



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
MAJOR STEP IN GOVT'S CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMME	1
FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT TRAINING CENTRE FOR DISABLED	2
CAREERS QUIZ DRAWS OVERWHELMING RESPONSE	3
DECEMBER SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL BEGINS	4
NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR FIGHT CRIME AWARD SCHEME	5
ENTRIES INVITED FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT DANCE COMPETITION	6
WATER CUT IN SHAM TSENG, TSING LUNG TAU	6
TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY ON CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST	7
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE OF YUEN WO ROAD	7

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- 1 -

MAJOR STEP IN GOVT'S CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAMME

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THE BRINGING INTO EFFECT OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL, BASIC ELEMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION BY PROMOTING THE USE OF ACCURATE WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGING THE USE OF THE METRIC SYSTEM.

AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JULY LAST YEAR AND GAZETTED LAST FRIDAY (DECEMBER 23).

IT GIVES CONSUMERS PROTECTION AGAINST FRAUDULENT OR UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH QUANTITY WHICH INCLUDES MASS OR WEIGHT, LENGTH, WIDTH, HEIGHT, AREA, VOLUME, CAPACITY AND NUMBER.

THE ORDINANCE REPLACES THE FORMER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, OVER 100 YEARS OLD, WHICH RELATED ONLY TO BRITISH IMPERIAL AND CHINESE UNITS.

"THE RIGHTS GIVEN UNDER THE NEW ORDINANCE TO CONSUMERS ARE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER THOSE CONTAINED IN THE OLD, OUT-DATED LEGISLATION," MR BARCLAY SAID.

HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW ORDINANCE WAS THAT THE STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENTS WERE BASED ON THE METRIC SYSTEM, BUT IT WOULD ALLOW COMMON UNITS OF THE CHINESE AND BRITISH IMPERIAL SYSTEMS TO BE USED.

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

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AMENDED THE SCHEDULES TO THE ORDINANCE TO LEGALISE THE EXISTING CONVERSION FACTOR OF THE Tael TO 37.429 GRAMMES THAT HAD TRADITIONALLY BEEN USED IN GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METALS TRANSACTION.

THIS IS APPROXIMATELY ONE PER CENT LESS THAN THE STATUTORY METRIC EQUIVALENT OF THE Tael.

THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT THE SUPPLY OF GOODS OF A QUANTITY LESS THAN THAT PURPORTED IS AN OFFENCE, AS WILL BE THE GIVING OF ANY INDICATION MATERIALLY FALSE OR MISLEADING AS TO THE QUANTITY OF GOODS.

MR BARCLAY NOTED THAT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD EXPENDED A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT IN PROCESSING THE LEGISLATION AND PROMOTING THE CONSUMERS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- 2 -

"CONSUMERS WHO ARE AGGRIEVED BY MEASURES WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE SHORT NEED ONLY TO COMPLAIN TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN," HE SAID.

THE ORDINANCE WILL BE ENFORCED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION TO ACTING IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS, AUTHORISED OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE WILL CONDUCT SPOT CHECKS ON TRADERS' PREMISES TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THEIR EQUIPMENT.

MR BARCLAY ADVISED CONSUMERS TO ENCOURAGE RETAILERS TO USE ACCURATE WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT BY AVOIDING THOSE THAT USED ANTIQUATED OR POORLY MAINTAINED EQUIPMENT.

"CUSTOMERS HAVE THE POWER UNDER THE ORDINANCE TO DEMAND THAT RETAILERS MEASURE GOODS IN FULL VIEW," HE ADDED.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ACTIVE SINCE THE ORDINANCE WAS PASSED IN EDUCATING THE RETAIL SECTOR WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF RETAILERS, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MR BARCLAY SAID.

"RETAILERS SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LEGISLATION. ANYONE WHO IS IN DOUBT SHOULD CONTACT THEIR TRADE ASSOCIATION OR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

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FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT TRAINING CENTRE FOR DISABLED
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CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE FOR THE FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED HAS BEGUN IN TUEN MUN.

A \$34.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS WAS RECENTLY AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

PILING WORK WAS COMPLETED IN AUGUST UNDER A SEPARATE \$7.6 MILLION CONTRACT.

LOCATED IN AREA 16 OF TUEN MUN, THE SKILLS CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED WILL BE COMPLETED IN 16 MONTHS AND HANDED OVER TO THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT FOR MANAGEMENT.

THE PROJECT ARCHITECT, MRS ALICE YU, SAID THE CENTRE WOULD HAVE THE CAPACITY TO TRAIN 300 HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AT ONE TIME.

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- 3 -

IT WOULD HAVE DORMITORY FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE HALF OF THE STUDENTS.

THE CENTRE WILL BE A FIVE-STOUREY BUILDING, HOUSING FOUR CLASSROOMS, 13 WORKSHOPS, A GYMNASIUM, OFFICES AND OTHER ANCILLARY FACILITIES.

THE DIVERSE TRAINING FACILITIES TO BE OFFERED AT THE CENTRE WILL INCLUDE THOSE FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION, ELECTRONIC SERVICING, CLEANING AND SERVICING, GARMENT MAKING, INDUSTRIAL ARTS, BENCH FITTING AND MACHINING, AND PRINTING.

