



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1990

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ACTING GOVERNOR VISITS EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (THURSDAY) HAD A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT SOME OF THE NEW FARMING TECHNIQUES NOW BEING INTRODUCED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SIR DAVID FIRST VISITED THE TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE. HE INSPECTED THE PIG-ON-LITTER METHOD WHICH USES A SPECIAL BEDDING MATERIAL COMPRISING SAWDUST AND BACTERIAL PRODUCTS TO DECOMPOSE PIG MANURE IN THE PIG SHEDS.

SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER, DR NORMAN CHENG, AND WAS TOLD THAT THE NEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN TESTED FOR THREE YEARS, WITH ABOUT 1,400 PIGS INVOLVED IN THE EXPERIMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND FIVE PRIVATE FARMS.

THE DEPARTMENT IS PRACTISING THE SYSTEM ALL YEAR ROUND COVERING DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE PRODUCTION CYCLE.

SIR DAVID ALSO VISITED A PRIVATE FARM WHICH HAS ADOPTED THE PIG-ON-LITTER METHOD FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS. HE THEN SAW THE OTHER WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR WAS TOLD THAT AN OUTSTANDING MERIT OF THE PIG-ON-LITTER SYSTEM IS THE ABSENCE OF EFFLUENT AND OFFENSIVE SMELL GENERATED FROM THE PIGTIES.

MOREOVER, THE SPENT SAWDUST LITTER IS A GOOD SOIL CONDITIONER AND ORGANIC FERTILISER WHICH CAN BE RECYCLED FOR LANDSCAPING AND CROP GROWING.

SIR DAVID LATER PROCEEDED TO TAI LUNG FARM WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE DEPARTMENT'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, MR HO KOON-YU. HE TOURED THE FARM AND WAS IMPRESSED BY THE GOOD EFFECTS OF APPLYING SAWDUST LITTER FOR CROP CULTIVATION.

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GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN PADS PROJECTS

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A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADVANCE WORKS SITE FOR THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK WILL GO ON TENDER IN OCTOBER, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR IN SINGAPORE, MRS CHAN SAID THE MAJOR SITE FORMATION WORKS INCLUDING SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION, RECLAMATION AND THE EXCAVATION OF CHEK LAP KOK ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO BE PUT ON TENDER IN EARLY 1992.

/BRIEFING HER

BRIEFING HER AUDIENCE ON THE LATEST PROGRESS OF THE AIRPORT PROJECT, MRS CHAN SAID THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE CONSULTANCY COMMISSIONED FOR PREPARING A MASTER LAYOUT OF THE AIRPORT AND FOR CARRYING OUT CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WOULD REPORT BEFORE THE END OF 1991.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS OFFERED EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS, CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS.

"WE INTEND THERE TO BE INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANCIES FOR THE AIRPORT, THE RAIL LINK TO THE AIRPORT AND THE FIXED CROSSING TO LANTAU ISLAND ON WHICH THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE BUILT," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE ALSO SAID THERE WILL ALSO BE A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY, INVESTIGATION AND DESIGN STUDIES. THESE WILL REQUIRE BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL EXPERTISE.

"SOME STUDIES ARE ALREADY IN PROGRESS, FOR EXAMPLE THE AIRPORT RAILWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY. OTHERS WILL SHORTLY COMMENCE.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO PUT IN IMAGINATIVE AND COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS," MRS CHAN SAID.

"WE OPERATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL OUR PROJECTS; FOR ALL OUR INVESTORS.

"HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE GIVEN NO SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS CONCERNS. SELECTION IS BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSALS," MRS CHAN SAID.

TURNING TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD STUDIED OVER 40 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND HAD OPTED FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT PROVIDED THE BEST OPTIONS IN TERMS OF OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF RESOURCES.

SHE SAID THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN AIRPORT-RELATED TRANSPORT PROJECTS.

"THE EXACT DETAILS AS TO HOW SUCH PROJECTS WILL BE PRIVATISED REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT I ENVISAGE THAT OPEN INVITATIONS WILL BE MADE BEFORE NEXT YEAR TO PRIVATE SECTOR CONSORTIA, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECTS ON THE BASIS OF 'BUILD, OPERATE AND TRANSFER' ARRANGEMENTS.

