



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1983

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY  
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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS FOR JANUARY 1983 WAS \$10 158 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$6 440 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$3 718 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR THE MONTH PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

WITH IMPORTS AT \$11 537 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JANUARY WAS \$1 379 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1982, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$600 MILLION OR SIX PER CENT, COMPRISING INCREASES OF \$201 MILLION OR THREE PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND \$399 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY \$1 514 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE JANUARY TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT TRADE FIGURES FOR THE BEGINNING MONTHS OF THE YEAR SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE AS THEY ARE VERY MUCH INFLUENCED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN JANUARY WAS IN PART SEASONAL, DUE TO ANTICIPATION OF HIGHER RETAIL SALES DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IN FEBRUARY.

BUT HE NOTED THAT IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAD ALSO SHOWN SOME SIGNS OF PICKING UP.

FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS HAD RECORDED DOUBLE-DIGIT YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT, BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE IMPORT BILL IN JANUARY, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP (THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS) WIDENED TO 12 PER CENT FROM 4.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1982.

/PUTTING THIS .....

PUTTING THIS MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT COMPARISON OF TWELVE MONTHS ENDING IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING IN JANUARY 1982 SHOWS THE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN VALUE: FOUR PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, SEVEN PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, FIVE PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND FIVE PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS THUS STILL IN LINE WITH THAT OF IMPORTS, HE SAID.

THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING IN JANUARY 1983, AT 11.4 PER CENT WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING IN JANUARY 1982.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PROVIDES FURTHER STATISTICAL DETAILS:-

TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY, 1983

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$ 6 440 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 3 718 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$10 158 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$11 537 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 1 379 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	NOVEMBER 1982 TO JANUARY 1983	NOVEMBER 1981 TO JANUARY 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21 978	21 047	+ 931	+ 4.4
RE-EXPORTS	12 154	11 157	+ 997	+ 8.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	34 132	32 204	+1 928	+ 6.0
IMPORTS	37 781	35 486	+2 295	+ 6.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 3 649	- 3 282	- 367	

/SAME MONTH .....

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SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JANUARY 1983	JANUARY 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 440 (63.4%)	6 239 (65.3%)	+ 201	+ 3.2
RE-EXPORTS	3 718	3 319	+ 399	+12.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 158	9 558	+ 600	+ 6.3
IMPORTS	11 537	10 023	+1 514	+15.1
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 379	- 465	- 914	

LAST MONTH	JANUARY 1983	DECEMBER 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 440 (63.4%)	8 391 (65.1%)	-1 951	-23.3
RE-EXPORTS	3 718	4 496	- 778	-17.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 158	12 887	-2 729	-21.2
IMPORTS	11 537	14 045	-2 508	-17.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 379	- 1 158	- 221	

LAST 12 MONTHS	FEBRUARY 1982 TO JANUARY 1983	FEBRUARY 1981 TO JANUARY 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	83 232	80 317	+2 915	+ 3.6
RE-EXPORTS	44 752	41 730	+3 022	+ 7.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	127 984	122 047	+5 937	+ 4.9
IMPORTS	144 407	137 712	+6 695	+ 4.9
TRADE BALANCE	-16 423	-15 665	- 758	

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LAND GRANT TO HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION  
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DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TOOK ANOTHER STEP FORWARD WHEN DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED TODAY FOR THE GRANT OF AN ADDITIONAL 20.5 HECTARES OF LAND TO THE NORTH OF TAI PO HOI TO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION.

THIS MEANS THAT THE CORPORATION WILL NOW HAVE MORE INDUSTRIAL LAND IN TAI PO AND BE ABLE TO SUB-LEASE INDIVIDUAL LOTS IN THIS ADDITIONAL AREA TO SELECTED INDUSTRIALISTS.

THE DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, MR JOHN TODD, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION, MR LI FOOK-WO.

MR TODD SAID THAT UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF THIS PRIVATE TREATY GRANT THE CORPORATION WAS REQUIRED TO FORM AND RECLAIM ANOTHER 15 HECTARES OF LAND WHICH WOULD THEN BE HANDED BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF ROADS, A WATER TREATMENT PLANT, A PUMPING STATION AND OTHER USES.

