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UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER

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IN THE THREE MONTHS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1987, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES REMAINED STABLE AT A LOW LEVEL, COMPARED WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1987, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) 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 OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1987 WAS 1.9 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 1.8 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1987 AND 2.2 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

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

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1987 WAS ESTIMATED AT 53,000, COMPARED WITH 49,900 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1987 AND 59,400 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1986.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1987 WAS 1.0 PER CENT, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1987. THE RATE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1986 WAS 1.2 PER CENT. THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1987 WAS 28,500, COMPARED WITH 26,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1987 AND 31,800 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 1986.

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.

THIS PROCEDURE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO).

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT 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.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

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 NOVEMBER 1987-JANUARY 1988 WAS 1.8 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.9 PER CENT.

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 50,000 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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FIRST STEPS IN COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT

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A MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORCE'S NEW MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMPUTER SYSTEM - THE ENHANCED COMMAND AND CONTROL COMPUTER SYSTEM (ECACCS) - HAS BEEN PASSED WITH THE DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST EQUIPMENT THAT WILL FORM THE BASIS OF THE FORCE-WIDE SYSTEM.

THE DELIVERY OF A COMPUTER AT THE GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING AGENCY AND NINE TERMINALS AT MANAGEMENT SERVICES WING IS THE FIRST TANGIBLE RESULT TO FOLLOW THE SIGNING OF THE ECACCS CONTRACT LAST YEAR WITH TANDEM COMPUTERS INCORPORATED.

/THE COMPUTER .....

THE COMPUTER AND TERMINALS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT A COST OF $30 MILLION.

MR STUART RANKIN, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER HEADING THE ECACCS TEAM IN MANAGEMENT SERVICES WING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BRANCH, SAID: "THIS IS A MILESTONE FOR US AND FOR THE FORCE, A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM."

INFORMATION BEING STORED IN THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE LOADED EVENTUALLY TO COMPUTERS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE REGIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE COMPUTER SYSTEMS.

WORK IS NOW IN PROGRESS IN TESTING THE VARIOUS FACILITIES OF THE COMPUTER, AND THE DEVELOPMENT DESIGN OF DOCUMENTATION.

"WE ARE USING THE SYSTEM TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAMMING OF ECACCS," MR RANKIN SAID. "PROGRAMMES WILL BE WRITTEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DETAILED TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM SET OUT IN THE BASELINE DOCUMENT."

PROJECT MANAGER MR DENNIS PANG, ATTACHED TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BRANCH FROM THE GDPA, SAID: "THE BASELINE DOCUMENT FORMS THE BASIS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE ENTIRE ECACCS SYSTEM. IT'S A BASIC REFERENCE LIKE A BLUEPRINT. IT WILL GIVE A TIGHT SPECIFICATION OF WHAT THE SOFTWARE WILL EVENTUALLY OFFER."

THE NEW EQUIPMENT COMPRISES FOUR CENTRAL PROCESSING UNITS WITH A TOTAL OF 32 MEGABYTES, EIGHT DISC DRIVES OF 1,660 MEGABYTES, ONE TAPE DRIVE, TWO 600 LINE PRINTERS, THREE TERMINAL PRINTERS PLUS EIGHT VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS AND ONE PERSONAL COMPUTER TERMINAL.

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE DISC DRIVES IS A "MIRROR IMAGE" FACILITY WHICH IS 100 PER CENT FAULT TOLERANT.

THIS MEANS THAT FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE ANY SINGLE COMPONENT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY TAKEN OVER BY OTHERS.

AS THE FORCE RUNS A 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR OPERATION WITH ABSOLUTELY NO DOWN TIME, NON-STOPABILITY IS AN ATTRACTIVE FEATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT.

ECACCS IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN A SERIES OF PLANNED PHASES AND IT IS HOPED THAT ALMOST 600 TERMINALS WILL EVENTUALLY BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE FORCE.

IT WILL BE THE LARGEST COMPUTER SYSTEM IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND COMPARABLE ONLY WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM.

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STEPPED-UP ACTION AGAINST II EMPLOYMENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS STEPPING UP ACTION AGAINST THE EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT SPECIAL EMPHASIS WOULD BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WERE LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED, RANGING FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES AND FACTORIES TO COOKED FOOD STALLS AND GARAGES.

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 89,000 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE BY THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE PART IV B OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITS THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITHOUT VALID PROOF OF IDENTITY.