"SOME WORK HAS NOW STARTED ON ALL THE TRANSPORT PROJECTS. ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE EITHER COMMENCED OR ARE BEING PLANNED.

"THE NEXT STAGE IS DETAILED FINANCIAL ANALYSIS TO ENABLE US TO DECIDE WHICH PROJECTS SHOULD BE PRIVATISED AND IN WHAT FORM.

"KEEN COMPETITION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS EXPECTED AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT A GOOD PACKAGE OF VIABLE TRANSPORT PROJECTS WILL EMERGE," SHE SAID.

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HK'S ATTRIBUTES AS TRADING, FINANCIAL, SERVICES CENTRE OUTLINED
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HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE ARE COMPETITORS BUT THEY ARE CERTAINLY NOT ALTERNATIVES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG INVESTMENT SEMINAR HELD IN SINGAPORE, MR CHAN SAID: "THE WORLD IS BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US AND MORE. AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS AND OUR BUSINESSMEN CAN AND DO CO-OPERATE."

MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG, WITH ITS CHINA CONNECTION, STRATEGIC LOCATION, HIGHLY EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT TRADING, FINANCIAL AND SERVICES CENTRE FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION, AS WELL AS AN IRREPLACEABLE GATEWAY TO CHINA.

"OUR TRADE WITH THE REGION INCREASED BY OVER 30 PER CENT A YEAR IN 1987 AND 1988, AND BY A FURTHER 15 PER CENT LAST YEAR.

"TODAY OUR TRADE WITH OUR ASIA PACIFIC PARTNERS ACCOUNTS FOR 79 PER CENT OF OUR GLOBAL TRADE," HE SAID.

MR CHAN DESCRIBED HONG KONG AS "A UNIQUE BLEND OF EAST AND WEST, OLD AND NEW, NATURE AND HI-TECH".

"IT IS THE PICTURE OF A BUSINESS METROPOLIS WHICH IS TRULY COSMOPOLITAN IN BOTH APPEARANCE AND PRACTICE, WITH A DYNAMIC ECONOMY AND A HIGH LEVEL OF AFFLUENCE.

"ABOVE ALL, IT IS THE PICTURE OF A CITY WHICH OFFERS ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THIS WAS THE PRESENT ON WHICH HONG KONG'S FUTURE WOULD BE BUILT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY WAS TO MAINTAIN THOSE ASPECTS OF HONG KONG LIFE THAT WERE MOST ATTRACTIVE, SUCH AS A DYNAMIC ECONOMY, FULL EMPLOYMENT AND LOW TAX RATES, AND TO IMPROVE FURTHER THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG IN TERMS OF, FOR EXAMPLE, A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT, BETTER HOUSING AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR A MASSIVE EXPANSION OF ITS PORT, AIRPORT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES TO COPE WITH ITS RAPIDLY GROWING ROLE AS ENTREPOT AND REGIONAL HUB.

"THIS HAS ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND INTEREST," HE SAID.

/APART FROM

APART FROM IMPROVING THE ROAD NETWORK AND PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO TAKING STEPS TO SUPPORT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN THE TERRITORY.

"WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES.

"WE ARE NOW BUILDING AN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WHICH IS PLANNED TO COME ON STREAM EARLY IN 1993, TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR NEW AND SMALL-SCALE HIGH TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES UNTIL THEY CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID ALL THESE ACTIONS DEMONSTRATED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE.

"THEY WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO CONTINUE AS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC INDUSTRIAL AND TRADING ECONOMIES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

"AS WE ENGAGE IN BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE, THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN AND LOCAL COMPANIES ALIKE.

"WE WELCOME COMPANIES FROM SINGAPORE TO JOIN US IN OUR GREAT UNDERTAKING," HE SAID.

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HONG KONG'S OPEN TRADE POLICIES PRAISED

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A REVIEW OF HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICY AND PRACTICES BY THE COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), THE 97-MEMBER STRONG WORLD TRADE WATCHDOG BASED IN GENEVA, HAS ENDED WITH FLYING COLOURS FOR HONG KONG.

