



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WAGE INDEXES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED WAGE INDEXES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS IN SEPTEMBER 1980. THESE ARE DERIVED FROM HALF-YEARLY WAGE SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. AS THE SURVEYS ARE NOT BASED ON A SCIENTIFICALLY SELECTED SAMPLE, THE RESULTS CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS ROUGHLY INDICATIVE OF HOW WAGES MAY HAVE BEEN CHANGING.

TAKING AVERAGE WAGES DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1973 TO JUNE 1974 AS 100, THE INDEX OF NOMINAL AVERAGE DAILY WAGES (EXCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS) FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS IN SEPTEMBER 1980 WAS 208. COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1979, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 27 POINTS OR 14.9 PER CENT. COMPARED WITH MARCH 1980, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 12 POINTS OR 6.1 PER CENT.

INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS, THE INDEX IN SEPTEMBER 1980 WAS 214, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 29 POINTS OR 15.7 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1979 AND 12 POINTS OR 5.9 PER CENT OVER MARCH 1980.

THE INDEXES FOR THE LARGER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT SHOW THE FOLLOWING CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER 1980 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1980 :

NOMINAL INDEXEXCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>SEPT 79</u>	<u>MAR 80</u>	<u>SEPT 80</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>SEPT 80 OVER</u>	
				<u>MAR 80</u>	<u>SEPT 79</u>
MANUFACTURING	181	196	208	+ 6.1	+14.9
TEXTILES	182	203	213	+ 4.9	+17.0
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	189	202	216	+ 6.9	+14.3
ELECTRONICS	181	208	216	+ 3.8	+19.3
GARMENTS	172	182	197	+ 8.2	+14.5
GLOVES	160	167	179	+ 7.2	+11.9
HANDBAGS	168	194	195	+ 0.5	+16.1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS OTHER THAN FLOWERS AND TOYS	215	233	238	+ 2.1	+10.7
PLASTIC TOYS	181	200	204	+ 2.0	+12.7
PRINTING	213	222	254	+14.4	+19.2

/NOMINAL INDEX

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NOMINAL INDEXINCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>SEPT 80 OVER</u>				
	<u>SEPT 79</u>	<u>MAR 80</u>	<u>SEPT 80</u>	<u>MAR 80</u>	<u>SEPT 79</u>
MANUFACTURING	185	202	214	+ 5.9	+15.7
TEXTILES	185	205	217	+ 5.9	+17.3
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	194	211	225	+ 6.6	+16.0
ELECTRONICS	187	218	226	+ 3.7	+20.9
GARMENTS	182	193	208	+ 7.8	+14.3
GLOVES	166	175	188	+ 7.4	+13.3
HANDBAGS	177	209	208	- 0.5	+17.5
PLASTIC PRODUCTS OTHER THAN FLOWERS AND TOYS	212	228	231	+ 1.3	+ 9.0
PLASTIC TOYS	180	197	200	+ 1.5	+11.1
PRINTING	217	226	264	+16.8	+21.7

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PUBLISHED INDEXES OF REAL (THAT IS, AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR THE EFFECT OF INFLATION) AVERAGE DAILY WAGES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS. EXCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS, THE INDEX IN SEPTEMBER 1980 WAS 130, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1 POINT OR 0.8 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1979 AND NO CHANGE OVER MARCH 1980.

INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS, THE INDEX IN SEPTEMBER 1980 WAS 133, REPRESENTING ALSO AN INCREASE OF 1 POINT OR 0.8 PER CENT OVER SEPTEMBER 1979 BUT A DECREASE OF 1 POINT OR 0.7 PER CENT OVER MARCH 1980.

COMMENTING ON THESE INDEXES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH ATTRIBUTED THE APPARENT LACK OF INCREASE IN MANUFACTURING WAGE RATES IN REAL TERMS TO TWO FACTORS: FIRST, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR WAS RAPID AS A RESULT OF IMMIGRATION SO THAT DESPITE THE GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, SUPPLY WAS STILL ABUNDANT. SECONDLY, THE DEMAND FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS EASED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1980 UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF UNFAVOURABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SOME OF HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE INDEX OF NOMINAL AVERAGE DAILY WAGES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS MEASURES CHANGES IN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED AS WAGES BY WORKERS IN LARGE ESTABLISHMENTS IN 25 MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. THE INDEX OF NOMINAL AVERAGE DAILY WAGES INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGES AS WELL AS CHANGES IN SUCH FRINGE BENEFITS AS CASH BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES, FREE OR SUBSIDIZED FOOD AND PAID HOLIDAYS.

