



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SPEEDIER RELAXATION OF CONDITIONS IN CLOSED CENTRES	1
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FABRIC, YARN MANUFACTURERS	2
PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE	4
UK POSTAL DISPUTE AFFECTS MAIL FROM HK	9
HK ISLAND (EAST) CONSTITUENCY PRE-ELECTION GATHERING	9
EXHIBITION IN TAI PO ON LEGCO ELECTIONS	10
NORTH DISTRICT FORUM FOR LEGCO CANDIDATES	11
DB HOUSING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ASBESTOS ISSUE	12
KWAI TSING DB TO MEET TOMORROW	12
DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS	13
SOUTHERN DB TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUES	14
DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED	14
BACK LANE CLEARANCE BEGINS IN YAU TSIM	15
ENTRIES INVITED FOR CHILDREN'S SINGING CONTEST	15
FARE INCREASE ON ABERDEEN-SOK KWU WAN SERVICE	16
CONTAINER PORT ROAD CLOSED UNTIL SATURDAY EVENING	16
PARTIAL CLOSURE OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD	17
INTERRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY	17

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

- 1 -

SPEEDIER RELAXATION OF CONDITIONS IN CLOSED CENTRES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO BRING FORWARD ITS PLANS FOR THE PROGRESSIVE RELAXATION OF THE CONDITIONS IN THE CLOSED CENTRES HOUSING REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN HONG KONG BEFORE JUNE 16.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AS PART OF THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW SCREENING POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED IN JUNE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO EMBARK ON A SCHEME OF RELAXATION AT THE PRESENT CLOSED CENTRES.

"IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT AN EARLIER START ON RELAXING THE CLOSED CAMP CONDITIONS IS NOW BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE," HE SAID.

"EARLY RELAXATION WILL ENABLE THE UNHCR TO ASSUME OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MEET ALL OF THE OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE CAMPS AT AN EARLIER DATE.

"IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABOUT \$150 MILLION A YEAR."

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT RELAXATION WOULD ONLY APPLY TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO HAD ARRIVED BEFORE THE CHANGE IN POLICY ON JUNE 16.

"VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE ARRIVED ON OR AFTER JUNE 16 WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED PENDING SCREENING AND THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR STATUS.

"THOSE WHO ARE SCREENED OUT WILL BE HELD IN DETENTION CENTRES PENDING REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM," HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROGRAMME FOR RELAXATION WOULD START WITH SCHOOLING, RECREATION AND WORK.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO ALLOW VIETNAMESE CHILDREN FROM SAN YICK AND SHAM SHUI PO TO LEAVE THEIR CAMPS EACH DAY TO ATTEND SCHOOLS FOR REFUGEES RUN BY THE UNHCR.

"THE PROGRAMME WILL START VERY SOON AND WILL USE THE NEW HORIZON SCHOOL AT THE KAI TAK OPEN CAMP, AND A SECOND SCHOOL YET TO BE ESTABLISHED.

"BOTH SCHOOLS WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR REFUGEES CHILDREN AND THERE WILL BE NO MIXING OF REFUGEE AND LOCAL CHILDREN.

"ONCE SUFFICIENT SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE SCHOOLING PROGRAMME CAN BE EXTENDED TO ALL CHILDREN IN CLOSED CAMPS," HE SAID.

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- 2 -

TURNING TO RECREATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT SPACE IN THE CLOSED CAMPS REFUGEES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE CAMPS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

"THIS WILL BE DONE IN ORGANISED GROUPS IN THE EARLY STAGES," HE SAID.

AS FOR WORK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE UNHCR HAD AGREED TO ASK A VOLUNTARY AGENCY TO START AN EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT SERVICE IN THE CLOSED CENTRES.

"THE PROGRAMME WILL START GRADUALLY BY PLACING REFUGEES WITH SKILLS IN EMPLOYMENT, AND BY IDENTIFYING THE TRAINING NEEDS FOR OTHERS.

