



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PEKING
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LEFT FOR PEKING THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

HE WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO, AND THE VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH), MR TAN GAN.

ACCOMPANYING THE GOVERNOR WERE THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR ROBIN MCLAREN, AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INTERPRETER, MR Y.P. CHENG.

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SIR PHILIP VISITS POLYTECHNIC
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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC'S CAMPUS IN HUNG HOM TO LOOK AT THE INSTITUTE'S LATEST PROGRAMMES AND FACILITIES.

AMONG THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IS AN APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT AIMED AT SUPPORTING THE MANUFACTURE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND A PLAN TO PROMOTE SELF-STUDY FOR STUDENTS.

DR KEITH LEGG, DIRECTOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC, TOLD SIR PHILIP THAT THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME, ENTITLED COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS, WAS STARTED AFTER THE POLYTECHNIC RECENTLY RECEIVED \$1.79 MILLION FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

ON THE SELF-STUDY PROGRAMME, DR LEGG SAID SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS BEING PLACED ON IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS.

THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE USE OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT, HE SAID.

STUDY PACKAGES AND SELF-LEARNING PROGRAMMES, TO BE PHASED INTO ALL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES WHERE SUITABLE, ARE BEING PRODUCED TO IMPROVE THE LEARNING PROCESS.

THE UNIT ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE STUDENT AFFAIRS UNIT IN THE ORGANISATION OF STUDY SKILLS PROGRAMMES FOR STUDENTS, DR LEGG ADDED.

SIR PHILIP ALSO VISITED THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRE WHERE PRACTICAL AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING IS BEING PROVIDED FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS EACH YEAR.

THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE CENTRE IS TO PROVIDE INTEGRATED THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING WITH THE MAIN EMPHASIS ON REAL LIFE INDUSTRIAL SITUATIONS, DR LEGG EXPLAINED.

/SIR PHILIP

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SIR PHILIP LATER VISITED THE COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENED OFFICIALLY BY HIM IN 1978 AND THE LIBRARY WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLECTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS MATERIALS IN THE FAR EAST WITH AN ACCUMULATED SIZE OF HALF A MILLION VOLUMES.

BESIDES MEETING SENIOR STAFF AND HEADS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, SIR PHILIP TALKED TO STUDENTS UNION OFFICIALS.

HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNION ARE SERVING AS FULL MEMBERS ON THE ACADEMIC BOARD CONTRIBUTING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLYTECHNIC.

THE UNION IS ALSO REPRESENTED IN A NUMBER OF POLYTECHNIC COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES, THE STUDENT OFFICIALS SAID.

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FREE ECONOMY HELPS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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THE MINIMUM INTERFERENCE WITH HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM, TOGETHER WITH AN EFFICIENT BUREAUCRACY AND LOW TAXATION, HAS ENABLED THE TERRITORY TO KEEP UP IMPROVEMENT ON VARIOUS FRONTS, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+IT IS FROM THIS SIMPLE BUT STRONG MECHANISM THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE STEADILY WITH PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT, WELFARE AND EDUCATION, AND TO BUILD PUBLIC HOUSING FOR WELL OVER A MILLION PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAM NGAN STOCK EXCHANGE, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HONG KONG HAD AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT WAS +PERHAPS THE LEAST INTERFERED WITH IN THE WORLD.+

+COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OPERATE FREELY WITHIN A FIRM AND DEPENDABLE SYSTEM OF LAW.

+OUR SYSTEM OF MINIMUM INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCIAL DECISIONS IS BACKED BY AN EFFICIENT BUREAUCRACY, WHILE LOW TAXATION PROVIDES AN INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE ENTERPRISE WHOSE REWARD IS PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT THE PACE AND DIMENSION OF CHANGE IN THE PAST 13 YEARS HAD, BY ANY MEASURE, BEEN THE MOST REMARKABLE IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

HONG KONG HAS NOW BECOME THE THIRD AMONG THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL CENTRES AND THE SECOND LARGEST TRADING PORT IN THE WORLD.

+CERTAINLY THIS DEGREE OF SUCCESS OWES MUCH TO HARD WORK AND ENTERPRISE, AND AN ABILITY AND SENSITIVITY TO OPPORTUNITIES TO DO BUSINESS AROUND THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE KAM NGAN STOCK EXCHANGE WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THIS +ECONOMIC MIRACLE+ AND HOPED IT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

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REFLECT ON ACHIEVEMENTS, PEOPLE URGED

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HONG KONG PEOPLE LEAD SUCH BUSY LIVES THAT THEY SELDOM HAVE TIME TO REFLECT ON HOW FAR THEY HAVE COME.

