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EXCO APPROVES HYF FARE INCREASES

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AN APPLICATION BY THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY FOR A FARE INCREASE FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE LAST FARE INCREASE IN DOMESTIC FERRY SERVICES BY THE COMPANY WAS IN JANUARY 1984 AND THE LAST INCREASE FOR VEHICULAR FERRY FARES WAS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE FERRY SERVICES (HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY, LTD) (DETERMINATION OF FARES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER 1985, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS FRIDAY IN THE GAZETTE, FARES FOR PASSENGER SERVICES AND VEHICULAR FERRY WILL BE INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 12 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

FARE INCREASES FOR VARIOUS ROUTE GROUPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CROSS-HARBOUR PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES

FARES WILL BE INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 14 PER CENT. FARES FOR ADULT ORDINARY CLASS WILL BE REVISED FROM $1.50 TO $1.70; STUDENT/CHILD FROM 80 CENTS TO 90 CENTS; HOVERFERRY SERVICE FROM $4.50 TO $5 AND MONTHLY TICKETS FROM $62 TO $70.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE FOR DELUXE CLASS FARES AND FARES FROM SAI WAN HO TO KOWLOON CITY. THEY WILL REMAIN AT $3 AND $2.50 RESPECTIVELY.

ADULT FARE FOR ORDINARY CLASS FROM JUBILEE STREET TO KWUN TONG WILL BE REVISED FROM $2 TO $2.50 AND FARES FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WILL BE REVISED FROM $1 TO $1.30. MEANWHILE, FARES FOR HOVERFERRY SERVICE FROM NORTH POINT TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WILL BE INCREASED FROM $3 TO $4.

(B) NEW TOWN PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES

AVERAGE FARES INCREASE FOR THIS GROUP IS 0.9 PER CENT.

THERE WILL BE NO FARE INCREASE FOR THE HOVERFERRY SERVICES FROM TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN TO CENTRAL.

THE ADULT ORDINARY CLASS FARE FOR THE SERVICE BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND CENTRAL WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT $3 BUT THE FARE FOR STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WILL BE INCREASED FROM $1.30 TO $1.50. ADULT FARE ON THE TSUEN WAN TO TSING YI SERVICE WILL ALSO BE ADJUSTED FROM 80 CENTS TO $1.

/(C) OUTLYING .....

(C) OUTLYING DISTRICTS PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES

THE AVERAGE FARE INCREASE FOR THIS GROUP IS ABOUT 13 PER CENT. FARES FOR ADULTS DURING WEEKDAYS WILL BE INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 12 PER CENT FROM $2 - $4 TO $2.50 - $4.50 FOR THE ORDINARY CLASS AND FROM $6 TO $6.50 FOR THE DELUXE CLASS.

THE 'SUNDAYS - PUBLIC HOLIDAYS' FARES WILL RISE BY AN AVERAGE OF 15 PER CENT FROM $4 - $6 TO $5 - $7 FOR THE ORDINARY CLASS AND FROM $10 TO $11 FOR THE DELUXE CLASS.

THE 'SUNDAYS - PUBLIC HOLIDAYS' FARES FOR ORDINARY CLASS WILL BE EXTENDED TO SATURDAY AFTERNOONS ON ALL SERVICES IN THIS GROUP EXCEPT THE TOLO HARBOUR AND INTER-ISLAND SERVICES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS EXTENSION WILL NOT AFFECT REGULAR COMMUTERS SINCE MONTHLY TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON ALL SERVICES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE LAMMA ROUTES WHERE SUCH TICKETS WERE INTRODUCED WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1, 1985. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT THE FARE FOR MONTHLY TICKETS ON OUTLYING ISLANDS ROUTES SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AT $165.

THE HOVERFERRY FARE WILL BE INCREASED FROM $10 TO $11.

(D) VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICES

AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT WILL BE IMPOSED.

(E) FREIGHT

CHARGES FOR FREIGHT WILL BE INCREASED BY A 18 PER CENT WEIGHED AVERAGE RATE. THIS WILL MEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CHARGES FOR FREIGHT CARRIED ON CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES WEIGHING 60 KG OR OF 0.12 CUBIC METRE IN VOLUME, WILL RISE FROM $5 TO $6.

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FUNDS SOUGHT FOR NEW POSTAL SORTING SYSTEM

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THE POST OFFICE IS HOPING TO INTRODUCE IN TWO YEARS' TIME A MECHANISED LETTER SORTING SYSTEM INVOLVING +OPTICAL CHARACTER READING -- OCR -- AND VIDEO CODING TECHNIQUES+.

FOR THE SYSTEM, WHICH IT HOPES TO BE ABLE TO SET UP AND OPERATE BY MAY 1988, IT WILL SEEK A LUMP SUM OF $128.33 MILLION AND ANNUAL RECURRENT SUM OF $5.72 MILLION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL BE MEETING AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING TOMORROW.

