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POSITIVE PRODUCT MARKETING HELPS RECOVERY -- GOVERNOR

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THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF HONG KONG COMPANIES IN MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS CONTRIBUTED TO THE RECOVERY IN OUR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY SINCE THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

+THE CONTINUATION OF THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AN INCREASINGLY WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH THERE IS MARKET DEMAND AND POTENTIAL,+ SIR EDWARD ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE TASKS OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

SPEAKING AT THE 15TH PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HONG KONG DESIGN AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SIR EDWARD SAID:

+IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS, THE 15TH PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR HONG KONG DESIGN.

+AT THE LAST PRESENTATION CEREMONY, I SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE VICISSITUDES OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, TIMES HAD NOT BEEN EASY FOR OUR MANUFACTURING AND EXPORT TRADES. THE SITUATION HAS NOW CHANGED FOR THE BETTER AND THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF A CONTINUED RECOVERY IN OUR MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY SINCE THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1983. BUSINESS ORDERS HAVE PICKED UP SIGNIFICANTLY AND REMAINED STRONG THROUGHOUT THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR. LIKEWISE, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT SECTOR CONTINUED TO SHOW AN IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATE DURING THE PERIOD. IN REAL TERMS OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR 1983 WERE 14 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT OF 1982.

+THIS REMARKABLE GROWTH IS NO DOUBT RELATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS. BUT I AGREE WITH YOU, MR TANG, THAT IT ALSO OWES MUCH TO THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF HONG KONG COMPANIES IN THE MARKETING OF THEIR PRODUCTS. THE CONTINUATION OF THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AN INCREASINGLY WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH THERE IS MARKET DEMAND AND POTENTIAL. THIS IS, INDEED, ONE OF THE TASKS OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

+THE DESIGN PROCESS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF MANUFACTURE, BOTH IN IMPROVING EXISTING PRODUCTS AND IN DEVELOPING NEW ONES. A GOOD QUALITY PRODUCT MUST START WITH A GOOD DESIGN. BETTER DESIGN MEANS BETTER QUALITY PRODUCTS, GREATER CONSUMER APPEAL, AND HENCE FULLER ORDER BOOKS. IN THIS RESPECT, I MUST PAY TRIBUTE TO THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, WHO ORGANISE THIS COMPETITION, FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTS, NEW DESIGNS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN QUALITY.

/+THE GOVERNMENT, ...

+THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN. WE PROVIDE TRAINING IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF QUALITY DESIGNERS. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THE IN-PLANT TRAINING OF ENGINEERS SCHEME OPERATED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAS RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE AMONG INDUSTRIALISTS. FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ALSO GIVEN TO ORGANISATIONS SPECIALISING IN THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, SUCH AS THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN COUNCIL. MOREOVER, THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD SUPPORTS CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO INDUSTRIAL DESIGN.

+I NOW TURN TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD ITSELF. EACH YEAR WE FIND ENTRIES WHICH SHOW IMAGINATION, INGENUITY, AND CONSUMER APPEAL. THE WINNING PRODUCT TODAY IS A RECHARGEABLE VACUUM CLEANER DESIGNED BY THE CONTINENTAL ENGINEERING PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED. IT IS AN INNOVATIVE DESIGN ACHIEVING COMPACT SIZE, CONVENIENCE IN HANDLING, AND RELIABILITY IN OPERATION. IT WILL, I AM SURE, BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE RANGE OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF LABOUR INVOLVED IN HOUSEHOLD CHORES. I CONGRATULATE THE COMPANY AND WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS WITH THIS EXCELLENT PRODUCT.+

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ADMIRALTY II AUCTION ON WEDNESDAY

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THE SALE OF THE ADMIRALTY II SITE TAKES PLACE AT THE FURAMA HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE 6 312 SQUARE METRE SITE, AT THE JUNCTION OF COTTON TREE DRIVE AND QUEENSWAY, IS IN A PRIME LOCATION AND CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IS ANTICIPATED, HE SAID.

THE SITE HAD BECOME MORE ATTRACTIVE SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 3 THAT IT COULD BE DEVELOPED AS A HOTEL, HE SAID.

