



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1987

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ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW FOR REST OF YEAR, FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TONIGHT (MONDAY) HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, ALBEIT AT A MORE MODERATE RATE THAN THE EARLIER MONTHS BECAUSE OF ITS CAPACITY LIMITS.

GIVING HIS MID-YEAR ECONOMIC REVIEW AT THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION DINNER ON THE THEME OF "BUSINESS CONFIDENCE", MR JACOBS PREDICTED THE GDP TO GROW AT DOUBLE THE RATE HE FORECAST IN HIS BUDGET IN FEBRUARY.

HE NOW FORECAST THE GDP FOR 1987 AS A WHOLE TO GROW FROM THE BUDGET FORECAST OF SIX PER CENT TO 12 PER CENT, OR IN PER CAPITA TERMS, \$62,600 AT CURRENT PRICES, REPRESENTING A GROWTH OF 17 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS AND 11 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER 1986.

"THIS GROWTH, IF REALISED, WILL PLACE THE HONG KONG ECONOMY IN THE ENVIABLE POSITION OF HAVING ENJOYED AVERAGE GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OF MORE THAN 10 PER CENT FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS," HE ADDED.

MR JACOBS ALSO ADJUSTED UPWARDS SUBSTANTIALLY THE GROWTH RATE FORECAST OF OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE ECONOMY. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE REVISED THE GROWTH RATE OF EXPENDITURE ON PLANT AND MACHINERY TO 25 PER CENT, FROM HIS BUDGET FORECAST OF 11 PER CENT.

HE SAID THIS REFLECTED THE FASTER THAN EXPECTED EXPORT GROWTH AND THE FLOW OF RETAINED IMPORTS OF PLANT AND MACHINERY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

MR JACOBS ALSO SAID THE ECONOMIC GROWTH WOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXPORT LED, BUT THEIR GROWTH RATE IS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SOME SLOWING IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF.

BUT FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, HE STILL REVISED THE FORECAST GROWTH RATES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS SUBSTANTIALLY UPWARDS, AT 20 PER CENT AND 37 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, PUSHING FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS UPWARDS TO 27 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 10 PER CENT IN THE BUDGET.

MR JACOBS ALSO EXPECTED THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMAND TO PICK UP FURTHER AS THE INCOME DERIVED FROM EXPORTS IS SPENT AND HENCE, HE REVISED HIS FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC DEMANDS TO 12 PER CENT.

HE SAID THE PRIVATE CONSUMER DEMAND HAS REMAINED BUOYANT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR AND LATEST FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES ALSO INDICATE STRONG DEMAND FOR MOST CONSUMER PRODUCTS. HE THEREFORE REVISED THE SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH RATE BUDGET FORECAST FOR PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE TO 11 PER CENT.

/ON INFLATION, .....

ON INFLATION, MR JACOBS FORECAST THE RATE OF INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICE FOR 1987, AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), TO GROW AT SIX PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 5.5 PER CENT IN HIS BUDGET.

"AS THE CURRENT RATE IS STILL RUNNING AT AROUND FIVE PER CENT, I AM THUS FORECASTING SOME FURTHER ACCELERATION IN CONSUMER PRICES IN THE REMAINING MONTHS OF THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

BUT HE SAID AN INFLATION RATE OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS "TOLERABLE" AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH.

LOOKING BACK ON THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, MR JACOBS SAID: "WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS OR SO IS, IN MY VIEW, A MANIFESTATION OF GENUINE AND LONG-LASTING CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF HONG KONG TO PERFORM WELL ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT."

HE ADDED THAT THIS PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE LOCAL ECONOMY HAS DISPLAYED MORE FLEXIBILITY AND RESILIENCE THAN WAS EXPECTED AT A TIME WHEN PRODUCTION WAS ALREADY RUNNING UP AGAINST CAPACITY.

AS TO THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY, MR JACOBS SAID APART FROM A SOMEWHAT HIGHER RATE OF INFLATION AND A TIGHT LABOUR MARKET, THERE IS LITTLE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT.

HE ALSO WARNED THAT THERE ARE SOME SIGNS OF OVERHEATING, THOUGH NOT SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE IMMEDIATE CONCERN.

ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR JACOBS SAID THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS, ADDING THAT CHINA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE GAINED IN RELATIVE IMPORTANCE, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED STATES.

"WHILE THE RAPID GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA HAS BEEN PARTLY RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES, GROWTH IN OUR EXPORTS TO BOTH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND JAPAN IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CUMULATIVE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE DEUTSCHEMARK AND THE YEN," HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID CHINA IS NOW HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER, INVOLVING IN NEARLY 80 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, AND BECOMING THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET OF THE TERRITORY'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND THE LARGEST SUPPLIER OF ITS IMPORTS.

HE SAID RAPID EXPANSION OF OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES IN CHINA HAS ALSO ENABLED LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO OVERCOME SOME OF THEIR CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS. "THEY HAVE THUS DEMONSTRATED THEIR CONFIDENCE BOTH IN CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMMES AND THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

/BUT MR JACOBS .....

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BUT MR JACOBS SAID PROTECTIONISM SENTIMENTS IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKET, THE UNITED STATES, CONTINUE TO GIVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF A STRONG AND FREE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. "WE ARE ENGAGED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF FREE AND OPEN TRADE," MR JACOBS ADDED.

DOMESTICALLY, MR JACOBS SAID THERE IS A GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF THE VIEW THAT EVEN THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERLY EDUCATED AND TRAINED MANPOWER MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT.

HE SAID EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE ON SEVERAL FRONTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM MORE COMPETITIVE.

"THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE, BUT I BELIEVE WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH. THROUGH THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD WE ARE WORKING WITH INDUSTRIALISTS TO DESIGN WAYS TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS," HE ADDED.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, MR JACOBS SAID THE LABOUR MARKET HAS BEEN VERY TIGHT AND THIS HAS LED TO INCREASES IN WAGES AND SALARIES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESISTED THE SUGGESTIONS OF IMPORTING LABOUR FROM CHINA. "WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG'S LABOUR FORCE SHOULD BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY OF REAPING THE BENEFIT OF GOOD TIMES THROUGH INCREASE IN WAGES," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE DOLLAR LINK, MR JACOBS SAID THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DECLINED BY SEVEN PER CENT IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE LINK.

WHILE THE GREATER DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST MOST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES HAS ENHANCED THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS, MR JACOBS SAID THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM PROVIDES STABILITY. "IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO ENHANCE HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS," HE ADDED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DISCLOSED THAT A RECENT RECALCULATION OF THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX USING MORE UP-TO-DATE WEIGHTS AND IMPROVED AVERAGING PROCEDURE HAS FOUND THAT THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAS ACTUALLY APPRECIATED SLIGHTLY, IMPLYING A SLIGHT LOSS OF COMPETITIVENESS FROM THIS SOURCE SINCE OCTOBER 1983.

IN OTHER AREAS, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE THE REGULATION OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS, PARTICULARLY THE STOCK MARKET.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID HE HOPES TO INTRODUCE A BILL ON DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE BILL IN JUNE. HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FORMULATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO REGULATE INSIDER TRADING "IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE".

AT THE SAME TIME, MR JACOBS SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS CAREFULLY CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL FROM BOTH THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG AND A WORKING PARTY OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS ON VENTURE CAPITAL TO SET UP A SECOND MARKET FOR SECURITIES.

HE SAID SUCH A MARKET COULD BE OF SPECIAL RELEVANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FIRMS WHICH CANNOT MEET THE FULL LISTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXCHANGE.

"THE STEPS WE ARE TAKING DEMONSTRATE THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN FAIR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND STABLE FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESS CONTINUE TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO INVEST IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THE PROPERTY MARKET HAS BEEN "HEALTHILY ACTIVE" IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. "THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN PRICES AND RENTALS FOR ALMOST ALL CATEGORIES OF PROPERTY ALTHOUGH VERY RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME TAILING OFF," HE SAID.

