



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAYS KEY ROLE IN BANKING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS AS FIRMLY COMMITTED AS THE BANKING SECTOR TO EXPLOITING THE BENEFITS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ("IT") TO THE FULL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS ALSO AS COMMITTED AS THE BANKING INDUSTRY TO ENSURING THAT BANKING SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY ENHANCED, MR NENDICK ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING HAD ATTENDED A NUMBER OF ADVANCED COMPUTER AUDITING COURSES TO ENHANCE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF LATEST MARKET TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN BANKING BUSINESS AND AUDITING.

SPEAKING AT THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM THIS MORNING, MR NENDICK SAID THAT IN HONG KONG "IT" HAD ALREADY ASSUMED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BANKING SUPERVISION, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW AND MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED TO SUPERVISING BANKS.

"THIS APPROACH LAYS IMPORTANT EMPHASIS ON AN OFF-SITE REVIEW OF AN INSTITUTION'S FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL RETURNS WHICH IS THEN FOLLOWED UP BY PRUDENTIAL INTERVIEWS WITH MANAGEMENT ON MATTERS OF PRUDENTIAL CONCERN.

"CLOSE ATTENTION IS PAID TO SUCH FACTORS AS LIQUIDITY, CAPITAL ADEQUACY, LARGE EXPOSURES AND OTHER RISK CONCENTRATIONS," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR AN ENHANCED COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING A LARGE DATABASE AND AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORTING THE MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF TERMINALS AND INTELLIGENT WORKSTATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE REGULAR DETAILED REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF INSTITUTIONS BY INDIVIDUAL BANK EXAMINERS.

TO THIS END, THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING RECENTLY ENTERED INTO A \$32 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF AN ENHANCED COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH IS PLANNED FOR COMPLETION IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THE SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL BACKUP TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW SUPERVISORY APPROACH REQUIRING AS IT DOES MUCH GREATER ANALYSIS OF DATA PROVIDED BY INSTITUTIONS.

MR NENDICK CAUTIONED THAT THOUGH "IT" WAS HELPING BANKING BUSINESS TO EXPAND ITS FRONTIERS, SUCH TECHNOLOGY HAD ALSO EXPOSED THE INDUSTRY TO OPERATOR UNCERTAINTY AND RISK IN CERTAIN RESPECTS.

"BANKS MUST INCREASINGLY BE ON THEIR GUARD AGAINST SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION, COMPUTER FRAUD OR THE INTERRUPTION OF BUSINESS DUE TO SYSTEM BREAKDOWN," HE SAID.

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HE SAID THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT BANKS' ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (EDP) SYSTEMS WERE PROTECTED AGAINST THESE RISKS MUST REST WITH MANAGEMENT.

"IT IS THEY WHO MUST DEVISE ADEQUATE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH EVENTS AS WELL AS MEASURES TO CONTAIN AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF SYSTEMS FAILURE AS AND WHEN IT OCCURS," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK NOTED HOWEVER THAT BANK SUPERVISORS ALSO HAD THEIR PART TO PLAY.

"THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO EVALUATE BOTH THE ADEQUACY OF AN INSTITUTION'S EDP POLICY AND ITS INTERNAL CONTROL AND SECURITY SYSTEMS, DRAWING ON THEIR OWN EXPERTISE AND UPON EXPERIENCE GAINED IN EXAMINING THE SYSTEMS USED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BANKING SYSTEM.

"HERE IN HONG KONG WE HAVE ALSO HAD RECOURSE TO THE EXPERTISE OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO REGARD THE REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS, INCLUDING EDP SYSTEMS, AS PART AND PARCEL OF THEIR AUDIT PROCEDURES," HE SAID.

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CALL TO LAUNCH COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI SERVICE FOR HK

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED THE WIDER BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT IN LAUNCHING A COMMUNITY-WIDE ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) SERVICE FOR HONG KONG BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON EDI HELD IN THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR CHAN SAID GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT ALONE TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WAS NOT ENOUGH.

"EVEN IF WE ARE JOINED IN THIS COMMITMENT BY SOME OF THE MAJOR ORGANISATIONS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IT IS STILL NOT ENOUGH.

