



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1988

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THIRD QUARTER CONSTRUCTION  
OUTPUT STATISTICS RELEASED

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THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 AMOUNTED TO \$12,566 MILLION, WHICH WAS 5.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 23.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT, IN VIEW OF THE RAPID INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS, THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED, AFTER DISCOUNTING COST INFLATION, ACTUALLY GREW MUCH MORE SLOWLY THAN THE NOMINAL CONSTRUCTION VALUE REPORTED HERE. THIS POINT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (INCLUDING WORK CARRIED OUT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND AT OTHER MINOR WORK LOCATIONS) IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 WAS \$8,261 MILLION, WHICH WAS 11.6 PER CENT AND 29.0 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986 RESPECTIVELY.

THIS GAVE A VALUE INDEX OF 125.4. THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1982 WAS TAKEN AS 100 FOR THIS INDEX.

THE FIGURES FOR MAIN CONTRACTORS ARE FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF DOUBLE-COUNTING OF CONSTRUCTION VALUE DUE TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, DIFFERENT FROM THE FIGURES ON CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 AMOUNTED TO \$6,254 MILLION. THIS WAS 12.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 22.8 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986.

OF THIS GROSS VALUE, \$2,087 MILLION WAS CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PUBLIC PROJECTS, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 17.8 PER CENT AND 26.3 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986 RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT AT SITES WAS \$4,167 MILLION, WHICH WAS 9.5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 21.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (WHICH INCLUDE COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 WAS \$2,886 MILLION. THIS REPRESENTED INCREASES OF 7.7 PER CENT AND 12.5 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986 RESPECTIVELY.

/THE OUTPUT .....

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WAS \$854 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 21.5 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND A VERY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 62.0 PER CENT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL AND STORAGE BUILDINGS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987 WAS \$550 MILLION, WHICH WAS 8.3 PER CENT AND 43.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS WAS \$966 MILLION, WHICH WAS 11.0 PER CENT ABOVE THE VALUE IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 39.8 PER CENT ABOVE THE VALUE IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1986.

THE HIGH OUTPUT RECORDED SINCE THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 WAS DUE MAINLY TO THE CONSTRUCTION WORK ON SEVERAL LARGE PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE TUEN MUN LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 3RD QUARTER 1987" RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE QUARTERLY SURVEY REPORT IS PRICED AT \$2 A COPY. PURCHASES MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WAN CHAI TOWER 1, 19/F., 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234860.

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STEERING GROUP TO OVERSEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FORMED

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CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS FORMED A STEERING GROUP TO OVERSEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO BE SET UP IN PRIVATE FARMS IN RELATION TO THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

MR KWAN SAID THE STEERING GROUP WAS SET UP IN A BID TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE CONTROL SCHEME, NOTING THAT SOME LIVESTOCK FARMERS HAD CALLED ON THE AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT WASTE TREATMENT EXPERIMENTS IN PRIVATE FARMS TO PROVE THE FEASIBILITY OF THESE METHODS.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THE STEERING GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SELECTION OF PRIVATE FARMS FOR CARRYING OUT THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS BASED ON A SET OF AGREED SELECTION CRITERIA. IT WOULD ALSO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THESE PROJECTS, HE ADDED.

"THE GROUP WILL THEN COMMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND REPORT TO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ACCORDINGLY TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO REFLECT ITS VIEWS TO THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

THE 16-MEMBER STEERING GROUP, CHAIRED BY MR KWAN, COMPRISES OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP, PROFESSOR POON CHUNG-KWONG AND MR ANDREW WONG; REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION; AND LIVESTOCK BREEDERS' REPRESENTATIVES, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, MR CHAN YU-YUK, MS FUNG CHOI-YUK, MR LEUNG CHI-WA, MR LI HOK-YUK, MR SO WING-HOI, MR WONG CHUN-KOW, MR WONG SUI-FAN AND MR YAU MING-TAK.

MR KWAN POINTED OUT THAT ALL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FROM THE LIVESTOCK REARING SECTOR WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

THE STEERING GROUP WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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#### LEGCO GROUP SEES EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE

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THE LEGCO AD-HOC GROUP FORMED TO STUDY THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING TOOK A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE SECOND STAGE EXPERIMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON THE INNOVATIVE EFFLUENT-FREE PIG RAISING TECHNIQUE.