THE INDEX OF REAL AVERAGE DAILY WAGES FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS AND THE INDEX OF REAL AVERAGE DAILY WAGES INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURING WORKERS ARE OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THEIR RESPECTIVE NOMINAL COUNTERPARTS BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A).

DETAILS OF WAGE MOVEMENTS IN THE INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1980 SURVEY ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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LEGAL BACKING FOR COMING CENSUS

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THE DECENNIAL POPULATION CENSUS OF HONG KONG TO BE TAKEN IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH WILL BE GIVEN LEGAL BACKING UNDER TWO CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDERS TO BE SET OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE THIS FRIDAY.

UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (1981 LAND POPULATION CENSUS) ORDER AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (1981 MARINE POPULATION CENSUS) ORDER, ALL PERSONS, WHETHER ON LAND OR ON BOARD VESSELS WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION TO ENUMERATORS WHO CALL ON THEM.

THE ORDERS ALSO SPECIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE CENSUS, THE INFORMATION IT REQUIRES, THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH IT IS TO BE CARRIED OUT, AND THE DATE BY WHICH ALL COMPLETED SCHEDULES AND COPIES MUST BE DESTROYED.

UNDER THESE ORDERS, IT IS A DUTY OF THE PUBLIC TO SUPPLY ACCURATE INFORMATION TO ENUMERATORS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT.

+THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE USED TO PLAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC AND EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY BENEFIT FROM THE CENSUS EXERCISE.

+BESIDES, ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO ENUMERATORS WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND, UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDERS, THIS INFORMATION CANNOT BE DISCLOSED TO ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OR PRIVATE ORGANISATION.

+ALL ENUMERATORS WILL HAVE TO TAKE AN OATH OF SECRECY. DATA COLLECTED FROM THE CENSUS WILL BE PROCESSED BY COMPUTER AND THE RESULTS PRESENTED IN TABLE FORM.

+NO PERSONAL PARTICULARS COULD BE IDENTIFIED. ALL CENSUS SCHEDULES WITH THE NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1982,+ HE SAID.

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TRADE PRICE AND VOLUME CHANGES IN NOV 1980

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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE BY 8 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN NOVEMBER 1980 COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1979, ACCORDING TO ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) IMPROVED SLIGHTLY BY 1 PER CENT. HOWEVER, A LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS (+25%) THAN FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS (+2%). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT, WITH VOLUME UP BY 35 PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES ROSE BY 8 PER CENT AND VOLUME BY 11 PER CENT.

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

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CHANGES COMPARING NOV 1980 WITH NOV 1979

	EXPORT VALUES	EXPORT UNIT VALUES	EXPORT VOLUMES
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 6%	+ 10%	- 3%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 1%	INSIGNIFICANT	+ 1%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	- 22%	+ 1%	- 23%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	- 16%	+ 11%	- 25%
ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS	+ 5%	+ 3%	+ 2%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+ 31%	+ 13%	+ 15%
FOOTWEAR	+ 14%	+ 9%	+ 5%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+ 31%	+ 16%	+ 13%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+112%	+ 3%	+105%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 26%	- 7%	+ 35%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 10%	+ 8%	+ 2%

APART FROM A DROP OF 7 PER CENT FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND AN INSIGNIFICANT DECREASE FOR TEXTILE FABRICS, THE EXPORT PRICES OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED AT VARYING RATES, FROM A 1 PER CENT INCREASE FOR TEXTILE YARN TO A 16 PER CENT INCREASE FOR METAL MANUFACTURES.

/CONSIDERABLE GROWTH

CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS NOTED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+105%), AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+35%). HOWEVER, AN APPRECIABLE DECREASE WAS REGISTERED IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILE MADE-UPS (-25%) AND TEXTILE YARN (-23%).

