



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ASSURANCE ON DEVELOPING HK AS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE	1
ZHOU NAN TO VISIT HONG KONG	2
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR OCT-DEC RELEASED	3
1988 3RD QUARTER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX RELEASED	4
VOTERS TO RECEIVE POLL CARDS FOR MC ELECTIONS	7
SPRING RECEPTION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS, EDUCATORS	8
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN YUEN LONG TOWN	8
VARIETY SHOW TO MARK CONCLUSION OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME	9
YAU TSIM DB TO DISCUSS ELECTION OF UC REPRESENTATIVE	10
ROAD SAFETY DAY IN EASTERN DISTRICT	10
ENROLMENT FOR TOURISM COURSE BEGINS	11
EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REMINDED TO FOLLOW REQUIREMENTS	11
NEW YEAR FUN FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS	12
TRAFFIC RE-ROUTEING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE	13
PARTIAL CLOSURE OF TUEN MUN ROAD	14
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER	14

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1989

- 1 -

ASSURANCE ON DEVELOPING HK AS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE
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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP HONG KONG'S POSITION AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE WHERE INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY OF THE MARKETS.

THE ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING WHEN ADDRESSING THE PACIFIC RIM EXECUTIVE BANKERS SEMINAR.

HE SAID THAT WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF THE OCTOBER 1987 STOCK MARKET CRISIS, VIRTUALLY ALL THE MAJOR REFORMS TO THE REGULATORY AND MARKET STRUCTURES WHICH WERE REQUIRED TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL MARKETS MATCH UP TO MODERN EXPECTATIONS WOULD BE IN PLACE.

"WHILST WE ARE DETERMINED TO AVOID THE OVER-REGULATION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED ELSEWHERE, THERE ARE FURTHER SAFEGUARDS WHICH WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING IN PLACE TOO," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LEGISLATION WAS PASSED LAST JULY REQUIRING MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS, DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF PUBLICLY LISTED COMPANIES TO DISCLOSE THE EXTENT OF THEIR BENEFICIAL HOLDINGS.

THIS WOULD ALSO ENABLE LISTED COMPANIES TO DISCOVER THE BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF ANY SHARE HOLDING, HE ADDED.

"WE ARE ALSO PLANNING TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SANCTIONS AGAINST INSIDER DEALERS UNDER OUR EXISTING TRIBUNAL SYSTEM," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY OF THE VIEW THAT INSIDER DEALING UNDERMINED THE FAIRNESS OF THE MARKET.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE DETERMINED TO DO ITS BEST TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT OCCUR OR THAT IF IT DOES THE CULPRITS ARE IDENTIFIED AND BROUGHT TO BOOK," HE STRESSED.

"WE AIM TO BRING BOTH MEASURES INTO FORCE THIS YEAR WHEN THE NEW SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION IS IN BEING AND HAS AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ENSURE PROPER ENFORCEMENT," MR NENDICK SAID.

RECOUNTING THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REMEDY SHORTCOMINGS REVEALED BY THE STOCK MARKET CRASH, MR NENDICK NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROMPTLY ACCEPTED THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1988.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION, THE STOCK EXCHANGE HAD PROMPTLY ACCEPTED THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO FUNDAMENTAL REVISIONS TO ITS CONSTITUTION AND INTERNAL MANAGEMENT.

/THANKS TO

THANKS TO THE INITIATIVE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE, A NEW STRUCTURE WHICH FULLY MET THE SPIRIT OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WAS PUT IN PLACE IN OCTOBER 1988, HE SAID.

REGARDING CHANGES TO THE FUTURES EXCHANGE, MR NENDICK SAID IT WAS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF REVISING ITS CONSTITUTION AND IMPLEMENTING A NEW CLEARING AND RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN LINE WITH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

"A START HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL CLEARING AND DEPOSITORY SYSTEM WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 1990," HE ADDED.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE, MR NENDICK BELIEVED THAT HONG KONG WOULD REMAIN THE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL CENTRE FROM WHICH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD SERVICE THEIR CUSTOMERS THROUGHOUT THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

IT WOULD ALSO BE THE MAJOR SERVICE CENTRE FOR SOUTH CHINA IN GENERAL AND THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION IN PARTICULAR, HE ADDED.