AS A RESULT, 206 EMPLOYEES WERE DISCOVERED TO HAVE NO PROOF OF IDENTITY AND WERE REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

DURING THE COURSE OF VISITS LABOUR INSPECTORS ALSO DISCOVERED THAT 91 EMPLOYERS HAD EITHER FAILED TO KEEP OR KEPT IMPROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

THIS RESULTED IN 15 PROSECUTIONS BEING TAKEN OUT AGAINST SUCH EMPLOYERS LAST YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT UNDER PART IVB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, EMPLOYERS WERE REQUIRED TO KEEP AN UP-TO-DATE RECORD OF ALL THE PEOPLE THEY EMPLOYED IN THE PLACE OF WORK.

THE RECORD MUST CONTAIN THE NAMES OF ALL EMPLOYEES, THE TYPE OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS THEY USE AND THE NUMBER OF SUCH DOCUMENTS.

"LABOUR INSPECTORS ARE EMPOWERED, DURING THEIR VISIT TO ANY PLACE OF WORK, TO INSPECT THE EMPLOYEE RECORDS AND THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF ALL WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THAT PLACE," HE ADDED.

"ANY EMPLOYER WHO OFFERS JOBS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $50,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

"HE MAY ALSO BE FINED $10,000 IF HE FAILS TO KEEP A PROPER RECORD OF EACH OF HIS EMPLOYEES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HIGHWAYS, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS WIN CERTIFICATES

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOTH WON A CERTIFICATE AWARDED BY THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE INDUSTRIES (BALI) IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORT IN PROVIDING A GOOD LANDSCAPE FOR THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR (IEC) PHASE 2, STAGE 2 PROJECT.

THE CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO THE TWO DEPARTMENTS BY DR WAI TZE-KONG, GENERAL MANAGER OF ORIENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED ON BEHALF OF BALI.

THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR HAROLD BEATON, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) BALI PRESENTED A LANDSCAPE AWARD OF MERIT ANNUALLY TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER HIGH STANDARDS OF LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION WORKS BY ITS MEMBERS.

ORIENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED WON THE AWARD LAST SEPTEMBER FOR ITS PERFORMANCE IN CONSTRUCTING AND PLANTING THE LANDSCAPE FOR THE IEC PHASE 2, STAGE 2.

THE CERTIFICATES SERVE AS AN EXTENSION TO THIS AWARD, AND WERE AWARDED TO THE WINNER'S CLIENTS -- THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

TURNING TO THE IEC PROJECT, MR BEATON SAID CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECTION OF THE CORRIDOR FROM TAI KOO SHING TO SHAU KEI WAN WAS ENTRUSTED TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, WHICH CARRIED OUT BOTH DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF WORKS WHILE THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT MAINTAINED AN OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT ROLE.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAJOR IMPACT THAT SUCH MASSIVE ROAD STRUCTURES WOULD HAVE ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, THE PROJECT ALLOWED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF LANDSCAPE WORKS. AS A RESULT, THE NEW URBAN LANDSCAPE WAS OF MUCH GREATER BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL POPULATION THAN THE OLD.

PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE LANDSCAPE WORKS WAS CARRIED OUT BY URBIS LIMITED, HONG KONG, AS SPECIALIST SUB-CONSULTANTS, IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

THE WORKS INCLUDED ABOUT EIGHT SMALL PARKS, SITTING OUT AREAS AND PLAY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH A TOTAL AREA OF AROUND 12,000 SQUARE METRES.

OVER 63,000 TREES, SHRUBS, PALMS AND GROUND COVER PLANTS HAVE BEEN PLANTED ON THE SITE.

IN ADDITION, AN OPEN SPACE AREA OF 2,000 SQUARE METRES WAS DEVELOPED AND THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE SENSITIVE TREATMENT OF PEDESTRIAN ROUTES, HAS CREATED A PLEASING URBAN LANDSCAPE.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE LANDSCAPE COMPONENT CONTRACT WAS ABOUT $10 MILLION, COMPRISING BOTH HARD AND SOFTWORKS AND INCLUDING WORKS FUNDED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL.

QUOTA SYSTEM FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATIONS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICANTS THAT A QUOTA SYSTEM MAY BE ADOPTED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S FOUR LICENSING OFFICES ON PARTICULARLY BUSY DAYS TO COPE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE QUOTA SYSTEM WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WHENEVER IT WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE LICENSING OFFICES, WHICH WERE PARTICULARLY CROWDED DURING THE BEGINNING AND END OF EACH MONTH.

HE SAID: "IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE QUOTA SYSTEM HAD BEEN ADOPTED ON AN AD HOC BASIS TO ENCOURAGE THE APPLICANTS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE LESS BUSY PERIODS OF THE MONTH. IT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO WAITING TIME ON EXTREMELY BUSY DAYS."