REMARKING ON THIS POINT IN A SPEECH TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR PETER TSAO, SAID, +PERHAPS WE SHOULD, NOW AND THEN, REGAIN OUR SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE - WHEN DOUBTS AND MISGIVINGS THREATEN TO CLOUD OUR JUDGEMENT OR WHEN THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT OBSCURE THE MANY OTHER PROBLEMS WE HAVE SURMOUNTED IN THE PAST.+

POINTING TO THE HISTORY CHAPTER OF +HONG KONG 1984+, THE NEWLY PUBLISHED YEAR BOOK PRODUCED BY HIS DEPARTMENT, MR TSAO SAID, +IT IS SALUTARY TO LOOK BACK ON OCCASIONS WE NOW SEEM IN DANGER OF FORGETTING, WHEN THE SHADOWS ON OUR HORIZON LOOMED AS LARGE, IF NOT LARGER, THAN THEY DO NOW.+

FEW CITIES HAD FACED SUCH ADVERSITY AS HONG KONG HAD DONE OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS. FEWER STILL HAD EMERGED FROM THE FIRES WITH THE VIGOUR AND RESILIENCE THAT HONG KONG HAD FORGED THERE.

THE YEAR BOOK, HE SAID, CONSISTENTLY HEADED HONG KONG'S BEST-SELLER LIST BECAUSE IT WAS THE BEST REFERENCE BOOK AVAILABLE ON +THIS MARVELLOUS AND UNIQUE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE+.

+IF WE TAKE THE TIME AND EFFORT TO EXCAVATE THE FACTS,+ HE SAID, +IT IS A MINE OF INFORMATION WHICH I AM SURE WILL GREATLY ENRICH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE TICK.

+AND I LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SUCCESS AND POPULARITY OF THIS PUBLICATION HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE PRIDE WE TAKE IN THIS GREAT COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT THAT IS HONG KONG.

+WE ALL HAVE A VERY HUMAN DESIRE TO READ ABOUT OURSELVES ON THE PRINTED PAGE, AND IN THIS BOOK WE CAN. FOR IT IS, IN A VERY REAL SENSE, OUR STORY. WITHOUT THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH EACH OF US HAS MADE TO THE WHOLE, HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE WHAT IT IS.+

MR TSAO COMMENTED THAT HONG KONG DID NOT READILY SUBMIT TO EXAMINATION AND EXPLANATION. +INDEED,+ HE ADDED, +THERE IS A DANGER THAT WE MAY THINK WE KNOW ALL ABOUT IT WHEN WE HAVE HARDLY BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND.+

HE HAD A WORD OF CAUTION FOR +THE OUTSIDER WHO THINKS HE CAN COME HERE AND LEARN IT ALL IN SOME KIND OF 'CRASH' COURSE.+

/+IT DOESN'T

+IT DOESN'T WORK,+ HE SAID.

MR TSAO'S ADVICE TO THE STUDENT OF HONG KONG AFFAIRS WAS, FIRSTLY, TO LEARN ABOUT IT FROM THE INSIDE, AND BE PREPARED FOR A LONG HARD AND ENDLESS PROCESS OF ASSIMILATION.

+THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO START,+ HE ADDED, +THAN TO AVOID THE OPINIONS AND GET DOWN TO THE FACTS, AND NO BETTER PLACE TO BEGIN THAN THIS BOOK.+

HE SAID THAT +HONG KONG 1984+ WOULD GO ON SALE TODAY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AND AT LEADING BOOKSHOPS, PRICED AT \$32 PER COPY.

IF THE PRICE SOUNDED +BARGAIN-BASEMENT+ IT WAS BECAUSE IN THIS CASE GOVERNMENT HAD THE EDGE OVER THE COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS BY MAKING THE BOOK AVAILABLE AT WELL BELOW THE GOING MARKET RATE.