"AS A GOVERNMENT, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO CREATE THE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS," HE SAID.

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ZHOU NAN TO VISIT HONG KONG
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THE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, MR ZHOU NAN, WILL VISIT HONG KONG AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNOR FROM FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 2.

PROGRAMMES OF HIS VISIT ARE BEING FINALISED.

HE WILL STAY ON IN HONG KONG FOR A FEW DAYS AS THE GUEST OF MR XU JIATUN, DIRECTOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY HONG KONG BRANCH.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR OCT - DEC RELEASED

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DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FELL TO AN HISTORIC LOW LEVEL, WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED LOW.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988 WAS 1.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1988 AND 1.9 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASES OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD AND 0.6 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 36,200, COMPARED WITH 43,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1988 AND 53,000 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988 WAS 0.7 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.6 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1988. THE RATE FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1987 WAS 1.0 PER CENT.

THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988 WAS 18,400, COMPARED WITH 15,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1988 AND 28,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1987.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1989

- 4 -

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE MONTHS PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1988 - JANUARY 1989 WAS 1.3 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.7 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 51,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1988 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MARCH 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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1988 3RD QUARTER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX RELEASED

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988, AT 134, WAS EIGHT POINTS OR 6.3 PER CENT ABOVE THAT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS COMPARES WITH THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF 3 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, 6 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, AND AN AVERAGE OF 16 PER CENT IN 1987 AS A WHOLE.

COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, AND BEARING IN MIND THE POSSIBLE INFLUENCE OF SEASONAL FACTORS, THE INDEX SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 13 POINTS OR 10.7 PER CENT.

/THE BASE

THE BASE OF THE INDEX IS THE YEAR 1986. IN OTHER WORDS, THE INDEX WAS 100 IN 1986.

INDUSTRIES SHOWING THE LARGEST INCREASES IN PRODUCTION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1987 WERE : PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+33.7 PER CENT); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+27.0 PER CENT); PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS (+26.5 PER CENT); TOBACCO (+22.7 PER CENT); AND CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+20.6 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES REPORTED A DECREASE IN PRODUCTION COMPARED WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 : PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-9.2 PER CENT); WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, AND FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (EXCEPT PRIMARILY OF METAL) (-7.4 PER CENT); AND TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) (-2.4 PER CENT).

COMPARING THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 WITH THAT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER, MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED REPORTED INCREASES IN PRODUCTION.

THE LARGEST INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES: RUBBER PRODUCTS (+28.3 PER CENT); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+16.0 PER CENT); TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) (+15.9 PER CENT); BEVERAGE (+15.6 PER CENT); AND LEATHER PRODUCTS AND FOOTWEAR (EXCEPT RUBBER, PLASTIC AND WOODEN FOOTWEAR) (+15.4 PER CENT).

IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO REFLECT THE LEVELS AND TRENDS OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE VOLUME OF LOCAL PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

A TABLE SHOWING CHANGES IN THE INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN GREATER DETAIL IS ATTACHED.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 3RD QUARTER 1988", WHICH IS ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8234832.

/INDEXES OF

INDEXES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(1986=100)

INDUSTRY GROUP	INDEXES FOR 3RD QTR. 1988	% CHANGE OVER	
		3RD QTR. 1987	2ND QTR. 1988
FOOD	122	+18.4	+9.9
BEVERAGE	141	+1.4	+15.6
TOBACCO	162	+22.7	+7.3
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT KNITWEAR AND FOOTWEAR	117	+1.7	+10.4
TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING)	124	-2.4	+15.9
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS	210	+26.5	+14.1
NEWSPAPER PRINTING, JOB PRINTING AND OTHER PRINTING	155	+16.5	+13.1
CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	123	+20.6	+11.8
RUBBER PRODUCTS	136	+1.5	+28.3
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	118	-9.2	+14.6
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	125	+3.3	+10.6
BASIC METALS	147	+12.2	+2.8
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	155	+12.3	+12.3
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	174	+27.0	+16.0
CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	142	+0.7	+7.6
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PARTS, ACCESSORIES AND MACHINERY	171	+14.0	+8.2
PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	135	+33.7	+3.8

/LEATHER PRODUCTS

- 7 -

LEATHER PRODUCTS AND FOOTWEAR (EXCEPT RUBBER, PLASTIC AND WOODEN FOOTWEAR)	150	+18.1	+15.4
WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, AND FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (EXCEPT PRIMARILY OF METAL)	100	-7.4	+6.4
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	113	+11.9	-5.0
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, N.E.S.	132	+10.9	+3.1
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	134	+6.3	+10.7

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VOTERS TO RECEIVE POLL CARDS FOR MC ELECTIONS

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ELECTORS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO TAKE PART IN THE COMING ELECTIONS ON MARCH 9 WILL BE RECEIVING A POLL CARD DURING NEXT WEEK.