"I URGE THE WIDER BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO JOIN US IN THAT COMMITMENT," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HONG KONG TO REMAIN A KEY PLAYER IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING ARENA WAS THE ABILITY TO STAY IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED TRADING METHODS AND PRACTICES.

HE SAID EDI WAS HAPPENING AND IT WAS ALREADY HAPPENING IN A BIG WAY IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS.

"ITS IMPACT ON HONG KONG IS BEGINNING TO BE FELT. IF WE WAIT UNTIL OUR TRADING PARTNERS DEMAND EDI, IT WILL BE TOO LATE," HE SAID.

/MR CHAN

MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS TO ENSURE THAT EDI WAS DEVELOPED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WERE BEST SERVED, AND THAT ALL THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE MUST BE MEASURED AGAINST THIS BEFORE THE FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN.

"WE BELIEVE THAT A SUITABLE WAY TO BRING ABOUT A COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI SERVICE IN HONG KONG IS TO BEGIN BY APPLYING EDI TO A RANGE OF KEY GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS.

"THROUGH SPEDI (SHARED PROJECT FOR EDI), WE AIM TO IDENTIFY AN INITIAL PACKAGE OF SERVICES THAT OFFERS SUFFICIENT ATTRACTION FOR ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THEM TO ADOPT EDI.

"THIS, IN TURN, SHOULD SERVE TO STIMULATE THE DESIRE AND MOTIVATION TO EXTEND EDI TO THE OTHER TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE TRADE CYCLE, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

"I MUST STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS INITIAL FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS MUST NOT STOP THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM LOOKING AT ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS IN PARALLEL," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID TO IMPLEMENT EDI SUCCESSFULLY ON A COUNTRY-WIDE BASIS SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT EDI WAS AND HOW IT COULD BE USED AS A BUSINESS TOOL.

IT SHOULD NO LONGER BE CONCEIVED AS SIMPLY REMOVING THE NEED TO CONVEY INFORMATION ON PAPER.

"TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE, ORGANISATIONS MUST EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EDI CAN OFFER. THIS PROCESS, UNFORTUNATELY, TAKES TIME AND UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR AN ONGOING EDUCATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MUST ALSO AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES HOW TO AUTOMATE INFORMATION ACROSS ORGANISATIONAL BOUNDARIES, MR CHAN SAID.

"IMPLICIT IN THIS IS THE NEED FOR THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED TO AGREE ON WHAT ITEMS OF INFORMATION ARE NEEDED, WHEN THEY ARE REQUIRED, HOW INFORMATION SHOULD BE EXCHANGED AND WHAT RULES SHOULD GOVERN SUCH EXCHANGES," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID A WAY HAD TO BE FOUND TO ENABLE ALL ORGANISATIONS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF SOPHISTICATION IN THE USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO MOVE TOWARDS THIS NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.

"ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE MAJOR ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE EXTENSIVELY COMPUTERISED AND ARE ALREADY IMPLEMENTING EDI WITH SELECTED PARTNERS EITHER LOCALLY OR OVERSEAS.

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"ON THE OTHER, HONG KONG HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF SMALL-TO-MEDIUM SIZED TRADERS AND MANUFACTURERS. A GREAT MANY OF THEM EMPLOY FEWER THAN 10 PEOPLE," HE SAID.

TO THEM, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MEANT A TELEPHONE, A PAGER AND PROBABLY A FAX.

"FOR A COMMUNITY-WIDE EDI SERVICE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE NEEDS OF BOTH LARGE AND SMALL COMPANIES MUST BE MET," HE SAID.

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PRIVATISATION OF GOVT ROAD TUNNEL MANAGEMENT

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE PRIVATISATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS UNDER A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT.

AS A FIRST STEP, THE MANAGEMENT OF ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE TUNNEL'S ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PRIVATISED FROM APRIL OR MAY NEXT YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) EXPLAINED THAT TO PRIVATISE THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE TUNNELS WAS TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS WITHOUT INCREASING GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURE.

AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT OWNS AND MANAGES FOUR ROAD TUNNELS, NAMELY THE LION ROCK, ABERDEEN, AIRPORT AND SHING MUN TUNNELS, WHILE A FIFTH TUNNEL, THE TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL, IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADVANTAGES OF PRIVATISATION INCLUDED GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE TUNNEL OPERATOR TO ACQUIRE AND DEPLOY RESOURCES TO MEET CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GREATER PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR MANAGEMENT INCENTIVES AND COMMERCIAL DECISIONS.

