



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FS: STABILITY IMPORTANT FOR TEXTILES INDUSTRY

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WHILE THE CASE FOR FREE TRADE IS QUITE WIDELY EXPOUNDED, IN PRACTICE VARIOUS FORMS OF PROTECTIONISM ABOUND FOR VARYING REASONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ON +INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMPETITION+, MR JACOBS NOTED THAT A CASE OF INSTITUTIONALISED PROTECTIONISM MIGHT BE FOUND IN THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TRADE, WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING WAS UNDERLINED BY THE FACT THAT OVER 40 PER CENT OF ITS DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE IN THIS CATEGORY.

HE RECALLED THAT ON AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) WAS EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS UNTIL JULY 31, 1991. THE COVERAGE OF THE ARRANGEMENT INCLUDED VEGETABLE FIBRES AND SILK AND VEGETABLE FIBRE BLENDS, WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY OUTSIDE THE AMBIT OF THE MFA.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WERE SOME IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EXPORTERS, INCLUDING PROVISIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE RULES FOR DETERMINING MARKET DISRUPTION AND PREVENTING CUTBACK ON QUOTAS, HE SAID.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE MFA IS STILL A PROTECTIONIST AND DISCRIMINATORY INSTRUMENT, WE HAVE ACQUIESCED IN AGREEMENT TO IT IN ORDER THAT OUR TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY MAY HAVE A PERIOD OF STABILITY AND CERTAINTY.

+THAT I BELIEVE TO BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN THE YEARS AHEAD,+ HE ADDED.

AS FOR BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH SOME OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, MR JACOBS SAID THAT IN JUNE AN AGREEMENT COVERING THE PERIOD 1986 TO 1991 WAS REACHED WITH THE UNITED STATES.

+THE AGREEMENT IS SLIGHTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR IN TERMS OF GOODS COVERED AND GROWTH POTENTIAL,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER AGREEMENT CONTAINING SOME MODEST IMPROVEMENT OVER ITS PREDECESSOR IN TERMS OF GROWTH AND FLEXIBILITY WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY LAST MONTH. IT WOULD RUN FROM 1987 TO 1991.

+WE WOULD HAVE LIKED BOTH THE AGREEMENTS TO INCLUDE MORE IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH WE CONSIDERED WERE REASONABLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF OUR OPEN MARKET POLICIES.

/+NEVERTHELESS, WE

+NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE ACQUIESCED IN ACCEPTING THESE AGREEMENTS SINCE THEY PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH THAT VITAL PERIOD OF STABILITY AND SECURITY FOR THE TEXTILES AND GARMENTS INDUSTRIES,+ HE SAID.

MR JACOBS ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VETO OF THE THURMOND-JENKINS' BILL WAS SUSTAINED, THE VERY NARROW MARGIN BY WHICH THIS WAS ACHIEVED POINTED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE PROTECTIONIST CAMP.

+THE NEED TO KEEP UP OUR VIGILANCE TO COMBAT THE TENDENCY TOWARDS RESTRICTING TRADE FOR SHORT-TERM ILLUSIONARY GAINS HAS BY NO MEANS SUBSIDED,+ HE STRESSED.

IN APRIL THIS YEAR, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, HONG KONG BECAME THE 91ST CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT WITH THIS NEWLY ACQUIRED STATUS, HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING REGIME, A CONTRIBUTION DESIGNED TO FURTHER LIBERALISE WORLD TRADE.

HE ALSO SAID A NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN FORMALLY LAUNCHED FOLLOWING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES SESSION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL HELD IN URUGUAY IN SEPTEMBER, AT WHICH HONG KONG WAS ALSO REPRESENTED.

