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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

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DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED WEAK IN FEBRUARY 1990, WHILE RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW. IMPORTS ALSO SHOWED A MODERATE INCREASE.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1990 WAS $13,311 MILLION, $731 MILLION OR 5.2 PER CENT LESS THAN IN FEBRUARY 1989, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY $2,061 MILLION OR 9.2 PER CENT TO $24,446 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT $37,757 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 1990, WAS THUS $1,330 MILLION OR 3.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN FEBRUARY 1989.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 5.2 PER CENT OR $2,001 MILLION FROM A YEAR EARLIER, TO $40,473 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 1990.

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF $2,716 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.7 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN FEBRUARY 1990.

THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF $2,045 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.3 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN FEBRUARY 1989.

IN VIEW OF THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, IT IS MORE MEANINGFUL TO LOOK AT THE FIGURES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY COMBINED.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1990 WAS $82,354 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF $29,948 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF $52,406 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY $2,411 MILLION OR 3.0 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS FALLING BY $1,356 MILLION OR 4.3 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS RISING BY $3,767 MILLION OR 7.7 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, IMPORTS FELL BY $43 MILLION OR BY 0.1 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, TO $81,564 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE SURPLUS OF $790 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.0 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1990. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF $1,664 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.0 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1989.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO BE SLUGGISH.

/ON RE-EXPORTS .....

ON RE-EXPORTS, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1990 WAS MUCH LOWER THAN THOSE RECORDED OVER THE COURSE OF 1989.

RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA DECLINED MARKEDLY, ALTHOUGH RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN CONTINUED TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT GROWTH. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A SMALL INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 1990.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	$13,311 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	$24,446 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	$37,757 MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	$40,473 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	$ 2,716 MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	DEC 89 TO FEB 90 HK$ MN.	DEC 88 TO FEB 89 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	49,864	52,477	-2,613	-5.0
RE-EXPORTS	81,992	76,762	5,230	6.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	131,856	129,239	2,617	2.0
IMPORTS	129,008	131,790	-2,782	-2.1
TRADE BALANCE	2,848	-2,551	5,399	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	FEBRUARY 1990 HK$ MN.	FEBRUARY 1989 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	INCREASE %
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	13,311 (35.3%)	14,042 (38.5%)	-731	-5.2
RE-EXPORTS	24,446	22,385	2,061	9.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	37,757	36,427	1,330	3.7
IMPORTS	40,473	38,472	2,001	5.2
TRADE BALANCE	-2,716	-2,045	-671	

/LAST MONTH .....

LAST MONTH	FEBRUARY 1990 HK$ MN.	JANUARY 1990 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	13,311 (35.3%)	16,638 (37.3%)	-3,327	-20.0
RE-EXPORTS	24,446	27,960	-3,514	-12.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	37,757	44,598	-6,841	-15.3
IMPORTS	40,473	41,092	-619	-1.5
TRADE BALANCE	-2,716	3,506	-6,222	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-FEB 1990 HK$ MN.	JAN-FEB 1989 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	29,948 (36.4%)	31,304 (39.2%)	-1,356	-4.3
RE-EXPORTS	52,406	48,639	3,767	7.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	82,354	79,943	2,411	3.0
IMPORTS	81,564	81,607	-43	-0.1
TRADE BALANCE	790	-1,664	2,454	

LAST 12 MONTHS	MAR 89 TO FEB 90 HK$ MN.	MAR 88 TO FEB 89 HK$ MN.	INCREASE HK$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	222,749	218,851	3,898	1.8
RE-EXPORTS	350,172	289,766	60,406	20.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	572,921	508,617	64,304	12.6
IMPORTS	562,739	518,784	43,955	8.5
TRADE BALANCE	10,182	-10,167	20,349	

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HK SHIPPING REGISTER TO KEEP UP HIGH STANDARDS

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HIGH STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AT SEA AND THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED WITH THE SETTING UP OF HONG KONG'S OWN REGISTER OF SHIPPING AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SAID THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE ORIGIN OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW AND AUTONOMOUS REGISTER OF SHIPPING FOR HONG KONG LIES IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) SHALL MAINTAIN ITS PREVIOUS SYSTEMS OF SHIPPING MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION.

