



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1984

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VOLUNTARY WORKERS' VITAL ROLE STRESSED
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VOLUNTARY WORKERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PREVENTING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER OF KOWLOON CITY, MR ROGER GARCIA, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TRAINING SCHEME, HE SAID: +HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED FROM A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE TO A MODERN AND INTERNATIONAL CITY WITHIN JUST OVER 100 YEARS.

+BESIDES THE HARD WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOCIETY, THE EFFORTS OF THE VOLUNTARY WORKERS SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

+THEY HAVE DEVOTED THEIR TIME AND EFFORT TO HELP OTHERS AND SERVE THE SOCIETY. THEIR WORK HAS HELPED TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY LIFE AND STABILISE THE SOCIETY,+ HE ADDED.

MR GARCIA PRESENTED CERTIFICATES TO 100 VOLUNTEERS WHO COMPLETED THE SIX-WEEK TRAINING COURSE ENDING YESTERDAY (SATURDAY).

THE TRAINING SCHEME WAS ONE OF A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE.

PARTICIPANTS WERE ABLE TO LEARN MORE OF THEIR DISTRICT THROUGH TALKS, SEMINARS AND VISITS. THEY ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN ORGANISATIONAL WORK OF DISTRICT FUNCTIONS THROUGH FIELD PRACTICES.

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ACTIVITY CENTRES DRAW YOUNG AND OLD
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MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS ARE MAKING GOOD USE OF THEIR FREE TIME BY ATTENDING CLASSES RUN BY THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES (AERC'S) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEN THE FIRST CENTRE WAS SET UP IN 1955, IT STARTED WITH 600 MEMBERS. TODAY, THERE ARE 17 CENTRES WHERE ABOUT 24 000 MEN AND WOMEN, AGED OVER 18, ARE TAKING PART IN WIDE-RANGING ACTIVITIES.

RECORDS SHOW THAT OVER THE PAST 28 YEARS, MORE THAN 130 000 PEOPLE HAVE ENJOYED THE FREE EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY THE AERC'S.

/+OVER 40

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+OVER 40 COURSES ARE HELD ON WEEKDAY EVENINGS. THEY COVER SINGING, DANCING, MUSIC, MARTIAL ARTS, LANGUAGES, ART AND CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND BUSINESS SUBJECTS,+ SAID THE COURSE OFFICER OF THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION, MR TO CHO-KUNG.

+ON MONDAYS OUTSIDE SPEAKERS ARE INVITED TO GIVE TALKS ON EDUCATIONAL TOPICS SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING, CONSUMER RIGHTS, LABOUR LEGISLATION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION, TO MEMBERS AT INDIVIDUAL CENTRES,+ HE SAID.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SEVERAL CENTRES ARE HELD ON A MONTHLY BASIS TO PROVIDE CHANCES FOR AERC MEMBERS TO MEET EACH OTHER, TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND TO CULTIVATE A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

MR TO SAID PROGRAMMES IN THE AERC'S WERE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO FULFIL THEMSELVES IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES OF MANY KINDS, TO CULTIVATE SKILLS IN RECREATIONAL PURSUITS AND TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR SELF-DISCOVERY AND SELF-EXPRESSION IN GROUPS WITH COMMON INTERESTS.

+THE AERC'S ORIGINALLY CATERED FOR WORKERS WHO LEFT SCHOOL EARLY TO ENGAGE IN HEALTHY SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES. AFTER YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION HAS BUILT ON THIS INITIAL OBJECTIVE BY ENLARGING THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES TO EMBRACE THE INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, WITH AGES RANGING FROM 18 TO 60.

+THIS IS BEING ACHIEVED THROUGH THE DEDICATED COMMITMENT OF OUR 'FRONTLINE WORKERS' - THE ORGANISERS, ASSISTANT ORGANISERS, HOBBY INSTRUCTORS AND VOLUNTARY HELPERS,+ HE SAID.

+THEY ALL DEMONSTRATE A HIGH DEGREE OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, PROFESSIONALISM, AND A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY IN PROMOTING THE CENTRES' ACTIVITIES,+ MR TO SAID.