/PLANS FOR .....

PLANS FOR THE SORTING SYSTEM FOLLOW COMPLETION OF A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC LETTER SORTING FOR THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE THAT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE BRITISH POSTAL CONSULTANCY SERVICE -- BPCS -- IN 1984, AND COMPLETED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AT A COST OF $511 000.

AT PRESENT LETTERS ARE SORTED MANUALLY AND, DEPENDING ON THEIR DESTINATION, THEY MAY HAVE TO BE SORTED SEVERAL TIMES. AS A RESULT, THE PROPORTION OF STAFF COSTS IS GROWING IN RELATION TO OTHER FORMS OF EXPENDITURE, REFLECTING THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH IN POSTAL TRAFFIC.

IN 1984-85 STAFF COSTS REPRESENTED 51 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE AS COMPARED WITH 41 PER CENT IN 1979-80. OVER THE SAME PERIOD THE VOLUME OF LETTER TRAFFIC HANDLED INCREASED BY 42 PER CENT FROM 370 MILLION ITEMS TO 524 MILLION ITEMS, REQUIRING AN EXTRA 132 SORTERS AND SUPERVISORS.

FOR 1985-86, A TEN PER CENT INCREASE IN MAIL TRAFFIC IS ENVISAGED, AND ADDITIONAL STAFF WILL BE REQUIRED ANNUALLY TO PROCESS THE EXTRA TRAFFIC.

AS POSTED MAIL CONTINUES TO INCREASE, THIS PROBLEM COULD ONLY BE SOLVED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF MECHANISED LETTER SORTING.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM WOULD BE DESIGNED TO READ ADDRESSES TYPED OR MACHINE PRINTED IN ROMAN TYPE, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LETTER MAIL TRAFFIC, THUS AVOIDING THE NEED FOR A POSTCODE SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

POSTCODE SYSTEMS ARE NOT FAVOURED AS THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY WIDELY USED BY THE PUBLIC DESPITE PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS BY A NUMBER OF POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS.

LETTERS REJECTED BY THE OCR EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF UNREADABLE ADDRESSES -- SUCH AS THOSE THAT ARE HAND WRITTEN, OR WHEN ADDRESSES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN REGULAR FORMAT, OR ARE IN CHINESE CHARACTERS -- WILL BE DIVERTED TO VIDEO CODING DESKS.

OPERATORS WILL EXTRACT ALPHANUMERIC INFORMATION IN A STANDARDISED FORMAT FROM THE ADDRESSES TO ENABLE THE VIDEO CODING MACHINES TO PRINT THE RELEVANT BINARY CODES ON THE ENVELOPES. THEREAFTER THE ITEMS WILL BE SORTED ON THE AUTOMATIC LETTER SORTING EQUIPMENT IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE OCR CODED MAIL.

THE BPCS HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONVERT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE OCR SYSTEMS TO READ CHINESE PRINTED CHARACTERS, IF AND WHEN SUCH A FACILITY BECOMES COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE. THIS WOULD ENTAIL ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE AND THE TENDER SPECIFICATION WOULD INCLUDE PROVISION FOR SPARE CAPACITY TO HOUSE THE NECESSARY SOFTWARE.

/AS SIMILAR .....

AS SIMILAR EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO EXTENSIVE USE UNDER OPERATING CONDITIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WOULD MEET THE LONG TERM NEEDS OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE.

OTHER MAJOR SUMS SOUGHT WILL INCLUDE:

* $115 353 000 FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS BUILDING PROGRAMMES

* $77 860 000 FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO FURNISH AND EQUIP EXISTING AND NEW BUILDINGS

* $17 552 000 FOR PLANT, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE FORCE

* $263 000 000 ADDITIONAL FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND

* $20.9 MILLION CAPITAL COST FOR PROVIDING FOUR VERY HIGH FREQUENCY -- VHF -- RADIO SERVICES AND ONE ENHANCED MEDIUM FREQUENCY RADIO SERVICE FOR RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG TO IMPROVE ITS RADIO SERVICES TERRITORY-WIDE, AND

* $3 267 000 FOR HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AND CONSULTANCY FOR COMPUTERISED PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES SYSTEM OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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22 TO SPEAK ON PUBLIC HOUSING WORKS

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TWENTY-TWO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL BE SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE TO BE HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) ON REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 26 PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS ANNOUNCED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ON NOVEMBER 21.

AND A STATEMENT WILL BE MADE BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY ON THE +WHITE PAPER ON THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1984-85 TO THE UK PARLIAMENT+, WHICH WILL BE AMONG PAPERS TO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A STATEMENT BY THE HON F.K. HU ON THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON SIX BILLS, AND TWO MOTIONS WILL BE MOVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE AND THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

/THE SIX .....

