



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1982

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TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1982

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GOVERNOR VISITS KWUN TONG DISTRICT - IMPRESSED WITH
EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDED FOR LANDSLIP VICTIMS
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY VISITED THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT AND LOOKED AT THE TEMPORARY SHELTER AND EMERGENCY RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR PEOPLE DISPLACED BY FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS.

SIR EDWARD, ACCOMPANIED BY LADY YOUDE, WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES WHICH HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR OR WHICH WERE PLANNED FOR SAU MAU PING AND OTHER LARGER SQUATTER AREAS.

HE LATER TOURED A RENTAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE INSPECTING ITS COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FACILITIES, AND VISITED A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME ESTATE FAMILY.

IN HIS HALF-DAY VISIT TO ONE OF THE DISTRICTS WORST HIT BY THE RAINSTORM, THE GOVERNOR, IN CASUAL DRESS, FIRST CALLED AT THE KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE WHICH WAS AMONG THE MANY EMERGENCY SHELTERS OPENED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO TEMPORARILY ACCOMMODATE DISPLACED PEOPLE.

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE WHERE ABOUT 120 PEOPLE HAD STAYED OVERNIGHT AND WERE PROVIDED WITH HOT MEALS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF ARTICLES, HE TALKED TO SOME OF THE FAMILIES AND CONVEYED HIS SYMPATHY AND WORDS OF COMFORT.

+I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDED WHICH I THINK ARE REMARKABLE WORK,+ HE SAID AFTERWARDS.

SIR EDWARD AND LADY YOUDE, WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO, AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON), MR GRAHAM BARNES.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO SAU MAU PING ESTATE WHERE THE GOVERNOR WAS MET BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, MR BERNARD WILLIAMS, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS), MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, AS WELL AS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

BEFORE GOING UP TO THE ROOFTOP OF AN ESTATE BLOCK TO LOOK AT THE SAU MAU PING SQUATTER AREA, SIR EDWARD VIEWED FROM A VANTAGE POINT NEAR THE ESTATE BUS TERMINAL THE SQUATTER AREAS AT LAM TIN AND THE SITE OF A LANDSLIP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF JUNK BAY ROAD.

LATER AT THE ROOFTOP OF BLOCK 42, THE GOVERNOR TOOK A LOOK AT THE SAU MAU PING SQUATTER AREA WHICH WAS AMONG THE WORST AFFECTED BY FIRES LAST WINTER, WITH SOME 6 000 PEOPLE, MOST OF THEM RECENT ARRIVALS TO HONG KONG, MADE HOMELESS IN 11 SEPARATE FIRES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

HE WAS BRIEFED IN DETAIL ON SQUATTER FIRES WHICH HAD PUT A HEAVY STRAIN ON REHOUSING RESOURCES, AND GIVEN AN INSIGHT INTO THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES PLANNED FOR SQUATTER AREAS.

THESE INCLUDE THE CREATION OF FIRE-BREAKS AND THE PROVISION OF BETTER ACCESS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

/SIR EDWARD

SIR EDWARD ALSO LEARNED THAT IN ADDITION THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PROVIDED AD HOC IMPROVEMENTS TO SQUATTER AREAS BY RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR FOOTPATHS, GUARDRAILS AND AMENITY FACILITIES.

FROM SAU MAU PING, THE PARTY WENT TO SHUN LEE ESTATE WHERE THE GOVERNOR TOURED THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND WAS BRIEFED ON THE ESTATE AND THE NEARBY PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

SHUN LEE IS ONE OF THE LATEST TYPES OF RENTAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES PROVIDING MODERN SELF-CONTAINED HOMES FOR ABOUT 21 000 PEOPLE TOGETHER WITH A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL, WELFARE, EDUCATIONAL AS WELL AS AMENITIES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

SIR EDWARD THEN WALKED ACROSS A FOOTBRIDGE TO THE ADJOINING SHUN CHI COURT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND VISITED A FAMILY LIVING IN A GROUND-FLOOR FLAT AT SHUN WAH HOUSE.