HE GAVE SPECIAL CREDIT TO THE 300 VOLUNTARY HELPERS WHO ARE SO KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE CENTRE'S WORK AND PLAY A DIRECT PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AERC'S.

MR TO SAID THESE VOLUNTARY HELPERS WERE AMONG THOSE WHO CAME TO REALISE THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIALS AFTER JOINING THE AERC'S.

TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF ADULT EDUCATION WORKERS, CERTIFICATE COURSES ARE ORGANISED, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO EQUIP POTENTIAL ASSISTANT ORGANISERS AND VOLUNTARY HELPERS WITH EXPERTISE AND FIELD EXPERIENCE.

/+WHAT DISTINGUISHES

+WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE AERC'S FROM OTHER PRIVATE ADULT EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IS THAT ALL THE AERC PROGRAMMES ARE ADMINISTERED BY TRAINED STAFF AND ARE FULLY-FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

FREE EDUCATION THROUGH RECREATION IS ANOTHER FEATURE OF THE AERC'S.

+IN FACT, WE OFFER SOMETHING MORE THAN AN INTEREST GROUP. ALL COURSES ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED, SYSTEMATICALLY PLANNED AND ORGANISED BY TRAINED STAFF. CLASSES FOLLOW A SYLLABUS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF QUALIFIED HOBBY INSTRUCTORS AND ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS AND REFERENCES. APART FROM LEARNING PRACTICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, MEMBERS ARE GIVEN THE THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SUBJECT THEY PURSUE,+ HE SAID.

+WHAT WE TRY TO DO IS TO INTEGRATE EDUCATION WITH RECREATION AND TO ORIENT MEMBERS TOWARDS A FULLER LIFE,+ MR TO SAID.

ON AVERAGE, THE AERC'S HAVE A HIGH PARTICIPATION RATE. TOPPING THE LIST IS SHAM SHUI PO CENTRE WITH AN AVERAGE NIGHTLY ATTENDANCE OF 327 MEMBERS.

THE COURSES OF THE AERC'S ARE UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE END OF A TERM, QUESTIONNAIRES WILL BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS TO ASSESS THEIR OPINIONS OF THE COURSES AND IDENTIFY THEIR PREFERENCES, WHICH WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMME PLANNING.

LOOKING AHEAD, MR TO SAID, TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION, MORE CENTRES WOULD BE SET UP, WITH AT LEAST ONE CENTRE IN EACH OF THE 18 DISTRICTS. AND OTHER NEW COURSES LIKE COMPUTER STUDIES WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE AERC PROGRAMME IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY.

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MORE BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JULY

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A THREE-STOREY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION CENTRE AT KWAI SHING CIRCUIT, KWAI CHUNG WAS AMONG 30 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN JULY.

OTHER PLANS APPROVED INCLUDED TWO CAMERA TOWERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB AT HAPPY VALLEY; A CHURCH, A KINDERGARTEN AND A STAFF QUARTERS AT AP LEI CHAU FOR THE HONG KONG HARBOUR MISSION CHURCH LIMITED; AN 18-STOREY STAFF QUARTERS BUILDING AT SHA TIN FOR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC; A FOOTBRIDGE AT TAI PO FOR TUXEDOS COMPANY LIMITED AND THREE FACTORY BLOCKS.

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OF THE PLANS APPROVED, NINE WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND; THREE IN KOWLOON AND 18 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT THE SAME TIME THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT FOR WORK TO START ON 29 PROJECTS, NINE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, EIGHT IN KOWLOON AND THE REST IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED A STAFF QUARTERS AT VICTORIA ROAD FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG; A FOOTBRIDGE LINKING THE PODIUM OF THE CHAI WAN DEPOT'S MAIN BUILDING TO THE FUTURE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AT PAK CHAI WAN STATION; THREE FACTORY BLOCKS AT TO KWA WAN AND TUEN MUN; A WORKSHOP FOR KAI TAK AIRPORT; A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS SHA KOK STREET, SHA TIN; AND AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION AT HONG LOK YUEN, TAI PO.

THE FLOOR AREA OF THESE 29 PROJECTS TOTALLED 207 634 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 128 318.7 SQUARE METRES WERE FOR NON-DOMESTIC, AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC USE.

A TOTAL OF 33 OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS DURING THE MONTH.