+WHY?+ HE ASKED, +BECAUSE WE ARE LESS INTERESTED IN MAKING A PROFIT THAN IN GETTING THIS BOOK INTO AS MANY HANDS AS POSSIBLE. IT IS THE BUSINESS OF MY DEPARTMENT TO INFORM, AND THE ANNUAL REPORT IS AN INDISPENSABLE TOOL FOR DOING JUST THAT.+

THE LATEST EDITION CONTAINS 22 CHAPTERS SPREAD OVER 325 PAGES, PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY, FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, LAW AND ORDER AND OTHER TOPICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

IN ADDITION TO THE THOUSANDS OF FACTS, FIGURES AND STATISTICS, THE REPORT INCLUDED 10 TOP-QUALITY PICTURE SECTIONS FOCUSING ON CHOSEN THEMES OR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR, REFLECTING SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF HONG KONG'S DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS.

THE REVIEW CHAPTER, UNDER THE HEADING +EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS+, HAD BEEN CONTRIBUTED BY EDUCATION EXPERTS TO TIE IN WITH THE RECENT - AND CONTROVERSIAL - LLEWELLYN REPORT.

TO MEET RISING DEMAND, IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO RAISE THE PUBLICATION'S PRINT RUN EACH YEAR. FROM 30 000 COPIES FOR THE 1976 EDITION, THIS HAD NOW RISEN TO 43 000 COPIES FOR 1984, OF WHICH 32 000 COPIES WERE IN ENGLISH AND 11 000 IN CHINESE.

NEW HOMES FOR TIN SHUI WAI RESIDENTS

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REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING FINALISED FOR ABOUT HALF OF THE 200-PLUS FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE COMING TIN SHUI WAI CLEARANCE, WHICH WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW TOWN THERE, THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THAT MORE THAN 40 FAMILIES HAD ALREADY PAID RENTS FOR THEIR NEW HOMES, MAINLY IN PUBLIC HOUSING FLATS.

MR WILSON ALSO APPEALED TO OTHER FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED TO MAKE EARLY DECISIONS ON OFFERS OF REHOUSING OR ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS SO THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS COULD BE PROCESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

+WORK ON THE TIN SHUI WAI PROJECT WILL START NEXT MONTH.

+WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED, THE NEW TOWN WILL PROVIDE HOMES AND EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME 135 000 PEOPLE, AND THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WILL BEGIN TO TAKE IN TENANTS IN MID-1989,+ HE SAID.

MR WILSON POINTED OUT THAT THE CLEARANCE, WHICH WILL BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH, INVOLVES UNLEASED CROWN LAND ONLY, AND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE FAMILIES ACCORDING TO CRITERIA SET BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

IN ADDITION, EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES WILL ALSO BE MADE TO ELIGIBLE FARMERS AND BUSINESS OPERATORS.

MR WILSON STRESSED THAT FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS WITH PARTICULAR PROBLEMS COULD APPROACH THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

+TO THIS END, A SPECIAL UNIT COMPRISING OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN THE CLEARANCE HAS BEEN SET UP TO GIVE EVERY ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

+IN FACT, THIS UNIT HAS BEEN MEETING FAMILIES PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.+

FOR GENUINE FARMERS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE FARMING ELSEWHERE IN YUEN LONG, MR WILSON SAID HIS OFFICE WAS ALWAYS PREPARED TO HELP THEM.

+IF THEY CAN LEASE OR BUY PRIVATE FARM LAND, THEY CAN APPLY TO THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE FOR A TEMPORARY FARM LICENCE WHICH WILL ALSO ALLOW THEM TO BUILD A TEMPORARY HOUSE PROVIDED THEY AGREE TO GIVE UP THEIR PUBLIC HOUSING ENTITLEMENT. ABOUT 60 SUCH APPLICATIONS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED,+ HE SAID.

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CHING MING FESTIVAL TRAFFIC PLAN

SPECIAL TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE CHING MING FESTIVAL ON MARCH 18, 25, AND APRIL 1, ALL SUNDAYS, APRIL 4, (FESTIVAL DAY), AND APRIL 8, 15, 22, ALL SUNDAYS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