HE WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE TENANT, MR LAU KIN-YEE, A POLICE STATION SERGEANT, AND HIS FAMILY WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING THERE SINCE MAY 1980.

CHATTING IN PUTONGHUA, MR LAU TOLD SIR EDWARD THAT HE HAD BOUGHT THE FLAT IN 1978 AND WAS HAPPY WITH THE LIVING CONDITIONS THERE.

WITH BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING, A HIGH STANDARD OF FINISH AND FULL MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND CARETAKING SERVICES, SHUN CHI COURT WAS THE FIRST ESTATE COMPLETED FOR OCCUPATION UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

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FULL DAY WATER SUPPLY
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HONG KONG IS BACK TO 24-HOUR WATER SUPPLY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

ANNOUNCING THE TOTAL LIFTING OF WATER RESTRICTIONS TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR TOM TOMLINSON, SAID THAT THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE AS A RESULT OF THE RAINFALL IN MAY WHICH HAD SO FAR YIELDED 103 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

+THE YIELD, TOGETHER WITH WATER FROM CHINA, HAS BOOSTED THE WATER STORAGE TO 301 MILLION CUBIC METRES, OR 52.1 PER CENT OF FULL CAPACITY,+ HE SAID.

+THIS COMPARES WITH 226.7 MILLION CUBIC METRES, OR 39.2 PER CENT OF FULL CAPACITY, AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.+

MR TOMLINSON DESCRIBED THE STORAGE POSITION NOW AS BEING FAVOURABLE FOR THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

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WITH THE PRESENT STORAGE AND THE RESIDUAL YIELD FROM THE DOWNPOURS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS, HE ADDED, FULL SUPPLY WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT LEAST THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONTHS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THAT THE SUPPLY LEVEL FOR THIS WINTER WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE RAINFALL AND THE YIELD DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE WET SEASON.

MR TOMLINSON APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTINUE EXERCISING ECONOMY IN THE USE OF WATER.

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BUSY DAY AT FIRST LEGCO MEETING FOR GOVERNOR
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SIXTEEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SPEAK ON THE PROPOSED PACKAGE TO CURB THE GROWTH OF MOTOR VEHICLES AT TOMORROW'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING -- THE FIRST TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE.

THE DEBATE ON THE PROPOSALS WILL BE LED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN, CONVENOR OF THE UNOFFICIALS' COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED PACKAGE.

DEBATE WILL ALSO RESUME ON THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) BILL ON WHICH FIVE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

FOUR UNOFFICIALS ARE ALSO DUE TO SPEAK ON THE FERRY SERVICES BILL.

DURING QUESTION TIME, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL ASK ABOUT SUCH MATTERS AS THE PROSECUTION OF UNREGISTRABLE DENTISTS, ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO ENABLE THEM TO DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES EFFECTIVELY, THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND ITS ACTIVITIES, CONTROL OF USE OF REFRIGERANTS IN AIR-CONDITIONED VEHICLES, AND TRAFFIC FLOW IN CENTRAL DISTRICT.

OTHER QUESTIONS WILL DEAL WITH AFTER-CARE SERVICES FOR DISCHARGED MENTAL PATIENTS, GAS LEAKAGES AFFECTING SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND THE PROPOSAL TO REVIEW THE CIVIL DEBT SYSTEM.

AT TOMORROW'S SITTING, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL ALSO INTRODUCE A MOTION TO REPLACE NON-METRIC REFERENCES IN THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE TO METRIC UNITS.

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RESULTS OF MONTHLY SURVEYS OF RETAIL SALES

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE MONTHLY SURVEYS OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1981 TO JANUARY 1982.

THESE SURVEYS WERE CONDUCTED IN 1981 AND EARLY 1982 TO COLLECT SALES STATISTICS TO PROVIDE AN INDICATOR OF CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS IN GENERAL AND OF CONSUMER SPENDING IN PARTICULAR.

OF A TOTAL OF SOME 47 000 RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS IN BUSINESS IN 1981, ABOUT 1 100 ESTABLISHMENTS WERE SELECTED AND INCLUDED IN THE SAMPLE.