THEY INCLUDED A FIVE-STOREY CLUB HOUSE AND QUARTERS AT TUNG LO WAN ROAD FOR THE CHINESE RECREATION CLUB; AN ANIMAL HOUSE FOR THE OCEAN PARK; A SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE AT THE JUNCTION OF IVY STREET AND BEECH STREET, TAI KOK TSUI FOR MONG KOK DISTRICT CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED, AND A SHIPYARD AND FACTORY BUILDING AT FUK LEE STREET, TAI KOK TSUI FOR THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY LIMITED.

OTHER BUILDINGS INCLUDED A 17-STOREY SALVATION ARMY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT WING SING LANE, MONG KOK; A CONTROL CENTRE AND A MANAGEMENT TRAINING CENTRE AT TAI PO, AND AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION AT LOK KWAN STREET, SHAM SHUI PO FOR THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED, AND A STAFF QUARTERS FOR POK OI HOSPITAL AT YUEN LONG.

THE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF THE NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN JULY WAS 139 161 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 123 450.7 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-DOMESTIC AND THE REMAINDER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

THE COST OF THESE BUILDINGS WAS ABOUT \$363.7 MILLION.

ALSO DURING THE MONTH THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ISSUED 14 DEMOLITION ORDERS IN RESPECT OF 21 BUILDINGS.

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MORE MARRIED COUPLES BENEFIT FROM +ADVANCE BOOKING+
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MORE ELIGIBLE MARRIED COUPLES HAVE MADE USE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S +ADVANCE BOOKING+ SCHEME AS A QUICKER MEANS OF APPLYING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE SCHEME, DESIGNED TO HELP SOLVE THE HOUSING NEED OF TWO-MEMBER FAMILIES, GIVES THEM PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING UPON NATURAL FAMILY GROWTH AND WHEN THEIR TURN MATURES ON THE WAITING LIST.

+IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 8 289 TWO-MEMBER FAMILIES LODGED THEIR HOUSING BID UNDER THE SCHEME, REPRESENTING A 85 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE 4 467 IN 1977 WHEN IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY TODAY.

ALTHOUGH PUBLIC HOUSING IS NORMALLY ALLOCATED TO FAMILIES OF AT LEAST THREE PERSONS, THE SCHEME ALLOWS THOSE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE TO REGISTER ON THE WAITING LIST IN ANTICIPATION OF NATURAL GROWTH.

+THESE APPLICANTS WILL BECOME INITIALLY QUALIFIED WHEN THEY HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO CHILDREN.

+WHEN THEIR TURN COMES UP ON THE WAITING LIST, APART FROM HAVING A MINIMUM OF THREE MEMBERS, THESE FAMILIES WILL ALSO HAVE TO MEET THE INCOME AND SPACE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA UPON ALLOCATION OF ESTATE FLATS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD ALREADY BENEFITED THOUSANDS OF MARRIED COUPLES, MOST OF THEM NEWLY WEDS, AS ADVANCE APPLICATION MEANT EARLY ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING.

+IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE SCHEME HAS BECOME POPULAR AND AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SMALL FAMILIES HAVE BENEFITED.

+SINCE THE START OF THE SCHEME, A TOTAL OF 52 149 FAMILIES HAVE APPLIED, AND MOST OF THEM HAVE SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED AND MOVED INTO ESTATE FLATS.

+AT PRESENT, THERE ARE STILL 18 630 SUCH VALID APPLICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

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LABOUR LAW OFFENDERS FINED
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LAST MONTH, FINES TOTALLING \$573 200 WERE IMPOSED BY COURTS ON 485 CASES OF LABOUR LAW VIOLATIONS.

THESE CONVICTIONS WERE AMONG THE 508 PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH LABOUR LAWS.

MOST OF THE CONVICTIONS RELATED TO BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

THERE WERE 207 CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS, WITH \$367 050 IN FINES. INCLUDED WERE 99 CASES (WITH \$163 800 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 35 CASES (WITH \$113 450 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

THERE WERE 230 CONVICTIONS FOR BREACHES OF THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, RESULTING IN \$173 200 IN FINES.

OF THE OTHER PROSECUTIONS, FOUR CASES WERE RELATED TO FAILURE TO KEEP RECORD OF EMPLOYEES, LEADING TO \$1 850 IN FINES.

