



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR ENCOURAGED BY ANTI-POLLUTION WORK

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IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE HOW MUCH IS ALREADY BEING DONE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG, BUT CLEARLY MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID AT THE END OF A BRIEFING DURING HIS VISIT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG AS A WORTHWHILE PLACE TO LIVE," SIR DAVID ADDED.

DURING HIS VISIT, THE GOVERNOR WAS BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, ON THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST DECADE.

DR REED REFERRED TO THE CREATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT; ENACTMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION; INTRODUCTION OF COMPREHENSIVE POLLUTION MONITORING SCHEMES; AND DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES FOR COLLECTING, TREATING AND DISPOSING OF WASTES.

THERE WAS ALSO THE PROGRESS MADE IN INTRODUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE PLANNING PROCESS, SO AS TO AVOID FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

FOLLOWING THE GENERAL BRIEFING, THE GOVERNOR WAS GIVEN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE EPD'S STATE-OF-THE-ART AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND TELEMETRY SYSTEM.

IN ANOTHER PRESENTATION, HE WAS SHOWN EXAMPLES OF THE WAY IN WHICH INADEQUATE PLANNING CONTROLS CAN LEAD TO THE CREATION OF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

SIR DAVID WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON PROJECTS TO STEM THE TIDE OF WATER POLLUTION IN THE TERRITORY.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ESTIMATED THAT THE COST OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROJECTS WOULD ADD UP TO AROUND \$1 BILLION EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT 10 TO 12 YEARS.

"CLEARLY THIS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL DEMAND ON THE PUBLIC PURSE AND IT WILL HAVE TO COMPETE WITH OTHER WORTHWHILE PROJECTS," SIR DAVID SAID, REFERRING TO THE EPD'S SEWAGE CONTROL PROPOSALS.

"BUT DEALING WITH OUR SEWAGE PROBLEMS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DEVELOPING A MODERN CITY, JUST LIKE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOSPITALS AND POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES. IT IS A KEY ASPECT OF LOOKING AFTER THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

"THE PROBLEMS WE NOW FACE FROM WATER POLLUTION SHOW THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO NEGLECT THIS PART OF OUR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE," HE ADDED.

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CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT PLAN TO BE UPDATED

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THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT PLAN WILL BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE IN A CONSULTANCY STUDY AND FORM PART OF THE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE FUTURE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT SITE, THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

RMP ENCON, A LOCAL SUBSIDIARY OF THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO CARRY OUT THE \$2 MILLION CONSULTANCY IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

THE CONSULTANT'S MAIN AREA OF WORK WILL BE TO REASSESS RUNWAY AND AIRSPACE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, AND THE AIRPORT FACILITIES AND LAYOUT AGAINST THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, AND TO REVIEW AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY COST ESTIMATES AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES.

THE LATEST TREND OF TRAFFIC GROWTH, AS WELL AS THE TRAFFIC FORECAST PRODUCED BY THE CURRENT KAI TAK CAPACITY STUDY, WILL ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY CONDUCTED THE LONG-TERM AVIATION STUDY FOR HONG KONG IN 1973, WHICH LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHEK LAP KOK AS THE THEN PREFERRED SITE FOR A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT. IT ALSO COMPLETED THE AIRPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY IN 1979 AND THE MASTER PLAN IN 1982.

THE CHEK LAP KOK PROJECT WAS, HOWEVER, SHELVED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1983 DUE TO FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.

"MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE 1983, AT WHICH TIME THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH LANTAU WAS BEING STUDIED BY GOVERNMENT AS ONE OF THE SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS, THUS THE PROVISION OF ROAD, RAIL AND FERRY ACCESS FACILITIES TO THE AIRPORT WERE INCLUDED WITHIN THE CHEK LAP KOK PLAN," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR TREVOR OLIVER, SAID.

"THIS SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTION HAS BEEN SUPERSEDED BY AN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH INCORPORATES A PORT EXPANSION PLAN.

"IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CHEK LAP KOK PLAN A FEASIBLE OPTION, THE ORIGINAL PLANNING ON AIRPORT ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS, AND LOCAL ACCOMMODATION FOR AIRPORT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, MUST BE REVISED IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW PROPOSALS," MR OLIVER ADDED.