PRIVATISATION WOULD ALSO RESULT IN IMPROVED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WOULD PROVIDE FOR MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND CONTROLS OVER THE CONTRACTOR, AND SAFEGUARDS AGAINST BREACH OF CONTRACT. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE LEVEL OF TOLLS AND A GOVERNMENT MONITORING TEAM WOULD BE FORMED TO CHECK THE CONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE.

AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER WOULD BE INVITED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR TO SELECT THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER CAN START MANAGING ABERDEEN TUNNEL FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES WILL CONSULT THE STAFF FULLY ON FUTURE STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS.

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DEMAND FOR MORE CHINESE-MEDIUM TEXTBOOKS EXPECTED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD NOTED A PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE (CTC) TO BE EXTENDED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 4 DUE TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR IS LIKELY TO CONTAIN PROPOSALS ON LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION WHICH, IF APPROVED, WILL GENERATE A DEMAND FOR MORE CHINESE-MEDIUM BOOKS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF TWO TASKS WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ENGAGED IN.

"THE OTHER IS THE NEED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TEACHING AND REFERENCE MATERIALS IN CHINESE FOR THE NEW ADVANCED SUPPLEMENTARY-LEVEL COURSES, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE SECONDARY 6 CURRICULUM IN 1992, WITH THE FIRST EXAMINATIONS PLANNED FOR 1994," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN A REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON ITS WORK OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE CTC SAID IT HAD RECOMMENDED, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADMINISTERED IN TWO PHASES, A \$10.8 MILLION INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME. THIS OFFERED FINANCIAL AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLISHERS WILLING TO PUBLISH CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR SELECTED SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY GRAMMAR, PREVOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

IT HAD ALSO PRODUCED AND ISSUED TO SCHOOLS IN MARCH THIS YEAR A LIST OF CHINESE-MEDIUM MATERIALS FOR ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN MAY 1986 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR SZETO WAH, HAD FULFILLED ITS INITIAL TASK OF ASSURING THAT GOOD QUALITY CHINESE-MEDIUM TEXTBOOKS WERE AVAILABLE BY THE 1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR.

"BECAUSE RECENT AND IMPENDING CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY REQUIRE CONTINUED ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING MATERIALS IN CHINESE, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN RE-APPOINTED UNTIL 1992," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL BE CONSULTED IF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD INDICATE THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT BODY TO ADVISE ON CHINESE-MEDIUM TEXTBOOKS."

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990
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THE VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED ON THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE GENERALLY IN FAVOUR OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS STATED IN THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

DISCUSSION AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) CENTRED ON THE AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COMMITTEE WAS TOLD THAT LACK OF STATUTORY CONTROL ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS HAS BECOME A PROBLEM IN RECENT YEARS.

CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO OPEN STORAGE AND ALLIED USES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A HAPHAZARD AND DISORDERLY MANNER, CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, AND IN MANY CASES RESULTING IN INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES SUCH AS CAR DUMPS, CONTAINER STORAGE AND VEHICLE PARKS.

TO CONTROL THE PROLIFERATION OF THESE UNPLANNED URBAN ACTIVITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS, THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS INTRODUCED:

- * TO EXTEND THE JURISDICTION OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE TO COVER THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES SO AS TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY PLANNING FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE AND CONTROL PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS;
- * TO EMPOWER THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TO PREPARE PLANS TO DESIGNATE ANY AREAS AS A "DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA)", WITHIN WHICH PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR ANY PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED; AND
- * TO PROVIDE FOR MEANS OF ENFORCEMENT AGAINST UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE DPA.

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS CONSIDERED THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL WILL ALLOW A LONG OVERDUE START TO BE MADE TO PROPER LAND USE PLANNING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BY INSTITUTING LAND USE CONTROL IN THOSE RURAL AREAS NOT WITHIN COUNTRY PARKS.

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FEWER KILLED IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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THE NUMBER OF WORKERS KILLED IN MOST INDUSTRIES DROPPED IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, DESPITE A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE OVERALL ACCIDENT RATE.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY), A TOTAL OF 19,319 ACCIDENTS WITH 33 FATALITIES WERE REPORTED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE THIS YEAR.

