DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH SPEEDING

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR AMENDING THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH SPEEDING OFFENCES SO THAT OFFENDERS WILL BE DEALT WITH ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM RATHER THAN BY COURT PROCEEDINGS.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1986 HAS PROPOSED THAT THE SECTION IN THE ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY DISQUALIFICATION FOR SPEEDING OFFENCES SHOULD BE REPEALED. NEVERTHELESS, THE COURT WILL RETAIN DISCRETIONARY POWER TO DISQUALIFY ANY DRIVER CONVICTED OF SPEEDING. BUT WHERE DISQUALIFICATION IS ORDERED BY THE COURT IT WILL APPLY TO ALL TYPES OF DRIVING LICENCES HELD BY THE CONVICTED DRIVER.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL OF THE BILL IS TO REPEAL MANDATORY RETESTS AFTER DISQUALIFICATION. HOWEVER, THE COURT WILL HAVE THE DISCRETIONARY POWER TO ORDER A RETEST FOLLOWING DISQUALIFICATION IF IT DOUBTS THE COMPETENCE OF THE CONVICTED DRIVER.

AT PRESENT, A SPEEDING DRIVER MAY EITHER BE DEALT WITH BY THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM OR PROSECUTED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE WHICH STIPULATES THAT THREE SPEEDING CONVICTIONS OF WHICH THE LAST TWO WERE WITHIN THREE YEARS OF EACH OTHER WILL RESULT IN MANDATORY DISQUALIFICATION FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS.

THE ORDINANCE STIPULATES MANDATORY RETEST ORDERS FOR DRIVERS DISQUALIFIED FOR SIX MONTHS OR MORE.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT AN ESCALATING DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS SYSTEM FOR SPEEDING OFFENCES.

UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, A DRIVER WILL INCUR THREE POINTS FOR EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT BY MORE THAN 15 KILOMETRES PER HOUR, FIVE POINTS FOR EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT BY MORE THAN 30 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND EIGHT POINTS FOR EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT BY 45 KILOMETRES PER HOUR. HOWEVER, THE FIXED PENALTY IS THE SAME AS THAT WHICH EXISTS - $200.

AT PRESENT, A DRIVER CAUGHT EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT BY 15 KILOMETRES PER HOUR INCURS THREE DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS. ANYONE WHO HAS ACCUMULATED 15 OR MORE POINTS IN TWO YEARS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING OR OBTAINING A DRIVING LICENCE.

/THE AMENDMENT .....

THE AMENDMENT BILL ALSO PROPOSES THAT A DRIVER WHO HAS INCURRED EIGHT DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS OR MORE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT OF HIS RECORD OF POINTS AND THE CONSEQUENCES. THE EXISTING PRACTICE IS THAT A DRIVER IS ONLY INFORMED WHEN HE HAS INCURRED 10 POINTS OR MORE.

+THE EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT BILLS IS THAT DISQUALIFICATION FOR SPEEDING WILL NOW NORMALLY BE APPLIED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) ORDINANCE, PERMITTING THE USE OF THE FIXED PENALTY SYSTEM IN ALMOST ALL BUT THE MORE SERIOUS CASES WHILE MANDATORY RETESTS WILL CEASE TO EXIST,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

+THE NEW SYSTEM ENSURES THAT EXCESSIVE AND PERSISTENT OFFENDERS WILL PROCEED RAPIDLY TO DISQUALIFICATION WHEN 15 OR MORE POINTS ARE INCURRED IN TWO YEARS. BUT IN CASE OF VERY SERIOUS SPEEDING, THE SUMMONS PROCEDURE UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED,+ HE ADDED.

THE BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 25 AND THE RESUMED DEBATE ON JULY 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SENT TO UMELCO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, 8 JACKSON ROAD, OR TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AT ST. JOHN'S BUILDING, EIGHTH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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TRANSPORT, RELATED SERVICES SURVEY RESULTS OUT

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THERE WERE 34 479 TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION DURING THE WHOLE OR PART OF 1984, ENGAGING 130 337 PERSONS, ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE 1984 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1983, THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND OF PERSONS ENGAGED INCREASED BY TWO PER CENT AND ONE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IN 1984, THESE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED $53 354 MILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME; AND SPENT $6 254 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND $41 422 MILLION ON OPERATING EXPENSES.

/THEIR GROSS .....