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

	CHANGES COMPARING NOV 1980 WITH NOV 1979		
	IMPORT VALUES	IMPORT UNIT VALUES	IMPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+ 17%	+ 11%	+ 6%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 45%	INSIGNIFICANT	+ 46%
FUELS	+136%	+ 31%	+ 81%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 20%	+ 5%	+ 14%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 28%	+ 7%	+ 20%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 32%	+ 6%	+ 25%

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUELS, THE PRICES OF WHICH JUMPED BY 31 PER CENT, AND CONSUMER GOODS, THE PRICES OF WHICH SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY INCREASED MODERATELY, RANGING FROM 5 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 11 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS.

MOST IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS ROSE IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING VEGETABLES AND LIVE POULTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF TEA AND COFFEE, AND SUGAR FELL.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS AND TAPE RECORDERS, CLOTHING, TEXTILE MADE-UPS, FOOTWEAR, AND PASSENGER MOTOR CARS. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DECLINED.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 81 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SHOWED A MIXED TREND. WHEREAS PURCHASES OF WOOLLEN YARN AND MIXTURES, WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR, FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, MAN-MADE FIBRES AND BASE METALS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY, DEMAND FOR DYEING, TANNING AND COLOURING MATERIALS, RAW COTTON, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, AS WELL AS CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUND DECLINED.

AS FOR CAPITAL GOODS, MAJOR INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS, AND OFFICE MACHINES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE:

	CHANGES COMPARING NOV 1980 WITH NOV 1979		
	RE-EXPORT VALUES	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUES	RE-EXPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+ 26%	+ 1%	+ 25%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 62%	+ 6%	+ 52%
FUELS	+ 81%	+ 35%	+ 34%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 40%	+ 11%	+ 26%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 26%	+ 6%	+ 19%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 47%	+ 8%	+ 35%

THE RE-EXPORT VOLUMES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, RANGING FROM 19 PER CENT TO 52 PER CENT.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY REMINDER
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WHICH FALL ON FEBRUARY 5, 6 AND 7 THIS YEAR ARE THREE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPOINTED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$6 000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAYS.

THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE THREE DAYS OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO THE EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS, OTHER THAN OVERTIME PAY, ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY. WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE OF THE DAILY EARNINGS DURING A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAYS. PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE ON THE NORMAL PAY DAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

IF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GRANTED BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST NOTIFY THE EMPLOYEE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. IN THE CASE WHERE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYEE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

/IF BOTH

IF BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638- KOWLOON WEST 3-201652- KWUN TONG 3-898520- TSUEN WAN 12-422096- TUEN MUN 12-818443 AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR INSPECTS MULTI-SERVICE AGENCY
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE, TODAY INSPECTED THE WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY A MULTI-SERVICE VOLUNTARY AGENCY IN WAN CHAI AND A NON-PROFIT-MAKING DAY NURSERY IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MRS EVELYN DOE, MR ALLEYNE VISITED THE ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT WHICH HAS DEVELOPED FROM A CHILDREN'S CLUB IN 1949 INTO AN AGENCY PROVIDING WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE YOUNG, THE OLD AND THE MENTALLY DISABLED.

HE WAS MET BY THE AGENCY'S DIRECTOR, MRS GRACE WAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND SAW ACTIVITIES IN THE DIVISIONS OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE, GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK, ADULT SERVICE, AND SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR MENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS.

THE FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE DIVISION HELPS SOLVE FAMILY PROBLEMS, RUNS A NURSERY, PROVIDES SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, COORDINATES FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, AND ORGANISES SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE ADULT SERVICE DIVISION RUNS AN OLD PEOPLE'S CENTRE AND PROVIDES HOME HELP, MEALS, HEALTH AND LAUNDRY SERVICES, WHILE THE GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION OPERATES A LIBRARY AND A STUDY CENTRE AND ORGANISES ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

AT THE SHELTERED WORKSHOP, MR ALLEYNE WATCHED MENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS DOING SIMPLE AND REMUNERATIVE WORK IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT.