THE SAR SHALL ALSO BE AUTHORISED TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A SHIPPING REGISTER AND ISSUE CERTIFICATES UNDER ITS OWN LEGISLATION.

MR SZE TOLD A MEETING OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF INSURANCE BROKERS THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHIPS, THEIR SURVEY, AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR EQUIPMENT TO BE USED ON BOARD HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS, WOULD BE STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS.

"AN INTERESTING ASPECT IS THAT IN RESPECT OF MANNING," MR SZE SAID. "THE PRINCIPLES REQUIRE THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG SHIPS WILL BE DETERMINED BY REFERENCES ONLY TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS HELD, WHICH ARE JUDGED TO BE AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO THOSE ISSUED IN HONG KONG.

"THIS MEANS THAT NO NATIONALITY REQUIREMENTS WILL BE SPECIFIED FOR THE MASTER OR ANY OF THE OFFICERS OR CREW."

MR SZE SAID REASONS FOR NOT INSISTING UPON ANY REQUIREMENT THAT THERE SHOULD AT LEAST BE SOME SORT OF RESIDENTIAL LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE CREWS OF HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS WERE THREE FOLD.

"FIRST, IN ORDER TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEW REGISTER TO TAKE OVER SMOOTHLY FROM THE OLD THERE SHOULD BE AS LITTLE CHANGE AS POSSIBLE.

"TO INTRODUCE A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR NATIONALITY OR RESIDENT STATUS WHICH DOES NOT EXIST AT PRESENT, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MASTER AND OFFICERS TO BE BRITISH MUST BE REMOVED, WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THAT OBJECTIVE."

ANOTHER REASON WAS THAT MORE THAN A THIRD OF ALL THE POSTS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS WERE ALREADY FILLED BY HONG KONG SEAFARERS, MAKING COMPULSION UNNECESSARY, MR SZE SAID.

"AND THIRD, SINCE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED HONG KONG OFFICERS NOW AND IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS INADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMAND FROM SHIPS PRESENTLY REGISTERED IN HONG KONG, THE NEW REGISTER WOULD EITHER START OFF IN AN UNSATISFACTORY WAY BY RELYING UPON A LARGE NUMBER OF EXEMPTIONS OR THE SIZE OF THE FLEET WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED TO MEET THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS AVAILABLE.

/"THIS WAS .....

"THIS WAS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE PROSPECT."

MR SZE SAID IT WAS DECIDED THAT OWNERS MUST BE PERSONS ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG OR, IN THE CASE OF CORPORATE OWNERS, MUST BE INCORPORATED OR ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

"IN ADDITION, THE SHIPS MUST BE MANAGED AND CONTROLLED FROM HONG KONG AND A NOMINATED PERSON RESIDENT IN HONG KONG APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE OWNER.

"THIS IS A NEW CONCEPT WHICH WILL ENABLE THE AUTHORITIES HERE TO HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HONG KONG REGISTERED FLEET AND IN THIS WAY ENSURE ADHERENCE TO HIGH STANDARDS AT ALL TIMES WHEREVER THE SHIPS MAY BE."

A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM WOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR THE ACTUAL PROCESS OF SHIP REGISTRATION, MR SZE SAID, AND THIS WAS NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

SUCH A SYSTEM WAS PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR THE TASK TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN ERROR AND DUPLICATION OF INFORMATION, IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND MAKE THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE MORE SIMPLE THAN THE PRESENT MANUAL SYSTEM.

SHIPPING POLICY FOR HONG KONG MUST IN FUTURE BE DEVELOPED SEPARATELY FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, MR SZE SAID.

"THIS IS IN ANY CASE DESIRABLE BECAUSE UK SHIPPING POLICY DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUIT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS WHICH OBTAIN IN HONG KONG."

HOWEVER, THE PRESENT HIGH STANDARDS IN HONG KONG SHIPS BY VIRTUE OF THEIR BEING ON THE BRITISH REGISTER WOULD BE MAINTAINED UNDER THE NEW REGIME AND STRONG LINKS WOULD BE FORGED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE SHIPS ON ITS REGISTER, MR SZE SAID.

