



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1990

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DECISION ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS SHORTLY: FOREIGN SECRETARY

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR DOUGLAS HURD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE DECISION ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG IN 1991 SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS WITHIN WEEKS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT AT THE START OF A FOUR-DAY VISIT, MR HURD SAID THAT BESIDES SEEING AS MUCH OF HONG KONG AND MEETING AS MANY PEOPLE AS HE COULD, HE HAD ALSO COME TO EXPLAIN THE DECISIONS THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN AND TO PREPARE THOSE DECISIONS THAT WERE STILL TO BE TAKEN.

"IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE TAKEN DECISIONS ON TWO OF THE THREE MAIN PROBLEMS WHICH WERE FACING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT -- THAT IS TO SAY ON PASSPORTS AND ON BOAT PEOPLE.

"THE THIRD MAIN DECISION WHICH WE AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE, ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1991, WILL FOLLOW, I HOPE, WITHIN WEEKS," MR HURD SAID.

"WE SHALL TAKE OUR DECISIONS, THE DECISIONS I'VE MENTIONED, OTHER DECISIONS WHICH MAY COME UP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IN A COOL AND CONSIDERED WAY, LISTENING TO OTHER PEOPLE, BUT THEN MAKING UP OUR MINDS ON WHAT IS NEEDED IN THE FUTURE AND LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THIS AMAZING AND SUCCESSFUL TERRITORY," HE ADDED.

MR HURD SAID THAT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD BE WORKING MORE CLOSELY THAN EVER BEFORE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"AND OBVIOUSLY HE WILL DO THAT BEST IF HE COMES TO HONG KONG AND SEES THE PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES FOR HIMSELF," HE SAID.

"DURING THIS VISIT I WILL BE SEEING AS MUCH AS I CAN IN THE TIME, AND MEETING AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN. I WILL BE HAVING DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS AND WITH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

"I WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY -- BUSINESSMEN, BANKERS, PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE AND, I HOPE, THE MAN AND THE WOMAN IN THE STREET," MR HURD SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED TO SEE A GOOD DEAL OF HONG KONG INCLUDING A NEW TOWN, A HOUSING ESTATE, THE BORDER AND VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE CAMPS.

HE WOULD ALSO BE PAYING A VISIT TO THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION, TALKING TO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL AND BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

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"SO THIS ISN'T AN INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE. THE BRITISH COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG IS A VERY PRACTICAL ONE. IT CONTINUES, AND IT'S VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST, OUR BRITISH INTEREST, AS WELL AS THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG, THAT IT SHOULD," MR HURD SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, MR HURD SAID THE REACTION IN THE WORLD TO THE DECISION TO REPATRIATE 51 BOAT PEOPLE LAST MONTH HAD ACTUALLY BEEN MORE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE HAD EXPECTED.

"THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICISMS, AS WE KNEW THERE WOULD BE, AS EVERYONE IN HONG KONG KNEW THERE WOULD BE, BUT I THINK THERE IS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING THAN THERE USED TO BE," HE SAID.

"IT REALLY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE CAMPS. THAT THEY SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HONG KONG AND IT IS EVEN LESS ACCEPTABLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE THE DANGER OF A FURTHER INFLOW DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF THIS YEAR," HE ADDED.

"I HAVE BEEN EMPHASISING TO EVERYBODY I HAVE TALKED TO ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT THERE IS THE REAL WORRY OF A FURTHER ONSET, AND I HOPE THAT THE SENDING BACK OF THE 51 WOULD HAVE CONVEYED A CLEAR MESSAGE AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

ON A QUESTION ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1991, MR HURD SAID THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN WITHIN WEEKS WOULD BE THE FIRST AND IMPORTANT STEP ON WHAT HE HOPED WOULD BE A LONG AND DEMOCRATIC PATH.

"WE ARE NOT GOING TO SIT BACK, AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, PASSIVELY AND LET THE CLOCK TICK ON TO 1997. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO DURING THIS PERIOD, A JOB SET OUT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND A JOB WHICH COMES FROM BEING THE SOVEREIGN POWER IN HONG KONG DURING THAT TIME," HE SAID.

