



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
REPORT EXAMINES METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ...	1
REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF UNIVERSITY JOURNAL: LADY WILSON	2
LUCKY CAR NUMBER FOR NEW YEAR AUCTION .....	3
DB COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE HAWKER PROBLEM .....	4
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DECORATION WORKS PROBLEM .....	5
DB FUNDS SOUGHT FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES .....	5
YUEN LONG DB COMMITTEE TO MEET .....	6
C & S CONTINUES TO CONDUCT GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY .....	6
FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR TUEN MUN SINGING COMPETITION ...	7
SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY .....	7
RESTRICTED ZONES IN SHAM SHUI PO, KWUN TONG .....	8
TEMPORARY RE-ROUTEING OF APLIU STREET .....	8

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 1 -

REPORT EXAMINES METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

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A NEW REPORT ON HONG KONG'S METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES SUGGESTS THAT THEY COULD BE MORE EFFICIENT IF WEAKNESSES, INCLUDING LOW LEVEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, LOW LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, INADEQUATE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND INSUFFICIENT INVESTMENT COULD BE DEALT WITH.

THE STUDY, "TECHNO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF HONG KONG'S METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES", WAS UNDERTAKEN BY P-E CONSULTING SERVICES LTD., A UNITED KINGDOM MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT.

THE INDUSTRIES ARE SUPPORTIVE IN NATURE, INVOLVING THE MANUFACTURE OF PRODUCTION MACHINERY, TOOLING AND COMPONENTS FOR "FINISHED GOODS" INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TOYS, WATCHES, ELECTRONIC GOODS, DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, PLASTIC WARES, JEWELLERY, DECORATIVE ITEMS, AND OTHER LIGHT ENGINEERING PRODUCTS.

IN ADDITION TO A HIGH LEVEL OF LOCAL CONSUMPTION, THE INDUSTRIES ALSO HAD EXPORTS IN 1986 OF \$27 BILLION, RANKING BEHIND CLOTHING AND ELECTRONICS, THE REPORT SAID.

DESPITE KEEN COMPETITION IN OVERSEAS MARKETS, HONG KONG HAS AN ADVANTAGE OVER DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, GIVEN LOW TAXATION, FREE PORT STATUS AND THE ABSENCE OF BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE, THE STUDY SAID.

HONG KONG'S PROXIMITY TO CHINA'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES ALSO ENABLES PRODUCTION OF SOME COMPONENTS AND SUB-ASSEMBLES TO BE CARRIED OUT THERE, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CHEAPER LAND AND LABOUR.

HOWEVER, IF HONG KONG'S METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES WERE TO REMAIN VIABLE, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES, PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY.

THE REPORT SHOWED THAT LOCAL METALS AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES SUFFER FROM A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS, INCLUDING LOW PAY, LOW LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY, POOR WORKPLACE ORGANISATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS, LACK OF QUALITY ASSURANCE, BACKWARD TECHNOLOGY, INADEQUATE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, INSUFFICIENT INVESTMENT AND INABILITY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS.

TO CURB THE PROBLEM OF DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT, THE CONSULTANTS PROPOSED THAT THERE SHOULD BE LESS EMPHASIS ON "STATE OF THE ART" INVESTMENT, AND A MORE CO-ORDINATED APPROACH BETWEEN INDUSTRY, EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL BODIES TO TRAIN MORE TECHNICIANS AND RE-TRAIN THE EXISTING WORKFORCE.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 2 -

THE STUDY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY USING TECHNIQUES AND WORKING PRACTICES WHICH ARE ALREADY WIDELY USED ELSEWHERE.

TO CORRECT CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED WEAKNESSES AND TO BUILD ON THE EXISTING STRENGTHS OF THE SECTOR, THE CONSULTANTS SUGGEST THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND TRAINING, UPGRADE QUALITY, STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY SUPPORT, DEVELOP POTENTIAL OVERSEAS MARKETS AND ENCOURAGE IMPORT SUBSTITUTION.

THE STUDY ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING TARGETTED ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MORE LABOUR TRAINING, ENCOURAGING INWARD INVESTMENT, AND PROVIDING A CLIMATE WHEREBY HONG KONG COMPANIES ARE WILLING TO INVEST IN NEW CAPACITY.