"THE COUNCIL PRAISED HONG KONG'S OPEN TRADE POLICIES, WHICH WERE A MAJOR SOURCE OF ITS PROSPERITY. MEMBERS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HONG KONG'S READINESS TO MAKE ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS," SAID THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, AMBASSADOR RUBENS RICUPERO, IN HIS REMARKS CONCLUDING THE REVIEW OF HONG KONG.

"THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICIES WERE BASED ON THE MOST-FAVOURED-NATION PRINCIPLE. IT WAS AN ACTIVE AND CONSCIENTIOUS MEMBER OF THE GATT AND HAD SUBSCRIBED TO VIRTUALLY ALL THE TOKYO ROUND CODES. ITS TRADE POLICIES WERE TRANSPARENT," THE CHAIRMAN SAID.

IN INTRODUCING TO THE COUNCIL HONG KONG'S REPORT WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF THE REVIEW, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOSEPH W.P. WONG, EXPLAINED HONG KONG'S BASIC PHILOSOPHY ON TRADE AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM.

"HONG KONG BELIEVES IN THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NORMALLY INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF THE ECONOMY. BUSINESS DECISIONS ARE LEFT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. INDEED, HONG KONG OWES ITS ECONOMIC PROGRESS TO ENTREPRENEURS WHO HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE UNDER SUCH AN INDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT.

"HONG KONG SEEKS TO PROMOTE A FREE, OPEN AND STABLE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY UPHOLD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GATT, THE BASIS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. WE ATTACH TOP PRIORITY TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS," SAID MR WONG.

MR WONG ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE TRADE PROBLEMS FACED BY HONG KONG AS IDENTIFIED IN ITS REPORT.

"AS AN EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED ECONOMY AND DEPENDENT ON TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, WE ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO CHANGES IN OTHER COUNTRIES' TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES. THE THREAT OF PROTECTIONISM REMAINS OUR KEY CONCERN.

"OUR EXPORTS FACE A RANGE OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, NOTABLY THE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING PRODUCTS MAINTAINED UNDER MFA BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS AND ARBITRARY MODIFICATIONS TO RULES OF ORIGIN. WE HAVE TAKEN UP THESE PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS," SAID MR WONG.

AT THE REVIEW THERE WAS UNANIMOUS APPRECIATION OF HONG KONG'S FREE TRADE POLICY. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DESCRIBED THE TERRITORY AS "NOT ONLY A MODEL OF FREE TRADE, BUT AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR IT", A COMPLIMENT WHICH WAS ECHOED BY ALL WHO PAID TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG.

SOME MEMBERS SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OR COMMENTED ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICY AND PRACTICES SUCH AS CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION AND RICE CONTROL SCHEME. A NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING AN OFFER OF MORE BINDINGS BY HONG KONG ON ITS TARIFFS WHICH ARE ALREADY AT ZERO RATE.

"WE HAVE RESPONDED COMPREHENSIVELY TO THE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS AND I BELIEVE OUR ANSWERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICY," SAID MR WONG.

HONG KONG CAME UP FOR REVIEW UNDER THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM WHICH AIMS TO ENABLE A REGULAR EVALUATION BY THE GATT OF THE TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM.

FOR THE REVIEW, SEPARATE REPORTS ON THE TERRITORY'S TRADE POLICY AND PRACTICES WERE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE GATT SECRETARIAT.

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THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY HONG KONG WAS BASED ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT POLICY BRANCHES INCLUDING ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, FINANCE BRANCH, AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING TRADE DEPARTMENT, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

THE EXERCISE WAS COORDINATED BY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH WHICH PUT TOGETHER THE FINAL REPORT.

THE GATT TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM (TPRM) WAS ESTABLISHED IN APRIL LAST YEAR AS ONE OF THE EARLY RESULTS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND TO ENABLE A REGULAR COLLECTIVE EVALUATION BY THE GATT COUNCIL OF INDIVIDUAL GATT MEMBERS' TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES AS WELL AS THEIR IMPACT ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM.