THEIR GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS (BEING ACQUISITION OF FIXED ASSETS LESS PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF FIXED ASSETS) WERE $5 005 MILLION.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1983, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT; COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES BY 11 PER CENT; AND OPERATING EXPENSES BY 25 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS DECREASED BY 18 PER CENT.

THE SECTOR'S VALUE ADDED (REPRESENTING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT) GREW BY 13 PER CENT TO $13 103 MILLION IN 1984, FROM $11 634 MILLION IN 1983.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRANSPORT GROUP, THE SURVEY REVEALED THAT IN 1984, +SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT+ ENJOYED THE LARGEST SHARE OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AT $21 519 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT OF THE SECTOR TOTAL.

+OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT+ ACCOUNTED FOR ANOTHER 23 PER CENT; +AIR TRANSPORT+ TOOK UP 15 PER CENT; +LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT+ 11 PER CENT; +LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT+ FIVE PER CENT; +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT+ THREE PER CENT; +INLAND WATER TRANSPORT+ TWO PER CENT; AND +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT+ ONE PER CENT.

+LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT+ CONTRIBUTED 29 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THE SECTOR. THE SECTOR'S REMAINING CONTRIBUTION WAS ACCOUNTED FOR BY +OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT+ (22 PER CENT); +AIR TRANSPORT+ (15 PER CENT); +LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT+ (11 PER CENT); +SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT+ (11 PER CENT); +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT+ (5 PER CENT); +INLAND WATER TRANSPORT+ (4 PER CENT); AND +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT+ (2 PER CENT).

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1983, +SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT+ SHOWED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME (33 PER CENT); FOLLOWED BY +AIR TRANSPORT+ (29 PER CENT); +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT+ (23 PER CENT); +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT+ (21 PER CENT); +OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT+ (18 PER CENT); +LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT+ (17 PER CENT); AND +INLAND WATER TRANSPORT+ (13 PER CENT). +LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT+, HOWEVER, REGISTERED A DECREASE OF FIVE PER CENT.

/IN TERMS .....

IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED, +OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT+ RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE OVER 1983 (27 PER CENT) FOLLOWED BY +LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT+ (18 PER CENT) +INLAND WATER TRANSPORT+ (11 PER CENT) +SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT+ (11 PER CENT) +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT+ (6 PER CENT) +AIR TRANSPORT+ (6 PER CENT) AND +SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT+ (2 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, +LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT+ SHOWED A DECREASE OF SIX PER CENT.

A TABLE COMPARING SOME OF THE SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS BY MAJOR TRANSPORT GROUP FOR 1983 AND 1984 WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE NETWORK AND BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

THE 1984 SURVEY WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF ANNUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR AND UPDATING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF HONG KONG.

DATA COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDED TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES, OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, TOGETHER WITH ANALYTICAL TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR GROUP AND ANALYSED BY VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, ARE INCLUDED IN THE STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED +1984 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES+.

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE SOON AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE= AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, KAI TAK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 317 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT WILL BE USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY FORMULATION, AND TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, AND MARKET RESEARCH.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TEL. 3-661045.

/COMPARISON OF .....

COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1983 AND 1984

MAJOR GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISH-MENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSA-TION OF EMPLOYEES	OPERATING EXPENSES	BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	VALUE ADDED
					$ Mn.	$ Mn.	$ Mn.	$ Mn.	$ Mn.
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1983	18 013	47 396	29 723	1 528	2 912	5 056	7 238	3 230
	1984	19 902	49 481	29 241	1 683	3 227	5 894	4 268	3 808
	% change	+10	+4	-2	+10	+11	+17	-41	+18
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1983	11 948	26 689	14 985	497	1 413	2 592	152	1 494
	1984	10 837	23 300	12 217	466	1 340	2 453	146	1 405
	% change	-9	-13	-18	-6	-5	-5	-4	-6
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1983	49	675	654	31	70	381	5	306
	1984	102	1 019	969	43	148	467	21	314
	% change	+108	+51	+48	+37	+112	+23	+317	+2
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1983	421	15 655	15 626	1 236	8 239	10 494	146	2 304
	1984	410	15 210	15 167	1 332	9 503	12 347	284	2 923
	% change	-3	-3	-3	+8	+15	+18	+94	+27
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1983	789	7 093	5 617	248	536	967	104	470
	1984	718	6 454	5 354	266	638	1 097	140	523
	% change	-9	-9	-5	+7	+19	+13	+34	+11
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1983	683	5 026	4 498	222	797	1 273	156	652
	1984	626	5 392	4 842	260	1 015	1 534	265	688
	% change	-8	+7	+8	+17	+27	+21	+70	+6
AIR TRANSPORT	1983	46	8 441	8 441	1 051	4 231	6 227	-1 847	1 891
	1984	47	8 905	8 905	1 249	5 624	8 043	-318	2 013
	% change	+2	+5	+5	+19	+33	+29	-83	+6
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1983	1 787	18 703	17 934	807	14 897	16 207	160	1 288
	1984	1 838	20 577	19 820	954	19 928	21 519	199	1 430
	% change	+3	+10	+11	+18	+34	+33	+24	+11
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1983	33 736	129 678	97 478	5 620	33 095	43 198	6 114	11 634
	1984	34 479	130 337	96 516	6 254	41 422	53 354	5 005	13 103
	% change	+2	+1	-1	+11	+25	+24	-18	+13
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES	1983	3	1 276	1 276	125	288	965	54	730
	1984	3	1 156	1 156	148	243	1 021	78	735
	% change	0	-9	-9	+18	-16	+6	+44	+1

Notes : (1) Individual items may not add up to total due to rounding.

(2) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's gross domestic product. It is derived by subtracting the operating expenses (adjusted for interest payments and payments to outworkers) from the value of business receipts and other income. The exact definition can be found in the survey report.

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WOMEN CAN PLAY ROLE IN BETTER SOCIETY

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WOMEN MUST ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT SO THAT THEY CAN DEPLOY THESE RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT, SHE SAID WOMEN COULD ALSO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURS THROUGH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL AID.

THERE HAD BEEN INCIDENTS OF CHILDREN FALLING FROM HEIGHTS OR BECOMING INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS WHILE BEING LEFT ALONE AT HOME BY THEIR PARENTS WHO HAD TO GO OUT OR TO WORK.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT PARENTS SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SAFETY OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND AT NO TIME SHOULD THEY ALLOW CHILDREN TO STAY AT HOME UNATTENDED.

TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS, APPROPRIATE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF NEIGHBOURS COULD BE MADE WHEN PARENTS HAD TO LEAVE HOME FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME.

+UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YIN NGAI SOCIETIES, INDIVIDUAL HOUSING ESTATES CAN SET UP MUTUAL HELP PROJECTS IN WHICH WOMEN CAN TAKE TURNS TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER'S CHILDREN SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE SOME SPARE TIME TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL AFFAIRS.

+THIS TYPE OF MUTUAL HELP PROJECTS WILL CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME ALLEVIATE TEMPORARILY THE PRESSURE OF LONG-TERM CHILD MINDING,+ MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE YIN NGAI SOCIETIES COULD SET UP HOME VISIT TEAMS TO CALL ON WOMEN IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

BUT IF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THESE WOMEN WERE TOO COMPLEX, THE SOCIETIES COULD REFER THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING.

ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MRS CHAN SUGGESTED YIN NGAI SOCIETIES COULD VISIT THE AGED LIVING BY THEMSELVES OR IN SHARED FLATS, AND OFFER SERVICES SUCH AS SHOPPING AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO JOIN SOCIAL CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY.

AT PRESENT THERE WERE FOUR YIN NGAI SOCIETIES IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT WITH MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 700.

YIN NGAI SOCIETIES WERE STARTED IN 1981 IN NEW TOWNS TO ENABLE HOUSEWIVES TO DEVELOP THEIR PERSONAL POTENTIAL AND SELF-CONFIDENCE.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE SOCIETIES INCLUDED SEMINARS ON HEALTH AND INTEREST, CAMPING AND PICNICS.

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FARMERS GET U.S. FARMING STUDY CHANCE

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FIFTEEN FARMERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY MODERN TECHNIQUES IN CROP FARMING, PEST CONTROL, MARKETING AND FARM MACHINERIES IN THE UNITED STATES THIS MONTH.

THE GROUP WILL LEAVE ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7) FOR CALIFORNIA ON A NINE-DAY STUDY TOUR ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE STUDY GROUP WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, MR C.W. FONG, WHO WILL ACT AS THE TEAM'S LIAISON OFFICER.

