



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1976

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GOVERNOR OPENS CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ACCOUNTANTS
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ACCOUNTANTS IN THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN REGION WILL HAVE A MAJOR PART TO PLAY IF THE ECONOMY IN THIS AREA IS TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE SAID TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ACCOUNTANTS AT THE CITY HALL.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +ONE HEARS MUCH OF THE OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, BUT WE ARE APT TO FORGET THAT WHILE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG IS BASED ON INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS, THIS PROSPERITY OWES MUCH TO THE QUALITY AND VARIETY OF BUSINESS SERVICE THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED AND AMONG THESE THE PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTANCY STANDS HIGH.+

THE GOVERNOR REFERRED TO THE RENEWED PROSPERITY AND CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AND SAID THAT ALMOST ANY INDICATOR SHOWED AN ENORMOUS RESURGENCE FROM THE RECESSION OF TWO YEARS AGO.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO HONG KONG FOR THIS YOUR EIGHTH CONFERENCE. I AM SURE YOU HAVE CHOSEN HONG KONG FOR THE QUALITY OF SERVICES THAT OUR COMMERCIAL SECTOR CAN PROVIDE, AND I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOUR EXPECTATIONS WILL BE FULFILLED. INDEED THIS NEW CONFERENCE CENTRE IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF OUR EXPANDING SECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES.

+ONE HEARS MUCH OF THE OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, BUT WE ARE APT TO FORGET THAT WHILE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG IS BASED ON INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS, THIS PROSPERITY OWES MUCH TO THE QUALITY AND VARIETY OF BUSINESS SERVICE THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED AND AMONG THESE THE PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTANCY STANDS HIGH.

+THIS CONFERENCE IS HELD AT A TIME OF RENEWED PROSPERITY AND CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. ALMOST ANY INDICATOR SHOWS AN ENORMOUS RESURGENCE FROM THE RECESSION OF TWO YEARS AGO. IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS 51% AND THAT OF IMPORTS 39% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, AND THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME WERE 36% AND 37% RESPECTIVELY.

+THIS RENEWED PROSPERITY IS FAIRLY TYPICAL OF THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN REGION. SINCE THE PROSPECTS FOR STEADY IF UNDRAMATIC GROWTH IN THE REGION'S MARKETS OF AMERICA AND EUROPE ARE ALSO GOOD, THERE IS EVERY HOPE THAT THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN REGION WILL CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE MAJOR GROWTH AREAS IN THE WORLD.

+IN THIS PROSPERITY AND GROWTH YOUR PROFESSION HAS A MAJOR PART TO PLAY. THE ART AND DISCIPLINE OF ACCOUNTANCY SHOULD DO FOR THE BODY ECONOMIC WHAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION DOES FOR THE BODY CORPORAL. IT DIAGNOSES FINANCIAL HEALTH OR SICKNESS, IT PRESCRIBES TO MAXIMISE THE FIRST AND CURE THE SECOND, IT ADVISES CORPORATE SURGERY HERE OR A GRAFT THERE, AND AS CONSTANTLY AS ANY DOCTOR IT FROWNS ON EXCESS AND SMILES ON DISCIPLINE. AND OF COURSE FOR ALL THESE ACTS OF FINANCIAL BENEFACTION LEGITIMATELY AND LIKE ANY DOCTOR IT TAKES ITS FEE.

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+IF THIS EXUBERANT ECONOMY OF THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN REGION IS TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND AS WE HOPE IT WILL THERE WILL BE MUCH NEED FOR THE SUPPORT, THE ADVICE AND DISCIPLINE THE PROFESSION OF ACCOUNTANTS CAN PROVIDE.

+HERE IN HONG KONG THE NEED FOR COMPETENT ACCOUNTANTS IS AS GREAT AS ANYWHERE, AND IT WAS A HAPPY EVENT WHEN FOUR YEARS AGO THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS WAS ESTABLISHED. I AM DELIGHTED THAT IT HAS SO QUICKLY GROWN IN STATURE AND RECOGNITION THAT IT IS NOW ABLE TO HOST THIS GREAT GATHERING.