"I WILL BE LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE I MEET, I'LL BE LISTENING TO THE COUNCILLORS, I'LL BE LISTENING TO THE OMELCO SO THAT WE WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED BACK IN LONDON TO TAKE THE DECISIONS WHICH FALL TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

"SO IT WILL BE A QUESTION OF LISTENING, BUT ALSO OF EXPLAINING WHAT WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED AND HOW WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE NEXT DECISION," MR HURD SAID.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND MRS HURD WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON; THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD; THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DAME LYDIA DUNN; THE ACTING SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR STEPHEN CHEONG; THE SENIOR BRITISH TRADE COMMISSIONER, MR PETER HEAP, AND THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, MR ANTHONY GALSWORTHY.

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1989 RAINFALL BELOW AVERAGE DESPITE BRENDA'S DELUGE

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TYPHOON BRENDA, WHICH BROUGHT 439.4 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL IN MAY, RANKED AS THE 10TH WETTEST STORM ON RECORD, BUT TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR WAS BELOW AVERAGE.

IN ITS REPORT ON THE YEAR'S WEATHER, RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY), THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SAID BRENDA WAS ONE OF 11 TROPICAL CYCLONES WHICH TRAVERSED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE YEAR. SEVEN REQUIRED THE HOISTING OF TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS IN HONG KONG.

ALTHOUGH THE RAINFALL ASSOCIATED WITH TROPICAL CYCLONES AMOUNTED TO 646.4 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS 14 PER CENT ABOVE AVERAGE, THE ANNUAL RAINFALL WAS ONLY 1,944.6 MILLIMETRES, 13 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 2,224.7 MILLIMETRES.

IN JANUARY, IT RAINED ON 19 DAYS BUT RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO ONLY 23.9 MILLIMETRES. THIS WAS SLIGHTLY BELOW THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 26.9 MILLIMETRES FOR JANUARY. IT WAS FOGGY ON JANUARY 8 AND THE VISIBILITY AT WAGLAN ISLAND AND IN THE HARBOUR WAS REDUCED TO 100 AND 600 METRES RESPECTIVELY. THE FOGGY CONDITIONS AFFECTED FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU.

FEBRUARY WAS A VERY DRY MONTH. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL WAS ONLY 2.7 MILLIMETRES, THE EIGHTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR FEBRUARY. IT WAS FOGGY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 18, RESULTING IN THE SUSPENSION OF FERRY SERVICES TO SOME OUTLYING ISLANDS AND ALSO AFFECTING AIR TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG.

IT WAS DRIER THAN USUAL IN MARCH, WITH A MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 75 PER CENT, THE FIFTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 47.8 MILLIMETRES WAS 13 PER CENT LESS THAN THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF 54.8 MILLIMETRES FOR MARCH.

WITH ONLY SEVEN DAYS IN THE MONTH WITHOUT RAIN, THE TOTAL DURATION OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE IN APRIL WAS 71.1 HOURS, THE NINTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR APRIL. A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST DURING THE EVENING OF APRIL 22, BRINGING SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS TO THE TERRITORY. RAINFALL WAS ESPECIALLY HEAVY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHERE 25 CASES OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED.

MAY WAS AN EVENTFUL MONTH IN WEATHER TERMS. RAINFALL WAS MUCH ABOVE NORMAL AND TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS WERE HOISTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR.

THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON BRENDA NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL WHICH HAD NOT BEEN RAISED SINCE AUGUST 1986.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 771.9 MILLIMETRES WAS THE FOURTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MAY. MOST OF THE RAIN IN THE MONTH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ACTIVE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH AND WITH TYPHOON BRENDA, WHICH AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS FROM MAY 19 TO 21.

/ON MAY 2,

ON MAY 2, 104.8 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL BETWEEN NOON AND 1 PM. THIS AMOUNT WAS THE HIGHEST HOURLY RAINFALL EVER RECORDED FOR MAY. THE HEAVY RAIN RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS OVER THE TERRITORY, BRINGING SEVERE DISRUPTIONS TO ROAD, RAIL AND AIR TRANSPORT. A MAN WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY LIGHTNING AND TWO OTHER PEOPLE WERE DROWNED.