"THERE WILL BE NO SUDDEN DUMPING OF UNSKILLED WORKERS ON THE LABOUR MARKET," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM PROGRAMME FOR ALL THE CLOSED CAMPS.

"WE INTEND TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF RELAXATION AT THE TUEN MUN AND SHAM SHUI PO CLOSED CENTRES DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 AND THEN TO HAND OVER FULL OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE UNHCR.

"IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE FULL OPEN CENTRE STATUS AT SAN YICK ALTHOUGH PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOLING, RECREATION AND EMPLOYMENT WILL START IMMEDIATELY.

"FULL OPEN CENTRE STATUS FOR THE CAMP WILL HAVE TO AWAIT A MOVE TO MORE SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE LONG TERM PLAN WAS TO MOVE THE REFUGEES BEING HOUSED AT BOTH SAN YICK AND SHAM SHUI PO TO THE NEW OPEN CENTRE AT AREA 46A IN TUEN MUN WHICH WOULD BE RUN BY THE UNHCR.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FABRIC, YARN MANUFACTURERS

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THE U.S.-CANADA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) DOES NOT APPEAR DIRECTLY TO THREATEN HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET AND, IN SO FAR AS IT MAY STIMULATE THE CANADIAN ECONOMY, IT COULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG'S FABRIC AND YARN MANUFACTURERS.

HONG KONG'S MINISTER IN WASHINGTON FOR HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS, MR PETER LO, SAID THIS YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) IN THE CANADIAN CITY OF TORONTO.

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ADDRESSING THE HONG KONG/CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, MR LO QUOTED THE EXAMPLE OF PROVISIONS UNDER THE FTA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DUTY-FREE QUOTAS FOR APPAREL MADE FROM IMPORTED FABRICS AND FOR FABRICS AND MADE-UP ARTICLES MADE FROM IMPORTED YARN.

"UNDER THESE PROVISIONS, CANADIAN NON-WOOLLEN APPAREL MADE FROM IMPORTED FABRICS WILL QUALIFY FOR FTA TREATMENT WHEN SOLD TO THE U.S. UP TO AN ANNUAL LEVEL OF 50 MILLION SQUARE YARDS, WHEREAS WOOLLEN APPAREL MADE IN THE SAME MANNER WILL BE SUBJECT TO A QUOTA OF SIX MILLION SQUARE YARDS.

"SEPARATELY, NON-WOOLLEN FABRICS AND MADE-UP ARTICLES MADE IN CANADA FROM IMPORTED YARN WILL QUALIFY FOR FTA TREATMENT FOR THREE YEARS UP TO AN ANNUAL LEVEL OF 30 MILLION SQUARE YARDS," MR LO SAID.

HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILES, INCLUDING FABRICS AND YARNS, TO CANADA AMOUNTED TO CAN\$72 MILLION (ABOUT HK\$453 MILLION) IN 1987.

MR LO ALSO SAID THAT THE U.S.-CANADA FTA DID HAVE FEATURES WHICH MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL TO THE PROCESS OF TRADE LIBERALISATION IN THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

"ITS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROVISIONS PROVIDE FOR BINDING ARBITRATION OF TRADE DISPUTES, A FEATURE AT PRESENT NOT AVAILABLE IN THE GATT. THE FTA'S FRAMEWORK OF GENERALLY APPLICABLE RULES IN THE SERVICES AREA COULD ALSO FORM A USEFUL MODEL FOR A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

MR LO SAID THERE WAS UNLIKELY TO BE KEEN COMPETITION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADIAN PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. MARKET AND THE FTA SHOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO ADVERSE IMPACT, OVERALL, ON HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS IN THE U.S.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF CANADIAN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG MIGHT, TO A SMALL DEGREE, EXPERIENCE A CHANGING COMPETITIVE POSITION AS THE CANADIAN DUTY ON U.S. PRODUCTS WAS REMOVED GRADUALLY OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD.