ORIGINALLY, WHEN IT ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 2 THAT THE SITE WOULD BE OFFERED FOR SALE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXCLUDED HOTEL DEVELOPMENT, BUT LATER CHANGED THE CONDITIONS TO INCLUDE A HOTEL IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, MR JOHN TODD, SAID IN DECEMBER THE DECISION TO SELL THE SITE HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE INTEREST HAD BEEN SHOWN IN IT AT $300 MILLION.

+THIS IS THE FIGURE AT WHICH WE WILL OPEN THE BIDDING ON WEDNESDAY,+ HE SAID.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE PACIFICA ROOM AT 2.30 PM. HANDLING IT WILL BE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR TONY HARLAND.

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PUBLIC URGED TO HELP STOP POLLUTION
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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, MR ALBERT SO, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TODAY.

+TOWARDS THIS END, IN EACH NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT, A DISTRICT WORKING GROUP HAS RECENTLY BEEN SET UP AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER IS CHARGED WITH CO-ORDINATING ACTION AMONG VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO INITIALLY DRAW UP PROPOSED PLANS AND LATER TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN WATERCOURSES IN THE DISTRICT.+

MR SO ALSO SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT AND THE RELATIVELY LOW DEVELOPMENT DENSITY, THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL GARDEN EXTENSIONS WAS COMMONPLACE.

A SURVEY HAD BEEN STARTED IN PHASES AND ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN TO REGULATE THESE GARDENS WHEREVER POSSIBLE, HE SAID.

OF THE 125 CASES HANDLED SO FAR, 91 CASES HAD BEEN RECTIFIED WITH THE REMAINING 34 CASES BEING PROCESSED, MR SO SAID.

THE PROBLEM IS NOW UNDER CONTROL ON CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND LANTAU, AND EMPHASIS HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO LAMMA ISLAND.

UNDER REVISED PROCEDURES THE PREMIUM FOR THE GRANT OF GARDEN EXTENSIONS WOULD BE ASSESSED ON THE INCREASE IN VALUE TO THE PARENT LOT BY THE GRANT OF THE ADDITIONAL AREA, MR SO SAID.

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT HAD DECIDED TO WAIVE THE IMPOSITION OF THE PREMIUM SURCHARGE WHERE THE EXTENSION AREA WAS ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED.

WITH THESE APPROACHES, MR SO SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CROWN LAND FOR GARDEN PURPOSES IN ISLANDS DISTRICT COULD BE RESOLVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ON THE PROBLEM OF ABANDONED VEHICLES ON CROWN LAND, MR SO SAID THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT AS SERIOUS IN ISLANDS DISTRICT AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE NON-EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC ROADS AND MOTOR VEHICLES ON LAMMA, CHEUNG CHAU AND PENG CHAU, AND TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CLOSED ROAD PERMIT SYSTEM ON LANTAU ISLAND,+ HE SAID.

SINCE THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WAS SET UP LAST APRIL, 64 CASES OF ABANDONED VEHICLES ON CROWN LAND HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH, IN WHICH 33 VEHICLES WERE REMOVED BY THE OWNERS AND 31 WERE DISPOSED OF BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

/ON ILLEGAL .....

ON ILLEGAL DUMPING, MR SO SAID THE VAST SIZE OF ISLANDS DISTRICT AND THE LIMITED MANPOWER THAT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE HAD IN CROWN LAND CONTROL WORK CONTRIBUTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES AND THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE ARE LOOKING FOR DUMPING SITES IN THE DISTRICT.

+APART FROM LANTAU, SUITABLE DUMPING SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED ON PENG CHAU AND CHEUNG CHAU. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE HAS WRITTEN TO ALL LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN LANTAU INFORMING THEM THAT THE MUI WO BORROW AREA CAN BE USED FOR DUMPING OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL,+ HE SAID.

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JANUARY COOLER, DRIER THAN USUAL

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JANUARY WAS COOLER AND LESS HUMID THAN USUAL. IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY FINE AND SUNNY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH AND CLOUDY WITH LIGHT RAIN AT TIMES DURING THE SECOND HALF, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTS.

