



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1988

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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER-JANUARY

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IN THE THREE MONTHS NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES REMAINED STABLE AT A LOW LEVEL, COMPARED WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1987, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS HAVE REMAINED TIGHT, WITH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE FULLY EMPLOYED.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988 WAS 1.8 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.9 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1987 AND 2.0 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988 WAS ESTIMATED AT 48,900, COMPARED WITH 52,900 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1987 AND 54,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1987.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988 WAS 0.9 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 1.0 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1987. THE RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1986-JANUARY 1987 WAS 1.2 PER CENT.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988 WAS 26,000, COMPARED WITH 28,100 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1987 AND 31,700 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1987.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

/THE COMMISSIONER

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THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1987-FEBRUARY 1988 WAS 1.6 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.8 PER CENT.

THE LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, AVERAGED OVER THE THREE MONTHS, WAS DUE TO THE RATHER LOW RATE FOR FEBRUARY, 1988, WHICH WAS PROBABLY RESULTED FROM FEWER JOB SEEKERS LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 49,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1987 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND MARCH 20 AT \$9.50 PER COPY.

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PROPOSAL TO REMOVE WAGE CEILING DISCUSSED BY LAB

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD MET TODAY (MONDAY) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

AT PRESENT THE LAW APPLIES TO ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF WAGES AND TO NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE WAGES DO NOT EXCEED \$11,500 A MONTH. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE ORDINANCE.

USEFUL VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED BY EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING.

ALTHOUGH OPINIONS WERE DIVIDED, MOST MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE WAGE CEILING FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND TO SET A LIMIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAYMENT AND LONG SERVICE PAYMENT FOR THIS GROUP OF EMPLOYEES, AND FOR THIS LIMIT TO BE REVISED AS AND WHEN NECESSARY BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOWEVER, SOME MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE. IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS QUESTION.

THE BOARD ALSO AGREED TO SEND A TRIPARTITE DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE 75TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WOULD COMPRISE AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, A REPRESENTATIVE OF EMPLOYERS AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF EMPLOYEES.

AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TONY HAMMOND, GAVE A VOTE OF THANKS TO A RETIRING MEMBER, MR J.A. CHEETHAM. MR CHEETHAM HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD SINCE 1975.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES ANNOUNCED
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THE SIR EDWARD YOUDE MEMORIAL FUND COUNCIL TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED AWARDS FOR THREE SCHOLARSHIPS AND TWO FELLOWSHIPS FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS TO PURSUE COURSES OVERSEAS IN THE 1988-89 ACADEMIC YEAR.

AFTER FINAL INTERVIEWS HELD ON FEBRUARY 29, APPLICANTS TO BE OFFERED AWARDS ARE -

SCHOLARSHIPS

- * MR CHUI WAI-HO, A FORM 7 STUDENT AT DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL. MR CHUI PROPOSES TO STUDY ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY OR STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES. MR CHUI SCORED NINE A GRADE RESULTS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1986.
- * MR HUI YUI, A FORM 7 STUDENT AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE. MR HUI PROPOSES TO READ MEDICINE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY IN ENGLAND AND HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY AWARDED A PRINCE PHILIP SCHOLARSHIP BY THE FRIENDS OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG. MR HUI ALSO SCORED NINE A GRADE RESULTS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1986.
- * MISS YOUNG WAI-MUN, A FORM 7 STUDENT AT SACRED HEART CANOSSIAN COLLEGE. MISS YOUNG PROPOSES TO READ LAW AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY OR BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY IN ENGLAND. MISS YOUNG SCORED EIGHT A GRADE AND ONE B GRADE RESULTS IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION IN 1986.

FELLOWSHIPS

- * MISS NG MEE-KAM, AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE. MISS NG HAS A MSC DEGREE IN URBAN PLANNING FROM HONG KONG UNIVERSITY. SHE PROPOSES TO OBTAIN A PHD DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY OR LOS ANGELES BY CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING.
- * MR PAUL HSIEH WING-TAI, A POST-GRADUATE LAW STUDENT AT HONG KONG UNIVERSITY. MR HSIEH GRADUATED WITH A FIRST IN LAW FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY IN 1987 AND PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE IN CIVIL LAW AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN ENGLAND.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, MR STEPHEN CHEONG, SAID: "THESE STUDENTS WERE CHOSEN FROM AMONG SOME 250 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

/"THEY HAVE

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"THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH A RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCESS INVOLVING SHORTLISTING, PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS AND FINAL INTERVIEWS. I CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR SUCCESS.