THE DAILY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 322.8 MILLIMETRES ON MAY 20, ASSOCIATED WITH TYPHOON BRENDA, WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST DAILY RAINFALL ON RECORD FOR MAY.

DURING THE PASSAGE OF BRENDA, A TOTAL OF SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED, ONE WAS REPORTED MISSING, 62 WERE INJURED AND 50 MADE HOMELESS. IN ADDITION, TORRENTIAL RAIN ASSOCIATED WITH BRENDA RESULTED IN 100 CASES OF LANDSLIPS AND 118 OF FLOODING.

AT THE AIRPORT, MORE THAN 100 FLIGHTS WERE DIVERTED, DELAYED OR CANCELLED. BUS, TRAM AND FERRY SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED.

IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, JUNE WAS EXCEPTIONALLY DRY. ONLY A TOTAL OF 137.5 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AGAINST A NORMAL AMOUNT OF 431.8 MILLIMETRES. THIS WAS THE EIGHTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR JUNE. THE STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS HOISTED DURING THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON DOT FROM JUNE 9 TO 10.

ALTHOUGH TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES AFFECTED HONG KONG IN JULY, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO ONLY 237.9 MILLIMETRES, EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 316.8 MILLIMETRES.

THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON GORDON NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL BETWEEN JULY 17 AND 18.

THE TYPHOON BROUGHT SQUALLY SHOWERS AND ABNORMALLY HIGH TIDES TO THE TERRITORY, CAUSING FLOODING, MOSTLY IN THE OUTLYING ISLANDS AND ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE MORE SEVERE CASES OCCURRED IN TAI O WHERE WATER LEVEL ROSE BY MORE THAN ONE METRE, AND AT PING HA ROAD IN YUEN LONG.

AN OLD WOMAN WAS FOUND DEAD IN HER FLOODED SQUATTER HUT IN TAI O. IN THE SAME VILLAGE, NINE SENIOR RESIDENTS HAD TO BE EVACUATED.

DURING THE PASSAGE OF GORDON, SERVICES OF LOCAL FERRIES, BUSES AND TRAMS, AND FERRY SERVICES TO CHINA AND MACAU, WERE SUSPENDED.

AT THE AIRPORT, 40 FLIGHTS WERE DELAYED, 19 DIVERTED AND 13 CANCELLED.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE MOVED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH ACROSS HONG KONG ON JULY 29. THE COOL AIR BEHIND THE TROUGH CAUSED A DROP IN TEMPERATURE THE NEXT MORNING TO 21.7 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE LOWEST JULY TEMPERATURE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG SINCE RECORD-KEEPING BEGAN.

AUGUST WAS WARMER AND DRIER THAN USUAL. THE MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH OF 28.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS THE SIXTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR AUGUST.

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ALTHOUGH EIGHT TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED IN THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC IN AUGUST, NONE OF THEM AFFECTED HONG KONG. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO ONLY 218.0 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS ABOUT HALF OF THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 413.4 MILLIMETRES.

THE WEATHER WAS RAINY AND THUNDERY ON AUGUST 20 AND A 33-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS REPORTED KILLED BY LIGHTNING AT LOK MA CHAU.

RAIN BECAME MORE FREQUENT AND HEAVY LATER ON AUGUST 22. IN TAI PO, AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY WERE SWEEP AWAY BY SWIFT STREAM CURRENTS AND WERE LATER FOUND DEAD. THE HEAVY RAIN PERSISTED INTO THE NEXT DAY.

DURING THESE TWO DAYS, 10 MINOR CASES OF FLOODING WERE REPORTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND EIGHT IN THE URBAN AREAS. TWO MINOR LANDSLIPS ALSO OCCURRED, IN DIAMOND HILL AND TSUEN WAN.