THIS SAMPLE OF ESTABLISHMENTS REMAINED UNCHANGED THROUGHOUT 1981.

A DIFFERENT SAMPLE OF SOME 1 200 ESTABLISHMENTS WAS SELECTED FOR 1982.

VALUE DATA OF RETAIL SALES WERE COLLECTED FROM THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR COMPILATION OF RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEXES.

TO REMOVE THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES, SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED PRICE INDEXES WERE USED TO DEFLATE THE VALUE INDEXES SO AS TO PRODUCE THE VOLUME INDEXES.

THE RELATED TABLES (WHICH ARE BEING TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE NETWORK) SHOW THE VALUES OF OVERALL RETAIL SALES, AND THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS FOR EACH OF THE MONTHS OF 1981 AND FOR JANUARY 1982 (WITH THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 AS 100).

THE SURVEY RESULTS INDICATED THAT THE RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR THE ENTIRE RETAIL SECTOR, FROM 134 IN JANUARY 1981, LEVELLED OFF TO 102 IN FEBRUARY 1981 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ROSE TO 137 IN DECEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR.

WHEN ADJUSTED FOR CHANGES IN RETAIL PRICES, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX STOOD AT 127 IN JANUARY 1981, AND 119 IN DECEMBER 1981.

REDUCTIONS IN THE VOLUME OF OVERALL RETAIL SALES TO BELOW THE AVERAGE LEVEL IN 1980 OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY AND APRIL 1981, WITH THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES AT 97 AND 99 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OCCURRENCE OF PEAKS IN RETAIL SALES AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF 1981 WAS LARGELY DUE TO SEASONAL INFLUENCES WITH PEOPLE SPENDING MORE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

/WHEN COMPARED

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WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1981, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES FOR JANUARY 1982 REMAINED THE SAME IN VALUE, BUT DECLINED BY NINE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES, THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES FOR FEBRUARY 1981 SHOWED DECREASES COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION WAS FOUND IN DEPARTMENT STORES WHERE THE RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX DECLINED BY 52 POINTS OR 36 PER CENT AND THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX DECLINED BY 45 POINTS OR 33 PER CENT. THE DECREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO TRADING DAY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MONTHS. THE NUMBER OF DAYS SHOPS WERE OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN FEBRUARY 1981 WAS LESS THAN THAT IN JANUARY 1981. MANY RETAIL SHOPS WERE CLOSED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD IN FEBRUARY 1981, COMBINING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS WITH THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, MOTOR VEHICLES, DEPARTMENT STORES, AND SUPERMARKETS, THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1981 WAS EVEN LESS THAN THAT IN FEBRUARY 1981. THIS DROP IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES MIGHT BE EXPLAINED BY CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR AS PEOPLE TEND TO BUY LESS AFTER A MAJOR FESTIVAL.

BY CONTRAST, INCREASES IN THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WERE RECORDED FOR ALL MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES IN DECEMBER 1981 WHEN COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH. DEPARTMENT STORES REGISTERED THE HIGHEST GROWTH IN RETAIL SALES, WITH THE VALUE INDEX UP BY 24 POINTS OR 18 PER CENT AND THE VOLUME INDEX UP BY 21 POINTS OR 18 PER CENT.

IN JANUARY 1982, THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES FOR SUPERMARKETS, DEPARTMENT STORES AND FUELS ROSE BY 27 PER CENT, SIX PER CENT AND TWO PER CENT RESPECTIVELY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1981, WHILE THOSE FOR THE OTHER MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES DECLINED.

OVER THIS PERIOD, THE GREATEST REDUCTION IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES WAS FOUND IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONSUMER GOODS. THEIR RESPECTIVE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES WERE DOWN BY 53 POINTS OR 37 PER CENT AND BY 16 POINTS OR 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR IN 1982 FELL IN JANUARY, WHEREAS THAT IN 1981 FELL IN FEBRUARY.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A REPORT ON THESE SURVEYS.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 3-7216024.