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TWO NT MARKETS OPEN NEXT MONTH
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TWO NEW MARKETS WILL BE OPENED NEXT MONTH AT YUEN LONG AND SHAM TSENG.

THEY ARE THE TAI KIU MARKET IN YUEN LONG AND SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET AT TSUEN WAN.

TAI KIU MARKET IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE 15-STOREY YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING AT SAU FU STREET IN THE CENTRE OF THE NEW TOWN. OCCUPYING A FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 4 300 SQUARE METRES, THE MARKET PROVIDES SPACE FOR 422 STALLS - 100 FOR MEAT, FISH AND POULTRY, AND THE REST FOR VEGETABLES, FRUITS, GROCERY AND HABERDASHERY.

/ALL 240

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ALL 240 STALLS AT PAU CHEUNG STREET TEMPORARY MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP THEIR STALLS IN THE TAI KIU MARKET, A NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE MARKET WILL START OPERATING FROM SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1.

STALLS NOT YET TAKEN UP AT THE NEW MARKET WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RESITING ELIGIBLE ON-STREET UNLICENSED HAWKERS PLYING AT PAU CHEUNG SQUARE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALL ELIGIBLE HAWKERS WILL BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A RESTRICTED AUCTION TO BE HELD EARLY NEXT MONTH TO ENABLE THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR TRADES LEGALLY AT THE MARKET.

MEANWHILE, CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHAM TSENG TEMPORARY MARKET UNDER THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY FLYOVER AT SHAM TSENG HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

AT ONE SECTION OF THE MARKET, THERE ARE 29 STALLS FOR SALE OF MEAT, FISH, POULTRY AND VEGETABLES. THE OTHER SECTION WILL HOUSE EIGHT COOKED FOOD STALLS.

THE EXISTING STALL HOLDERS CARRYING OUT THEIR TRADES AT SHAM TSENG RESITE MARKET AND SHAM TSENG COOKED FOOD BAZAAR HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A RESTRICTED AUCTION NEXT WEEK, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE ABLE TO START BUSINESS ALSO ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

+THE AUCTION OF THE STALL SITES IS MAINLY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE STALLS AT VARIOUS RANGES OF NEW RENTS,+ SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

HE SAID A NUMBER OF FACTORS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN FIXING RENTS FOR THE MARKET AND COOKED FOOD STALLS.

THESE FACTORS INCLUDE THE ASSESSMENTS OF CURRENT MARKET RENTS OF THE STALLS MADE BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT, THE FACILITIES PROVIDED IN THE MARKET, AS WELL AS ITS VIABILITY AND LOCATION.

+THE UPSET RENTS OF MARKET STALLS IN RESTRICTED AUCTIONS, IN MOST CASES, ARE SET BELOW THE LEVEL OF CURRENT MARKET RENTS ASSESSED BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT.

+WHILE IN OPEN AUCTIONS, THE UPSET RENTS WOULD BE SET AT 100 PER CENT OF THE CURRENT MARKET RENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NEW BUS TERMINUS FOR NORTH POINT

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A BUS TERMINUS, CONSISTING OF THREE 100-METRE-LONG BAYS, TWO PASSENGER PLATFORMS AND A REGULATOR'S KIOSK, IS TO BE BUILT ON BRAEMAR HILL ROAD NEAR THE SHOPPING CENTRE AT BRAEMAR HILL MANSIONS, NORTH POINT.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS IN THE BRAEMAR HILL AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD AREAS IN RECENT YEARS HAS LED TO A BIG INCREASE IN POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF NEW SCHOOLS WILL SOON BE OPENED AND THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR BUS SERVICES TO TERMINATE IN THE AREA.

AT PRESENT TWO CIRCULAR ROUTES STARTING FROM CENTRAL AND NORTH POINT SERVE THE AREA.

THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TERMINUS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TAI PO TAPS OFF

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TAI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR NINE HOURS FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 29) FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL VILLAGES ALONG LAM KAM ROAD FROM SAM TAO HANG TO PAK NGAU SHEK. ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE PREMISES IN YUEN LENG, NAM WA PO, TAI WO, TAI HANG AND HONG LOK YUEN.

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