+THE FIRST PHASE OF THIS SITE FORMATION WORK BEGAN IN JANUARY LAST YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH WHILE THE REST WILL BE COMPLETED BY 1985,+ MR TODD SAID.

THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE CATERS FOR INDUSTRIES WHICH CANNOT OPERATE IN ORDINARY MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND WHICH INTRODUCE A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION SAID THAT RECLAMATION OF STAGES 1 AND 2 OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TOTALLING 46 HECTARES, HAD BEEN COMPLETED WITH ALL THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDED. AT PRESENT, 37 FACTORIES HAD TAKEN UP SITES AND 20 OF THEM ALREADY IN OPERATION. ABOUT 18 HECTARES OF LAND WERE STILL AVAILABLE.

THE LATEST GRANT FORMS THE THIRD STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WOULD BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE 67 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SITES.

+AT PRESENT, 17 HECTARES ARE AVAILABLE FOR LEASING,+ HE ADDED.

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\$63M ROAD PROJECT IN TUEN MUN  
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THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TODAY AWARDED A \$63.3 MILLION CONTRACT TO KIN SHING CONSTRUCTION CO. FOR A ROAD PROJECT AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON AT THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF TUEN MUN, MR S.K. KWEI, AND MR K.K. CHEUNG, MANAGER OF THE COMPANY.

MR KWEI SAID THAT WORK ON THE CONTRACT INVOLVED THE WIDENING OF A SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING TO PUI TO ROAD INTO A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY. AT THE SAME TIME, AN ELEVATED INTERCHANGE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ROUNDABOUT AT THE JUNCTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD AND PUI TO ROAD.

+THE PROJECT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND THE PROVISION OF ROOF COVERS FOR THREE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGES OVER TUEN MUN ROAD, TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY DRAINAGE WORK,+ MR KWEI ADDED.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, EXPECTED TO START NEXT WEEK AND LAST FOR ABOUT 22 MONTHS, COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO REGULATE TRAFFIC FLOW AND MAINTAIN ACCESS TO EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PARTS OF TUEN MUN.

+THE PROJECT WILL CATER FOR INCREASED TRAFFIC VOLUMES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND AT THE JUNCTION OF TUEN MUN ROAD AND PUI TO ROAD AND WILL COMPLETE THE NECESSARY VEHICULAR LINKS BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TUEN MUN ROAD AND HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD,+ MR KWEI SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD NORTH OF TUEN MUN CLINIC TO LINK UP THE EXISTING SECTION OF HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD WITH THE SECTION TO BE CONSTRUCTED VIA A NEW FLYOVER AND FOOTBRIDGE OVER CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND FOR THE WIDENING OF ANOTHER SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM A DUAL TWO-LANE TO A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY.

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TWO TUEN MUN SITES SOLD FOR DEVELOPMENT

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE AWARD OF TWO TENDERS TO ENTERTAINMENT CITY LIMITED AND GOOD IMPRESS LTD. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO SITES IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

ONE SITE, MEASURING 2.44 HECTARES AND LOCATED AT A FOCAL POINT IN THE FUTURE TOWN CENTRE, IS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, WHILE THE OTHER SITE, MEASURING 18 640 SQUARE METRES AND SITUATED JUST NORTH OF TUEN MUN SAN HUI, IS TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.

THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER, MR RON CROSS, SAID THAT ENTERTAINMENT CITY LIMITED, A SUBSIDIARY OF FAR EAST ORGANISATION (SINGAPORE) AND SINO LAND, HAD PAID A PREMIUM OF \$31.98 MILLION FOR THE 2.44-HECTARE SITE.

THE DEVELOPER IS REQUIRED, UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS, TO CONSTRUCT A FIVE-LEVEL PODIUM INCLUDING SHOPS, A DEPARTMENT STORE, A MARKET, A GARDEN RESTAURANT TOGETHER WITH A PRIVATELY-RUN PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR 1 200 TO 1 650 VEHICLES.

+ON THE COMMERCIAL PODIUM, THREE CRUCIFORM-STYLE RESIDENTIAL TOWERS CONTAINING A MAXIMUM OF 1 398 FLATS WILL BE BUILT.