TO OBTAIN OPTIMUM RESULTS, THE CONSULTANT WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY CONSULTANTS WHO ARE WORKING ON THE OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES PLANNING STUDY FOR HONG KONG.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE UPDATED CHEK LAP KOK PLAN WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER ALTERNATIVE SITE PROPOSALS FOR A FINAL DECISION ON THE LOCATION OF A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT.

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TECHNICALITIES OF SEPARATE TAXATION SYSTEM EXPLAINED

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THE SYSTEM OF SEPARATE TAXATION PROPOSED FOR HONG KONG ENTAILS THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO LODGE TAX RETURNS AND PAY TAX BE MANDATORILY IMPOSED ON ALL TAXPAYERS REGARDLESS OF MARITAL STATUS.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR ANTHONY AU YEUNG, SAID THIS AT A PRESS BRIEFING HELD TODAY (THURSDAY) TO EXPLAIN THE TECHNICALITIES OF THE PROPOSED SEPARATE TAXATION SYSTEM.

IN OTHER WORDS, BOTH HUSBANDS AND WIVES WILL BE INDIVIDUALLY REQUIRED TO FILE SEPARATE SALARIES TAX RETURNS AND ENTITLED TO A SINGLE PERSONAL ALLOWANCE.

EXPLAINING HOW THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL WORK, MR AU YEUNG SAID BOTH HUSBANDS AND WIVES CAN ELECT AS TO WHO WILL CLAIM THE ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT OF EACH DEPENDENT PARENT AND/OR DEPENDENT PARENT-IN-LAW.

HUSBANDS AND WIVES WILL BE REQUIRED TO IRREVOCABLY ELECT WHICH OF THEM WILL CLAIM CHILD ALLOWANCE FOR ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN ON A GROUP BASIS FOR EACH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT.

IN CASES WHERE UNDER SEPARATE TAXATION EITHER THE HUSBAND OR THE WIFE HAS "UNABSORBED ALLOWANCES" THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WILL ALLOW SPOUSES TO JOINTLY ELECT FOR JOINT ASSESSMENT SO AS TO TAKE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF THE ALLOWANCES AVAILABLE TO THE FAMILY.

"UNABSORBED ALLOWANCES" WILL ARISE WHERE THE ASSESSABLE INCOME OF ONE OF THE SPOUSES IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ABSORB ALL THE ALLOWANCES CLAIMED BY HIM OR HER.

UNDER JOINT ASSESSMENT, EMPLOYMENT INCOMES OF A MARRIED COUPLE WILL BE AGGREGATED AND THE FULL PERSONAL ALLOWANCES OF \$74,000 AS AFFORDED TO EXISTING MARRIED TAXPAYERS WILL BE GRANTED.

LIKewise, FOR SINGLE INCOME FAMILIES, THAT IS FAMILIES WHERE EITHER THE HUSBAND OR THE WIFE WAS NOT IN RECEIPT OF SALARY INCOME AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT, A FULL MARRIED TAXPAYER'S ALLOWANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GRANTED.

ON AN IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR SEPARATE TAXATION, MR AU YEUNG SAID THAT AS THE PHILOSOPHY OF SEPARATE TAXATION IS BASED ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PREMISE TO THAT OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF AGGREGATION OF INCOME, SUBSTANTIAL LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE WILL BE REQUIRED.

"ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE, VERY CONSIDERABLE WORK WILL BE NEEDED TO REDEFINE EXISTING PROCEDURES TO CATER FOR SEPARATE TAXATION, TO AMEND COMPUTER PROGRAMMES TO TREAT MARRIED WOMEN AS TAXPAYERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AND TO REDESIGN STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY FORMS TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE AMENDED LEGISLATION AND THE NEW SYSTEMS INTRODUCED TO IMPLEMENT IT," HE SAID.

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"FINALLY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OPEN A LARGE NUMBER OF NEW FILES FOR MARRIED WOMEN WHOSE EMPLOYMENT INCOME IS CURRENTLY REPORTED IN THEIR HUSBANDS' SALARIES TAX RETURNS (SOME 154,000 AS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR)."