THE URUGUAY ROUND, THE EIGHTH ONE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GATT, WOULD ADDRESS A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN WHICH HONG KONG HAD SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS; FOR EXAMPLE, SAFEGUARDS, QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE GATT'S HISTORY, TRADE IN SERVICES IN ADDITION TO TRADE IN GOODS WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

MR JACOBS SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE AIMED AT TRADE LIBERALISATION, IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS AND STRENGTHENED DISCIPLINE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD ALREADY PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE PREPARATORY PROCESS LEADING TO THE NEW ROUND AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS FULL PART IN THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

TURNING TO THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, MR JACOBS SAID IT HAD BEEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED.

HE SAID TO A LARGE EXTENT THE GROWTH HAS BEEN EXPORT-LED.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAD BEEN INCREASING HEALTHILY SINCE MARCH. AN OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 12 PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS GREW DURING THIS PERIOD.

IMPORTS INTO HONG KONG ALSO INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

MR JACOBS SAID THE LATEST STATISTICS ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND ON THE ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS SUGGESTED A CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY.

HE ADDED THAT RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, BY 51 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND SOMEWHAT LESS IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

+INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY IS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY TO THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS BUT ALSO TO THE MAINTENANCE AND FURTHERANCE OF OUR COMPETITIVENESS IN OVERSEAS MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE SECOND THEME OF THE CONFERENCE, +COMPETITION+, MR JACOBS SAID AS HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS EXTERNALLY ORIENTED, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FACILITATE THE ECONOMY'S ABILITY TO ADJUST EFFICIENTLY SO THAT INDUSTRY MAINTAINED ITS EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH ITS OWN EFFORTS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MAINTAINED AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PRIVATE ENTERPRISES WERE ENCOURAGED TO MAXIMISE THEIR RETURN ON INVESTMENT, CONSTRAINED THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING, AND MAINTAINED A PREDICTABLE AND CERTAIN LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN A LOW TAX REGIME.

HE ALSO SAID THE AIMS OF POLICIES IN RELATION TO INDUSTRY WERE TO SUPPORT AND FACILITATE ITS GROWTH AS A WHOLE RATHER THAN PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF ANY ONE PARTICULAR INDUSTRY.

MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE AVAILABILITY AND DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL TECHNOLOGY.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES, THE PROMOTION OF INWARD INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT AND THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE MANPOWER TRAINING, FACILITATED THE ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL TECHNOLOGY.

/TO IDENTIFY

TO IDENTIFY OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERSEAS TRADING, MR JACOBS SAID HONG KONG HAD AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF CONSULTANCY STUDIES ON FOUR MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - ELECTRONICS; THE PLASTICS CONVERSION INDUSTRY; GARMENTS, TEXTILES AND RELATED INDUSTRIES; AND METALS FABRICATION AND LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

EACH STUDY AIMED AT EVALUATING THE ADEQUACY OF MANPOWER TRAINING, INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION, LAND, CAPITAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE INDUSTRY CONCERNED.

HE SAID OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS EIGHT OTHER INDUSTRIAL STUDIES WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN.

AS TO WHY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT FUND MORE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AS SOME OF HONG KONG'S REGIONAL COMPETITORS HAD REPORTEDLY DONE, AND WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SET UP AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, MR JACOBS SAID: +HERE WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT HEAVY CAPITAL-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES REQUIRE MUCH MORE PUBLIC SPENDING ON DIRECT INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES THAN THE LIGHT LABOUR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES WHICH PREDOMINATE IN HONG KONG.

+SIMILARLY, BANK CREDIT IS MUCH TIGHTER ELSEWHERE THAN IN HONG KONG WHERE THERE ARE FEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WHICH REQUIRE LONG-TERM FINANCING.+

MR JACOBS SAID AS HONG KONG'S COMPETITORS WERE DEVELOPING RAPIDLY AND IF IT WAS NOT VIGILANT ITS MARKET SHARE COULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY.

+WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE ARE RESPONDING PROPERLY TO INDUSTRY'S NEEDS IN A MANNER NEVERTHELESS CONSISTENT WITH OUR OVERALL AIM OF CONTAINING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE,+ HE STRESSED.

