



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1989

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MEASURES TAKEN TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS RAISED BY DOCTORS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY DOCTORS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY OF PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL THIS AFTERNOON AND WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE GRADED ACTION BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS AND PROBLEMS OF ORGANISATION BUT THESE WOULD TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE.

"I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DOCTORS WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND DEDICATED PEOPLE WILL TAKE PARTICULAR CARE NOT TO DO THINGS WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY DAMAGE THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PATIENTS," HE SAID.

HE CITED THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AS ONE OF THE WAYS OF DEALING WITH THAT PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING.

"WE ARE IN FACT BUILDING HOSPITALS SO THAT WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER 5,000 BEDS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THAT IS AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT.

"AND TO DEAL WITH THE ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEM, WE ARE SETTING UP THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THEN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

"TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH THE DOCTORS HAVE RAISED, WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO INCREASE VERY SUBSTANTIALLY BY OVER 70 SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER POSTS AND OVER 30 CONSULTANT POSTS.

"AT THE SAME TIME ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEAL WITH THINGS LIKE SECRETARIAL HELP FOR DOCTORS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"I HOPE DOCTORS AS PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE WILL HAVE A DEGREE OF PATIENCE AND THAT THEY WILL CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT I KNOW THEY ALL FEEL TOWARDS THEIR OWN PATIENTS," HE ADDED.

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GOVT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION URGED TO RECONSIDER DECISION

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.H. LEE, TODAY (MONDAY) URGED THE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION (GDA) TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO START GRADED ACTION ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1).

HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THE GDA SHOULD RESOLVE TO UNDERTAKE GRADED ACTION AT THIS POINT IN TIME WHEN VARIOUS MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

DR LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROBLEMS FACING ITS DOCTORS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO OVERCROWDING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, THE RETENTION OF EXPERIENCED DOCTORS, AND GENERALLY THE NEED FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE NO SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS. BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD.

ON THE STAFFING SIDE, DR LEE ADDED, 74 SENIOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER POSTS WOULD BE CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE AND AS ONE OF THE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE RETENTION PROBLEM.

"THESE WILL COME INTO BEING FROM MARCH 1," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, ACTION IS IN HAND TO CREATE 32 CONSULTANT POSTS. THE CREATION OF THESE POSTS WILL REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BUT IT IS OUR INTENTION THAT THE POSTS BE AVAILABLE BEFORE DECEMBER THIS YEAR."

TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE DOCTORS TO ENABLE THEM TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES, THE FIRST BATCH OF 22 CLERICAL AND SECRETARIAL POSTS WAS EXPECTED TO BE CREATED WITHIN NEXT MONTH, DR LEE SAID.

THESE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WHERE THE NEED WAS MOST PRESSING. ANOTHER 47 POSTS WOULD BE CREATED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

FURTHERMORE, DR LEE SAID, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF REWARDING, IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER, THOSE DOCTORS WHO, DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER, CONSISTENTLY HAD TO WORK UNUSUALLY LONG HOURS, IN ORDER THAT CERTAIN SERVICES WERE PROPERLY MANNED.

HE ADDED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN HONORARIUM WERE BEING PUT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ADVISE THE GDA IN TWO WEEKS' TIME.

THESE ACTIONS, DR LEE STRESSED, DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT AND SINCERITY IN IMPROVING THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF GOVERNMENT DOCTORS.

/"THEY REPRESENT

"THEY REPRESENT THE FIRST STEPS IN REDUCING THE WORKLOAD ON DOCTORS AND GIVING THEM SOME RECOGNITION FOR THEIR LONG WORKING HOURS.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION," HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID THAT IN HIS REPLY TO GDA'S LETTER WHICH INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS PLANNED ACTION, HE DREW THE ASSOCIATION'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT THE ACTION MIGHT HAVE ON PATIENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

HE COMMENTED THAT:

- (A) TO STOP WRITING DISCHARGE FORMS COULD MEAN DELAYS IN THE DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS FROM HOSPITALS, AND AGGRAVATE THE PRESENT OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS;
- (B) TO STOP TEACHING STUDENT NURSES WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DISRUPTION TO THE NURSES' TRAINING PROGRAMME. THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SUPPLY OF NURSES AND LEAD TO A DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE;
- (C) TO STOP ATTENDING MEDICAL ASSESSMENT BOARDS WOULD DELAY THE PROCESSING OF COMPENSATION AWARDS. SOME 20,000 CASES WERE DEALT WITH BY THE BOARDS EACH YEAR. THE MAJORITY OF THESE CASES CONCERNED WORKMEN INJURED AT WORK AND CONSEQUENTLY SUFFERING LOSS OR REDUCTION OF THEIR EARNING CAPACITY. MANY OF THEM WERE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MAINTAIN THEIR LIVING; AND
- (D) TO STOP WRITING MEDICAL REPORTS WAS LIKELY TO HINDER POLICE AND CORONER INVESTIGATIONS AND THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

DR LEE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ASSOCIATION, HAVING REGARD TO THE PROFESSIONAL CALLING OF DOCTORS AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, WOULD RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, ADDING THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ACHIEVING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS WAS TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

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SIGNIFICANT STEP IN IMPROVING MEDICAL SERVICES: GOVERNOR

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THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL MARKS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY);

SPEAKING AT THE STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE HOSPITAL IN CHAI WAN, SIR DAVID SAID THE HOSPITAL WAS ONE OF THE PROJECTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S STANDARD TO SIX HOSPITAL BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT AIM IS TO MAKE SURE THAT MEDICAL SERVICES ARE LOCATED WITHIN REASONABLE REACH," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED HIGH STATISTICAL STANDARDS OF HEALTH WITH THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD.

LIFE EXPECTANCY WAS AMONG THE HIGHEST -- HIGHER THAN EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

"BUT THIS EXCELLENT STATISTICAL RECORD SHOULD NOT LULL US INTO A SENSE OF COMPLACENCY. THERE IS MUCH WE CAN DO, AND WILL DO, TO IMPROVE OUR STANDARDS OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG NOW HAD 4.5 HOSPITAL BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION. BY 1996, NEW AND EXPANDED HOSPITALS WOULD PROVIDE A FURTHER 13,000 BEDS.

"THIS MEANS WE WILL IMPROVE OUR STANDARD TO SIX BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION. THIS RATIO IS COMPARABLE TO THAT IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL IS ONE OF THE PROJECTS IN THIS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME," SIR DAVID SAID.

"AT PRESENT, MOST ACUTE CASES ON HONG KONG ISLAND ARE TREATED AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL. THAT IS A LONG WAY FROM EASTERN DISTRICT, WHERE NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG ISLAND LIVE.

"THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THIS DISTRICT A MODERN HOSPITAL ON THEIR DOORSTEP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES, INCLUDING A FULL ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE."

SIR DAVID SAID THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL, DESIGNED FOR 1,750 BEDS INCLUDING 200 DAY BEDS, WITH ROOM FOR FURTHER EXPANSION, WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST HOSPITALS UNDER CONSTRUCTION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

ON CURRENT ESTIMATES IT WOULD COST OVER \$2.2 BILLION.

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"THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT, AND ITS STEEP HILLSIDE SITE, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE NEED TO INVOLVE MORE THAN 25 DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS, MEANS THAT BUILDING THIS HOSPITAL IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF CHALLENGE THAT WE MUST MEET IF WE ARE TO IMPROVE OUR MEDICAL SERVICES AND MAINTAIN OUR PROUD RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE THAT LADY YOUBE HAD AGREED TO HAVE THE HOSPITAL NAMED AFTER HER.

THE HOSPITAL WOULD COMMEMORATE, IN A VERY TANGIBLE FORM, THE CONCERN WHICH BOTH SIR EDWARD YOUBE AND LADY YOUBE SHOWED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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THREE LOTS SOLD FOR NEARLY \$690 MILLION

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THE SALE OF THREE LOTS BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IN A PUBLIC AUCTION HELD TODAY (MONDAY) FETCHED A TOTAL PREMIUM OF \$689.5 MILLION.

A NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING RESIDENTIAL, HOTEL, CINEMA AND GODOWN) LOT LOCATED AT WANG HOI ROAD, KOWLOON BAY, WAS SOLD TO LAND SUCCESS DEVELOPMENT LIMITED, DIAMOND CAREER LIMITED AND UNION PEARL DEVELOPMENT LIMITED FOR \$450 MILLION.

BIDDING STARTED AT \$300 MILLION.

THE LOT COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,121 SQUARE METRES. THE PURCHASER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 27,700 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1993.

A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL LOT IN AREA 43, SHA TIN NEW TOWN WAS BOUGHT BY HIPOINT INVESTMENT LIMITED FOR \$12.5 MILLION FOLLOWING BIDDINGS WHICH STARTED AT \$8 MILLION.

THE AREA OF THE LOT IS ABOUT 1,550 SQUARE METRES AND THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF AT LEAST 558 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1992.

ANOTHER PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL LOT WAS SOLD TO KINGSWORTH LIMITED FOR \$227 MILLION.

IT IS LOCATED IN AREA 39 IN TUEN MUN AND COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 9,673 SQUARE METRES. BIDDING STARTED AT \$130 MILLION.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 19,152 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1993.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE AND WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR TIM MILLS.

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FS TO PRESENT BUDGET ON WEDNESDAY
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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1989-90 WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1).

THE PROCEEDINGS WILL START AT 2.30 PM, WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, MOVES THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1989 AND OUTLINES HONG KONG'S ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1989-90.

THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WILL BE SET OUT IN THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1989 TO BE PUBLISHED IN A GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY THE SAME AFTERNOON.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WILL BE ADJOURNED UNTIL APRIL 19 AND 20, WHEN MEMBERS WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS.

ON MAY 3, OFFICIALS WILL REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE BILL ON MAY 10.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE OVER RTHK RADIO 1 (CHINESE) AND RADIO 3 (ENGLISH).

RTHK WILL ALSO BROADCAST LIVE THE OTHER BUDGET SITTINGS ON APRIL 19 AND 20 AND MAY 3 AND 10 ON RADIO 1 (CHINESE) AND RADIO 3 (ENGLISH).

NOTE TO EDITORS:

GIS WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1) TO ENABLE REPRESENTATIVES TO START WORK ON THEIR BUDGET STORIES EARLY.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE GIVEN ADVANCE COPIES OF THE BUDGET SPEECH AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AT 12 NOON, BUT THEY MUST STAY AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM (FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL) TO WORK ON THEIR COPIES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNTIL AFTER THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH.

CONTACTS OF ANY KIND WITH THE OUTSIDE, SUCH AS TELEPHONE OR COMPUTER LINKS, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING THE "LOCK-IN". ALSO, MOBILE TELEPHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH AND THE FINANCE BRANCH WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM FROM 12.30 PM.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND SANDWICHES WILL BE SERVED AND GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER HELP.

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ZHOU NAN TO ARRIVE TOMORROW

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THE CHINESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR ZHOU NAN, WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO THURSDAY (MARCH 2).

MR ZHOU WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1). HIS PROGRAMME WILL ALSO INCLUDE A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG AND VISITS TO A CONTAINER TERMINAL IN KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR ZHOU NAN WILL ARRIVE BY CX331 AT 8.15 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY). MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE AIRPORT PRESS ROOM AT 7.30 PM.

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TRIBUTE TO SIR RUN RUN'S ARTS FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TONIGHT (MONDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR RUN RUN SHAW FOR THE SPLENDID LEADERSHIP HE PROVIDED TO THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS.

SIR RUN RUN IS RETIRING AFTER SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1973.

"WE ARE ALL SADDENED THAT HE IS RETIRING AND DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT HE HAS ACHIEVED," SAID THE GOVERNOR WHEN HE ADDRESSED A POST ARTS FESTIVAL DINNER.

"HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL, AND TO THE WIDER HONG KONG CULTURAL SCENE, HAS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE."

THE ARTS FESTIVAL HAD BECOME ESTABLISHED AS A LEADING CULTURAL EVENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND THIS WAS DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO SIR RUN RUN'S LEADERSHIP, SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF THE HARD WORK PUT IN BY ALL ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1989 ARTS FESTIVAL, AND SAID HE WAS SURE THE PAST MONTH HAD BEEN BOTH BUSY AND REWARDING.

