION IS 120 000.

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MORE PEOPLE FOUND JOBS THROUGH LES

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THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PLACED 28 000 PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 26 PER CENT OVER 1979.

AND THE SERVICE ALSO RECEIVED 44 000 ORDERS FROM EMPLOYERS LOOKING FOR STAFF, A RISE OF 20 PER CENT OVER 1979.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THE SERVICE COULD MATCH JOBS WITH JOB-SEEKERS WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME, ALTHOUGH IT COULD NOT CREATE JOBS OR JOB-SEEKERS.

THE SERVICE, WHICH IS FREE, OPERATES FROM 15 OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. THEY ARE CONNECTED BY A FACSIMILE SYSTEM WHICH ENSURES THAT VACANCY ORDERS ARE CIRCULATED QUICKLY TO SPEED UP THE PLACEMENT PROCESS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE JOBS HANDLED LAST YEAR FELL INTO THREE MAIN OCCUPATION GROUPS: CLERICAL AND RELATED JOBS, SERVICE JOBS, PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT JOBS.

HE SAID THAT AS SOON AS A VACANCY ORDER IS RECEIVED THEN SUITABLE CANDIDATES ARE SELECTED FROM REGISTERED JOB-SEEKERS FOR INTRODUCTION TO PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.

VACANCIES ARE DISPLAYED AT ALL OFFICES OF THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHERE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR JOBS CAN MAKE THEIR OWN PRELIMINARY SELECTIONS.

THE LES ALSO OPERATES A SPECIAL REGISTER WHICH SPECIALISES IN FINDING JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREES OR POST-SECONDARY QUALIFICATIONS.

LAST YEAR, PEOPLE IN THE SPECIAL REGISTER WERE FOUND JOBS AS EXECUTIVE TRAINEES, MANAGERS, SALES REPRESENTATIVES, ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SERVICE IS ALSO THE CENTRAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY OF MODEL I SALARY SCALE POSTS FOR ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THE POSTS INCLUDE WORKMEN, ARTISANS, HOSPITAL ORDERLIES AND WATCHMEN, WITH SALARIES RANGING FROM $1 405 TO $2 205 A MONTH.

HE ADDED THAT AT PRESENT THE SERVICE HAS MANY VACANCIES IN MODEL I POSTS AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND URGED BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS TO CONTACT THE SERVICE.

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DISABLED DOING WELL IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMME

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MILDLY DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES DOING WELL IN NORMAL DAY NURSERIES UNDER AN INTEGRATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMME COORDINATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

REPORTS ON INDIVIDUAL DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE RECORDED ENCOURAGING PROGRESS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT DURING THEIR STAY IN THE NURSERIES WITH ABLE-BODIED PEERS.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME, EACH PARTICIPATING NURSERY ADMITS SIX MILDLY DISABLED CHILDREN PROVIDING THEM WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY PRE-SCHOOL CARE WITH NORMAL CHILDREN OF THEIR AGE.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT INDICATE THE DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE ACHIEVED IMPROVEMENTS IN WEIGHT, EATING HABITS, SELF CARE, AS WELL AS CONTROL AND COORDINATION IN MOTOR SKILLS.

AND, THEY HAVE SHOWN BETTER KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND BETTER INTERACTION WITH ADULTS AND PEER GROUPS.

SO FAR, 220 DISABLED CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ADMITTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME. OF THEM, 70 WERE DISCHARGED EITHER AT THE AGE OF SIX OR WHEN THEY HAVE FOUND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION AFTER DUE PROGRESS.

OF THOSE REACHING THE AGE OF SIX, MOST WERE ADMITTED TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR SPECIAL CLASSES RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHILE SIX WERE ADMITTED TO NORMAL KINDERGARTENS.

THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1978 FOLLOWING THE 1977 WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION SERVICES, WHICH STATED THAT EARLY TRAINING CAN HELP A DISABLED CHILD TO FORM GOOD HABITS AND TO TRAIN BETTER DURING THE EARLY FORMATIVE YEARS OF HIS DEVELOPMENT.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO EXPAND THE PROGRAMME AT A FASTER INCREASE RATE OF 90 PLACES PER ANNUM AS FROM 1981-82, COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING ANNUAL INCREASE OF 60.

THE DEPARTMENT HOPES MORE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL COME FORWARD TO JOIN SO THAT MORE DISABLED CHILDREN CAN BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAMME.

PARTICIPATING NURSERIES ARE PROVIDED WITH STAFF TRAINING AS WELL AS AN EXTRA SUBVENTION TO MEET ADDITIONAL STAFF COST.

CHILDREN ADMITTED ARE MILD-GRADE MENTALLY RETARDED, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OR SLIGHTLY IMPAIRED IN SPEECH, HEARING OR SIGHT.

ADMISSIONS ARE BY WAY OF REFERRALS FROM WELFARE AGENCIES OR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SUCH AS THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE PROGRAMME CAN BE MADE AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE AT THE LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE, 44 OI KWAN ROAD, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 5-754321).

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BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 79 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN JANUARY, COMPARED WITH 68 IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE NEW PLANS, 25 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 10 FOR KOWLOON AND 44 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED TWO CHURCHES AT BASEL ROAD AND IN FANLING, TWO SCHOOLS AT NAM FUNG ROAD AND SYCAMORE STREET, A HOTEL AT CANTON ROAD AND A BUS DEPOT IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE DECLARED COST OF ALL NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN JANUARY WAS $430.6 MILLION, COMPARED WITH $512.9 IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

DURING THE MONTH, THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED AMOUNTED TO 194 250.5 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 123 838.4 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 70 412.1 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 60 PROJECTS, INCLUDING A CHURCH AT WATERLOO ROAD, A CHILDREN'S HOME IN SHEUNG SHUI, TWO SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS ON LANTAU ISLAND.