- * WO HOP SHEK ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC, EXCEPT HEARSEs AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES, BETWEEN 4 AM AND 8 PM.
- * THE SERVICE ROAD BETWEEN HO KA YUEN ACCESS ROAD AND WO HOP SHEK ROAD, WO HOP SHEK CONNECTION (SOUTHBOUND) BETWEEN NORTH-EAST SLIP ROAD AND WO HOP SHEK ROAD, AND THE SLIP ROAD FROM TAI PO ROAD TO WO HOP SHEK ROUNDABOUT, WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT KMB BUSES, EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND HEARSEs.
- * BETWEEN 6 AM AND 6 PM, FANLING PLAYGROUND ROAD LEADING FROM TAI PO ROAD TO FANLING KCR STATION FORECOURT AND PAK FUK TSUEN WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT KMB BUSES, EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND RESIDENTS WHO REQUIRE LOCAL ACCESS.
- * THE FANLING KCR STATION FORECOURT ACCESS AT ROAD D5 WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT KMB BUSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES.
- * NO TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER MAN KAM TO ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH SAN FUNG AVENUE IN SHEUNG SHUI FROM 6 AM TO 6 PM EXCEPT BUSES, EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND THOSE WITH CLOSED ROAD PERMITS. THE SAME PROHIBITION WILL ALSO BE IMPOSED ON LO WU STATION ROAD.
- * THE ACCESS ROADS TO TSUEN WAN CEMETERY WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, EXCEPT HEARSEs AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES, FROM 8 AM TO 7 PM ON APRIL 1 AND 4, AND ON ANY OTHER DAYS DURING THE FESTIVAL PERIOD IF THE TRAFFIC SITUATION SO REQUIRES.
- * TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WILL BE MAINTAINED ON TAI PO ROAD THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL PERIOD. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING PROHIBITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED TO GOODS VEHICLES OVER 2-1/2 TONS:

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<u>SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD</u>	<u>TRAFFIC DIRECTION</u>	<u>PROHIBITION PERIOD</u>
BETWEEN FANLING ROUNDAABOUT AND LAM KAM ROAD	BOTH DIRECTIONS	6 AM - 6 PM
BETWEEN LAM KAM ROAD AND SHA TIN RACE COURSE	NORTH-BOUND	6 AM - 12 NOON
BETWEEN LAM KAM ROAD AND SHA TIN RACE COURSE	SOUTH-BOUND	12 NOON - 6 PM

- * MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO GO TO THE CEMETERIES, AS THERE WILL BE NO PARKING FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE VICINITY OF WO HOP SHEK, AND PARKING SPACES IN SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING AND AROUND TSUEN WAN CEMETERY ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. VEHICLES PARKED ILLEGALLY ON THE ROAD OR PAVEMENT MAY BE TOWED AWAY WITHOUT WARNING.
- * PRIVATE CARS AND COACHES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SET DOWN OR PICK UP PASSENGERS WITHIN ONE KILOMETER ON TAI PO ROAD ON EITHER SIDE OF WO HOP SHEK ROAD, TAXIS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO SET DOWN PASSENGERS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AND WAITING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.
- * THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL NOT OPERATE SPECIAL TRAINS TO WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY. TRAIN SERVICES AT FANLING WILL BE STRENGTHENED TO 7.5-MINUTE FREQUENCY FROM 7 AM TO 9.45 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM, AND AT 10-MINUTE FREQUENCY DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS.
- * SPECIAL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE ROUTE 70R WILL OPERATE BETWEEN FANLING KCR STATION AND WO HOP SHEK AT EVERY THREE MINUTES WITH A SINGLE FARE OF 80 CENTS.
- * GRAVE-SWEEPERS WISHING TO GO TO SANDY RIDGE CAN EITHER USE THE REGULAR BUS SERVICE ROUTE 73K, PLYING BETWEEN SHEUNG SHUI AND SAN UK LING, OR THE TRAIN SERVICE TO LO WU.
- * GRAVE-SWEEPERS ARE ADVISED NOT TO USE THE VILLAGE FOOTPATHS SOUTH OF THE FANLING STATION, AS THESE ARE NOW PART OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE AND ARE NOT SAFE FOR PUBLIC USE. IF PASSENGERS WISH TO WALK TO THE CEMETERY, THEY ARE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE PEDESTRIAN ROUTE FROM FANLING KCR STATION TO FANLING PLAYGROUND ROAD, FANLING ROUNDAABOUT, TAI PO ROAD, WO HOP SHEK INTERCHANGE AND WO HOP SHEK ROAD. APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE PEDESTRIANS.
- * SEVERE TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL OCCUR ON TAI PO ROAD DURING THE FESTIVAL. VISITORS ARE ADVISED TO VISIT THE CEMETERIES EARLY OR ON NON-FESTIVAL DAYS. THOSE GOING TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO USE ROUTE TWISK AND FAN KAM ROAD OR CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AS ALTERNATIVE ROUTES, IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THE CONGESTION ON TAI PO ROAD.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IMPROVED SOMEWHAT WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE, IN THE THREE MONTHS FROM NOVEMBER 1983 TO JANUARY THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD WAS 3.7 PER CENT, WHICH COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE RATE OF 4.1 PER CENT RECORDED BOTH FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 1983 AND FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1983. THE RATE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1983 WAS 4.3 PER CENT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1984 WAS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO BE 96 000, AS COMPARED WITH 104 600 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 1983, AND 106 700 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1983 - JANUARY 1984 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 1.5 PER CENT WHILE THAT FOR AUGUST - OCTOBER 1983 WAS 1.6 PER CENT. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO RATES IS NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS 39 000 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1984, AS COMPARED WITH 40 900 FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 1983.