THE SECOND STAGE EXPERIMENT, WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED WITH VERY GOOD RESULTS.

IT HAS DEMONSTRATED A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR USE BY PIG FARMERS AS A PRACTICAL AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE HUSBANDRY METHOD TO SOLVE THE PIG WASTE PROBLEM.

LED BY ITS CONVENOR, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, THE GROUP VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S TA TWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE AND A PRIVATE PIG FARM WHERE THE TESTS WERE CONDUCTED.

/ACCOMPANYING THE .....

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ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP ON THE VISIT WERE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR MICHAEL SUEN, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR LEO KWAN, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF ARGICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE.

PRESENTING THE RESULTS OF THE TRIALS ON 208 "GROWER" PIGS, DR LEE BRIEFED THE GROUP ON THE THEORY AND METHODOLOGY OF THE NEW TECHNIQUE.

THE TECHNIQUE WAS FIRST TRIED OUT IN THE SUMMER LAST YEAR WITH A VIEW TO SOLVING SUCH EXISTING HUSBANDRY PROBLEMS AS DAMAGED HOOFS EXPERIENCED IN THE CONVENTIONAL METHOD.

"THE ESSENCE OF THE NEW TECHNIQUE IS TO OVERLAY THE FLOOR OF THE PIG PENS WITH SAWDUST LITTER, ABOUT 20 CM HIGH, AND MIXED WITH A BACTERIAL PRODUCT AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY," DR LEE SAID.

"WHILE THE SAWDUST LAYER HAS THE EFFECT OF PREVENTING HOOF DAMAGE CAUSED BY A SLIPPERY FLOOR, THE MIXTURE CAN DECOMPOSE PIG MANURE, RENDERING IT SMELL-FREE AND RESULTING IN NO DISCHARGE OF EFFLUENT.

"THE PROCESS IS BASICALLY AN IN-SITU COMPOSTING, WHICH REQUIRES TOPPING UP OF THE BACTERIAL PRODUCT AT FORTNIGHTLY INTERVALS. IT NOT ONLY HAS THE EFFECT OF SAVING IN LABOUR REQUIRED FOR HOSING DOWN BUT ALSO RENDERS THE HANDLING OF PIG MANURE UNNECESSARY."

FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, THE EXPERIMENTAL PIGS HAD PERFORMED BETTER THAN THOSE REARED BY THE CONVENTIONAL METHOD IN TERMS OF WEIGHT GAIN AND HEALTH.

THE GROUP WAS TOLD THAT THE NEW METHOD HAD BEEN TRIED OUT UNDER DIFFERENT WEATHER CONDITIONS THROUGH SUMMER TO WINTER WITHOUT ANY ADVERSE EFFECT.

THE SECOND STAGE EXPERIMENT HAD USED TEST AND CONTROL GROUPS BOTH ON THE GOVERNMENT FARM AND ON TWO PRIVATE FARMS.

IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING RESULTS SO FAR ACHIEVED, TWO OTHER PRIVATE PIG FARMS HAD RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN THE EXPERIMENT.

DR LEE SAID THE TEST RESULTS ON THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FARMS WERE EQUALLY SATISFACTORY IN THAT, APART FROM ACHIEVING BETTER HUSBANDRY EFFECT AND SAVING IN LABOUR, THUS INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY, NO EFFLUENT OF PIG WASTE AND NO NOTICEABLE EMISSION OF A BAD SMELL WERE PRODUCED.

/IN ADDITION, .....

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IN ADDITION, THE TECHNIQUE HAD PROVEN ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE WITH THE BACTERIAL PRODUCT COSTING APPROXIMATELY \$50 PER PORKER AND \$15 PER ROASTER, AND THE INEXPENSIVE SAWDUST LITTER COULD BE USED REPEATEDLY.

SUCH COST COULD BE REDUCED BY IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE, SAVINGS IN LABOUR AND BULK PURCHASE OF THE BACTERIAL PRODUCT.

THE VISITORS ALSO LEARNED THAT WHILE THE EXPERIMENT INITIALLY CONCENTRATED ON "GROWER" PIGS WHICH CONSTITUTE ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE PIG RAISING BUSINESS, PLANS WERE IN HAND TO CONDUCT FURTHER TESTS ON PREGNANT SOWS, FARROWING SOWS AND SUCKLING PIGS.

