



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1985

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NOVEMBER MONETARY STATISTICS RELEASED

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS GREW SHARPLY IN NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO MONETARY STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PART OF THE INCREASE APPEARED TO REFLECT A SWITCH FROM FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, WHICH DECLINED DURING THE MONTH.

BOTH THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY AND THE TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ROSE ON ALL DEFINITIONS.

LENDING REMAINED QUITE WEAK OVERALL, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN CURRENCY LOANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FOR USE IN HONG KONG, RECORDED A DISTINCT INCREASE.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO RISE, FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH. THE INCREASE IN NOVEMBER WAS 4.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 2.5 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, THESE DEPOSITS ROSE BY 9.0 PER CENT, AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS, BY 26.9 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, HOWEVER, FELL BY 1.6 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER, AGAINST AN INCREASE OF 2.4 PER CENT IN THE MONTH BEFORE. WHILE THESE DEPOSITS SHOWED NO GROWTH OVER THE THREE MONTHS, THEY WERE 23.7 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH BANKS REGISTERED THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTHLY INCREASE, RISING BY 2.3 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER, COMPARED WITH 3.1 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. TOTAL DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, HOWEVER, DROPPED BY 0.5 PER CENT AFTER A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, DEPOSITS WITH BANKS ROSE BY 6.4 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 2.0 PER CENT. THIS SHIFT IS PROBABLY EXPLAINED, AT LEAST IN PART, BY THE UNUSUALLY NARROW DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES AND HKAB DEPOSIT RATES FOR MUCH OF THIS PERIOD.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS CONTINUED TO RISE.

/WHILE HK\$M1 .....

WHILE HK\$M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION) ROSE BY 4.3 PER CENT, THE BROADER DEFINITIONS HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 WERE UP BY 6.4 PER CENT AND 4.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN OCTOBER WERE 1.5 PER CENT, 3.7 PER CENT AND 2.3 PER CENT.

IN THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, INCREASES OF 11.4 PER CENT, 12.0 PER CENT AND 8.4 PER CENT WERE RECORDED FOR HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES OVER THE 12 MONTHS WERE 15.7 PER CENT, 23.3 PER CENT AND 24.8 PER CENT.

#### TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ALSO INCREASED ON ALL DEFINITIONS. TOTAL M1 ROSE BY 4.1 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH A MARGINAL DECREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. TOTAL M2 GREW FURTHER BY 2.2 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 1.6 PER CENT, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.9 PER CENT AND 2.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER WERE 9.7 PER CENT, 6.0 PER CENT AND 4.3 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS, 15.2 PER CENT, 20.2 PER CENT AND 24.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

#### LOANS AND ADVANCES

LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO GROW ONLY SLOWLY IN TOTAL, BY 1.0 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER FOLLOWING 0.5 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, THESE INCREASED BY 1.8 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS BY 6.5 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE RECOVERED SLIGHTLY TO GROW BY 0.4 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER, AFTER HAVING DECLINED BY 1.1 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. WHILE THEY FELL BY 2.0 PER CENT OVER THE LATEST THREE MONTHS, THEY WERE STILL 13.2 PER CENT HIGHER OVER THE 12 MONTHS.

THE GROWTH RATE OF OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG IN NOVEMBER WAS, AT 1.5 PER CENT, THE STRONGEST FOR MANY MONTHS. IN THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER THE INCREASE WAS 1.9 PER CENT AND OVER THE 12 MONTHS, 2.6 PER CENT.

THE RISE IN NOVEMBER WAS CONCENTRATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY LENDING, BUT NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE CAN BE ATTACHED TO THIS ON THE BASIS OF ONE MONTH'S FIGURES.

## FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

THE SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY POSITION OF THE MONETARY SECTOR SHOWED NET ASSETS OF \$2.5 BILLION AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, COMPARED WITH NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES OF \$3.7 BILLION AT THE END OF OCTOBER. THE LAST TIME WHEN A NET ASSET POSITION WAS RECORDED WAS IN FEBRUARY 1982.

STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES SHOWED SIMILAR MOVEMENTS. THERE WERE \$1.2 BILLION OF NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, COMPARED WITH \$5.5 BILLION OF NET SPOT FOREIGN CURRENCY LIABILITIES A MONTH EARLIER.

THIS SHIFT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A FURTHER REDUCTION IN NET FORWARD FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS OF THE MONETARY SECTOR FROM \$26.5 BILLION TO \$21.3 BILLION, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME UNWINDING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS AS INTERBANK MONEY MARKET RATES CONTINUED TO EASE.

## LIQUIDITY RATIO

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 18 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE) FOR ALL BANKS IMPROVED TO 51.4 PER CENT FROM 49.9 PER CENT IN OCTOBER. THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY RATIO (AS DEFINED IN S. 24A OF THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ORDINANCE) FOR ALL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS 43.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 45.6 PER CENT IN OCTOBER.

## NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF OPERATING LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 3 TO 139, AND THE NUMBER OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 1 TO 33. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL TO 312.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1984 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLY MONTHS:

MONETARY STATISTICS .....

## MONETARY STATISTICS - November 1984

(HK\$mn)

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	Nov 1984	Earlier months (% change to November 1984)		Nov 1983
		Oct 1984	Aug 1984	
<u>Money Supply</u>				
M1 - HK\$	31,997	30,668 (+4.3%)	28,721 (+11.4%)	27,661 (+15.7%)
Foreign currency	2,931	2,877 (+1.9%)	3,131 (- 6.4%)	2,665 (+10.0%)
Total	34,928	33,545 (+4.1%)	31,852 (+ 9.7%)	30,326 (+15.2%)
M2 - HK\$	165,138	155,214 (+6.4%)	147,506 (+12.0%)	133,962 (+23.3%)
Foreign currency	135,114	138,687 (-2.6%)	135,732 (- 0.5%)	115,905 (+16.6%)
Total	300,252	293,901 (+2.2%)	283,238 (+ 6.0%)	249,867 (+20.2%)
M3 - HK\$	201,649	192,880 (+4.5%)	185,983 (+ 8.4%)	161,529 (+24.8%)
Foreign currency	172,549	175,297 (-1.6%)	172,751 (- 0.1%)	139,760 (+23.5%)
Total	374,199	368,177 (+1.6%)	358,734 (+ 4.3%)	301,289 (+24.2%)
<u>Deposits</u>				
Demand deposits	22,194	20,994 (+5.7%)	19,367 (+14.6%)	18,224 (+21.8%)
Savings deposits	75,566	72,503 (+4.2%)	67,334 (+12.2%)	69,166 (+ 9.3%)
Time deposits with banks	184,938	182,820 (+1.2%)	179,065 (+ 3.3%)	145,320 (+27.3%)
Time deposits with dtcs	72,103	72,466 (-0.5%)	73,554 (- 2.0%)	50,363 (+43.2%)
All HK\$ deposits	187,085	178,291 (+4.9%)	171,600 (+ 9.0%)	147,448 (+26.9%)
All foreign currency deposits	167,715	170,491 (-1.6%)	167,720 ( = )	135,626 (+23.7%)
Total	354,801	348,782 (+1.7%)	339,319 (+ 4.6%)	283,073 (+25.3%)
<u>Loans and advances</u>				
To finance Hong Kong's visible trade	32,709	32,566 (+0.4%)	33,374 (- 2.0%)	28,884 (+13.2%)
To finance merchandising trade not touching Hong Kong	4,555	4,149 (+9.8%)	4,198 (+ 8.5%)	3,010 (+51.3%)
Other loans for use in Hong Kong	219,442	216,268 (+1.5%)	215,371 (+ 1.9%)	213,939 (+ 2.6%)
Other loans for use outside Hong Kong	142,996	142,444 (+0.4%)	139,642 (+ 2.4%)	129,958 (+10.0%)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	19,922	20,005 (-0.4%)	19,555 (+ 1.9%)	18,370 (+ 8.4%)
All loans in HK\$	205,736	204,964 (+0.4%)	204,428 (+ 0.6%)	196,150 (+ 4.9%)
All loans in foreign currencies	213,887	210,468 (+1.6%)	207,712 (+ 3.0%)	198,011 (+ 8.0%)
Total	419,623	415,432 (+1.0%)	412,140 (+ 1.8%)	394,161 (+ 6.5%)