ON THE WHOLE, SEPTEMBER WAS RATHER WARM WITH THE MONTH'S MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 28.1 DEGREES CELSIUS BEING THE FOURTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER AND THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE, 26 DEGREES CELSIUS, BEING THE FIFTH HIGHEST.

OCTOBER WAS RATHER WINDY. THE STRONG WIND SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS HOISTED ON THREE OCCASIONS AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL ON FOUR OCCASIONS. FOUR TYPHOONS TRAVERSED THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH.

HOWEVER, THEY ALL PASSED WESTWARDS, TO THE SOUTH OF HONG KONG WITH THEIR MAJOR RAINBANDS STOPPING SHORT OF THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS. AS A RESULT, THE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO ONLY 15.2 MILLIMETRES, A FRACTION OF THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 121.2 MILLIMETRES.

DURING THE PASSAGE OF THESE TYPHOONS, THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES IN HONG KONG.

THE WEATHER IN NOVEMBER WAS DOMINATED BY THE ASIATIC CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONE AND THE ASSOCIATED MONSOON. AS A RESULT, THE MONTHLY MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE OF 1,019.7 HECTOPASCALS IN HONG KONG WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR NOVEMBER, AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS.

RAIN DURING THE MONTH WAS MOSTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ONSET OF THE WINTER MONSOON SURGES. THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF 20.3 MILLIMETRES WAS 59 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL FIGURE OF 34.7 MILLIMETRES.

THERE WAS A SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN THE WEATHER IN THE FIRST PART OF DECEMBER AND THAT IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH. THE FIRST PART WAS CHARACTERISED BY CLEAR SKY AND BRILLIANT SUNSHINE WHILE THE LATTER PART WAS CLOUDY AND RAINY.

TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH AMOUNTED TO 40.2 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS 59 PER CENT ABOVE THE AVERAGE FOR DECEMBER.

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IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STRESSED

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS NOW GENERALLY RECOGNISED.

HE NOTED THAT STUDIES CONDUCTED IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD BY PROFESSIONALS IN EDUCATION, PAEDIATRICS, PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY AND NUTRITION ATTESTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY YEARS OF LIFE TO A PERSON'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH ASIAN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE AT SHUE YAN COLLEGE, MR LI NOTED THAT THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN WHICH TOOK FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS STAGES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

"IT IS, I THINK, A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR THOUGHT AND ACTION FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

"HOWEVER, WHETHER A CURRICULUM CAN BE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED WILL DEPEND ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THE QUALITY OF THE TEACHER," HE SAID.

IN THIS RESPECT, MR LI SAID, IT WAS THE BELIEF OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THAT ANY FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION SHOULD INVOLVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF HIGHER NUMBERS OF TRAINED KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS MUST HAVE THE INCENTIVE TO INCREASE SALARIES SUFFICIENTLY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN GOOD QUALITY STAFF AND KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS MUST BE WILLING TO COME FORWARD FOR TRAINING.

TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, MR LI SAID THE FOLLOWING MEASURES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

- * AN IMPROVED TRAINING COURSE FOR QUALIFIED ASSISTANT KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS AT DISTRICT CENTRES WITH FLEXIBLE TRAINING HOURS SO AS TO REDUCE THE INCONVENIENCE TO TEACHERS AND HELP ENSURE THAT MORE TEACHERS WOULD COME FORWARD FOR TRAINING;
- * KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR IMPROVING STANDARDS FOR STAFFING AND TO PAY TEACHERS ACCORDING TO A RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALE;
- * THE INTRODUCTION OF A KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION SCHEME WHEREBY THE NUMBER OF NEEDY PARENTS BENEFITTING FROM IT WILL BE TWICE AS MANY AS AT PRESENT; AND
- * THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WHICH WILL INCLUDE NON-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM POSSIBILITY OF UNIFYING THE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE SERVICES.

/THE CONFERENCE,

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THE CONFERENCE, THE SECOND TIME BEING HELD IN HONG KONG, WAS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

MORE THAN 120 DELEGATES FROM INDONESIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN, THAILAND AND HONG KONG ARE TAKING PART IN THE FIVE-DAY EVENT WHICH WILL END ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 17).