WITH SOME FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, A NUMBER OF THE EXISTING PIGSTIES AT TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE WERE BEING MODIFIED TO TEST IMPROVED PIG PEN DESIGNS FOR THAT PURPOSE, DR LEE ADDED.

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M&H STAFF GIVEN REASSURANCE ON CONSULTATION

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PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE FUTURE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR STAFF IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON THE SETTING UP OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ON APRIL 1 WILL BE SUBJECT TO FULL STAFF CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (STAFF RELATIONS), MR MICHAEL LEE, AFTER A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEAGUE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF UNIONS.

AT THE MEETING, THE REPRESENTATIVES REITERATED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR STAFF IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPON THE SETTING UP OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

THEY WERE REASSURED BY MR LEE THAT APRIL 1 HAD NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE FOR STAFF IN THAT THE OPERATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE UNAFFECTED BY THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WHICH WAS ONLY A PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN 1989.

ONE OF THE TASKS OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE TO WORK OUT A PACKAGE OF NEW TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH WILL BE OFFERED TO STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY AND WHICH WILL NOT BE FORCED UPON THE EXISTING STAFF OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

/ "AS REGARDS .....

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"AS REGARDS STAFF'S CONCERN OVER THEIR FUTURE PROMOTION PROSPECTS AND TRAINING, THESE ARE BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION," MR LEE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AS THE ISSUES WERE COMPLEX, IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD COME UP WITH DETAILED PROPOSALS.

"HOWEVER, THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBJECT TO FULL STAFF CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN," HE SAID.

"IN THE MEANTIME, STAFF ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AS TO HOW THE VARIOUS ISSUES MAY BEST BE RESOLVED."

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#### DRUG MENACE INCREASING WORLDWIDE

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THE DRUG MENACE WORLDWIDE IS GETTING MORE SERIOUS THAN EVER NOWADAYS, AS IS EVIDENCED BY A GLOBAL UPWARD TREND IN THE SEIZURES OF VARIOUS TYPES OF DRUGS OVER THE PAST DECADE.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR TONG KANG-SING, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) WHILE COMMENTING ON THE WORLD DRUG SITUATION AT A MEETING OF THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG.

MR TONG POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO STATISTICS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, GLOBAL DRUG SEIZURES - INCLUDING OPIUM, CANNABIS AND COCAINE - REACHED SOME 7,000 METRIC TONS IN 1985.

"IN COMPARISON WITH THE FIGURES FOR 1975, THERE WAS A ONE-FOLD ODD INCREASE IN THE SEIZURE OF CANNABIS, A SEVEN-FOLD INCREASE IN HEROIN AND EVEN A 22-FOLD INCREASE IN COCAINE," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO THE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, MR TONG STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXERTED ITS UTMOST EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE DRUG MENACE, AND HAD, IN RECENT YEARS, SPENT MORE THAN \$300 MILLION ANNUALLY ON ITS ANTI-NARCOTIC CAMPAIGN.

"DRUG SEIZURES BY CUSTOMS AND THE POLICE AMOUNTED TO OVER \$300 MILLION LAST YEAR, INCLUDING 92 KG OF HEROIN BASE, 345 KG OF NO. 3 HEROIN, 145 KG OF NO. 4 HEROIN, 359 KG OF CANNABIS AND 167 KG OF OPIUM.

"THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED FOR TAKING OR TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS EXCEEDED 11,000, OF WHICH 5,800 WERE PROSECUTED FOR SERIOUS DRUG OFFENCES.

/ "THE SUCCESS .....

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"THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK IS ALSO REFLECTED IN A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE DRUG ADDICTS FROM 100,000 IN THE EARLY 1970'S TO THE PRESENT 39,000, IN CONTRAST TO AN INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, FROM 0.6 MILLION TO 20 MILLION AND 12,000 TO 30,000 RESPECTIVELY IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD.

"DESPITE THE ACHIEVEMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAFTING NEW LEGISLATIONS TO EMPOWER THE COURT TO CONFISCATE THE PROCEEDS OBTAINED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING," HE NOTED.