"UNDER THE SYSTEM, THE APPLICANTS WILL BE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT DISC AT THE LICENSING OFFICE BEFORE THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE PROCESSED. THE APPOINTMENT DISC WILL BE HANDED OUT ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR LICENCES EXPIRE. THEY CAN APPLY ANY TIME DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY DATE, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO REMINDED APPLICANTS THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO APPLY IN PERSON, AND THAT POSTAL APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES, LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES; THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS; AND THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

POSTAL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY RELEVANT FORMS, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND APPROPRIATE FEES IN CHEQUES AND SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL TO P.O. BOX 69511, KWUN TONG POST OFFICE.

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CAR OWNERS URGED TO TAKE HEED OF SECURITY MEASURES

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CAR OWNERS SHOULD TAKE HEED OF BOTH SECURITY MEASURES AND TRAFFIC LAWS IN PARKING THEIR CARS.

MAKING THE PLEA TODAY (SUNDAY), A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID A MAJORITY OF THE VEHICLE CRIME CASES, INCLUDING THEFT OF AND THEFT FROM VEHICLES AS WELL AS TAMPERING WITH VEHICLES, WERE INDEED A RESULT OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF CERTAIN CAR OWNERS.

/"SOME DRIVERS .....

"SOME DRIVERS LIKE TO PARK THEIR CARS ON STREETS FOR A LONG TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

"THIS PRACTICE IS MOST COMMON IN KOWLOON TONG AREA AS SOME OF THE PARKING SPACE THERE ARE NOT METERED.

"NOT ONLY WILL THE PRACTICE ATTRACT BURGLARS, MOTORISTS ALSO COMMIT AN OFFENCE IF THEIR VEHICLES ARE PARKED AT THE SAME SPOT FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED CAR OWNERS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CARS ARE PROPERLY SECURED WHEN THEY LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED.

"WATCHFUL CAR OWNERS WILL, NO DOUBT, AUGUR WELL IN PREVENTING THE CRIME," HE SAID.

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SHA TIN TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHE KUNG FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SHA TIN FROM 8 PM ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 18) TO 6 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHE KUNG FESTIVAL.

CHE KUNG MIU ROAD, BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TIN TAU ROAD AND CHUI TIN STREET, WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES. THE TWO BUS STOPS ON THAT SECTION WILL BE SUSPENDED.

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE, TRAFFIC HEADING FOR THE HIN KENG AND TIN SAM AREAS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD AND HUNG MUI KUK ROAD.

BECAUSE OF THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE CARPARK IN CHUI TIN STREET AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE, WORSHIPPERS GOING TO THE TEMPLE ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

FRANCHISED BUS AND KCR TRAIN SERVICES WILL BE STRENGTHENED IF NECESSARY DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD.

AT THE SAME TIME, TAXIS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING CHUI TIN STREET.

A TAXI STAND IS AVAILABLE ON TSUEN NAM ROAD NEAR TAI WAI KCR STATION AND TEMPORARY STOPPING PLACES FOR TAXIS WILL BE PROVIDED ON SHA TIN TAU ROAD NEAR THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE, BUT ONLY TO ALLOW PASSENGERS TO ALIGHT.

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SAI KUNG GETS READY FOR DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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MORE THAN 300 ATTRACTIVE BANNERS AND BUNTING HAVE BEEN PUT UP AT VANTAGE POINTS TO PROMOTE THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FESTIVAL TO BE HELD BETWEEN FEBRUARY 20 AND 25.

COLOURFUL BANNERS PUBLICISING THE FESTIVAL ARE MOUNTED ON RAILINGS AND AT VENUES WHERE A NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE HELD.

THE BUNTING, BEARING THE DISTRICT LOGO, IS MOUNTED ON LAMP POSTS ALONG CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD, HIRAM'S HIGHWAY, PO TUNG ROAD AND PO LAM ROAD IN JUNK BAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SAID THAT AS THE FESTIVAL COINCIDED WITH THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE BANNERS AND BUNTING WOULD ADD COLOUR AND ENHANCE THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE.

SOME 5,000 LEAFLETS, 500 POSTERS AND 400 INVITATION CARDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, VILLAGES AND SCHOOLS, TO INFORM RESIDENTS OF THE FESTIVAL'S PROGRAMMES.

PROGRAMME LEAFLETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE IN CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

CALENDARS WITH THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN SAI KUNG PRINTED ON THEM WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED.

ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE FESTIVAL IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT $220,000, OF WHICH $75,000 IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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SHA TIN FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (MONDAY) MORNING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ESTIMATES FOR THE BOARD FOR THE 1988-89 FINANCIAL YEAR, WHICH WILL AMOUNT TO $3.53 MILLION.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER NINE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS AMOUNTING TO $722,486 FOR ORGANISING VARIOUS RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FOR SUPPORTING THE SHA TIN ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

/OTHER ITEMS .....