"AS I SAID BEFORE, OUR AIM FOR MAKING THESE AWARDS IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF SOME OF OUR BRIGHTEST STUDENTS IN THE BEST INSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD.

"I THINK WE HAVE ACHIEVED OUR AIM VERY WELL, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE RESULT OF OUR SELECTION."

"I THANK LADY YOUDE, MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE ASSISTED US FOR THE CARE THEY HAVE TAKEN IN ENSURING THIS VERY SATISFACTORY RESULT," MR CHEONG ADDED.

LADY YOUDE, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FINAL SELECTION INTERVIEWS SAID: "I AM VERY GLAD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE CANDIDATES AND DISCUSS WITH THEM THEIR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

"THEY ARE ALL EXCELLENT CANDIDATES WITH HIGH STANDARDS AND GREAT POTENTIAL.

"I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL PROFIT FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS WHICH THEY WON AND HELP BRING FURTHER SUCCESS TO HONG KONG."

THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES IN 1988-89 AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$755,000. THIS IS MADE UP OF AT LEAST \$120,000 A YEAR FOR EACH SCHOLARSHIP AND AT LEAST \$135,000 A YEAR FOR EACH FELLOWSHIP.

"THESE ANNUAL AMOUNTS SHOULD ENABLE OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS TO MEET EXPENSES FOR FEES, MAINTENANCE AND NECESSARY AIR TRAVEL," MR CHEONG EXPLAINED.

"HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE THEM HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT FINANCES DURING THEIR STUDIES. THE COUNCIL WILL ON APPLICATION AND IN INDIVIDUAL CASES CONSIDER MAKING ADJUSTMENT TO THE AMOUNT PAYABLE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WISH TO PREVENT OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS FROM ACCEPTING OTHER AWARDS GIVEN IN RECOGNITION OF MERIT. THE COUNCIL WILL ALLOW THEM TO HOLD ANY SUCH OTHER AWARDS CONCURRENTLY PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE NOT FULL-COST AWARDS.

"OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS WILL BE ASKED TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ANY OTHER AWARDS WHICH THEY MAY RECEIVE AND THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINING THE ANNUAL AMOUNTS PAYABLE."

/THE COUNCIL

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THE COUNCIL ALSO ANNOUNCED A SCHEME OF SPECIAL AWARDS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS AT THE LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. THE AIM IS TO GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THESE STUDENTS AND TO ASSIST THEM TO OVERCOME THE EXTRA DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARISE BECAUSE OF THEIR DISABILITIES.

"WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE DISABLED STUDENTS FACED IN THE LEARNING PROCESS CAN BE ALLEVIATED BY THE USE OF SUITABLE TECHNICAL AIDS OR SERVICES DESIGNED TO MEET THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS," MR CHEONG SAID.

"BUT THESE AIDS OR SERVICES ARE SOMETIMES EXPENSIVE OR NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO NEED THEM.

"WE WILL THEREFORE ASSIST THEM ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS WITH A ONE-OFF GRANT TO ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE SUCH TECHNICAL AIDS OR SERVICES FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE DURING AND AFTER THEIR STUDIES."

THE COUNCIL WILL MAKE AVAILABLE UP TO \$100,000 A YEAR STARTING FROM THE 1988-89 ACADEMIC YEAR FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WILL IN DUE COURSE INVITE HEADS OF THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO FORWARD NOMINATIONS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

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EPD SENDS LETTERS TO FARMERS IN CONTROL AREAS

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS SENT LETTERS TO FARM OPERATORS OF STAGE I OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREAS INFORMING THEM THAT THEY CAN APPLY FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE IF THEY CHOOSE TO CEASE LIVESTOCK KEEPING OPERATION.

STAGE I OF THE CONTROL AREAS COVERS THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL AREA, MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH AREAS.

AS SET OUT IN THE WASTE DISPOSAL (LIVESTOCK WASTE) REGULATIONS 1988, LIVESTOCK KEEPING WILL BE CONTROLLED IN THE ABOVE AREAS WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 24 THIS YEAR.

FARMERS IN THESE AREAS CAN CHOOSE TO OPT OUT OF BUSINESS OR TO CONTINUE LIVESTOCK KEEPING OPERATION. THOSE WHO WISH TO CEASE OPERATION SHOULD INFORM THE EPD THE DATE ON WHICH THEY PROPOSE TO CEASE BUSINESS.

FARMERS WHO HAVE QUERIES CAN CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONING 3-7332285, 3-7332286, OR 3-7332292.