COMMENTING ON THE GLOBAL DRUG SITUATION, MR TONG EXPLAINED THAT OPIUM, FROM WHICH HEROIN WAS DERIVED, WAS PRODUCED MAINLY IN TWO AREAS, THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE ON THE BORDER OF BURMA, LAOS AND THAILAND, AND THE GOLDEN CRESCENT IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND PAKISTAN.

"THEIR TOTAL OPIUM PRODUCTION IN 1987 REACHED 2,400 METRIC TONS, OF WHICH 800 TONS WERE FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND 1,600 TONS FROM THE GOLDEN CRESCENT.

"HEROIN PRODUCED IN THE FORMER MAINLY WENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, WHILE THE MAJOR MARKETS FOR THE LATTER WERE THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE."

MR TONG POINTED OUT THAT THE HEROIN FOR THE LOCAL MARKET WAS LARGELY SMUGGLED IN FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE BY MEANS OF FISHING VESSELS, CARGO CONSIGNMENTS AND AIR PASSENGERS.

"BUT CHINA IS ALSO BEING EXPLOITED AS A TRANSIT POINT, AND OPIUM AND HEROIN SMUGGLED INTO HONG KONG THROUGH THIS DIVERSIONARY ROUTE HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS."

AS FOR CANNABIS, MR TONG SAID THE WORLD OUTPUT IN 1986 WAS ABOUT 13,000 METRIC TONS AND THE PHILIPPINES WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

"IN 1987, CANNABIS SEIZURES IN HONG KONG TOTALLED 359 KG, ALMOST A FOUR-FOLD INCREASE OVER THE 1986 FIGURES."

MR TONG WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT COCAINE, WHICH WAS PRODUCED MAINLY IN SOUTH AMERICA AND ABUSED IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, DID NOT POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO HONG KONG AT PRESENT.

"THERE IS YET NO SUBSTANTIAL PROOF OF ITS EXTENSIVE ABUSE IN HONG KONG, IN SPITE OF SOME MINOR SEIZURES BY BOTH THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS IN 1987."

IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED PRODUCTION OF HEROIN AND COCAINE WORLDWIDE AND THE UPWARD TREND IN THE ABUSE OF OTHER DRUGS SUCH AS MANDRAX AND AMPHETAMINE, MR TONG STRESSED THAT IT WAS INSUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM MERELY BY EFFORTS OF ANY SINGLE PARTY.

"TO SUPPRESS THE DRUG MENACE FROM SPREADING, NOT ONLY GOVERNMENTS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS SHOULD RENDER THEIR SUPPORT TO THE BATTLE AGAINST NARCOTICS."

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HEPATITIS A URGED

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HEPATITIS A AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

ACCORDING TO A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, THERE WERE 386 CASES OF VIRAL HEPATITIS REPORTED IN JANUARY, AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN THREE-FOLD WHEN COMPARED WITH 107 CASES (INCLUDING 46 HEPATITIS A CASES) IN DECEMBER 1987.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY STATISTICS ON VIRAL HEPATITIS INCLUDED HEPATITIS A AND HEPATITIS B.

"SO FAR, 103 OF THE 386 CASES IN JANUARY HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE HEPATITIS A CASES WHILE THE REST ARE STILL BEING INVESTIGATED."

HEPATITIS A IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE CONSUMPTION OF CONTAMINATED FOOD AND DRINK, IN PARTICULAR, THE CONSUMPTION OF POLLUTED SHELL FISH.

DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD, PEOPLE TEND TO BE LESS CAREFUL IN THE CHOICE OF FOOD AND DRINKS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SINCE GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES ARE TRANSMITTED THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND DRINK, THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE SPECIALLY CAREFUL IN THEIR EATING HABITS."

THE MOST RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE METHOD TO PREVENT HEPATITIS A AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS TYPHOID AND DYSENTERY IS TO OBSERVE PERSONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD HYGIENE BECAUSE THESE DISEASES ARE CONTRACTED VIA THE FAECAL-ORAL ROUTE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADVISED THAT ALL FOOD, SEAFOOD IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY WASHED AND COOKED BEFORE CONSUMPTION AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE LEFT UNCOVERED IF NOT TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.