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IT WAS EASY FOR THOSE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED THE ARTS FESTIVAL WOULD BE A SUCCESS, AND PEOPLE PERHAPS ALSO TOOK FOR GRANTED ALL THE WORK THAT WENT ON BEHIND THE SCENES.

"SO I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND MEMORABLE TO DATE, AND ONE OF WHICH HONG KONG CAN BE PROUD," SIR DAVID SAID:

"MANY OF YOU HERE TONIGHT HAVE DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO THE ARTS FESTIVAL.

"MANY OF YOU ALSO REPRESENT ORGANISATIONS AND COMPANIES WHICH HAVE GIVEN VALUABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WITHOUT THIS THE ARTS FESTIVAL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE."

THE DINNER WAS HOSTED BY SIR RUN RUN.

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STEERING GROUP MEMBERS VISIT DEMONSTRATION FARMS

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MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED FOUR FARMS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

AT A MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED BY AN OFFICIAL FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

THEY LEARNT THAT SIX OF THE NINE PRIVATE LIVESTOCK FARMS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS HAD ALREADY COMPLETED THE COMMISSIONING STAGE AND FARM OPERATORS WERE BEING TRAINED TO USE THE FACILITIES.

THE MEMBERS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR ANDREW WONG AND SEVEN FARMER REPRESENTATIVES, THEN SET OFF TO VISIT FOUR OF THE PARTICIPATING FARMS IN SHA TAU KOK, TA KWU LING AND MA ON SHAN TO LOOK AT THE LATEST PROGRESS IN THE PROJECTS.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS ARRANGED TO ENABLE STEERING GROUP MEMBERS TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 36.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 215.706 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 310.712 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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1988 EXPORTS STATISTICS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN PUBLISHED

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THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1988 TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 83 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SIX INDUSTRY GROUPS WERE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS ; WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR; TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING); PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT; PLASTIC PRODUCTS; AND BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN THE ABSOLUTE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVER 1987 WERE : ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS (+\$10,748 MILLION); PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (+\$3,948 MILLION); MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+\$2,373 MILLION); AND BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS (+\$2,076 MILLION).

IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OVER 1987 WERE : MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL (+56 PER CENT); CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+52 PER CENT); BEVERAGES (+38 PER CENT); AND TOBACCO (+36 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, A FEW INDUSTRIES RECORDED A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1988 AS COMPARED WITH 1987.

THEY WERE : PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-\$1,584 MILLION OR -12 PER CENT); TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) (-\$145 MILLION OR -0.4 PER CENT); AND WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES (-\$15 MILLION OR -2 PER CENT).

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OUTSIDE THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM OCEAN AND COASTAL FISHING INCREASED BY \$100 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT IN 1988 OVER 1987, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICITY INCREASED BY \$15 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT.

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN ARE DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE MERCHANDISE ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED. TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE EXCLUDED.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS STRUCTURED UPON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (I.S.I.C.), AS DISTINCT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (S.I.T.C.) WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN REFERRING TO THESE RE-CLASSIFIED STATISTICS. CERTAIN MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES IN THEIR PRODUCTION.

IN SUCH CASES, THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH AN ITEM IS FINALLY PRODUCED IS NOT THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE EXPORT VALUE OF THAT ITEM. HOWEVER, THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE ITEM HAS WHOLLY BEEN ALLOCATED TO THAT INDUSTRY IN THIS RE-CLASSIFICATION.

BESIDES, THE CLASSIFICATION OF A MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEM TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE EXPORT VALUE OF THE ITEM IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE PART OF THE VALUE MAY BE DUE TO PRODUCTION BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED UNDER OTHER INDUSTRIES AS SECONDARY PRODUCTS.

FURTHER DETAILS OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS RE-CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (ON TEL. NO. 5-8234832).

A TABLE SHOWING MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF SIMILAR STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER, 1988".