+THE SCHEME ALSO INCLUDES EXTENSIVE AREAS OF LANDSCAPING AND RECREATIONAL USES AT PODIUM AND GROUND LEVEL,+ MR CROSS SAID.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 56 MONTHS AT A MINIMUM COST OF \$250 MILLION, WILL BE CONNECTED WITH OTHER TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS NOW AT VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION AT PODIUM LEVEL TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIANS WITH TRAFFIC-FREE ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

TURNING TO THE TUEN MUN SAN HUI SITE, WHICH WAS SOLD TO GOOD IMPRESS LTD. FOR \$63 MILLION, MR CROSS SAID THAT THE COMPANY, A SUBSIDIARY OF GOOD YEAR ESTATES LTD. WAS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 1 450 TO 1 550 FLATS RANGING IN SIZE FROM 34 SQUARE METRES TO 47 SQUARE METRES IN A PEACEFUL AND ENJOYABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA.

+THE LEASE CONDITIONS ALSO REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF NOT LESS THAN 10 000 SQUARE METRES OF LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACES AND CHILDREN'S PLAYING AREAS, CAR PARKING FACILITIES AND ANCILLARY USES SUCH AS NURSERY, KINDERGARTEN, MEDICAL CLINICS AND A NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UNIT,+ MR CROSS SAID.

THE DEVELOPER HAD PROPOSED BUILDING FIVE RESIDENTIAL TOWERS OF 30 STOREYS EACH WITH 10 FLATS ON EACH FLOOR. A TWO-STOREY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED TO THE WEST OF THE RESIDENTIAL TOWERS AND A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK FOR RESIDENTS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN CORNER OF THE SITE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ABOUT 6 200 PEOPLE WHEN IT IS COMPLETED IN ABOUT 28 MONTHS' TIME.

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SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1982  
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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1982 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 734 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS.

AT 139, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1982 ROSE BY SEVEN POINTS OR FIVE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1982, AND BY TWO POINTS OR ONE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1981.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1982, AT 111, WAS FIVE POINTS OR FIVE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR NOVEMBER 1982, BUT IT WAS EIGHT POINTS OR SEVEN PER CENT LOWER THAN THAT FOR DECEMBER 1981.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1982, THE RETAIL SALES FOR MOST MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES INCREASED IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS FOUND IN DEPARTMENT STORES WHERE THE RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 28 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS AND THOSE OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, CONSUMER GOODS, AND FUELS ALSO INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT, FIVE PER CENT AND FOUR PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DECREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND 13 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

/THE CORRESPONDING .....

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THE CORRESPONDING DECREASES FOR CONSUMER DURABLES WERE TWO PER CENT AND ONE PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1981, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS AND EIGHT PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS WHILE THOSE OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT AND FOUR PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE OTHER MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES RECORDED DECREASES.

MOTOR VEHICLES SHOWED THE LARGEST REDUCTION OF 58 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS, FOLLOWED BY CONSUMER DURABLES OF 18 PER CENT. THE RESPECTIVE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, AND FUELS WERE EIGHT PER CENT AND FIVE PER CENT.

TWO STATISTICAL (ATTACHED) PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1982 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND OF RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS.

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE DECEMBER RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1981 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 3-7216024.

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Table 1 : Value indexes of retail sales for  
November and December 1982

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

Item	November 1982	December 1982	December 1982 compared with November 1982		December 1982 compared with December 1981	
	(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
Total retail sales (HK\$ million)	4 478	4 734				
Retail sales value indexes :						
(I) <u>for all retail trades</u>	132	139	+ 7	+ 5	+ 2	+ 1
(II) <u>by major trade groups</u>						
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	130	142	+12	+ 9	+10	+ 6
Fuels	159	165	+ 6	+ 4	+ 8	+ 5
Clothing, footwear and allied products	156	170	+14	+ 9	- 4	- 2
Consumer goods	136	144	+ 8	+ 6	+ 7	+ 5
Consumer durables	109	107	- 2	- 2	-18	-14
(III) <u>by selected trades</u>						
Motor vehicles	64	57	- 7	-11	-55	-45
Department stores	133	173	+40	+30	+16	+12
Supermarkets	167	187	+20	+12	+30	+19

**Table 2 : Volume indexes of retail sales for  
November and December 1982**

(Monthly average of 1980 = 100)