PEOPLE TRAVELLING DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD TO NEARBY COUNTRIES WHERE HEPATITIS A, TYPHOID AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES ARE ENDEMIC, ARE ALSO ADVISED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS IN THE SELECTION OF FOOD AND DRINK.

THEY ARE ADVISED TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING HYGIENE RULES:

- \* WASH HANDS BEFORE MEALS AND AFTER VISITING THE TOILETS;
- \* ENSURE THAT ALL FOOD IS PROPERLY WASHED AND COOKED BEFORE CONSUMPTION;
- \* AVOID BUYING FOOD FROM UNLICENSED FOOD PLACES OR HAWKERS OR DOUBTFUL SOURCES; AND
- \* ENSURE THAT DRINKING WATER IS BOILED.

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LEGCO MEMBERS TO ASK 11 QUESTIONS

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL ASK 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER TWO BILLS AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

OF THE TWO BILLS, THE SOCIAL WORK TRAINING FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, WHILE DEBATE WILL BE RESUMED ON THE TRAMWAY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987, WHICH IS ALSO DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

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TWO WITHDRAW FROM DB ELECTIONS

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TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE 1988 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WITHDREW THEIR NOMINATIONS TODAY (TUESDAY), THUS REDUCING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO 493.

THEY ARE MR KWAN LIM-HO WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE JORDAN CONSTITUENCY IN THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT AND MS LI WAI-CHUN WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE KOWLOON TONG AND MA TAU WAI CONSTITUENCY IN THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT.

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KWUN TONG CANDIDATES TO MEET MEDIA

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CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE 24 ELECTED SEATS IN KWUN TONG IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE PRESS AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE SESSION WILL ENABLE THE MEDIA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PLATFORMS.

/THE SESSION .....

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THE SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND WILL BE HOSTED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET.

COPIES OF THE CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE READING BY THE PRESS. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT 3 PM AT ROOM 111 ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE OFFICE TO STUDY THE PLATFORMS BEFORE ATTENDING THE SESSION.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE.

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TAI PO CANDIDATES TO MEET MEDIA

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A BRIEFING SESSION FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN THE TAI PO DISTRICT WILL BE HELD AT 10 AM ON BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD.

THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE DISTRICT, MR JOHN BURRETT, WILL EXPLAIN THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURES TO THE CANDIDATES.

HE WILL INTRODUCE THE CANDIDATES TO THE MEDIA, AND THE CANDIDATES WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR ELECTION PLATFORMS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BRIEFING SESSION.

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TUEN MUN CANDIDATES TO MEET MEDIA

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEPHEN SELBY, WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO INTRODUCE THE 32 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN TUEN MUN'S NINE CONSTITUENCIES.

THE CANDIDATES WILL PRESENT THEIR PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

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LOCALS MOTIVATED TO BUILD OWN COMMUNITY

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OVER THE YEARS HAS SUCCESSFULLY MOTIVATED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING THE COMMUNITY, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S LUNAR NEW YEAR "PAI LAU" LIGHTING, MR CHAN SAID A TOTAL OF 44 CANDIDATES HAD REGISTERED TO CONTEST THE 24 ELECTED SEATS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD.

"IN ONE CONSTITUENCY, WE EVEN HAVE SIX CANDIDATES VYING FOR TWO SEATS," HE NOTED.

MR CHAN SAID A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO PROMOTE THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON MARCH 10.

THESE INCLUDE THE MOUNTING OF BUNTING TO REMIND RESIDENTS TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON ELECTION DAY; A "MEET-THE-MEDIA" SESSION TO INTRODUCE CANDIDATES TO THE PRESS; AND A DISTRICT NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT TO PUBLICISE THE CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS AND INFORMATION OF VOTERS' CONCERN.

"A SERIES OF ELECTION FORUMS WILL BE ORGANISED FROM MID-FEBRUARY TO EARLY MARCH TO ENABLE VOTERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR PLATFORMS," HE ADDED.

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ALSO, AN APPEAL LETTER CALLING ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO SUPPORT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE ISSUED.

MR CHAN URGED KWUN TONG RESIDENTS TO FULFIL THEIR CIVIC OBLIGATION AND RESPOND TO THE CAMPAIGN MESSAGE - "CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY, VOTE FOR A VOICE".

