



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1990

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HK MUST STRENGTHEN ITS ROLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO CHINA

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ONE OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR ROLES MUST CONTINUE TO BE TO PROVIDE A HUB FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND RESOURCES GENERATED AND NEEDED BY PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES IN THE HINTERLAND, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE PACIFIC RIM CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN GROWTH, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS TO SOUTH CHINA WHAT ROTTERDAM WAS TO EUROPE, OR NEW YORK TO THE EAST COAST AND THAT THERE WAS A CLEAR, COMPLEMENTARY ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THIS WIDER HINTERLAND.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG BEING THE BEST DEEP WATER PORT ON CHINA'S SOUTHERN COAST WAS FAST APPROACHING CAPACITY AND HONG KONG MUST STRENGTHEN THAT ROLE BY THE INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TERMINALS IN ITS WESTERN HARBOUR, BY PROVIDING NEW TRANSPORT LINKS ACROSS OUR BORDER, AND BY EXPANDING FACILITIES FOR THE PEARL RIVER TRADE.

"A KEY PART OF THIS IS OUR DECISION TO BUILD A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK ON NORTH LANTAU.

"IT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS AN ENTREPOT FACILITY BECAUSE OF ITS CENTRAL ACCESSIBILITY TO THE TRIANGLE OF POTENTIAL URBAN GROWTH WHOSE CORNERS ARE MARKED BY HONG KONG, GUANGZHOU AND MACAU," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT WHEN ONE CONSIDERED METROPOLITAN PARALLELS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD (SUCH AS GREATER LONDON, LOS ANGELES AND THE CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL BASE OF NORTH EUROPE) THAT THE LONG TERM URBAN DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF THE PEARL RIVER DELTA WAS SUCH THAT THE THREE AIRPORTS CURRENTLY PLANNED AT CHEK LAP KOK IN HONG KONG, HUANGTIAN NEAR SHENZHEN AND MACAU WOULD ALL BE REQUIRED.

OUTLINING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG IN ITS CITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST DECADES, SIR DAVID SAID ALL THIS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CAREFULLY STRUCTURED HOUSING-LED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

"WE HAVE BUILT ON BASICS: MODEST INITIAL STANDARDS PROGRESSIVELY IMPROVED AS OUR ECONOMY GREW IN STRENGTH.

"PERIODICALLY, WE PAUSE, TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND GIRD UP OUR LOINS FOR A MAJOR UPGRADING OF KEY INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES - MASSIVE RESERVOIRS WHERE ONCE WAS SEA AND ISLANDS; TERRITORY-WIDE MASS TRANSPORT SYSTEMS; HUGE POWER STATIONS (PRIVATELY BUILT) AND NOW THE BIGGEST STEP OF ALL, THE DOUBLING IN SIZE OF OUR PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES."

SIR DAVID SAID THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN SUCH WORKS WAS OFTEN VERY SUBSTANTIAL - \$25 BILLION FOR THE MTR ALONE.

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"BUT WE TAKE THE LONG VIEW: THAT SURPLUSES SHOULD BE PLOUGHED BACK SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN REAP THE BENEFIT OF EXPANDED ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

"CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH, COUPLED WITH IMPROVED URBAN DESIGN, ARE ESSENTIAL FOR CREATING A BETTER CITY IN WHICH TO LIVE," HE SAID.

ON THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG INTO A STRONG INDUSTRIAL BASE, SIR DAVID SAID: "BECAUSE WE, AS A GOVERNMENT, OFFER NEITHER SUBSIDIES NOR PROTECTION TO OUR ENTREPRENEURS, OUR ECONOMY IS FREE CONSTANTLY TO ADAPT TO THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.

"MANUFACTURING HAS BECOME MORE SOPHISTICATED THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. PRODUCTIVITY HAS IMPROVED AND THE INDUSTRIAL WORK FORCE HAS DECLINED.

"A KEY CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR IN THIS LATTER TREND HAS BEEN CHINA'S 'OPEN DOOR POLICY'," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S ENTREPRENEURS WERE QUICK TO GO THROUGH CHINA'S DOOR WHEN IT OPENED IN THE LATE SEVENTIES; QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PLENTIFUL LAND AND LABOUR IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA.