TO MARK THE GROUP'S DEPARTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, PRESENTED A BANNER TO TEAM LEADER, MR NG YIU-TING, AT A CEREMONY THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

DR LEE SAID THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THESE STUDY TOURS, THE NINTH SINCE 1977, WERE TO ENABLE LOCAL FARMERS TO INCREASE FARMING KNOWLEDGE, TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH ADVANCED VEGETABLE CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES, AND TO LEARN THE MARKETING PRACTICES OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS ELSEWHERE.

+THE TOURS ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF FARMING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS FARMERS.+

DR LEE SAID THAT TOURS HAD SO FAR BEEN ORGANISED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, HOLLAND, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

+THESE TOURS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPATING FARMERS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AS THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THEM. THEY HAVE BROUGHT BACK USEFUL TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW WHICH THEY HAVE SHARED WITH LOCAL FARMERS,+ HE SAID.

DR LEE NOTED THAT MORE AND MORE FARMERS OF YOUNGER AGE WERE TAKING PART IN SUCH STUDY TOURS. +THIS IS INDEED AN ENCOURAGING SIGN,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THE TOUR WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE, ACTIVATE THEIR INTEREST AND POTENTIALS IN AGRICULTURE AND ON THEIR RETURN, JOIN OTHERS IN DEVELOPING THE LOCAL FARMING INDUSTRY.

WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE TEAM WILL MEET U.S. OFFICIALS WHO WILL BRIEF THEM ON AGRICULTURE AND TAKE THEM ON VISITS TO RESEARCH CENTRES, VEGETABLE FARMS AND WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THEY WILL ALSO TOUR A LARGE FARMING MACHINERY COMPANY AND SEE THE LATEST TECHNIQUES IN PLANTING, PEST CONTROL AND HARVESTING AS WELL AS THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF SEEDS.

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CALL FOR MORE FRENCH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HK

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED MORE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

MAKING THE APPEAL AT A SEMINAR IN LYON ORGANISED BY BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS AND THE LYON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR EASON SAID THERE HAD ONLY BEEN VERY LIMITED FRENCH INTERESTS SO FAR IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

+APART FROM ONE WHOLLY-OWNED GARMENT FACTORY AND A 50 PER CENT SHARE IN THE HONG KONG OXYGEN COMPANY, IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE ONLY SMALL SHARES IN TWO OR THREE OTHER COMPANIES.

+IT IS NOTABLE, HOWEVER, THAT FRANCE IS WELL REPRESENTED IN TRADE, CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.+

MR EASON SAID HE HOPED THAT RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MANUFACTURERS IN FRANCE WOULD LEAD TO ENTERPRISES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT.

AFTER POINTING OUT ALL THE FAVOURABLE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENTS IN HONG KONG, MR EASON SAID: +IN A WORD, HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE EASIEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO SET UP AND RUN A BUSINESS.

+IN ADDITION TO THESE LOCAL FACTORS, REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S ATTRACTION AS A MANUFACTURING AND BUSINESS LOCATION.

+HONG KONG IS AT THE CENTRE OF THE FASTEST GROWTH REGION ON EARTH. IT IS UNIQUELY SITUATED TO SERVE BOTH THE REGION AND CHINA, IN A WAY THAT NOWHERE IS,+ MR EASON SAID.

DURING THE YEARS 1970 TO 1982 AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP GROWTH WAS 3 PER CENT IN THE INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES, 3 PER CENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, 4 PER CENT IN SOUTH ASIA, AND 5 PER CENT IN LATIN AMERICA.

IN EAST ASIA, INCLUDING HONG KONG, INDONESIA, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND THE RATE WAS 8 PER CENT.

+THIS TREND SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND, IF ANY THING, TO BECOME MORE PRONOUNCED, PARTICULARLY AS CHINA REACHES FOR HER STATED DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

+THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE REGION AND HONG KONG AT ITS CENTRE HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECOGNISED BY MANY IN THE TRADING WORLD.

+MANY OVERSEAS COMPANIES OF MAJOR STATES AND REPUTE ARE NOW MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG. ALL HAVE SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS AND MANY OF THEM ARE EXPANDING,+ MR EASON SAID.

