DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1983

CONTENTS PAGE NO.

GOVERNOR TO SEE DRAGON BOATS RACE 1

NEW FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEETS 2

PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED 3

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1983 QUARTER ... 4

WARNING GIVEN ABOUT WORK IN CONFINED SPACES 6

EVENING COURSES ORGANISED FOR DISABLED 7

PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT BUTTERFLY BEACH POLLUTION 8

TRAFFIC CHANGES ON HONG KONG ISLAND 9

MAJOR TRAFFIC CHANGES IN TUEN MUN 10

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL CONCERT 11

NEW ROAD SECTION 11

NEW MAXICAB ROUTE FOR KOWLOON CITY 12

WATER FIGURES 12

GOVERNOR TO SEE DRAGON BOATS RACE

* * * *

HUNDREDS OF DRAGON BOATS WILL RACE AT VARIOUS VENUES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TOMORROW TO CELEBRATE THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND LADY YOUDE WILL ATTEND THE RACE AT 3 PM AT THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER IN SHAU KEI WAN.

MORE THAN 10 TEAMS WILL TAKE PART IN THE RACE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF FISHERMEN. THERE WILL ALSO BE A SAMPAN ROWING COMPETITION FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE FISHERMEN.

ELSEWHERE AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, 56 TEAMS, INCLUDING 12 PHOENIX BOATS, WILL COMPETE BETWEEN 11.30 AM AND 5 PM. THE GUEST OF HONOUR WILL BE THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR-GENERAL DEREK BOORMAN.

IN TAI PO, 50 TEAMS WILL CONTEST IN THE RACE OVER 1 000 METRES ALONG THE MAIN DAM OF PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 1 PM. THE OFFICIATING GUEST WILL BE THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE.

AN EXHIBITION RACE AMONG TEAMS FROM TWO BANKS AND A LOCAL TELEVISION STATION WILL HIGHLIGHT THE DAY'S EVENTS.

IN TUEN MUN, 59 TEAMS REPRESENTING VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IN THE NEW TOWN WILL PADDLE THEIR WAY ALONG THE CASTLE PEAK TYPHOON SHELTER BETWEEN 8.45 AM AND 1 PM.

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES WILL PRESENT PRIZES, AS WELL AS THE SDA CUP, TO WINNING TEAMS.

IN SAI KUNG, THE RACE WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 1 PM ALONG THE SEAFRONT OF SAI KUNG INNER PORT SHELTER WITH 25 MEN'S AND FOUR WOMEN'S TEAMS PARTICIPATING. THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, WILL BE PRESENT.

OTHER VENUES WHERE DRAGON BOAT RACES WILL BE HELD INCLUDE THE ABERDEEN HARBOUR, TUNG CHUNG PIER, PUI O BEACH ON SOUTH LANTAU, TAI TAM WAN, MUI WO AND CHEUNG CHAU.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

NEW FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEETS
* * * * * *

THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WITH ITS EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY FOLLOWING ITS RECENT RECONSTITUTION.

THE COMMITTEE WAS STRENGTHENED TO IMPROVE THE CO-ORDINATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VARIOUS EFFORTS BEING PUT INTO CRIME PREVENTION.

IT IS CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND COMPRISES IN ADDITION THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND FOUR UNOFFICIALS, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR CHARLES YEUNG, DR HO KAM-FAI AND MRS SOPHIA HO.

IN ANNOUNCING THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, HAD REASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE INCREASED CRIME RATE.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE REFLECTED THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AND ITS DETERMINATION TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

IN THEIR MEETING TODAY, MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON THE CURRENT CRIME SITUATION AND REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS SUPPORTING COMMITTEES, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEES.

THEY ALSO CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF ANTI-CRIME PROPOSALS AND BACK-UP MEASURES, ONE OF WHICH WAS A COMPREHENSIVE FIGHT YOUTH CRIME PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR.