MR AU YEUNG SAID THE DRAFTING OF TAXATION LEGISLATION HAS NEVER BEEN A SIMPLE TASK AND HASTILY DRAFTED LEGISLATION CAN LEAD TO UNINTENDED AND USUALLY UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS.

"IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT WHEN SEPARATE TAXATION IS FINALLY IMPLEMENTED THERE BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SIDES," HE SAID.

"CONSIDERABLE TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE CHANGE AND THE NEW SYSTEM COULD ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE EARLIEST FROM 1990."

MR AU YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT SEPARATE TAXATION WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED INTO PERSONAL ASSESSMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD GRANT A SECOND CONCESSION TO A GROUP OF TAXPAYERS ALREADY RECEIVING A CONCESSION.

"IT WOULD ALSO LEAD TO TAX AVOIDANCE AND INCOME SPLITTING WHICH THE CURRENT LEGISLATION DOES NOT ENCOURAGE.

"ANTI-AVOIDANCE LEGISLATION TO COMBAT INCOME MANIPULATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DRAFT AND WOULD RESULT IN COMPLEX LEGISLATION THAT IS COSTLY TO ADMINISTER AND PRONE TO DISPUTES," HE SAID.

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CS VISITS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, VISITED NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO SEE HOW TEACHERS ARE PREPARED TO TEACH IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SIR DAVID WAS WELCOMED ON ARRIVAL BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), MRS RUBY LAU, AND PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, MR S.L. HO.

HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS COURSES OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE BEFORE PROCEEDING ON A TOUR OF THE CAMPUS.

SIR DAVID SAW A DISPLAY ON "CIVIC EDUCATION THROUGH THE TEACHING OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS" AND A LECTURE IN SESSION ON THE ORGANISATION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IN THE ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ROOM.

/THE CHIEF

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO SAW STUDENT TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME ECONOMICS ROOM, THE GYMNASIUM, THE COMPUTER ROOM, THE TWO LANGUAGE LABORATORIES AND THE SCIENCE LABORATORY.

BEFORE HE LEFT, SIR DAVID MET REPRESENTATIVES OF STUDENTS AND LECTURERS AT A TEA RECEPTION.

NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IS THE OLDEST OF THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1939, THE COLLEGE HAS PRODUCED MORE THAN 12,000 QUALIFIED TEACHERS FOR SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

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CHINESE DELEGATION VISITING HK

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, A GROUP OF SIX CHINESE STATE COUNCIL OFFICIALS, LED BY THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL, MR ZHENG WEIRONG, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR A FAMILIARISATION VISIT.

THE PROGRAMME WILL LAST FOR A WEEK AND WILL INCLUDE GENERAL BRIEFINGS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON MAJOR ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT WORK IN HONG KONG.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS CLEARLY TO HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGE THAT THOSE IN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DEALING WITH HONG KONG AFFAIRS SHOULD HAVE A FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WORKS.

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REGIONAL SECRETARY SEES DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH DISTRICT

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) SPENT A BUSY DAY IN THE NORTH DISTRICT LOOKING AT RURAL AND NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS MEETING LOCAL PERSONALITIES AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR MATTHEW CHEUNG, MR SUEN FIRST TOURED THE TEMPORARY PREMISES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS SECTIONS INCLUDING THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, GENERAL REGISTRY, AND THE ACCOUNTS, CHINESE LANGUAGE AND WORKS SECTIONS.

/AFTERWARDS, HE

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AFTERWARDS, HE INSPECTED THE SITE OF A SEVEN-STOREY NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE TEMPORARY DISTRICT OFFICE PREMISES.

HE LEARNT THAT THE \$52-MILLION BUILDING, WHEN COMPLETED IN MID-1990, WILL BE THE NERVE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

MR SUEN THEN VISITED THE SHA TAU KOK TOWN WITHIN THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE \$300-MILLION REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE BORDER TOWNSHIP, WHICH COVERED AN AREA OF 3.8 HECTARES.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE PROJECT INCLUDES A RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE, A CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, A COMMUNITY HALL, INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

MR SUEN TOURED THE SHA TAU KOK RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE PHASE I, WHICH IS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY AND WILL BE HOME TO 1,500 PEOPLE.