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VALUE OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS
RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1988

(VALUE IN HK\$ MILLION)

INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN OF THE COMMODITIES EXPORTED	MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS			
	1988 WHOLE YEAR	1987 WHOLE YEAR	VALUE CHANGE	% CHANGE

AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND FISHING				

AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION	11	9	+2	+25
OCEAN AND COASTAL FISHING	626	526	+100	+19
MINING AND QUARRYING	7	7	-0.05	-1

MANUFACTURING				

FOOD	1,508	1,324	+185	+14
BEVERAGES	338	245	+93	+38
TOBACCO	1,765	1,294	+471	+36
TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING)	41,326	41,471	-145	-*
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR AND KNITWEAR	42,418	40,959	+1,459	+4
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS	901	720	+181	+25
FOOTWEAR	1,236	1,108	+128	+12
WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS, FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	859	874	-15	-2
PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	4,955	4,050	+905	+22

/CHEMICALS AND

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CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3,814	2,507	+1,307	+52
PRODUCTS OF PETROLEUM AND COAL	4	0	+4	-
RUBBER PRODUCTS	182	180	+2	+1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	12,063	13,647	-1,584	-12
NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	747	741	+6	+1
BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	10,379	8,303	+2,076	+25
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	6,611	4,238	+2,373	+56
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	53,512	42,764	+10,748	+25
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	174	147	+27	+19
PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT	20,380	16,432	+3,948	+24
OTHER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	13,239	13,147	+92	+1
ELECTRICITY	517	502	+15	+3

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS	90	60	+30	+51

(E.G. DEVELOPED PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES AND FILM, ANTIQUES, AND WORKS OF ART)				

TOTAL	217,664	195,254	+22,410	+11

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES OF A COLUMN MAY NOT ADD UP EXACTLY TO THE CORRESPONDING TOTAL DUE TO ROUNDING.

* WITHIN +/- 0.5%

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VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN KOWLOON BAY
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BUILD A VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY.

IT IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF WANG CHIU ROAD AND CHEUNG YIP STREET AND COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 10,000 SQUARE METRES.

THE CENTRE COMPRISES A TWO-STOREY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND A COVERED SINGLE-STOREY INSPECTION HALL.

THE FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE 10 COVERED INSPECTION LANES, WAITING AREAS, A COMPUTER CONTROL ROOM, OFFICE SPACE, A CANTEEN AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 31.

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY 2 - 6
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A NUMBER OF PRIMARY 2 TO 6 PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR AND APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION WILL BE OPEN ON FRIDAY (MARCH 3) TO CHILDREN IN APPROPRIATE AGE GROUPS.

CHILDREN WHO ARE SIX YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS OLD AND ABOVE ON SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR MAY APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE APPROPRIATE PRIMARY 2 TO 6 LEVELS.

PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO WHICH THEY WISH TO SEEK ADMISSION FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO SEE IF THERE ARE VACANCIES.

A NOTICE INDICATING VACANCIES AT SPECIFIC LEVELS WILL BE PUT UP AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THESE SCHOOLS FROM FRIDAY (MARCH 3) TO THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY (MARCH 10) EXCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

/COMPLETED APPLICATION

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COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL TO WHICH ADMISSION IS SOUGHT.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS WILL BE MADE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17.

CHILDREN WILL NORMALLY BE ADMITTED TO SCHOOLS WHICH SERVE THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO ENSURE THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, CHILDREN FROM THE SAME FAMILY WILL NOT BE SEPARATED.

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE REQUESTED TO CO-OPERATE BY PROVIDING ALL THE PARTICULARS ASKED FOR IN THE APPLICATION FORM.

PARENTS ARE URGED TO NOTE THAT NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED FOR SEEKING ADMISSION TO ANY GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND OBTAINING APPLICATION FORMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED PARENTS THAT ALL CHILDREN AGED FROM SIX TO 12, WHO ARE NOT IN SCHOOL, SHOULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

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ILLEGAL DISPLAY OF BILLS AND POSTERS BLITZED
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A TOTAL OF 11 SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED DURING A TERRITORY-WIDE BLITZ OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL DISPLAY OF BILLS AND POSTERS HELD LAST SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

"ILLEGAL DISPLAY OF BILLS AND POSTERS AT PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PLACES IS A COMMON PRACTICE DURING WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND AFTER OFFICE HOURS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THIS HAS POSED A GREAT PROBLEM TO THE OVERALL TIDINESS AND CLEANLINESS OF THE CITY," HE SAID.