<u>Item</u>	<u>November</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>December 1982</u> <u>compared with</u> <u>November 1982</u>		<u>December 1982</u> <u>compared with</u> <u>December 1981</u>	
	(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
<b>Retail sales volume indexes :</b>						
<b>(I) <u>for all retail trades</u></b>	106	111	+ 5	+ 5	- 8	- 7
<b>(II) <u>for major trade groups</u></b>						
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	98	107	+ 9	+ 9	- 4	- 4
Fuels	116	121	+ 5	+ 4	- 7	- 5
Clothing, footwear and allied products	118	132	+ 14	+ 12	- 12	- 8
Consumer goods	111	117	+ 6	+ 5	- 3	- 3
Consumer durables	95	94	- 1	- 1	- 20	- 18
<b>(III) <u>by selected trades</u></b>						
Motor vehicles	47	41	- 6	- 13	- 56	- 58
Department stores	109	140	+ 31	+ 28	+ 5	+ 4
Supermarkets	128	143	+ 15	+ 12	+ 10	+ 8

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PUBLIC URGED TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN UC ELECTIONS

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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MUST WAKE UP AND VISIBLY DEMONSTRATE THEIR INTEREST IN THOSE THEY CHOOSE TO REPRESENT THEM ON THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH EXERCISES SO MUCH INFLUENCE OVER THE COMMUNITY'S DAILY LIFE.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TO THE 568 537 REGISTERED VOTERS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 8.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF BAYVIEW TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE COUNCIL, AND THE URBAN SERVICES IT COMMANDS, EXERCISE SO MUCH INFLUENCE OVER OUR DAILY LIVES AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MUCH WE ADMIRE OR DISLIKE IN OUR COMMUNITY +THAT AS A PEOPLE WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND TAKE MORE INTEREST IN THE PEOPLE WE CHOOSE TO REPRESENT US+.

AFTER ALL, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL AND USD SPEND A BILLION DOLLARS OF OUR MONEY EVERY YEAR.

IN PREVIOUS YEARS, HE NOTED, INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING AND VARIOUS REASONS HAD BEEN ADVANCED, INCLUDING THAT THE ELECTORATE WAS TOO SMALL AND THE COUNCIL TOO REMOTE. IT HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED WHAT PEOPLE COULD DO TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM OR MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

THE LAST TEN YEARS HAD CHANGED ALL THIS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT NOW WAS THE TIME FOR EVERYONE WITH THE RIGHT TO VOTE TO SHOW HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDATE OF HIS CHOICE AND THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE, SAID MR AKERS-JONES.

+IT IS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM, A VOTE OF SUPPORT, A VOTE OF THANKS AND A VOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT.+

MOREOVER, HE ADDED, THE COUNCILLORS ELECTED THIS TIME WILL ADD A FURTHER DEGREE OF REFINEMENT AND INTEREST TO THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL BECAUSE EACH COUNCILLOR WILL BRING TO THE COUNCIL SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY, KNOWLEDGE AND CONCERN FOR HIS OWN CONSTITUENCY AND DISTRICT. THIS MEANS THAT SHAU KEI WAN WILL SPEAK FOR AND BE ANSWERABLE TO SHAU KEI WAN, AND SHAM SHUI PO FOR SHAM SHUI PO.

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS BEHIND IT ALL, MR AKERS-JONES SAID, FROM SPACE MUSEUM TO STREET SWEEPING.

THE 'BIG BROOM' OF THE COUNCIL, FOR INSTANCE, SWEEPED CENTRAL DISTRICT FOUR TIMES A DAY, AND TWICE THAT MANY TIMES IN CROWDED PLACES. EDINBURGH PLACE ALONE WAS SWEEPED EIGHT TIMES A DAY, WHICH WAS UNMATCHED IN PLACES LIKE LONDON OR NEW YORK.

/THERE HAD) .....

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN A PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF OUR CITY, HE SAID. FROM THE NEGLECTED, UNINTERESTING, GREY AND SHABBY STREETS OF THE PAST, TREES NOW LINE THE ROADS AND SHRUBS AND PLANTS DECORATE THE WASTE AND EMPTY SPACES - THANKS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL IN ITS ROLE AS +FA WONG+ (GARDENER).