HE SAID THE INITIATIVES BEING TAKEN BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF RISK ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL LOANS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF VENTURE CAPITAL COULD BE SIGNIFICANT.

+THERE IS AN AWARENESS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF INDUSTRY'S NEEDS. WE IN THE GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY OUR PART. THERE IS WORK TO DO,+ HE SAID.

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MORE LABORATORIES SEEKING HOKLAS ACCREDITATION
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THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME (HOKLAS) TO CATER FOR LABORATORIES TESTING BUILDING MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LABORATORIES SEEKING FORMAL ACCREDITATION.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR E.J. EVANS, SAID THIS TODAY (MONDAY) AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE (ILAC) 1986 IN ISRAEL.

HE SAID HOKLAS STAFF HAD ALREADY INSPECTED AND ADVISED 16 OF THE LEADING CONCRETE-TESTING LABORATORIES IN HONG KONG, A NUMBER OF WHICH MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO BE FORMALLY ASSESSED FOR ACCREDITATION IN 1987.

HE NOTED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOKLAS HAD PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO A PLANNED PROGRAMME AND IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

+ON THE BASIS OF THE ADVICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TESTING AUTHORITIES OF AUSTRALIA (NATA) AND HAVING REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PRACTICE AS ESTABLISHED BY ILAC, BASIC DOCUMENTATION PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON ACCREDITATION MATTERS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND WIDELY CIRCULATED, ASSESSORS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND TRAINED, INTRODUCTORY SEMINARS HAVE BEEN HELD AND APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY ISSUED.

+A LABORATORY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME IS IN OPERATION AND SEVERAL LABORATORIES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACCREDITED.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT LABORATORY ASSESSMENTS WERE CONDUCTED BY INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS DRAWN FROM A CADRE OF LOCAL TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE PARTICULAR FIELDS OF TESTING.

+THEY ARE RECRUITED FROM ALL SECTORS OF INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYED ON A PART-TIME BASIS.

+IN JUNE 1986, A GROUP OF COMMERCIAL LABORATORIES SEEKING HOKLAS ACCREDITATION IN ONE OR MORE OF THE COMMODITY GROUPS, TEXTILES, TOYS AND FOOD TESTING, WERE ASSESSED AND IN AUGUST 1986 A FURTHER GROUP SEEKING ACCREDITATION FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS TESTING AND CALIBRATION SERVICES WERE VISITED.

+IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THEY WILL BE OFFERED ACCREDITATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

MR EVANS POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY HAD PROVIDED ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR HOKLAS IN RESPECT OF HIGH QUALITY CALIBRATION SERVICES AND IN THE EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION OF COMMERCIAL CALIBRATION FACILITIES.

/+THE LABORATORY

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+THE LABORATORY IS CURRENTLY EXPANDING ITS CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR MEASUREMENT STANDARDS IN MASS, LENGTH AND FORCE. FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED CALIBRATION SERVICES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AS ADDITIONAL NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED.+

REGARDING ADVISORY POLICY AND TECHNICAL INPUT TO HOKLAS, HE SAID THEY WERE PROVIDED RESPECTIVELY BY THE SCHEME'S TWO STEERING COMMITTEES - THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABORATORY ACCREDITATION (ACLA) AND THE INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT BOARD (ITAB).

MR EVANS IS ATTENDING THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE TOGETHER WITH DR JOSHUA WONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ITAB OF HOKLAS.

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ROYAL VISIT GOLD COIN APPLICATION PROCESSING COMPLETED
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THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ROYAL VISIT GOLD COINS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND BOTH SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED. SOME 38 800 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED OF WHICH 20 900 WERE FOR PROOF COINS WHILE THE REMAINING 17 900 WERE FOR THE BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED VERSION.

A TOTAL OF 9 500 PROOF AND 12 500 UNCIRCULATED COINS WERE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS. THESE FIGURES REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 2 000 COINS FOR EACH VERSION OVER THE NUMBER OF TIGER COINS WHICH WERE SOLD LOCALLY.