THE SIX BILLS ARE:

* INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1985

* ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1985

* EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985

* COMPANIES (AMENDMENT)(NO.2) BILL 1985

* BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1985

* MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985

AT THE SAME MEETING, WRITTEN REPLIES WILL BE GIVEN TO FIVE QUESTIONS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS AS COMMERCIAL CRIME, RATES OF TURNOVER AND VACANCY SITUATION OF DOCTORS AND NURSING STAFF IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, SITUATION OF THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL, SUBVENTED HOSPITALS AND GOVERNMENT'S PLAN OF AN INFIRMARY HOME IN THE NT REGION.

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EXTENDED TRANSPORT FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR

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EXTENDED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

APART FROM ADDITIONAL BUSES, THE FREQUENCY OF RUNNING SCHEDULES FOR BUSES, TRAMS, TRAINS, GREEN MINIBUSES AND FERRIES WILL BE INCREASED ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE UNTIL EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNINGS, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

DETAILS OF THE EXTRA SERVICES ARE:

* THE STAR FERRY'S KOWLOON POINT TO EDINBURGH PLACE ROUTE WILL RUN ALL NIGHT.

* HYF'S CENTRAL TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY SERVICE WILL OPERATE UNTIL 1 AM.

* THE MTR'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WILL OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. ITS NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES WILL FINISH AT ABOUT 12.30 AM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

* KCR SERVICES ON DECEMBER 24, 25, 31 WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL 1 AM.

* PEAK TRAM SERVICES WILL BE EXTENDED TO 1.30 AM ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1.

/* TRAM SERVICES, ...

* TRAM SERVICES, EXCEPT AROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY LOOP, WILL OPERATE ALL NIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, IT WILL RUN UNTIL 2 AM.

* CMB WILL EXTEND SERVICES ON EIGHT MAJOR ROUTES - NOS. 2, 4, 7, 10, 23, 70, 72 AND 90M.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE, THE LAST DEPARTURES OF ROUTE 2 FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO MACAU FERRY WILL BE AT 1.10 AM AND 12.45 AM RESPECTIVELY; NO. 4 FROM WAH FU TO CENTRAL WILL BE AT 12.30 AM; NO. 7 FROM SHEK PAI WAN TO CENTRAL AT 2 AM AND 1 AM; NO. 10 FROM NORTH POINT FERRY TO KENNEDY TOWN AT 1 AM AND 12.30 AM; NO. 23 FROM NORTH POINT FERRY TO POKFIELD ROAD AT 12.30 AM; NO. 70 FROM ABERDEEN TO CENTRAL AT 12.45 AM AND 12.24 AM; NO. 72 FROM ABERDEEN TO CAUSEWAY BAY AT 12.50 AM AND 12.20 AM; AND NO. 90M FROM AP LEI CHAU TO CENTRAL AT 11.50 PM.

* KMB WILL ALSO BE EXTENDING SERVICES.

ON DECEMBER 24, THE LAST DEPARTURES OF ROUTE 1A FROM SAU MAU PING AND STAR FERRY WILL BE AT 12.39 AM AND 1.36 AM RESPECTIVELY; NO. 5 FROM CHOI HUNG AND TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1.24 AM AND 3 AM; NO. 5C FROM TSZ WAN SHAN AND TSIM SHA TSUI AT 1.10 AM AND 1.50 AM; NO. 6 FROM LAI CHI KOK AND STAR FERRY AT 1.17 AM AND 3 AM; NO. 9 FROM PING SHEK AND STAR FERRY AT 12.46 AM AND 1.30 AM; AND NO. 66M FROM TAI HING AND TSUEN WAN MTR STATION AT 12.30 AM AND 1.15 AM.

* MANY GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES WILL ALSO FINISH LATER THAN USUAL; SUCH AS NO. 1 (PEAK TO HMS TAMAR) AT 4 AM; 16M (CHAI WAN MTR STATION TO CHUNG HOM KOK) AT 12.40 AM; 3 (TSIM SHA TSUI TO TAI TUNG SUN CHUEN) AT 2.30 AM; 7 (KOWLOON CITY TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST) AT 2 AM; 31M (MONG KOK MTR STATION TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST) AT 3.30 AM; 37M (TSZ WAN SHAN TO WONG TAI SIN MTR STATION) AT 3 AM.

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DISTRICT-WIDE YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS ARRANGED

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A WIDE VARIETY OF FESTIVE ACTIVITIES COSTING ABOUT $1.5 MILLION HAS BEEN ARRANGED DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS FOR THE PUBLIC IN A NUMBER OF DISTRICTS, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THOUSANDS OF GLITTERING AND COLOURFUL LIGHTS WILL ADD TO THE SPLENDOUR OF THE SEASON IN SEVERAL AREAS WITH SPECIAL DECORATIONS PUT UP BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS, HOUSING AUTHORITY AND PRIVATE COMPANIES.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, MR CHAU SAID THE DISTRICT-BASED ENTERTAINMENT, MOST OF WHICH ARE FREE, WILL ENABLE RESIDENTS TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WITHOUT HAVING TO TRAVEL TOO FAR FROM THEIR HOMES.