AND AS CITY MANAGER, THE URBAN COUNCIL WAS THERE BUILDING MARKETS, CLEARING OBSTRUCTIONS, HOLDING THE LINE BETWEEN FAIR COMPETITION AND ANTI-SOCIAL INVASION OF THE 31 000 HAWKERS WHO THRUST THEIR WAY ONTO PAVEMENTS SELLING WHAT THEY WILL, WHERE THEY WILL.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH THROUGH LICENSING AND INSPECTING SOME 3 400 RESTAURANTS AND 1 300 COOKED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

REFERRING TO THE COUNCIL'S EFFORTS IN RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE, MR AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT FOR THE QUIET AND THOUGHTFUL THERE WERE LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY. FOR THOSE BURSTING WITH ENERGY THERE WERE 1 300 SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, BASKETBALL COURTS, MINI-SOCCER PITCHES, TENNIS COURTS, VOLLEY BALL, SOCCER PITCHES, ROLLER SKATING RINKS AND INDOOR GAMES HALLS.

AND THERE WERE MORE TO COME.

+WITH 66 SWIMMING POOLS,+ HE SAID, +WE HAVE MORE SWIMMING POOLS THAN ANY CITY IN THE WORLD.+

HE ALSO CITED THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM WHICH HAD GROWN FROM AN ORIGINAL IDEA AS A BUILDING TO PLAY PING PONG TO A MAJOR VENUE FOR SPORT EVENTS AS WELL AS MUSIC, BALLET AND ENTERTAINMENT. IN ADDITION, THE COLISEUM AT HUNG HOM WOULD OPEN IN APRIL WITH SEATS FOR 12 500 PEOPLE TO WATCH MASS SPECTACLES, SKATING, VARIETY SHOWS AND CONCERTS.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THAT WHEREAS CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE SIXTIES WERE LOOKED FORWARD TO AND TALKED ABOUT AFTERWARDS, WE COULD NOW PICK AND CHOOSE AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR AND ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.

HONG KONG NOW HAD ITS OWN WESTERN ORCHESTRA, CHINESE ORCHESTRA, BALLET TROUPE AND DRAMA COMPANY TAKING ARTISTIC LIFE TO THE PEOPLE IN DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IN PARTICULAR, THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS BRINGS A COLOURFUL STRAND OF DANCE MUSIC AND DRAMA FROM ALL OVER ASIA TO ENRICH AND INFLUENCE OUR LIVES.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE RISING LEVEL OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND THE HEAVY DEMAND ON EXISTING FACILITIES HAD STIRRED THE COUNCIL TO PLAN DISTRICT AND REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRES TO PROVIDE IN EACH DISTRICT, AUDITORIUM, EXHIBITION HALLS, ROOMS FOR CONFERENCES, MUSICAL PRACTICE AND REHEARSALS.

+ALL THESE MANY AND VARIED MATTERS ARE DECIDED, ORGANISED AND ARRANGED BY THE COUNCILLORS WORKING MANY HOURS IN COMMITTEE ON YOUR BEHALF,+ MR AKERS-JONES SAID, APPEALING TO VOTERS TO DO THEIR PART BY CASTING THEIR BALLOT FOR THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE ON POLLING DAY.

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IMPORTANCE OF CHILD CARE CENTRES STRESSED  
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WITH MORE WORKING MOTHERS AND NUCLEAR FAMILIES, THERE IS NOW A GREATER NEED IN HONG KONG FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE NEW DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, AT THE RE-NAMING CEREMONY OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS LO WONG PIK SHAN DAY NURSERY AT OI MAN ESTATE.

HE SAID CHILD CARE CENTRES WERE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY PROVIDED A PLACE TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN WHILE THEIR PARENTS WERE AT WORK, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.

TO ENSURE THAT ALL THESE CENTRES FULFIL THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY SERVICE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS AN INSPECTORATE TO ADVISE OPERATORS OF THE CENTRES.

THERE ARE NOW 222 REGISTERED CHILD CARE CENTRES, PROVIDING ABOUT 20 000 PLACES.

MR CHAMBERS SAID THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME, INTRODUCED LAST SEPTEMBER, HAD ENABLED MORE NEEDY FAMILIES TO MAKE USE OF THE CHILD CARE SERVICE AND SO FAR OVER 10 000 FAMILIES HAD BENEFITED.

THE FORMER OI MAN DAY NURSERY, CATERING FOR 140 CHILDREN, HAS BEEN RE-NAMED FOLLOWING A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION BY MR LO KAM-WING TO HONOUR HIS LATE GRANDMOTHER.