GIVEN THE LONG PAY-BACK PERIOD FOR BUILDING INVESTMENT, MR JACOBS SAID THIS IS YET ANOTHER POINTER TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LAGGING BEHIND IN THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT, MR JACOBS CITED THE EXPANSION PLANS FOR PORT FACILITIES, THE STUDY ON A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AS EXAMPLES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ENGAGE CONSULTANTS TO REVIEW AND CO-ORDINATE ALL RELEVANT STUDIES IN RELATION TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING THE MOST APPROPRIATE OPTIONS IN TERMS OF STRATEGIC PLANNING.

"THIS CONSULTANCY WILL START WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AND BE COMPLETED DURING 1989."

MR JACOBS, HOWEVER, REITERATED THE NEED "TO CONSTRAIN THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY."

TO THIS END, MR JACOBS SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE "SOME VALUABLE PROGRESS" ON MEASURES TO ASSIST IN BETTER ASSESSING EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES. HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS MUCH BETTER CONTROL MECHANISMS BOTH IN RELATION TO THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMMES AND IN RELATION TO RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

/LOOKING AHEAD .....

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 1988, MR JACOBS SAID DOMESTIC DEMAND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN AT A HIGH LEVEL AND HONG KONG'S EXPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFLUENCED BY FORCES LARGELY "BEYOND OUR CONTROL".

"APART FROM THE LEVEL OF CONSUMER DEMAND IN OUR EXPORT MARKETS, MOVEMENTS IN EXCHANGE RATES AND OUR CONTINUED ACCESS TO THESE MARKETS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT FACTORS. ANY FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF PROTECTIONIST MEASURES, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES, WILL AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND TRADE GENERALLY," HE SAID.

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#### STRENGTHENED LEGISLATION TO CURB INSIDER DEALING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT LEGISLATION AGAINST INSIDER DEALING TO BETTER PROTECT THE INVESTING PUBLIC, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 1987, MR NENDICK SAID THE OPTIONS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE EITHER STRENGTHENING THE SANCTIONS AGAINST INSIDER DEALERS UNDER THE EXISTING TRIBUNAL SYSTEM OR MAKING INSIDER DEALING A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

"BOTH ALTERNATIVES HAVE THEIR ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES AND IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO DECIDE WHICH IS THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD.

"BUT I MUST STRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN A FAIR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND A STABLE FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT GIVE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE AND THE INCENTIVE TO CONTINUE TO INVEST IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING HONG KONG'S INVESTMENT LEGISLATION AS SUPERVISION AND REGULATION MUST EVOLVE IN LINE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MARKET PLACE.

HE SAID ONE EXAMPLE WAS THE WHITE BILL ON DISCLOSURE OF SHAREHOLDINGS, PUBLISHED IN JUNE THIS YEAR FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION, WHICH REQUIRED SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS, DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF LISTED COMPANIES TO DISCLOSE PARTICULARS OF THEIR SHAREHOLDINGS.

"THIS REQUIREMENT WILL REVEAL EXACTLY WHO CONTROL THESE COMPANIES AND WILL MAKE INSIDER TRADING MORE DIFFICULT AND CREEPING TAKEOVERS HARDER TO CONCEAL," HE SAID.

/IT WAS .....

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IT WAS HOPED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

MR NENDICK SAID THAT SINCE THE UNIFICATION OF THE FOUR STOCK EXCHANGES, THE TURNOVER OF THE STOCK MARKET HAD INCREASED TO A MARKED EXTENT AND THE NUMBER OF FIRMS SEEKING PUBLIC LISTING HAD GROWN DRAMATICALLY.

HE SAID THIS WAS TO BE WELCOMED BUT NOT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RECENT ISSUES HAD BEEN VASTLY OVERSUBSCRIBED.

"I DO NOT REGARD THIS AS A SATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS AND I URGE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH NEW ISSUES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO FINANCE SUBSCRIBERS, TO THINK CAREFULLY HOW THESE SITUATIONS CAN BEST BE AVOIDED IN FUTURE.

"NOT ONLY ARE THEY POTENTIALLY DISRUPTING TO THE MONEY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS BUT ALSO OFFER SCOPE FOR MAJOR FRAUD," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY AND SAW ITS ROLE AS PROVIDING THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN WHICH BUSINESS COULD FLOURISH RATHER THAN THE DRIVING FORCE.