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE DISTRICT AND A REVISED APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR PUTTING UP FESTIVE LIGHTING IN 1987-88.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 15) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION. IT WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

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LONG DISTANCE RUN FOR YAU MA TEI RESIDENTS

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RESIDENTS IN THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A LONG DISTANCE RUN TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 28 (SUNDAY).

THE RACE WILL START AT GUN CLUB HILL BARRACKS AND ENTRANTS WILL RUN ALONG AUSTIN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, JORDAN ROAD AND GASCOIGNE ROAD BEFORE RETURNING TO THE STARTING POINT.

THOSE TAKING PART IN THE MEN'S SENIOR AND INTERMEDIATE SECTIONS WILL COMPLETE A DISTANCE OF 4.5 KILOMETRES WHILE THOSE IN THE WOMEN'S OPEN AND MEN'S JUNIOR SECTIONS WILL COVER A DISTANCE OF THREE KILOMETRES.

WINNERS OF EACH SECTION WILL BE AWARDED PRIZES.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YAU MA TEI AND TSIM SHA TSUI RECREATION AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S RECREATION, AMENITIES AND SPORTS OFFICE AT 18 CAMERON ROAD, FIFTH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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57 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN DECEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE APPROVED 57 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN DECEMBER, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF APPROVALS FOR THE WHOLE OF LAST YEAR TO 671.

ABOUT HALF OF THE APPROVED PLANS, THAT IS 28 OF THEM, WERE FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENCE DEVELOPMENTS. FACTORY/INDUSTRIAL/WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENTS, WITH A TOTAL OF NINE PLANS, WAS AGAIN THE SECOND HIGHEST ON THE LIST.

A CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE WORLD AT THE OCEAN PARK AND A HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI WERE ALSO AMONG THE PLANS APPROVED.

TWENTY-TWO OF THE APPROVED PLANS WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 23 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 42 PROJECTS. THE FLOOR AREA OF THESE PROJECTS TOTALLED 225,419.6 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 119,425.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC USE AND THE REMAINDER FOR NON-DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS $1,021 MILLION.

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED WAS 265,126 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 184,391.5 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE ISSUED 43 OCCUPATION PERMITS, OF WHICH 12 WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 13 IN KOWLOON AND 18 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICE ISSUED 27 DEMOLITION ORDERS AFFECTING 62 BUILDINGS.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 434 COMPLAINTS REGARDING ILLEGAL BUILDINGS AND ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS DURING THE MONTH, CARRIED OUT 868 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 86 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 383 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED THREE EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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CONTRACT FOR CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AWARDED

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WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PAMELA YOUDE CHILD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AND SCHOOL CHILDREN DENTAL CLINIC WILL START SOON FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A $22.8 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE BUILDING WILL BE LOCATED AT NGAN SHING STREET IN SHA TIN, AND WILL ALSO HOUSE A DENTAL CLINIC FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE DENTAL TREATMENT CUBICLES, X-RAY AND DARK ROOMS, PLASTER AND SURGICAL UNITS, OFFICES, ASSESSMENT ROOMS AND PUBLIC AREAS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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RE-NUMBERING OF CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTES

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THE CROSS HARBOUR RECREATION BUS ROUTES 111A AND 112A, WHICH OPERATE BETWEEN 12.30 AM AND 6 AM ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY ONLY, WILL BE RE-NUMBERED AS 111S AND 112S RESPECTIVELY FROM WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

THE RE-NUMBERING WILL BRING THE ROUTE NUMBERS IN LINE WITH THE EXISTING NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR BUS ROUTES.

THE TWO CROSS HARBOUR ROUTES 111S AND 112S WILL OPERATE FROM CAUSEWAY BAY (HING FAT STREET) TO CHOI HUNG AND TO MONG KOK RESPECTIVELY.

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WONG TAI SIN TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

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TO FACILITATE CROWD CONTROL NEAR WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, TWO ROAD SECTIONS IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THEY ARE:

* SHA TIN PASS ROAD BETWEEN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND FUNG TAK ROAD, WHICH WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT GREEN MINIBUSES AND TAXIS; AND

* THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE AND WONG TAI SIN ROAD, WHICH WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT GREEN MINIBUSES.

THESE MEASURES WILL BE IN FORCE FROM 8 PM ON FEBRUARY 16 (TUESDAY) TO 6 PM THE NEXT DAY AND FROM 6.30 AM TO 6 PM DAILY ON FEBRUARY 18, 19 AND 21.

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