



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1990

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## QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR EXPERIENCED A LOWER LEVEL OF BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990, ACCORDING TO THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE COMPARISONS ARE, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS. THE FIRST QUARTER OF A YEAR IS USUALLY A SEASONAL LOW PERIOD WHILE THE THIRD QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER ARE USUALLY MORE ACTIVE PERIODS AS FAR AS MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IS CONCERNED.

FIRMS IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE TEXTILES, PLASTICS AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES, EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

AS REGARDS THE BUSINESS PROSPECTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE PLASTICS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES INDUSTRIES, EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS OVER THE FIRST QUARTER.

FIRMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND THEY ANTICIPATE A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER.

FOR THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR, WHILE HOTELS EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, OTHER FIRMS RECORDED AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS.

REGARDING THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, WHILE RESTAURANTS ANTICIPATE A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS, OTHER FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS.

IN THE OTHER SERVICES SECTOR, FIRMS IN THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES EXPERIENCED A DETERIORATION IN BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, WHEREAS BANKS AND FIRMS IN THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES HAD A STABLE BUSINESS.

REGARDING BUSINESS PROSPECT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, WHILE FIRMS IN THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES EXPECT A STABLE BUSINESS, OTHER FIRMS IN THIS SECTOR ANTICIPATE AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS.

ABOUT 1,000 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY. THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

FIRMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR GENERALLY ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEMS OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS, PRICE COMPETITION FROM OTHER FIRMS IN HONG KONG, HIGH WAGE RATES AND SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS OR CONTRACTS IS EXPECTED TO EASE OFF IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, FIRMS HAD THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR, HIGH WAGE RATES AND PRICE COMPETITION FROM LOCAL FIRMS IN HONG KONG IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THIS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF FIRMS IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CATERING TRADES SECTOR AND OTHER SERVICES SECTOR CITED SHORTAGE OF STAFF GENERALLY AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AS MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

PRICE COMPETITION WAS ALSO GENERALLY CITED AS A MAJOR PROBLEM BY FIRMS IN THESE SECTORS EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES INDUSTRY.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, HOTELS HAD THE PROBLEMS OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS AND HIGH STAFF COSTS WHILE BANKS HAD THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED STAFF AND HIGH STAFF COSTS.

THESE SITUATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE SURVEY RESULTS, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD IMPROVED, REMAINED THE SAME OR DETERIORATED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE, REMAIN THE SAME OR DETERIORATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE TABULATED AND ANALYSED. MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE VIEWS OF FIRMS BY SIZE GROUP.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT, IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

COPIES OF THE SURVEY REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$5.50 PER COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4779.

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EXCO CLEARS THE WAY FOR HELIPAD LEASE

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS CLEARED THE WAY TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR THE HELIPAD AT THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL TO BE LEASED BY WAY OF A FIVE-YEAR SHORT TERM TENANCY TO SHUN TAK ENTERPRISES CORPORATION LTD (STE).

THE TENANCY WILL CONTAIN A SERIES OF STRICT CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE WAY IN WHICH THE HELIPAD WILL BE OPERATED.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, HONG KONG WEST WILL GRANT THE TENANCY SHORTLY, ONCE ITS DRAFTING HAS BEEN FINALISED.

THE HELIPAD, BUILT ON THE ROOF OF THE INNER PIER AT THE FERRY TERMINAL, IS AN ELEVATED PLATFORM WHICH IS CAPABLE OF BEING RAISED AND LOWERED HYDRAULICALLY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"UNDER STE'S MANAGEMENT, IT WILL BE OPEN TO USE BY ANY HELICOPTER OPERATOR, SUBJECT TO THAT OPERATOR COMPLYING WITH A SERIES OF CONDITIONS COVERING SUCH MATTERS AS SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE ABATEMENT PROCEDURES," HE SAID.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT A MACAU REGISTERED OPERATOR, EAST ASIA AIRLINES, INTENDS TO INAUGURATE A HONG KONG/MACAU HELICOPTER SERVICE FROM THE HELIPAD ONCE IT HAS COMPLETED ALL NECESSARY PROCEDURES.

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LADY WILSON VISITS YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE

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LADY WILSON VISITED THE YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE AT LO WAI, TSUEN WAN, THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON AND WAS BRIEFED ON ITS EXPANSION PROGRAMME.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1953, THE YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE HAS BECOME A FOCAL POINT FOR THE WORSHIP OF A RELIGION WHICH COMBINES THE TEACHINGS OF CONFUCIANISM, BUDDHISM AND TAOISM.

THE INSTITUTE HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO CHARITY AND WELFARE SERVICES.

LADY WILSON WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS MR ADOLF HSU, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER MR RAYMOND YOUNG, AND DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN MR CHAU HOW-CHEN.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE INSTITUTE, SHE WAS MET BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR TONG KWOK-WAH, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE PARTY BEGAN THE TOUR BY VISITING THE "TAI DIN", THE MAIN TEMPLE; THE "YUEN SUN DIN", THE TEMPLE OF THE 60 PATRON SAINTS; AND THE AUDITORIUM, WHICH HOUSES VARIOUS ANTIQUES.

/LADY WILSON .....