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INSPECTORS OF APPRENTICES' POWERS OF ENTRY
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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE (CAP 47) AND REGULATIONS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE, AN INSPECTOR OF APPRENTICES OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT IS EMPOWERED TO ENTER, INSPECT AND EXAMINE, BY DAY OR NIGHT, ANY PREMISES OR PLACE IN WHICH HE KNOWS, OR HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE, THAT AN APPRENTICE OR A YOUNG PERSON IS EMPLOYED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE WHEN INSPECTORS OF APPRENTICES VISIT THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

+AN INSPECTOR OF APPRENTICES CARRIES WITH HIM A WARRANT AND A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD. HE WILL NEED TO PRODUCE THEM UPON HIS ENTRY TO ANY PREMISES FOR INSPECTION,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+ANY PERSON WHO OBSTRUCTS AN INSPECTOR OF APPRENTICES PERFORMING OR EXERCISING ANY FUNCTION, DUTY OR POWER UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE MAY BE PROSECUTED AND ON CONVICTION, HE IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5 000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT,+ HE ADDED.

EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE ENQUIRIES MAY CONTACT ANY OF THE BRANCH OFFICES OF THE APPRENTICESHIP SECTION AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES :-

- (1) HENNESSY CENTRE, EAST WING, 6/F, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY (TEL: 5-7956211)=
- (2) PARIS THEATRE BUILDING, 7 KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG (TEL: 3-234722)=
- (3) SALISBURY ROAD, OPPOSITE TO SHERATON HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI (3-667463)=
- (4) 31 SHING FONG STREET, 5TH FLOOR, KWAI CHUNG (TEL: 0-297039)=
- (5) YAN HAU MANSION, 3RD FLOOR, 100 TING FU STREET, KWUN TONG (TEL: 3-7561093).

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR LOCAL BALLET TALENT

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THERE ARE A LOT OF TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY AS BUDDING MUSICIANS AND DANCERS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BALLET SCHOLARSHIP, HE SAID THERE WAS AN ABUNDANCE OF TALENT IN HONG KONG, BUT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHERING THAT TALENT.

ONLY THE OUTSTANDING STOOD A CHANCE OF COMPETING FOR A PLACE IN A WORLD-FAMOUS TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT OVERSEAS, HE SAID.

+WITH THE OPENING OF OUR OWN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND ACADEMY OF BALLET IN HONG KONG, THIS HAS CHANGED- AND THERE ARE INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG TO FOLLOW A PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE AT HOME,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

ALSO AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE PRESIDENT OF ZONTA CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST, MRS EMILY SHUM- THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF BALLET, MRS KAY JONES- THE PRINCIPAL OF THE ACADEMY, MISS PAULA LAU- AND THE WINNER OF THE THREE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP, MISS LEE KAM LAN.

THE SCHOLARSHIP, ESTABLISHED BY THE ZONTA CLUB, IS WORTH \$8 000 A YEAR.

MR WIGGHAM, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY ABOUT ZONTA'S OFFER AS IT WAS THE RESULT OF A SUGGESTION MADE BY THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THE BALLET ACADEMY IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PERFORMING ARTS INSTITUTIONS BEING GIVEN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THAT MANY PARENTS IN HONG KONG REGARD MUSIC, AND MORE ESPECIALLY DANCE, AS A PASTIME AND NOT AS IMPORTANT AS +REAL+ ACADEMIC SUBJECTS.

THIS RESULTED IN YOUNGSTERS ABANDONING THEIR TALENTS TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT WAS SEEN AS A MORE PRODUCTIVE CAREER, HE SAID.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THIS ATTITUDE IS CHANGING, AND THAT, GIVEN THE INCREASE IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH TRAINING AND FOR PRACTISING THEIR ART AFTER TRAINING, IT IS NOW BECOMING GENERALLY RECOGNISED THAT THE PERFORMING ARTS -- DANCE OF COURSE INCLUDED -- CAN PROVIDE A WORTHWHILE CAREER FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

+CERTAINLY IT IS BASED ON THIS VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SO FIRM IN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE BALLET ACADEMY.+

HE SAID IT IS FOR THIS REASON ALSO THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE JOCKEY CLUB ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY CATER FOR AS MANY AS 600 FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

/MRS EMILY

MRS EMILY SHUM SAID THE AIM OF THE SCHOLARSHIP IS TO HELP DESERVING STUDENTS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF BALLET AS A VOCATION.

THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL COVER TUITION FEES, PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION FEES, UNIFORM AND SHOES, POCKET MONEY, TRAVELLING AND MEAL EXPENSES.

THE CLUB INTENDS TO AWARD A SECOND SCHOLARSHIP NEXT YEAR AND A THIRD ONE IN ANOTHER SUBSEQUENT YEAR, SHE SAID.

IN EACH CASE, THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE FULL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY DURING THE THREE-YEAR STUDY AT THE ACADEMY.

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CLOSE CUSTOMS COLLABORATION STRESSED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN TODAY (TUESDAY) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG CUSTOMS SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND HONG KONG, MR JORDAN SAID THAT THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF CUSTOMS COLLABORATION WAS THAT ACHIEVED THROUGH THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS, WHICH IN TURN SOUGHT TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE REGIONAL CONFERENCES.

+AN EXTENSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE CONCEPT IS THAT OF BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TWO CUSTOMS SERVICES WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER. SUCH IS THE BASIS OF AND THE REASON FOR THIS PRESENT CONFERENCE,+ HE SAID.

+IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE WHERE THE PROBLEM EXISTS, THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS IS OFTEN SEEN AS CONCERNED LARGELY WITH DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT.+ HOWEVER, MR JORDAN SAID THAT WHAT DID NOT ATTRACT SO MUCH ATTENTION BY WAY OF PUBLICITY WAS THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS SERVICES IN THE FACILITATION OF TRADE.

+IN THE COMPLICATED STRUCTURE OF QUOTAS, LICENSING, PREFERENTIAL DUTIES AND ALL THE OTHER PARAPHERNALIA ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SCENE TODAY, THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS IS TO ENSURE THAT TRADE CAN BE CARRIED ON AS EASILY AS POSSIBLE IN SPITE OF THE INHIBITING PROCEDURES CREATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY SOME OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS.

+THIS CONFERENCE, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, WILL REVIEW THE WORK OF OUR RESPECTIVE SERVICES IN THIS CONNECTION. HOPEFULLY THE DISCUSSIONS WILL IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF BOTH SERVICES TO FACILITATE THE TRADE OF OUR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS,+ MR JORDAN CONCLUDED.

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IMPORTANT ROLE OF PRIVATE CLUBS

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PRIVATE RECREATIONAL CLUBS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S 62ND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LAUNCHING CEREMONY HELD AT THE GAMES HALL OF THE ASSOCIATION AT CAROLINE HILL.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1910, THE ASSOCIATION HAS BECOME ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. AT PRESENT, IT HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 40 000.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID: +IN RECENT YEARS BY MAKING IMAGINATIVE USE OF ITS PROPERTY, ITS ACTIVITIES HAVE EXPANDED ENORMOUSLY AND I AM GLAD NOW TO LEARN THAT PLANS ARE IN HAND TO EXTEND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION TO SHA TIN.+

HE ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE EITHER THE ASSOCIATION EXTEND TO OTHER AREAS OR FOR OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS BECOME ESTABLISHED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN EAST KOWLOON.

IN ITS 72 YEARS' HISTORY, THE ASSOCIATION HAS ORGANISED A WIDE RANGE OF ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES INCLUDING OPEN TOURNAMENTS AND TRAINING COURSES.

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SURVEY OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

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THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A MAJOR SURVEY OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS FROM JUNE 7 TO 30.

THE SURVEY IS PLANNED AND MONITORED BY THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONNAIRES IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE ARE BEING SENT OUT TO SOME 1 800 ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED IN THE SURVEY. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON BUSINESS EXPERIENCE, TRAINING FACILITIES AND TRAINING NEEDS, AMONG OTHERS, OF MANAGEMENT STAFF (INCLUDING OWNER MANAGERS).