THE 3.5 MM OF RAIN RECORDED DURING THE MONTH WAS ONLY 13 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL AMOUNT. AND THE TOTAL RAINFALL FROM NOVEMBER 1983 TO JANUARY 1984, AT 10.9 MM, WAS THE SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE CORRESPONDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY FINE FROM JANUARY 1 TO 14, THOUGH NEW YEAR'S DAY WAS COLD WITH A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 8.3 DEGREES C.

SLIGHTLY MILDER WEATHER OCCURRED ON JANUARY 2 AND 3, BUT A SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ON JANUARY 4 AGAIN BROUGHT THE OVERNIGHT MINIMUM TEMPERATURE BELOW 10 DEGREES C ON JANUARY 4 AND 5.

THE WEATHER WARMED UP STEADILY FROM JANUARY 6 WITH THE AFTERNOON MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE EXCEEDING 20 DEGREES C BETWEEN JANUARY 11 AND 13.

IT BECAME CLOUDY IN THE EVENING OF JANUARY 14, BUT THERE WERE SUNNY PERIODS THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN TEMPERATURES IN THE AFTERNOON REACHED 22.9 DEGREES C, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

CLOUDY AND RAINY WEATHER SET IN ON JANUARY 16 FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF A MINOR SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON FROM THE EAST. THE CLOUDY WEATHER, WITH LIGHT RAIN FROM TIME TO TIME, PERSISTED UNTIL JANUARY 26.

A COLD FRONT PASSED SOUTH ACROSS HONG KONG ON JANUARY 19, BRINGING FRESH NORTHERLY WINDS. WINDS TURNED TO EASTERLY DURING THE NIGHT AND BECAME FRESH TO STRONG OFF SHORE THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

/AN INTENSE .....

AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED ON JANUARY 21. WINDS AGAIN FRESHENED FROM THE NORTH AND WERE STRONG IN EXPOSED PLACES. TEMPERATURES FELL STEADILY DURING THE DAY AND A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 8.0 DEGREES C, THE LOWEST OF THE MONTH, WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. DURING THE SAME MORNING, MINIMUM TEMPERATURES OF -0.5 DEGREE C AND 0.9 DEGREE C WERE RECORDED AT TAI MO SHAN AND TATE'S CAIRN RESPECTIVELY. THERE WERE HOWEVER NO REPORTS OF HOAR FROST. FROM JANUARY 23 TO 26, IT WAS GENERALLY COLD AND THERE WAS A BRIEF STRENGTHENING OF NORTHERLY WINDS IN SOME PLACES DURING THE MORNING OF JANUARY 25.

A BRIEF INTERLUDE OF FINE WEATHER OCCURRED ON JANUARY 27. CLOUDY CONDITIONS RETURNED ON JANUARY 28 AND PERSISTED UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. LIGHT RAIN WAS ALSO REPORTED BETWEEN JANUARY 29 AND 31.

ON JANUARY 31, ANOTHER SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED, BRINGING STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS TO EXPOSED AREAS DURING THE MORNING.

THERE WERE NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH. NO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

A FROST WARNING WAS ISSUED ON JANUARY 21. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 TO 3, 11 TO 17, 19, 20 AND 28 TO 30 AND THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED BETWEEN JANUARY 3 AND 11.

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	JANUARY 20 2.00 AM	JANUARY 20 12.00 NOON
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	JANUARY 21 11.30 AM	JANUARY 22 11.05 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	JANUARY 25 4.10 AM	JANUARY 25 8.30 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	JANUARY 31 3.10 AM	JANUARY 31 9.05 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	138.0 HOURS	=	15.5 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	3.5 MM	=	23.4 MM BELOW NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	61 %	=	2 % MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	66 %	=	5 % LOWER THAN NORMAL

/MEAN MAXIMUM .....

MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	16.8 DEG C	=	1.9 DEG C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	14.1 DEG C	=	1.5 DEG C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	11.9 DEG C	=	1.3 DEG C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	7.4 DEG C	=	2.4 DEG C BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	82.3 MM	=	23.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 22.9 DEGREES C WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 15

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 8.0 DEGREES C WAS RECORDED ON JANUARY 22

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BETTER FACILITIES OFFERED AT NEW OFFICE

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THE TO KWA WAN BRANCH OFFICE OF THE APPRENTICE SECTION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRUAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT (TEITD) MOVED INTO MORE SPACIOUS PREMISES TODAY (MONDAY).