THE RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME AIMS TO MEET THE DEMAND FROM PEOPLE IN THE TOWN FOR IMPROVED HOUSING CONDITIONS, WHILE PRESERVING THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY BY ACCOMMODATING ALL THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CLEARANCE OF THE TWO SHANTY SQUATTER AREAS OF YIM LIU HA AND TSOI YUEN KOK.

MR SUEN THEN WENT TO THE BORDER CONTROL POINTS AT SHA TAU KOK AND MAN KAM TO.

NEXT, HE TRAVELLED TO FANLING AND VISITED THE FUNG YING SIN KOON, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1929 AND HAS NOW BECOME A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT MAKING CHARITABLE ORGANISATION.

THE KOON PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, NOTABLY THE OPERATION OF STUDY ROOMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHOI YUEN ESTATE, SHEUNG SHUI AND A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN CHEUNG WAH ESTATE, FANLING.

LATER, MR SUEN PROCEEDED TO THE ROOFTOP OF CHEUNG CHI HOUSE IN CHEUNG WAH ESTATE FOR A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE FANLING-SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, MR SUEN ATTENDED A TEA RECEPTION AT THE CHEUNG WAH COMMUNITY HALL WHERE HE MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, AS WELL AS PERSONALITIES DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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MARCH ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL FIGURES RELEASED

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL IN MARCH THIS YEAR AS IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH, BUT SHOWED A DECREASE OF 4 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THE MARCH 1988 LEVEL WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN FEBRUARY 1988, BUT WAS LOWER BY ABOUT 3 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

IN MARCH 1988, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE, BY ABOUT 14 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT WAS RECORDED WHEN PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 AS A WHOLE WERE COMPARED WITH THOSE IN THE SAME QUARTER IN 1987.

HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WAS RECORDED BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1988, MAINLY DUE TO THE AWARD OF ANNUAL BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY BY SOME MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN FEBRUARY 1988.

COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH FEBRUARY 1988, THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND DECREASED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, BUT INCREASED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, THE ORDERS POSITION IN MARCH 1988 DROPPED IN MOST INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1988, EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1988 INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH THE TEXTILES AND THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES REPORTED SOME DECREASES IN EMPLOYMENT.

COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987, RELATIVELY MORE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN EMPLOYMENT WERE RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. HOWEVER, A SLIGHT INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT WAS RECORDED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY.

/MAINLY BECAUSE

MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE AWARD OF ANNUAL BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY IN FEBRUARY 1988, PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED IN MARCH 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. PARTICULARLY LARGE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED IN ALL INDUSTRIES SURVEYED. THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WAS RECORDED IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, IN WHICH ADDITIONAL BONUSES WERE ISSUED BY SOME OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS DURING THE MONTH.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1988 INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER FEBRUARY 1988 BUT REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN MARCH 1987. PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED MODERATELY COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1988 BUT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER MARCH 1987.

IN THE SERVICE SECTORS SURVEYED, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN MARCH 1988 REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER MARCH 1987.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, PARTICULARLY IN HOTELS, WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1988, FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF ANNUAL BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY IN SOME OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS IN FEBRUARY 1988.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE SERVICE SECTORS SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY HOTELS, SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MARCH 1988. BROADLY THE SAME PATTERN OF INCREASE WAS RECORDED WHEN PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 AS A WHOLE WERE COMPARED WITH THOSE IN THE SAME QUARTER IN 1987.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT THE MAGNITUDES OF CHANGES INDICATED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

NEVERTHELESS, THESE ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MARCH 1988 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234820.