ONE SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE NURSERY, MR CHAMBERS SAID, WAS THAT IT INTEGRATED A SMALL NUMBER OF MILDLY DISABLED CHILDREN WITH THE NORMAL ONES.

+THIS HELPS TO STIMULATE THE DISABLED CHILDREN BY THEIR CONTACT WITH THEIR NORMAL COUNTERPARTS, WHICH ACCELERATES THE FORMER'S GROWTH AND ADJUSTMENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE TUNG WAH GROUP HAS RECENTLY DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF PLACES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN FROM SIX TO 12.

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LATEST EDITION OF BEST-SELLING YEARBOOK ON SALE TOMORROW  
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THE OFFICIAL YEARBOOK, HONG KONG 1983, GIVING COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF ALL THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY DURING THE PAST YEAR, GOES ON SALE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

AS WELL AS THOUSANDS OF FACTS, FIGURES AND STATISTICS, THIS LATEST EDITION CONTAINS 100 COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS, AND A RECORD NUMBER OF PAGES.

PRICED AT \$30 A COPY, THE YEARBOOK IS AVAILABLE IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH EDITIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, G.P.O. BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL. WITHIN A FEW DAYS, SUPPLIES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE THROUGH DISTRICT OFFICES AND LEADING BOOKSTORES.

THE COMBINED PRINT RUN FOR BOTH EDITIONS IS 46 000 IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE CONTINUING PUBLIC DEMAND WHICH MAKES THE BOOK A BEST SELLER FOR VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE YEAR.

+WITH STATISTICS AND COVERAGE WHICH MONITOR EVENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE END OF 1982, THE BOOK PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE RECORD OF VALUE TO ALL CLASSES OF PEOPLE, RANGING FROM BUSINESSMEN TO STUDENTS,+ A GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

+AS AN INDISPENSABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON HONG KONG, THE BOOK IS EQUALLY POPULAR WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS; COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE OVERSEAS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN HONG KONG.+

THE OPENING CHAPTER OF HONG KONG 1983 PRESENTS A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF HONG KONG BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS. OTHER CHAPTERS CHRONICLE EVENTS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG COVERING SUCH IMPORTANT SUBJECTS AS TRADE, THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, EMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION, HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, RECREATION AND THE ARTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ORDER.

TOPICS COVERED BY THE COLOUR SECTIONS THIS YEAR INCLUDE A FASCINATING COMPARISON OF HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY VIEWS OF HONG KONG, THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR, ENERGY, TRANSPORT, SHA TIN NEW TOWN AND HONG KONG'S BLEND OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

HONG KONG 1983 WAS PRODUCED IN ENGLISH BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, TRANSLATED BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION OF THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH, AND PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1983

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MANPOWER SURVEY FOR ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

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THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A MANPOWER SURVEY OF THE INDUSTRY FROM MARCH 15 TO 21 TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE LAST SUCH SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED TWO YEARS AGO AND THE NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS HAS GROWN SLIGHTLY FROM 4 400 TO 4 500 AT PRESENT.

UNDER THE SURVEY, ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO BRANCHES.

MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRICAL AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS WILL FALL WITHIN THE FIRST BRANCH. THEY WILL INCLUDE MANUFACTURERS OF ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND APPARATUS, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND HOUSEWARE, DRY BATTERIES AND TORCH BULBS ETC.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS RECORDED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL FALL WITHIN THE SECOND BRANCH AND WILL COVER THOSE IN THE ELECTRICAL WIRING AND FITTING BUSINESS; LIFT AND ESCALATOR INSTALLATION; AIR-CONDITIONING AND VENTILATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION; FIRE ALARM AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION ETC.

PUBLIC ELECTRICAL UTILITY COMPANIES, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES AND MAJOR ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS TRADING COMPANIES WILL ALSO COME WITHIN THIS BRANCH.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO A STRATIFIED RANDOM SAMPLE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WILL INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED, THE NUMBER UNDER TRAINING, THE EXISTING VACANCIES AND A FORECAST OF WORKERS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE FORM OF STATISTICAL SUMMARIES WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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BURMESE OFFICIALS VISIT DRUG ADDICT TREATMENT CENTRE

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A GROUP OF NINE BURMESE OFFICIALS VISITED THE HEI LING CHAU DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO LOOK OVER THE COMPULSORY PLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR DRUG DEPENDANTS.