= less than 0.05%

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COMMENTS ON REHABILITATION SCHEME INVITED  
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, AND THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR JAMES FINDLAY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INVITED COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON A SCHEME DESIGNED TO HELP THE REHABILITATION OF MINOR OFFENDERS.

ANNOUNCING THE PUBLICATION OF +A SPENT CONVICTION SCHEME FOR HONG KONG - A PROPOSAL+, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE DISCUSSION PAPER FULFILLED AN UNDERTAKING GIVEN TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1983 TO PRODUCE A SHORT REPORT AND DRAFT BILL FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT, IN COMMON WITH SUCH SCHEMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE CONVICTED PETTY OFFENDER, AFTER A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF YEARS, WOULD BE AUTHORISED BY LAW TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT HIS CONVICTION IN HIS BUSINESS AND SOCIAL DEALINGS, SUCH AS IN APPLICATIONS FOR JOBS, HIRE PURCHASE, INSURANCE AND THE LIKE.

THE PROPOSAL FOR HONG KONG WOULD, INITIALLY, LIMIT THE OFFENCES CONCERNED TO THOSE FOR WHICH THE OFFENDER WAS NOT SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT OR TO A FINE EXCEEDING \$2 000 AND WOULD BENEFIT AN OFFENDER WHO HAS NOT BEEN CONVICTED AGAIN FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

THERE WOULD BE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE IN CERTAIN AREAS WHERE IT IS FELT THAT FULL DISCLOSURE IS NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF AN OFFENDER IS CONVICTED AGAIN, THE SENTENCING JUDGE WOULD BE TOLD OF ALL CONVICTIONS, NO MATTER HOW OLD.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT SOME ENTHUSIASTS IN THE CIVIL LIBERTIES LOBBY HAD GIVEN IMPETUS TO HOPES WHICH WOULD NOT BE REALISED BY THE PROPOSALS.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD NOT SMOOTH THE WAY OF THOSE WHO WISHED TO EMIGRATE.

THE REQUIREMENT OF FULL DISCLOSURE OF PAST CONVICTIONS WHEN APPLYING FOR VISAS IS GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THE APPLICATIONS FOR THOSE VISAS ARE MADE.

+IF WE WERE TO SEEK TO PREVENT SUCH DISCLOSURE BY OUR LAW,+ HE SAID, +WE WOULD NOT MAKE IT EASIER FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS. I BELIEVE SUCH A MOVE WOULD, GENERALLY, MAKE EMIGRATION MORE DIFFICULT FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE, RATHER THAN EASIER.+

HE BELIEVED THAT MOST COUNTRIES APPLIED COMMON SENSE IN CASES IN WHICH THERE WAS A PAST CONVICTION FOR A MINOR OFFENCE WHICH HAD BEEN LIVED DOWN AND WOULD RESENT ANY ATTEMPT BY HONG KONG TO PREVENT ACCESS BY THEM TO FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION.

MR THOMAS SAID WHILE THE PRESENT PROPOSAL WAS LIMITED TO MINOR OFFENCES IT MIGHT BE THAT THE SCHEME WOULD IN TIME BE EXTENDED TO COVER A WIDER RANGE OF CONVICTIONS.

/THE PROPOSAL .....

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THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER WAS, HOWEVER, INTENDED FOR PUBLIC DEBATE AND THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS WERE INVITED.

THOSE WISHING TO COMMENT ON THE SCHEME WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING TO MR W.R. MARSHALL, ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BY MARCH 31, 1985.