THE ACTUAL MECHANICS OF THE REVIEW INVOLVES THE PREPARATION OF A REPORT BY THE GATT MEMBER UNDER REVIEW AND A REPORT ON THE MEMBER CONCERNED PREPARED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT ON ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY. BOTH REPORTS WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THAT MEMBER'S TRADE POLICY. THE REPORTS ARE THEN DISCUSSED BY ALL GATT MEMBERS AT THE MEETING OF THE GATT COUNCIL.

SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE TPRM, AUSTRALIA, MOROCCO, THE UNITED STATES, SWEDEN AND COLOMBIA HAVE BEEN REVIEWED. AT THE MEETING OF THE GATT COUNCIL BEING HELD FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 3, CANADA, HONG KONG, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARE THE SUBJECTS OF REVIEW.

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APPEAL TO HELP TRAIN MANPOWER IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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IT IS ONLY THROUGH REGULAR AND SYSTEMATIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAN SUSTAIN AND REPLENISH ITS SUPPLY OF TRAINED MANPOWER, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR WORKS, DR NIP KAM-FAN, SAID THIS EVENING (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION AT ITS CELEBRATION OF LU PAN PATRON'S DAY, DR NIP APPEALED TO ALL CONCERNED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING PROPER AND SYSTEMATIC TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THESE DAYS WHEN THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN THE INDUSTRY, THROUGH NATURAL WASTAGE, EMIGRATION, OR OTHER CAUSES.

"IN VIEW OF HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED MANPOWER IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE," DR NIP SAID.

/TO HELP

TO HELP TRAIN YOUNG ENGINEERS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ABOUT 120 CIVIL ENGINEERING GRADUATES AS TRAINEES IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AT ANY ONE TIME, THE SECRETARY ADDED.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS ALSO BEEN SUBSIDISING SOME 100 GRADUATES IN THE FIELD IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR EACH YEAR TO HELP THE INDUSTRY SET UP ITS OWN TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

"EVERY OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE TRAINING," DR NIP SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS, FOR INSTANCE, STIPULATED THAT CONTRACTORS TAKING UP PUBLIC PROJECTS TO TRAIN TECHNICIANS ON SITE AS A CONDITION OF CONTRACT.

"WE ARE, AT PRESENT, WORKING ON A SCHEME WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THESE CONTRACTORS TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES ENGINEERS," HE ADDED.

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE ALSO PROVIDED BY CONSULTING AND CONTRACTING FIRMS.

CURRENTLY, A SCHEME SUPERVISED BY THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS HAS A TOTAL OF 1,224 TRAINING PLACES FOR ALL ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES, INCLUDING 363 PLACES FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING.

"IN SPITE OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOVE, THE TRAINING ALREADY PROVIDED DOES NOT MEET THE PRESENT DEMAND FOR TRAINING IN HONG KONG," DR NIP SAID.

HE HOPED THAT OVERSEAS FIRMS COMING TO HONG KONG WOULD JOIN IN TO PROVIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION.

"IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT IN RETURN FOR A SHARE IN THE PROFITS TO BE MADE HERE, OVERSEAS FIRMS WILL MAKE THE EFFORT TO PASS ON THEIR EXPERTISE AND TRAIN OUR LOCAL ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS IN THE LATEST TECHNIQUES AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION," HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR MAY RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MAY 1990, ESTIMATED AT \$9,329 MILLION, INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1989 WHILST THEIR VOLUME DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARING WITH MAY 1989, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT FELL BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 11 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MAY 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME. FUELS WENT UP BY 16 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE THE CORRESPONDING DECREASES FOR CONSUMER DURABLES WERE 3 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT.

SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT WENT DOWN BY 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DROPPED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH APRIL 1990, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR MAY 1990 INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, SALES OF FUELS INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 6 PER CENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. SUPERMARKET SALES WENT UP BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 8 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE AND VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR APRIL 1990 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR MAY 1990.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN APRIL 1990 AND MAY 1990 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF MAY 1990 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR APRIL 1990 AND WITH THOSE FOR MAY 1989, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MAY 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF MAY 1990 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 556 5240).