- - - O - - -

/3 .....

PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

* * * *

THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY ONE PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR UNDER THE NEW PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 18 AND 19, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

OUT OF THE 32 878 CHILDREN TAKING PART IN THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION, 21 254 CHILDREN OR 64.6 PER CENT, WILL BE GIVEN PLACES IN SCHOOLS OF THEIR PARENTS' FIRST THREE CHOICES.

+IN FACT, ABOUT 93 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN WILL SECURE PLACES IN SCHOOLS OF THEIR PARENTS' FIRST 10 CHOICES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARENTS CONCERNED SHOULD GO TO THE DISTRIBUTION-COLLECTION CENTRE IN THEIR DISTRICTS ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18) OR SUNDAY (JUNE 19) BETWEEN 9 AM TO 4 PM TO COLLECT THEIR ALLOCATION SLIPS ADVISING OF THE SCHOOLS IN WHICH THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PLACED.

COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORMALITIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON JUNE 27 OR 28.

FOR A.M. SCHOOLS, THE REGISTRATION HOURS WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON AND FOR P.M. SCHOOLS, THE HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 2 PM AND 5 PM.

WHOLE-DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION HOURS WILL BE 9 AM TO 12 NOON AND 2 PM TO 4 PM.

PARENTS WHO FOR PERSONAL REASONS CANNOT REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN ON JUNE 27 OR 28 MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL DIRECT OR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT AT 269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, 2/F, FOR ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

PARENTS WHO FAIL TO DO SO WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE PLACE ALLOCATED.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ALL PLACES ALLOCATED ARE FINAL AND NO RE-ALLOCATION IS POSSIBLE.

HOWEVER, IF PARENTS HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTIES, SUCH AS HAVING MOVED HOUSE FAR AWAY, THEY MAY SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT.

/ IN DOING .....

IN DOING SO, THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG SUPPORTING DOCUMENTARY PROOF SUCH AS RENT RECEIPTS, RATES DEMAND NOTES, WATER BILLS OR ELECTRICITY BILLS BEARING THE NAME OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

IF THEIR REQUEST IS JUSTIFIED, THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT WOULD TRY THEIR BEST TO FIND A PLACE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AT A SCHOOL NEARER TO THEIR NEW HOME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE SECURED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE AND HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED WITH A SCHOOL IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR NEED NOT REPEAT REGISTRATION FORMALITIES.

ANY PARENT WISHING TO MAKE FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY CONTACT THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT ON 5-724383 DURING OFFICE HOURS ON OR AFTER SATURDAY (JUNE 18).

---o---

LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1983 QUARTER

*****

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE QUARTER FEBRUARY - APRIL 1983 WAS 5.2 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARED WITH 4.3 PER CENT FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1983, AND 3.4 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

+THE INCREASES OF 0.9 PERCENTAGE POINT AND 1.8 PERCENTAGE POINTS RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE TWO EARLIER QUARTERS ARE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT= THAT IS, THE INCREASES ARE GREATER THAN CAN BE EXPLAINED BY SAMPLING ERROR,+ THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS STATED.

+A SIGNIFICANT POINT TO NOTE, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE RISING TREND IN UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1982 NOW APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED OUT. AT 5.2 PER CENT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY - APRIL 1983 WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1983 OF 5.1 PER CENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL 1983 WAS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO BE 129 000, AS COMPARED WITH 106 700 FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, AND 84 500 FOR THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

/THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT ...

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 2.4 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL 1983, WHICH IS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1983.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS 61 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL 1983, AS COMPARED WITH 58 600 FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

IN COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE CHANGES IN UNEMPLOYMENT TEND TO LAG BEHIND CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY, THE INCREASES IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE QUARTER FEBRUARY - APRIL 1983 DID NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE CURRENT UNDERLYING ECONOMIC SITUATION.