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DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD, INTERVIEWING OFFICERS OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT THE SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS TO COLLECT AND, IF NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL URGES EMPLOYERS TO CO-OPERATE AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNCIL TO FORMULATE TRAINING PLANS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS. EMPLOYERS ARE ALSO ASSURED THAT THE COLLECTED INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 5-455774 OR 5-454002.

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OFFICERS PRAISED FOR RESCUE * * * *

THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, TODAY PRAISED OFFICERS WHO RESCUED TWO WOMEN ASSISTANT OFFICERS AT THE TAI LAM CENTRE FOR WOMEN DURING SERIOUS FLOODING ON SATURDAY.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE FLOODING EARLY SATURDAY MORNING, A NUMBER OF OFFICERS RACED TO RESCUE TWO WOMEN ASSISTANT OFFICERS STRANDED INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM, WHERE THE FLOOD WATERS HAD REACHED SHOULDER-LEVEL. THE OFFICERS FORCED OPEN THE DOOR, WHICH WAS SHUT TIGHT BY THE PRESSURE OF FLOOD WATER, TO LEAD THE WOMEN TO SAFETY.

SECURITY AT THE CENTRE WAS ALSO AFFECTED AT THE TIME, AS TORRENTS OF WATER RUSHING DOWN THE HILL SWEEP AWAY A 20-METRE LONG SECTION OF THE OUTER WALL AND THE INNER FENCE AT THE SOUTHEASTERN SIDE OF THE CENTRE. PART OF THE WALL OF THE LAUNDRY WAS ALSO SWEEP AWAY.

IN A VISIT TO THE CENTRE THIS MORNING, MR GARNER EXAMINED THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FLOOD AND DESCRIBED IT AS +A SERIOUS SETBACK+ TO THE PROGRAMMES AT THE CENTRE.

MOST OF THE CENTRE WAS FLOODED, AND THIS CAUSED DAMAGE TO A NUMBER OF MACHINES IN THE LAUNDRY AND IN THE TAILORING WORKSHOP NEARBY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THE DAMAGE COULD AMOUNT TO SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

MR GARNER ALSO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE QUEEN'S OWN GURKHA ENGINEERS FOR HELPING TO PUT UP A TEMPORARY FENCE AT THE CENTRE.

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO TOUR SHAM SHUI PO

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MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL TOUR VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT ON THURSDAY (JUNE 3) TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS SERVICES IN THE AREA.

THE INCLUSION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR TOUR IS TO FAMILIARISE THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WITH THE WORKING OF GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES, A CITY DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE TOUR WILL BE HELPFUL TO MEMBERS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR WORK.

+NOT ONLY WILL IT BROADEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORK OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE BETTER THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT SO THAT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE EFFECTED,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

PLACES TO BE VISITED DURING THE TOUR WILL INCLUDE THE SITE FOR A FUTURE CLOCK-TOWER AT THE SHAM SHUI PO FERRY CONCOURSE, THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ABATTOIR, THE LAI CHI KOK INCINERATION PLANT, AND THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS DEPOT AT KWAI CHUNG.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO SEE THE LAI CHI KOK PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL, A SWIMMING POOL, AS WELL AS THE SHEK KIP MEI PARK WHICH ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE TOUR WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD CONTACT MISS FLORENCE HO, SECRETARY OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD, AT 3-704251, IN ADVANCE AND ASSEMBLE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHAM SHUI PO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, 299 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, AT 9 AM ON THURSDAY WHEN TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED.

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TRAM ONLY LANE IN SAI WAN HO

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THE EASTBOUND TRAM TRACK ON SHAU KEI WAN ROAD BETWEEN TAI KOO SHING ROAD AND TAI ON STREET IN SAI WAN HO WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A TRAM ONLY LANE FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 4).

VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THAT SECTION OF THE ROAD PERMANENTLY.

THE EXTENT OF THE SECTION WILL BE INDICATED BY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS.

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