"GIVEN THE RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD AND THE PRICE DIFFERENTIALS, EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG SHOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN ADJUSTING TO THE SLIGHTLY MORE COMPETITIVE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

MR LO ALSO SAID THAT BUSINESSMEN WERE INCREASINGLY RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG BOTH AS A MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR ENTRY INTO CHINA AND THE REST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IN 1987, CANADA-HONG KONG TRADE EXCEEDED CAN\$1.6 BILLION (OR HK\$10.141 BILLION), UP 27 PER CENT FROM 1986.

MR LO NOTED THAT HONG KONG EXPORTS TO CANADA INCLUDED TEXTILES AND APPAREL, TOYS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

FOR ITS PART, CANADA WAS A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO HONG KONG AND SALES OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE WERE ESTIMATED TO HAVE RISEN MORE THAN 1,000 PER CENT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE
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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 8 PER CENT AND 42 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1987, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT AND 47 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 27 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF A NUMBER OF COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN JUNE 1988 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-32 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-17 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-14 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-11 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (-10 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-4 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (-3 PER CENT).

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HOWEVER, THESE DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE MORE THAN OFFSET BY INCREASES RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+59 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+36 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+31 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+25 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+7 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN JUNE 1988 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987.

THESE INCLUDED TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+5 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+5 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+5 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+3 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+3 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+2 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+2 PER CENT); AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-1 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-1 PER CENT).

PRICES OF RADIOS OF ALL KINDS; AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN JUNE 1988 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN SUGAR; WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR LIVE POULTRY; AND CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT. THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; WATCHES; AND FOOTWEAR.

A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 27 PER CENT IN JUNE 1988 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987.

THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS; SILK FABRICS; BASE METALS OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR COTTON YARN AND THREAD; AND WOVEN COTTON FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN JUNE 1988 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT IN JUNE 1988 OVER JUNE 1987.

THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN OFFICE MACHINES; CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; AND SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987, RANGING FROM 3 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 5 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. PRICES OF IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JUNE 1988 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JUNE 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987, RANGING FROM 16 PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 51 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES BOTH INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN JUNE 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987.

RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JUNE 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 12 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP.

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1987			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1988 WITH JAN-JUN 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-1	2	-3	1	4	-3
TEXTILE FABRICS	-8	2	-10	*	4	-3
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	7	-1	7	-5	3	-8
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	1	5	-4	-2	6	-7
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-32	*	-32	-27	3	-30
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	57	-1	59	37	-1	39
FOOTWEAR	-8	5	-11	4	4	-1
METAL MANUFACTURES	31	5	25	27	6	21
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	40	3	36	35	6	27
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	33	1	31	28	3	24
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-15	*	-14	-6	2	-9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-14	3	-17	6	1	5
ALL COMMODITIES	11	2	9	12	3	8

NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

/TABLE 2:

- 8 -

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1987			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1988 WITH JAN-JUN 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	27	4	23	22	3	17
CONSUMER GOODS	39	3	35	31	3	28
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	33	4	27	28	5	22
FUELS	-24	-1	-23	-3	1	-4
CAPITAL GOODS	41	5	35	35	6	26
ALL COMMODITIES	34	4	29	29	4	23

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1987			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1988 WITH JAN-JUN 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	41	1	39	43	1	42
CONSUMER GOODS	53	3	49	44	2	41
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	52	4	45	49	4	42
FUELS	11	-5	16	26	-4	31
CAPITAL GOODS	58	4	51	50	4	45
ALL COMMODITIES	52	3	47	46	3	42

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

- 9 -

UK POSTAL DISPUTE AFFECTS MAIL FROM HK

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THE POST OFFICE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT BECAUSE THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION TAKEN BY POSTAL STAFF IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS ESCALATED, THE UNITED KINGDOM POST OFFICE HAS DECIDED TO SUSPEND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE ACCEPTANCE OF LETTERS AND PARCELS FROM HONG KONG.

CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO SEND DOCUMENTS AND BUSINESS PAPERS TO THE MAJOR CITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CAN STILL USE HONG KONG'S SPEEDPOST SERVICE AND THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE IS USING ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO EFFECT DELIVERY. THE MAJOR CITIES ARE:

BIRMINGHAM
BRISTOL
EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
LEEDS
LIVERPOOL

LONDON
MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE
NOTTINGHAM
READING

SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO THE UK FOR SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

SPEEDPOST ITEMS TO JERSEY ARE NOT AFFECTED AND ALL ITEMS, DOCUMENTS, BUSINESS PAPERS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE CAN BE ACCEPTED.

THE POST OFFICE SAID CUSTOMERS WILL BE ADVISED AS SOON AS THE SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL.

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HK ISLAND (EAST) CONSTITUENCY PRE-ELECTION GATHERING

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A PRE-ELECTION GATHERING OF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY WILL BE ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICES ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 10).

THE GATHERING WILL ENABLE ELECTORS IN THE CONSTITUENCY TO GET TO KNOW THEIR CONSTITUENCY'S CANDIDATES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY COMPRISES 45 MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARDS.

/STANDING FOR

STANDING FOR ELECTION IN THIS CONSTITUENCY ARE MR CHAN YING-LUN AND MR LEE YU-TAI, WHO WILL BOTH PRESENT THEIR PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS AT THE GATHERING.

TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, THE EASTERN AND WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICES WILL BE LAUNCHING A SERIES OF PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES IN THE RUN-UP TO ELECTION DAY.

AN EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE TWO DISTRICT OFFICES WILL FEATURE THE FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE BACKGROUND AND PLATFORMS OF THE TWO CANDIDATES COMPETING IN THE HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) CONSTITUENCY.

IT WILL BE STAGED IN HENNESSY CENTRE IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM SEPTEMBER 12 TO 13, AND IN THE NEW JADE SHOPPING ARCADE IN CHAI WAN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 14 AND 22.

TO TIE IN WITH THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, BOTH DISTRICT OFFICES HAVE ADOPTED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AS THE MAIN THEME FOR THEIR CURRENT SHOW-WINDOW DISPLAYS.

IN ADDITION, THE OFFICES HAVE ALSO ARRANGED FOR A FULL-PAGE SUPPLEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS, DETAILING THE STRUCTURE AND THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE CANDIDATES FROM THE HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) CONSTITUENCY, AND THE VOTING SYSTEM IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST) ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCY PRE-ELECTION GATHERING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 10) IN THE GLOUCESTER ROOMS, THIRD FLOOR, EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY. THE GATHERING WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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EXHIBITION IN TAI PO ON LEGCO ELECTIONS

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A MOBILE EXHIBITION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EAST CONSTITUENCY WILL BE STAGED AT THE TAI PO MARKET KCR STATION FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO SEPTEMBER 14.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO, NORTH AND SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICES, THE EXHIBITION FEATURES INTERESTING CHARACTERISTICS AND INFORMATION ON THE THREE DISTRICTS AS WELL AS ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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- 11 -

THE INFORMATION INCLUDES FACTS SUCH AS TAI PO LITERALLY MEANS "BIG STRIDE", NORTH DISTRICT IS THE SECOND LARGEST DISTRICT IN THE TERRITORY, AND SHA TIN WAS ADMINISTRATIVELY PART OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BEFORE 1974.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO EXPLAIN THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WITH A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE EXHIBITION MOVES TO TAI PO FROM THE SHA TIN KCR STATION WHERE IT CLOSES TODAY. IT WILL BE STAGED IN NORTH DISTRICT FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO 22.

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NORTH DISTRICT FORUM FOR LEGCO CANDIDATES
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A FORUM TO INTRODUCE CANDIDATES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES (EAST) CONSTITUENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 9).