THE BLITZ OPERATION, CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AIMED TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION.

WHEN THE FIRST OPERATION OF THIS NATURE WAS CARRIED OUT IN NOVEMBER 1986, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE TWO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD CARRY OUT SIMILAR EXERCISES ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS.

/"HOWEVER, AS

"HOWEVER, AS THE PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE, WE HAVE INCREASED THE FREQUENCY FROM TWICE A YEAR TO QUARTERLY INTERVALS," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"WE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE ADVERTISING COMPANIES CONCERNED, WOULD EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE IN THE DISPLAY OF OUTDOOR PUBLICITY POSTERS.

"PERSONS WHO DISPLAY BILLS AND POSTERS AT PRIVATE PLACES WITHOUT THE OWNERS' CONSENT OR AT PUBLIC PLACES WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORISATION ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000," HE STRESSED.

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BRIEFINGS FOR KOWLOON CITY DB MEMBERS

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE HAS ARRANGED TWO BRIEFINGS FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON A PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN HO MAN TIN AND ON NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER.

THE BRIEFINGS WILL BE GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, BEGINNING AT 2.15 PM AND AT 4.15 PM RESPECTIVELY TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

AT THE FIRST BRIEFING, OFFICIALS FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL INFORM MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO CHANGE THE PROPOSED USE OF A SITE IN HO MAN TIN BOUNDED BY FAT KWONG STREET, SHEUNG LOK STREET AND SHEUNG FOO STREET, FROM A STADIUM TO A PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT.

AT THE SECOND BRIEFING, OFFICIALS FROM THE TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENTS WILL BRIEF MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND AREA COMMITTEES ON THE NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER ON MARCH 10 TO FOUR-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO BRIEFINGS WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM AND AT 4.15 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

OFFICERS FROM THE TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AFTER THE BRIEFING ON THE NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER.

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CIVIC EDUCATION EXHIBITION IN YUEN LONG
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CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS PREPARED BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN YUEN LONG WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL FROM TOMORROW (FEBRUARY 28) TO MARCH 2.

THESE ARE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON YUEN LONG DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AND THE YUEN LONG COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB.

THE NINE SCHOOLS WHICH TOOK PART IN THE COMPETITION ALSO PREPARED WRITTEN REPORTS TO ACCOMPANY THEIR PROJECTS ON THE TWO THEMES OF "HOW TO PROMOTE CIVIC AWARENESS IN YUEN LONG" AND "HOW TO PROTECT YUEN LONG'S ENVIRONMENT".

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROBIN IP, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ON CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL, TAI YUK ROAD, YUEN LONG. THE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

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UC ELECTION FORUMS FOR WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT
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TWO ELECTION FORUMS WILL BE HELD IN WONG TAI SIN THIS WEEK FOR CANDIDATES STANDING IN THE COMING URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION TO MEET VOTERS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE FIRST FORUM, WHICH IS FOR THE WONG TAI SIN SOUTH CONSTITUENCY, WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1) AT COGNITIO COLLEGE, 96 KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG. IT WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM.

THE SECOND FORUM FOR THE WONG TAI SIN NORTH CONSTITUENCY WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 3) AT THE TSZ WAN SHAN (EAST) ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN HONG WAH STREET, TSZ WAN SHAN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THAT AT THE FORUMS, THE CANDIDATES WILL EXPLAIN THEIR PLATFORMS AS WELL AS ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

/HE URGED

HE URGED VOTERS TO ATTEND THE FORUMS SO THAT THEY COULD GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES BETTER BEFORE CASTING THEIR VOTES IN THE ELECTION ON MARCH 9.

CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE SEAT FOR THE WONG TAI SIN SOUTH CONSTITUENCY ARE MR YEUNG CHIU-MING, MS FOK PUI-YEE AND MR MOK YING-FAN.

MISS CECILIA YEUNG, MR NG NGOK-SHING AND MR KAN CHI-HO ARE CONTESTING THE SEAT FOR THE WONG TAI SIN NORTH CONSTITUENCY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ELECTION FORUMS IN WONG TAI SIN ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1) AND FRIDAY (MARCH 3).