/HIGHLIGHTS OF .....

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NUMEROUS ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE MANY OF THE MORE POPULAR EVENTS SUCH AS DISCOS AND POP CONCERTS FOR YOUTHS AND THE YOUNG-AT-HEART, AS WELL AS FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT WITH CARNIVALS AND FUN FAIRS.

FOR DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICES, DISTRICT BOARDS, URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMERCIAL FIRMS, THE PUBLIC CAN MAKE INQUIRIES AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

MR CHAU NOTED THAT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTINGS IN SOME DISTRICTS WERE EVEN MORE SPLENDID AND IMAGINATIVE THAN THOSE IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS HAVE BEEN PUT UP IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, TSIM SHA TSUI, CENTRAL, CHAI WAN, SHA TIN AND TSUEN WAN.

THESE DECORATIONS, COSTING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, ARE SPONSORED BY LEADING COMMERCIAL AND REAL ESTATE FIRMS AND LOCAL BODIES SUCH AS DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

+THE DISPLAY OF DAZZLING LIGHTS WILL PROVIDE AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY TO CAPTURE SCENES OF HONG KONG DURING THIS FESTIVE TIME,+ MR CHAU SAID.

+HOWEVER, FOR THE PUBLIC'S OWN SAFETY AND COMFORT, I WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH OLD PEOPLE AND YOUNG CHILDREN, TO AVOID CONGESTED AREAS LIKE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST AND CENTRAL ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

+MOST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY OVER A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND CAN BE ENJOYED MORE LEISURELY ON OTHER DAYS, BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTMAS,+ HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR K.K. LAM, AND CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER, MR SAM CHAN, WHO GAVE DETAILS OF TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEVERAL AREAS DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

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CHEUNG CHAU FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE EXTENSION OPENED

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AN EXTENSION TO THE CHEUNG CHAU ROUND TABLE FIRST VILLAGE, A REHOUSING SCHEME FOR LOCAL FISHERMEN AFFECTED BY TYPHOON, WAS OPENED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, HE DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS +AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE STRONG SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL HELP AMONG MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY+.

/DR RIDDELL-SWAN .....

DR RIDDELL-SWAN RECALLED THAT WHEN TYPHOON MARY STRUCK IN JUNE 1960, MANY PEOPLE WERE LEFT HOMELESS= PARTICULARLY HARD HIT WERE BOAT-DWELLING FISHERMEN OF CHEUNG CHAU.

HE ADDED THAT THE ROUND TABLE ASSOCIATION, WITH THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, PROMPTLY LAUNCHED A REHOUSING SCHEME TO ACCOMMODATE VICTIMS.

+FORTY-TWO FAMILIES WERE HOUSED BY MARCH 1961 IN THE FIRST VILLAGE AND A FURTHER 24 FAMILIES WERE HOUSED IN THE SECOND VILLAGE IN 1964,+ HE SAID.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN NOTED THAT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF HIS DEPARTMENT, A BETTER LIVING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY WAS FORMED IN MARCH 1961 TO MANAGE THE COMMUNAL AFFAIRS OF BOTH VILLAGES.

THE DIRECTOR PRAISED THE SOCIETY FOR ITS GOOD WORK DURING THE PAST 24 YEARS.

+THROUGH HARD WORK AND THE DEDICATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THE TWO VILLAGES HAVE PROSPERED AND ARE NOW THRIVING COMMUNITIES IN CHEUNG CHAU,+ HE SAID.

DR RIDDELL-SWAN ALSO UNVEILED A MEMORIAL STONE TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW DOMESTIC UNITS OF THE VILLAGE.

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BRIDGE CLOSED FOR SHA TIN SWITCH-ON CEREMONY

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TO FACILITATE THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVE LIGHTING SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY IN SHA TIN, SAND MARTIN BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED FOR AN HOUR FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.30 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 20).

DURING THE CLOSURE, ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC CROSSING SHING MUN RIVER VIA SAND MARTIN BRIDGE WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE LION BRIDGE AND BANYAN BRIDGE.

KMB ROUTE 48 (WO CHE TO TSUEN WAN FERRY) WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA SHA KOK STREET, SHA TIN WAI ROAD, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET AND WANG POK STREET ON JOURNEYS TO WO CHE.

ON JOURNEYS TO TSUEN WAN FERRY, THE ROUTE WILL BE DIVERTED TO TAM KON PO STREET, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET, PAK HOK TING STREET, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, SHA TIN WAI ROAD AND SHA KOK STREET.

ROUTE 69 (CHOI YUEN TO YUEN CHAU KOK) WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD AND YUEN WO ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO CHOI YUEN.