"MANY THOUSANDS OF HONG KONG ENTREPRENEURS HAVE SET UP JOINT VENTURES OVER THE BORDER, WHILST RETAINING IN HONG KONG KEY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS PRODUCT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCE PROCUREMENT, PACKAGING, INFORMATION PROCESSING AND MARKETING.

"MUCH OF THE DELTA HAS THUS BECOME HONG KONG'S 'INDUSTRIAL HINTER-LAND', AND HONG KONG HAS BEGUN TO DEVELOP AS THE SERVICE CENTRE FOR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

"CHINA'S RE-OPENED DOOR HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A TREMENDOUS SURGE IN THE RE-EXPORT TRADE WHICH, OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS GROWN AT AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF ABOUT 45 PER CENT," HE SAID.

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO RELY ON EXCELLENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SOPHISTICATED COMPUTERISED INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND CONVENIENT INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRANSPORTATION.

"MORE IMPORTANT IT WILL CONTINUE TO RENEW THESE VITAL INFRASTRUCTURAL COMPONENTS TO ENSURE THAT IT STAYS AHEAD AS THE COMMUNICATIONS HUB OF THE REGION," HE SAID.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WHICH PUMPED MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY EACH YEAR, SIR DAVID REITERATED THAT IF WE WERE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF TOURISM AND SEE ITS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION GROW, WE WOULD NEED TO BUILD OUR AIRPORT QUICKLY AND TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS.

"NOTHING DETERS THE TRAVELLER MORE THAN CONGESTION AND DELAYS AT AN AIRPORT," HE SAID.

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF HONG KONG WERE HIGHLY INTERDEPENDENT AND IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FRENETIC INTERACTION.

"IF ANY ONE ELEMENT IS ALLOWED TO FALTER EITHER BY INTENT OF DEFAULT, THEN THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WHOLE COMPLICATED SYSTEM COULD BE DIMINISHED," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HONG KONG APPROACH WHICH, CONSISTENTLY APPLIED, HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO ITS SUCCESS.

"THE FIRST IS A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS INFRASTRUCTURAL REINVESTMENT, WITH PRAGMATIC, INCREMENTAL DECISIONS TAKEN IN A TIMELY WAY TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF GROWTH.

"AND THE SECOND IS THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP OUT OF THE MARKET PLACE AND LEAVE BUSINESS DECISIONS TO THOSE WHO READ FREE MARKET SIGNALS BEST," HE SAID.

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SERIES OF BRIEFINGS TO CHINESE TEAM COMPLETED: CHIEF SECRETARY
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THIS MORNING'S MEETING COMPLETES THE SERIES OF BRIEFINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE CHINESE TEAM OF EXPERTS WHO ARE HERE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING, SIR DAVID SAID: "IT WAS A REVIEW MEETING TODAY, THE FIRST OF TWO REVIEW MEETINGS. THERE IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LATER IN THE WEEK."

"WE ANSWERED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE. WE HAVE AGREED TO GIVE FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH THEY HAVE REQUESTED," HE ADDED.

"AS USUAL, THE MEETING WAS A VERY POSITIVE AND A USEFUL MEETING AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING THE TEAM LATER ON ON THURSDAY," SIR DAVID SAID.

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SHOPS FINED FOR FAILURE TO DISPLAY NOTICES IN GOLD AND PLATINUM SALES
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OPERATORS OF SEVEN JEWELLERY SHOPS HAD BEEN FINED A TOTAL OF \$57,100 SO FAR THIS MONTH FOR FAILING TO DISPLAY THE MARKING ORDER NOTICES REQUIRED IN THE SALE OF GOLD AND PLATINUM ITEMS.

APPEARING IN DIFFERENT COURTS, MOSTLY THE SHATIN AND THE WESTERN MAGISTRACIES, THE DEFENDANTS PLEADED GUILTY TO CHARGES OF FAILING TO DISPLAY IN THEIR SHOPS MARKING ORDER NOTICES AS SPECIFIED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKING) (GOLD AND GOLD ALLOY) ORDER 1984 AND THE TRADE DESCRIPTIONS (MARKING) (PLATINUM) ORDER 1988.