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TAC TO MEET TOMORROW

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE FIVE-YEAR PLANS, 1988-1992, OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY AND THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL LOOK INTO THE CONGESTION PROBLEM AT THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF SEAT BELT LEGISLATION.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 2.30 PM.

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VTC ENGINEERING COURSE ACCEPTABLE TO MARINE DEPT

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UNDER A NEW ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, DIPLOMA HOLDERS IN MARINE ENGINEERING AND FABRICATION, AFTER UNDERGOING TWO YEARS OF RELEVANT PRACTICAL TRAINING, WILL BE QUALIFIED FOR ENTRY INTO THE MARINE ENGINEER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION SYSTEM.

THE ARRANGEMENT WAS OUTLINED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE HEAD OF THE MARINE ENGINEERING AND FABRICATION DEPARTMENT, MR C.M. CHAN.

"THIS MEANS THAT THE TWO-YEAR DIPLOMA PROGRAMME BEING OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ENGINEERING AND FABRICATION OF THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE INITIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY INTO THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM FOR MARINE ENGINEERS," HE SAID.

THE RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF THE MODIFICATION OF THE INSTITUTE'S WORKSHOP FACILITIES AND THE COURSE CONTENT AS WELL AS THE REVALIDATION OF THE COURSE PROGRAMME BY THE UNITED KINGDOM BUSINESS AND TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL.

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE RECOGNITION WOULD BE RETROSPECTIVE TO JULY LAST YEAR. A TOTAL OF 28 STUDENTS WHO HAD GRADUATED BY THEN WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS.

MR CHAN SAID THESE DIPLOMA GRADUATES WOULD HAVE THEIR INITIAL TRAINING PERIOD SHORTENED BY TWO YEARS IF THEY WISHED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO MARINE ENGINEER OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS.

/THE MARINE

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SPECIFIES THAT THE INITIAL TRAINING PERIOD FOR ENTRY INTO THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM IS FOUR YEARS.

THUS DIPLOMA GRADUATES OF THE COURSE NEED ONLY TO UNDERTAKE EITHER TWO YEARS OF SHIPBOARD SERVICE OR TWO YEARS' TRAINING IN AN APPROVED SHORE-BASED ENGINEERING WORKSHOP BEFORE BEING QUALIFIED TO SIT FOR THE EXAMINATION.

"THE NEW ARRANGEMENT IS A MARVELLOUS INCENTIVE FOR OUR STUDENTS TO JOIN THE MERCHANT NAVY AND CONSEQUENTLY ENHANCES THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE WORKFORCE OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY," MR CHAN SAID.

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NORTH DB TO DISCUSS WHITE PAPER

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THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE WHITE PAPER ON "THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT: THE WAY FORWARD".

THE PURPOSE OF THE WHITE PAPER IS TO CHART THE COURSE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN NOW AND 1991.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING. IT WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRAFFIC MATTERS

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THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE MEASURES TO CLEAR OBSTRUCTIONS ON PUBLIC FOOTWAYS IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FORMS OF OBSTRUCTIONS INCLUDE ILLEGAL HAWKING ACTIVITIES; DISPLAY OF GOODS; USE OF FOOTWAY BY TRADERS FOR REPAIRING ACTIVITIES; AND USE OF FOOTWAY BY BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A PAPER TO "REVIEW THE "NOSTOPPING" RESTRICTIONS ALONG KING'S ROAD CORRIDOR BETWEEN TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AND WESTLANDS ROAD.

/MEMBERS WILL

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MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO PREVENT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY STONES THROWN UP BY WHEELS IN MOTION AND A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE SECTION OF KING'S ROAD FRONTING KORNHILL GARDENS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND APPLICATION
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THE CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO ORGANISE A CAUSEWAY BAY CENTRAL DAY TO PROMOTE THE AREA AS A GOOD PLACE TO VISIT DURING WEEKENDS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE A REPORT ON ITS FINANCIAL POSITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, EIGHTH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, WAN CHAI. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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SAI KUNG DB COMMITTEE TO MEET
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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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BOOKLET ON RADIATION PUBLISHED

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A BOOKLET TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF RADIATION HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED.

THE 16-PAGE BOOKLET CONSISTS OF EIGHT CHAPTERS LISTING THE TYPES AND SOURCES OF RADIATION, ITS APPLICATIONS AND HEALTH EFFECTS ON PEOPLE.

IT ALSO CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE BACKGROUND RADIATION MONITORING PROGRAMME INTRODUCED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN 1984. THE PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED TO ESTABLISH THE EXISTING VALUES OF RADIATION LEVELS AND TO ASSESS CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY ANY OTHER RADIATION SOURCES.