THE REPORT, ONE OF A SERIES OF STUDIES ON HONG KONG'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES, IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE METALS COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WHICH WILL RECOMMEND WHAT FOLLOW-UP ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN.

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REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF UNIVERSITY JOURNAL: LADY WILSON

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LADY WILSON TODAY (TUESDAY) DESCRIBED AS REMARKABLE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LITERARY TRANSLATION JOURNAL "RENDITIONS" PUBLISHED BY THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION OF PUBLICATIONS AND 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF "RENDITIONS", LADY WILSON SAID: "HONG KONG HAS OFTEN BEEN DESCRIBED AS A CITY WHERE EAST MEETS WEST; IT HAS ALSO BEEN FOR MANY YEARS A CENTRE OF INTER-CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

"IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE THAT THE WORLD'S LEADING CHINESE-ENGLISH TRANSLATION JOURNAL SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOUNDED HERE."

SINCE ITS PUBLICATION IN 1973 BY THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TRANSLATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, "RENDITIONS" HAS OFFERED ITS READERS TRANSLATIONS OF THE FINEST CHINESE LITERATURE, OLD AND NEW, INTERSPERSED WITH INFORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS RELATED TO CHINESE CULTURE.

"IT HAS BEEN USED IN CLASSES OF CHINESE STUDIES IN ALL MAJOR WESTERN UNIVERSITIES, AND HAS SET NEW STANDARDS IN CHINESE-ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

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- 3 -

"ALL THESE WE EXPECT FROM A FINE ACADEMIC JOURNAL," LADY WILSON SAID.

"RENDITIONS", SHE SAID, WAS RATHER UNIQUE, IN THAT, WHILE SERVING THE NEEDS OF ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS OF CHINESE, IT HAD ALSO AROUSED THE INTEREST OF THE GENERAL READING PUBLIC.

"SINCE HONG KONG IS A PREDOMINANTLY CHINESE SOCIETY, IT IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE HIGH REPUTATION OF 'RENDITIONS' IS BETTER KNOWN ABROAD THAN LOCALLY," LADY WILSON SAID.

"I HOPE THAT, WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE 'RENDITIONS' SPECIAL ISSUE ON HONG KONG, THE LOCAL READING PUBLIC WILL BECOME MORE AWARE OF THIS FINE JOURNAL," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID THAT "RENDITIONS" WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE THAT THE LABEL "MADE IN HONG KONG" REPRESENTED GOOD QUALITY.

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#### LUCKY CAR NUMBER FOR NEW YEAR AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS SELECTED A SPECIAL CAR NUMBER - "7" WITHOUT PREFIX - FOR SALE AT A LUNAR NEW YEAR "LUCKY" VEHICLE NUMBER AUCTION ON JANUARY 21 (SATURDAY).

NINETEEN OTHER SPECIALLY SELECTED NUMBERS WILL ALSO BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION, WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO THE CHARITABLE LOTTERIES FUND.

THE LUNAR NEW YEAR CAR NUMBER AUCTION ORGANISED LAST YEAR SAW THE AUSPICIOUS NUMBER "8", ALSO WITHOUT PREFIX, FETCH A RECORD \$5 MILLION.

THE POPULARITY OF "LUCKY" NUMBERS HAS PROMPTED THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ORGANISE MORE AUCTIONS OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS IN ORDER TO GENERATE MORE MONEY FOR CHARITY.

THE STRENGTH OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE NUMBERS CAN BE INDICATED BY THE MONEY RAISED.

IN 1986, THE PROCEEDS FROM THESE AUCTIONS TOTALLED \$4.63 MILLION.

THE 1987 FIGURE WAS \$7.88 MILLION.

IN 1988 THE PROCEEDS ROSE TO A TOTAL OF \$20.2 MILLION.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 4 -

WITH AN EXPECTED LARGE TURNOUT AT THE COMING AUCTION, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS CHANGED TO A LARGER VENUE. THE AUCTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE, INSTEAD OF THE RECITAL HALL, BEGINNING AT 10 AM.

THE 19 OTHER NUMBERS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

SINCE MAY 1973 A TOTAL OF 133 AUCTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, RAISING \$69.14 MILLION FOR THE LOTTERIES FUND.

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DB COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE HAWKER PROBLEM

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5) RESITING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LICENSED HAWKERS WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT TRAFFIC STUDY.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE A MEMBER'S PROPOSAL CALLING ON THE AUTHORITIES TO REVIEW THE HAWKING AREAS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT AND TO FORMULATE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN CONTROL OVER ILLEGAL HAWKING.

