



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RE-EXPORT TRADE UP 55 PER CENT
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE HAS SOARED TO A RECORD \$37 231 MILLION FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE LATEST FIGURES REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF \$13 256 MILLION, OR 55 PER CENT, OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

CHINA WAS AGAIN THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, SHOWING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF \$5 960 MILLION OR 139 PER CENT. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILES (BY \$1 347 MILLION OR 105 PER CENT), AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$482 MILLION OR 256 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS (BY \$13 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT).

AT THE SAME TIME, A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. (UP BY \$2 275 MILLION OR 68 PER CENT). -- THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS. THE COMMODITIES SHOWING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE CLOTHING (UP \$724 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, MAINLY BASKET WORK, WICKERWORK AND ARTICLES OF PLAITING MATERIALS (UP \$465 MILLION OR 130 PER CENT), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (UP \$294 MILLION OR 110 PER CENT). NOTABLE DECREASES IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. WERE RECORDED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (DOWN \$56 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT) AND VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (DOWN \$6 MILLION OR THREE PER CENT).

INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (UP \$434 MILLION OR 116 PER CENT), CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (UP \$118 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS AND PREPARATIONS (UP \$80 MILLION OR 175 PER CENT). A DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (DOWN \$18 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

AN OVERALL INCREASE OF \$327 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT, WAS REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE. COMMODITIES SHOWING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THAT MARKET WERE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (UP \$196 MILLION OR 78 PER CENT) AND VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (UP \$33 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT). A DECREASE OF \$33 MILLION, OR 19 PER CENT, WAS RECORDED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.

/SIGNIFICANT INCREASES

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF TEXTILES (UP \$182 MILLION OR 123 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS (UP \$91 MILLION OR 99 PER CENT). A DECREASE OF \$15 MILLION, OR 70 PER CENT, WAS RECORDED FOR POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

RE-EXPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

IN STATISTICS FOR RE-EXPORTS CATEGORISED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, CHINA ALSO REMAINED THE LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS. ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR CLOTHING (UP \$1 087 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN (UP \$410 MILLION OR 225 PER CENT), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (UP \$320 MILLION OR 131 PER CENT), BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (UP \$301 MILLION OR 415 PER CENT), WOVEN COTTON FABRICS (UP \$283 MILLION OR 106 PER CENT) AND WOVEN FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES (UP \$231 MILLION OR 69 PER CENT).

JAPAN WAS THE SECOND MAJOR SOURCE OF RE-EXPORTS. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (UP \$475 MILLION OR 186 PER CENT), MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS OR MATERIALS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE MOTOR VEHICLES (UP \$245 MILLION OR 117 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (UP \$152 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE YARN (UP \$148 MILLION OR 126 PER CENT).

OVERSEAS PURCHASES OF U.S. PRODUCTS THROUGH HONG KONG REMAINED ACTIVE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1984. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (UP \$549 MILLION OR 167 PER CENT), AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES AND UNITS (UP \$96 MILLION OR 104 PER CENT) AND MANUFACTURED TOBACCO (UP \$81 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF TAIWAN ORIGIN SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE. COMMODITIES REGISTERING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE TEXTILE YARN (UP \$198 MILLION OR 126 PER CENT), WOVEN FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES (UP \$185 MILLION OR 125 PER CENT) AS WELL AS THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, PHOTOCELLS, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND PARTS (UP \$78 MILLION OR 100 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS OF SOUTH KOREA ORIGIN ALSO INCREASED, PARTICULARLY FOR TEXTILE YARN (UP \$173 MILLION OR 439 PER CENT).

