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HOUSING UNITS FOR SINGLE PERSONS

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SOME FLATS IN EXISTING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ARE BEING CONVERTED INTO ACCOMMODATION FOR SINGLE PERSONS UNDER A $10 MILLION CONTRACT RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

+BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, 2 000 SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING UNITS WILL HAVE BEEN CONVERTED FROM 1 000 ESTATE FLATS,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY TODAY.

+CONVERSION IS BEING CARRIED OUT INITIALLY IN CASUAL VACANCIES IN MARK III TO VI BLOCKS AND NON-SELF-CONTAINED FORMER GOVERNMENT LOW COST HOUSING BLOCKS.

+THESE VACANCIES OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSFER OF TENANTS TO NEW ESTATES OR UPON TENANTS BUYING HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIRST BATCH OF ABOUT 300 HOUSING UNITS FOR SINGLE PERSONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY MARCH NEXT YEAR.

+UNDER THE NEW POLICY, PRIORITY IN ALLOCATION OF THESE CONVERTED FLATS WILL BE GIVEN TO SINGLE TENANTS LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AND MARK I/II ESTATES AFFECTED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME, AS WELL AS SINGLE PERSONS IN COMPASSIONATE CASES.+

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ADVICE ON CONTAINER VEHICLES

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DRIVERS AND SHIPPERS WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED TO COMPLY WITH THE MAXIMUM WEIGHTS OF CONTAINER VEHICLES AND OTHER ARTICULATED VEHICLES AS PERMITTED UNDER THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION.

MR P.K. LO, SENIOR ENGINEER OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S VEHICLE EXAMINATION DIVISION, STRESSED THAT THE LEGAL WEIGHT LIMITS HAD BEEN SET FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE ROADS.

+IF ADHERED TO, THESE LIMITS WILL PROMOTE THE SAFE CARRIAGE OF CONTAINERS WITHIN HONG KONG,+ MR LO SAID.

THE LIMITS NOW IN FORCE WERE MORE GENEROUS THAN THOSE BEFORE AUGUST 25, WHEN THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION CAME INTO EFFECT.

/MR LO .....

MR LO SAID THAT THE CONTAINER VEHICLE FLEET IN HONG KONG COMPRISES MAINLY TWO-AXLED TRACTORS AND TWO-AXLED TRAILERS, AND THE MAXIMUM COMBINED WEIGHT OF THE LARGEST OF SUCH VEHICLES PERMITTED UNDER THE LAW IS 34 TONNES. LESSER COMBINED WEIGHTS APPLY TO SMALLER VEHICLES AND THE LIMITS ARE SPECIFIED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS.

THE GROSS COMBINED WEIGHTS STATED IN THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS OF CONTAINER TRACTORS MUST NOT BE EXCEEDED, HE SAID.

+IF EXCEEDED, HOWEVER, APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE FLOUTING THE LAW. OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $10 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS,+ MR LO SAID.

+IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF CONTAINER VEHICLE OPERATORS AND LOCAL AND OVERSEAS SHIPPERS THAT THEY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE LIMITS TO WHICH CONTAINERS COULD BE LOADED IF THEY ARE TO BE CARRIED LEGALLY AND PROMPTLY WITHIN HONG KONG.

+DRIVERS OF CONTAINER VEHICLES MUST ASCERTAIN WHAT LOADS THEY CAN LEGALLY CARRY AND ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT CARRY CONTAINERS WHICH OVERLOAD THEIR VEHICLES.

+THEY ARE ENTITLED TO REFUSE TO CARRY A CONTAINER UNTIL THEY HAVE SATISFIED THEMSELVES FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE SHIPPER THAT THE WEIGHT OF THE CONTAINER IN QUESTION DOES NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS.+

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CULTURAL FACILITIES FOR TSIM SHA TSUI

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A +DREAM+ OF THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH HAS BEEN HELD UP FOR MORE THAN A DECADE WILL SHORTLY COME TRUE.

BUT DESPITE THE DELAY, THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, BELIEVES THAT +GOOD THINGS ARE WELL WORTH WAITING FOR+.

THE +DREAM+ IS NONE OTHER THAN THE IMAGINATIVELY DESIGNED CULTURAL CENTRE IN THE HEART OF TSIM SHA TSUI.