/ON JOURNEYS .....

ON JOURNEYS TO YUEN CHAU KOK, THE ROUTE WILL BE DIVERTED TO YUEN WO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD.

ROUTES 70 (SHEUNG SHUI TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY) AND 72 (TAI PO MARKET TO SHAM SHUI PO FERRY) WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, SHA TIN WAI ROAD, SHA KOK STREET, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD AND YUEN WO ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO SHEUNG SHUI AND TAI PO MARKET.

ON JOURNEYS TO JORDAN ROAD FERRY AND SHAM SHUI PO FERRY, THE TWO ROUTES WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE YUEN WO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, SHA KOK STREET, SHA TIN WAI ROAD AND TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD.

ROUTE 81K (SUN TIN WAI TO SUI WO COURT) WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA SHA KOK STREET, SHA TIN WAI ROAD, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, TAI PO ROAD AND SHA TIN CENTRAL BUS TERMINUS ON JOURNEYS TO SUI WO COURT.

ON JOURNEYS TO SUN TIN WAI, THE ROUTE WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE WANG POK STREET, YUEN WO ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD, TAI PO ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, SHA TIN WAI ROAD AND SHA KOK STREET.

ROUTE 281 (BELAIR GARDENS TO SHA TIN CENTRAL) WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA YUEN WO ROAD, BANYAN BRIDGE AND TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO BELAIR GARDENS.

ON JOURNEYS TO SHA TIN CENTRAL, THE ROUTE WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD, LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE ROAD AND TAI PO ROAD. THE TWO STOPS ON SHA TIN WAI ROAD FOR THIS ROUTE WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DURING THE PERIOD OF DIVERSION.

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APPEAL FOR CARE WHEN LIGHTING COUNTRYSIDE FIRES

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE CAREFUL WHEN LIGHTING FIRES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH LOW HUMIDITY PREVAILING DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED NUMEROUS FIRES, INCLUDING THREE LARGE ONES, WHICH OCCURRED IN VARIOUS COUNTRY PARKS OVER THE WEEKEND.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 78 FIRES WERE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH THREE MAJOR ONES BURNING FOR MANY HOURS IN THE TAI MO SHAN, SAI KUNG EAST AND LANTAU COUNTRY PARKS.

/+THESE BIG .....

+THESE BIG FIRES BROKE OUT AROUND NOON ON SUNDAY AND BURNED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND INTO THE EVENING.

+THE TAI MO SHAN AND SAI KUNG EAST FIRES WERE EXTINGUISHED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT WHILE THE FIRE IN LANTAU COUNTRY PARK WAS PUT OUT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON,+ HE SAID.

FIRE CREWS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TACKLED THE FIRES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES. THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE ALSO ASSISTED IN WATER BOMBING OPERATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS IN RECENT WEEKS HAD RENDERED THE COUNTRYSIDE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO FIRES.

HE REVEALED THAT MORE THAN 410 FIRES HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SINCE LATE SEPTEMBER. THIS COMPARED WITH A TOTAL OF 277 FIRES DURING THE LAST FIRE SEASON.

+SO FAR THIS SEASON, MORE THAN 116 000 TREES WERE DAMAGED AND 985 HECTARES OF GRASSLAND AFFECTED BY FIRES. THE DAMAGE IS VERY SEVERE INDEED WHEN COMPARED WITH 20 100 TREES AND 332 HECTARES OF AFFECTED GRASSLAND FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST SEASON,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED PICNICKERS TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO BARBECUE ONLY IN DESIGNATED SITES.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY BROUGHT ALONG PRE-COOKED FOOD.

LIGHTING A FIRE IN A COUNTRY PARK OUTSIDE A DESIGNATED BARBECUE SITE WAS AN OFFENCE CARRYING A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF $5 000 AND A YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT, HE WARNED.

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REAR LANE TIDY-UP EXERCISE CARRIED OUT

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, HAWKERS' HANDCARTS AND BASKETS OF RUBBISH WERE REMOVED FROM A REAR LANE IN CHATHAM ROAD, HUNG HOM, TODAY (TUESDAY) DURING A JOINT OPERATION BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF TIDY-UP EXERCISES TO ENSURE THAT REAR LANES IN HUNG HOM, KOWLOON CITY AND TO KWA WAN WHICH WERE CLEARED IN 1982, CONTINUE TO BE FREE FROM OBSTRUCTIONS.

DURING THE 1982 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME, 42 CLEARANCE OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT AND MORE THAN 600 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN 72 REAR LANES WERE REMOVED.

/A KOWLOON .....

A KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT A RECENT SURVEY SHOWED THAT MANY OF THESE LANES WERE RE-OCCUPIED BY ILLEGAL STRUCTURES, HAWKERS' HANDCARTS, OVERSIZED CANOPIES AND ILLEGAL OBSTRUCTIONS.

+TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY AND GOOD ENVIRONMENT, FOLLOW-UP CLEARANCE EXERCISES WILL BE CARRIED OUT REGULARLY UNTIL THE CONDITION HAS IMPROVED,+ HE ADDED.

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KENNEDY TOWN REAR LANE CLEARED

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TEN ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT THE REAR LANE OF CATCHICK STREET AND BELCHER'S STREET IN KENNEDY TOWN WERE REMOVED IN A CLEARANCE OPERATION THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THE CLEARANCE, RECOMMENDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, WAS THE THIRD CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN.

FIVE OF THE STRUCTURES WERE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES WHILE THE REST WERE FOR STORAGE, WORKSHOP, AND KITCHEN.

OF THE THREE PEOPLE AFFECTED, ONE HAS ACCEPTED REHOUSING IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND ONE WORKSHOP WAS GRANTED EXGRATIA PAYMENT.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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NOVEMBER WARMER THAN USUAL

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NOVEMBER THIS YEAR WAS WARMER THAN USUAL, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTED.

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 22.4 DEGREES CELSIUS FOR THE MONTH WAS THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD WHILE THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 20.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD.

WEATHER ON THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS OF THE MONTH WAS MAINLY FINE AND SUNNY APART FROM SOME PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 1 AND IN THE EARLY MORNING ON NOVEMBER 2 AND 4.

TEMPERATURE ON NOVEMBER 6 ROSE TO 26.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

/A COLD .....

A COLD FRONT FORMED OVER SOUTH CHINA ON NOVEMBER 7 AND CROSSED THE COAST THE FOLLOWING EVENING BRINGING CLOUDY WEATHER AND SOME LIGHT RAIN TO HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 8 AND 9.

FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER RETURNED ON NOVEMBER 10 AND CONTINUED UP TO NOVEMBER 12.

A WEAK SURGE OF WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED ON NOVEMBER 13 AND THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN.

THE WEATHER ON NOVEMBER 14 TO 19 WAS FINE AND SUNNY APART FROM SOME CLOUDY PERIODS ON NOVEMBER 16 AND 17.

IT WAS FINE AND SUNNY DURING THE DAY ON NOVEMBER 20 BUT THE RETURN OF A MOIST EASTERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT CLOUDY WEATHER WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN DURING THE EVENING.

WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH PERIODS OF RAIN ON NOVEMBER 21 AND 22 BUT WAS FINE AGAIN THE NEXT DAY.

A COLD FRONT OVER SOUTH CHINA MOVED SOUTH ACROSS THE COAST ON THE EARLY MORNING OF NOVEMBER 24. STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED OFFSHORE AND IN EXPOSED PLACES AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THIS COLD FRONT AND WINDS REMAINED STRONG UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY. THE WEATHER ON THAT DAY, HOWEVER, REMAINED FINE AND SUNNY.

THE WEATHER FROM NOVEMBER 25 TO 27 WAS MAINLY CLOUDY.

IT WAS FINE ON NOVEMBER 28 UNTIL A WEAK SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED LATER IN THE EVENING AND IT BECAME CLOUDY.

THERE WERE PATCHES OF RAIN DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

A FURTHER REPLENISHMENT OF THE WINTER MONSOON ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 30 RESULTED IN TEMPERATURES FALLING TO A MINIMUM OF 15 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE LOWEST IN THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 1, 18 AND 19 WHILE THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17 AND 24.

TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES DEVELOPED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH.

THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ONCE DURING THE MONTH AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 24 7 AM	NOVEMBER 25 1 AM

/THE MONTH'S .....

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	184.0 HOURS	: 7.5 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	45.9 MM	: 11.2 MM ABOVE NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	58 %	: 6 % MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	74 %	: 5 % HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	24.6 DEGREES CELSIUS	: 0.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	22.4 DEGREES CELSIUS	: 1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	20.6 DEGREES CELSIUS	: 1.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	17.6 DEGREES CELSIUS	: 2.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	106.0 MM	: 33.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON NOVEMBER 6

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 15.0 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON NOVEMBER 30

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STAGE SET FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GALA NIGHT

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THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GALA NIGHT, ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 27 AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM IN WAN CHAI.

MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, MR ALLEN LEE, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR CLIVE OXLEY, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 8 PM AND PRESENT THE PRIZES.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE EVENT, CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP YUK-LUN, SAID THE VARIETY SHOW WAS ORGANISED AS THE CONCLUSION TO THE +MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK+ RADIO PROGRAMME.

MR YIP SAID THE RADIO PROGRAMME HELPED TO AROUSE AWARENESS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AMONG WORKERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY COMBINING SAFETY MESSAGES WITH ENTERTAINMENT.

/THE PROGRAMME .....