+INDEED, GIVEN THE INDICATIONS OF FURTHER REVIVAL IN EXPORT PERFORMANCE AND IN MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY GENERALLY, THE UNDERLYING ECONOMIC SITUATION IS ALREADY IMPROVING BUT THE IMPROVEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN SUFFICIENT TO RESULT IN A FALL IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT OR UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES,+ HE SAID.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 15 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 55 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. BECAUSE THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IS BASED ON A SAMPLE AND NOT THE WHOLE POPULATION, ITS RESULTS ARE SUBJECT TO SAMPLING ERROR.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIED FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATIONS IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING APRIL 1983 WAS 5.1 PER CENT.

HE ADDED THAT DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1983 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE LATER THIS MONTH.

- - - 0 - - -

/6.....

WARNING GIVEN ABOUT WORK IN CONFINED SPACES

* * * *

IN VIEW OF THE RECENT CASE IN WHICH TWO WORKMEN WERE REPORTEDLY OVERCOME BY AN UNKNOWN GAS INSIDE A MANHOLE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO BE ALERT TO THE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE TERM, +CONFINED SPACE+, HAS A WIDE APPLICATION THROUGHOUT INDUSTRY. SOME SITUATIONS WERE FAIRLY OBVIOUSLY CONFINED SPACES - E.G. CLOSED TANKS, LARGE DUCTS, SEWERS AND ENCLOSED DRAINS, BUT OTHERS WERE LESS OBVIOUS, SUCH AS OPEN TOPPED TANKS AND VATS, CLOSED AND UNVENTILATED ROOMS, AND MEDIUM-SIZED AND LARGE FURNACES AND OVENS.

IN THESE CONFINED SPACES, DANGEROUS GASES, VAPOURS AND FUMES MIGHT BE PRESENT, AND THE MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS HAVE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TAKING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

THE MANAGEMENT, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, SHOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FORMULATE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND SUITABLE TESTING INSTRUMENTS AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS IN SAFE METHODS OF OPERATION, EMERGENCY RESCUE WORK AND FIRST AID.

IF A WORKER IS WORKING INSIDE A CONFINED SPACE, THE MANAGEMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT TWO SETS OF BREATHING APPARATUS, A SAFETY LAMP OR TORCH FOR EACH APPARATUS, TWO HARNESSES AND LIFELINES FOR RESCUE OPERATION, A STRETCHER AND RESUSCITATION EQUIPMENT ARE READILY AVAILABLE.

A SUPERVISOR SHOULD ENSURE THAT THESE PRECAUTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BEFORE A WORKER ENTERS A CONFINED SPACE. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ATTENDANT SHOULD BE POSTED OUTSIDE TO KEEP WATCH AND CAN SUMMON AID IF REQUIRED, SAFETY AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE READY AND A PERSON TRAINED IN THEIR USE SHOULD BE STANDING BY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT WORKERS SHOULD NOT ENTER A CONFINED SPACE WITHOUT INSTRUCTION OR PERMISSION FROM THE PERSON IN-CHARGE OF THE WORK AND WITHOUT A PERSON BEING IN CONSTANT ATTENDANCE AT THE ENTRANCE.

BEFORE ENTERING A CONFINED SPACE THAT HAS NOT BEEN FREED OF GAS, THEY SHOULD WEAR APPARATUS, HARNESS AND LIFELINE. WHEN WORKERS ARE WORKING INSIDE A CONFINED SPACE, A SIGNALLING SYSTEM SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT TO ADOPT A PERMIT-TO-WORK SYSTEM FOR WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES.

/+VERBAL .....

+VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS, REQUESTS OR PROMISES ARE LIABLE TO BE MISINTERPRETED OR FORGOTTEN AND ARE, THEREFORE, NOT A SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR ACTION ON WHICH WORKERS' LIVES MAY DEPEND.