+INDEED, WHEN IT GOES INTO OPERATION WITH ITS MARVELLOUS RANGE OF VENUES FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE WILL FORGIVE THE DELAY AND INSTEAD IMMEDIATELY EMBRACE AND APPRECIATE ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND ULTRA MODERN AUDITORIA IN THE PACIFIC BASIN,+ HE SAID TODAY.

/MR CHEONG-LEEN .....

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THIS JOINT GOVERNMENT/URBAN COUNCIL PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST $474 MILLION, OF WHICH ABOUT $110 MILLION WILL BE BORNE BY THE COUNCIL.

UPON COMPLETION IN 1987 IT WILL PROVIDE A CONCERT HALL, A LYRIC THEATRE, A DRAMA THEATRE AND A FEAST OF SUPPORTING FACILITIES.

THE CONCERT HALL, TO BE EQUIPPED WITH ONE OF ASIA'S BIGGEST PIPE ORGANS, WILL HAVE A SEATING CAPACITY OF 2 300 WHILE THE LYRIC THEATRE WILL SEAT SOME 1 850 PEOPLE.

THE 400-SEAT DRAMA THEATRE WILL BE THE ONLY THEATRE IN HONG KONG WITH VARIABLE STAGE FORMATS SUCH AS AN END STAGE, ARENA, TRAVERSE AND THRUST. IT WILL BE IDEAL FOR EXPERIMENTAL DRAMA PRODUCTIONS.

MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT WILL ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL AS A PRIME PROMOTER OF ART AND CULTURE.

+THE ADDITION OF THIS ULTRA-MODERN CULTURAL FACILITY SYMBOLISES A FURTHER BREAK-THROUGH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ART AND CULTURE IN THE LOCAL SCENE,+ HE SAID.

+LOCAL GROUPS WILL ALSO BENEFIT INDIRECTLY AS A RESULT OF THE EASING OF THE PRESENT PRESSURE ON THE USE OF PERFORMING VENUES AT CITY HALL.+

APART FROM THESE PERFORMING VENUES, THE CENTRE WILL ALSO HOUSE AN ARTS LIBRARY, A TWO-STOREY RESTAURANT WITH A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE HARBOUR, A MARRIAGE REGISTRY AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

BUT THIS IS ONLY PART OF THE VERITABLE TREASURE CHEST OF CULTURAL FACILITIES THAT WILL BE SPRINGING UP IN TSIM SHA TSUI, MR CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

TO FURTHER ENRICH THE CULTURAL LIFE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, HE ADDED, THE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE PROVIDING A MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND A MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE EXISTING MUSEUM OF HISTORY CAME INTO BEING IN THE 1970S AND IS AT PRESENT LOCATED IN CONVERTED ARMY BUILDINGS IN KOWLOON PARK.

WHEN IT MOVES TO ITS OWN PURPOSE-BUILT PREMISES IT WILL PROVE A FASCINATING ATTRACTION FOR YOUNG AND OLD, AND FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS ALIKE.

AS FOR THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, A PROJECT FOR WHICH THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A MOST GENEROUS DONATION OF $200 MILLION TOWARDS ITS CONSTRUCTION COST, IT IS EXPECTED TO SERVE AS AN EDUCATIONAL ADJUNCT AS WELL AS FULFILLING THE PURPOSES OF A MUSEUM.

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ANOTHER TAI PO GROWTH PROJECT

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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS SPENDING $42.5 MILLION ON ANOTHER PROJECT IN THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT CALLS FOR FORMATION OF ABOUT FOUR HECTARES OF LAND IN SHUI WAI FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RETRAINING ABOUT 700 METRES OF LOWER LAM TSUEN RIVER BETWEEN SHUI WAI VILLAGE AND MUI SHUE HANG.

IN INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS, PLUS THREE FOOTBRIDGES AND RIVERSIDE PATHS.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETED.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR STALLS BEING OFFERED

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A TOTAL OF 981 STALL SITES FOR SALE OF FLOWERS, DRY GOODS, SOFT DRINKS AND ICE-CREAM AT SEVEN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE PUT UP FOR LEASE IN SEPARATE PUBLIC AUCTIONS EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE SEVEN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS, WILL BE HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 13 AND 20. THEY WILL BE LOCATED AT TUEN MUN, TAI PO, TSUEN WAN, NORTH DISTRICT, KWAI CHUNG, SHA TIN AND YUEN LONG, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

TUEN MUN WILL BE THE FIRST DISTRICT TO HOLD THE PUBLIC AUCTION. AUCTIONING OF THE 120 STALLS AT TUEN MUN PLAYGROUND WILL BE HELD AT THE TAI HING COMMUNITY HALL, TAI HING ESTATE, ON JANUARY 7.