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#### ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL LIFT OPERATORS

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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS NOW BEEN EMPOWERED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONDUCT PROSECUTIONS AGAINST OWNERS OF ILLEGAL LIFTS.

OPERATING LIFTS WITHOUT PERMITS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT IS AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY A \$5 000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

ONLY TWO TYPES OF LIFTS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THIS LEGAL REQUIREMENT: GOODS LIFTS WITHIN A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 250 KG AND MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS OF ONE SQUARE METRE IN FLOOR AREA AND 1.2 METRES IN HEIGHT, AND GOODS LIFTS IN FACTORIES GRANTED SPECIAL EXEMPTION BY THE DEPARTMENT.

+ILLEGAL LIFTS ARE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS BECAUSE USUALLY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INSTALLED OR MAINTAINED BY REGISTERED LIFT CONTRACTORS. IN MANY CASES, THEY ARE VIRTUAL DEATH TRAPS,+ SAID MR GREGORY CHUI, THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR ENGINEER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON LIFTS.

SO FAR ILLEGAL LIFTS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED ONLY IN SHOPS, FIRMS AND FACTORIES WHERE THEY WERE USED FOR TRANSPORTING GOODS.

+HOWEVER, IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE TO USE THEM WITHOUT REALISING THE RISK INVOLVED,+ MR CHUI SAID.

STILL FRESH IN MR CHUI'S MIND WAS A FATAL ACCIDENT CAUSED BY AN UNREGISTERED LIFT IN A DRAPERY SHOP IN SHAM SHUI PO A YEAR AGO. TWO OF THE PASSENGERS DIED AND ONE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN THE LIFT PLUNGED TO THE GROUND FLOOR.

IN 1984 THE DEPARTMENT LOCATED 49 ILLEGAL LIFTS. ONE OF THE OWNERS WAS FINED \$1 500 AND THE REST WERE SERVED WITH PROHIBITION ORDERS TO RECONSTRUCT THEIR LIFTS TO MEET SAFETY STANDARDS, OR IN THE CASE OF FACTORY LIFTS, TO APPLY FOR EXEMPTION.

+IF AN UNREGISTERED LIFT POSES IMMEDIATE DANGER, THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY WILL BE DISCONNECTED AND THE POWER SEALED OFF AT ONCE,+ HE SAID.

THE SAME PROCESS WILL APPLY TO THOSE LIFTS WHEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE LIFT OWNERS IS RECEIVED WITHIN 42 DAYS OF THE ISSUE OF THE PROHIBITION ORDER.

/BY LAW .....

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BY LAW A LIFT MUST BE EXAMINED AND TESTED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR BY A REGISTERED LIFT ENGINEER.

TO ENSURE A HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF THESE ENGINEERS, A DISCIPLINARY BOARD HAS BEEN FORMED RECENTLY TO SANCTION THOSE FOUND TO BE NEGLIGENT IN THEIR WORK.

RANDOM CHECKING IS ALSO CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT AND ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OF SOME 22 000 REGISTERED LIFTS ARE CHECKED A YEAR.

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FOUR SITES TO LET  
\* \* \*

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES OF FOUR SITES.

THE FIRST THREE SITES ARE AT NOS. 8, 18 AND 20 WING SING STREET, CENTRAL. THEY HAVE AN AREA OF 70, 54 AND 65 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THESE THREE SITES TO BE USED FOR THE WHOLESALE OF POULTRY EGGS, ARE BEING OFFERED FOR A ONE-YEAR TENANCY, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE FOURTH SITE, MEASURING 3 363 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR THE STORAGE OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

LOCATED NEAR CITY ONE AT SHA TIN, IT IS AVAILABLE FOR A TWO-YEAR TENANCY, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE TENDER DEADLINE IS NOON ON JANUARY 18.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND TENANCY CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND RELATED PLANS MAY BE INSPECTED AT, THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- \* LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON;
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG NORTH, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG FOR THE SITES IN HONG KONG; AND
- \* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SHA TIN, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE SHA TIN SITE.