+EFFECTIVE CONTROL SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY MEANS OF A WRITTEN SYSTEM KNOWN AS A PERMIT-TO-WORK SYSTEM, WHICH REQUIRES FORMAL ACTION ON THE PART OF THOSE DOING THE WORK, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AND THOSE AUTHORISED TO SIGN SUCH PERMITS, AND WHICH CLEARLY SETS OUT THE CONDITIONS FOR SAFE ENTRY.

+ANY EMPLOYER SEEKING ADVICE ON THIS SYSTEM MAY CONTACT THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - O - - -

EVENING COURSES ORGANISED FOR DISABLED

* * * *

THE WORLD REHABILITATION FUND DAY CENTRE IN KWUN TONG IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE 15 YEARS OF AGE OR ABOVE FOR THE PART-TIME EVENING COURSES SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE THIS OCTOBER.

A VARIETY OF COURSES WILL BE OFFERED IN THE PART-TIME EVENING CLASSES RANGING FROM GARMENT MAKING, COPY TYPEWRITING, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION, DOMESTIC APPLIANCES REPAIR, ELECTRONIC REPAIR, GAS WELDING, ELECTRIC ARC WELDING, INDUSTRIAL LEATHERWORK, AND MACHINE OPERATION TO JOINER.

ADMINISTERED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT, THE CENTRE PROVIDES THE HANDICAPPED WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT.

APART FROM PART-TIME COURSES, THE CENTRE ALSO OFFERS FULL-TIME TRAINING IN THE FOLLOWING TEN SECTORS -- CLOTHING, COMMERCIAL, ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC, FABRICATION, INDUSTRIAL ARTS, MECHANICAL, PRINTING, MACHINE KNITTING AND WOODWORK.

THE PURPOSE OF BOTH THE FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME TRAINING COURSES IS TO PROVIDE DISABLED PEOPLE WITH GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE IN CHOOSING EMPLOYMENT THROUGH TRAINING WHICH IS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR CAPABILITY.

DETAILS OF THE PART-TIME EVENING COURSES, SUCH AS THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, TUITION FEES, DURATION OF THE COURSES, DATES AND TIMES OF CLASS MEETINGS WILL BE ADVERTISED ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16).

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CENTRE AT 487, KWUN TONG ROAD. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JULY 16.

- - - O - - -

/8 .....

PUBLIC WARNED ABOUT BUTTERFLY BEACH POLLUTION

* * * * *

BEACHGOERS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN BUTTERFLY BEACH IN TUEN MUN, BECAUSE OF POLLUTION OF THE WATER THERE.

THE BEACH, LOCATED AT THE SOUTH-WESTERN PORTION OF CASTLE PEAK BAY, IS NOT GAZETTED AS A PUBLIC BATHING BEACH UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

WARNING NOTICES HAVE, MEANWHILE, BEEN PUT UP ON THE BEACH.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) OF NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID TODAY THAT CHECKS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE BEACH WATER HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY BELOW THE ACCEPTABLE STANDARD SET BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION FOR BATHING.

ESCHERICHIA COLI IS A COMMON TYPE OF BACTERIA FOUND IN THE FAECES OF WARM BLOODED ANIMALS, AND IS USED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AS AN INDICATOR TO MEASURE THE DEGREE OF SEWAGE POLLUTION, MR LEUNG EXPLAINED.

+IN THEORY, THE POORER THE QUALITY OF WATER AT A BATHING BEACH, THE MORE CHANCE THERE WILL BE FOR SWIMMERS TO CONTRACT DISEASES PARTICULARLY OF THE GASTRO-INTESTINAL GROUP SUCH AS TYPHOID, DYSENTERY, CHOLERA OR GESTRO-INTESTINAL DISORDERS,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE APPARENT MAIN SOURCE OF POLLUTION WAS THE TUEN MUN NULLAH WHICH CARRIES ANIMAL WASTE AND SEWAGE DISCHARGED FROM VILLAGES BEYOND THE NORTHERN BOUNDARIES OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE SECOND POLLUTION SOURCE MIGHT BE TWO STREAMS CONTAMINATED WITH HUMAN AND ANIMAL WASTE, WHICH DISCHARGE DIRECTLY ON TO THE BEACH.

