



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JANUARY PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE

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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY FOUR PER CENT AND THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS BY TWO PER CENT SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY FOUR PER CENT IN JANUARY 1983, AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1982, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY THREE PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) INCREASED BY ONE PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DROPPED BY ONE PER CENT BUT THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY NINE PER CENT SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VOLUME WAS UP BY TWO PER CENT. MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT.

FOR THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD TO JANUARY 1983, AS COMPARED WITH THE 12 MONTHS TO JANUARY 1982, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY SIX PER CENT, THOSE OF IMPORTS BY FIVE PER CENT AND THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS BY NINE PER CENT. THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY TWO PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS BY ONE PER CENT, GIVING A TWO PER CENT DECREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. BUT A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, WHILE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN BELOW:

	PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING JANUARY 1983 WITH JANUARY 1982		
	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 1	+ 7	- 6
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 8	+ 2	+ 6
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+16	- 3	+20
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	- 7	+ 8	-14
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-14	- 2	-12
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+51	+14	+32
FOOTWEAR	-31	- 2	-30
METAL MANUFACTURES	+15	+10	+ 4
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+44	+10	+31
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+23	-12	+39
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-19	+12	-28
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	- 2	- 2	INSIGNIFICANT
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 3	+ 4	- 4

/EXPORT PRICES

EXPORT PRICES OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM TWO PER CENT FOR TEXTILE FABRICS TO 14 PER CENT FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN THE EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR FOOTWEAR, RADIOS OF ALL KINDS AND DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-2% FOR EACH CATEGORY), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-3%), AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-12%).

CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+39%), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+32%) AS WELL AS METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+31%). HOWEVER, DECREASES IN EXPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR) (-6%), RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-12%), TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-14%), TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-28%), AS WELL AS FOOTWEAR (-30%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:

PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING
JANUARY 1983 WITH JANUARY 1982

	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+24	+ 6	+17
CONSUMER GOODS	+19	+ 3	+16
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+14	+ 1	+13
FUELS	- 2	+ 7	- 9
CAPITAL GOODS	+15	+ 2	+13
ALL COMMODITIES	+15	+ 3	+12

IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, RANGING FROM ONE PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO SEVEN PER CENT FOR FUELS.

IMPORTS OF MOST FOODSTUFFS ROSE IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ITEMS BEING WHEAT AND FLOUR AND SUGAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF LIVE POULTRY DECLINED.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR FOOTWEAR, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS AND WATCHES. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF PASSENGER MOTOR CARS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AS WELL AS TOBACCO MANUFACTURES DROPPED.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE, WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES REGISTERED FOR YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES, BASE METALS (INCLUDING IRON AND STEEL) AS WELL AS THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK AS WELL AS SILK FABRIC DECLINED.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY NINE PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

AS FOR CAPITAL GOODS, MAJOR INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, WHEREAS A SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE WAS REGISTERED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEXTILE MACHINERY AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:

	PERCENTAGE CHANGES COMPARING JANUARY 1983 WITH JANUARY 1982		
	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+53	+16	+31
CONSUMER GOODS	+18	+ 4	+14
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	- 3	- 3	INSIGNIFICANT
FUELS	-35	+12	-42
CAPITAL GOODS	+18	+ 8	+10
ALL COMMODITIES	+12	+ 2	+ 9

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORT VOLUME VARIED AMONG THE FIVE END-USE CATEGORIES, RANGING FROM A 42 PER CENT DECREASE FOR FUELS TO A 31 PER CENT INCREASE FOR FOODSTUFFS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JANUARY 1983 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$2 PER COPY.

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BUILDING (PLANNING)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1983

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE SAFE INSTALLATION OF GAS WATER HEATERS IN ALL NEW BUILDINGS.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING PLANNING REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY), ENSURE THAT IN ALL NEW BUILDINGS EVERY BATHROOM WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN APERTURE IN AN EXTERNAL WALL TO PERMIT THE INSTALLATION OF A ROOM SEALED GAS WATER HEATER. THIS APERTURE WILL FUNCTION AS AN EXTERNAL AIR INLET, AS WELL AS AN OUTLET FOR BURNT GAS.