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LADY WILSON WAS TOLD THAT THE INSTITUTE IS PLANNING A 18,000-SQUARE-METRE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT THE HILL SLOPES OF LO WAI FOR A RELIGIOUS COMPLEX WHICH WOULD COMPRISE A MUSEUM, A LIBRARY AND SEVERAL TEMPLES.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE YUEN YUEN HOME FOR THE AGED IN THE VICINITY, WHERE LADY WILSON WATCHED SOME CLASSES OF HANDICRAFT AND CALLIGRAPHY.

THIS HOME, ESTABLISHED BY THE YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE 15 YEARS AGO, CAN ACCOMMODATE 120 ELDERLY PEOPLE.

WITH THE GROWING DEMAND FOR CARE AND ATTENTION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE INSTITUTE HAS FURTHER PLANS TO BUILD A NEW CARE AND ATTENTION HOME FOR THE AGED.

LADY WILSON WAS TOLD THAT THE SITE FORMATION OF THE \$31 MILLION PROJECT HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED, AND THAT, UPON COMPLETION OF THE NEW HOME NEXT YEAR, AN ADDITIONAL 150 PLACES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND SERVICES FOR THE AGED FURTHER IMPROVED.

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EDUCATION IMPORTANT TO DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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EDUCATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE VALUABLE RESOURCES OF SOCIETY, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS MIRIAM LAU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST COMMITTEE AT A BURSARY CERTIFICATES PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MRS LAU SAID BRAIN DRAIN WAS A PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WHICH WAS BECOMING MORE ACUTE IN RECENT YEARS.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE THE BEST TO MAKE PEOPLE STAY AND TO ACTIVELY TRAIN UP THOSE WITH POTENTIALS.

"AT PRESENT, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPANDING AND IMPROVING BOTH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION, AND IS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION," SHE NOTED.

MRS LAU SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST NOT ONLY HELPED RELIEVE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF PARENTS BUT ALSO ENCOURAGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK HARD IN THEIR STUDIES AND CONTRIBUTE TO HONG KONG.

THE EDUCATION TRUST WAS SET UP IN 1983 WITH A DONATION FROM MR WILLIAM MONG TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF ASSISTANT OFFICERS AND EQUIVALENT GRADES TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION.

/SPEAKING AS .....

SPEAKING AS THE TRUSTEE OF THE EDUCATION TRUST, THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, THANKED MR AND MRS MONG FOR THEIR BENEVOLENT SUPPORT.

HE ALSO THANKED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY BOARD, SIR OSWALD CHEUNG, AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR SOUND ADVICE ON INVESTMENT AND WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF MRS LAU AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION TRUST.

FIFTEEN STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED BURSARY CERTIFICATES AND CHEQUES FROM MRS MONG TODAY.

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10 QUESTIONS, 12 BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 10 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 12 BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

ONE OF THE BILLS IS THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1990, WHICH IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

SECOND READING DEBATES WILL BE RESUMED ON THE OTHER NINE GOVERNMENT BILLS AND EACH IS LATER DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE BILLS ARE THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, LAW REFORM (LEGAL EFFECTS OF AGE) BILL 1989 AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES BILL 1990.

TWO PRIVATE BILLS WILL BE BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

THE DAO HENG BANK LIMITED BILL 1990 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, AND DEBATE WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON THE DEN NORSKE BANK BILL 1990 WILL RESUME, AND WHEN IT IS COMPLETED THE BILL IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL MOVE TWO MOTIONS, UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR IAN STRACHAN, WILL TAKE THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE 79 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TOTALLING \$947,000 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE THIS YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 1990-91 AT A MEETING ON THURSDAY (MAY 17).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER HOLDING AN "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STARTS FROM ME" FUNCTION ON JUNE 5 IN SUPPORT OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO SEWERS IN PRIVATE STREETS, PROVISION OF SHELTERS IN SITTING-OUT AREAS, REPLACEMENT OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S NOTICE BOARDS AND FUNDING A "KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN DAY" FILM SHOW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY (MAY 17) AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS ON SATURDAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (MAY 19) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL. THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

EE 899	CR 8	AA 338	EE 1668
CC 314	EE 7388	EF 205	EG 789
EH 707	EF 330	EE 8878	EE 621
EF 215	EE 8628	167	EE 2817
AW 26	DS 21	EE 950	EE 456
EE 816	EF 786	EE 6668	EE 8555
EH 1234	EE 1228	EE 817	EF 110
EF 730	EF 156	EE 9	EF 1068
AA 192	BB 109	EE 1733	EF 448
EF 288	CK 6688	EF 638	EF 788

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 150TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1990

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MAY 17), THE EXISTING 24-HOUR BAN ZONE FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT BUSES, THOSE WITH PERMITS AND THOSE REQUIRING ACCESS, ON THE SECTION OF KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND FROM TIN CHIU STREET TO MAN HONG STREET, WILL BE CANCELLED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF TIN CHIU STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH KING'S ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

THE EXISTING RESTRICTED AREA FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF TIN CHIU STREET, WILL BE CANCELLED:

- THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE FROM A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MARBLE ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND
- THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE FROM A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MARBLE ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 40 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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