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PROPERTY OWNERS GIVEN REMINDER ON TAX RETURNS

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PROPERTY OWNERS WHO HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH A PROPERTY TAX RETURN WERE REMINDED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THEY MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE PROPERTY TAX RETURN FOR 1985-86 TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 15.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THOSE WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A RETURN WOULD BE LIABLE TO HEAVY PENALTIES UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

HE ADVISED PROPERTY OWNERS TO READ THE EXPLANATORY NOTES (WHICH WERE ENCLOSED WITH THE RETURN) CAREFULLY BEFORE THEY FILLED IN THE FORMS.

+ANYONE WHO HAS DIFFICULTY IN COMPLETING THE FORM CAN EITHER TELEPHONE THE ASSESSOR (THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS SHOWN IN THE RETURN) OR CALL AT THE PROPERTY TAX SECTION, WINDSOR HOUSE, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG FOR INFORMATION.+

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED PROPERTY OWNERS WHO ARE CHARGEABLE TO PROPERTY TAX THAT WHEN THERE WAS A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP, WHETHER BY SALE OR TRANSFER, THE VENDOR OR TRANSFEROR MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT IN WRITING WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE TRANSACTION.

+OWNERS WHO HAVE OCCUPIED PREMISES SOLELY FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES AND HAVE BEEN EXEMPTED FROM THE CHARGE TO PROPERTY TAX SHOULD ALSO INFORM US IN WRITING IF THEY CEASE TO OCCUPY THESE PREMISES EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUCH PURPOSES,+ HE ADDED.

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APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE TO AMEND MILK BY-LAWS

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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE TODAY APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE AMEND THE MILK (URBAN COUNCIL) BY-LAWS FOR FURTHER PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE INTENTION IS TO INTRODUCE STATUTORY CONTROL ON THE SALE OF IMPORTED MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES BY REQUIRING THEIR SOURCES OF MANUFACTURE TO BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

IT IS ALSO INTENDED TO EXTEND THE EXISTING STATUTORY BACTERIOLOGICAL STANDARD FOR MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES TREATED BY ULTRA HIGH TEMPERATURE (UHT) METHOD TO COVER ALL STERILISED MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES AS WELL.

/AT TODAY'S .....

AT TODAY'S MEETING, CHAIRED BY MISS CECILIA YEUNG, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE EXISTING BY-LAWS ALREADY PROVIDED ADEQUATE CONTROL ON THE SALE OF UHT MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES PRODUCED LOCALLY.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO PARALLEL CONTROL OF SUCH PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH AS A SAFETY MEASURE TO PROTECT CONSUMERS, THE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL BY REQUIRING IMPORTERS TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO IMPORTATION.

HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC STATUTORY BACKING, COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS IS ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE IMPORTERS.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE CONTROL ON IMPORTED MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES IN THIS RESPECT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

FOR CONTROL OF MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTENT OF HEAT-TREATED MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES FOR SALE, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT STATUTORY BACTERIOGOICAL STANDARDS WERE PRESCRIBED IN EXISTING BY-LAWS.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO STATUTORY BACTERIOGOCIAL STANDARD FOR MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES STERILISED BY OTHER METHODS.

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING POPULARITY OF STERILISED MILK AND MILK BEVERAGES, IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A STATUTORY BACTERIOGOICAL STANDARD FOR THEM.

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TUEN MUN READY FOR DRAGON BOAT RACES

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TUEN MUN WILL CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL ON JUNE 11 WITH A SERIES OF DRAGON BOAT RACES FEATURING MORE THAN 40 TEAMS.

THE DRAGON BOAT RACE COMPETITION, NOW IN ITS 13TH YEAR, WILL BE HELD FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM IN THE CASTLE PEAK BAY TYPHOON SHELTER OFF WU KING ESTATE IN AREA 44.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, AND ALL THE RACES WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE BY TELEVISION BROADCASTS LIMITED.

/THIS YEAR .....

THIS YEAR 47 TEAMS HAVE ENTERED THE COMPETITION: FIVE IN LARGE BOATS, 33 IN MEDIUM BOATS, AND NINE IN PHOENIX BOATS. THE COURSE FOR BOTH LARGE AND MEDIUM BOATS COVERS 400 METRES, AND FOR PHOENIX BOATS IT IS 200 METRES.

THE RACES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED BY THE 1986 TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE AT A COST OF ABOUT $277 000. OF THIS, $55 000 WAS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, AND THE REST WAS SPONSORED BY VARIOUS LOCAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS.