"A TOTAL OF 1,211,109 POLL CARDS WILL BE SENT OUT IN BATCHES BETWEEN FEBRUARY 20 AND 23," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION (RED) SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"EACH POLL CARD TELLS WHERE AND WHEN AN ELECTION TAKES PLACE, AND IS DISPATCHED ONLY TO THOSE ELECTORS IN CONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES."

ELECTORS IN CONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES WILL ALSO BE RECEIVING BY THE END OF THIS MONTH A NOTE ON THE VOTING PROCEDURES TOGETHER WITH AN INTRODUCTORY LEAFLET ON THE CANDIDATES IN THE RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES.

ELECTORS IN UNCONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE ISSUED WITH AN INTRODUCTORY LEAFLET ON CANDIDATES ONLY. THEY WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE.

ELECTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS TO THE POLL. ALTHOUGH THE PRODUCTION OF THE POLL CARD IS NOT MANDATORY, IT WILL FACILITATE PROCESSING AND AVOID DELAY.

IN CASE OF ENQUIRIES, ELECTORS MAY TELEPHONE THE RED ON 5-270369 OR 5-270380 WELL BEFORE POLLING DAY.

FOR THOSE ELECTORS WHO HAVE RECENTLY CHANGED THEIR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, THEY SHOULD NOTIFY THE RED BY TELEPHONE OR IN WRITING, GIVING THEIR IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS AND THEIR NEW RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

/SUCH ELECTORS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1989

- 8 -

SUCH ELECTORS WILL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF THEIR PREVIOUS RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND WILL HAVE THEIR POLL CARD SENT TO THEIR NEW RESIDENCE.

ELECTORS MAY ALSO APPROACH THE POST OFFICE OF THEIR PREVIOUS RESIDENCE TO REDIRECT ANY MAIL TO THEIR NEW ADDRESS. SUCH SERVICE IS PROVIDED FREE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND MAY CONTINUE FOR A LONGER PERIOD UPON PAYMENT OF A FEE.

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SPRING RECEPTION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS, EDUCATORS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, TODAY (THURSDAY) HOSTED A SPRING RECEPTION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EDUCATORS TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST YEAR.

MORE THAN 300 GUESTS ATTENDED THE RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S HAPPY VALLEY CLUBHOUSE.

THEY INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION, BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT BOARDS, SCHOOL COUNCILS, UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION, COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES, AND SCHOOL SPONSORING BODIES.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN YUEN LONG TOWN

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN YUEN LONG TOWN AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MEMBERS WILL BE CONSULTED ON A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS DRAWN UP BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THERE.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE IN VIEW OF THE WORSENING TRAFFIC SITUATION IN YUEN LONG TOWN SINCE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSOCIATED CHANGES IN TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

/THE COMMITTEE

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS MEASURES TO IMPROVE FEEDER BUS SERVICES IN YUEN LONG.

OTHER TOPICS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE SUGGESTIONS TO BUILD A FOOTBRIDGE AND A BUS STOP FOR LONG PING ESTATE AND TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT SAI YU STREET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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VARIETY SHOW TO MARK CONCLUSION OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION PUBLICITY PROGRAMME WILL CONCLUDE ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18) WITH A VARIETY SHOW TO MARK THE OCCASION.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT MORE THAN 1,500 RESIDENTS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO THE FREE VARIETY SHOW WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

THE SHOW WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM IN THE OPEN-AIR THEATRE AT MORSE PARK IN WONG TAI SIN.

THE TWO-HOUR SHOW WILL INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS, ORIENTAL DANCES, A MAGIC SHOW, AS WELL AS A DEMONSTRATION OF MARTIAL ARTS AND TAEKWONDO.