THE GOLD MARKING ORDER NOTICE OR THE PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICE SHOULD INDICATE THAT EVERY ARTICLE MADE OF GOLD, GOLD ALLOY OR PLATINUM THAT IS SUPPLIED OR OFFERED FOR SUPPLY IN THE COURSE OF TRADE, SHOULD BEAR A MARK INDICATING THE FINENESS OF THE GOLD OR PLATINUM CONTENT.

THESE NOTICES SHOULD BE DISPLAYED AT A PROMINENT SITE IN PLACES WHERE GOLD OR PLATINUM ITEMS ARE SUPPLIED OR OFFERED FOR SUPPLY IN THE COURSE OF TRADE OR BUSINESS.

THE DEFENDANTS WERE TAI FOOK GOLD AND SILVER CO. LTD., CHEUNG HING JEWELLERY LTD., LEE WAI-LING OF SHATIN SUN TUNG SHING JEWELLERY AND GOLDSMITH, CHENG CHUN-TING OF CHENG KIN SHING GOLD SHOP, LEE SHUN-FOON OF WOO PING JEWELLERY CO., LO SI-YUNG OF YU WO AND TSANG HUNG OF TAI SANG GOLDSMITH.

THE COURTS HEARD THAT OFFICERS OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT VISITED THE SHOPS DURING A TERRITORY-WIDE INSPECTION ON JULY 12 THIS YEAR.

IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT SIX OF THE SHOPS HAD NOT DISPLAYED THE REQUIRED GOLD MARKING ORDER NOTICES, WHILE ONE WAS WITHOUT BOTH THE PLATINUM MARKING ORDER NOTICE AND THAT OF THE GOLD MARKING ORDER NOTICE.

THE PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, MR C.K. WONG, SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING THE ORDER WAS A FINE OF \$100,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS ON SUMMARY CONVICTION, AND A FINE OF \$500,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR FIVE YEARS ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT.

HE REMINDED TRADERS OF GOLD AND PLATINUM ARTICLES THAT OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WOULD CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS OF THEIR SHOPS FROM TIME TO TIME.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE TRADERS COMPLY WITH THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS IN THE LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

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KAI TAK CENTRE FOR NEW CATEGORY OF RETURNEES

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT PART OF THE EXISTING KAI TAK DEPARTURE CENTRE WILL BE CONVERTED TO ACCOMMODATE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WHO WILL RETURN TO VIETNAM UNDER THE NEW SCHEME AGREED IN HANOI LAST MONTH BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HONG KONG, VIETNAM AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THOSE BOAT PEOPLE WHO, WHILE NOT VOLUNTEERING TO RETURN ARE NEVERTHELESS NOT OPPOSED TO GOING BACK TO VIETNAM, CAN BE SENT BACK TO VIETNAM UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR.

CURRENTLY, VBP'S WHO VOLUNTEER TO RETURN TO VIETNAM WERE ACCOMMODATED AT THE LO WU DETENTION CENTRE PRIOR TO REPATRIATION.

"AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEW SCHEME WILL BE PROCESSED THROUGH DIFFERENT PROCEDURES, THE UNHCR AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE AGREED THAT THESE RETURNEES SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN A SEPARATE CENTRE," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE NEW ACCOMMODATION WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 200 PLACES.

THE KAI TAK DEPARTURE CENTRE IS AT PRESENT USED TO HOUSE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, NORMALLY A FEW DAYS, BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT.

"THESE BOAT PEOPLE, LIKE THE REFUGEES IN THE EXISTING DEPARTURE CENTRE, ARE EXPECTED TO STAY IN THE CENTRE FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO MAKE THE CENTRE MORE SECURE AND SUITABLE FOR USE AS A DETENTION CENTRE, MORE AND BETTER QUALITY FENCING WILL BE ERECTED AND OTHER MINOR RENOVATION WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

THE DETENTION CENTRE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WITH SUPPORT FROM THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER.

"THE CENTRE WILL BE GAZETTED AS A DETENTION CENTRE UNDER SECTION 13H OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE ON OCTOBER 25 (THURSDAY)," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REST OF THE KAI TAK CENTRE WOULD REMAIN AS A REFUGEE DEPARTURE CENTRE. BUT THE REFUGEES WOULD BE KEPT PHYSICALLY SEPARATE FROM THE BOAT PEOPLE IN THE CENTRE, HE ADDED.