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SPECIAL OFFER SCHEME FOR SAI KUNG ELDERLY

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ABOUT 2,500 ELDERLY AGED 60 OR ABOVE LIVING IN SAI KUNG WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY VARIOUS BENEFITS IN A TWO-WEEK SPECIAL OFFER SCHEME BETWEEN MARCH 1 AND 15.

THIS SPECIAL OFFER SCHEME AIMS AT PROMOTING RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS AND STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE YOUNG AND THE OLD.

A TOTAL OF 17 COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS IN SAI KUNG TOWN, RENNIE'S MILL AND JUNK BAY NEW TOWN WILL TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME. THESE INCLUDE RESTAURANTS, CAKE SHOPS, PHARMACIES, OPTICAL SHOPS, GROCERIES AND HOUSEWARE STORES.

THE NATURE OF A SPECIAL OFFER IS DECIDED BY THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS. ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO CONSUME OR BUY GOODS AT ANY OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS WILL RECEIVE EITHER DISCOUNTS OR OTHER SPECIAL OFFERS.

COUPON BOOKLETS CONTAINING THE NAMES, ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND THE TYPE OF SPECIAL OFFERS PROVIDED BY THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE ELDERLY STARTING FROM JANUARY 21.

MEANWHILE, A SPECIAL LOGO WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE SHOP WINDOWS OR AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS TO SIGNIFY THEIR PARTICIPATION.

THE TWO-WEEK SPECIAL OFFER SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY IN SAI KUNG IS ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SAI KUNG AND HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEES, SAI KUNG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HANG HAU AND JUNK BAY MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

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ESTIMATES ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR 1989-90 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND THE CREATION OF NEW SUBHEADS BY TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

PAPERS TO BE TABLED WILL INCLUDE THE DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND REPORTS BY THE WORKING GROUPS ON THE REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND ON PUBLIC RELATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN, TOMORROW (TUESDAY). THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK THE CLOSURE OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT THE ROOF OVER THE FOURTH FLOOR, 33C CHEUNG NING STREET, KOWLOON, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE THE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON JANUARY 4 AND MAY 30 LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT NEXT MAY 31 WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS MADE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION BETWEEN YUEN STREET AND CORNWALL STREET, YAU YAT TSUEN, WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 1).

AFTER THE OPENING OF THE EXTENSION, MOTORISTS MAY TRAVEL BETWEEN WESTBOUND CORNWALL STREET AND TAI HANG TUNG ROAD VIA TAT CHEE AVENUE.

AT THE SAME TIME, SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE AREA.

A BUS ONLY LANE WILL BE DESIGNATED ON NORTHBOUND TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH CORNWALL STREET. ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM TAT CHEE AVENUE EXTENSION TO EASTBOUND CORNWALL STREET.

ALSO, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER TAT CHEE AVENUE BETWEEN CORNWALL STREET AND TAI HANG TUNG ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE BANNED FROM THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * TAT CHEE AVENUE BETWEEN YUEN STREET AND TAI HANG TUNG ROAD FROM 6 AM TO 7.30 AM DAILY.
- * TSEUK KIU STREET, FA PO STREET AND NAM SHAN CHUEN ROAD 24 HOURS DAILY.

THE NEW TAT CHEE AVENUE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS WILL ALSO BE OPENED ON WEDNESDAY.

FRANCHISED BUSES, GREEN MINIBUSES AND TAXIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS.

GMB ROUTE 2 WILL THEN BE EXTENDED TO TERMINATE AT THE NEW TERMINUS INSTEAD OF NAM SHAN ESTATE (LUNG CHU STREET).

GMB ROUTE 41M WILL ALSO OPERATE FROM THIS TERMINUS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM DAILY. HOWEVER, THE ROUTING OF GMB ROUTE 41M WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER 10 AM.

FOR BUS SERVICES, FROM THURSDAY KMB ROUTE 2C WILL BE EXTENDED TO TERMINATE AT THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS INSTEAD OF THE TAI HANG TUNG BUS TERMINUS.

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