"IN A NUTSHELL, THE GOVERNMENT LIMITS ITS INTERVENTION TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED AND THAT A PROPER MEASURE OF PROTECTION IS PROVIDED FOR THE NON-PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY SMALL INVESTORS AND DEPOSITORS," HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS THE AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD BY CONSULTATION AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BY CONSENSUS. "WE PLAN TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE DIALOGUE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO THAT WE CAN CONSIDER TOGETHER WHAT LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE."

"TO CONCLUDE," MR NENDICK SAID, "WE SEE HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE CONTINUING WITHOUT INTERRUPTION BEYOND 1997. THE JOINT DECLARATION HAS PROVIDED THE POLITICAL BASIS AND STABILITY FOR THIS CONFIDENCE."

"OUR ROLE WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT OUR MARKET PLACE MAINTAINS THE INTEGRITY THAT WARRANTS THE FULL TRUST OF BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS," HE ADDED.

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BATTLE AGAINST CANCER PRIMARY CONCERN OF MEDICAL AUTHORITIES

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THE BATTLE AGAINST CANCER HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF HONG KONG'S MEDICAL AUTHORITIES, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT A SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ADVANCES IN CANCER MANAGEMENT ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF CANCER, MR FORD SAID THE DISEASE HAD BEEN THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN HONG KONG SINCE 1964, ACCOUNTING FOR OVER 8,000 DEATHS OR 31 PER CENT OF ALL DEATHS LAST YEAR.

MR FORD NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF ONCOLOGY AND RADIOTHERAPY BEDS OVER THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS.

"WE ALSO HAVE PRIOR PLANS TO BRING IN ADDITIONAL TREATMENT FACILITIES TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM AND NEXT YEAR HONG KONG'S FIRST BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT UNIT WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN THE NEW EXTENSION TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL," HE SAID.

MR FORD ADDED THAT IT WAS ALSO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ADOPT PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN ORDER TO REDUCE FUTURE INCIDENCE OF LIVER CANCER, WE HAVE A VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR BABIES BORN TO MOTHERS WHO ARE HEPATITIS B CARRIERS.

"WE ALSO GIVE STRONG EMPHASIS ON ANTI-SMOKING EDUCATION AND CAMPAIGNS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE RISK OF LUNG CANCER TO THE POPULATION," HE SAID.

MR FORD SAID THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1982 TO PRESCRIBE NON-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND IMPOSE HEALTH WARNINGS IN CIGARETTE ADVERTISING.

AFTER A SERIES OF MAJOR ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, MR FORD SAID A GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN 1986 SHOWED A 20 PER CENT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF SMOKERS WHEN COMPARED WITH 1982.

HE ALSO SAID A COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH HAS JUST BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROPOSE, CO-ORDINATE AND INITIATE ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES.

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SEMINAR-CUM-EXHIBITION ON UK STANDARDS  
AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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A SEMINAR-CUM-EXHIBITION ON UNITED KINGDOM STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST LOCAL MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS IN COMPLYING WITH PRODUCT STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS IN THE UK WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 20 AT HOLIDAY INN HARBOUR VIEW HOTEL.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND THE UK INSTITUTE OF TRADING STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION (ITSA), THE SEMINAR-CUM-EXHIBITION AIMS TO PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON EXISTING AND PROPOSED PRODUCT STANDARDS LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IN THE UK FOR CONSUMER GOODS IN GENERAL.

"PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TOYS AND NIGHTWEAR, WHICH ARE MORE LIABLE TO POSE HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKERS FOR THE SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE TWO SENIOR TRADING STANDARDS OFFICERS FROM THE ITSA.

CHINESE INTERPRETATION SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SEMINAR.

ADMISSION TO THE SEMINAR WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE. THOSE COMPANIES THAT WISH TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S PRODUCT STANDARDS BRANCH ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5, 1987.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MISS MARIA CHAU (TEL. NO. 3-7222582) OR MRS ELENA CHEUNG (TEL. NO. 3-7222448) OF THE BRANCH AT ROOM 1439, OCEAN CENTRE, 14/F, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON THE SAME DAY.