THE NEW PREMISES, LOCATED AT 8/F, TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 165 MA TAU WAI ROAD, PROVIDES MORE FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC, SUCH AS CONFERENCE ROOMS AND MORE SPACIOUS INFORMATION COUNTERS.

+WITH THE EXPANSION, MORE INSPECTORS ARE NOW WORKING AT THE BRANCH OFFICE TO OVERSEE THE INTERESTS OF APPRENTICES AND EMPLOYERS,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

BETTER SERVICES ARE THUS BEING PROVIDED AT THE PREMISES FOR APPRENTICES AND EMPLOYEES IN TO KWA WAN AND SUCH NEARBY DISTRICTS AS YAU ME TEI, SAN PO KONG AND KOWLOON CITY.

+INSPECTORS FROM THE BRANCH OFFICE WILL VISIT FACTORIES IN THESE FOUR DISTRICTS TO ENSURE THAT PROPER TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR CRAFT APPRENTICES EMPLOYED IN 38 DESIGNATED TRADES,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 19 EMPLOYED AS A CRAFT APPRENTICE IN A DESIGNATED TRADE SHOULD ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HIS EMPLOYER, AND HAVE IT REGISTERED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TEIT.

THERE ARE FIVE BRANCH OFFICES IN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND TO ASSIST EMPLOYERS IN PREPARING CONTRACTS AND TO HELP CONCILIATE ANY DISPUTE ARISING FROM THE CONTRACTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS BRIEFING ON GDP

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A PRESS BRIEFING ON GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ESTIMATES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15) AT 4 PM IN THE GIS THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

FOR REFERENCE BEFORE THE BRIEFING A BOOKLET ON +ESTIMATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 1966-83+ WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS AT 3 PM.

PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING WILL BE THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR COLIN GREENFIELD; THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR FREDERICK HO; THE SENIOR STATISTICIAN, MISS LILY FONG; THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (ECONOMIC SERVICES), DR A.A. MCLEAN; AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ECONOMIC SERVICES), MRS ANNIE WONG.

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RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICE SUCCESSFUL

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RESIDENTIAL COACHES HAVE PROVIDED SERVICES FOR OVER 2.5 MILLION PASSENGERS SINCE THEIR INTRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY 1982.

THE COACHES SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUTLYING RESIDENTIAL AREAS DURING PEAK HOURS, ESPECIALLY THOSE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS WITH INADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

THERE ARE NOW 23 RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICE ROUTES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, PROVIDING A USEFUL ADDITION TO VARIOUS TRANSPORT SERVICES.

OF THESE, 19 ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND FOUR ON HONG KONG ISLAND. A TOTAL OF 58 BUSES ARE AUTHORISED FOR THESE SERVICES.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL SOON APPROVE TWO MORE ROUTES -- ONE FROM WALDORF GARDEN IN TUEN MUN TO TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AND THE OTHER FROM SHUEN WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN TAI PO TO KWUN TONG.

+THIS TYPE OF TRANSPORT SERVICE HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL FOR LOWER DENSITY HOUSING AREAS WHICH DO NOT JUSTIFY FULL-DAY SERVICES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

+THE PROPOSAL FOR NEW SERVICE ROUTES USUALLY COMES FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS AND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THEM WILL BE GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.+

/UNDER THE .....

UNDER THE SCHEME, AN OPERATOR CAN BE GRANTED A TWO-YEAR NON-EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICE LICENCE WITH THE SCHEDULES OF SERVICE AND METHOD OF OPERATION STIPULATED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

+IN APPROVING AN APPLICATION, FACTORS SUCH AS THE ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN POINTS ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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JOSS HOUSE BAY SEAWALL BEING REPAIRED

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WORK HAS STARTED ON REPAIRING THE PUBLIC PIER AND SEAWALL AT JOSS HOUSE BAY, WHICH WERE DAMAGED BY TYPHOON ELLEN.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT RECENTLY AWARDED A $1.1 MILLION CONTRACT TO UNIVERSAL DOCKYARD LIMITED TO CARRY OUT THE WORK.