ALTOGETHER, 55 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN JANUARY, INCLUDING THREE ELECTRICITY SUB-STATIONS AT MAN CHEONG STREET, HING CHEUNG ROAD AND IN TAI PO NEW TOWN, EXTENSION TO A SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE AT THE JUNCTION OF WO YI HOP ROAD AND TAI LOONG STREET, KWAI CHUNG, ONE BLOCK OF LOW COST HOUSING IN TAI HANG SAI, A CLINIC AT WONG NAI CHUNG ROAD AND TWO PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES ACROSS DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

THE OFFICE ALSO AGREED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 95 BUILDINGS.

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WOMAN AT THE TOP OF WATCH TOWER

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ANOTHER MALE BASTION IN HONG KONG HAS FALLEN, AND WITH IT THAT ONCE PROUD HE-MAN IMAGE OF LIFEGUARDS.

BUT NO ONE -- LEAST OF ALL THAT ELITE GROUP OF MEN WATCHING OVER OUR SAFETY AT BEACHES AND POOLS -- SEEMED TO MIND WHEN PETITE LEUNG KAM-CHUN TOOK HER PLACE ON THE LIFEGUARD WATCH TOWER AT THE KWAI CHUNG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX.

MISS LEUNG IS THE FIRST WOMAN ACCEPTED INTO THAT INNER CIRCLE OF SWIMMING POOL LIFEGUARDS.

SHE RECENTLY JOINED THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITH A STRING OF QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATES IN LIFE SAVING, AN INTERMEDIATE STAR, -- THE BRONZE MEDALLION, A BRONZE CROSS, AND A VALID FIRST-AID CERTIFICATE. SHE ALSO HOLDS AN INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATE FROM THE HONG KONG LIFEGUARD CLUB.

SHE ALSO CAME EQUIPPED WITH THE NECESSARY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, HAVING BEEN A PART-TIME LIFEGUARD ON VARIOUS GAZETTED BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BETWEEN 1973 AND 1974.

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LEGAL STRENGTH FOR AMS

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THE 6 000-STRONG AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE (AMS), WHICH IS ALWAYS AT THE SCENE OF EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS, HAVE MEMBERS COMING NOT ONLY FROM THE MEDICAL, NURSING AND PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS BUT ALSO FROM THE LEGAL FIELD.

THE LAWYERS, IN THEIR OWN WAY, ARE KEY FIGURES BEHIND THE SCENE PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE SERVICE WHICH HAS SAVED HUNDREDS OF LIVES AND TENDED TO THE INJURED IN THE LAST 30 YEARS.

AS MEMBERS OF ITS PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION, THEY ALSO GIVE VALUABLE FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO THEIR FELLOW VOLUNTEERS IN THE SERVICE.

THE SECTION NOW HAS A STRENGTH OF 60 MEMBERS, WHO ARE EITHER LAWYERS OR DOCTORS IN GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE PRACTICE, AS WELL AS NURSES AND PARA-MEDICALS.

LIKE THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE SERVICE, LAWYER MEMBERS OF THE SECTION ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO RECEIVE BASIC INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH INCLUDE FIRST AID TRAINING AND A BASIC AUXILIARY DRESSERS COURSE.

THEIR UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES OF THE SERVICE, TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF AMS ACTIVITIES THROUGH NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION AND RADIO.

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BRITISH COMPOSER TO LECTURE ON MUSIC

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A VISITING BRITISH MUSIC COMPOSER AND LECTURER, MRS EILEEN DIAMOND WILL BE GIVING DEMONSTRATION LECTURES TO TEACHERS ON MARCH 24 AND APRIL 3.

MRS DIAMOND STUDIED AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC IN LONDON. SHE WRITES REGULARLY FOR THE +PLAY SCHOOL+, A MUSICAL PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN ON BBC, AND ONE OF HER MUSICAL STORIES WAS RECENTLY MADE INTO A FEATURE FILM.

THE FIRST LECTURE, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION FOR MUSIC TEACHERS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL CLASSES, WILL BE ON MARCH 24 AT THE KOWLOON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, PERTH STREET, KOWLOON.

TEACHERS WISHING TO ATTEND THIS LECTURE SHOULD APPLY BEFORE MARCH 13 TO THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER, SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, HONG KONG.

TWO LECTURES ON APRIL 3 FOR MUSIC TEACHERS OF PRIMARY 1 AND 2, AND STUDENT-TEACHERS FROM THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL BE AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GASCOIGNE ROAD, KOWLOON.

TEACHERS WISHING TO ATTEND THESE LECTURES SHOULD APPLY BEFORE MARCH 25 TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S MUSIC SECTION, THE ORGANISER OF THE EVENTS.

THE MUSIC SECTION IS AT CAROLINE MANSION, 4TH FLOOR, 8 YUN PING ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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ROAD CLOSURES IN ABERDEEN AND KOWLOON

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OCEAN PARK ROAD IN ABERDEEN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10.30 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 10) TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PART OF THE FINAL ROAD NETWORK FOR THE SOUTHERN APPROACH TO ABERDEEN TUNNEL, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A NEW PERMANENT ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED VIA A NEW OVERPASS AND ASSOCIATED GROUND LEVEL SLIP ROADS RUNNING BETWEEN THE TWO ABERDEEN SPORTS GROUNDS AND ACROSS WONG CHUK HANG ROAD.

WONG CHUK HANG ROAD WILL BE REVERTED TO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY ROAD FOR ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC.

IN KOWLOON, THE WESTBOUND LANE ON ARGYLE STREET BETWEEN TAK KU LING ROAD AND FU NING STREET WILL ALSO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 PM ON TUESDAY TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THIS IS TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE FLYOVER SYSTEM.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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