DURING THE SHOW PRIZES WILL BE PRESENT TO WINNERS OF VARIOUS COMPETITIONS HELD EARLIER. THESE INCLUDE A GOOD CITIZEN AWARD SCHEME AND CIVIC EDUCATION SLOGAN, POSTER AND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS.

OFFICIATING AT THE SHOW WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MR MAK HOI-WAH; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE; DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION OF THE DB'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, MR ALBERT LI.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS TO THE SHOW ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN CIVIC EDUCATION VARIETY SHOW WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18) IN THE OPEN-AIR THEATRE AT MORSE PARK IN WONG TAI SIN.

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YAU TSIM DB TO DISCUSS ELECTION OF UC REPRESENTATIVE

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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE DATE AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DELETION OF TWO BUILDINGS FROM A LIST OF BUILDINGS TARGETTED FOR MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AND THE INCLUSION OF ANOTHER BUILDING ON THE LIST.

PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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ROAD SAFETY DAY IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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A ROAD SAFETY DAY TO REMIND THE PUBLIC ON PROPER ROAD USAGE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19) AFTERNOON AT THE FOOTBALL PITCHES IN VICTORIA PARK.

THIS IS THE LARGEST EVENT OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN ORGANISED BY A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARD.

TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ROAD SAFETY, THE WORKING GROUP HAS MOUNTED 35 ADVISORY SIGNBOARDS AT VARIOUS TRAFFIC BLACK SPOTS THROUGHOUT EASTERN DISTRICT.

THE ROAD SAFETY DAY ON SUNDAY WILL FEATURE A "ROAD SAFETY TOWN", A MINI-TRAIN TRACK, A POP CONCERT, A ROAD SAFETY BUS EXHIBITION AND VARIOUS KINDS OF STALL GAMES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT WILL BE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER (EASTERN), MR C.J. GLOVER; POLICE SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, TRAFFIC/HK ISLAND, MR B.C. GRIFFIN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DB'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, MR YUE HUI-KWONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY DAY TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19) AT THE FOOTBALL PITCHES 1-3 IN VICTORIA PARK. THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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ENROLMENT FOR TOURISM COURSE BEGINS

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THE HOTEL, CATERING AND TOURISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL IS ORGANISING A COURSE ON "EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FOR TRAVEL AGENCY EXECUTIVES" IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG.

THE TWO-DAY UPGRADING COURSE ON MARCH 9 AND 10 WILL EXAMINE TOPICS ON SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, JOB DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION, TARGET SETTING AND PERFORMANCE STANDARD, STAFF MOTIVATION AND MORALE BUILDING, EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL AS WELL AS THE TECHNIQUE OF COUNSELLING.

THE COURSE FEE IS \$950. AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED BY THE VTC TO PARTICIPANTS UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS MARCH 1. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING BOARD ON TEL. 5-8932341, EXT. 282, OR TO THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG ON 5-8682738.

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EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES REMINDED TO FOLLOW REQUIREMENTS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OPERATORS TO FOLLOW STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS WHEN RUNNING THEIR BUSINESS.

"UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS, THE AMOUNT OF FEE THAT CAN BE CHARGED BY A LICENSEE TO JOB SEEKERS FOR FIRST REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL AFTER THREE MONTHS IS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$5," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"THE COMMISSION FOR A SUCCESSFUL JOB PLACEMENT IS LIMITED TO 10 PER CENT OF THE FIRST MONTH'S RECEIVED SALARY."

THE REGULATIONS ALSO LIMIT THE FEE THAT CAN BE CHARGED BY AN AGENCY TO AN EMPLOYER TO A MAXIMUM OF \$35 FOR EACH TYPE OF VACANCY REGISTERED ON FIRST REGISTRATION AND \$20 PER RENEWAL OF SUCH REGISTRATION AFTER THREE MONTHS.

THE COMMISSION TO BE PAID BY AN EMPLOYER ON SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING FOR HIM AN EMPLOYEE BY AN AGENCY IS A MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.

"OTHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED FEES AND COMMISSIONS, A LICENSEE IS NOT ALLOWED TO RECEIVE FROM A JOB SEEKER ANY REWARD, PAYMENT OR ADVANTAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLACEMENT," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

/ "CHARGING MORE

"CHARGING MORE THAN THE PRESCRIBED FEES AND COMMISSIONS IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS.