/WHEN ANALYSED

WHEN ANALYSED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND THEN BY DESTINATION, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO THE U.S. (UP \$1 846 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT), CHINA (UP \$564 MILLION OR 146 PER CENT), JAPAN (UP \$528 MILLION OR 119 PER CENT) AND SOUTH KOREA (UP \$287 MILLION OR 68 PER CENT). INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS OF JAPAN ORIGIN WERE MAINLY TO CHINA (UP \$1 926 MILLION OR 185 PER CENT), U.S. (UP \$163 MILLION OR 81 PER CENT) AND JAPAN (UP \$154 MILLION OR 123 PER CENT). SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE ALSO NOTED IN RE-EXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN TO CHINA (UP \$568 MILLION OR 99 PER CENT) AND TAIWAN (UP \$288 MILLION OR 115 PER CENT).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

	JAN.-JUNE 1984 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-JUNE 1983 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	10 260	4 301	+5 960	+139
U.S.A.	5 617	3 342	+2 275	+ 68
TAIWAN	2 430	1 432	+ 999	+ 70
SINGAPORE	2 333	2 005	+ 327	+ 16
JAPAN	2 185	1 309	+ 876	+ 67
INDONESIA	1 954	2 036	- 81	- 4
SOUTH KOREA	1 731	1 137	+ 594	+ 52
MACAU	1 157	878	+ 279	+ 32
AUSTRALIA	671	357	+ 313	+ 88
SAUDI ARABIA	666	646	+ 20	+ 3

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	JAN.-JUNE 1984 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-JUNE 1983 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	13 332	8 403	+4 929	+ 59
JAPAN	7 555	5 061	+2 494	+ 49
U.S.A.	3 928	2 591	+1 337	+ 52
TAIWAN	1 984	1 034	+ 950	+ 92
SOUTH KOREA	917	584	+ 334	+ 57
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	722	496	+ 226	+ 46
SWITZERLAND	665	528	+ 137	+ 26
UNITED KINGDOM	526	388	+ 138	+ 36
FRANCE	508	283	+ 225	+ 80
MALAYSIA, WEST	462	290	+ 172	+ 59

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EMERGENCY AID BOOSTED

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PAYMENT RATES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES AND DEATH UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, WHICH PROVIDES CASH GRANTS TO THE NEEDY IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL OR OTHER DISASTERS, HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 12 PER CENT.

THE REVISED RATES APPLY ALSO TO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE NEW PAYMENT RATES CAME INTO EFFECT THIS MONTH.

+THE REVISION REPRESENTS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LEVEL OF PAYMENT BASED ON INCREASES IN WAGES AS WELL AS PRICES,+ HE SAID.

/DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF GRANTS UNDER THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND ARE AVAILABLE TO COVER DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY.

UNDER THE NEW RATES, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR DEATH GRANTS INVOLVING THE LOSS OF SOLE WAGE-EARNERS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM \$33 150 TO \$38 500, COMPRISING \$27 200 FOR ONE SURVIVING DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER AND \$2 260 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SURVIVING DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBER.

FOR THE LOSS OF A WAGE-EARNER, WHERE THERE ARE OTHER WAGE-EARNERS IN THE FAMILY, THE MAXIMUM GRANT HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$21 450 TO \$24 900.

IN THE CASE OF THE LOSS OF A HUSBAND OR WIFE WHO IS NOT A WAGE-EARNER IN A FAMILY WHERE THERE ARE SURVIVING CHILDREN, THE MAXIMUM GRANT HAS ALSO GONE UP FROM \$21 450 TO \$24 900.

THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF DISABILITY GRANTS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM \$28 080 TO \$32 640. FOR INJURY GRANTS, THE NEW PAYMENT SCALE RANGES FROM \$220 UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$9 590, DEPENDING ON THE SEVERITY OF THE INJURY. PREVIOUSLY, THE MAXIMUM WAS \$8 460.

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, A TOTAL OF \$15.4 MILLION WAS PAID OUT FROM THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND, WITH \$31 MILLION AWARDED FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND, AND \$3.26 MILLION PAID FROM THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME.

ALL THREE SCHEMES ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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PAUL SPITS OUT THE 'LAP SAP' MESSAGE
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SPITTING IN FRONT OF A CAMERA IS NO EASY TASK, BUT 29-YEAR-OLD ACTOR, PAUL CHIU, HAD TO DO SO REPEATEDLY IN ORDER TO CONVEY A CAMPAIGN MESSAGE.