THE SEAWALL IS 120 METRES LONG AND SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE ALONG ITS WHOLE LENGTH. THE PUBLIC PIER WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT THE WORK WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL ON APRIL 23.

LARGE CROWDS GO BY BOATS TO JOSS HOUSE BAY TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL.

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HEALTH WEEK FOR WAN CHAI RESIDENTS

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A HEALTH WEEK TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HEALTH WILL BE LAUNCHED IN WAN CHAI ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18).

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT IS ORGANISED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED LAST NOVEMBER UNDER THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN.

THE HEALTH WEEK WILL FEATURE AN EXHIBITION, TALKS, A CROSSWORD PUZZLE AND COMPETITIONS.

AN OPENING CEREMONY, TO BE HELD AT 2 PM ON SATURDAY AT THE SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND, WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A THREE-HOUR CARNIVAL, ORGANISED BY LOCAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL SOCIETY AND THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

/TWELVE GAMES .....

TWELVE GAMES STALLS, FIVE FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP POINTS, AND AN INFORMATION COUNTER ON FAMILY PLANNING WILL BE PUT UP AT THE CARNIVAL.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LOLLY CHIU; THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FRANCIS HO; THE WORKING GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, MR ALBERT CHEUNG; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS AND GAMES COUPONS FOR THE CARNIVAL ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE HEALTH EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE LOBBY OF HENNESSY CENTRE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 23 AND 27 FROM 10 AM TO 9 PM DAILY.

IT WILL COVER NUTRITION, HOME SECURITY, HARM OF ALCOHOLISM AND SMOKING, USAGE OF MEDICINES, AND LOCAL MEDICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT HEALTH WEEK OPENING CEREMONY AND CARNIVAL AT 2 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18) AT SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND, WAN CHAI.

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DB TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TAI O AND THE LAYOUT PLAN FOR MUI WO (NORTH) AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF CHEUNG KWAI ESTATE ON CHEUNG CHAU AND ON IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO NGONG PING ROAD ON LANTAO.

ANOTHER TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE THE ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR A SERIES OF FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF SINCERE BUILDING, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

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HEALTH CONTEST FOR CHILDREN

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT PARENTS WILL BE LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN IN A FORTHCOMING COMPETITION.

+A HEALTHY CHILDREN COMPETITION,+ SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD AND ORGANISED BY THE CHI FU FA YUEN YIN NGAI SOCIETY, WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 11.

THE COMPETITION IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO GIVE BETTER CARE AND ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH OF THEIR CHILDREN.

IT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE AGE GROUPS : FROM SIX TO 18 MONTHS, 19 TO 36 MONTHS, AND THREE TO SIX YEARS.

TWELVE WINNERS - FOUR FROM EACH GROUP - WILL BE SELECTED AND AWARDED CASH COUPONS AND MEDALS.

THEY WILL ALSO REPRESENT THEIR DISTRICT IN A TERRITORY-WIDE COMPETITION ON MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 13).

ENTRY FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT IN ABERDEEN CENTRE, AND ITS SUB-OFFICES IN WAH FU ESTATE AND AT STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18).

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NEW EQUIPMENT FOR FIRE STATIONS

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NEW FIRE APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT WORTH $12 MILLION ARE BEING BOUGHT FOR THREE NEW FIRE STATIONS DUE TO OPEN LATER THIS YEAR AND TO REPLACE SOME OLD EQUIPMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID TODAY.

THREE NEW FIRE STATIONS - THE SAI WAN HO SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, KOWLOON BAY DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION AND SHUN LEE TSUEN SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION - ARE DUE TO OPEN LATER THIS YEAR.

THE NEW APPLIANCES WILL INCLUDE THREE 16-METRE HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS COSTING $5.28 MILLION, FOR THE FIRE STATIONS.

TWO TURNTABLE LADDERS WILL REPLACE TWO EXISTING SNORKELS WHICH WILL BE ENDING THEIR SERVICEABLE LIFE OF 15 YEARS, AND SEVEN LIGHT PUMPING APPLIANCES WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SEVEN-YEAR OLD ONES.