THE FORUM HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE TO ENABLE THE TWO CANDIDATES, MR MICHAEL LAI KAM-CHEUNG AND MR ANDREW WONG WANG-FAT, TO MEET LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

MR LAI AND MR WONG WILL OUTLINE THEIR ELECTION PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

THE FORUM WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE ACTING NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TIM MILNES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FORUM TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, FANLING ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 9). THE FORUM WILL BEGIN AT 11 AM.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

- 12 -

DB HOUSING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ASBESTOS ISSUE

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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF ASBESTOS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE BOOKLET, "WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ASBESTOS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES", PUBLISHED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

A SENIOR MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR, MR WONG TUNG-WAI, AND A SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, MR P.S. TAM, FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUERIES.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO BE TOLD OF PROGRESS ON VARIOUS HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET.

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KWAI TSING DB TO MEET TOMORROW

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS BOTH THE EFFECTS ON RESIDENTS OF MAINTENANCE WORKS ON PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS AND THE ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE DISTRICT TO HONG KONG-BORN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN AT A MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF IMPORTING FOREIGN WORKERS, PRUDENTIAL REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME PROPOSED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3, AND THE ROLES OF DISTRICT BOARD AND AREA COMMITTEES.

THE EXTENSION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO MORE PUBLIC HOUSING BLOCKS IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE CONSIDERED.

/THE BOARD

- 13 -

THE BOARD WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE EFFECTS OF THE OPENING OF ROUTE 5 ON TRAFFIC VOLUME AND THE TRAFFIC NOISE LEVEL IN KWAI CHUNG.

MEMBERS WILL RAISE QUESTIONS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF KWAI HING AND KWAI FONG ESTATES, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON SPLITTING JOINT TENANCIES AND THE REVIEW OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN TSING YI.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS
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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE VARIOUS SPORTS, RECREATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS THAT THE REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE DISTRICT THIS MONTH AND NEXT MONTH.

THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE USAGE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT AND ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS GIVEN IN THE TOWN HALL IN JULY AND LAST MONTH.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A FINANCIAL STATEMENT ON RECREATION AND CULTURE FUNDS AS AT AUGUST 30, REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON LOCAL RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING ROUNDABOUT, FANLING, TOMORROW (THURSDAY). THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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SOUTHERN DB TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUES
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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES.

THE ISSUES ARE THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON PRUDENTIAL REGULATION OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES, THE LAW ON LOITERING AND THE LAW ON HOMOSEXUAL OFFENCES, AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 3.

DURING DISCUSSION OF THE EDUCATION REPORT, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, MRS RITA FAN HSU LAI-TAI, WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO HEAR REPORTS ON MATTERS ARISING FROM ITS LAST MEETING, NAMELY THE PROVISION OF A CULTURAL AND ARTS CENTRE IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT, THE PROVISION OF SPORTS FACILITIES FOR THE POK FU LAM AREA, THE NEED FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL AT WAH KWEI ESTATE, AND THE MA HANG REDEVELOPMENT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING STARTING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE BOARD'S CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF FOREX FINANCE LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1988

- 15 -

BACK LANE CLEARANCE BEGINS IN YAU TSIM

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FORTY-FOUR ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN BACK LANES BOUNDED BY DUNDAS STREET, NATHAN ROAD, TUNG FONG STREET AND WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE PULLED DOWN IN A THREE-DAY CLEARANCE OPERATION THAT BEGAN IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THESE STRUCTURES WERE USED AS SHOPS, DOMESTIC UNITS, STORES AND CANOPIES.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS, TOTTALLING \$101,067.90 WERE GRANTED TO ELIGIBLE SHOP OPERATORS.

THE CLEARANCE OPERATION IS BEING CO-ORDINATED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE AS PART OF ITS CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE OPERATION ARE STAFF FROM THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

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ENTRIES INVITED FOR CHILDREN'S SINGING CONTEST

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CHILDREN LIVING OR STUDYING IN SAI KUNG, HANG HAU OR RENNIE'S MILL ARE BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT CHILDREN SINGING CONTEST.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR ASSOCIATION, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MUSIC OFFICE, THE CONTEST IS AIMED AT DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL IN SINGING AND CULTIVATING THEIR INTEREST IN MUSIC.