ABOUT 2 900 DUPLICATE APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED BY COMPUTER PRIOR TO BALLOTING.

THE 1986 ROYAL VISIT GOLD COIN IS ONE OF A SET OF 14 HONG KONG COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COINS, COMMENCING WITH THE 1975 ROYAL VISIT AND CONTINUING WITH THE LUNAR YEAR SERIES WHICH WILL BE COMPLETE NEXT YEAR - THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT.

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ALL SET FOR ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITION
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PREPARATIONS ARE WELL UNDER WAY FOR THE OPENING OF THE 15TH CAREERS EXHIBITION IN THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL IN ABOUT TEN DAYS' TIME.

THIS YEAR, 23 EXHIBITORS FROM COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL TAKE PART IN THE 10-DAY EVENT WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, MR CHAN SUI-KAU, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE, AND THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 14.

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 6.30 PM DAILY FROM NOVEMBER 15 TO 24.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXHIBITION HAD BECOME A MAJOR EVENT IN THE LOCAL CAREERS EDUCATION SCENE.

+LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 100 000 PEOPLE VISITED THE EXHIBITION,+ HE SAID.

+THROUGH THE USE OF GRAPHS, PHOTOGRAPHS, MODELS AND OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, EACH EXHIBITOR WILL ILLUSTRATE THE NATURE OF THE JOB, ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS, CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, PROMOTION PROSPECTS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION IN ITS OWN SPHERE OF WORK,+ HE SAID.

+INFORMATION PAMPHLETS WILL BE FREELY AVAILABLE TO VISITORS AND AN ENQUIRY SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITORS.+

TO ADD ZEST TO THE EVENT, LIVE CAREERS SHOWS WILL BE STAGED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND FOUR AUXILIARY SERVICES INCLUDING THE CIVIL AID SERVICES, THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, AND THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THESE SHOWS WILL BE HELD ON THE TWO SATURDAYS AND TWO SUNDAYS DURING THE TEN-DAY PERIOD OUTSIDE THE CITY HALL IN EDINBURGH PLACE.

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CONSULTATION OF GRIEVANCES PAPER EXTENDED
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FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM OMELCO, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO EXTEND THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES DOCUMENT BY TWO MONTHS. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE CONSULTATION WILL NOW CLOSE AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 1986 AND ANY VIEWS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT (ATTN. PAS (CE)), LOWER ALBERT ROAD, THIRD FLOOR, HONG KONG.

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REGISTRATION REVOKED
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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF THAI-OVERSEA INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE 1986.

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DB TO DISCUSS TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR FIRE VICTIMS
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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL TAKE UP THE SUBJECT OF TEMPORARY SHELTER FOR FIRE VICTIMS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A PAPER, TABLED BY MR TAM KUEN, MR WONG KAM-CHI, MR CHAN CHUN-FAT AND MR CHAN KAM-MAN, THAT URGES THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT TO OPEN TRANSIT CENTRES IN THE URBAN AREAS FOR FIRE VICTIMS.

THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY FIRE VICTIMS ARE PUT UP TEMPORARILY IN COMMUNITY CENTRES HAS INTERRUPTED NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF THESE CENTRES.

A REPORT ON THE SQUATTER AREA AT MAN KUK NEW VILLAGE WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THIS DISCUSSION.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ALLOWANCE FOR DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS. THIS WAS PUT FORWARD BY MR WONG KAM-CHI AND MR CHAN KAM-MAN.

THE REPORTS ON PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL AND SUBSIDY POLICIES WILL BE DISCUSSED.

/OTHER ITEMS

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE HALF-YEARLY REVIEW OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR 1986-87 AND THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC STREET LIGHTING IN SQUATTER AREAS UNDER THE SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT 2.30 PM AT THE FUNG MING HALL, WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

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MORE ROOFTOP ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO GO

NOTICES WERE POSTED ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON TODAY (MONDAY) INFORMING OCCUPANTS THAT THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY TO HAVE THEM CLOSED BEFORE DEMOLITION.