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YOUTH ORCHESTRA TO GIVE CONCERT

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THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (A) OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL GIVE A CONCERT AS PART OF THE 6TH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18) EVENING AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

TICKETS AT $5 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AND AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE +FANFARE POUR PRECEDER LA PERI+ BY DUKAS, +LIGHT CAVALRY OVERTURE+ BY SUPPE, PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3 OP. 26 BY PROKOFIEFF AND +PICTURE AT AN EXHIBITION+ BY MUSSORGSKY.

THE CONCERT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY MR MIRAN KOJIAN, THE MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, THE CONCERTMASTER OF THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND GUEST CONDUCTOR OF THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

THE SOLOIST OF THE PIANO CONCERTO IS MISS LIANA LAM, WHO HAS BEEN SPECIALLY INVITED FROM CANADA TO TAKE PART IN THIS PROGRAMME.

ALTHOUGH SHE IS ONLY 16, MISS LAM HAS GIVEN CONCERTS IN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

MISS LAM HAS DISTINGUISHED HERSELF SINCE THE AGE OF NINE WHEN SHE WAS NAMED WINNER OF THE JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN BERKELEY.

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VARIETY SHOW FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

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ABOUT 360 ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE TREATED TO A LUNAR NEW YEAR VARIETY SHOW ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18).

SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT WILL AIM AT PROMOTING RESPECT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE DISTRICT AND BRINGING FESTIVE JOY TO THEM.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA PERFORMANCES, TRADITIONAL CHINESE DANCES, A LUCKY DRAW AND A FEAST.

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THE 15 ELDEST PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH SPECIAL PRIZES WHILE THE OTHERS WILL RECEIVE GIFT PACKETS.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (EASTERN), MR STEPHEN NG; THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE SHAU KEI WAN SUB-OFFICE, MR SIMON WONG; AND A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LAM TAK-MONG WILL ATTEND THE VARIETY SHOW WHICH WILL START AT 4 PM IN MAN BONG RESTAURANT, SHAU KEI WAN ROAD.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SHAU KEI WAN KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION AND AREA COMMITTEES IN THE DISTRICT.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES ON ISLAND, NT

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NEW TRAFFIC MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15).

IN WAN CHAI, MARSH ROAD BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD, ALONG WITH THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 170 AND PERCIVAL STREET, WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO MOTOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES.

IN ADDITION, THE EXISTING BAN ON HEAVY VEHICLES AT ABERDEEN OLD MAIN STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD TO 120 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE LIFTED.

IN YUEN LONG, THE SECTION OF MA WANG ROAD EAST OF PING WUI STREET WILL BE CLOSED FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS FOR WORK ON THE YUEN LONG NORTHERN BYPASS.

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MORE PARKING METERS

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A TOTAL OF 18 TWO-HOUR PARKING METERS WILL BE OPERATIONAL FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 15) IN MEI KING STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH MEI KWONG STREET AND KWEI CHOW STREET.

THE METERS ARE TO REGULATE THE USE OF ON-STREET PARKING SPACES IN THE AREA.

THE CHARGE WILL BE $1 FOR EVERY 30 MINUTES.

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EARLY MORNING FLYOVER CLOSURE

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PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM FROM WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 15-18).

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS FROM PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD AND VICE VERSA ARE ADVISED TO PROCEED ON GROUND LEVEL ROADS.

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MARKET STALLS FOR LEASE

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FORTY-FOUR STALLS AT TSUEN WAN MARKET AND CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN MARKET AT 10 AM, SAID A SPOKESMAN OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

FORTY-THREE STALLS ARE AT TSUEN WAN MARKET, AND ARE FOR THE SALE OF VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, GROCERIES, HABERDASHERY, FRUITS, WITH ONE FOR ICE.

THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL RANGES FROM $600 TO $2 500.

THE ONE COOKED FOOD STALL AT CHAI WAN KOK COOKED FOOD MARKET HAS AN UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL OF $5 800.

THE STALLS MAY BE OPERATED FOR THREE YEARS FROM MARCH 1.

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