+THIS MEANS THAT THESE BATHROOMS WILL NOT NEED ANY FURTHER VENTILATION TO BE SAFE,+ A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE REGULATIONS WILL APPLY TO ALL NEW BUILDINGS IN WHICH GAS WILL BE USED, OTHER THAN THOSE WITH A CENTRALISED HOT WATER SUPPLY, WHERE THE PLANS FOR BUILDING WORKS ARE APPROVED AFTER MAY 20.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PROVISION FOR THE APERTURE IN PLANS FOR NEW BUILDINGS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE VOLUNTARILY BY THE BUILDING TRADE SINCE MARCH 1982, WHEN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ISSUED A BUILDING PRACTICE NOTE TO ALL AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS.

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IN ALL EXISTING BUILDINGS, WHERE THESE INSTALLATION ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE, GAS USERS ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO OPEN THEIR BATHROOM WINDOWS OR DOORS WIDE TO PREVENT A DANGEROUS BUILD-UP OF CARBON MONOXIDE.

+BETTER STILL, TO SAFEGUARD THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, WITHOUT ANYONE EVER HAVING TO REMEMBER THE OPEN WINDOW RULE, GAS USERS ARE ADVISED TO FIT ONE OF THE NEW RANGE OF REPLACEMENT WATER HEATERS WHICH HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR USE IN HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

THESE HEATERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH TOWN GAS AND LP GAS DEALERS AND ARE ALL APPROVED AS SAFE BY THE GAS ADVISER'S OFFICE.

IN MOST CASES THEY CAN BE FITTED WITH VERY LITTLE INCONVENIENCE TO THE CUSTOMER. IN THE CASE OF SOME TOWN GAS APPLIANCES, A CONVERSION KIT CAN BE USED.

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HONG KONG'S REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN PAST DECADE * * * *

THE DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS ACHIEVED BY HONG KONG IN THE PAST DECADE WERE HIGHLIGHTED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO WHEN HE REVIEWED THE GROWTH IN THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY SCENE AND THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENTS WHICH HE HAS REJOINED AFTER 10 YEARS.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG, MR HO RECALLED THAT THE OLD COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, WHEN HE LEFT IN SEPTEMBER 1973, HAD ONLY 1 871 POSTS.

+TODAY THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENTS HAVE A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 4 112 POSTS, AN INCREASE OF 2 241 OR 120 PER CENT. MAY I ADD THAT MY BRANCH HAS A FURTHER 24 POSTS INCLUDING MINE TO CONTRIBUTE,+ HE SAID.

+IN EXPENDITURE TERMS, THE OLD C AND I DEPARTMENT ACTUALLY SPENT \$33.9 MILLION IN 1973/4. IN THE 1983/4 DRAFT ESTIMATES THE THREE DEPARTMENTS HAVE TOTAL PROVISIONS FOR \$274 MILLION OR AN INCREASE OF SOME 700 PER CENT.+

ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, HE NOTED THAT IN 1972, HONG KONG'S POSITION IN WORLD TRADE LEAGUE TABLE WAS NO. 23, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF US\$7 343 MILLION WORTH OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, OR 0.9 PER CENT OF THE WORLD TOTAL.

+IN 1981, THE LATEST YEAR FOR WHICH WE HAVE FIGURES, WE HAVE MOVED UP TO 18TH PLACE WITH A TOTAL TRADE VALUE OF US\$46 600 MILLION OR 1.2 PER CENT OF THE WORLD TOTAL. OVER THE SAME PERIOD HONG KONG'S GDP PER CAPITA WENT UP FROM US\$980 IN 1972 TO US\$4 766 IN 1981, AN INCREASE OF 386 PER CENT.

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+PUT IN ANOTHER WAY, AND IN RELATIVE TERMS, OUR GDP PER CAPITA WAS ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD THAT OF BRITAIN OR AUSTRALIA IN 1972, WHILE IN 1981, IT WAS A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF OF THEIRS. OF COURSE, IN VALUE TERMS, THE SIZE OF OUR INCREASE BY 514 PER CENT WAS A GROWTH RATE HIGHER THAN FOR ANY TERRITORY, OTHER THAN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IN THE WHOLE OF THIS MOST DYNAMIC ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION. SO WE HAVE EVERY REASON FOR SATISFACTION OVER OUR RATE OF PROGRESS DESPITE OUR HIGHER THAN DESIRED GROWTH OF POPULATION,+ HE ADDED.

MR HO OUTLINED TO THE INSURERS HOW THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION PROGRAMME DEVELOPED FROM ITS EMBRYONIC STAGE IN 1973 TO THE PRESENT STRENGTH UNDER WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION OFFICES IN TOKYO, LONDON, STUTTGART AND SAN FRANCISCO LAST YEAR. HE ADDED THAT THE RECENT RE-ORGANISATION OF THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION LABORATORY IN A YEAR'S TIME WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR A BROADER BASE FOR OUR INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION IN KEEPING WITH MARKET TRENDS.