+HONG KONG HEARTILY WELCOMES YOU ALL TO THIS EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ACCOUNTANTS AND I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING IT OPEN.+

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IMPORTANT ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFICERS
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS. SOO MOK SAU-HA, TODAY (MONDAY) STRESSED THE VITAL ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFICERS PLAYED IN PREVENTING ACCIDENTS AT WORK.

SHE WAS SPEAKING TO A GROUP OF 21 TRAINEES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY AT THE OPENING OF A SIX-WEEK FULL-TIME COURSE AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

MRS. SOO SAID: +INCREASED INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN RECENT YEARS HAS RESULTED IN MORE ACCIDENTS.

+IN ORDER TO CHECK THE APPALLING ACCIDENT RATE, INDUSTRY IS IN NEED OF MORE TRAINED SAFETY OFFICERS TO BRING HOME SAFETY MESSAGES TO BOTH EMPLOYERS AND THE WORKERS.+

MRS. SOO TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE JOB OF AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY OFFICER WAS BOTH MEANINGFUL AND CHALLENGING.

SHE SAID HIS MAIN ROLE WAS TO BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT AND WORKER IN SAFETY PROMOTION AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

+BY EDUCATING THE WORKERS ON SAFE WORKING PRACTICES AND IMPLEMENTING THE COMPANY'S SAFETY POLICY, HE HELPS REDUCE INDUSTRIAL HAZARDS AND PREVENT ACCIDENTS FROM ARISING,+ SHE POINTED OUT.

MRS. SOO URGED THE TRAINEES TO PASS ON TO OTHERS THE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE THEY ACQUIRED AND HELP PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN HONG KONG.

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NEW ESTATE RENTS ACCEPTABLE TO MAJORITY OF APPLICANTS

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, SAID TODAY THAT THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS AIMED AT PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

MR. LIGHTBODY, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, WAS ADDRESSING THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ROTARY CLUB.

COMMENTING ON RECENT CRITICISMS THAT RENTS FOR NEW ESTATES WERE BEING SET AT TOO HIGH A LEVEL, HE SAID: +LACK OF MONEY SHOULD NOT DEBAR ANY FAMILY WHICH IS OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FROM MOVING INTO PUBLIC HOUSING.

+NEW ESTATE RENTS ARE SET AT A LEVEL WHICH EXPERIENCE SHOWS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GREAT MAJORITY OF APPLICANTS AND, FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THEY REALLY CAN'T AFFORD THESE RENTS, THE AUTHORITY WILL FIND A LOW-RENT FLAT ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE FAMILY'S MEANS.+

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THE AUTHORITY HAS ABOUT 267,000 FLATS LET AT RENTS BELOW \$100 A MONTH= OF THESE, 200,000 FLATS HAVE RENTS BELOW \$50 A MONTH.

HE STATED: +IF ANY FAMILY FEELS EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC HOUSING ONLY BECAUSE OF RENT LEVELS, THEY SHOULD EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S STAFF AND ASK FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN OVERCOMING THEIR PROBLEM.+

MR. LIGHTBODY EXPLAINED THAT PERSONS IN QUITE A CONSIDERABLE INCOME RANGE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, RANGING UP TO \$1,700 PER MONTH FOR A MEDIUM FLAT AND \$2,200 PER MONTH FOR A LARGE FLAT. THE PROBLEM IS WHERE TO SET RENT LEVELS FOR NEW ESTATES, AND THE AUTHORITY FELT IT WAS SENSIBLE TO FIX RENTS WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE MAJORITY, AND TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HELP THE LESS WELL-OFF.

HE WENT ON: +OUR WHOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING FOR THE LOW-INCOME GROUPS AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHORITY'S PRESENT RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION IS KEPT UNDER CLOSE REVIEW AND, IF THIS IS SHOWN TO BE NECESSARY, WE WILL SEEK ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CRITERIA TO ENSURE THAT THE LESS WELL-OFF ARE NOT UNFAIRLY DISADVANTAGED BY THIS RENT SYSTEM.