OFFICE MACHINE PRACTICE, PACKAGING AND ASSEMBLY, WOODWORK AND PAINTING, SIGN WRITING AND DECORATION ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

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CAREERS QUIZ DRAWS OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

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A RECORD NUMBER OF 115,000 STUDENTS FROM 253 SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S CAREERS QUIZ ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES COMPARED WITH 110,000 STUDENTS AND 248 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL EVENT LAST YEAR.

ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE IN OCTOBER, THE QUIZ AIMED AT ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO PLAN CAREFULLY FOR THEIR FUTURE BY FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

TO MARK THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT, A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 29) AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, AND THE ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SHUN HING ELECTRONIC TRADING CO. LTD., MR K.L. TONG, WILL JOINTLY OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE, SIXTH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, ON THURSDAY, BEGINNING AT 3.30 PM.

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/4

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- 4 -

DECEMBER SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL BEGINS
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN TO CONDUCT THE DECEMBER 1988 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR'S FOURTH QUARTER.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 35,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS.

THESE INCLUDE THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALES, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS), AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON DECEMBER 30, 1988 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THIS SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF OCTOBER - DECEMBER.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 (LEGAL NOTICE NO. 69 OF 1982, GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982), ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON 5-8235076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT DURING OCTOBER - DECEMBER, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

IN CASE OF ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS, FIRMS MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON 5-8234770.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- '5 -

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR FIGHT CRIME AWARD SCHEME
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TUSEN WAN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE THEIR FRIENDS, RELATIVES OR NEIGHBOURS FOR THE TSUEN WAN CITIZEN FIGHT CRIME AWARD SCHEME.

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TSUEN WAN POLICE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE TSUEN WAN ROTARY CLUB.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO ASSIST THE POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY TO PREVENT AND FIGHT CRIME," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHOW KWAN-SING, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THERE WILL BE THREE GRAND AWARDS, EACH COMPRISING \$1,000 IN CASH AND A CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THERE WILL ALSO BE SEVEN AWARDS WITH CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION."

SOUVENIRS WOULD BE GIVEN TO NOMINATORS OF THE AWARD WINNERS, MR CHOW ADDED.

NOMINATION FORMS, IN THE FORMAT OF PRE-PAID ENVELOPES, ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COMMUNITY HALLS, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN AND THE CLOSING DATE IS JANUARY 31.

A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS WILL BE SET UP FOR VETTING THE NOMINATIONS.

THE PANEL WILL COMPRISE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU; THE TSUEN WAN POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR DAVID HODSON; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHOW KWAN-SING, AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE AWARD SCHEME.

RESULTS OF THE AWARD SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN MARCH AND A PRIZE-PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 12 DURING THE DISTRICT'S ANTI-TRIAD CARNIVAL.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED BY TELEPHONING 0-4925327 OR 0-4926279.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- 6 -

ENTRIES INVITED FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT DANCE COMPETITION

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ENTRIES ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE NINTH SHA TIN DISTRICT DANCE COMPETITION TO BE HELD AT THE KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE, SHA TIN, ON JANUARY 15.

AIMED AT PROMOTING DANCE AMONG ALL AGE GROUPS, THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AND REGIONAL COUNCIL WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND SPONSORSHIP FROM THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD.

ALL SCHOOLS, ORGANISATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BASED IN SHA TIN AS WELL AS PEOPLE WHO EITHER LIVE, STUDY, OR WORK IN THE DISTRICT MAY FORM TEAMS OF AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE TO ENTER THE COMPETITION.

YOUNG CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX-YEARS-OLD AND THE DISABLED MAY CHOOSE THEIR OWN DANCE ROUTINES.

THOSE IN THE GROUP FOR SEVEN TO 12-YEARS-OLD OR IN THE OPEN GROUP FOR PERSONS AGED 13 OR ABOVE MAY CHOOSE THEIR ROUTINES FROM ORIENTAL, ORIENTAL FOLK, SOCIAL, BALLET, WESTERN FOLK, MODERN OR JAZZ DANCES.

ENTRIES ARE FREE AND THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 3.

ENTRY FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY CENTRE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION; REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHA TIN OFFICE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, AND THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT ROOM G03, GROUND FLOOR, LUNG HANG ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE WINNERS WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR DANCE ROUTINES AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL IN THE EVENING OF JANUARY 29.

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WATER CUT IN SHAM TSENG, TSING LUNG TAU

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN SHAM TSENG AND TSING LUNG TAU WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 29) TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK.

ALSO, CERTAIN PREMISES IN YAU YAT TSUEN WILL SUFFER LOW WATER PRESSURE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 30) OWING TO WATER WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY TAT CHEE AVENUE, BEGONIA ROAD, CASSIA ROAD, DIANTHUS ROAD, MAGNOLIA ROAD, MARIGOLD ROAD, OSMANTHUS ROAD AND FA PO STREET.

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/7

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1988

- 7 -

TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY ON CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 30), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH EASTERN STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES TO THE WEST WILL BE DESIGNATED TO PEAK HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS BECAUSE OF WATERWORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE OF YUEN WO ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS IN SHA TIN, THE FAST LANE OF YUEN WO ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WO CHE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY (DECEMBER 30) TO JANUARY 20.

AS CONGESTION IS EXPECTED DURING THE LANE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO USE THIS SECTION OF YUEN WO ROAD.

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