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COMMERCIAL INFORMATION SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES AVAILABLE

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TRADERS WISHING TO HAVE FASTER ACCESS TO TRADE DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS CAN MAKE USE OF A SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE.

THE SERVICE HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO SUBSCRIBERS AT \$70 A YEAR SINCE 1985 AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT COLLECTION OFFICE AT ROOM 822, 8TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, IN KOWLOON.

/THESE COMMERCIAL .....

THESE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS, ISSUED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE WHENEVER NECESSARY, CAN HELP GENERAL TRADERS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION RELATING TO THEIR IMPORT AND EXPORT BUSINESSES. POLICIES ON TEXTILES AND NON TEXTILES MATTERS, REGULATIONS AND TARIFFS CONCERNING HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE EXTENSIVELY COVERED TO ENABLE TRADERS TO RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF THE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS ARE CURRENTLY BEING SENT TO TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CALLING IN PERSON AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT CAN OBTAIN INDIVIDUAL COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION FREE OF CHARGE.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO MAKE USE OF THE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE WILL NOT MISS A SINGLE ISSUE. MISSING INFORMATION COULD MEAN MISSING BUSINESS.

LAST YEAR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT PUBLISHED 92 ISSUES OF THE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS, COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND COUNTRIES.

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COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT  
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MEMBERS OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT 1988-89 PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT.

THE PROGRAMME, PREPARED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, OUTLINES THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY, THE GREEN MINIBUS AND VARIOUS BUS ROUTE SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

A REPORT ON THE NORTH DISTRICT TRAVEL SURVEY TO ESTABLISH THE TRAVEL NEEDS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED BUS SHELTER PROVISION PROGRAMME FOR 1987/88 AS WELL AS THE INSTALLATION OF 52 PARKING METERS IN SHEK WU HUI.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES NEAR THE JUNCTION OF MAN KAM TO ROAD AND FU TEI AU ROAD; REVISION OF SERVICES ON BUS ROUTE 69K AND NT GMB ROUTE 56K AND IMPROVEMENT TO KCRC SERVICES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 23) AT 2 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

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FORUM ON POLLUTION IN TSUEN WAN

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AN OPEN FORUM ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD FOR THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) EVENING AS PART OF THE BOARD'S EFFORTS TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION ISSUES IN THE DISTRICT.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TSUEN WAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE IN TSUEN WAN WILL ATTEND THE FORUM TO INTRODUCE THEIR WORK IN RELATION TO PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION.

THE FORUM WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM IN THE HALL OF THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN. IT WILL BE CHAIRED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, DR. RICHARD LAI, WHO IS THE CONVENOR OF THE BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN TSUEN WAN.

DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT AT THE FORUM.

THE WORKING GROUP WANTS TO HEAR AND REFLECT THE VIEWS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLLUTION ISSUES IN GENERAL AND THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FORUM TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS.

SINCE THE WORKING GROUP WAS CONVENED IN 1986 TO STUDY THE ISSUES IN THE DISTRICT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, IT HAS CONDUCTED A SURVEY ON POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN TSUEN WAN, EXAMINED EXISTING AND PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST POLLUTION OFFENCES, AND REVIEWED PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY DEPARTMENTS IN HANDLING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FORUM TO BE HELD AT 8 PM IN THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SEPTEMBER 24.

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MORE AIMS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
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CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MRS RITA FAN, TODAY (MONDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS ON ALL SOCIAL AFFAIRS, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL REVIEW, AS A STEP TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE DID NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL STANCE WITH REGARD TO THE VARIOUS ISSUES IN THE POLITICAL REVIEW, IT HAD APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO SEND THEIR VIEWS TO THE SURVEY OFFICE, SHE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING YEAR, MRS FAN POINTED OUT THAT RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN MUCH INTEREST IN THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR THE CULTIVATION OF PUBLIC POLITICAL AWARENESS.

THIS YEAR, THE COMMITTEE RECEIVED AN ALLOCATION OF ABOUT \$1.28 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND HAD INCORPORATED FIVE NEW MEMBERS, MR IP KING-MAN, MR K.T. POON, MR TAI CHIN-WAH, MR JUSTIN WONG AND MR YEUNG KWOK-HUNG WHO WOULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF COMMERCE, ADVERTISEMENT, LAW, AND LIBRARIANSHIP.