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 UPON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JANUARY 1984 WAS 3.8 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THIS QUARTERLY SURVEY COVERS SAMPLE-SIZE 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 HOUSEHOLD SAMPLED.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 1984 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND JUNE 20, 1984.

SCHOOLS, TEACHERS' VITAL ROLE STRESSED
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SCHOOL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NURTURING A CHILD'S SENSE OF BELONGING FOR A COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING AREAS LIKE THE NEW TOWNS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK LEUNG CHOW SHUN KAM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TUEN MUN, MR HAYE SAID SCHOOL FORMED A CENTRAL PART OF MOST CHILDREN'S LIVES.

+IT IS, THEREFORE, VERY LIKELY THAT THIS SCHOOL IS WHERE THE NEW YOUNG RESIDENTS OF TUEN MUN WILL BE INITIATED INTO THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

MR HAYE ALSO REFERRED TO THE BIG RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEACHERS IN THE NEW TOWNS AND SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE +IN A STIMULATING AND LASTING MANNER+, AND SETTING EXAMPLES IN THEIR PERSONAL CONDUCT, THEY HAD ALSO TO HELP THEIR STUDENTS SETTLE DOWN AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

+THEY DID THIS FIRST THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND THEN IN INCREASING INVOLVEMENT, AS THE SCHOOL DEVELOPED AND MATURED, IN THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

+A SENSE OF BELONGING DEVELOPED IN AND FOR THE SCHOOL WILL EXTEND TO A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR THE COMMUNITY,+ HE CONCLUDED.

HE PRAISED THE PO LEUNG KUK FOR ITS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SOCIAL SERVICES, ESPECIALLY IN THE CARE AND EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG IN HONG KONG.

IT HAD BEEN PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ON VARIOUS LEVELS AND FACETS, WITH ITS FIVE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, NINE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THREE SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND FIVE KINDERGARTENS.

IN THE NEW TOWNS, THE PO LEUNG KUK HAD ALSO BEEN PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN EDUCATION FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, MR HAYE SAID.

+HERE IN TUEN MUN, THE PO LEUNG KUK HAS ALREADY MADE ITS MARK WITH THE PO LEUNG KUK CENTENARY COLLEGE, THE PO LEUNG KUK NO. 5 PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE NEWLY OPENED PO LEUNG KUK SIU HONG COURT KINDERGARTEN,+ HE SAID.

LEGAL AID SCHEME EXPANDS RAPIDLY
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MORE PEOPLE ARE BENEFITING FROM THE INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT.

LAST YEAR THE DEPARTMENT GRANTED LEGAL AID TO OVER 6 800 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LITIGATION APPLICANTS, A TENFOLD INCREASE SINCE THE LEGAL AID SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1967.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, MR PATRICK MOSS, ATTRIBUTED THIS RAPID INCREASE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEME AND THE PUBLIC'S GROWING AWARENESS OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE.

IN THE SAME YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT RECOVERED A RECORD AMOUNT OF OVER \$45 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR LEGALLY AIDED PERSONS.

+WITHOUT LEGAL AID, MANY OF THESE PEOPLE MIGHT NOT HAVE RECEIVED ANY COMPENSATION FOR THE WRONGS THEY SUFFERED,+ HE SAID.

IN THE 1983-84 FINANCIAL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SPENT MORE THAN \$13 MILLION ON CIVIL CASES AND \$18 MILLION ON CRIMINAL TRIALS AND APPEALS.

FROM JANUARY 1, THE SCOPE OF LEGAL AID IN CRIMINAL CASES HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURTS.

+WITH THIS EXTENSION, DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH SERIOUS OFFENCES CAN NOW BE LEGALLY REPRESENTED AND ADVISED BY LAWYERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURTS.

