



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JAPAN TRIP WAS WORTHWHILE: CHIEF SECRETARY

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT HE WAS WELL PLEASED WITH HIS TRIP TO JAPAN WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS VERY WORTHWHILE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE TIMING WAS GOOD IN THAT HAVING JUST HAD THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED, THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN THE AIRPORT AND THE PORT PROJECT."

"WE ALWAYS ASSUME, I THINK, THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR AIRPORT AND OUR PORT, AND ABOUT THE AGREEMENT; AND OF COURSE, THEY HAVE HEARD OF IT, BUT IT'S VERY USEFUL TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN FIRST-HAND WHAT WE ARE DOING," HE SAID.

"ALL THE MEETINGS I HAD WERE VERY USEFUL WITH A VERY WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE. I MET CONTRACTORS; I MET FINANCIAL ADVISERS; I MET BANKERS; PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BIDDING FOR THE FRANCHISES, AND ALL OF THEM EXPRESSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PROJECT NOW GOING AHEAD WITH THE POLITICAL CLOUDS BEING CLEARED AWAY," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID TENDERS FOR THE AIRPORT PLATFORM, WHICH WOULD GO OUT TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR, HAD ALSO LEAD TO INCREASED INTEREST IN THE PROJECT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FUTURE OVERSEAS TRIPS TO EXPLAIN THE NEW AIRPORT AND PORT PROJECTS WERE BEING PLANNED: "WE HAVEN'T SINGLED OUT JAPAN, I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE IMPORTANT THAT WE DO SUCH VISITS ELSEWHERE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, TO EUROPE AND TO THE UNITED STATES."

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD HEARD CRITICISM AND HAD SEEN IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS THAT SEVERAL OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATIONS WERE NOW CONSIDERING BOYCOTTING THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE WAY CONTRACTS WERE LET.

"I CAN ONLY SAY FROM THE JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW; I MET TWO OF THE LEADING CONSORTIA THERE. I ASKED THEM ABOUT THE BRIDGE CONTRACT AND THEY SAID: YES, IT WAS A TOUGH CONTRACT, BUT THEY'VE HAD TOUGH CONTRACTS BEFORE --- FIXED PRICE CONTRACTS, AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T GOING TO DETER THEM FROM BIDDING," HE SAID.

"WE ARE TRYING TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS BY INSURING THAT WITH A FIXED PRICE CONTRACT WE KNOW THE PRICE OF THE BRIDGE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF ITS LIFE.

"WE HAVE SEEN OTHER PROJECTS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE HAD VERY HEAVY OVERRUNS IN COST, AND WE'RE TRYING TO ENSURE, AS FAR AS THE HONG KONG TAXPAYER IS CONCERNED, THAT WE KNOW WHAT THE PRICE OF THE BRIDGE IS GOING TO BE. THAT'S WHY WE'VE GONE FOR THIS FIXED PRICE.

"CLEARLY THERE WILL BE A SMALL PREMIUM THAT WE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT, BUT WE BELIEVE IT'S WORTHWHILE. IT'S NOT ALL THAT UNUSUAL; IT'S DONE QUITE A BIT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

TURNING TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, SIR DAVID SAID THE TURNOUT FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION WAS REASONABLE, ADDING: "ALSO I THINK THIS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTION HAS CREATED MORE INTEREST THAN IT DID IN PREVIOUS YEARS, AND I THINK THAT'S GOOD."

"SOME OF THE CONTESTS WERE VERY CLOSE AND VERY EXCITING; AND I'M SURE THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED WILL MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO LEGCO," HE SAID.

"WHAT I THINK WE NEED TO DO NOW IS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE LEGCO ELECTIONS, THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TOMORROW, AND ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET OUT AND VOTE SO THAT WE GET A REALLY GOOD TURNOUT FOR THOSE," HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON REMARKS BY A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE THAT HE WOULD NOT REPRESENT A CERTAIN SECTOR OF HIS ELECTORATE, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE ARE A FREE TERRITORY AND PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN OPINIONS, AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO COMMENT ON HOW PEOPLE REGARD THEIR OWN CONSTITUENCY. IT'S UP TO THEM TO SORT IT OUT. IT'S NOT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE OR TO COMMENT IN ANY WAY. IT'S A MATTER FOR THEM."