PROGRAMME PLANS FOR THIS YEAR INCLUDED VISITS TO DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, A COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME, THE UPGRADING OF A RESOURCE ROOM AND A \$700,000 PUBLICITY PACKAGE.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SUB-COMMITTEE, MR MAK HOI-WAH, SAID THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ALLOCATED \$500,000 FOR SUBSIDISING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS ON CIVIC EDUCATION THIS YEAR.

THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME ATTRACTED 112 APPLICATIONS AND AFTER CAREFUL VETTING, 23 PROJECTS WERE APPROVED WITH PREFERENCE BEING GIVEN TO TERRITORY-WIDE ACTIVITIES, TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND PRODUCTION OF VISUAL AIDS.

A RESOURCE CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS NEWLY ESTABLISHED THIS YEAR UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR CHAN WING-TAI. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SERVICES OF PROVIDING CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES TO THE PUBLIC AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL SCALE CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE.

AS AN INITIAL STEP, A CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCE ROOM WAS SET UP IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS WITH MORE THAN 800 ITEMS OF REFERENCE MATERIALS INCLUDING REPORTS; AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS; TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES; PUBLICATIONS AND GAMES; PROJECTS; NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND FEATURE ARTICLES.

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IT ALSO STORES LARGE VOLUMES OF INFORMATION RELATED TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING MINUTES OF DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS, CONSULTATIVE AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS FOR DISTRICT BOARDS AND DISTRICT BOARD REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS.

IN ADDITION, A COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE INDEX ON CIVIC EDUCATION REFERENCE MATERIALS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND WILL SERVE AS A USEFUL REFERENCE TO ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ORGANISING CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

THE INDEX, PUBLISHED IN CHINESE, COMPRISES MORE THAN 150 PAGES AND LISTS OUT NEARLY 1,000 ITEMS RELATED TO CIVIC EDUCATION, TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF ADDRESSES AND CONTACT PERSONS OF MORE THAN 70 ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THAT PROVIDE THESE REFERENCE MATERIALS.

THE RESOURCE ROOM IS OPEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF ITS FACILITIES.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD BE SUGGESTING WAYS TO UPGRADE THE RESOURCE ROOM INTO A FULL SCALE RESOURCE CENTRE TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY, MR CHAN SAID.

TO ENHANCE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, A NEWSLETTER REPORTING ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE AND PROJECTS SUBSIDISED UNDER THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, MR CHAN ADDED.

CHAIRMAN OF THE OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE SUB-COMMITTEE, MR PETER TAM, SAID THE MAJOR PROJECT FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION THIS YEAR WAS A HALF-DAY WORKSHOP OF WHICH THE THEME WOULD BE HOW TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC'S SENSE OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF CIVIC EDUCATION FORMULATED LAST YEAR WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ADOPTED AS THE SUB-COMMITTEE BELIEVED THAT THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHOULD REMAIN WIDE IN SCOPE.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO COLLECT AND STUDY THE RESULTS OF RELEVANT OPINION SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND WOULD RECOMMEND TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMITTEE'S SECOND OPINION SURVEY NEXT YEAR.

ON THE PUBLICITY SIDE, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE, MR STEPHEN SIU, SAID THE SLOGAN "CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY; WORK FOR YOUR COMMUNITY" WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED TO ENHANCE PEOPLE'S CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THEIR ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE WELL-BEING OF THE SOCIETY.

TWO TELEVISION APIS (ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST) ADVOCATING THE EXPRESSING OF OPINIONS THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS AND A MORE FRUITFUL UTILISATION OF LEISURE TIME THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY, WOULD BE PRODUCED LATER IN THE YEAR.

IN ADDITION, THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL JOINTLY PRESENT THREE EPISODES OF A TELEVISION PROGRAMME AND A VARIETY SHOW ON CIVIC EDUCATION WITH RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG IN FEBRUARY.