MR CHIU IS THE NEW 'LAP SAP CHUNG' WHO APPEARS IN THREE RECENT CLEAN HONG KONG PROMOTION FILMS. TWO OF THE FILMS DEPICT THE ANTI-SOCIAL HABITS OF THROWING GARBAGE INTO THE WATER AND LITTERING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES; THE THIRD ONE IS ON SPITTING.

MR CHIU PORTRAYS A CHARACTER WHO LITTERS AND SPITS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND INEVITABLY HAS TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

ASKED IF IT WAS FUN TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE, PAUL CATEGORICALLY ANSWERED A FIRM: +NO+.

+IT MAY ALL LOOK VERY SIMPLE IN THE FILMS,+ HE SAID +BUT THE ACTUAL SHOOTING WAS FAR FROM EASY.+

/+I CAN'T

+I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MANY TIMES I HAD TO THROW JUNK INTO THE WATER AND OUT OF A CAR; STUFF MYSELF WITH HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS, OR SPIT IN FRONT OF THE FILM CREW, BEFORE THE DIRECTOR NODDED HIS HEAD,+ HE EXPLAINED.

DURING THE SHOOTING OF THE +VEHICLE LITTERING+ FILM, FOR EXAMPLE, PAUL HAD TO CONSUME MORE THAN A DOZEN HAMBURGERS WITHIN A SHORT TIME, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM OFF HAMBURGERS FOR A YEAR?

BUT THE WORST WAS NOT OVER.

+AFTER THESE FILMS WERE PUT ON AIR,+ HE CONTINUED +MANY TIMES I WAS SPOTTED BY CHILDREN AT MTR STATIONS, AND THEY KEPT FOLLOWING ME, CALLING ME LAP SAP CHUNG AND LAUGHING AT MY BAD HABITS,+ HE CONFESSED.

+ACTUALLY, I DON'T MIND BEING TEASED, BECAUSE THIS MEANS THAT THE MESSAGE HAS WASHED DOWN WELL AND THE FILMS ARE EFFECTIVE,+ PAUL ADDED GOOD HUMOUREDLY.

+IF I SUCCEED IN MAKING SOME PEOPLE THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY DROP A PIECE OF LITTER OR SPIT IN PUBLIC, THEN MY EFFORTS ARE NOT WASTED.+

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DISCOVERY BAY VOTERS SIGN-UP

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A MAJOR VOTER-REGISTRATION DRIVE WAS CARRIED OUT TODAY (SUNDAY) AT DISCOVERY BAY TO PROMOTE NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE ROLE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ALSO WENT ON DISPLAY NEAR THE DISCOVERY BAY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX INFORMATION CENTRE WHERE A MOBILE REGISTRATION CENTRE WAS SET UP.

THE DISPLAY WILL REMAIN AT DISCOVERY BAY FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS BEFORE BEING MOVED TO PENG CHAU.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND WONG, SAID DOOR-TO-DOOR HOUSEHOLD VISITS TO DISCOVERY BAY RESIDENTS WOULD BE MADE OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

+LETTERS NOTIFYING RESIDENTS OF VISITS WERE SENT IN ADVANCE, AND IT IS HOPED THAT OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE WILL COVER MORE THAN 1 000 HOUSEHOLDS,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FOR NEXT YEAR'S DB ELECTIONS, A NEW POLLING STATION WILL BE SET UP IN DISCOVERY BAY TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR RESIDENTS TO CAST THEIR VOTES.

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DOMESTIC PROPERTIES INCUR HUGE DEFICIT
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ESTATE WORKING ACCOUNT FOR DOMESTIC PREMISES AGAIN INCURRED A DEFICIT OF \$189.7 MILLION IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITY'S DOMESTIC WORKING ACCOUNT FOR 1983/84 PUBLISHED TODAY, BOTH THE NEW AND OLDER GROUPS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES SUFFERED A LOSS OF \$25.1 MILLION AND \$164.6 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

+THE DEFICIT IS A SUBSTANTIAL SOAR OVER THE \$136 MILLION IN 1982/83,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY.

+BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND RISING MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT COSTS, THE DEFICIT IN THE DOMESTIC PROPERTY ACCOUNT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE YEARS TO COME, DESPITE THE REGULAR BIENNIAL RENT INCREASES.+

HE SAID THE AUTHORITY IS A NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATION AND IT HAS NEVER BEEN ITS INTENTION TO BRING DOMESTIC RENTS CLOSE TO THE MARKET LEVELS.

FOR YEARS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEFICIT HAVE TO BE COVERED BY THE SURPLUS FROM ITS COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES WHICH, UNLIKE DOMESTIC PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, ARE NOT SUBSIDISED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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MORE THAN TENANTS ALLOCATED PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS
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MORE THAN 8 000 PEOPLE FROM TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF MOVING INTO PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING THIS YEAR.

A +TRAWLING+ EXERCISE HAS BEGUN AND SOME 2 200 FLATS IN EIGHT NEW ESTATES ARE BEING ALLOCATED TO APPLICANT THA RESIDENTS, A HOUSING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

+TRAWLING,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +IS A MEANS OF DECONTAMINATION WHEREBY ESTATE FLATS ARE ALLOCATED TO ELIGIBLE THA FAMILIES.

+THA RESIDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY ON THE GENERAL WAITING LIST AND WHO MEET THE CRITERIA OF INCOME LIMIT, LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THA AND IN HONG KONG, MUST MAKE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR THE NEW UNITS IN THE DESIGNATED ESTATES.

/+ALLOCATION WILL

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+ALLOCATION WILL BE MADE TO APPLICANT FAMILIES SUBJECT TO THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FLATS AVAILABLE.+

THE QUOTA FOR THA RESIDENTS HAS BEEN ENLARGED THIS YEAR -- FROM 1 500 UNITS LAST YEAR TO 2 200 THIS YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN REVEALED.

HE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE TRAWLING EXERCISES, APART FROM CREATING A NEW AVENUE FOR THA RESIDENTS IN GETTING EARLY REHOUSING IN PERMANENT FLATS, WILL MAKE THA UNITS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY REHOUSING OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS.

EVER SINCE TRAWLING WAS STARTED AMONG THA RESIDENTS IN 1980 SOME 19 000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REHOUSED IN PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO SOME 28 600 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING THROUGH THE GENERAL WAITING LIST AND CLEARANCE OF THAS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THIS YEAR'S TRAWLING IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PHASES, THE FIRST OF WHICH WAS STARTED IN MAY WHEN 800 FLATS IN KWONG FUK ESTATE IN TAI PO, CHEUNG WAH ESTATE IN FANLING, AND SUN CHUI ESTATE IN SHA TIN, WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO APPLICANT THA RESIDENTS.

THE SECOND PHASE WAS STARTED IN AUGUST AND IS PROVIDING 1 400 FLATS IN FIVE OTHER ESTATES.

THEY ARE LOK WAH IN KOWLOON EAST, SHEK LEI AND CHEUNG HONG IN TSUEN WAN AND MEI LAM AND POK HONG IN SHA TIN.

AMONG THE LUCKY THA TENANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED A NEW HOUSING UNIT IS 53-YEAR-OLD MR SIU KING.

MR SIU, WHO FORMERLY LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY OF FIVE AT HA KWAI CHUNG THA, HAS JUST MOVED INTO HIS NEW FLAT AT SUN CHUI ESTATE.

HE SAID: +AFTER SEVEN YEARS RESIDENCE IN A THA, IT IS QUITE A CHANGE FOR US TO LIVE IN A BRAND NEW SELF-CONTAINED FLAT.

+THE FLAT IS MORE SPACIOUS -- 32.5 SQUARE METRES AS COMPARED WITH ONLY 11.1 SQUARE METRES OF MY FORMER THA UNIT.

+THE PRIVACY AND GOOD FACILITIES THAT WE ARE ENJOYING MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR ANY DISRUPTION CAUSED IN THE CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT.

+IN FACT, THE ENVIRONMENT HERE IS VERY GOOD. IT IS ALSO VERY CONVENIENT FOR MY WIFE IN DOING HER SHOPPING AND THE CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING SCHOOLS WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE ESTATE.

+DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE IN RENT PAID BETWEEN THE THA UNIT AND THIS NEW FLAT I THINK IT IS WORTH EVERY CENT THAT I HAVE SPENT.+

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DB MEMBERS AWARE OF HA'S RENT POLICY
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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE AWARE OF THE RENT POLICY OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AS THEY HAVE BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY SENIOR HOUSING OFFICIALS ON THE MATTER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID: +UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF ALL 18 DBS, AT THE INVITATION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, HAVE ATTENDED DETAILED BRIEFINGS DURING WHICH HOUSING POLICIES, INCLUDING THE RENT POLICY, WERE DISCUSSED FULLY. THE CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND THE RENT POLICY WERE WELL RECEIVED.+

+IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE RENT POLICY OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ITS DOMESTIC FLATS IS TO MAINTAIN RENTS AT A REASONABLE LEVEL AND THAT ESTATE VALUES, TENANTS' AFFORDABILITY, OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS ARE THE MAIN FACTORS WHICH ARE GIVEN FULL AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WHEN REVIEWING PUBLIC HOUSING RENTS BIENNIALY, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE RECENT RENT REVIEW FOR THE 38 POST-1973 ESTATES,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

OF THE TOTAL FLATS INVOLVED IN THIS REVIEW, HE SAID OVER 88 PER CENT WOULD HAVE THEIR RENTS INCREASED ONLY BETWEEN \$51 TO \$130 PER MONTH AND THE NEW RENT REPRESENTS ONLY 22 TO 38 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT MARKET VALUE.

+FOR EXAMPLE AT THE URBAN ESTATES OF SHUN ON AND TUNG TAU, THE NEW RENT FOR A 29.7 SQUARE-METRE SELF-CONTAINED FLAT FOR SEVEN PERSONS IS \$345 AND \$360 RESPECTIVELY.

+THE NEW RENTS WILL BE ABOUT EIGHT TO 12 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE TENANTS' INCOMES, AND ARE CONSIDERED WELL AFFORDABLE BY THE TENANTS CONCERNED.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE AUTHORITY'S RENT INCREASE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN VETTED AND AGREED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+THEY INCLUDED THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, HOUSING, HOME AFFAIRS AND FINANCE BRANCHES, AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

+BOTH THE POLICY AND THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASE HAVE, THEREFORE, RECEIVED THE MOST METICULOUS SCRUTINY BEFORE THE INCREASES ARE PUT INTO EFFECT.+

HE SAID THE RECENT INCREASE, EVEN IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS WAS BECAUSE OF A HEFTY RISE IN RATES WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

+THIS IS A FACTOR COMPLETELY BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE AUTHORITY, AS THE AUTHORITY ONLY COLLECTS SUCH RATES WHICH GO TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.+

AS A RESULT OF THE GENERAL RATES REVALUATION, HE SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD TO PAY ON AVERAGE AN ADDITIONAL \$22 MONTHLY RATES FOR EACH FLAT.

+WITHOUT THE INCREASE IN RATES, THE USUAL LEVEL OF INCREASE IN RENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WOULD HAVE CONTINUED TO PREVAIL,+ HE ASSURED.

BECAUSE RENTS ARE CHARGED AT A LOW LEVEL, THE AUTHORITY'S DOMESTIC ESTATE WORKING ACCOUNT HAS CONTINUALLY SHOWN A DEFICIT YEAR AFTER YEAR ALTHOUGH THE NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTY ACCOUNT HAS A SURPLUS, PART OF WHICH IS USED TO COVER THE FORMER'S DEFICIT.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S NON-DOMESTIC PROPERTIES CAN GENERATE A SURPLUS BECAUSE IT IS THE AUTHORITY'S POLICY TO RENT THESE PREMISES OUT AT MARKET VALUE AND NOT TO SUBSIDISE SHOP TENANTS WHO SELL THEIR GOODS AT MARKET VALUE ON THE ESTATES.