TABLE 1: ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

| INDUSTRY | ORDERS-ON-HAND | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| | AS AT THE END OF MARCH 1988 | CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH | |
| | | (MONTH) | FEB. 88 (%) |
| ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES | 4.35 | * | -4 |
| WEARING APPAREL | 4.56 | -2 | -7 |
| TEXTILES | 2.79 | -2 | -5 |
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | 3.65 | +3 | -10 |
| FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS | 4.33 | +1 | -8 |
| ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS | 5.03 | * | * |
| OTHERS | 4.19 | * | -5 |

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT

| INDUSTRY/SERVICES | PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF MARCH 1988 | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|
| | CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH | |
| | FEB. 88 (%) | MAR. 87 (%) |
| ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES | * | -3 |
| FOOD AND DRINKS | * | +1 |
| WEARING APPAREL | +1 | -8 |
| TEXTILES | -1 | -4 |

/PLASTIC PRODUCTS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | * | -8 |
| FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS | -1 | * |
| ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS | +1 | * |
| OTHERS | * | -2 |
| CONSTRUCTION # | +1 | * |
| ----- | -- | - |
| SERVICES | * | +2 |
| ----- | - | -- |
| BANKS | * | +3 |
| HOTELS | -1 | -1 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES | * | -1 |
| OTHERS | +1 | +9 |

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3: PER CAPITA EARNINGS

| INDUSTRY/SERVICES | PER CAPITA EARNINGS | | | CHANGE IN AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR JAN.-MAR. 1988 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | AVERAGE AS IN MARCH 1988 | CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH ** | | |
| | (HK\$) | FEB. 88 (%) | MAR. 87 (%) | (%) |
| ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES | 4,073 | -16 | +14 | +10 |
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| FOOD AND DRINKS | 4,344 | -2 | +10 | +2 |
| WEARING APPAREL | 3,466 | -11 | +12 | +9 |

/TEXTILES

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|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| TEXTILES | 4,032 | -33 | +8 | +6 |
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | 3,665 | -32 | +14 | +3 |
| FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS | 4,669 | -4 | +28 | +17 |
| ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS | 3,853 | -9 | +17 | +13 |
| OTHERS | 5,362 | -18 | +12 | +12 |
| CONSTRUCTION | 5,744 | -5 | +11 | +7 |
| ----- | ----- | --- | --- | --- |
| SERVICES | 6,835 | -11 | +12 | +12 |
| ----- | ----- | --- | --- | --- |
| BANKS | 6,426 | +1 | +14 | +6 |
| HOTELS | 4,816 | -46 | +28 | +34 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES | 6,630 | -8 | +10 | +13 |
| OTHERS | 8,182 | -17 | +10 | +11 |

** THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1988 WERE MAINLY DUE TO THE AWARD OF ANNUAL BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY BY SOME FIRMS IN FEBRUARY 1988.

NOTES TO TABLES 1-3: UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE FIRMS SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE FIRMS SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY ANNOUNCED
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGULARLY ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT STARTING THIS WEEK THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT BIWEEKLY INTERVALS DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THE E. COLI DATA USED FOR GRADING ARE BASED ON THE MEDIAN VALUES OF THE MOST RECENT FIVE RESULTS, OBTAINED OVER A TWO AND A HALF MONTH PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE USUAL SAMPLING FREQUENCY.

THE GRADES FOR SOME BEACHES MAY FLUCTUATE. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF THE BEACHES IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE SWIMMING AREAS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF BEACHES, AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST OF BEACH WATER QUALITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 0-99 PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS BETWEEN 100-999 PER MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THE MEDIAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES, AND THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY.

SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

/AT PRESENT,

AT PRESENT, FIVE BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAILED TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE FIVE BEACHES, WHICH ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW :

| BEACH ----- | PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 19.5.88) |
|--------------------------|---|
| HONG KONG SOUTH ----- | |
| BIG WAVE BAY | B |
| CHUNG HOM KOK | B |
| DEEP WATER BAY | A |
| HAIRPIN | B |
| MIDDLE BAY | C |
| REPULSE BAY | B |
| SHEK O | A |
| SOUTH BAY | A |
| ST STEPHEN'S | B |
| TURTLE COVE | A |
| STANLEY MAIN | B |
| ROCKY BAY, SHEK O | X |
| TO TEI WAN* | A |
| ISLAND DISTRICT ----- | |
| CHEUNG SHA UPPER | A |
| CHEUNG SHA LOWER | A |
| DISCOVERY BAY* | A |