MEANWHILE, THE INTRODUCTORY BOOKLET ON HONG KONG FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST HAS RECEIVED GOOD RESPONSE AND EXTRA COPIES WILL BE PRINTED LATER.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR JUNK BAY TUNNEL EASTERN APPROACHES

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WORK ON THE SECOND STAGE OF THE JUNK BAY TUNNEL EASTERN APPROACHES IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER.

THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A 270-METRE-LONG TRUNK ROAD LINKING JUNK BAY TUNNEL AND STAGE ONE WORKS OF THE EASTERN APPROACHES ROADWORKS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

A 192-METRE-LONG BALANCED CANTILEVER BRIDGE IS ALSO TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO CARRY TRAFFIC ABOVE A 40-METRE-DEEP WOODED VALLEY AT THE EASTERN END OF JUNK BAY TUNNEL.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS TERMINUS IN AREA 3 TO SERVE A PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME IN AREA 4.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 32 MONTHS. JUNK BAY TUNNEL IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1990.

WORK ON STAGE ONE OF THE EASTERN APPROACHES ROADWORKS STARTED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A \$186 MILLION CONTRACT FOR RECLAMATION AND LAND FORMATION.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1987

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KENNEDY STREET ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE DEMOLISHED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 29 FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN RESPECT OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OVER THE FIFTH FLOOR OF NOS. 15 AND 17, KENNEDY STREET, ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

NOTICES TO THIS EFFECT WERE POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

THE AUTHORITY FEELS THAT THE STRUCTURES SHOULD BE CLOSED SO THAT THEIR DEMOLITION CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DANGER TO THEIR OCCUPIERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES WERE ORDERED TO BE DEMOLISHED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE LAST DECEMBER, BUT THE INSTRUCTION HAS BEEN IGNORED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID THE DEMOLITION WOULD GO AHEAD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER WAS OBTAINED.

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TING HONG CUP FOOTBALL COMPETITION

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RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE WHO WORK IN TING HONG AREA IN KWUN TONG WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR FOOTBALL SKILLS IN A SEVEN-A-SIDE TING HONG CUP FOOTBALL COMPETITION NEXT MONTH.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE TING HONG BRANCH OF THE KWUN TONG SPORTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THE AIM OF THE COMPETITION WAS TO PROMOTE FOOTBALL ACTIVITY AND TO SELECT AN OUTSTANDING TEAM TO REPRESENT THE BRANCH IN THE 'INTER-BRANCH FOOTBALL COMPETITION' TO BE STAGED IN NOVEMBER AS PART OF THE 1987 KWUN TONG SPORTS FESTIVAL.

MEN AGED 16 OR ABOVE ARE WELCOME TO TAKE PART IN THIS KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION TO BE HELD AT THE SAU NGA ROAD NO. 3 PLAYGROUND ON OCTOBER 18 AND 25.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS OCTOBER 12. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON 3/F, KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-416315 EXT. 411.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1987

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BABINGTON PATH CLOSED TEMPORARILY

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TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERS IN THE MID-LEVELS, BABINGTON PATH FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH LYTTLETON ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 80 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 23). THE MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS.

AT THE SAME TIME, BABINGTON PATH FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ROBINSON ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 150 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY.

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WATER CUT IN SHEUNG SHUI AND RENNIE'S MILL

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG SHUI AND RENNIE'S MILL WILL BE TURNED OFF ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION PERIOD IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM AND FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY (FRIDAY) IN RENNIE'S MILL.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE JOCKEY CLUB ROAD AND MAN KAM TO ROAD FROM SAN FUNG AVENUE TO MUK WU TSUEN, INCLUDING SHEUNG SHUI TSUEN, FUNG KAI SCHOOL, HUNG KIU SAN TSUEN, FU TEI AU ROAD, LO WU BARRACKS, LO WU TSUEN, TAK YUET LAU TSUEN, LIU POK TSUEN, SHA LENG SAN TSUEN, SAN UK LENG TSUEN, MUK WU TSUEN AND NGA YIU TSUEN.

ALL PREMISES IN RENNIE'S MILL WILL BE AFFECTED, INCLUDING THE HEAVEN OF HOPE SANITORIUM.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 73.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 431.510 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 414.973 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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