TODAY'S SWITCH-ON CEREMONY IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD TO CELEBRATE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE PRINTING OF POSTERS AND RED PACKETS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

ALSO ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WERE THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI, AND SOME DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

ERECTED OUTSIDE THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE FACING YUE MAN SQUARE, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR "PAI LAU" WILL BE LIT UP EVERY EVENING FROM TODAY (TUESDAY) UNTIL MARCH 10.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS LRT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

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THE TUEN MUN/YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON MONITORING LRT SERVICE WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS A SERIES OF PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES IN CONNECTION WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN AUGUST.

A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO ASK THE MEETING ABOUT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES AT LRT STOPS IN SIU HONG COURT, TUEN MUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 10.30 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

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NEW CROSS-HARBOUR MAIN TO BOOST ISLAND WATER SUPPLY

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TO MEET A PROJECTED INCREASE IN WATER CONSUMPTION IN THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR LAYING FRESH AND SALT WATER MAINS TO CONVEY SUPPLY FROM SAI KUNG.

THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF THREE CONTRACTS WHICH INVOLVE LAYING MAINS IN KOWLOON, ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND UNDER VICTORIA HARBOUR.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT TREATED WATER FROM PAK KONG TREATMENT WORKS IN SAI KUNG BE TRANSFERRED VIA KOWLOON EAST AND UNDER VICTORIA HARBOUR TO SERVICE RESERVOIRS IN SHAU KEI WAN.

THE FIRST CONTRACT INVOLVES LAYING FRESH WATER MAINS IN LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND CHA KWO LING ROAD TO FORM THE LINK BETWEEN AN ALREADY CONSTRUCTED MAIN IN JUNK BAY ROAD AND THE SOON-TO-BE-BUILT EASTERN CROSS HARBOUR MAIN.

THE ROUTE OF THE PIPELINE WILL START FROM THE JUNCTION OF LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND JUNK BAY ROAD, FOLLOW THE LINE OF THE NEW KWUN TONG BYPASS TO CHA KWO LING ROAD, AND FROM THERE RUN ON TO JOIN WITH THE EASTERN CROSS HARBOUR MAIN NEAR THE CHA KWO LING SALT WATER PUMPING STATION.

THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 1.6 KILOMETRES OF 1,400 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER MILD STEEL PIPELINE COATED AND LINED WITH BITUMEN.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL IN SOFT GROUND AND ROCK TO A DEPTH OF BETWEEN 2.7 METRES AND 5.5 METRES.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AND THE NECESSARY ROAD OPENINGS, ABOUT ONE KILOMETRE OF 1,200 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER MILD STEEL PIPELINE WILL BE LAID CONCURRENTLY FOR SALT WATER FLUSHING PURPOSES IN THE DISTRICT.

THIS PIPELINE WILL BE LAID IN A COMMON TRENCH WITH THE 1,400 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER FRESH WATER PIPELINE FOR ABOUT 670 METRES.

THE SALT WATER PIPELINE WILL CONNECT WITH AN EXISTING MAIN IN TSUI PING ROAD, NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH KWUN TONG ROAD, AND WILL BE LAID ACROSS KWUN TONG ROAD AND THEN ALONG CHA KWO LING ROAD TO A POINT OPPOSITE THE SHELL COMPANY OFFICES.

THE SECOND CONTRACT INVOLVES LAYING FRESH WATER MAINS LINKING THE EASTERN CROSS HARBOUR MAIN AND THE SERVICE RESERVOIRS IN SHAU KEI WAN.

THE PIPELINE TO BE CONSTRUCTED CONSISTS OF ABOUT 500 METRES OF 1,400 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER AND 580 METRES OF 900 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER MILD STEEL PIPELINE.

THE FIRST SECTION WILL BE LAID FROM THE OPEN SPACE NEAR QUARRY BAY ALONGSIDE THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR TO CONNECT WITH AN EXISTING WATER MAIN AT THE NORTHERN END OF TAI CHEONG STREET.

THE PIPELINE WILL START AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI CHEONG STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND RUN ALONG TAI CHEONG STREET AND HONG YUE STREET TO THE SHAU KEI WAN RESERVOIRS.