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182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS TO BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS APPROVED THE ISSUE OF 182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS IN ADDITION TO THE 91-DAY BILLS WHICH WERE ISSUED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE FIRST TENDER FOR 182-DAY BILL WILL BE HELD NEXT TUESDAY (OCTOBER 30).

INITIALLY, UP TO \$200 MILLION OF 182-DAY BILLS WILL BE ISSUED ON ALTERNATE WEEKS. THE RESERVE HELD BY THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL BE \$60 MILLION PER ISSUE.

"THE PROGRAMME FOR 91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS HAS BEEN OPERATING WELL. THE NEXT STEP IS TO EXTEND THE PROGRAMME BY THE ISSUE OF 182-DAY BILLS," THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"THIS WILL HELP TO DEVELOP THE HONG KONG DOLLAR PAPER MARKET AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BILLS AS MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS," HE ADDED.

"WE HAVE CONSULTED THE MARKET COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG CAPITAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION. BOTH OF THEM SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE," MR NENDICK SAID.

ALL THE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR TENDER, ISSUE, REDEMPTION AND TRANSFER OF 91-DAY BILL WILL BE USED FOR THE 182-DAY BILL AS WELL.

THE FREQUENCY AND SIZE OF ISSUE WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW AND ADJUSTED IF NECESSARY IN THE LIGHT OF ACTUAL RESPONSES IN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKETS.

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POST OFFICE ISSUES SPECIAL CHRISTMAS STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE A SPECIAL SET OF CHRISTMAS STAMPS AND POSTCARDS THIS YEAR.

THE STAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS 1990 WILL BE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 8.

THERE WILL BE SIX DENOMINATIONS: 50 CENTS, 60 CENTS, \$1.4, \$1.8, \$2 AND \$5.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC WONG, SAID: "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE ISSUES A SET OF CHRISTMAS STAMPS AND POSTCARDS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE POPULAR."

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IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL DATESTAMPS, MR WONG SAID SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR THE HAND-BACK SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 8.

THE POST OFFICE ORGANISED AN OPEN STAMP DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE 1990 CHRISTMAS STAMP AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

OVER 8,500 ENTRIES WERE RECEIVED.

THE FINAL STAMP DESIGNS WERE BASED ON THE CONCEPTS OF THE WINNING ENTRIES AND WERE REDRAWN BY A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNER, MR IAN LEUNG, TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENCY IN STYLE AND FORMAT.

THE STAMPS ARE PRINTED BY LEIGN-MARDON PTY LTD. OF AUSTRALIA.

A SET OF FOUR POSTCARDS WITH DESIGNS DIFFERENT FROM THE STAMPS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED. THESE POSTCARDS ARE PRINTED BY SMITH AND WATTS LTD. OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AT 70 CENTS EACH WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES FROM TODAY (MONDAY). POSTCARDS AT \$1 EACH WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER 1.

THE STAMPS, POSTCARDS AND FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 24) FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR FIRST DAY TREATMENT OF FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ALL POST OFFICES FROM TODAY (MONDAY) TO NOVEMBER 2. THE MINIMUM QUANTITY PER ORDER IS FIVE COVERS.

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO AVOID CONGESTION ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE USE OF THIS SERVICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE SPECIAL DATESTAMP WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$13.5 EACH AT THE DESIGNATED COUNTERS OF 21 POST OFFICES ON NOVEMBER 8. THEY ARE:

HONG KONG ISLAND

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
KING'S ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

KOWLOON

KOWLOON

AIRPORT POST OFFICE
CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE
MONG KOK POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TAI PO POST OFFICE
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE
TUEN MUN SAN HUI POST OFFICE
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

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LEGCO TO DEBATE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS
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FORTY-ONE LEGISLATORS ARE TO SPEAK IN THE TWO-DAY POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LEGCO) BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 24).

THE DEBATE, ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS, WILL CONTINUE ON THURSDAY.

THE MOTION, TO BE MOVED BY THE SENIOR LEGCO MEMBER, THE HON ALLEN LEE, WILL READ: "THAT THIS COUNCIL THANKS THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS ADDRESS".

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGCO MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS TO DIVERSIFY SERVICES: LAN URGES

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KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD CONSTANTLY REVIEW THEIR ROLE AND ORGANISATION AND TO RECRUIT YOUNGER MEMBERS TO KEEP UP WITH THE PACE OF THE TIME, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE 41ST KAIFONG FESTIVAL, HE SAID THAT IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EXPECTED MORE INNOVATIVE AND TIMELY SERVICES WITH POPULATION INCREASE AND SOCIETAL CHANGES.