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE BETWEEN FIVE AND 15 YEARS OLD. THEY CAN TAKE PART IN EITHER SOLO SINGING OR GROUP SINGING.

THE PRELIMINARY CONTESTS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 1 AND 8, AND THE FINALS WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 23.

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FARE INCREASE ON ABERDEEN-SOK KWU WAN SERVICE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE MAXIMUM FARES THAT MAY BE CHARGED FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS ON THE ABERDEEN TO SOK KWU WAN VIA MO TAT LICENSED FERRY SERVICE WILL BE INCREASED FROM FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 9).

THE NEW FARES, WITH THE EXISTING FARES SHOWN IN BRACKETS, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS -----	SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS -----
ADULT	\$4 PER SINGLE JOURNEY (\$3.50)	\$5.50 PER SINGLE JOURNEY (\$4.60)
CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS	\$2 PER SINGLE JOURNEY (\$1.70)	\$2.80 PER SINGLE JOURNEY (\$2.30)

THE FARE FOR THE CARRIAGE OF BAGGAGE AND GOODS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT \$3 PER PICUL OR 0.11 CUBIC METRE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE FARE RISE WAS APPROVED IN VIEW OF INCREASING OPERATING COSTS SINCE THE FARES WERE LAST REVISED IN MAY 1986 AND THE OPERATOR'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE FERRY SERVICE.

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CONTAINER PORT ROAD CLOSED UNTIL SATURDAY EVENING

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOUTHBOUND LANE OF CONTAINER PORT ROAD LEADING TO BERTH 2 AND 3 OF THE CONTAINER TERMINAL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL 6 PM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 10).

THE ROAD SECTION HAS BEEN CLOSED EARLIER TO TRAFFIC TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR WORK IN CONNECTION WITH A WATER MAINS BURST. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

AS A RESULT OF THE ROAD CLOSURE, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 87M ON JOURNEYS TO THE CONTAINER PORT HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO TURN ROUND AT KWAI TAI ROAD.

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PARTIAL CLOSURE OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT SECTIONS OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION.

AFFECTED ROAD SECTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE OFF-SIDE LANE OF EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AND LUEN YEE ROAD.
- * THE KERBSIDE LANE OF EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AND THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.
- * THE OFF-SIDE LANE OF WESTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN LUEN YEE ROAD AND SHATIN PASS ROAD.

DURING THE CLOSURE, A MINIMUM WIDTH OF 6.5 METRES WILL BE MAINTAINED ON BOTH WESTBOUND AND EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAYS OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN SHATIN PASS ROAD AND LUEN YEE ROAD.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND TO DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

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INTERRUPTIONS TO FRESH WATER SUPPLY

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED LATER THIS WEEK SO THAT WATER WORKS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN.

IN SAI KUNG, SUPPLY TO PREMISES ALONG THE SECTION OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY BETWEEN MILE STONE 8-1/2 AND MARINA COVE, INCLUDING MOK TSE CHE, WO MEI, HEUNG CHUNG, NAM WAI, AU TSAI TSUEN, NAM PIN WAI AND HO CHUNG, WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY.

IN SHA TIN, SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM TOMORROW TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT AH KUNG KOK, MA ON SHAN ROAD, HANG TAK STREET, HANG SHUN STREET, TAI SHUI HANG, HANG HONG STREET, AH KUNG KOK VILLAGE RESITE, CHEVALIER GARDEN, KAM ON COURT, HANG ON ESTATE, YIU ON ESTATE AND KAM HAY COURT.

IN KOWLOON, SUPPLY TO THE WHOLE OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY TO 6 AM ON SATURDAY.

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN WEST KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TOMORROW TO 10 AM ON FRIDAY.

DISTRICTS AFFECTED ARE CHEUNG SHA WAN, MEI FOO, SHAM SHUI PO, MONG KOK, TAI KOK TSUI, YAU YAT CHUEN, TAI HANG TUNG, PAK TIN, SHEK KIP MEI, LAI CHI KOK, KOWLOON TONG, TAI WO PING AND BEACON HILL.

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