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SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION AND PRIORITY

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) RECOMMENDS, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCE A CHILDREN SUPPLEMENT FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CLIENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN AS PART OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO SUGGESTED AT A MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF MORE SINGLE-PARENT CLUBS.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL PREPARE A PAPER ON THESE PROPOSALS FOR THE SWAC'S CONSIDERATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

/SPEAKING AT .....

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID: "GREATER EFFORTS ARE NEEDED TO DEVELOP PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND PROVIDE PREVENTIVE SERVICES, NOT ONLY BY SOCIAL WORKERS BUT ALSO BY OTHER PROFESSIONALS, TO CURB THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF MARITAL BREAKDOWN."

MR CHUI SAID IT WAS RECOGNISED THAT SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES HAD SPECIAL SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL NEEDS.

"HOWEVER, SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES SHOULD NOT BE LABELLED AS PROBLEMATIC FAMILIES, BUT RATHER BE VIEWED AS ANOTHER TARGET GROUP WITH PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS AND REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION AND PRIORITY," HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE NEEDS OF THESE FAMILIES COULD GENERALLY BE MET WITHIN THE EXISTING NETWORK OF WELFARE SERVICE PROVISION.

"WHAT IS REQUIRED IS MORE ALERTNESS AND SENSITIVITY TO IDENTIFY THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, FLEXIBILITY AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DELIVER SERVICES TO THIS CLIENT GROUP, STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING SERVICES AND BETTER PREPARATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THESE FAMILIES," HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO THE 1986 BI-CENSUS, THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES WAS 36,541 OUT OF 1,452,576 HOUSEHOLDS (2.5 PER CENT OF ALL DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG). AMONG THESE SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, 22,411 WERE HOUSEHOLDS WITH A WIDOWED PARENT INVOLVING 37,921 CHILDREN WHILE 14,130 FAMILIES WERE HOUSEHOLDS WITH A DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENT, INVOLVING 23,139 CHILDREN.

SWAC MEMBERS AGREED THAT, DESPITE THE RELATIVELY LOW PERCENTAGE, SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES STILL COMMAND ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICULAR FINANCIAL, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS WHICH COULD MAKE THEIR CHILDREN MORE VULNERABLE.

THEY SHARED THE VIEW THAT SUCH FAMILIES DESERVE SPECIAL CONCERN FROM SOCIAL WORKERS.

OUTLINING THE EXISTING SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, MR CHUI NOTED THAT THESE INCLUDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HOUSING ASSISTANCE, FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE) AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE GROUP PROGRAMMES, CHILD CARE CENTRE SERVICES, EXTENDED AND FLEXIBLE SERVICES HOURS, TEMPORARY DAY CARE, RESIDENTIAL CARE, AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME AND HOME HELP SERVICE FOR SOCIAL NEED CASES.

TURNING TO FLE AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE GROUP PROGRAMMES, MR CHUI TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE ON FLE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM SWD AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE HAD IDENTIFIED SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN AS ONE OF THE MAJOR TARGET GROUPS WHICH MERITED HIGH PRIORITY.

/"TO BETTER .....

"TO BETTER EQUIP SOCIAL WORKERS, MORE INFORMATION ON SINGLE-PARENTHOOD WILL BE DEVELOPED AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL BE ORGANISED."

WHILE INFORMING SWAC MEMBERS THAT THE SWD AIMS TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 1,600 AIDED NURSERY PLACES EACH YEAR OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, MR CHUI SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD ADVISED SUPERVISORS OF ALL AIDED AND NON-PROFIT-MAKING CHILD CARE CENTRES TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES WITH A NEED FOR FULL DAY CARE, WHICH ENCOMPASSED SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES AND BROKEN FAMILIES.

"IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, THE SWD IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE PROVISION AND FINANCING OF DAY CRECHE AND DAY NURSERY SERVICES. PROPOSALS WILL BE FORMULATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE SWD WOULD CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE SERVICE TO MEET THE NEED FOR TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY CARE IN NEEDY FAMILIES.