"COMPARED WITH 18,664 ACCIDENTS AND 45 FATALITIES RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THESE REPRESENT A FOUR PER CENT INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS AND A 26 PER CENT DROP IN THE DEATH RATE," A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE GREATEST INCREASE WAS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHICH HAD GONE UP BY SIX PER CENT TO 9,226 ACCIDENTS, FOLLOWED BY A FOUR PER CENT INCREASE TO 1,884 ACCIDENTS IN THE MINING, QUARRYING, UTILITIES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICING INDUSTRIES.

"THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, WHICH REPORTED 8,209 ACCIDENTS, ONLY REGISTERED A ONE PER CENT MARGINAL INCREASE OVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS LAST YEAR."

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT FATALITY RATES DROPPED IN ALL THREE INDUSTRIES DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, FROM 31 TO 25 CASES FOR CONSTRUCTION, NINE TO SIX CASES FOR MINING, QUARRYING, UTILITIES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICING AND FIVE TO TWO CASES FOR MANUFACTURING.

IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE GREATEST INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS WAS IN THE SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIRING INDUSTRY, FROM 298 TO 369, WHILE A NOTED DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND PLASTICS INDUSTRIES, DOWN RESPECTIVELY FROM 1,350 TO 1,218 CASES AND FROM 532 TO 484 CASES.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE MAJOR CAUSES OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

"THEY INCLUDE STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS (6,261 CASES), MANUAL LIFTING OF GOODS (3,302 CASES), MACHINERY (3,127 CASES), FALL OF PERSONS (2,146 CASES), HAND TOOLS (1,264 CASES) AND FALLING OBJECTS (1,167 CASES).

"THE REST RELATED TO TRANSPORT, HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES, EXPLOSION OR FIRE, ELECTRICITY AND OTHERS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT OF THE 33 WORKERS KILLED, 25 WERE EMPLOYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, INCLUDING NINE KILLED IN FALLS FROM HEIGHTS, SEVEN BY MACHINERY, SIX BY FALLING OBJECTS AND ONE EACH BY COLLAPSED SOIL, GAS POISONING OR OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES, AND STEPPING ON OR STRIKING AGAINST OBJECTS.

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DEATHS IN THE MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES WERE CAUSED BY MACHINERY (THREE CASES), TRANSPORT (TWO CASES), ELECTRICITY (ONE CASE), HOT OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES (ONE CASE) AND GAS POISONING OR OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES (ONE CASE).

"MANY OF THESE TRAGIC ACCIDENTS COULD IN FACT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF BOTH THE PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS HAD TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY SAFETY MEASURES," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

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SAFETY EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION AT KOWLOON PARK
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A TWO-DAY EXHIBITION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DRIVE HOME THE MESSAGE OF USING SUITABLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AT WORK.

THE "EXHIBITION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT '90", TO BE HELD AT THE PIAZZA OF KOWLOON PARK IN TSIM SHA TSUI, WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM.

A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE NATIONAL STANDARDS WILL BE DISPLAYED. THESE INCLUDE SAFETY HELMET, EAR MUFFS, RESPIRATOR, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, SAFETY BELT, FACE SHIELD, FIRST AID EQUIPMENT, SOUND LEVEL METER AND GAS DETECTION EQUIPMENT.

A PENETRATION TEST ON SAFETY HELMET WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE EXHIBITION BY THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPACT OF A FALLING OBJECT ON SAFETY HELMETS OF DIFFERENT STANDARDS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL ALSO DISPLAY ILLUSTRATED MATERIALS EXPLAINING THE USE OF SUITABLE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHEN HANDLING ASBESTOS AND CHEMICALS AS WELL AS WORKING AT HEIGHT OR IN A NOISY ENVIRONMENT.

OFFICIATING AT THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING TOMORROW WILL BE THE CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP YUK-LUN; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL; MR K.Y. TONGSON; HEAD OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC'S INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, MR DEREK LINDSAY; CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION, MR POON TO-CHUEN; AND CHIEF RESEARCH AND TESTING OFFICER OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, MRS CONNIE WONG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "EXHIBITION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT '90" AT THE PIAZZA OF THE KOWLOON PARK, TSIM SHA TSUI AT 11 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY). ENTRANCE TO THE PIAZZA IS NEXT TO YUE HWA CHINESE PRODUCTS EMPORIUM LIMITED, PARK LANE SHOPPER'S BOULEVARD, NATHAN ROAD.