THE BOOKLET -- IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH -- IS PRODUCED AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON NUCLEAR MATTERS.

"COPIES OF THE BOOKLETS WILL BE SENT TO SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

FREE COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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IMMIGRATION OFFICERS TO UNDERGO TRAINING IN BRITAIN

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FIVE IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR BRITAIN THIS WEEK FOR A SIX-WEEK ATTACHMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

THE OFFICERS ARE ACTING SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MR SO CHUN-KUEN, MR LEE KAM-MAN AND MS CHU MAN-KUEN, IMMIGRATION OFFICER MISS ELAINE SIU AND ACTING IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR CHAN CHI-KIN. THEY WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE HANDLING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

AT A BRIEFING TODAY (MONDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR ALAN CARTER, SAID THAT IMMIGRATION WORK HAD BECOME MORE COMPLEX AND MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WERE REQUIRED TO BE VIGILANT AND ALERT TOWARDS CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GIVING ITS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

MR CARTER SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ATTACHMENT WOULD ENABLE THE OFFICERS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE REMOVED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO SEEK A CLOSURE ORDER TO CLOSE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN THE LANE AT THE REAR OF 8 JAVA ROAD/1 HBI WO STREET IN NORTH POINT, SO THAT THE STRUCTURES CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPANTS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON AUGUST 27 LAST YEAR, REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF THESE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 11 WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORK WILL START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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WANG TAU HOM TRAFFIC MEASURES REARRANGED FOR ROAD WORKS

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FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE STAGE I RECONSTRUCTION WORK OF FU MEI STREET IN WANG TAU HOM AND THE IMMEDIATE COMMENCEMENT OF THE STAGE II WORK, TRAFFIC MEASURES IN THE AREA WILL BE REARRANGED FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 16).

THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW TRAFFIC DIRECTIONAL SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH CARE.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS, FU MEI STREET EASTBOUND BETWEEN FU YUE STREET AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED FOR STAGE I WORK, WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

IN ADDITION, THE SECTION OF FU MEI STREET EASTBOUND BETWEEN JUNCTION ROAD AND FU YUE STREET WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

MOTORISTS ON JUNCTION ROAD HEADING FOR FU MEI STREET WILL HAVE TO PROCEED ALONG JUNCTION ROAD BEFORE TURNING ON TO WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

HOWEVER, THE SECTION OF FU MEI STREET EASTBOUND BETWEEN WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD AND FUNG MO STREET, AND THE SECTION OF WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN FU MEI STREET AND WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD WILL BE RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

/AT THE

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AT THE SAME TIME, LEFT TURN MOVEMENTS FROM WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD ON TO WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, AND FROM WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD SOUTHBOUND ON TO FU MEI STREET EASTBOUND WILL BE ALLOWED.

AS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, KMB ROUTES NO. 2F, 3C, 7M AND 11C AND CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTE NO. 103 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA LOK FU BUS TERMINUS, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MEI STREET AND FUNG MO STREET.

ROUTINGS OF THREE GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES WILL ALSO BE DIVERTED.

ROUTE NO. 53M ON ITS JOURNEYS TO TIN MA COURT WILL BE DIVERTED VIA FU KEUNG STREET, WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MEI STREET AND FUNG MO STREET.

ON ITS JOURNEYS TO HUNG HOM, ROUTE NO. 13 WILL TRAVEL ALONG JUNCTION ROAD ONLY, WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH FU MEI STREET, FU KEUNG STREET, WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

AS FOR ROUTE NO. 13A, IT WILL OPERATE VIA JUNCTION ROAD, WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM SOUTH ROAD ON ITS JOURNEYS TO LOK FU.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MARSH ROAD

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MARSH ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN JAFFE ROAD AND GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17).

AT THE SAME TIME, JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN TONNOCHY ROAD AND MARSH ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA JAFFE ROAD, TONNOCHY ROAD TO JOIN GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD.

THESE MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR DRAINAGE WORK.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN HUNG HOM

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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 16), VEHICLES ON YAN FUNG STREET IN HUNG HOM WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT INTO FAT KWONG STREET.

MOTORISTS IN CHATHAM ROAD NORTH CURRENTLY TRAVELLING VIA YAN FUNG STREET TO SHUN YUNG STREET WILL HAVE TO PROCEED ALONG CHATHAM ROAD NORTH BEFORE TURNING TO PAK KUNG STREET AND SHUN YUNG STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 280.798 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 304.519 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 52 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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