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF IN REFUGEE UNIT COMMENDED

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ALTHOUGH CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF IN THE REFUGEE UNIT HAVE TO WORK LONG HOURS IN OFTEN REMOTE STATIONS, THEY HAVE BEEN STEADFAST IN THEIR JOB AND MADE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS WITH NO PROMISE OF ANY SPECIAL REWARD FOR THEIR DILIGENCE AND LOYALTY.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (REFUGEE UNIT), MR ISH BHAGAT, AT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S PASSING-OUT PARADE AT STANLEY TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR BHAGAT SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW LOOKING AFTER ABOUT 35,000 REFUGEES AND VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO WERE BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE.

"DESPITE THE HEAVY DEMANDS MADE ON US, WE HAVE MANAGED WITH A VERY LIMITED SUPPLY OF BOTH HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES," HE ADDED.

AS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF THE REFUGEE UNIT, MR BHAGAT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ALL THE STAFF WORKING IN THE UNIT FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND UNFALTERING SUPPORT IN THE PAST YEARS.

MR BHAGAT WILL RETIRE FROM THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SOON, AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE. HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DEVISING THE FIRST DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMME FOR PRISONERS IN HONG KONG AND IN DEVELOPING CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS DURING HIS LONG YEARS OF SERVICE. HE BECAME ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN 1986.

TODAY'S PARADE MARKED THE PASSING-OUT OF 50 OFFICERS AND 107 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED 26-WEEK BASIC TRAINING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE.

MR BHAGAT ALSO PRESENTED SILVER WHISTLES TO THE FIVE BEST RECRUITS.

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REVISED RATES OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED THE REVISED RATES OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE TO PIG AND POULTRY FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME OR DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCE.

THE ANNUALLY REVISED RATES, EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 1990 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TYPES OF LIVESTOCK KEEPING STRUCTURE	PER CAPITA*	RATES/BUILDING AREA
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	\$/BIRD *	\$/SQUARE METRE
CHICKEN	27.96	414.80
LEGHORN	45.41	489.40
PIGEON	34.00	453.30
QUAIL	3.42	367.71
DUCK/GOOSE	20.15	-
PIG	-	338.60
PIG PENS ACCOMMODATING BREEDER PIGS AND WITH GESTATION AND FARROWING CRATES	-	457.60

* ONLY APPLICABLE TO "BACKYARD" AND FREE RANGE POULTRY FARM IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF POULTRY IS SMALL AND CAN BE PRACTICALLY COUNTED, THAT IS LESS THAN 1,000.

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YEAR-END CLEAN-UP BEGINS IN YAU TSIM

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A YEAR-END CLEAN-UP DRIVE BEGAN IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT TODAY (SATURDAY) TO HELP RESIDENTS PROPERLY DISPOSE OF RUBBISH BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO RESIDENTS, DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO, DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (KOWLOON), MR LAI MAN-CHI, AND MEMBERS OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE TOOK PART IN A "KEEP CLEAN" EXERCISE AT THE MARKET STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT.

/A DECORATED

A DECORATED BUS LATER TOURED THE DISTRICT AND BROADCAST MESSAGES REMINDING RESIDENTS TO KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

FURTHER HELP WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL SET UP EXTRA REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH.

THE CLEAN-UP DRIVE ALSO MARKS THE END OF THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT THROUGH SUMS OF \$150,000 AND \$50,000 RESPECTIVELY.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED DURING THE FIVE-MONTH CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING CLEANLINESS CONTESTS AMONG BUILDINGS AND COOKED FOOD STALLS, A SEMINAR, A COLOURING CONTEST ON HOUSEHOLD CLEANLINESS, A VARIETY SHOW, REMOVAL OF ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS, AND AREA PATROLS TO IDENTIFY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE WINNERS OF THE CONTESTS WERE AWARDED PRIZES AT TODAY'S FUNCTION.

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION IN WONG TAI SIN

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MESSAGES ON FIRE PREVENTION WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE RESIDENTS OF WONG TAI SIN THROUGH AN EXHIBITION TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FROM 11 AM TO 3.30 PM AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, IS THE FOURTH IN A SERIES OF NINE FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITIONS.