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON WHAT PERCENTAGE TURNOUT WOULD MAKE THE ELECTIONS A SUCCESS, SIR DAVID SAID: "CLEARLY, TURNOUT IS ONE OF THE FACTORS, BUT I ALSO THINK PEOPLE WILL WANT TO SEE HOW THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WORKS; WHETHER IT PRODUCES BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; WHETHER INDEED IT CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, THERE ARE LOTS OF FACTORS, NOT JUST TURNOUT, THAT'S ONE OF THEM BUT THERE ARE OTHERS I THINK TOO."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID PERSONALLY HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE TURNOUT RATE IN TOMORROW'S ELECTION WOULD EXCEED 50 PER CENT.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT ON THE QUESTION OF MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS TO LEGCO THERE WAS A MIXED VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THAT SUBJECT.

"I SAW A SURVEY JUST BEFORE I LEFT CARRIED OUT BY A NEWSPAPER IN HONG KONG, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT 38 PER CENT OF THE COMMUNITY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE PACE OF DEMOCRACY; 34 PER CENT WANTED IT TO BE A BIT FASTER; AND THE REST DIDN'T KNOW, SO THERE IS A DIVIDED VIEW," HE SAID.

"I THINK THAT PEOPLE WILL WANT TO LOOK AT HOW LEGCO OPERATES; WHETHER IT OPERATES IN THE INTERESTS OF EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG; WHETHER IT LEADS TO BETTER GOVERNMENT. OF COURSE, WE'RE ALL HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL AND THAT WE CAN THEN LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WANT MORE DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS.

"BUT I THINK THAT IS NOT A DECISION TO BE MADE, FRANKLY, AFTER TOMORROW OR AFTER A WEEK OR SO. THERE'S GOT TO BE A BIT OF TIME TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT THAT," SIR DAVID SAID.

VOTERS REMINDED TO GO TO POLLING BOOTH TOMORROW

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VOTERS ARE TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED THAT THEY CAN VOTE FOR TWO CANDIDATES IN THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES IN THE FIRST-EVER DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO) STRESSED THAT VOTERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR POLL CARDS CAN STILL CAST THEIR VOTES.

"ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS TO SHOW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, BUT OF COURSE IT IS BETTER TO BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS AS THIS WILL SPEED UP THE VOTING PROCEDURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID OFFICIALS IN POLLING STATIONS WILL CHECK THE IDENTITY OF EACH VOTER AND THEN HAND HIM A BALLOT PAPER.

"ALL HE NEEDS TO DO IS TO PUT AN 'X' IN THE BOX(ES) ADJACENT TO THE NAME(S) OF HIS SELECTED CANDIDATE(S), FOLD UP THE PAPER AND PUT IT IN THE BALLOT BOX," HE SAID.

TOMORROW, 354 POLLING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE OPENED FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED VOTERS WHO FIND THEIR DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS INACCESSIBLE.

"THEY CAN TELEPHONE THE REO'S HOTLINE 827 1122.

"REO OFFICERS WILL TAKE NOTE OF THEIR REQUEST AND FIND AN ALTERNATIVE POLLING STATION WITHIN THE SAME CONSTITUENCY WHICH IS PHYSICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THEM," HE SAID.

FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED OR ILLITERATE VOTERS, OFFICIALS IN POLLING STATIONS WILL HELP THEM MARK THE CROSS(ES) ON THE BALLOT PAPER.

IN THE 1988 LEGCO ELECTIONS, 235 VISUALLY IMPAIRED, 793 PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND 29,538 ILLITERATE VOTERS TURNED UP TO VOTE.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS PROBLEMS IN VOTING OR HAS LOST THIS POLL CARD CAN ALSO TELEPHONE THE HOTLINE.