+WHILE WE MAINTAIN OUR ACCESS TO THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD AND UPGRADE OUR MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITY WE ARE NOT NEGLECTING THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR COMMERCIAL INTEGRITY. THE CERTIFICATION BRANCH OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT CARRIES ON THE GOOD WORK WELL BEGUN MANY MANY YEARS AGO, WHILE THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE CHECKS MANIFESTS AND VERIFIES THE ACCURACY OF CONSIGNMENTS AGAINST EXPORT LICENCES. THESE ARE PERHAPS AREAS OF LEAST CHANGE FROM 10 YEARS AGO WHICH FOR THAT VERY REASON IS WORTH HIGHLIGHTING.+

HE PRAISED THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMBATTING COMMERCIAL CRIMES IN COPYRIGHT AND TRADE DESCRIPTION FIELDS. +THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK AND TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF OUR OPEN TRADING SYSTEM, SO THAT OUR DYNAMIC ENTREPRENEURS CAN CONTINUE TO INVEST AND TRADE, AND OUR WORKERS APPLY THEIR INDUSTRY, IN A JUST SOCIETY IN WHICH THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL ARE RESPECTED AND WHERE LAW AND ORDER PREVAILS.

+PUT IN ANOTHER WAY, OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE A QUALITY ASSURANCE COVER FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT, IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE STANDS FOR IMPROVING STANDARDS WHILE THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY STANDS READY TO WRITE POLICIES TO COVER LIFE AND LIMB AS WELL AS GOODS AND SERVICES,+ MR HO CONCLUDED.

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PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA
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EIGHTY-FOUR PEOPLE DECORATED BY THE QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WILL RECEIVE THEIR INSIGNIA FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT 6 PM ON MONDAY (APRIL 25).

THE INSIGNIA TO BE PRESENTED INCLUDE FOUR CBE'S, SIX OBE'S, THREE ISO'S AND FIVE MBE'S.

HEADING THE LIST OF RECIPIENTS ARE THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR DONALD LIAO; EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, MR MICHAEL SANDBERG; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR ALEX WU; AND THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR MA LIN, ALL OF WHOM WILL RECEIVE THE CBE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A LIST OF THE RECIPIENTS AT THE INSIGNIA PRESENTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE GIS PRESS ROOM AT 4 PM ON MONDAY (APRIL 25).

ONLY PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERAMEN WITH SPECIAL PASSES WILL BE ADMITTED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY SHOULD MEET GIS OFFICERS IN THE GUARD ROOM NOT LATER THAN 5.30 PM.

NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT SUCH PASSES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PRINTS WITH CAMBRIDGE WONG'S STUDIO AT MANNING HOUSE, HONG KONG, TEL. 5-237808.

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SIX RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE RECIPIENTS, WHOSE NAMES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY, ARE COMMENDED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SPECIFIC ACTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW AWARD SCHEME WAS TO BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM THE CONVENTIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS WHICH, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY, WERE NORMALLY GIVEN FOR DISTINGUISHED LONG-TERM SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

/+THE COMMUNITY

+THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION COVERED BY THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE RELATES TO SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE RECIPIENTS' PHYSICAL EFFORTS OR INNOVATIVE IDEAS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

EXAMPLES OF THESE INCLUDE DEMONSTRATIONS OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY, ENERGY OR DEVOTION TO DUTY IN LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CAMPAIGNS.

RECOGNITION MAY ALSO BE GIVEN TO PERFORMANCE OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE OR COURAGEOUS ACTS BEYOND THE CALL OF NORMAL DUTIES OR AT EMERGENCIES.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT TODAY, CERTIFICATES OF THE COMMENDATION WERE PRESENTED TO THE RECIPIENTS (EXCEPT DR TAYLOR, WHO IS NOW RESIDENT IN BRITAIN) BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY.

FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF THE SIX RECIPIENTS AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION:

- * MR WONG LAI-YIM, A STAFF MEMBER OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, WAS COMMENDED FOR HIS PROMPT AND DECISIVE ACTION IN PREVENTING A SERIOUS FIRE AND POSSIBLY A MAJOR EXPLOSION IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.
- * MISS L. BENETEAU, A SOCIAL WORKER, WAS RECOGNISED FOR HER SPECIAL EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING MEDICAL AND DENTAL FACILITIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS.
- * MR H.C. LEUNG, A STAFF MEMBER OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WAS COMMENDED FOR HIS CONTINUOUS EFFORTS IN HELPING TO DEVELOP A WELL EQUIPPED MECHANICAL WORKSHOP FOR THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CADET CORPS.
- * REV S.P. BURKE, A MARYKNOLL PRIEST, WAS COMMENDED FOR HIS SERVICE TO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSTELS FOR THE ELDERLY IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS.
- * MR K.Y.H. TONGSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SEMINAR ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE IN 1981, WAS RECOGNISED FOR HIS SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN HONG KONG.
- * DR N.R. TAYLOR, FORMERLY WITH THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WAS COMMENDED FOR HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING AND ORGANISING THE +MACLEHOSE RUN+, A PROJECT IN AID OF THE DISABLED IN THE YEAR OF THE DISABLED.

STREET ALTERATIONS FOR MTR ISLAND LINE

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A NUMBER OF TEMPORARY STREET ALTERATIONS AND CLOSURES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CAUSEWAY BAY, NORTH POINT AND QUARRY BAY TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

THE EFFECTIVE DATES FOR THE STREET ALTERATIONS AND CLOSURES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. IN EACH CASE, ALTERNATIVE TRAFFIC ROUTING AND SUITABLE PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED AND TRAFFIC SIGNS ERECTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

IN CAUSEWAY BAY, THE WIDTH OF CARRIAGEWAYS AND FOOTPATHS OF THREE ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE REDUCED. THEY ARE THE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD FROM HOUSE NO. 534 TO THE JUNCTION WITH JARDINE'S BAZAAR; THE SECTION OF JARDINE'S BAZAAR BETWEEN JARDINE'S CRESCENT AND HENNESSY ROAD; AND THE SECTION OF JARDINE'S CRESCENT FROM HOUSE NO. 1 TO THE JUNCTION WITH JARDINE'S BAZAAR. A SCAVENGING LANE TO THE REAR OF HOUSE NOS. 534-542 HENNESSY ROAD AND NOS. 1-3 JARDINE'S CRESCENT WILL ALSO BE NARROWED.

IN NORTH POINT, A SECTION OF THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE EASTERN BUILDING LINE OF SHU KUK STREET EASTWARDS FOR 51 METRES WILL BE MADE NARROWER, WHILE THE NORTHERN FOOTPATH ALONG THE SAME STRETCH WILL BE DIVERTED AND REDUCED IN WIDTH.

IN QUARRY BAY, THE CARRIAGEWAY OF HEALTHY STREET EAST SOUTH OF THE JUNCTION WITH TSAT TSE MUI ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED. ALSO TO BE CLOSED WILL BE PART OF THE EASTERN FOOTPATH. MEANWHILE, THE STAIRCASE THERE LEADING TO PAK FUK ROAD WILL BE RELOCATED WESTWARDS.

ON PAK FUK ROAD, THE CARRIAGEWAY FROM THE WESTERN BUILDING LINE OF HEALTHY STREET EAST STRETCHING EASTWARDS FOR 55 METRES WILL BE REDUCED IN WIDTH. AS FOR THE FOOTPATHS, THE SOUTHERN ONE WILL BE CLOSED, WHILE THE NORTHERN ONE MAY BE RELOCATED.

IN ANOTHER SECTION OF PAK FUK ROAD, THE SOUTHERN FOOTPATH FROM STARTING A POINT 80 METRES EAST OF THE WESTERN BUILDING LINE OF HEALTHY STREET EAST EASTWARDS FOR 40 METRES WILL BE CLOSED, WHILE ACCESS TO BRAEMAR TERRACE THROUGH ADJACENT LAND WILL BE MAINTAINED.

A NOTICE IN RESPECT OF THE TEMPORARY ALTERATIONS AND CLOSURES WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

COPIES OF IT, TOGETHER WITH THE STREET ALTERATIONS PLANS (NO. MT/G/236, 237 AND 238), MAY BE INSPECTED DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS AT THE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) AT CGO WEST WING; THE DISTRICT OFFICE (WAN CHAI) AT 201 HENNESSY ROAD; THE DISTRICT OFFICE (EASTERN) AT 884-886 KING'S ROAD; OR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION IN MURRAY BUILDING, COTTON TREE DRIVE.

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THE ALTERATIONS OR CLOSURES MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT AND MUST REACH HIS OFFICE WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE ROAD IS REINSTATED OR REOPENED.