ON JANUARY 8, 80 STALLS AT TAI PO PLAYGROUND WILL BE OFFERED AT TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE IN HEUNG SZE WUI STREET.

THIS YEAR'S BIGGEST FAIR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE LOCATED AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND IN TSUEN WAN, WHERE 208 STALLS WILL BE ERECTED FOR SALE OF DRY GOODS, FLOWERS, BOTTLED DRINKS AND ICE CREAM.

THE AUCTION OF THESE STALLS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM ON JANUARY 9.

IN NORTH DISTRICT, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR'S 113 STALLS WILL BE ERECTED AT SHEK WU HUI PLAYGROUND IN SHEUNG SHUI AND THE STALLS WILL BE AUCTIONED AT THE NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TOWN HALL ON JANUARY 10.

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AND IN KWAI CHUNG, THE 112 STALL SITES AT THE SPORTS GROUND WILL BE PUT UP FOR AUCTION AT KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL AT LAI FONG STREET ON JANUARY 14.

TRADERS WHO WISH TO BID ONE OF THE 148 STALLS AT YUEN WO ROAD PLAYGROUND SHOULD ARRIVE AT LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL, LEK YUEN ESTATE, ON JANUARY 16.

ON JANUARY 18, A TOTAL OF 200 STALLS AT THE PEDESTRIAN MALL OPPOSITE TO YUEN LONG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL WILL BE OFFERED AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

ALL PUBLIC AUCTIONS WILL START AT 9.30 AM AND INTERESTED TRADERS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS AND TWO RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE AUCTION VENUE.

THE UPSET PRICE FOR EACH OF THE STALLS AT ALL THE SEVEN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIRS IS $100, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SITE PLANS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE STALLS AT THE SEVEN FAIRS MAY BE OBTAINED AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND URBAN SERVICES OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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CHANCE TO WIN COMMONWEALTH AWARDS

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TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS CAN NOW ENTER THE AWARDS FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS TEACHERS 1984-85.

ORGANISED BY THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS (CASTME), THE AWARDS AIM TO ENCOURAGE THE TEACHING OF THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THESE SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THEIR RELEVANCE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS.

THERE ARE NO SET TOPICS FOR THE COMPETITION. REPORTS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE TEACHER OR OFFICIAL SHOULD BE BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND SHOULD INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF TEACHING OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL WORK SUCH AS CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OR PROGRAMMES OF TEACHER TRAINING.

THE REPORTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 000 WORDS.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL SHOULD BE INCLUDED WHEREVER RELEVANT, TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER EVIDENCE THAT SHOWS THE IDEAS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PRACTICE.

AWARDS TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF AT LEAST 300 POUNDS STERLING HAVE BEEN DONATED BY CASTME, AND WILL BE MADE ACCORDING TO THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES.

APPLICANTS MUST REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 31, 1985, AND THE COMPLETED PAPERS MUST REACH THE BRITISH COUNCIL BEFORE MAY 1, 1985.

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POK FU LAM TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN POK FU LAM WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFECTED WILL BE NO. 5-63 AND 2-72 MT. DAVIS ROAD, NO. 188-216 VICTORIA ROAD AND SANDY BAY FRESH WATER PUMPING STATION.

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KOWLOON CITY WATER WORK

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 28) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT MEI TUNG ESTATE, PUI MAN TSUEN, KOWLOON WALLED CITY AND TUNG TAU ESTATE BLOCK 6.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN EAST OF THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO TEXACO ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (DECEMBER 27-28) TO FACILITATE THE ERECTION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THIS SLIP ROAD, TSUEN FU STREET AND TSUEN WAH STREET.

FROM THURSDAY (DECEMBER 27), THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO TUEN MUN ROAD AT CHAI WAN KOK, TSUEN WAN FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORK:

* ONLY ONE TRAFFIC LANE OF THE SLIP ROAD WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 3 PM AND 4 PM DAILY.

* THE SLIP ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 8.30 PM AND 5.30 AM DAILY EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES. MOTORISTS HEADING FOR TUEN MUN WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

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