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED SAFETY QUIZ FOR PARTICIPATING WORKERS, FACTORY VISITS BY POPULAR SINGERS AND DISC JOCKEYS, LUNCH-TIME CONCERTS IN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS AND A QUIZ FOR HOME AUDIENCE.

THE 15-EPISODE PROGRAMME, PRODUCED FOR THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR, WAS AIRED ON RTHK RADIO 1 EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON FROM JUNE 8 THIS YEAR AND WAS CONDENSED ON SATURDAY MORNINGS FROM SEPTEMBER 22 TO DECEMBER 21 IN THE +BLUE COLLAR D J+ PROGRAMME.

THE HEAD OF RTHK'S CHINESE PROGRAMME SERVICE, MR P.H. CHU, ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID THE PROGRAMME HAD PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MESSAGES FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS.

HE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT FIGURES IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF THIS YEAR HAD SHOWN THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ON THE DOWNWARD TREND AND HE HOPED THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND RTHK WOULD BE EVEN MORE FRUITFUL IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN THE FUTURE.

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CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW IN WAN CHAI

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RESIDENTS OF WAN CHAI ARE WELCOMED TO SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS AT A VARIETY SHOW TO BE HELD AT THE SOUTHORN PLAYGROUND ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 21) EVENING.

THE SHOW IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP.

THERE WILL BE CAROL SINGING BY A JOINT CHOIR FORMED BY LOCAL CHURCHES, BAND PERFORMANCE BY THE SALVATION ARMY, AND FOLK SONG AND DANCE PERFORMANCES.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE WAN CHAI ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS DONNA WONG; WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; AND REV CHUNG LING-SANG, REV LEUNG KWONG AND MR LAU MUI-HIN OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP.

THE FREE SHOW WILL START AT 7.30 PM AND ADMISSION TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS CHURCHES IN THE DISTRICT AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-272249.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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COMPETITIONS FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS

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A SERIES OF COMPETITIONS HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THE RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG DURING THE CURRENT THREE-WEEK-LONG KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '85.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '85 ORGANISING COMMITTEE SAID THESE INCLUDE A CHINESE COOKING COMPETITION, AN ESSAY COMPETITION AND A PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST.

+PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING IN KWUN TONG CAN FORM TEAMS OF AT LEASE TWO MEMBERS AND JOIN THE CHINESE COOKING COMPETITION TO PREPARE WHATEVER CHINESE DISH THEY LIKE,+ HE SAID.

A PANEL OF ADJUDICATORS CONSISTING OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND COOKING TEACHERS WILL JUDGE THE ENTRIES BASED ON THE NUTRITIONS VALUE AND TASTE OF THE DISHES.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO GIVE THEIR DISHES A NAME FOCUSING ON THEMES ON DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OR FAMILY LIFE. A SPECIAL AWARD WILL GO TO THE DISH WITH THE MOST CREATIVE NAME.

SECONDARY STUDENTS IN KWUN TONG ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THE ESSAY COMPETITION ENTITLED +KWUN TONG UNDER MY EYES+, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ADDING THAT THE STUDENTS CAN EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE DISTRICT.

+FINALLY, THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CURRENT KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '85 AND JOIN THE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION,+ HE SAID.

THE FESTIVAL, FEATURING MORE THAN 20 ACTIVITIES, WAS OPENED LAST SATURDAY.

DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORMS OF THE THREE COMPETITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS FIVE SUB-OFFICES.

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DISCUSSION ON MAN KAM TO TRAFFIC FLOW

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NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 19) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT MAN KAM TO BY ENLARGING A VEHICLE HOLDING AREA.

THE HOLDING AREA, AT THE JUNCTION OF MAN KAM TO ROAD AND LIN MA HANG ROAD FOR CHINA-BOUND TRAFFIC, WILL BE ENLARGED TO ACCOMMODATE 300 VEHICLES INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT 100.

/CONSTRUCTION WORK .....

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY 1987.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES AND HAWKER PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE REHOUSING POLICY FOR SINGLE PERSONS LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WILL ALSO BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION.

OTHER ITEMS INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 9.30 AM ON THURSDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, NEW TERRITORIES.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS BROADCASTING REPORT

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 19) TO DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS OF THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD REPORT.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (BROADCASTING), MR JOHN CLARKE, WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED STUDY OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT AND THE SETTING UP OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE BOARD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES AND AREA COMMITTEES.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE 14TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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SHA TIN MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DISTRICT AFFAIRS, ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND TWO COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD THIS WEEK.

THE BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS AD-HOC GROUPS AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT BOARD'S CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 20) AT 9.30 AM AT THE SAME VENUE. MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE 1985-87 KMB ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND A QUESTION RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF CYCLE TRACKS WILL ALSO BE RAISED.