"THE EXHIBITIONS AIM TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND THE POTENTIAL HAZARD OF ELECTRIC FAULT WHICH REMAINS A MAJOR CAUSE OF DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL FIRES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"ELECTRIC FAULTS CAN BE AVOIDED IF REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF POWER POINTS AND APPLIANCES ARE CARRIED OUT BY PROFESSIONALS," HE SAID.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE PANELS CONTAINING GRAPHICS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON GENERAL FIRE PREVENTION AND COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PREVENTION.

"OFFICERS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL RECEIVE A BOOKLET ON THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC FIRES AND SOUVENIRS SPONSORED BY KWONG ON BANK LTD.

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KWONG YUEN COMMUNITY HALL OPENS ON MONDAY

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THE KWONG YUEN COMMUNITY HALL IN KWONG YUEN ESTATE, SIU LEK YUEN, SHA TIN WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC USE FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 15) TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE DEVELOPING AREA.

OPENING HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 9 AM AND 10 PM FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON SUNDAY. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND DURING THE 1 PM TO 2 PM LUNCH BREAK.

THE COMMUNITY HALL IS MANAGED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE. IT COMPRISES A HALL, DRESSING ROOMS, A CONFERENCE ROOM AS WELL AS BADMINTON COURTS FOR HIRE BY REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND NON-PROFIT MAKING BODIES.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, CHARITABLE BODIES, ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS USING THE FACILITIES FOR ORGANISING NON-PROFIT MAKING ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE THEIR FEES WAIVED.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY HALL AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO MR LIU ON TEL. 6376767.

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ISLANDS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT WISHING TO ORGANISE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR ISLANDERS IN 1990-91 CAN NOW SEND IN APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS SHOULD BE NON-PROFIT MAKING, AND SHOULD NOT GIVE UNDUE CREDIT OR PUBLICITY TO A PARTICULAR PERSON OR INCUR ANY RECURRENT EXPENSES TO BE BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO OBSERVE THE VARIOUS DEADLINES SET BY THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AND SEND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

DEADLINES FOR THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF APPLICATIONS ARE:

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|---|----------|
| - SPORTS, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES | MARCH 1 |
| - DRAGON BOAT ACTIVITIES (1990) | APRIL 15 |
| - LUNAR NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES (1991) | JUNE 30 |

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ALL THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE VETTED BY THE CULTURAL, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 8524325.

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MORE SAFETY COURSES IN THE PIPELINE

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THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL RUN A WIDE RANGE OF COURSES UNDER ITS ONGOING SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES THIS YEAR.

"THE COURSES ARE AIMED AT ENABLING INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES TO IDENTIFY UNSAFE ACTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THEIR WORKPLACES AND TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF TACKLING SAFETY PROBLEMS," THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FACTORY INSPECTORS OF THE CENTRE, MR CHAN HON-TING, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR CHAN NOTED THAT MORE THAN 13,600 EMPLOYEES TOOK PART IN 495 COURSES ON 32 MAJOR SAFETY SUBJECTS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE LAST YEAR.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID, 218 BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSES OF 31 TYPES WOULD BE OFFERED.

"THEY ARE DESIGNED MAINLY FOR MANAGERS, TECHNICIANS, FOREMEN AND WORK SUPERVISORS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE SO ACQUIRED TO THEIR WORKING ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

THE COURSES, WHICH LAST FROM HALF A DAY TO FIVE DAYS, COVER SUCH AREAS AS INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION, HEARING CONSERVATION, MANUAL LIFTING AND HANDLING, ELECTRICAL SAFETY, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND CHEMICAL HAZARDS, SAFE USE OF ABRASIVE WHEELS, SLINGING, MACHINERY, POWER PRESS, AND SO ON.

TO CURB THE SPIRALLING INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, COURSES WILL BE OFFERED ON ACCIDENT-PRONE OPERATIONS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION, WORK IN CONFINED SPACES, ASBESTOS HAZARDS AND CONTROLS, CAISSON WORK, CRANE SAFETY, WORKING AT HEIGHT, SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING.