ON THE ADVICE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, MR LEUNG SAID, THE NTSD WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE LIFEGUARD SERVICE BETWEEN 9 AM AND 6 PM AT THE BEACH +ONLY TO LOOK AFTER THE SAFETY OF THOSE BEACHGOERS WHO WILFULLY IGNORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH WARNINGS AND SWIM AT THE BEACH AT THEIR OWN RISK DURING THE SWIMMING SEASON.+

HOWEVER, HE ALSO WARNED BATHERS THAT THE CURRENTS NEAR THE BEACH WERE VERY STRONG AND KNOWN TO BE DANGEROUS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE NTSD WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACH REGULARLY.

MR LEUNG STRONGLY URGED BATHERS TO USE THE OTHER THREE GAZETTED PUBLIC BEACHES IN THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT - THE CAFETERIA (OLD) BEACH, CAFETERIA (NEW) BEACH AND KADOORIE BEACH - AS THE WATER QUALITY THERE WAS OF AN ACCEPTABLE HYGIENIC STANDARD.

- - -0- - -

/9.....

TRAFFIC CHANGES ON HONG KONG ISLAND
* * * * *

TRAFFIC IN SHAU KEI WAN WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM 9 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16) TO IMPROVE CIRCULATION IN THE AREA.

TRAFFIC ALONG NAM ON LANE WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND, WHILE THAT ALONG NAM ON STREET BETWEEN ALDRICH STREET AND NAM ON LANE WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

TRAFFIC ALONG ALDRICH STREET BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND NAM ON STREET, AND THAT ALONG NAM HONG STREET EAST OF SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT, VEHICLES ALONG CHAI WAN ROAD HEADING FOR NAM ON STREET MAY TRAVEL VIA NAM HONG STREET OR FACTORY STREET.

BUSES ON CMB ROUTES 9 AND 84 WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NAM ON STREET AND NAM ON LANE TO SHAU KEI WAN ROAD ON THEIR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS.

BUSES ON CMB ROUTES 2, 20 AND 20M WILL TRAVEL VIA ALDRICH STREET TO THE NAM ON STREET BUS TERMINUS, AND VIA NAM ON LANE INSTEAD OF ALDRICH STREET ON LEAVING THE TERMINUS.

MEANWHILE, THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF VICTORIA PARK ROAD BETWEEN THE VICTORIA PARK ROAD FLYOVER AND HING FAT STREET WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE VICTORIA PARK ROAD FLYOVER, GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND, CLEVELAND STREET, KINGSTON STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND CAUSEWAY ROAD.

IN CENTRAL, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ALONG DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO MAN WA LANE NORTHBOUND FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16).

- - - 0 - - -

/10.....

MAJOR TRAFFIC CHANGES IN TUEN MUN

* * * *

MAJOR TRAFFIC ALTERATIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TUEN MUN FROM 11 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16) WHEN WORK BEGINS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER AT PUI TO ROAD TO REPLACE THE ROUNDABOUT THERE.

PUI TO ROAD BETWEEN TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND AND RESTRICTED TO FRANCHISED BUSES.

ANOTHER SECTION OF PUI TO ROAD, BETWEEN TUEN MUN ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WILL BE REROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND AND RESTRICTED TO PLBS AND FRANCHISED BUSES.

BUSES ON KMB ROUTE 63 WILL TAKE THE NEW UNNAMED ROAD WEST OF SIU HONG COURT, INSTEAD OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI).

THOSE ON ROUTES 59A, 61, 66 AND 66M ON OUTWARD JOURNEYS, AND ON ROUTES 52 AND 60M ON BOTH INWARD AND OUTWARD JOURNEYS, WILL PROCEED VIA THE NEW ROAD NORTH OF SIU ON COURT, INSTEAD OF PUI TO ROAD.