THE CONFERENC ROOM CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 10 MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND 25 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 0-6048078 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AS LATE-COMERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN WHEN THE PUBLIC GALLERY IS FULL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH MEETINGS.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON FESTIVE LIGHTS

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THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON FESTIVE LIGHTING IN SHA TIN WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 19) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF FESTIVE LIGHTINGS FOR THE DISTRICT TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, MR LAM HUNG-CHIU, WILL SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE AT 11 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

/ALSO ATTENDING .....

ALSO ATTENDING WILL BE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, AND THE WINNER OF THE SHA TIN FESTIVE LIGHTS DESIGN CONTEST, MR FREDDY MOK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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CONTEST OPENED TO AMATEUR DANCERS

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AN OPEN CONTEST IN BALLROOM DANCE, WHICH IS OPEN TO ALL AMATEUR DANCERS AGED 18 OR ABOVE, WILL BE HELD AT MACPHERSON STADIUM, MONG KOK, ON JANUARY 19.

THE COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE DIVISION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH AND THE HONG KONG DANCING ASSOCIATION, IS AIMED AT FOSTERING A CLEAR CONCEPT OF SOCIAL DANCE AND IMPROVING GENERAL STANDARDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MSB SAID THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DANCERS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS AND TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO STREAMS : THE MODERN BRANCH WHICH INCLUDES WALTZ, FOXTROT, QUICK STEP, TANGO AND VIENNESE WALTZ AND THE LATIN BRANCH WHICH INCLUDES RUMBA, CHA CHA, JIVE, SAMBA AND PASO DOBLE.

THEY ARE TO COMPETE UNDER FIVE SECTIONS DEPENDING ON THE COMBINATION OF DANCES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE DIVISION ON THE 14TH FLOOR, RUTTONJEE HOUSE, 11 DUDDELL STREET, CENTRAL. THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD RETURN COMPLETED FORMS BY JANUARY 5.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 2 FOR ANYONE WISHING TO WATCH THE CONTEST.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS TELEPHONE 5-214416 OR 0-295949.

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UPGC SECRETARIAT ON THE MOVE

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THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, CURRENTLY HOUSED ON THE THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS OF EDKO TOWER, 32-38 ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL, WILL MOVE TO THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF THE HIGH BLOCK IN THE NEW QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT QUEENSWAY ON DECEMBER 23.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECRETARIAT'S STUDENT FINANCE SECTION WHICH ADMINISTERS THE TWO SCHEMES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES IN HONG KONG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, WILL ALSO MOVE FROM ITS ACCOMMODATION AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, M1 AND M2 FLOORS, 22 ICE HOUSE STREET, TO THE GROUND AND MEZZANINE FLOORS OF THE LOW BLOCK OF THE QUEENSWAY OFFICES.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME: (FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING LOCAL UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE)	5-8622738 5-8622739
JOINT UK-HK GOVERNMENT FUNDING SCHEME: (FOR STUDENTS ON THE FIRST DEGREE AND HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES IN UK)	5-8622741 5-8622742
LOAN REPAYMENT:	5-8622735

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MORE HYGIENE FACILITIES FOR KOWLOON

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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT AND PUBLIC TOILET AT THE JUNCTION OF BATTERY STREET AND SAIGON STREET IN YAU MA TEI.

OCCUPYING A 124-SQUARE-METRE SITE, THE BUILDING WILL ACCOMMODATE A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT ON THE GROUND FLOOR, A PUBLIC TOILET ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND AN OFFICE AND STOREROOM ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT NINE MONTHS.

TENDERS ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STOREY PUBLIC TOILET AND BATHHOUSE ON A 440-SQUARE-METRE SITE NEAR MA SAN TSUEN IN LEI YUE MUN.

THE PUBLIC TOILET AND BATHHOUSE WILL BE ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHILE THE UPPER FLOOR WILL BE USED AS STAFF QUARTERS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1987.

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WAN CHAI, SHAU KEI WAN TRAFFIC CHANGES

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A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN WAN CHAI FROM 10 AM THIS FRIDAY (DECEMBER 20).

THESE ARE:

* THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HENNESSY ROAD SECTION BETWEEN TIN LOK LANE AND STEWART ROAD; AND ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF JOHNSTON ROAD SECTION BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND MALLORY STREET WILL BE LIFTED.

* THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT RESTRICTED ZONE ON WESTBOUND HENNESSY ROAD BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 396 AND ITS JUNCTION WITH TIN LOK LANE WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY LANE ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF WESTBOUND KERBSIDE LANE OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE LIFTED:

* SECTION BETWEEN ABOUT 40 METRES TO 94 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CHAI WAN ROAD; AND

* SECTION BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 276 AND HOUSE NO. 252.

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CENTRAL WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 20) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY JACKSON ROAD, CLUB STREET, CHATER ROAD, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, EDINBURGH PLACE AND CONNAUGHT PLACE, INCLUDING THE STAR FERRY PIER AND CITY HALL.

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