THE DIRECTOR LATER CALLED AT THE CHIU YANG DAY NURSERY RUN BY THE HONG KONG CHIU YANG RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE NURSERY'S COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR ROBIN Y.H. CHAN, AND MEMBERS ON THE DAILY OPERATION OF THE NURSERY WHICH LOOKS AFTER 60 CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

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HK PHILHARMONIC TO PERFORM AT TAI PO
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THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA IS TO PERFORM IN TAI PO ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 31) AT THE INVITATION OF THE LOCAL ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE ORCHESTRA WILL PLAY WORKS BY ROSSINI, VIVALDI, BRITTEN, MOZART AND TCHAIKOVSKY IN A PROGRAMME LASTING TWO HOURS.

ADMISSION TO THE CONCERT, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE SHEUNG KUNG WUI BISHOP MOK SHAU TSENG SECONDARY SCHOOL, IS FREE. A TOTAL OF 800 TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FROM TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

THE ORCHESTRA WILL BE CONDUCTED BY CONCERT MASTER, CARL PINI.

THE CONCERT STARTS AT 3 PM. IT IS BEING SPONSORED BY TAI PO DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE AS PART OF THEIR PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE MUSIC IN THE NEW TOWN.

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NT BATHING SHEDS FOR HIRE
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FORTY-THREE BATHING SHEDS ON BEACHES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR 12 MONTHS STARTING APRIL 1.

THE SHEDS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO APPLICANTS BY BALLOT AT 11 AM ON MARCH 5, THURSDAY, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THERE WILL BE FOUR SHEDS OF ABOUT 56 SQUARE METRES EACH AND 39 OF 28 SQUARE METRES EACH FOR ALLOCATION.

BALLOT APPLICATION FORMS AT \$20 EACH ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE.

THE FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED EITHER BY LETTER OR IN PERSON FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 3 PM ON WEEKDAYS BEFORE FEBRUARY 16.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION BY 1 PM ON FEBRUARY 23, MONDAY.

INDIVIDUALS APPLYING MUST BE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG AND ONLY ONE MEMBER OF A FAMILY MAY APPLY.

REGISTERED COMPANIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANISED GROUPS CAN ALSO APPLY BUT A COPY OF THEIR BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE OR CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES, THE REGISTRAR OF TRADE UNIONS OR THE COMPANIES REGISTRY SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION FORM.

/+FURTHERMORE,.....

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+FURTHERMORE, THESE GROUP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE MANAGER, CHAIRMAN, OR THE SECRETARY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS ALREADY HOLDING RENEWABLE PERMITS FOR BATHING SHEDS ON BEACHES IN SUBURBAN AREAS AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

PERMIT FEES FOR A BATHING SHED RANGE FROM \$750 TO \$1 350 A YEAR DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE SHED.

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TAI PO PLAYGROUND TO BE RENOVATED

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TAI PO PLAYGROUND WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FOR RENOVATION FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED SOME \$700 000 FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

THE PROJECT IS AIMED AT IMPROVING FACILITIES AT THE PLAYGROUND, WHICH IS NEAR THE JUNCTION OF HEUNG SZE WUI STREET AND WAN TAU STREET, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE RAPID INCREASE IN POPULATION AND TO PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED SPORTS VENUE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. THE RUNNING TRACK WILL BE RESURFACED AND THE LONG AND HIGH JUMP PITS, SPECTATOR STANDS AND GATES WILL BE IMPROVED.

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WATER CUT IN SHEK KIP MEI

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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF SHEK KIP MEI WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 29) TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY.

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY PAK TIN STREET, NAM CHEONG STREET, TAI HANG SAI STREET, WOH CHAI STREET, SHEK KIP MEI STREET AND TAI PO ROAD.

ALSO TO BE AFFECTED ARE PREMISES ON YIU TUNG STREET, BERWICK STREET, WAI CHI STREET- SHEK KIP MEI FACTORY ESTATE BLOCK NOS. 4 TO 6, UPPER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE BLOCK NOS. 10 TO 13, AND LOWER SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE BLOCK NOS. 3 TO 6, 15 TO 18 AND 29.

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