



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JAN - NOV 1979  
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HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE VALUE FOR JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1979 AMOUNTED TO \$145 980 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1978.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 38 PER CENT TO \$50 323 MILLION, IMPORTS ALSO BY 38 PER CENT TO \$77 524 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 52 PER CENT TO \$18 133 MILLION, ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT, REACHING \$68 456 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

	JAN.-NOV. 79 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV. 78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
USA	17 043	13 670	+3 373	+25
WEST GERMANY	5 600	3 843	+1 757	+46
UK	5 358	3 414	+1 944	+57
JAPAN	2 466	1 658	+ 808	+49
AUSTRALIA	1 623	1 362	+ 261	+19
CANADA	1 457	1 144	+ 313	+27
SINGAPORE	1 287	988	+ 299	+30
NETHERLANDS	1 223	804	+ 419	+52
FRANCE	871	491	+ 380	+77
SWITZERLAND	853	611	+ 242	+40

GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO USA WAS RELATIVELY SLOW. INCREASES WERE REGISTERED MAINLY IN CLOTHING (BY \$895 MILLION OR 16 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$495 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$377 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$255 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT), AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$223 MILLION OR 33 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO WEST GERMANY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, CHIEFLY IN CLOTHING (BY \$898 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$280 MILLION OR 155 PER CENT), AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$196 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO UK WERE ALSO REMARKABLE, PARTICULARLY FOR CLOTHING (BY \$860 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$235 MILLION OR 125 PER CENT), TEXTILES (BY \$159 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$120 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT).

MARKED INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING (BY \$278 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$86 MILLION OR 80 PER CENT) TO JAPAN.

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:-

	JAN.-NOV. 79 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV. 78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	18 053	13 980	+4 073	+29
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	8 549	5 977	+2 572	+43
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4 656	2 923	+1 733	+59
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3 643	2 519	+1 124	+45
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3 621	2 542	+1 079	+42
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	2 930	1 901	+1 029	+54

PROMINENT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1 512 MILLION OR 62 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$922 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS (BY \$877 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT), AND ELECTRICAL AND NON-ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD TYPE EQUIPMENT (BY \$396 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS (BY \$20 MILLION OR 18 PER CENT) AND CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (BY \$4 MILLION OR 5 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:-

	JAN.-NOV. 79 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV. 78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	17 386	12 789	+4 597	+36
CHINA	13 429	9 431	+3 998	+42
USA	9 465	6 819	+2 646	+39
TAIWAN	5 371	3 759	+1 612	+43
SINGAPORE	4 358	2 898	+1 460	+50
UK	4 033	2 674	+1 359	+51
WEST GERMANY	2 554	1 857	+ 697	+38
SWITZERLAND	2 332	1 851	+ 481	+26
REP. OF KOREA	2 285	1 587	+ 698	+44
AUSTRALIA	1 448	1 121	+ 327	+29

IMPORTS FROM JAPAN ROSE CONSIDERABLY, MAINLY OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$631 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$554 MILLION OR 58 PER CENT), TEXTILES (BY \$504 MILLION OR 24 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$401 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT), AND IRON AND STEEL (BY \$309 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT).

IMPORTS FROM CHINA ALSO SHOWED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH, CHIEFLY IN TEXTILES (BY \$848 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$609 MILLION OR 89 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$375 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT), FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS (BY \$159 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT) AS WELL AS VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (BY \$144 MILLION OR 21 PER CENT).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM USA WERE REGISTERED MAINLY IN ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$359 MILLION OR 161 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$328 MILLION OR 60 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$270 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT), AND MISCELLANEOUS TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$212 MILLION OR 151 PER CENT).

THERE WERE ALSO SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORTS OF TEXTILES (BY \$621 MILLION OR 41 PER CENT) FROM TAIWAN AND PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$836 MILLION OR 51 PER CENT).

THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS:-

	JAN.-NOV. 79 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN.-NOV. 78 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS AND DIAMONDS)	24 409	18 251	+6 158	+34
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	16 908	10 982	+5 926	+54
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	11 235	7 860	+3 375	+43
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	8 714	7 342	+1 372	+19
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6 107	4 161	+1 946	+47
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	4 466	2 863	+1 603	+56

INCREASES IN IMPORTS WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN TEXTILES (BY \$2 946 MILLION OR 38 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$1 822 MILLION OR 53 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$1 563 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 133 MILLION OR 64 PER CENT) AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1 091 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA INCREASED REMARKABLY BY \$933 MILLION OR 494 PER CENT. INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO USA (BY \$709 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT), TAIWAN (BY \$481 MILLION OR 44 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (BY \$369 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT), AND INDONESIA (BY \$323 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT).

BY COMMODITY, INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS WERE IN RESPECT OF TEXTILES (BY \$896 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$481 MILLION OR 82 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (BY \$428 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT), CLOTHING (BY \$418 MILLION OR 99 PER CENT), AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$324 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT).

THE TRADE INDICES FOR OCTOBER 1979 (1973 = 100) WERE RELEASED AS FOLLOWS:

	VALUE INDEX	UNIT VALUE INDEX	QUANTUM INDEX
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	328	171	192
IMPORTS	343	177	195

THE TRADE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1979 WAS 97.

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VCM TO BE INCLUDED IN PROHIBITED GOODS LIST  
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VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER (VCM), USED AS A RAW MATERIAL IN THE PRODUCTION OF BULK POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) AND AS A PROPELLANT IN AEROSOL PRODUCTS, WILL BE PUT ON THE LIST OF PROHIBITED GOODS UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS.

THE BAN, TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM MARCH 1, 1980 AND RECOMMENDED BY THE DANGEROUS GOODS STANDING COMMITTEE, IS SET OUT IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL)(AMENDMENT)(NO.2) REGULATIONS 1979 ALREADY PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +INVESTIGATIONS IN RECENT YEARS HAVE SHOWN THAT PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE SUBSTANCE, A COLOURLESS INFLAMMABLE GAS AT ORDINARY TEMPERATURE AND NORMAL PRESSURE, MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A CANCER OF THE LIVER IN A NUMBER OF WORKERS AT BULK PVC PRODUCTION PLANTS OVERSEAS.+

MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN UK AND USA TO REDUCE THE PERMITTED LEVEL OF VCM TO WHICH WORKERS MAY BE EXPOSED AND TO STRICTLY CONTROL ITS USE AS A PROPELLANT IN AEROSOL PRODUCTS.

+IN HONG KONG, VCM IS NOT KNOWN TO BE USED AS A RAW MATERIAL BY ANY LOCAL MANUFACTURER. WORKERS IN WAREHOUSES WHICH STORE PVC OR IN FACTORIES WHICH FABRICATE FINISHED PRODUCTS FROM BULK PVC RUN NO HEALTH RISK IF THESE PLACES ARE WELL VENTILATED.

+THE SUBSTANCE IS ONLY KNOWN TO BE CONTAINED IN CERTAIN FOREIGN-MADE AEROSOL PRODUCTS. THE BAN WILL THEREFORE BAR THEIR IMPORT AND SALE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN CASE ANYONE IS IN POSSESSION OF VCM, THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE ON ITS SAFE DISPOSAL.

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ANOTHER SECONDARY SCHOOL TO BE BUILT IN SHA TIN  
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ANOTHER SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT IN THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE SCHOOL, THE EIGHTH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN THE NEW TOWN, WILL BE SITUATED AT THE JAT MIN CHUEN HOUSING ESTATE OF THE HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL ARE BEING INVITED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID THE SCHOOL, TO BE BUILT ON A 5 145-SQUARE METRE SITE, WOULD CONSIST OF:

- \* A MAIN TEACHING BLOCK, COMPRISING 24 CLASSROOMS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES AND CHANGING ROOMS=
- \* AN ASSEMBLY HALL WITH A COVERED PLAY AREA ON THE GROUND FLOOR=
- \* A BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS, PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, A LIBRARY AND WORKSHOPS= AND
- \* SEPARATE ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AND MENIAL STAFF QUARTERS.

+WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH IS PART OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WILL START IN MAY THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER 1981,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO SEND THEIR MANAGEMENT STAFF  
TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONFERENCE  
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EMPLOYERS WERE URGED TODAY (MONDAY) TO SEND THEIR SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL TO AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MARCH.

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID PARTICIPANTS WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE MEETING.

THERE WILL BE TALKS BY EXPERTS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, TEXTILES, PLASTICS, METAL WORK AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES BY MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN PLENARY DISCUSSIONS, VIEW TWO SAFETY FILMS AND VISIT A MINI-EXHIBITION OF SAFETY DEVICES AND APPLIANCES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

THE FILMS DEAL WITH THE NEED FOR CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY MATTERS IN A FACTORY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL FROM INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS WERE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

A DETAILED PROGRAMME AND APPLICATION FORM FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM MR. HO HONG-WAI OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, YAU MA TEI, TELEPHONE 3-688111 EXT 346.

THE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, DESIGNED TO MAKE SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL MORE AWARE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW WORLD HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI, ON MARCH 25.

IT IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG COTTON SPINNERS ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG PLASTIC MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE SPEAKERS AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MR. C. STEELE, SENIOR COMMERCIAL ENGINEER, CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO. LTD.= MR. T.L. NG, PLANT MANAGER AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COMMITTEE OF SONCA INDUSTRIES LTD.= MR. CHAN SHIU-LAP, CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR OF LABOUR DEPARTMENT= MR. K.Y. TONGSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG PLASTIC MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION LTD.= MR. G. FREEMAN, CHIEF FIRE AND SECURITY OFFICER, HONG KONG ELECTRIC HOLDINGS LTD.= MR. WILLIAM LAW, CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION= MR. LINCOLN YUNG, DIRECTOR AND MANAGER OF NANYANG COTTON MILL LTD.= AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

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#### CONSTRUCTION OF SEWER IN KOWLOON BAY

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$17 MILLION CONTRACT TO HARBOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR SEWER ALONG HOI BUN ROAD ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY MR. WONG WAN-MING, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DRAINAGE WORKS DIVISION OF THE PWD'S CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMPANY.

SPEAKING AFTER THE CEREMONY, MR. WONG SAID, +AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO MAIN PUBLIC SEWERS ON THE RECLAMATION. AS IT IS INTENDED TO DEVELOP THIS AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, A MAIN SEWER WILL BE REQUIRED.+

HE SAID THAT THE SEWER WOULD COLLECT SEWAGE FROM FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD ALSO SERVE THE KAI TAK PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE FORMER RAF SITE.

THE WORK, INVOLVING THE LAYING OF ABOUT 2 700 METRES OF SEWER, RANGING FROM 525 MM TO 1 650 MM IN DIAMETER, WILL TAKE ABOUT 16 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1980

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OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO MONKEY GOLD COIN OFFER

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THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION HAS RECEIVED 651 504 APPLICATIONS FOR THE GOLD COIN COMMEMORATING THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY.

OF THESE, 176 148 WERE FOR THE PROOF COIN AND 475 356 FOR THE UNCIRCULATED VERSION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID 735 600 OF THE 740 000 APPLICATION FORMS PRINTED WERE ISSUED.

+THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WAS SIX-AND-ONE-HALF TIMES GREATER THAN THAT FOR THE GOAT GOLD COIN, AND NEARLY 19 TIMES GREATER THAN THE DEMAND FOR THE DRAGON COIN,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

IN VIEW OF THE UNPRECEDENTED AND UNEXPECTED HIGH DEMAND FOR THE MONKEY COIN, AND THE TIME NECESSARY TO PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS NOW UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADHERE TO THE ADVERTISED DATES FOR RETURNING CHEQUES AND CASHIER'S ORDERS TO THOSE WHO WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

+EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PROCESS ALL APPLICATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE TASK WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.+

ADDITIONAL MANPOWER IS BEING EMPLOYED.

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WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 16) FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE THOSE ALONG CHA KWO LING ROAD BETWEEN LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND CHA KWO LING TSUEN, INCLUDING THE SHELL CO LTD DEPOT.

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