/HUNG SHING YEH

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| HUNG SHING YEH | A |
| KWUN YAM WAN | A |
| TONG FUK | A |
| LO SO SHING | A |
| PUI O | A |
| SILVERMINE BAY | X |
| TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU | A |
| TUNG O* | A |
| SAI KUNG DISTRICT | |
| ----- | |
| CAMPERS | A |
| CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH | A |
| CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH | A |
| HAP MUN BAY | A |
| KIU TSUI | A |
| PAK SHA CHAU | A |
| SILVERSTRAND | A |
| TRIO (HEBE HAVEN) | A |
| TSUEN WAN DISTRICT | |
| ----- | |
| ANGLERS' | X |
| APPROACH | B |
| CASAM | B |
| GEMINI | B |
| HOI MEI WAN | B |
| LIDO | B |
| TING KAU | C |
| TUNG WAN, MA WAN | A |

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

| | |
|----------------|---|
| OLD CAFETERIA | X |
| NEW CAFETERIA | B |
| CASTLE PEAK | X |
| KADOORIE BEACH | B |
| BUTTERFLY | B |

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

MIDDLE BAY BEACH AND TING KAU BEACH WERE GRADED "C" THIS TIME. THIS IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

MIDDLE BAY BEACH IS POLLUTED BY A STORMWATER DRAIN DISCHARGING IMPROPERLY TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM THE NEARBY BUILDINGS.

TING KAU BEACH IS POLLUTED BY TSUEN WAN HARBOUR WATER AND BY SEWAGE DISCHARGED FROM TING KAU VILLAGE.

IN ADDITION TO THIS REGULAR REPORTING SYSTEM, AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY OF ALL THE BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED BY THE EPD AFTER EACH BATHING SEASON.

THIS WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BEACH MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES ON THE SUITABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL BEACHES FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL HOLMES, THE EPD'S PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY), ON 3-7211044.

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NEW VANS FOR POLICE FORCE

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THE FIRST OF A NEW FLEET OF SHERPA MEDIUM VANS IN A THREE-YEAR \$30 MILLION VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

THEY ARE NOW UNDERGOING MODIFICATIONS PRIOR TO GOING ON THE ROADS IN EYE CATCHING CONSPICUITY LIVERY.

THE 32 BRITISH LEYLAND-BUILT SHERPAS ARE PART OF A CONSIGNMENT OF 325 VANS WHICH WILL BE PHASED IN GRADUALLY TO UPDATE AND STANDARDISE FORCE VAN REQUIREMENTS.

THE SHERPAS WILL REPLACE THE MEDIUM GENERAL PURPOSE VEHICLES; LAND ROVERS; AND THE FORCE "WORKHORSE" TRANSIT VEHICLES; AND WHEN MODIFIED UNDERTAKE TASKS NOW PERFORMED BY ALL THREE.

THE POLICE MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICER, MR IAN STENTON, EXPLAINED: "THE NEW MEDIUM VANS WILL AFFECT NEARLY EVERYBODY IN THE FORCE.

"THEY WILL ALLOW ALL STATIONS TO BETTER PLAN AND MANAGE THEIR FLEETS BECAUSE THEY WILL BE COMPLETELY INTER-CHANGEABLE.

"THE DAYS OF CONCENTRATING CERTAIN VEHICLES TO SPECIAL TASKS WILL BE OVER."

THE SHERPA WAS CHOSEN FOR ITS MULTI-PURPOSE ROLE AFTER WORKSHOPS INSPECTIONS OF THE CURRENT VEHICLES AND CONSULTATIONS WITH FORMATIONS.

MR STENTON SAID THE LAND ROVER WAS RAPIDLY BECOMING INOPERABLE FOR MODERN DAY URBAN USAGE.

THE MEDIUM GENERAL PURPOSE VAN, KNOWN COMMONLY AS THE "BREAD VAN", WAS UNDER-UTILISED SINCE THE POLICE CEASED CARRYING OUT HAWKER CONTROL DUTIES. THE VANS WERE NOT PARTICULARLY DESIGNED FOR PERSONNEL CARRYING. THEY WERE UNCOMFORTABLE AND HAD ONLY LIMITED VIEW FOR PASSENGERS.

MANY OF THE TRANSIT PATROL VEHICLES WERE ALSO COMING TO THE ENDS OF THEIR WORKING LIVES.