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for May 1990 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$9,329 million
 for April 1990 (Revised Figure) = HK\$8,781 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR APRIL 1990 AND MAY 1990

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	April	May	May 1990	May 1990	Jan.-May 1990	Jan.-May 1990	Jan.-May 1990	Jan.-May 1990
		1990	1990	compared with April 1990	compared with April 1990	compared with May 1989	compared with May 1989	compared with Jan.-May 1989	compared with Jan.-May 1989
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	157	167	+10	+6	+8	+5	+4	+2
	Volume	116	122	+6	+5	-1	-1	-4	-3
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	144	153	+8	+6	+10	+7	+14	+10
	Volume	108	114	+6	+6	+1	+1	+3	+3
Fuels	Value	117	128	+12	+10	+12	+10	+16	+16
	Volume	102	112	+10	+10	-6	-5	#	#
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	187	188	+1	+1	+9	+5	-1	-1
	Volume	126	123	-3	-2	-4	-3	-10	-7
Consumer durables	Value	145	162	+17	+12	+13	+9	-5	-3
	Volume	105	116	+11	+11	+5	+4	-8	-6
Other consumer goods	Value	168	177	+9	+5	+4	+2	+2	+1
	Volume	125	130	+5	+4	-4	-3	-6	-4
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	192	208	+16	+9	+33	+19	+34	+21
	Volume	137	148	+10	+8	+11	+8	+13	+10
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	263	310	+47	+18	+20	+7	-22	-7
	Volume	164	193	+29	+18	-1	#	-27	-13
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	108	117	+8	+8	+11	+11	#	#
	Volume	87	93	+6	+6	+7	+8	-2	-2
Department stores	Value	201	211	+10	+5	+20	+11	+19	+9
	Volume	138	141	+3	+3	+4	+3	+3	+2

NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

- "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
- "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

3. "#" denotes a figure within ± 0.5 .

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD COUNCIL APPOINTED
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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR CHAU CHAM-SON TO BE THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD COUNCIL.

DURING MR CHAU'S TENURE FROM JULY 1, 1990 TO JANUARY 31, 1992, HE WILL ASSIST THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, MR RONALD ARCULLI, AND DEPUTISE FOR HIM IN HIS ABSENCE.

MR CHAU HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SINCE 1986 AND HAS SERVED AS CHAIRMAN FOR A NUMBER OF SUB-COMMITTEES UNDER THE COUNCIL.

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DB TO STUDY MARGINAL LAND FOR FARMING
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THE COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON A PROPOSAL TO UTILISE MARGINAL LAND FOR FARMING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A LAYOUT PLAN FOR AN AREA ADJACENT TO SHEK WU HUI IN THE FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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SITTING-OUT AREA FOR NORTH POINT RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS IN NORTH POINT AND CAUSEWAY BAY WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL VENUE FOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES WHEN THE COMFORT TERRACE SITTING-OUT AREA OPENS ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4).

THE SITTING-OUT AREA IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD.

CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF \$270,000, IT IS SITUATED AT A RAISED PLATFORM AT THE LOWER END OF COMFORT TERRACE, OVERLOOKING THE BUSY KING'S ROAD.

THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE A CHINESE-STYLE PAVILION, A RAIN SHELTER, A CHESS TABLE AND STOOLS, FLOWER BEDS AND BENCHES.

TO MARK ITS OPENING, THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL CARRY OUT PLANTING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

TAKING PART WILL BE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY; THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR R.M. DINGA.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE SITTING-OUT AREA AND PLANTING ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4) AT COMFORT TERRACE, NORTH POINT (NEAR THE FORTRESS HILL MTR STATION). THE CEREMONY WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

ANTI-NARCOTICS BEACH CONCERT IN REPULSE BAY

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AN ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT REPULSE BAY BEACH FROM 1.30 PM TO 3 PM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4) TO PROMOTE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE.

ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (SDFCC) AND SPONSORED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, THE CONCERT WILL BE PRODUCED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO AND BROADCAST LIVE ON ITS CHANNEL ONE.

IT WILL BE HOSTED BY POPULAR DISC JOCKEYS AND WILL COMPRISE PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS AND INTERVIEWS WITH CELEBRITIES.