HE ADDED: +IT WOULD BE IMPROPER THEREFORE TO COMBINE THE DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS BECAUSE THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES (SHOPS AND FACTORIES) UNDER THE NON-DOMESTIC ACCOUNT ARE MEANT TO GENERATE FUNDS TO FINANCE THE AUTHORITY'S BUILDING PROGRAMME OF 30 000 NEW RENT FLATS A YEAR. THIS PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT THE 160 000 FAMILIES CURRENTLY IN NEED OF SUBSIDISED HOUSING ON THE WAITING LIST, AMONG OTHERS.+

AS REGARDS MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT IS DRAWN FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF THE COMMUNITY AND UNOFFICIALS, COMPRISING ELECTED AND NOMINATED URBAN COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, PROFESSIONALS AND PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS. THEY ACCOUNT FOR A MAJORITY OF TWO THIRDS.

+THIS ARRANGEMENT ENSURES THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL WALKS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE CONSULTED AND GUARANTEES A CONSTRUCTIVE INPUT OF POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE UNOFFICIALS IN FORMULATING BALANCED DECISIONS IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

FOUNTAIN TERRACE TO BE RESTORED
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RESTORATION OF THE FOUNTAIN TERRACE, ITS VIEWING AREAS AND GARDEN FEATURES AT THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS IS DUE TO START SHORTLY.

THE FORMER FOUNTAIN TERRACE AND OTHER GARDEN FACILITIES INCLUDING THE REFRESHMENT KIOSK, THE REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AND THE GATEPOSTS WERE DEMOLISHED IN LATE 1982 TO MAKE WAY FOR THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROOF SLAB OF THE GARDEN ROAD SERVICE RESERVOIR.

UNDER THE RESTORATION PROJECT, THE DESIGN OF THE NEW FOUNTAIN TERRACE IS MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD STRUCTURE GIVING A DIFFERENT VIEW AT DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

IT ALSO ENVISAGES THE PROVISION OF A LIGHT REFRESHMENT RESTAURANT ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER REFRESHMENT KIOSK WITH A SMALL BOOKSHOP FOR SELLING UC PUBLICATIONS.

NEW OFFICES FOR THE ZBG WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WHILE THE AREA BETWEEN THE BUILDING AND THE RETAINING WALL ON THE WESTERN SIDE WILL BE USED AS A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AND PLANTS HOLDING AREA.

APART FROM THE ABOVE FACILITIES, THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STABILISE THE BANK AND RETAINING WALL FACING ALBANY ROAD, TO REPAIR THE EXTERNAL STRUCTURES OF THE EXISTING TWO PUMP HOUSES, AND TO IMPROVE THE FOOTPATH TO THE SOUTH OF THE FOUNTAIN TERRACES.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT IS OVER \$7 MILLION OF WHICH THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED \$3 MILLION FOR REPROVISIONING THE FACILITIES AFFECTED.

WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FOUNTAIN TERRACE IS EXPECTED TO START IN A FEW WEEKS' TIME AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BEFORE THE END OF SUMMER NEXT YEAR.

TRAINING IN LABOUR RELATIONS

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF TRAINING COURSES ON LABOUR RELATIONS WHICH WILL PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LABOUR ORDINANCES AND WAYS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TOOLS.

THE CERTIFICATE COURSES ON LABOUR RELATIONS WILL BE RUN BY THE DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT AND ARE DESIGNED FOR EMPLOYERS, MANAGEMENT STAFF, TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES.

THE COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE AND WILL COVER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, AND EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES.

A SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICANTS MAY ENROL FOR THE FULL CERTIFICATE COURSE, WHICH COMPRISES EIGHT TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR SESSIONS, OR ATTEND ONE OR MORE SESSIONS OF THE COURSE. CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE FULL COURSE.

FEES WILL BE \$80 FOR THE FULL COURSE AND \$15 FOR EACH SESSION.

ALL COURSES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING CENTRE IN HENNESSY CENTRE, CAUSEWAY BAY, WITH THE FIRST SESSION STARTING ON OCTOBER 15.