HEADED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BURMA'S SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR SOE THEIN, THE OFFICIALS WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR FRANCIS WONG.

/THEY TOURED .....

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THEY TOURED THE CENTRE'S VARIOUS FACILITIES INCLUDING THE DORMITORY, HOSPITAL AND WORKSHOPS AND SAW A COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMME FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

EARLIER THEY MET AND HAD TALKS WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR T.G. GARNER, ON HONG KONG'S VARIOUS CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMES.

THE VISITORS ARE IN HONG KONG FOR A FIVE-DAY STUDY TOUR ARRANGED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

THEY ARE UNDERTAKING THE TOUR UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

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TUEN MUN DB MEMBERS TO VISIT JAPAN  
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THIRTEEN TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL LEAVE FOR JAPAN ON FRIDAY (MARCH 4) FOR AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO STUDY THE COUNTRY'S POLICY ON NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORK, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM.

THE PARTY WILL ALSO VISIT SOME FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES IN OSAKA.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE VISIT IS TO BROADEN THE MEMBERS' OUTLOOK ON NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND TO ENRICH THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE PARTY, HEADED BY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, WILL INCLUDE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS LAU WONG-FAT, LAU CHI-YUEN, CHEUNG KAM-HUNG, TANG TUNG-CHIU, YIP HING-CHUNG, NG CHEUK-TAI, CHAN WU-CHING AND TSO SHIU-WAI.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE DISTRICT LAND OFFICER, MR R.B.J. CROSS; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NORTH REGION), N.T. SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR BOWEN LEUNG; CHIEF TOWN PLANNER, MR RICHARD CHENG; AND SENIOR LIAISON OFFICER, MR EDWARD TANG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, WILL GIVE A BRIEFING ON THE BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE TRIP AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY AT THE KAI TAK AIRPORT PRESS ROOM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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OPENING OF AIRPORT WESTERN MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK  
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THE WESTERN PORTION OF KAI TAK AIRPORT'S MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK WITH OVER 400 PARKING SPACES WILL BE OPENED FOR PUBLIC USE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

INTEGRATED INTO ONE COMPLEX WITH THE EXISTING EASTERN HALF, THE CAR PARK CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE UP TO NEARLY 900 VEHICLES.

FOUR LARGE LIFTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE MOVEMENT OF PASSENGERS AND THEIR BAGGAGE FROM THE CAR PARK TO THE DEPARTURE HALL OR THE GREETING AREA.

THE MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK WILL BE OPEN 24 HOURS WHILE THE OPEN AIR CAR PARK WILL OPERATE FROM 12 NOON TO 8 PM DAILY TO MEET PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC NEEDS.

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SHA TIN RACE COURSE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS  
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TAXIS WILL HAVE TO TAKE A NEW ROUTE WHEN ENTERING THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 5) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC GRANDSTAND.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, TAXIS FROM KOWLOON WILL HAVE TO ENTER THE RACE COURSE VIA THE FLYOVER AT TAI PO ROAD SOUTH OF THE FO TAN RAILWAY DEPOT, WHILE THOSE FROM TAI PO WILL ENTER VIA THE SLIP ROAD OFF TAI PO ROAD NEAR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FLYOVER.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL LAST FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS, COVERING ABOUT 39 RACE DAYS.

THE EXISTING ENTRY ARRANGEMENT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES, PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND PRIVATE CARS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN WAN CHAI  
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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT WILL BE INTRODUCED IN WAN CHAI TO FACILITATE RESURFACING WORK ON A SECTION OF FLEMING ROAD.

FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (MARCH 4 AND 5), FLEMING ROAD BETWEEN LOCKHART ROAD AND JAFFE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED AT GROUND LEVEL.

AT THE SAME TIME, JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN O'BRIEN ROAD AND FLEMING ROAD WILL TEMPORARILY BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY EASTBOUND.

FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (MARCH 8, 9 AND 10), FLEMING ROAD AT GROUND LEVEL BETWEEN JAFFE ROAD AND GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

DURING THE CLOSURE, JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN FLEMING ROAD AND STEWART ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND.

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