FURTHER CONCESSION FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED DRIVERS

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES A FURTHER CONCESSION TO PHYSICALLY DISABLED DRIVERS BY EXEMPTING THEM FROM PAYING FIRST REGISTRATION TAX ON PURCHASING A NEW PRIVATE CAR.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE CONTAINED IN THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES WAS DOUBLED LAST MAY FROM THE PREVIOUS RANGE OF 35-45 PER CENT TO 70-90 PER CENT OF THE COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT VALUE OF THE VEHICLE. THIS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEASURES INTRODUCED AT THE SAME TIME, WAS AIMED AT CURBING THE RATE OF GROWTH OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

HOWEVER, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FIRST REGISTRATION TAX WAS NOT INTENDED AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE INTEGRATION INTO SOCIETY OF THE SMALL NUMBER OF DISABLED DRIVERS WHO ARE DEPENDENT ON A CAR FOR MOBILITY.

TO ASSIST THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE, A NUMBER OF REGULATIONS WERE MADE IN MARCH LAST YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR A PACKAGE OF CONCESSIONS INCLUDING THE WAIVING OF FEES FOR DRIVING TESTS, THE ISSUE OF PROVISIONAL DRIVING LICENCES AND DRIVING LICENCES AND THE REDUCTION IN FEES FOR VEHICLE LICENCES.

TO QUALIFY FOR THESE CONCESSIONS, A DISABLED PERSON NEEDS TO PROVE HIS FITNESS TO DRIVE A PRIVATE CAR AND BE CERTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AS SUFFERING FROM A PERMANENT DISEASE OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY THAT CAUSES HIM CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN WALKING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED EXEMPTION FROM FIRST REGISTRATION TAX WOULD ONLY APPLY TO PRIVATE VEHICLES WITH A COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT VALUE OF BELOW \$30 000 AS EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT SUCH TYPES OF VEHICLES WERE MOST SUITABLE FOR USE BY DISABLED DRIVERS.

NO EXEMPTION WAS PROPOSED IN RESPECT OF CARS WITH A CIF VALUE EXCEEDING \$30 000 AS THEY BELONGED TO THE LUXURY CATEGORY, HE SAID.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN PROPOSED THAT SUCH AN EXEMPTION SHOULD ONLY BE GRANTED TO A DISABLED DRIVER ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS UNLESS THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS WHEN A CAR SO REGISTERED HAS BEEN DAMAGED BEYOND ECONOMIC REPAIR OR HAS BEEN STOLEN BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

/THE BILL

THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS A PROVISION TO CLOSE A POSSIBLE LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW WHEREBY A MOTOR VEHICLE IS FIRST REGISTERED IN A CATEGORY CARRYING A LOW RATE OF TAX AND, BY CHANGE OF USE, IS CONVERTED INTO A VEHICLE OF A CATEGORY WHICH WOULD HAVE ATTRACTED A HIGHER RATE OF TAX. IN FUTURE THE DIFFERENCE IN TAX WOULD BE PAYABLE AND CALCULATED WITH REFERENCE TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS REGISTERED INITIALLY.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 27. THE RESUMPTION OF DEBATE AND SECOND AND THIRD READINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 11.

PUBLIC VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING THIS TIME WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND REPRESENTATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO UMELCO (SWIRE HOUSE, 12TH FLOOR, CHATER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG) OR THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (REHABILITATION DIVISION, EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG).

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THREE CANDIDATES FOR EASTERN DB SEAT
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A VACANT SEAT ON THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BE KEENLY CONTESTED BY THREE CANDIDATES IN A BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 12.

THE TRIO -- MR GIUSEPPE SALAROLI (47), MR YEUNG CHO-CHEUNG (47) AND MR SHAM TAK-ON (29) -- WILL BE CONTESTING FOR THE SEAT IN THE QUARRY BAY CONSTITUENCY WHICH WAS LEFT VACANT BY MR KWAN LIM-HO AFTER HE WAS ELECTED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL LAST MONTH.

IN THE TIN WAN AND SHEK PAI WAN CONSTITUENCY OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD, MR TSE KIT-TO (51), WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE WHEN NOMINATIONS CLOSED AT 5.30 PM TODAY (FRIDAY).

HE WILL BE DECLARED ELECTED UNCONTESTEDLY TO FILL THE SEAT LEFT VACANT BY MR JOSEPH CHAN WHO WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN LAST MONTH'S URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

TWO POLLING STATIONS, ONE AT THE TAIKOO PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE OTHER AT THE HONG KONG CHINESE WOMEN'S CLUB COLLEGE, WILL OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM ON ELECTION DAY FOR THE 22 155 REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE QUARRY BAY CONSTITUENCY.