MR STENTON SAID THERE WOULD BE SOME EXCEPTIONS IN THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING VEHICLES.

THE LAND ROVER WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED IN FRONTIER, MARINE ISLANDS, SAI KUNG AND OTHER LOCATIONS WHERE IT COULD BE USEFUL.

"IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WE LOOKED TO SEE WHAT WOULD GIVE US THE OPTIMUM VEHICLE TO POLICE ALL THE DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE EXISTING THREE TYPES," SAID MR STENTON.

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"WE EVENTUALLY DREW UP A DESIGN TO ALLOW FOR THE VIRTUAL COMPLETE STANDARDISATION AND THE GREATEST POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY WHICH WILL MAKE VEHICLE TASKING A LOT EASIER."

THE NEW SHERPAS WOULD BE INTRODUCED GRADUALLY AS EXISTING VEHICLES WENT OUT OF SERVICE.

THE SHERPAS WILL BE IN CONSPICUITY COLOURS - WHITE WITH A RED STRIPE AND LARGE POLICE BADGES AND LIGHT REFLECTIVE AT NIGHT.

EACH SHERPA WILL HAVE STANDARDISED AND INTER-CHANGEABLE COMMUNICATIONS FITTINGS AND TWO BLUE ROOF LIGHTS. EMERGENCY UNIT VEHICLES WILL HAVE LIGHT-BRIDGES WITH BLUE ROOF LIGHTS.

"OTHERS COMFORT ENHANCEMENTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED," MR STENTON ADDED.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROVED \$13,851.87 FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO SIX VICTIMS OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN KWAI CHUNG LAST MONTH AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS LOST CONTROL AND SWERVED ONTO THE PAVEMENT WHILE TURNING FROM TAI LOONG STREET INTO WO YI HOP ROAD IN KWAI CHUNG ON APRIL 30, KILLING TWO ELDERLY SISTERS AND INJURING SIX OTHER PEOPLE.

THE TAVA SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM TWO OTHER VICTIMS.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WITHOUT TAKING REGARD OF THE MEANS OF THE FAMILY OR THE ELEMENT OF FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S TAVA SECTION ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF VICTORIA CENTRE, 15 WATSON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY OR BY CALLING 5-702342.

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LEISURE SERVICES ON TSUEN WAN DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT STRATEGY PLANNING ON LEISURE SERVICES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET FOR 1988-89 WILL BE TABLED.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO HOLD CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, SECOND FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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PARTNERS OF CONTRACTOR FIRM FINED

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THREE PARTNERS OF A CONTRACTOR FIRM WERE RECENTLY FINED A TOTAL OF \$25,000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR FAILING TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM BEING ENDANGERED BY ELECTRIC CABLES.

THE CASE INVOLVED A WORKER WHO WAS ELECTROCUTED WHILE USING A PAIR OF PLIERS TO REMOVE THE COVERING INSULATION OF AN ELECTRIC CABLE INSIDE A FACTORY IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD LAST YEAR WITHOUT KNOWING THAT THE CABLE HAD BEEN MADE LIVE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID THAT UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, A CONTRACTOR SHALL, BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK OR DURING ITS PROGRESS, TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM BEING ENDANGERED BY ANY LIVE ELECTRIC CABLE OR APPARATUS.

"WHERE THERE IS ANY ELECTRICALLY CHARGED OVERHEAD CABLE OR APPARATUS, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE CABLE OR APPARATUS WILL NOT BE DANGEROUS TO THE WORKMEN," HE SAID.

/"THIS MAY

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"THIS MAY BE DONE BY THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE AND SUITABLY PLACED BARRIERS OR OTHER METHODS."

CONTRACTORS WHO FAIL TO TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE WORKERS ARE LIABLE, UPON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE REGULATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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CHANCE FOR YOUNG ATHLETES TO JOIN SEOUL OLYMPIAD YOUTH CAMP

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TWO OUTSTANDING SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETES WILL BE SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE 1988 SEOUL OLYMPIAD YOUTH CAMP IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO BE HELD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 13 AND OCTOBER 2 THIS YEAR.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE SELECTION, TOGETHER WITH ENTRIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING SCHOOL SUMMER OLYMPIAD 1988.