MR LAN WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT SOME KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO MODERNISE AND DIVERSIFY THEIR SERVICES IN A HOPE THAT OTHERS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT.

"AS FOR THE PROMOTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, APART FROM REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION, CAN ALSO HELP THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ACQUIRE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF ELECTION AND THE PLATFORMS OF THE CANDIDATES AS WELL AS TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHT AND TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS," HE ADDED.

MR LAN SAID MANY KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS HAD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS BY ACTIVELY PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION.

"I BELIEVE THAT WITH THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF MORE THAN 60 KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, MORE PEOPLE WILL TAKE PART IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO JOINTLY PROMOTE THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

MR LAN ALSO PRAISED THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WELFARE, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST FOUR DECADES.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 56.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 331.701 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 390.590 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 66.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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EIGHT GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN IN THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 26) FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE EIGHT CLINICS ARE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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ALL POST OFFICES CLOSE ON CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THERE WILL BE NO LETTER DELIVERY AND ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 26).

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WATER CUTS IN THREE DISTRICTS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME MONG KOK PREMISES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 24) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY SHAN TUNG STREET, CANTON ROAD, ARGYLE STREET, NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK ROAD, TONG MEI ROAD AND FERRY STREET.

IN KWUN TONG, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED AT THE SAME TIME TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES BOUNDED BY SAU MAU PING ROAD, HIU KWONG STREET, SAU MING ROAD, SAU MAU PATH, INCLUDING BLOCKS 19-31 AND 42-45 OF SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

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ON THE SAME DAY, FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES TO THE WESTERN SIDE OF CONNAUGHT PLACE, PEDDER STREET, WYNDHAM STREET, GLENEALY; AND TO THE NORTHERN SIDE OF CAINE ROAD, BONHAM ROAD, POK FU LAM ROAD, HOK SZ TERRACE; AND TO THE EASTERN SIDE OF SANDS STREET.

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LABOUR COMMISSIONER VISITS KMB

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY AT LAI CHI KOK TO KEEP ABREAST OF LABOUR DEVELOPMENT THERE.

THE BUS COMPANY OPERATES FRANCHISED PUBLIC BUS SERVICES IN KOWLOON AND MOST PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND HAS A WORKFORCE OF ABOUT 10,000.

MR HAMMOND WAS RECEIVED BY THE COMPANY'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT WHO BRIEFED HIM ON THE COMPANY'S OPERATION AND ITS GENERAL LABOUR SITUATION.

THE COMMISSIONER WAS THEN SHOWN AROUND THE COMPANY'S CLINIC, COMPUTER CENTRE AND THE LAI CHI KOK DEPOT AND MET STAFF AT WORK.

MR HAMMOND WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE COMPANY ESTABLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY SYSTEM IN 1988 WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE TO PROMOTE IN-PLANT SAFETY.

IT INCLUDES A CENTRAL SAFETY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING OVERALL SAFETY POLICY AND SEVEN DEPOT SAFETY COMMITTEES WHICH CARRY OUT SAFETY INSPECTIONS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE PLANTS ON A MONTHLY BASIS. THE COMMITTEES ALSO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS.

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VEGETARIAN FEAST FOR THE ELDERLY

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MORE THAN 1,200 ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN YAU TSIM DISTRICT WERE TREATED TO A VEGETARIAN MEAL AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE CONCOURSE THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

THE DINNER WAS ARRANGED BY THE YAU MA TEI KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD AND A NEWSPAPER'S CHARITY FUND.

"LAI SEES" (RED PACKETS) WERE ALSO DISTRIBUTED AND THOSE AGED OVER 90 WERE GIVEN COMMEMORATIVE GOLD PENDANTS.

THE OFFICIATING GUESTS OF THIS EVENING'S FUNCTION INCLUDED THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR PETER FERRY; ICAC REGIONAL OFFICER (KOWLOON WEST), MR CHAN FEI-HUNG; REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER (KOWLOON WEST), MRS PUN LI WAI-CHUN AND THE CHARITY FUND DIRECTOR, MR LI CHUNG-SING.

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