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TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HK STUDENTS

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TWO SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEING OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM TO HONG KONG STUDENTS IN 1985.

ONE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS IS FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE OTHER, FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE COURSE.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE TENABLE FOR THE NORMAL DURATION OF THE DEGREE COURSES FOR WHICH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS ARE ACCEPTED BY THE UNIVERSITY, AND WILL COVER THE TUITION FEES.

BEFORE ADMISSION, THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE COST OF MAINTENANCE FOR THE PERIOD OF THE COURSES.

FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP, APPLICANTS MUST BE HONG KONG CITIZENS NORMALLY HAVING RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS PRECEDING OCTOBER 1, 1985, AND SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 25 ON THIS DATE.

THEY SHOULD HAVE, OR EXPECT TO HAVE, HIGH ACADEMIC ATTAINMENTS IN THE HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION, THE GCE ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION OR THEIR EQUIVALENT, AND HAVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THEIR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.

FOR THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP, APPLICANTS MUST BE HONG KONG CITIZENS NORMALLY HAVING RESIDED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS PRECEDING OCTOBER 1, 1985, AND SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 22 AND 35 BY THIS DATE.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THEIR INTENDED COURSE OF STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE SATISFACTORY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF AN ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 1522, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SECTION BY JANUARY 31, 1985, AND SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED FOR INTERVIEW IN HONG KONG IN LATE MARCH.

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SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR WAN CHAI  
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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$6.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SEWAGE SCREENING EQUIPMENT AT WAN CHAI (WEST) SEWAGE SCREEN PLANT.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES, MR C.R. SAUNDERS, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF G.E.C. (HONG KONG) LTD., MR J.E. WADE.

THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE SCREENING PLANT, LOCATED NEAR LUNG KING STREET IN WAN CHAI, WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR THE DISTRICT.

AFTER UNDERGOING SCREENING AND GRIT REMOVAL, THE SEWAGE WILL BE DISCHARGED INTO VICTORIA HARBOUR THROUGH THE EXISTING SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

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MORE FACILITIES FOR MEI LAM ESTATE  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED A TENDER OF OVER \$31 MILLION FOR BUILDING MORE RECREATIONAL AND PARKING FACILITIES AT MEI LAM ESTATE IN SHA TIN.

A THREE-STOREY INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, A FIVE-STOREY CAR PARK AND A COVERED FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE BUILT UNDER THE THIRD, AND FINAL, PHASE OF THE ESTATE.

UPON COMPLETION, THE RECREATION CENTRE WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES WHICH INCLUDE A MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, A FITNESS TRAINING ROOM, A DANCE ROOM AND TWO SQUASH COURTS.

THE CAR PARK WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 315 PARKING SPACES FOR TENANTS.

MEI LAM ESTATE PROVIDES MODERN HOUSING FOR ABOUT 30 000 PEOPLE UNDER ITS FIRST AND SECOND PHASES.

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COMPULSORY EXAM OF SPECIAL-PURPOSE VEHICLES  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED VEHICLE OWNERS THAT ALL SPECIAL-PURPOSE VEHICLES MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1976 MUST BE EXAMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE VEHICLE LICENCES CAN BE RENEWED.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A CERTIFICATE OF ROAD WORTHINESS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THE VEHICLE HAS PASSED THE EXAMINATION AT THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE AT CHEUNG YIP STREET.

THE CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE PRODUCED DURING RELICENSING AND ONLY THOSE ISSUED WITHIN THE FOUR MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW LICENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 3-7597505.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WATER STREET  
\* \* \*

WATER STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 4) FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO ALLOW ROAD WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON QUEEN'S ROAD WEST HEADING FOR DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHIU KWONG STEET.

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SPEED LIMIT IN TAI PO  
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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 4), THE SECTION OF TING KOK ROAD BETWEEN TUNG TSZ ROAD AND TAI MEI TUK, AND THE SECTION OF BRIDE'S POOL ROAD BETWEEN TAI MEI TUK AND LUK KENG IN TAI PO WILL BE SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

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