AT THE MEETING, A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NUISANCES CAUSED BY PIG-ROASTING ACTIVITIES IN A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN SMITHFIELD IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE PRESENTED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 5 -

COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DECORATION WORKS PROBLEM  
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MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5) TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF DECORATION WORKS CONCERNING PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES.

SUBSEQUENT TO AN ACCIDENT WHICH HAD INJURED SEVEN PEOPLE IN NORTH POINT LAST MONTH, MEMBERS URGED THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SAFETY MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN RESPECT OF DECORATION WORKS.

SEVERAL MEMBERS WILL RAISE AN OBJECTION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COVERED TEMPORARY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AT CHAI WAN TEMPORARY MARKET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5) BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD.

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DB FUNDS SOUGHT FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES  
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THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO CONSIDER ENDORSING SEVEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS PROJECTS.

MEMBERS WILL EXAMINE THE VETTING REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, AND A REVIEW ON THE USE OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND VETTING PRINCIPLES WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 6 -

YUEN LONG DB COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS FIFTH MEETING ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5).

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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C & S CONTINUES TO CONDUCT GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FROM JANUARY TO MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED MONTHLY SINCE AUGUST 1981, COLLECTS INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND THE GENERAL SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, QUESTIONS ON HONG KONG RESIDENTS' EXPENDITURE ABROAD; FREQUENCY OF DOCTOR CONSULTATION; AWARENESS OF PROTECTED MONUMENTS IN HONG KONG; TIME SPENT IN TAXI WAITING AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON RENT WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY - MARCH QUARTER.

SOME 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS ARE SELECTED AT RANDOM EACH MONTH FROM ALL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY.

ABOUT HALF OF THE HOUSEHOLDS INTERVIEWED THREE MONTHS AGO WILL BE SURVEYED AGAIN TO MEASURE MORE ACCURATELY THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN.

AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND TO SEEK THEIR CO-OPERATION.

ASSISTANT CENSUS AND SURVEY OFFICERS, EACH CARRYING AN IDENTITY CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO COLLECT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO ANY PERSON OR ORGANISATION OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 7 -

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR TUEN MUN SINGING COMPETITION

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AN AUDITION FOR THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT MUSIC SELECTION COMPETITION WAS HELD RECENTLY AND 14 TEAMS WERE SHORTLISTED FOR A DECIDING ROUND.

THIS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL, BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM.

THE CHAMPION TEAM WILL COMPETE AGAINST OTHER TEAMS IN A TERRITORY-WIDE MUSIC COMPETITION AT THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS ON MARCH 24.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE COMPETITION'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE DISTRICT WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING HARMONIOUS FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.

IT IS SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD AND A LOCAL DEPARTMENT STORE.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING OF JANUARY 14 WILL INCLUDE SINGING AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITIONS AS WELL AS A PERFORMANCE BY THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-4509673.

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SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 5) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TAI YAU STREET, TSEUK LUK STREET, KING FUK STREET AND KING HONG STREET.

ALSO ON THURSDAY, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO PREMISES IN LAI CHI KOK, CHEUNG SHA WAN, SO UK, TAI WO PING, SHEK KIP MEI, YAU YAT TSUEN, SHAM SHUI PO, TAI KOK TSUI AND MONG KOK WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 10 PM.

THE SUSPENSION WILL FACILITATE MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE WORKS IN THE CHEUNG SHA WAN SALT WATER PUMPING STATION.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1989

- 8 -

RESTRICTED ZONES IN SHAM SHUI PO, KWUN TONG  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 6), YEE KUK STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH YEN CHOW STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY RESTRICTED ZONE ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HUNG TO ROAD IN KWUN TONG FROM A POINT ABOUT 46 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HOI YUEN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 68 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE LIFTED.

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TEMPORARY RE-ROUTEING OF APLIU STREET  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE RE-ROUTEING OF APLIU STREET BETWEEN NAM CHEONG STREET AND SHEK KIP MEI STREET, SHAM SHUI PO, TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL THE END OF APRIL BECAUSE OF ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

DRIVERS ON NORTHBOUND SHEK KIP MEI STREET AND WESTBOUND APLIU STREET HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA SHEK KIP MEI STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

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