MORE THAN 10 000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO WATCH THE RACES ALONG THE SEASHORE.

BETWEEN 7.30 AM AND 1.30 PM ON THE FESTIVAL DAY, BUS ROUTES 59 AND 61A WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WU KING ROAD AND WU SHAN ROAD. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC GOING TO THE RACES ARE URGED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES 59, 61A AND 59B.

TO MARK THE ENTRY OF FOUR NEW DRAGON BOATS IN THIS YEAR'S RACES, AN EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR PETER NG, AT 11 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 9) AT THE JETTY PIER NEAR WU KING ESTATE.

THE NEW BOATS, INCLUDING ONE LARGE AND THREE MEDIUM DRAGON BOATS, WERE DONATED TO THE RACE COMMITTEE BY SINO LAND COMPANY LIMITED, SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES LIMITED, CHUNG WAH SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED, AND CASTLE PEAK BAY HOP YEE TONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY FOR THE FOUR NEW DRAGON BOATS ON MONDAY AT 11 AM AT THE JETTY PIER IN AREA 44 (NEAR WU KING ESTATE) IN TUEN MUN. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE BY 10.45 AM.

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EARLIER BOAT RACES IN EASTERN DISTRICT

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RESIDENTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT WILL CELEBRATE TUEN NG FESTIVAL EARLIER THAN USUAL WITH DRAGON BOATS RACES IN SHAU KEI WAN ON SUNDAY (JUNE 8) AND IN CHAI WAN ON MONDAY.

THE SHAU KEI WAN FISHERMEN DRAGON BOAT RACES, AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR LOCAL FISHERFOLK, WILL BE HELD AT THE WATER COURSE OUTSIDE THE BREAKWATER OF ALDRICH BAY.

/THE SECRETARY .....

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR ERIC HO, AND THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR KEVIN MAK, WILL BE ON BOARD A FERRY WITH OTHER GUESTS TO WATCH THE RACES.

ON MONDAY, THE CHAI WAN DRAGON BOAT RACES WILL TAKE PLACE FROM NOON TO 4 PM AT THE CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING BASIN AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS.

A TOTAL OF 17 TEAMS OF LARGE BOATS AND 16 TEAMS OF MEDIUM-SIZED BOATS WILL BE COMPETING IN THE DRAGON BOATS RACES TO BE HELD IN SHAU KEI WAN AND CHAI WAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH EVENTS.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR ERIC HO, WILL BE WATCHING THE DRAGON BOAT RACES OUTSIDE THE BREAKWATER OF ALDRICH BAY AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY, WHILE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, WILL BE AT THE CHAI WAN CARGO HANDLING BASIN (NEXT TO THE OLD CHAI WAN FERRY PIER) AT 3 PM ON MONDAY TO PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS.

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DB TO DISCUSS PRIORITY OF WORKS PROJECTS

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SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE FIVE-YEAR URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT.

VIEWS OF MEMBERS WILL BE SOUGHT ON PRIORITY RATINGS ACCORDED TO PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 1986-87 TO 1990-91.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DOCUMENT ON OPTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW AND IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW TO COUNTER THE TRIAD PROBLEM.

SEVERAL REQUESTS WILL ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION, INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, AND TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND STUDENTS.

/A PAPER .....

A PAPER ON THE CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE NAM CHEONG STREET NULLAH DECKING WILL BE TABLED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS. THE DAY FOR THE CLEARANCE IS JULY 6.

SENIOR HOUSING MANAGER (CLEARANCE), MR JACKIE CHAN, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 39 TONKIN STREET, THIRD FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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ICE CREAM VAN'S OPERATIONS SUSPENDED

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THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE OPERATIONS OF A MOBILE VAN SELLING SOFT-ICE CREAM FOLLOWING THE RECENT FOOD-POISONING CASE.

THIS FOLLOWS ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE VAN ON SUNDAY MAY 25 WHEN THE FIRST OF 69 PEOPLE NEEDED TREATMENT AFTER EATING SOFT ICE CREAM PURCHASED FROM A MOBILE VAN NEAR THE STAR FERRY, IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND IN CHAI WAN.