"A LICENSEE OF THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY BEING PROSECUTED FOR OVERCHARGE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000."

CONVICTION OF OVERCHARGE MIGHT LEAD TO THE LICENCE OF THE AGENCY BEING REVOKED OR REFUSED RENEWAL BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

CITING STATISTICS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THREE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES WERE CONVICTED ON A TOTAL OF EIGHT CHARGES FOR COLLECTING FROM JOB SEEKERS FEES IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT LEGALLY PRESCRIBED LAST YEAR. THE LICENSEES OF THESE AGENCIES WERE FINED A TOTAL OF \$41,000.

IN THE SAME YEAR, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO REVOKED THREE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENCES AND REFUSED TO RENEW THREE OTHER LICENCES WHEN THE CONCERNED LICENSEES APPLIED FOR RENEWAL UPON EXPIRY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED OPERATORS OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO DISPLAY THE FEE SCHEDULES AND THEIR LICENCES IN THE PLACE OF BUSINESS, SUBMIT QUARTERLY RETURNS TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIME, AND MAINTAIN THE PRESCRIBED REGISTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE AND THE REGULATIONS.

"IN THE RECRUITMENT OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS THE EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE THE HELPER WITH FREE PASSAGE FROM HER HOME COUNTRY TO HONG KONG, AND UPON EXPIRY OR TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT, TO PROVIDE FREE RETURN PASSAGE FROM HONG KONG TO HER HOME COUNTRY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MAY BE MADE TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 5-8523535 OR 5-8523541.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REPORT CASES OF OVERCHARGE BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO THE DEPARTMENT ON 5-8523541 OR 5-8523534.

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NEW YEAR FUN FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS

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TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO CELEBRATE THE SPRING FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19) FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

THE VICTORIA PEAK WALKATHON, SCHEDULED TO START AT 9.30 AM AT THE CHIU SHEUNG SCHOOL IN POK FU LAM ROAD, WILL AFFORD PARTICIPANTS SOME GOOD PHYSICAL EXERCISE. IT IS ALSO MEANT TO BRING THEM GOOD LUCK BY WALKING ROUND THE PEAK.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN FISHER, DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN TAK-CHOR, AND KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW YIN-SUN, WILL START THE WALK.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL, KENNEDY TOWN AND MOUNT DAVIS AREA COMMITTEE, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE SAI YING PUN LUNAR NEW YEAR CARNIVAL, WHICH WILL INCLUDE STALL GAMES, LION DANCE, LUCKY DRAW AND SINGING PERFORMANCES, WILL BEGIN AT 1.30 PM ON SUNDAY AT THE KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PARK IN EASTERN STREET.

GUESTS OFFICIATING AT THE CARNIVAL OPENING WILL INCLUDE SAI YING PUN AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MRS IRENE LEE TANG YEE-LIN; DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHANG YAU-HUNG; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR CHOW WAI-KEUNG; AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS JOEY LAM.

RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THE CARNIVAL WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SAI YING PUN AREA COMMITTEE.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE TWO EVENTS MAY BE MADE ON TEL. 5-8170196 OR 5-8523482.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTEING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 3 PM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19), CONNAUGHT PLACE IN CENTRAL WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE BECAUSE OF WORK ON THE UPGRADED CONNAUGHT ROAD PROJECT.

CMB ROUTE 260 HEADING FOR CENTRAL BUS STATION WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PEDDER STREET AND CONNAUGHT PLACE.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1989

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PARTIAL CLOSURE OF TUEN MUN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE EASTBOUND TRAFFIC LANES OF TUEN MUN ROAD AT TAI LAM BRIDGE AND BROTHER BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED IN ROTATION BETWEEN 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

DURING THE WORKS PERIOD, AT LEAST TWO TRAFFIC LANES WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 9 AM TO NOON AND ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE MAINTAINED FROM NOON TO 5 PM.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTEING VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 18) TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR THE FLYOVER RECONSTRUCTION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE WATERLOO ROAD AT THE GROUND LEVEL.

AS CONGESTION MAY OCCUR ON WATERLOO ROAD AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

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