+IN THE PAST, THEY COULD ONLY APPLY FOR LEGAL AID AFTER THEIR CASES HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE HIGH COURT,+ EXPLAINED MR MOSS.

LEGAL AID IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WITH LIMITED MEANS WHO CAN SHOW THAT HE HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO COMMENCE, DEFEND OR CONTINUE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OR THE HIGH COURT, AND COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE MAGISTRACIES.

IT COVERS AN INCREASING VARIETY OF CASES, RANGING FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES AT WORK TO NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES AND TENANCY AND CONTRACT DISPUTES.

AN APPLICANT FOR LEGAL AID MUST PROVE THAT AFTER DEDUCTION OF ALLOWANCES, HIS INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED \$1 500 PER MONTH AND HIS CAPITAL \$15 000.

THE ALLOWANCES INCLUDE RENTS AND RATES PAID AND A CAPITAL VALUE OF NOT MORE THAN \$300 000 FOR AN OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENCE.

/ALSO INCLUDED

ALSO INCLUDED ARE PERSONAL ALLOWANCES FOR THE APPLICANT AND HIS DEPENDANTS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RAISED BY 13 PER CENT IN LINE WITH THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES.

WHILE APPLICATION FOR LEGAL AID IS FREE OF CHARGE, A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS HIS LEGAL COSTS, DEPENDING ON HIS FINANCIAL MEANS. BUT AN APPLICANT WHOSE MONTHLY INCOME AFTER ALLOWANCES DOES NOT EXCEED \$750 AND WHOSE ASSETS AFTER ALLOWANCES ARE LESS THAN \$5 000 WILL BE GIVEN LEGAL AID FREE OF CHARGE.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL AID MAY EITHER CHOOSE A LAWYER FROM THE LIST OF SOLICITORS AND BARRISTERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE WHO UNDERTAKE LEGAL AID CASES OR MAY HAVE THE SERVICES OF ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 45 LAWYERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN HANDLING SUCH CASES.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL AID SHOULD BE MADE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS AT SINCERE BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG OR AT ITS BRANCH OFFICE AT RITZ BUILDING, 8TH FLOOR, 625 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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CARBON FILTERS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS

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TWO CONTRACTS FOR INSTALLING CARBON FILTERS IN REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS AT MONG KOK AND LEI YUE MUN HAVE BEEN AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE FILTERS ARE DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE FOUL AIR GENERATED BY RUBBISH.

ONE OF THE CONTRACTS, VALUED AT \$124 000, WAS AWARDED TO AMERICAN ENGINEERING CORPORATION (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

IT IS FOR THE FILTER SYSTEM AT THE MONG KOK REFUSE COLLECTION POINT NOW BEING BUILT ON A 150-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT PORTLAND STREET.

THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDES A PUBLIC TOILET AND A TOILET FOR THE DISABLED.

THE OTHER CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$117 000, WAS AWARDED TO WESTCO AIR-CONDITIONING LIMITED. IT IS FOR THE PROJECT AT THE LEI YUE MUN COLLECTION POINT WHICH IS BEING BUILT AT YAN YUE WAI ON A 216-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED AT BOTH REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS INCLUDE REFUSE COLLECTION AREAS, LOADING BAYS, ROLL-CALL ROOMS, OFFICES AND STOREROOMS.

WORK ON THE TWO PROJECTS STARTED RECENTLY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND WAN CHAI
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A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND WAN CHAI WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS.

IN CAUSEWAY BAY, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF VICTORIA PARK ROAD BETWEEN ITS FLYOVER AND HING FAT STREET WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11 PM TOMORROW (MARCH 16) AND 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AT THESE HOURS, THE NORTH POINT EXIT FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED.

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

THE MEASURES WILL BE REPEATED ON THE NIGHTS OF MARCH 17, 20 AND 21.

MEANWHILE, FROM 8 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17) TO 10 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 19), WING FUNG STREET WEST AND THE SECTION OF MONMOUTH PATH BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND STAR STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

DURING THIS PERIOD, WING FUNG STREET AND THE SECTION OF STAR STREET BETWEEN WING FUNG STREET AND MONMOUTH PATH WILL BE REROUTED TWO WAYS.

INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN FLEMING ROAD AND LUARD ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 PM TO 11 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17) AND FROM 8 PM ON SUNDAY (MARCH 18) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THE PERIODS, THE SLIP ROAD CONNECTING INNER GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND WITH THE WESTBOUND MAIN CARRIAGEWAY OF GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL ALSO BE CLOSED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS OPEN DAY AT CAS TRAINING CENTRE
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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES' NEW CADET TRAINING CENTRE IN TO KWA WAN WILL BE OPEN TO THE PRESS ON SUNDAY (MARCH 18) MORNING.

THE NEW TRAINING CENTRE, LOCATED AT THE FORMER MA TAU WEI VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP, ALSO SERVES AS A RECRUITING OFFICE FOR THE CAS.

/IT ACCOMMODATES

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IT ACCOMMODATES A CADET FIBRE-GLASSING CANOE WORKSHOP, A CARPENTRY WORKSHOP, STUDY ROOMS, A CADET CAREER COUNSELLING UNIT, A SPORTS AND RECREATION UNIT AND A SOCIAL CLUB.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE CAS' RECRUITMENT AND CAREER COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS THE TRAINING OF CADETS IN ITS FIBRE-GLASSING AND CARPENTRY WORKSHOPS.

THE CAS CADET CORPS, ESTABLISHED IN 1968, AIMS TO TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 18 TO BECOME GOOD CITIZENS BY DEVELOPING THEIR PERSONALITIES, PERSONAL TALENTS, PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND SENSE OF COOPERATION. IT NOW HAS MORE THAN 2 600 CADETS.

THE CADET CORPS OFFERS TO ITS MEMBERS A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CAMPING, BOATING, WORK PROJECTS, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SKILL TRAINING COURSES.

THE CADET COMMANDANT, MR HOWARD YOUNG, AND OTHER SENIOR CAS OFFICERS WILL BE PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE CAS NEW CADET TRAINING CENTRE AT 464 MA TAU WEI ROAD ON SUNDAY (MARCH 18) AT 11.30 AM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MANAGEMENT TRAINING CONFERENCE
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THE 1984 CO-ORDINATION CONFERENCE ON MANAGEMENT TRAINING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (MARCH 16) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, 3/F, MANAGEMENT HOUSE, 26 CANAL ROAD WEST, HONG KONG.

THE CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING (CMST) OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.

DR FRANCIS TIEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

MR PETER F. BARRETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE CMST WILL INTRODUCE THE HONG KONG MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE WHICH IS BEING ESTABLISHED AND WILL BE MANAGED BY THE CMST.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE AT 9.15 AM. MR PETER F. BARRETT WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE CENTRE AFTER THE CEREMONY.

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MOVE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW

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NEW CLEARWAY AND LEARNER DRIVER PROHIBITION MEASURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SAI YING PUN, QUARRY BAY AND HO MAN TIN TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE DISTRICTS.

FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (MARCH 16), THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY AT THE NORTHERN CARRIAGEWAY OF FIRST STREET IN SAI YING PUN WILL BE EXTENDED TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF EASTERN STREET.

WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION, NO MOTOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS BETWEEN 5 PM AND 8 PM DAILY.

FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17), KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 945 AND FINNIE STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS.

IN HO MAN TIN, THE UNNAMED ROAD BETWEEN SHEUNG SHING STREET AND TIN KWONG ROAD POLICE MARRIED QUARTERS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS PROHIBITED ZONE FOR LEARNER DRIVERS FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17).

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SPECIAL BUS SERVICE FOR WALDORF GARDEN

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FROM FRIDAY (MARCH 16), KMB WILL SEND AN EXTRA EMPTY BUS AND ANOTHER SEMI-EMPTY ONE ON ROUTE 66 AT 7.35 AM AND AT 8 AM TO SERVE THE MORNING PEAK DEMAND AT WALDORF GARDEN, TUEN MUN.

THE ROUTE OPERATES VIA TUEN MUN ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, KWAI CHUNG ROAD, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND NATHAN ROAD TO TAI KOK TSUI FERRY. THE FARE IS \$3.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TAI PO PUBLIC SCHOOL OPENING

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR IAN MACPHERSON, WILL OPEN THE TAI PO PUBLIC SCHOOL AT KWONG FUK ESTATE AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 17).

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

AWARDS FOR CRAFT TECHNICIANS
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS TO 96 CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES WHO HAVE COMPLETED FOUR YEARS TRAINING UNDER THE GOVERNMENT APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHEME, AT THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY), STARTING AT 5.30 PM.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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