AN URBAN COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY: +HEALTH INSPECTORS OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN TO THE PREMISES CONCERNED TO CHECK ON THE METHODS OF OPERATION EMPLOYED, AND THE INGREDIENTS USED.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN CONSEQUENCE, THE SUPPLY, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF SOFT ICE CREAM FROM THE SUSPECTED VEHICLE WOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS WHILE FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS WERE MADE INTO THE CASE.

THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, MR JOHN HEYWOOD, TODAY REPORTED THIS ACTION TO THE FOOD HYGIENE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, CHAIRED BY MISS CECILIA YEUNG.

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/14 .....

VIEWS EXCHANGED ON MONG KOK TRAFFIC

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SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE KOWLOON REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO GAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ABOUT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI, SAID TRANSPORT MATTERS WERE OF GREAT CONCERN TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AS MONG KOK WAS PLAGUED WITH PROBLEMS CAUSED BY HEAVY TRAFFIC AND ROAD SHORTAGE.

+WE WELCOME A CHANCE FOR DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN TRANSPORT OFFICIALS AND BOARD MEMBERS TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THE OVERALL TRANSPORT POLICY AND MEASURES RATHER THAN GETTING INFORMATION BY PIECEMEAL,+ HE SAID.

+THE BOARD UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT ENTERTAIN ALL PUBLIC REQUESTS= SO IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO KNOW ABOUT RESTRICTIONS IN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND FACILITIES TO MEET DISTRICT NEEDS,+ HE ADDED.

THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD HAS SET UP AN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AND ADVISE ON DISTRICT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS.

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT (KOWLOON), MRS DOROTHY CHAN, BRIEFED MEMBERS ON THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SCHEME IN MONG KOK.

BOARD MEMBERS WERE ALSO TREATED TO A SLIDE SHOW ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EARNEST CHEUNG, AND FOUR CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ALSO WENT ON THE VISIT.

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CLEANER WATER FOR SWIMMERS

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A SEWAGE PUMPING SYSTEM IS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE HAP MUN BAY BEACH BUILDING AT SAI KUNG TO ENSURE WATER IN THE BAY IS NOT POLLUTED.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A $98 000 CONTRACT TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL THE SYSTEM. WORK IS TO START IMMEDIATELY AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE AUGUST.

/CONSTRUCTION OF .....

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BEACH BUILDING STARTED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT MONTH.

IT WILL HAVE CHANGING AND SHOWER FACILITIES, AN OFFICE-CUM-FIRST-AID POST, TOILETS AND A REFRESHMENT KIOSK.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE A LOOKOUT POST, A DEEP-BORE WELL, A WATER TANK AND SIGNAL-FLAG POLE.

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CRACKDOWN ON BEACH LITTERBUGS
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SPECIAL SQUADS OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROSECUTION OFFICERS WILL BE AT REPULSE BAY, DEEP WATER BAY, SHEK O, STANLEY AND BIG WAVE BAY BEACHES ON SATURDAY (JUNE 7) TO SUMMONSE ANYONE FOUND LITTERING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ACTION. MR CHOI YEUNG-HUNG OF USD WILL BE AT REPULSE BAY BEACH OFFICE AT 2 PM TO ANSWER PRESS QUESTIONS.

A VAN (UC37) FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE LEAVING FROM OUTSIDE THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, BY 1 PM.

PLEASE CALL MR PAUL LEUNG AT 5-275115 AFTER 10 AM ON SATURDAY FOR CONFIRMATION IF BAD WEATHER THREATENS.

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EARLIER WELFARE PAYMENT
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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE WHO ARE HOLDING CASH ORDER BOOKS MAY RECEIVE EARLIER PAYMENT IF THEIR PAYMENT DATES FALL ON JUNE 14, 15 AND 16 WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THEY MAY CASH THEIR COUPONS ON JUNE 10, 12 AND 13 OR LATER AT DESIGNATED POST OFFICES, NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES OR TREASURY SUB-OFFICES.

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/16 .....

CHEUNG CHAU FERRY PIER BEING EXTENDED

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WORK HAS STARTED ON EXTENDING CHEUNG CHAU FERRY PIER TO INCREASE PASSENGER FLOW.

THE EXTENSION WILL BE BUILT ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING PIER WHICH WILL ALSO BE MODIFIED. IT WILL INCREASE THE PASSENGER WAITING AREA AND ENABLE THE INSTALLATION OF A LIFT AND RAMPS.

AN $8.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE EXTENSION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO HOI SING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED WHO WILL TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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