THE SUMMER OLYMPIAD, WHICH STARTED IN 1985, IS AN ANNUAL EVENT AIMED TO PROMOTE SPORTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SUMMER AND TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL ATHLETES TO SHARE THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES IN VARIOUS SPORTS.

ABOUT 3,000 SCHOOL ATHLETES WILL COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S OLYMPIAD IN FIVE SPORTS NAMELY, ATHLETICS, BADMINTON, BASKETBALL, SWIMMING AND VOLLEYBALL.

THERE WILL BE INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM AWARDS IN EACH GROUP OF COMPETITIONS.

THE BEST THREE SCHOOLS IN EACH GROUP WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES WHILE TEAM MEMBERS OF THE BEST EIGHT SCHOOLS IN THE BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS AND THE FINALISTS IN ATHLETICS, SWIMMING AND BADMINTON EVENTS, WILL RECEIVE MEDALS.

IN ADDITION, THE BEST THREE SCHOOLS IN BOYS AND GIRLS GROUPS IN EACH EVENT WILL ALSO BE AWARDED TROPHIES.

THREE OVERALL CHAMPION SCHOOLS WILL BE PRESENTED CASH AWARDS OF \$5,000, \$3,000 AND \$2,000 RESPECTIVELY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES BY A PRIVATE SPONSOR. THE SPONSOR WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE TRIP FOR BOTH THE "SPORTS BOY" AND "SPORTS GIRL" TO SEOUL LATER THIS YEAR.

A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE PRIZES WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 27 (WEDNESDAY) AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FINALS OF THE BADMINTON, BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS.

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PERCUSSION MASTERCLASS FOR MUSIC LOVERS

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THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL PRESENT A PERCUSSION MASTERCLASS AT ITS HONG KONG MUSIC CENTRE ON MONDAY (MAY 23) FROM 5 PM TO 7 PM TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN MUSIC.

THE MASTERCLASS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR MICHAEL ROSEN, THE PROFESSOR OF PERCUSSION AT THE OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC IN THE UNITED STATES. HE IS ALSO HEAD OF THE PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT AND CONDUCTS THE OBERLIN PERCUSSION GROUP.

MR ROSEN IS WELL KNOWN IN AMERICA, AS WELL AS IN EUROPE, FOR THE RARE MUSICAL SENSITIVITY HE DISPLAYS AS A MARIMBA SOLOIST AND CLINICIAN. HIS VIRTUOSITY ALWAYS EMPHASISES THE EXPRESSIVE POSSIBILITIES OF THE MARIMBA.

HE HAS CONCERTISED AND TAUGHT EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE, IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE, GERMANY AND HOLLAND.

ADMISSION TO THE MASTERCLASS IS FREE AND ALL MUSIC LOVERS ARE WELCOME. ENQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ON 5-8235321.

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OPEN SPACE AT CAINE LANE

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WORKS WILL START LATER THIS MONTH ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OPEN SPACE AT CAINE LANE.

FACILITIES AT THE 3,300-SQUARE-METRE OPEN SPACE WILL INCLUDE A LANDSCAPE GARDEN, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, POOLS, FOUNTAINS AND A PAVILION.

ELEVATED WALKWAYS WILL ALSO BE BUILT TO CONNECT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THE OPEN SPACE, WHICH IS BISECTED BY CAINE LANE.

WORKS ON THIS \$7.5 MILLION PROJECT WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN ONE YEAR.

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NEW SALT WATER MAINS FOR ABERDEEN

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE SALT WATER FLUSHING SYSTEM FOR ABERDEEN, WONG CHUK HANG AND TIN WAN.

TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE LAYING OF ABOUT 5,400 METRES OF SALT WATER MAINS, WITH DIAMETERS RANGING FROM 150 MM TO 600 MM, IN ABERDEEN.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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NEW ROAD IN QUARRY BAY TO OPEN

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AN ELEVATED WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY WEST OF THE TAIKOO SHING INTERCHANGE AT THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10.45 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 21).

WESTBOUND VEHICLES ON THIS SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THIS NEW CARRIAGEWAY.

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