ENROLMENTS SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 20.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT, 21ST FLOOR, UNITED CENTRE. ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 5-291709.

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SOCCER KICKS-OFF AT YUEN LONG

THE FIFTH YUEN LONG DISTRICT SOCCER LEAGUE SEASON GOT OFF THE GROUND THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON FOLLOWING A KICK-OFF BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT SPORT ASSOCIATION, THE SOCCER SEASON IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR SPORTS ATTRACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

SIXTEEN TEAMS WILL BE TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S MATCHES, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, AND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN YUEN LONG STADIUM. THE SEASON WILL WIND-UP IN EARLY DECEMBER.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT TODAY'S KICK-OFF CEREMONY WERE THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON; THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR CHIU YUK-CHUEN, AND THE VICE-PRESIDENTS, MR LI CHUEN-MAN AND MR LAM SHEK.

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GUIDELINES ON LABORATORY SAFETY

A NEWLY-REVISED PAMPHLET ENTITLED '+SAFETY IN SCIENCE LABORATORIES+' HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS LATER THIS MONTH.

THE AIM OF THE PAMPHLET IS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDS OF SAFETY IN SCHOOL LABORATORIES BY MINIMISING RISKS AND DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH ANY ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY OCCUR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE ADVICE AND INFORMATION OFFERED IN THE PAMPHLET WERE NOT EXHAUSTIVE, AND DID NOT PRECLUDE THE NEED FOR CARE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT AT ALL TIMES IN SAFE-GUARDING AGAINST ACCIDENTS.

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NEW PARK OPENS AT TUEN MUN

TUEN MUN RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME AT A NEW PUBLIC PARK AS FROM TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE KI LUN KONG PUBLIC PARK HAS BEEN BUILT ON A 3 150-SQUARE-METRE SITE OPPOSITE THE SAM SHING ESTATE AT A COST OF \$1.67 MILLION.

IT WAS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WHICH CONTRIBUTED \$880 000 TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION COST.

AN UNUSUAL FEATURE OF THE PARK IS ITS 'FUNG SHUI ROCK', WHICH INDICATES THE ORIGINAL POSITION OF THE WATERFRONT BEFORE THE NEW LAND WAS FORMED.

A PLAQUE ON THE ROCK NOW BEARS THE INSCRIPTION: '+THIS ROCK WHICH MARKS THE ORIGINAL SHORELINE AS IT WAS BEFORE RECLAMATION WORK BEGAN AT SAM SHING HUI, TUEN MUN, HAS BEEN LEFT TO SERVE AS A REMINDER OF THE FISHING VILLAGE OF THE PAST AND AS A SYMBOL OF THE BUILDING OF THE NEW TOWN.+

THE PARK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND BUILT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND WILL BE MANAGED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1984

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LONGER ROAD AT YUEN LONG
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT THE REMAINING SECTION OF SHUI CHE KWUN STREET IN YUEN LONG AS PART OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

THE PLAN WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF FOOTWAYS AND THE ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A RELATED PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED WORK SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, IN WRITING, TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY NOVEMBER 6.

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STALLS AUCTION POSTPONED
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THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF NINE COOKED FOOD STALLS AND TWO FRUIT STALLS AT TAI YUEN STREET COOKED FOOD MARKET IN KWAI CHUNG, WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN HELD ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 12), HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID A NEW DATE FOR THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

THE AUCTION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL IN LAI FONG STREET, AT 10 AM.

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NORTH POINT TAPS DRY
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FRESH WATER SUPPLIES TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN NORTH POINT AND CHAI WAN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM AND 10 PM ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 12) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, MANSION STREET, PAK FUK ROAD AND HEALTHY STREET WEST.

IN CHAI WAN, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY CHAI WAN ROAD, SAN HA STREET, HONG PING STREET, SUN ON STREET, FUNG YIP STREET, SHEUNG ON STREET, WING TAI ROAD AND YEE SHING STREET, INCLUDING YUE WAN ESTATE, CHAI WAN ESTATE EAST, CHAI WAN EXTENSION LICENSED AREA AND CAPE COLLINSON.

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