+IT SEEMS SENSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE SPECIAL SUBSIDIES ON THE LESS WELL-OFF FAMILIES, RATHER THAN HAVE THE TAXPAYER GIVE ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES TO ALL FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING, REGARDLESS OF THEIR INCOME, BY REDUCING THE GENERAL LEVEL OF NEW ESTATE RENTS.+

HE ADDED THAT THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME DOES NOT MAKE A PROFIT, AS SOME HAVE CLAIMED. +GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXPECT THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM PUBLIC HOUSING, NOR DOES THE AUTHORITY,+ HE DECLARED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT, AS OF TODAY, ANNUAL RENTAL INCOME IS RUNNING AT ABOUT \$390 MILLION A YEAR, WHILE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE - CAPITAL AND RECURRENT - IS ABOUT \$730 MILLION. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING NEW ESTATES IS ABOUT \$356 MILLION OF THIS, AND THIS CAPITAL FIGURE WILL INCREASE IN THE YEARS AHEAD AS THE PROGRAMME BUILDS UP.

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+FAR FROM MAKING A PROFIT, GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTING MORE AND MORE FUNDS TO THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME ON A LONG-TERM BASIS,+ MR. LIGHTBODY SAID.

DEPENDING ON LOCATION, AND OTHER FACTORS, THE RENT OF A 240 SQUARE FOOT FLAT IN A NEW ESTATE IS \$180 PER MONTH, WHILE A LARGE FLAT OF 360 SQUARE FEET IS LET AT \$255 PER MONTH, HE POINTED OUT.

+CERTAINLY THESE LEVELS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THOSE FOUND IN OLDER ESTATES, BUT THEY ARE WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF TENANTS. HOWEVER, PROVIDED INFLATION CAN BE KEPT IN CHECK, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STICK TO THESE 1975/76 RENT LEVELS FOR INITIAL LETTINGS IN NEW ESTATES DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT KWAI CHUNG
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE RETIRING DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. BILL KNIGHT, WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN A NEW WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT KWAI CHUNG TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE NEW DISTRIBUTION SCHEME, WHICH INCLUDES A PUMPING SYSTEM, A FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR AND A SALT WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR, WILL SERVE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAI KING AREA.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY. OFFICIAL TRANSPORT, AM2087 AND AM2192, WILL LEAVE THE P.W.D.'S CARPARK AT MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AT 10 A.M. SHARP.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF MURRAY BUILDING BY 9.45 A.M. OFFICERS OF THE P.W.D.'S PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER ASSISTANCE.

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STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM INTEGRATION OF ISWT AND POLYTECHNIC
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STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT MOST FROM THE INTEGRATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AND THE POLYTECHNIC AS IT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (MONDAY) BY DR. K. LEGG, DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, AT THE ORIENTATION DAY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING TO MARK THE START OF ITS NEW ACADEMIC YEAR.

THIS YEAR, 65 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FOR THE TWO-YEAR COURSE THAT WILL LEAD TO THE AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL WORK. TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO ARE MOVING INTO THE SECOND YEAR OF THE COURSE, THE INSTITUTE WILL HAVE 115 STUDENTS UNDER TRAINING.

DR. LEGG SAID THAT THE INTEGRATION WILL CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTE TO APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS OF STUDENTS IN OTHER DISCIPLINES.

FROM THE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' VIEWPOINT, HE WENT ON, IT WILL HEIGHTEN THEIR AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG AND ALSO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL WORK PROJECTS.

COMMENTING ON THE REASONS FOR THE INTEGRATION, DR. LEGG SAID: +THE INSTITUTE, IN THE NEW POLYTECHNIC ENVIRONMENT, WILL HAVE WIDER HORIZONS IN THE VERY IMPORTANT TASK OF MEETING THE SOCIAL WORK MANPOWER NEEDS OF HONG KONG.

+IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE WIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND A GREATER PROBABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL WORK COURSES OF ALL KINDS.+

IT WAS ALSO PROBABLE, HE SAID, THAT THERE WOULD BE A MUCH CLOSER CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES SO THAT ALL LEVELS AND ASPECTS OF SOCIAL WORK WOULD BE EMBRACED.

DR. LEGG TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THEY WERE ENTERING A FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR THAT COULD ONLY MAKE THE LOT OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED BETTER.