ALL THE VOTERS WILL RECEIVE A POLL CARD SHORTLY INFORMING THEM OF THE ELECTION AND THE LOCATION OF THEIR STATIONS.

RADIO PROGRAMMES TO SPREAD ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE

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AS PART OF THE OVERALL EFFORT TO COMBAT HONG KONG'S LONG-STANDING DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM, THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AND COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL JOINTLY LAUNCH A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL-CUM-ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES THIS YEAR TO BRING HOME THE ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE.

DETAILS OF THE JOINT PROGRAMMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) IN THE VIP ROOM OF OCEAN CITY RESTAURANT, NEW WORLD CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR HANDRICK NG, PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT; MR CHOW CHUNG, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, AND MR TONG CHING CHUEN, ASSISTANT PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF RADIO 1, HONG KONG COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING COMPANY LIMITED.

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APPLICATION OF DB FUNDS FOR LOCAL ACTIVITIES

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN MONG KOK MAY APPLY TO THE DISTRICT BOARD FOR FUNDS TO SUBSIDISE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

THOSE WISHING TO ORGANISE FUNCTIONS IN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS, BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER, MUST SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SECRETARIAT BEFORE APRIL 30.

ANOTHER APPLICATION WILL BE CALLED FOR IN AUGUST FOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT PREVIOUSLY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS SUBMITTED THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FUNCTION.

+THIS YEAR WE HAVE DECIDED TO CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TWICE A YEAR, WHEREBY THE BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE, CAN HAVE AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THIS CAN SPEED UP THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO SET LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS APPLIED, BUT THE BOARD HOPED THAT LOCAL ORGANISATIONS COULD SHOULDER PART OF THE COSTS.

THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE BOARD SHOULD BE EDUCATIONAL, HELP PROMOTE THE DISTRICT'S CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, BUILD UP A SENSE OF IDENTITY AMONG RESIDENTS AND FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS AMONG LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE AT TUNG PING BUILDING, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING BY THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT IN MAY.

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**NEW ROADS FOR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT THREE NEW ROADS AND A GRADE-SEPARATED INTERCHANGE IN SAN WAI TSAI AND TSENG TAU TSUEN HA TSUEN, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

IT ALSO INCLUDES A NULLAH BRIDGE CROSSING TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO EXISTING AND NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TOWN.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED PROJECT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED PROJECT MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE (CENTRAL AND WESTERN) ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE- AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, TUEN MUN BUILDING, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

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**CLOSURE OF SECTION OF PRATAS STREET PROPOSED
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CLOSE A SECTION OF PRATAS STREET BETWEEN PO ON ROAD AND SHUN NING ROAD TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHUN NING ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE MAY BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE; THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 10/F., 405 NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI AND THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, 37-39 TONKIN STREET, HANG SHUN BUILDING, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

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LEARNING IT FROM AN EXPERT

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MORE THAN 150 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM SIX SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN ARE LEARNING THE ART OF FENCING FROM AN EXPERT, MR TOM NORCROSS, FORMER NATIONAL COACH FOR THE AMATEUR FENCING ASSOCIATION IN ENGLAND.

MR NORCROSS, NOW THE HEAD FENCING COACH AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, HAS BEEN OFFERING SINCE APRIL 10, A 10-WEEK FREE-OF-CHARGE PROGRAMME TO 138 PUPILS AND 33 TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROGRAMME, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE NEW TOWN, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE NEW LEARNERS.

THE STUDENTS ARE TRAINED ONE HOUR PER WEEK WHILE THE TEACHERS ARE MEETING TWO HOURS EVERY WEEK AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

IF PROVED SUCCESSFUL, THE FENCING PROGRAMME WILL BE EXTENDED TO OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN THIS SUMMER.

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WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (APRIL 25) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, WYNDHAM STREET AND POTTINGER STREET. PREMISES ALONG ON LAN STREET, ON HING TERRACE AND ZETLAND STREET WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

MEANWHILE, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SEVERAL DISTRICTS IN KOWLOON WILL ALSO BE CUT OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 9 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 26) FOR A WATER PUMP REPAIR.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES IN HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, MA TAU WAI, MA TAU KOK, KOWLOON CITY, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON TONG AND WANG TAU HOM DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN LOK FU ESTATE, TUNG TAU ESTATE, FU SHAN ESTATE, KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE KOWLOON HOSPITAL.

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