SWAC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED THE DECISION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND SERVICES TO MAKE PUBLIC THE DRAFT WHITE PAPER AND ITS CONSULTATION PROCEDURES.

MEMBERS WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT A TOTAL OF 204 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE WORKING PARTY'S APPEAL FOR PUBLIC VIEWS.

SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, THE SWAC ALSO ENDORSED THE INTRODUCTION OF A UNIFIED SALARY SCALE FOR HOME HELPERS. THE NEW SALARY SCALE FOR HOME HELPERS IS BETWEEN MASTER PAY SCALE POINTS SIX AND 11 ($3,945 AND $5,340).

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CAREERS CENTRES MEET DEMAND OF MODERN ECONOMY

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A CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE CAN HELP PROVIDE THE MANPOWER RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY, A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR LAU WONG-FAT, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

AS A FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE WITH ONLY LIMITED RESOURCES, HONG KONG HAD TO MAKE THE OPTIMUM USE OF ITS HUMAN RESOURCES, MR LAU SAID WHEN OPENING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S TUEN MUN CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ASSISTED YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHOOSING A CAREER SUITED TO THEIR ABILITY AND INTEREST THROUGH EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

/ALSO OFFICIATING .....

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, SAID A CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE WORLD OF WORK.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FOUR CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT WERE ALL EQUIPPED WITH AN UP-TO-DATE CAREERS LIBRARY AND AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

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CONCERN GROUP SET UP TO HELP FIRE VICTIMS

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A CONCERN GROUP WAS SET UP TO HELP VICTIMS OF THE SAU ON VILLAGE FIRE AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

THE GROUP, COMPRISING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF, IS UNDER THE JOINT CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRIS WAN.

THE GROUP WILL LIAISE WITH THE VICTIMS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND ASSIST IN MATTERS RELATING TO REHOUSING, SCHOOLING AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE FIRE ON MARCH 23 LEFT MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS. THE VICTIMS ARE BEING HOUSED TEMPORARILY IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S SHUN LEE ESTATE AND SAU MAU PING (SOUTH) COMMUNITY CENTRES.

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HEIGHT OF RAILINGS ON JOINT COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICES WILL REQUEST THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION TO RAISE THE HEIGHT OF RAILINGS SEPARATING TRACKS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE SUGGESTION WILL BE MADE BY TWO MEMBERS WHO OBSERVED THAT FOR CONVENIENCE, MANY PEDESTRIANS CLIMB OVER THE RAILINGS SEPARATING THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND TRACKS AT YUEN LONG MAIN ROAD.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK ABOUT THE CLEANSING ARRANGEMENT FOR AREAS ALONG THE LIGHT RAIL.

/MEANWHILE, THE .....

MEANWHILE, THE LATEST FIGURES AND INFORMATION CONCERNING LRT ACCIDENTS WILL BE TABLED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LRT SERVICES TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE TUEN MUN DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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COMMENDATION FOR PRISON VISITORS

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THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE BIBLE SEMINARY STUDENT EVANGELISTIC BAND WERE AWARDED THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' COMMENDATION TODAY (MONDAY).

THEY WERE COMMENDED FOR THEIR UNSWERVING COMMITMENT, DEVOTION AND DEDICATION TO THE SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF THE PRISONERS AND INMATES IN THE PAST 30 YEARS.

THE BAND'S MEMBERS ARE AMONG THE PRISON VISITORS IN HONG KONG WHO PROVIDE RELIGIOUS SERVICES, TEACHING, COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE AND ORGANISE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE INMATES.

THE PRISON CHAPLAIN OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD), FATHER PETER NEWBERY, SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE VISITORS CAME FROM RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 138 PRISON VISITORS, WITH 98 OF THEM COMING FROM THESE ORGANISATIONS. THEY INCLUDE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC MEMBERS AS WELL AS PEOPLE FROM THE ISLAMIC UNION OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG BUDDHISTS.