/"WE HOPE

"WE HOPE THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD IDENTIFY WITH THE SLOGAN 'SAY YES TO LIFE, SAY NO TO DRUGS' AFTER ATTENDING THE CONCERT," A SDFCC SPOKESMAN SAID.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS MAUREEN CHAN; ASSISTANT SECRETARY (NARCOTICS), MISS ANNETTE LEE; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG; POLICE WESTERN DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR ROBERT TOAL; AND SDFCC CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN YAU-YUE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CONCERT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4) AT REPULSE BAY BEACH. AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 1.30 PM.

THOSE WHO WISH TO USE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE ENTRANCE TO SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 12.40 PM. INFORMATION OFFICER, MR ALEX LI, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT 5 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4) UPON THE OPENING OF THE TAI PO KCR STATION BUS TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA, TAI PO:

- * THE TAI PO KCR STATION BUS TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA WILL BE OPEN TO USE.
- * TAT WAN ROAD WILL BE FULLY OPEN TO TRAFFIC.
- * FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 3), THE SECTION OF TAT WAN ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION AT NAM WAN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 160 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.
- * THE EXISTING BUS TERMINUS OUTSIDE TAI PO MARKET KCR STATION WILL BE CANCELLED AND RELOCATED TO THE NEW BUS TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA. KMB BUS SERVICE ROUTES 64K, 65K, 71S, 72K, 74K AND 75K WILL BE ARRANGED TO TERMINATE AT THE NEW BUS TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA.

/* THE EXISTING

- * THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (SCHEDULED) SERVICE TERMINUS OUTSIDE TAI PO MARKET KCR STATION WILL BE CANCELLED AND RELOCATED TO THE NEW TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA. PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (SCHEDULED) SERVICE ROUTES 20K, 21K, 22K, 23K AND 25K WILL BE ARRANGED TO TERMINATE AT THE NEW TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA.
- * THE TERMINAL POINTS OF KCR FEEDER SERVICE ROUTES K12, K14, K17 AND K18 WILL BE RELOCATED FROM THE FORECOURT OF TAI PO MARKET KCR STATION TO THE NEW BUS TERMINUS AT UPTOWN PLAZA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PROVIDED TO INDICATE THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS. TEMPORARY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE PASSENGERS TO VARIOUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

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BAN ZONE AND TEMPORARY PARTIAL LANE CLOSURE IN TAI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 5 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4), THE TAI PO KCR STATION BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED A BAN ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THIS BUS TERMINUS 24 HOURS DAILY.

ALSO, A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.4 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR ISLAND HOUSE INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE SAME DAY (SATURDAY) TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN TAI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE SECTION OF TAT WAN ROAD IN TAI PO FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH NAM WAN ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 160 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CURRENT RESTRICTION ON TAT WAN ROAD WILL BE CANCELLED.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1990

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TEMPORARY RIGHT TURN BAN IN TSUEN WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (AUGUST 4), THE RIGHT TURN MOVEMENT FROM WO YI HOP ROAD SOUTHBOUND ONTO LEI SHU ROAD, IN TSUEN WAN, WILL BE BANNED FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS ON WO YI HOP ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON WO YI HOP ROAD HEADING FOR LEI SHU ROAD ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA NGONG HOM ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE THEM.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN YAU TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE EXISTING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN YAU TONG WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF THIS MONTH WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

- * THE SECTION OF YAU TONG ROAD BETWEEN YAN WING STREET AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- * VEHICLES ON YAU TONG ROAD HEADING FOR LEI YUE MUN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHA KWO LING ROAD, KO CHIU ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD.
- * KMB BUS ROUTE NO. 14B TRAVELLING FROM YAU TONG TO NGAU TAU KOK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA YAN WING STREET SOUTHBOUND, KO CHIU ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD IN LIEU OF YAN WING STREET NORTHBOUND, YAU TONG ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD.
- * KMB BUS ROUTE NO. 14C TRAVELLING FROM SAM KA TSUEN FERRY TO KWUN TONG (YUE MAN SQUARE) AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 24M TRAVELLING TO LAM TIN/LAM TIN MTR STATION WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KO CHIU ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD IN LIEU OF YAN WING STREET, YAU TONG ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

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