"AT PRESENT, THE HOTLINE IS MANNED BY FOUR REO OFFICERS DURING OFFICE HOURS. THERE IS TAPE-RECORDING SERVICE TO CATER FOR THOSE WHO CALL AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

"BUT IT WILL BE MANNED BY 12 OFFICERS ON THE ELECTION DAY TOMORROW," HE SAID.

IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE HOTLINE RECEIVED ABOUT 10,000 CALLS DURING THE 15 HOURS OF THE ELECTIONS. IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY, ABOUT 6,000 CALLS WERE RECEIVED.

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BUS TOUR TO SPREAD VOTING MESSAGE
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A DECORATED BUS WILL TOUR THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT TOMORROW (SUNDAY), THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLLING DAY, TO REMIND RESIDENTS TO CAST THEIR VOTES.

THE TOUR, ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL START AT 11.30 AM AFTER A CEREMONY AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 10 PM.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND SOUVENIRS CARRYING THE ELECTION MESSAGE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS DURING THE TOUR.

OFFICIATING AT THE STARTING CEREMONY WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS DONNA WONG; KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; AND KOWLOON CITY POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR TERENCE ORSLER.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE STARTING CEREMONY OF THE KOWLOON CITY LEGCO ELECTIONS BUS PARADE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT 11.30 AM AT THE OI MAN CONCOURSE, OI MAN ESTATE, HO MAN TIN.

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NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO EXTEND OFFICE HOURS
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TO FACILITATE THE RENEWAL OF IDENTITY CARDS FOR JUVENILES BORN IN 1975 OR 1976 WHO ARE HOLDING IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BEFORE JULY 1, 1987, THE CLOSING HOURS OF ALL THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES WILL BE EXTENDED FROM 5 PM TO 6 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, FROM SEPTEMBER 16 TO OCTOBER 19, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ON SATURDAY WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED, THAT IS, FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM.

"THE LONGER HOURS WILL MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUP TO MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"PARENTS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM AND BOOK AN APPOINTMENT IN ADVANCE. THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT ALL THE NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES," HE ADDED.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY DIALING THE ENQUIRY HOTLINES 824 0066 (CHINESE) OR 824 0303 (ENGLISH).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS OCTOBER 19 THIS YEAR.

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ROVING EXHIBITION ON 'TYPHOON' FOR STUDENTS
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A ROVING EXHIBITION ON "TYPHOON" IS ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HOSTED BY A TOTAL OF 38 SECONDARY SCHOOLS, STARTING FROM MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 16) UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER, DURING WHICH MORE THAN 10,000 STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SEE THE EXHIBITS.

TYPHOONS ARE THE MOST INTENSE MEMBER IN THE TROPICAL CYCLONE FAMILY AND ARE THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEATHER SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD.

HIGH WINDS, HEAVY RAIN AND STORM SURGES GENERATED BY TYPHOONS POSE SERIOUS THREATS TO SHIPS AND COASTAL DISTRICTS.

ON THE AVERAGE, THEY PRODUCED FINANCIAL LOSS OF MORE THAN US\$1 BILLION EACH YEAR IN THE PAST SIX YEARS JUST IN THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA REGIONS.

THIS EXHIBITION AIMS TO ENABLE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BETTER APPRECIATE THE STRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT, MOVEMENT AND DEVASTATING FORCE OF TYPHOONS.

IT IS ALSO HOPED TO HELP THEM KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS IN HONG KONG AND THE PRECAUTIONS NEEDED.

COPIES OF A LEAFLET, "HONG KONG TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS", WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE STUDENTS DURING THE EXHIBITION.

AS A CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT WITH THE SCHOOLS, SELECTED STUDENTS FROM EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN DETAILED BRIEFINGS ON THE EXHIBITION SO THAT THEY CAN EXPLAIN IT TO THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS.

QUIZZES WILL ALSO BE HELD IN SCHOOLS TO AROUSE STUDENTS' INTEREST.

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FESTIVAL HOLIDAY REMINDER
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 AN EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

/HOLIDAY PAY

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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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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	13.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	14.9.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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