THE STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOF OVER FLATS A AND G ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF 145-153, CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

APPLICATION FOR A CLOSURE ORDER WILL BE MADE AT KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 7.

A BUILDING AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID THE OCCUPANTS WERE INSTRUCTED IN MARCH BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE THAT THE STRUCTURES SHOULD BE DEMOLISHED, BUT THE WORK HAD NOT BEEN DONE TO DATE.

HE SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WOULD START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS WERE MADE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 65.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 383.872 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 445.933 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 76.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN WONG CHUK HANG
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AN ESSAY COMPETITION AND MODEL STUDENT COMPETITION WILL BE HELD IN THE WONG CHUK HANG AND BAYS AREA THIS MONTH IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

THE AREA'S CIVIC EDUCATION TEAM WILL INVITE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO EACH NOMINATE A MODEL STUDENT WHO WILL BE GIVEN PRIZES. THE TEAM WILL THEN SELECT THREE STUDENTS TO COMPETE FOR THE AREA'S +CITIZEN OF THE MONTH+ AWARD.

THE ESSAY COMPETITION, WITH THE THEME ON COURTESY, IS DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND OPEN SECTIONS.

AS PART OF THE CAMPAIGN, THE TEAM HAD EARLIER VISITED 120 HOMES IN WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE, AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH RESIDENTS OF THE WELFARE ROAD TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, KAU WAI, SAN WAI AND WONG CHUK HANG PATH VILLAGES TO PROMOTE THE CIVIC EDUCATION MESSAGE.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A +CLEAN YOUR ENVIRONMENT+ COMPETITION IN THE WONG CHUK HANG ESTATE, THE SQUATTER AREAS AND THE INDUSTRIAL AREA.

LEAFLETS AND RUBBISH BAGS WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO DISPOSE OF RUBBISH PROPERLY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON 5-540271.

MEANWHILE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS PRINTED 5 000 LEAFLETS EXPLAINING THE OBJECTIVES AND BENEFITS OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALSO MADE FOR BROADCAST VANS TO TOUR THE DISTRICT TO PUBLICISE VARIOUS CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

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DETAILS OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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DETAILS OF THE HALF-MONTH-LONG SOUTHERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 22 TO DECEMBER 7, WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE FESTIVAL'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A FINAL MEETING AT 2.30 PM IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 7-11, NAM NING STREET, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE DURING WHICH THE FESTIVAL'S PROGRAMMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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SAN PO KONG WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 6) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST, KING TAI STREET, KING FUK STREET, TSEUK LUK STREET, TAI YAU STREET AND SHEUNG HEI STREET.

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NEW OIL COMPANY PIER AT TSING YI
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO GRANT HONG KONG OIL COMPANY LIMITED THE LEASE OF 2.62 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED ON THE EAST COAST OF TSING YI ISLAND ON WHICH TO CONSTRUCT A PIER FOR BERTHING TANKERS.

THE PIER WILL BE BUILT IN THE AREA ADJOINING THE COMPANY'S DEPOT TO THE SOUTH OF TSING YI BRIDGE.

THE COMPANY WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO THE PIER.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA INVOLVED IS DESCRIBED IN THE LATEST GAZETTE.

ANYONE OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED LEASE SHOULD WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY DECEMBER 30.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF JUNK BAY ROAD
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JUNK BAY ROAD IN KWUN TONG BETWEEN KAI TIN ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM ON NOVEMBER 6 AND NOVEMBER 7.

THE MEASURE WILL FACILITATE DUCT LAYING WORK AT THE JUNCTION OF JUNK BAY ROAD AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON LEI YUE MUN ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR LAM TIN AREA SHOULD DIVERT VIA KAI TIN ROAD. VEHICLES ON KAI TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR KWUN TONG TOWN CENTRE SHOULD USE JUNK BAY ROAD, SAU MAU PING ROAD AND HIP WO STREET.

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