AS FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC, VEHICLES FROM YUEN LONG WILL HAVE TO ENTER TUEN MUN VIA THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD (LAM TEI) ROUNDABOUT, THE NEW ROAD WEST OF SIU HONG COURT AND TSUN WEN ROAD, AND LEAVE ALONG THE SAME ROUTE OR VIA PUI TO ROAD, TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

VEHICLES FROM TSUEN WAN SHOULD ENTER TUEN MUN VIA TUEN MUN ROAD, OR CASTLE PEAK ROAD, AND THE NEW ROAD NORTH OF SIU ON COURT, AND LEAVE VIA TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD, THE NEW ROAD NORTH OF SIU ON COURT AND TUEN MUN ROAD OR CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

GENERAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND YUEN LONG WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

WITH THE START OF WORKS, THE NORTHERN PART OF TUEN MUN HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD, ESPECIALLY ITS JUNCTIONS WITH PUI TO ROAD AND THE NEW ROAD NORTH OF SIU ON COURT, ARE EXPECTED TO BE VERY CONGESTED, AND MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID THESE AREAS DURING PEAK HOURS.

--- 0 ---

/11 .....

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL CONCERT

* * * *

THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE NORTH POINT KAIFONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION WILL JOINTLY PRESENT A DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL VARIETY CONCERT ON SATURDAY (JUNE 18), STARTING AT 8 PM AT THE DR CHAN SHU KUI HALL, NORTH POINT.

THE CONCERT WILL FEATURE FOLK AND POP SONGS BY LOCAL SINGERS.

FREE ADMISSION TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE (HEAD OFFICE) AT THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DR CHAN SHU KUI HALL IN NORTH POINT.

---O---

NEW ROAD SECTION

* * *

A NEW SECTION OF KWAI TAI ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16).

THE SECTION IS BETWEEN KWAI TAK STREET AND KWAI TSING ROAD.

---O---

NEW MAXICAB ROUTE FOR KOWLOON CITY

* * * *

A NEW MAXICAB ROUTE BETWEEN KOWLOON CITY AND ARGYLE MTR STATION WILL OPEN ON THURSDAY (JUNE 16).

ROUTE 28M WILL OPERATE VIA WAI KING STREET, KWEI CHOW STREET, TO KWA WAN ROAD, MA TAU KOK ROAD, TAM KUNG ROAD, MA TAU WAI ROAD, TIN KWONG ROAD, SHEUNG SHING STREET, SHEUNG FOO STREET, FAT KWONG STREET, PUI CHING ROAD, SOARES AVENUE, ARGYLE STREET, TONG MEI ROAD, MONG KOK ROAD, NATHAN ROAD AND FIFE STREET.

ITS RETURN JOURNEY WILL BE VIA FIFE STREET, TUNG CHOI STREET, ARGYLE STREET, YIM PO FONG STREET, WATERLOO ROAD, PUI CHING ROAD, FAT KWONG STREET, SHEUNG FOO STREET, SHEUNG SHING STREET, TIN KWONG ROAD, MA TAU WAI ROAD, SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN ROAD, SAN MA TAU STREET AND WAI KING STREET.

THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM 6.40 AM TO 11 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ITS FREQUENCY WILL BE EIGHT MINUTES DURING PEAK HOURS AND 15 MINUTES DURING OFF-PEAK PERIODS.

WHILE THE FULL FARE IS $1.5 EACH WAY, A SECTIONAL FARE OF $1 WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE TRIP FROM HO MAN TIN ESTATE TO ARGYLE MTR STATION, OR FROM THE SAME ESTATE TO KOWLOON CITY.

- - - o - - -

WATER FIGURES

* * * *

STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 86.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 497.447 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 323.805 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 56.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

- - - o - - -