FATHER NEWBERY SAID MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS AND THE CARITAS LOK HEEP ASSOCIATION, WHICH OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO DISCHARGED PRISONERS AND EX-DRUG ABUSERS RESPECTIVELY, REGULARLY VISITED INSTITUTIONS TO INFORM THE INMATES OF THE SERVICES THEIR ORGANISATIONS OFFERED.

THEY WERE ISSUED WITH SPECIAL PASSES TO ENTER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTACT INMATES ABOUT THEIR SERVICES, HE SAID.

/MEMBERS OF .....

MEMBERS OF THE PRISONERS' FRIENDS ASSOCIATION VISITED THE INMATES IN THE VISIT ROOMS ON A ONE TO ONE BASIS, HE ADDED.

FATHER NEWBERY SAID THE VISITORS COULD PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THE INMATES NEEDED TO HELP THEM COPE WITH THE DIFFICULTIES IN ADJUSTING TO PRISON LIFE. THE VISITORS STOOD BY THE INMATES AS THEY SERVED THEIR SENTENCE AND UNTIL THEY WERE EVENTUALLY PREPARED TO GO HOME AND FACE THE SOCIETY.

"THEY ENCOURAGE THE INMATES AND SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO BECOME MORE MATURE PEOPLE, TO GROW, TO DEVELOP AND TO CHANGE," HE SAID.

SOME VISITORS HELP ORGANISE SPECIAL TRAINING AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE INMATES SUCH AS FOOTBALL, DRAWING AND GUITAR PLAYING.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE BIBLE SEMINARY STUDENT EVANGELISTIC BAND BEGAN THEIR SERVICE IN THE THEN CHI MA WAN PRISON IN 1960. THEY NOW HAVE 36 STUDENTS VISITING EIGHT INSTITUTIONS WEEKLY TO RUN RELIGIOUS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE INMATES.

AT A CEREMONY THIS MORNING, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, PRESENTED THE COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE TO FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEMINARY AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN NORTH POINT AND TUEN MUN SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

IN NORTH POINT, THE AUTHORITY SEEKS TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ON THE FLAT ROOF OF 19TH FLOOR, NAM TIN BUILDING, 275 KING'S ROAD.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JULY LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 26 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

IN TUEN MUN, THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN QUESTION ARE AT WORKSHOP 10, FIRST FLOOR, MING FAT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, KIN FAT STREET.

A DEMOLITION ORDER WAS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN OCTOBER 1988 IN RESPECT OF THE STRUCTURES BUT THE OWNER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY.

/TO FACILITATE .....

TO FACILITATE THE DEMOLITION, THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES, TOGETHER WITH WORKSHOP 10, WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 14 WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE PREMISES TODAY.

IN BOTH CASES, DEMOLITION WORK WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 38.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 228.195 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 198.811 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 33.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUT IN HO MAN TIN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN HO MAN TIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 28) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY PUI CHING ROAD, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, ARGYLE STREET AND SOARES AVENUE, INCLUDING MAN FUK ROAD, MAN WAN ROAD, HOK YU LANE, JULIA AVENUE, EMMA AVENUE AND 61-79K WATERLOO ROAD.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT SEVERAL SECTIONS OF SHA TIN ROAD, TAI PO ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 28) TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE INNERMOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN TOLO HIGHWAY AND FO TAN NULLAH WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 30) TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND BETWEEN HO TUNG LAU AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM ON APRIL 2 (MONDAY) TO 8 PM ON APRIL 4 (WEDNESDAY).

THE FAST LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND TSANG TAI UK WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON APRIL 2 TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON APRIL 6 (FRIDAY) TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE AND FO TAN NULLAH WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON APRIL 9 (MONDAY) TO 8 PM ON APRIL 11 (WEDNESDAY).

THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE AND MA LIU SHUI WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM ON APRIL 11 TO 8 PM THE NEXT DAY.

THE FAST LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN TSANG TAI UK AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON APRIL 17 (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND TSANG TAI UK WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON APRIL 23 (MONDAY) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN TSANG TAI UK AND PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON APRIL 30 (MONDAY) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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