ABOUT 80 METRES OF THIS SECTION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY CAISSON FOUNDATIONS BENEATH THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR LINK VIADUCT AND ABOUT 40 METRES WILL BE LAID IN ROCK TRENCH OR CONCRETE CRADLE UP KORNHILL SLOPE TO THE RESERVOIR SITE.

THIS PIPELINE WILL ALSO BE BITUMEN COATED AND LINED.

THE THIRD CONTRACT, TENDERS FOR WHICH HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM A LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS, INVOLVES SUPPLYING AND LAYING A SUBMARINE PIPELINE ACROSS THE VICTORIA HARBOUR SEABED.

THE 1,400 MILLIMETRES DIAMETER, 1,700 METRE PIPELINE WILL BE LAID EAST OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, ABOUT FIVE TO SIX METRES BENEATH THE SEABED. IT WILL BE COVERED BY A CONCRETE WEIGHT COAT AND ROCK ARMOURING OF UP TO TWO METRES THICK.

THE BITUMEN COATED STEEL PIPELINE WILL RUN FROM THE DAIRY FARM ICE FACTORY IN CHA KWO LING ROAD ACROSS THE HARBOUR TO QUARRY BAY.

WORK ON THE THREE CONTRACTS IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDERS FOR THE WORKS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FEBRUARY 26.

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#### UPGRADING COURSE FOR BANKING PERSONNEL

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LENDING AND MARKETING OFFICERS OF BANKS ARE BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR AN UPGRADING COURSE ON "ADVANCED LENDING" TO BE ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE BANKING TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS, HONG KONG CENTRE, NEXT MONTH.

THE 10-SESSION COURSE IS SUITABLE FOR MIDDLE AND SENIOR-RANKING BANKING OFFICERS WITH MORE THAN THREE YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELDS OF CREDIT AND MARKETING.

/IT IS .....

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IT IS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE CRITICAL RISK EVALUATION SKILLS REQUIRED OF EXPERIENCED LOAN OFFICERS AS WELL AS TO BROADEN THEIR PERSPECTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS EMPLOYED IN CORPORATE LENDING.

THE COURSE WILL COVER TOPICS ON LENDING ANALYSIS, PROJECT FINANCE, SYNDICATED LENDING AND ALTERNATE FINANCE. IN ADDITION TO LECTURES, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INVOLVED IN CASE STUDIES. TWO EXPERTS WILL DELIVER THE LECTURES IN ENGLISH.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT IS FEBRUARY 10. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TRAINING BOARD ON 5-8932341 EXT. 255.

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS TO CYC HELPERS

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SEVENTY-FIVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WERE YESTERDAY (MONDAY) PRESENTED THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES TO THE CYC SCHEME IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.

THE AWARDS WERE PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF CYC, AT THE CLUB'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER LAST NIGHT.

MR LI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEME, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED ON FEBRUARY 1, 1977, WITH A MODEST INITIAL MEMBERSHIP OF 16,000. IN 10 YEARS, IT HAS GROWN INTO A 230,000-STRONG BRIGADE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES.

"MAY I OFFER YOU MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS ON THE AWARD, WHICH YOU ARE SO WELL DESERVED TO RECEIVE," SAID MR LI.

"ALL OF US ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB," HE ADDED.

MR LI CALLED ON THE SUPERVISORS AND LEADERS TO CARRY ON THEIR GOOD WORK TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE CYC SCHEME TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

MR LI ALSO DISCLOSED THAT PLANS WERE IN HAND TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT HOME FOR CYC. THE CYC CENTRE WOULD BE SET UP AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

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ROAD CLOSURE AND PROHIBITED ZONE

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IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE REMOVAL OF ABANDONED SIGNBOARDS ON SHAN TUNG STREET IN MONG KOK, THE SECTION OF SHAN TUNG STREET BETWEEN SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH AND TUNG CHOI STREET WILL BE CLOSED FROM MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 4) TO 3 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH OR THE SECTION OF SHAN TUNG STREET EAST OF NATHAN ROAD HEADING FOR SHAN TUNG STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH, SOY STREET AND SAI YEE STREET.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 5), NO LEARNER DRIVER WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SECTION OF YI PEI CHUN ROAD BETWEEN CHEUNG PEI SHA ROAD AND LO WAI ROAD IN TSUEN WAN.

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