EMPHASIS WILL ALSO BE LAID ON THE LABELLING AND SAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS AND THE PROMOTION OF SAFETY PROGRAMMES, WHILE NEW COURSES WILL BE INTRODUCED ON SAFETY IN FOOD CATERING AND CONTAINER HANDLING INDUSTRIES.

THE COURSES ARE CONDUCTED MAINLY IN CANTONESE AND ADMISSION IS FREE. APPLICATION MUST BE MADE THROUGH EMPLOYERS.

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IN VIEW OF THE KEEN RESPONSE TO THE COURSES, MR CHAN URGED INTERESTED EMPLOYEES TO APPLY FOR ENROLMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

"PROSPECTUS AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM THE CENTRE ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 8523563 OR 8523565," HE SAID.

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SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL BEGINS ON THURSDAY

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THE 26TH SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE HELD AT THE WONG TAI SHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN JANUARY 18 (THURSDAY) AND FEBRUARY 9.

MORE THAN 370 TEAMS, COMPRISING 3,680 STUDENTS, HAVE ENTERED THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR.

OF THE PARTICIPATING TEAMS, 171 ARE FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 190 FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 18 FROM SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

THEY WILL COMPETE IN WESTERN FOLK DANCE, CHINESE DANCE, ORIENTAL DANCE AND CREATIVE DANCE.

OVERALL CHALLENGE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE ATTAINED THE HIGHEST TOTAL SCORES IN THE FOUR DANCE SECTIONS.

THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED TO ONE SECONDARY AND ONE PRIMARY SCHOOL BASED ON THEIR PAST AND CURRENT PARTICIPATION, AND RESULTS, AS WELL AS ON THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE SCHOOLS IN DANCE PROMOTION.

WINNERS WILL BE INVITED TO PERFORM AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM BETWEEN APRIL 6 AND 8, AND AT THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL BETWEEN APRIL 17 AND 21.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1990

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 15), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, FROM A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ICE HOUSE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 60 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, 24 HOURS DAILY.

THE MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE FOR THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 24-HOUR RESTRICTION FOR ALL VEHICLES ON THIS SECTION OF WESTBOUND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

IN ADDITION, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT PLACE IN FRONT OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, EXCLUDING THE LAYBY, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, FROM A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH PEDDER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 85 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY FOR FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS IN THESE URBAN CLEARWAYS.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN TSIM SHA TSUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 15), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF ROADS IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS 24 HOURS DAILY:

- THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF THE SALISBURY ROAD SECTION BETWEEN CANTON ROAD AND KOWLOON PARK DRIVE;
- THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CANTON ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SALISBURY ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF KOWLOON PARK DRIVE BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SALISBURY ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1990

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TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF SHA TIN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A SECTION OF ABOUT 300 METRES OF SHA TIN ROAD NEAR THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED FROM 11.30 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 15) TO JANUARY 20 (SATURDAY) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD T5.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ADJACENT SLIP ROAD LEADING TO SHA TIN WAI ROAD JUNCTION BEFORE REJOINING SHA TIN ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

MOTORISTS ON SHA TIN NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR TAI PO WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ADJACENT SLIP ROAD LEADING TO SHA TIN WAI ROAD JUNCTION BEFORE REJOINING SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE OF TAI PO ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON SECTIONS OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORKS.

A SECTION OF ABOUT 700 METRES OF THE INNERMOST LANE AND CENTRE LANE OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) SOUTHBOUND NEAR CHEUNG WAH ESTATE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE REST OF THE TIME, FROM MONDAY (JANUARY 15) TO JANUARY 23 (TUESDAY).

A SECTION OF ABOUT 650 METRES OF THE INNERMOST LANE AND CENTRE LANE OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) SOUTHBOUND NEAR WO HOP SHEK INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND ONE TRAFFIC LANE WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE REST OF THE TIME, FROM FEBRUARY 4 TO 17.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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