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FESTIVAL HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON OCTOBER 4 THIS YEAR, IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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MORE THAN 1,000 STREET SLEEPERS ON REGISTER

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THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 1,009 STREET SLEEPERS WHO REMAIN ON THE STREET SLEEPERS REGISTER, ACCORDING TO AN ANNUAL SURVEY OF STREET SLEEPERS CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE FIGURE, WHEN COMPARED WITH 1,343 IN 1988 AND 1,133 IN 1989, INDICATED A GRADUAL DECREASE IN NUMBER.

"SUCH A DECREASE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE JOINT EFFORT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE REHABILITATION OF STREET SLEEPERS," HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES TO STREET SLEEPERS. THESE INCLUDE FINANCIAL AID, ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE, COUNSELLING SERVICES, REFERRALS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, DRUG WITHDRAWAL SERVICE, APPLICATION FOR IDENTITY DOCUMENT AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

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"MANY OF THEM DO NOT SHOW ANY INTEREST IN RECEIVING WELFARE SERVICES," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THERE WERE 979 CASES OF STREET SLEEPERS DECLINING OFFERS OF ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT BE IN THE FORM OF COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING, TEMPORARY SHELTER, PRIVATE TENEMENT, HOME/HOSTEL FOR THE AGED AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

"AT PRESENT, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 1,071 PLACES IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS/HOSTELS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"OF THESE, 1,031 ARE BEING PROVIDED IN 17 SHELTERS OR HOSTELS OPERATED BY SIX VOLUNTARY AGENCIES -- CARITAS HONG KONG, STREET SLEEPERS SHELTERS SOCIETY TRUSTEE INCORPORATED, MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY, SALVATION ARMY, STREET SLEEPERS ACTION COMMITTEE AND HELPING HAND.

"THE REMAINING 40 PLACES ARE PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT ITS ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE."

MEANWHILE, REFERRING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT A POLICE RAID AT A YAU MA TEI STREET SLEEPERS SHELTER RESULTED IN MORE THAN 20 PEOPLE QUESTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH DANGEROUS DRUGS ACTIVITIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SHELTER IN QUESTION WAS NOT OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT NOR BY AN ORGANISATION RECEIVING SUBVENTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

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TOPPING OUT OF AMS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

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THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES, WHICH WILL CELEBRATE ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WILL SOON HAVE ITS OWN HOME - AN EIGHT-STORY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, AND THE COMMISSIONER OF AMS, DR S.H. LEE, TODAY (THURSDAY) JOINTLY OFFICIATED AT THE BUILDING'S TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY.

THE \$50 MILLION BUILDING WITH STANDARD LECTURE ROOMS, SIMULATED WARDS, SYNDICATE ROOMS, COVERED PARADE GROUND FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE READY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, MR ASPREY DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMS.

SINCE THE FORMATION OF AMS IN 1950, THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS HAD INCREASED FROM 2,000 TO OVER 5,000, HE NOTED.

"THE AMS CONTINUES TO HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN SUPPLEMENTING THE REGULAR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AT TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES. BUT IT HAS ALSO TAKEN A MUCH WIDER ROLE OVER THE YEARS," HE SAID.

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THE AMS NOW PROVIDES REGULAR FIRST AID COVERAGE AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND DURING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS AT BEACHES AND IN THE COUNTRY PARKS. IN ADDITION, IT STAFFS THE METHADONE CLINICS AND PROVIDES MEDICAL SERVICES TO VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE.

MR ASPREY THANKED ALL AMS VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY. HE ALSO THANKED THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO RELEASE THEIR STAFF FOR THESE IMPORTANT DUTIES.

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REMINDER FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1947-50
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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN IN 1947, 1948, 1949 AND 1950 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE OCTOBER 20.

"TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, WOMEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO REPLACE THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM, MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

ALL OFFICES CLOSE ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

APPLICANTS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICES OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI
TEL. NO. 574 7070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK
TEL. NO. 755 3669

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI
TEL. NO. 723 2424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET
TEL. NO. 498 0117

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SHA TIN : SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR, CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE,
11-17, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET
TEL. NO. 605 9108

YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD
TEL. NO. 477 1543

TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHI LOK FA YUEN
TEL. NO. 458 0646

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR,
82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI
TEL. NO. 672 7191

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE 24-HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE SERVICE BY
DIALLING 824 0303 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT DETAILS OF THE DOCUMENTS TO BRING
ALONG.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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SEMINAR ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT FOR STUDENTS
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SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND A SEMINAR ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY
(SEPTEMBER 29) AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL.

THE SEMINAR, WHICH BEGINS AT 2 PM, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE
DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADMASTERS
CONFERENCE, AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD. ADMISSION IS FREE.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR ANDREW
WONG, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR MR PANG HOK-TUEN, AND NORTH DISTRICT BOARD
CHAIRMAN, MR PANG HANG-YIN.

THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM HUI, WILL BE THE
OFFICIATING GUEST.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 29) AT
THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL IN LUNG SUM AVENUE, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW
TERRITORIES.

THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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SWIMMING GALA FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS

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PEOPLE WHO LIVE, STUDY OR WORK IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA NEXT MONTH.

THE GALA, A MAJOR EVENT OF THE DISTRICT'S SPORTS FESTIVAL, WILL BE HELD FROM NOON TO 6 PM ON OCTOBER 21 AT THE KENNEDY TOWN SWIMMING POOL. THERE WILL BE 43 EVENTS FOR MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN SIX GROUPS.

TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNERS IN EACH EVENT.

THE FUNCTION HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, URBAN COUNCIL, THE DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE DISTRICT BOARD, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES.

A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA, WHICH IS OPEN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AGED EIGHT TO 59, HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY POPULAR OVER THE YEARS.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, ITS SUB-OFFICE IN KENNEDY TOWN, AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE, ROOM 1001, UC SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX.

ENROLMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 853 2566.

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BUS PARADE TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY

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MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND A ROAD SAFETY PATROL TEAM WILL TOUR THE EASTERN DISTRICT ON A DECORATED OPEN-TOP BUS ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30) TO REMIND RESIDENTS TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC RULES.

THE GROUP WILL SET OFF AT 2 PM FROM CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, AND WILL HEAD FOR THE SHAU KEI WAN TRAM TERMINUS VIA NEW JADE SHOPPING CENTRE.

FROM THE TERMINUS, THEY WILL MOVE ON TO KORNHILL, NORTH POINT FERRY PIER AND LAI TAK TSUEN IN CAUSEWAY BAY. PUBLICITY MATERIALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT VARIOUS STOPS ON THE WAY.

LASTING ABOUT THREE HOURS, THE BUS PARADE IS PART OF THE TWO-MONTH ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

/OTHER CAMPAIGN

OTHER CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PUTTING UP ADVISORY SIGNBOARDS IN THE DISTRICT, DISTRIBUTING PUBLICITY STICKERS TO MOTORISTS AND STAGING A ROAD SAFETY CARNIVAL AT VICTORIA PARK ON OCTOBER 7.

OFFICIATING AT THE STARTING CEREMONY OF THE PARADE WILL BE THE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (EASTERN), MISS PANG KEUNG-KUM; CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, MR FU YUEN-CHEUNG; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR MAN SAI-CHEONG AND MR SHUM CHI-KIN.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT ROAD SAFETY BUS PARADE ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 30). THE TOUR WILL START AT 2 PM AT THE CHAI WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 230 CHAI WAN ROAD.

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PREVENT AIDS EXHIBITION IN TSIM SHA TSUI
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A SEVEN-DAY EXHIBITION TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF AIDS WILL BEGIN ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 29) AT THE CONCOURSE OF CHINA HONG KONG CITY AT 33 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS, THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS.

THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE MORE PRONE TO AIDS BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES AND BECAUSE OF THEIR GENERAL NEGLIGENCE TO THE RISK OF INFECTION.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL LEARN ABOUT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS, INCLUDING THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 4, AND FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM ON OCTOBER 5.

MEDICAL STAFF FROM THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE PRESENT AT THE EXHIBITION ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 AND ON OCTOBER 4 AND 5 TO GIVE ADVICE TO AND ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC.

FREE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

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