+SOCIAL WORK IS A DEDICATED PROFESSION AND CAN BRING MUCH SATISFACTION TO YOU AS A PERSON AS WELL AS TO THOSE WHOM YOU WILL EVENTUALLY HELP,+ HE SAID.

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COMPENSATION FOR AUGUST MONTHLY TICKET HOLDERS

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MONTHLY TICKET HOLDERS OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (KCR) WHO COULD NOT TRAVEL ON TRAINS DURING THE LAST SEVEN DAYS OF LAST MONTH BECAUSE OF DISRUPTION OF SERVICES WILL BE COMPENSATED.

THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION ARE AUGUST MONTHLY TICKET HOLDERS FOR JOURNEYS BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND MONG KOK AND OTHER RAILWAY STATIONS.

ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE KCR, MR. REGINALD GREGORY, IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO COMPENSATE THE PASSENGERS BY CHARGING A REDUCED FARE WHEN THEY PURCHASE THEIR TICKETS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

+THE AMOUNT THESE PASSENGERS WILL PAY WILL BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS THE AUGUST MONTHLY TICKET WAS AVAILABLE FOR USE, FOR EXAMPLE, HOLDERS OF ORDINARY CLASS MONTHLY TICKETS FOR JOURNEYS BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND TAI PO MARKET WILL BE CHARGED \$40.30 INSTEAD OF \$52,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID MONTHLY TICKET HOLDERS WISHING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FACILITY SHOULD ADVISE THE BOOKING CLERK WHEN BUYING AN OCTOBER TICKET THAT THEY HAD HELD AN AUGUST TICKET.

THE BOOKING CLERK, HE POINTED OUT, AFTER CHECKING THAT IT WAS PURCHASED, WOULD ISSUE AN OCTOBER TICKET AT A REDUCED RATE.

HOLDERS OF THE AUGUST TICKET WHO DO NOT WANT TO BUY AN OCTOBER TICKET ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION BY WRITING TO THE KCR'S TREASURY ACCOUNTANT GIVING BRIEF REASONS AND ENCLOSING THEIR AUGUST TICKETS. HOWEVER EACH CASE WILL DEPEND ON ITS MERITS.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN ABERDEEN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 P.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE STAFF TO REPAIR A FRESH WATER MAIN.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE NOS. 25-29 WU PAK STREET, NOS. 16-28 CHENGTU ROAD, NOS. 1-23 TUNG SING ROAD AND NOS. 6-12 SAI ON STREET.

MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN PING SHAN, NEW TERRITORIES WILL ALSO BE WITHOUT WATER FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22) TO ENABLE A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND PING HA ROAD, INCLUDING PING SHAN SAN TSUEN, KIU TAU WAI, PING SHAN HANG MEI TSUEN, PING SHAN HANG TAU TSUEN, PING SHAN POLICE STATION, TONG HANG TSUEN, FUK LO TSUEN, LAU FAU SHAN, FUNG KONG TSUEN, NGAU HOM TSUEN, SAN HING TSUEN, SHA KONG WAI TSAI AND SHA KONG WAI.

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RESURFACING OF TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL TOMORROW START RESURFACING A SECTION OF TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TIN PASS ROAD.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE RECONSTRUCTION OF A 300-METRE SECTION OF THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY IN REINFORCED CONCRETE AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

ALTHOUGH PART OF THE CARRIAGEWAY WILL BE CLOSED, TWO LANES WILL REMAIN OPEN TO MAINTAIN TWO-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE P.W.D.'S ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE (KOWLOON DIVISION).

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WESTERN
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A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AND BUS RE-ROUTING WILL BE INTRODUCED IN POK FU LAM ROAD AND WATER STREET IN WESTERN DISTRICT FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22).

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND THIRD STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY AND THE +BUS ONLY+ RESTRICTION IN WATER STREET WILL BE RESCINDED.

CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY BUS ROUTES 3A, 4, 7, 70 AND 71 WILL BE REVERTED TO ITS PREVIOUS ROUTING TO OPERATE VIA QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND POK FU LAM ROAD, INSTEAD OF THE TEMPORARY ROUTING VIA QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, WATER STREET, THIRD STREET AND POK FU LAM ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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