



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FOUR PER CENT GROWTH IN GDP PREDICTED
* * * *

THIS WILL BE A YEAR OF +SLOWER RATES OF GROWTH, LOWER INFLATION AND STILL HIGH LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT+, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF SECURITY ANALYSTS THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE REVISED GROWTH RATE OF GDP FOR THE YEAR IS NOW FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, COMPARED WITH THE BUDGET FORECAST OF EIGHT PER CENT AND THE ACHIEVED GROWTH RATE OF 11 PER CENT IN 1981.

+IN MAKING SUCH A CONSIDERABLE REVISION TO MY FORECAST I AM CONSOLED, THOUGH ONLY PARTLY, BY THE REALISATION THAT SIMILAR DOWNWARD REVISIONS HAVE HAD TO BE MADE BY OTHER FORECASTERS, BOTH IN HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS WISE TO FACE THE FACTS SQUARELY,+ HE ADDED. +THEY ALSO REVEAL THAT MOST OTHERS ARE DOING WORSE, THOUGH THAT IS LITTLE CONSOLATION TO HONG KONG PEOPLE.+

AND IF THIS FOUR PER CENT GROWTH RATE IS ACHIEVED, AT A TIME GENERALLY CONSIDERED BY ECONOMISTS TO BE THE MOST SEVERE WORLD RECESSION IN 50 YEARS, +OUR ECONOMY WILL HAVE DONE BETTER THAN IN THE LAST RECESSION IN 1974-75, WHEN WE RECORDED A GROWTH RATE OF ONLY TWO PER CENT FOR TWO YEARS RUNNING,+ HE SAID.

LOOKING AT HONG KONG'S LONGER TERM PROSPECTS, MR BREMRIDGE SAID +THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY MAY BEGIN TO IMPROVE SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IN 1983.+

IT SEEMED PROBABLE THAT THE NADIR IN THE WORLD RECESSION HAD BEEN REACHED, BUT THE POSSIBILITY MUST EXIST IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE OF FURTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL SHOCKS ARISING UNPREDICTABLY FROM BANKING, POLITICAL OR MILITARY EVENTS.

+ALL WE IN HONG KONG CAN DO IS GUARD OUR RESERVES, STAY NIMBLE ON OUR FEET, AND CONTINUE TO GUIDE OUR AFFAIRS WITH PRUDENCE.

+WITH A RELATIVELY DEFLATED INTERNAL COST/PRICE STRUCTURE AND SOME SPARE CAPACITY, HONG KONG IS WELL PLACED TO BENEFIT FROM A REVIVAL IN EXPORT DEMAND AS OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS START TO CLIMB OUT OF THE PRESENT RECESSION,+ HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OUTLINED A NUMBER OF REVISED FORECASTS FOR 1982.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

TAKING A PESSIMISTIC VIEW QUITE DELIBERATELY, IT APPEARS THAT OUR EXPORT PERFORMANCE MAY REMAIN WEAK FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, HE SAID. CONSEQUENTLY, DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN REAL TERMS ARE NOW FORECAST TO DECLINE BY TWO PER CENT, COMPARED WITH A BUDGET FORECAST INCREASE OF SEVEN PER CENT.

ZERO TO NEGATIVE GROWTH RATES ARE FORECAST FOR OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MAJOR MARKETS INCLUDING THE USA, THE UK AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

+CHINA IS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT, WITH A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE EXPECTED,+ SAID MR BREMRIDGE.

RE-EXPORTS

THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS IN REAL TERMS IS REVISED DOWNWARDS TO ZERO FROM THE BUDGET FORECAST OF 20 PER CENT.

IMPORTS

THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN REAL TERMS IS ALSO REVISED DOWNWARDS TO MINUS 3 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE BUDGET FORECAST OF PLUS 12 PER CENT.

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IS FORECAST TO GROW IN REAL TERMS BY THREE PER CENT, AS AGAINST THE SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH FORECAST IN THE BUDGET.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT THE SLOWING DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, WHICH STARTED IN THE BEGINNING OF 1981, HAD CONTINUED INTO THIS YEAR, PROBABLY DUE TO POOR EXPORT PERFORMANCE AFFECTING INCOMES AND TO THE UNFAVOURABLE INFLUENCE ON WEALTH OF A DEPRESSED STOCK MARKET.

PUBLIC SECTOR DEMAND

PUBLIC SECTOR DEMAND ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS FORECAST TO REMAIN STRONG AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, THE HOUSING PROGRAMME AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

AS SOME SLOWING DOWN IN PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED, OVERALL EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION IN REAL TERMS IS FORECAST TO GROW BY 13 PER CENT IN 1982, AGAINST THE BUDGET FORECAST OF 15 PER CENT.

PLANT AND MACHINERY

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF OVERALL EXPENDITURE ON PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN REAL TERMS IS REVISED FROM 14 PER CENT TO MINUS 5 PER CENT.

+TAKING GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION AS A WHOLE, A SUBSTANTIAL DOWNWARD REVISION IS THUS MADE TO THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS, FROM THE BUDGET FORECAST OF 16 PER CENT TO 3 PER CENT.

GDP EXPENDITURE

THE REVISED FORECAST OF EXPENDITURE ON THE GDP AT CONSTANT (1973) PRICES IN 1982 IS \$73.4 BILLION. WITH A FORECAST INCREASE IN THE GDP DEFLATOR OF 10 PER CENT, THE REVISED FORECAST EXPENDITURE ON THE GDP AT CURRENT PRICES IS \$155.9 BILLION.

IN PER CAPITA TERMS 1982 GDP AT CURRENT PRICES IS NOW FORECAST TO BE ABOUT \$30 000, REPRESENTING AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 13 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS, AND AN INCREASE OF THREE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS. +THE LATTER IS REMARKABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORST RECESSION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY SINCE THE 1930'S,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVISED GDP FORECAST FOR THE ECONOMY THIS YEAR CAN BE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:

THE PRESSURE OF AGGREGATE DEMAND ON THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL IS LIKELY TO EASE OFF.

DOMESTIC DEMAND WILL BE THE SOURCE OF GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY IN 1982 RATHER THAN EXPORT DEMAND, THOUGH HE EMPHASISED THAT GROWTH WHICH IS OTHER THAN EXPORT-LED CANNOT BE SUSTAINED FOR LONG.

AS A RESULT OF THE UPWARD REVISION TO THE EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT AND THE DOWNWARD REVISION TO THE GDP FORECAST FOR 1982, THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WILL INCREASE TO JUST OVER 25 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE BUDGET ESTIMATE OF JUST BELOW 24 PER CENT. THE PUBLIC SECTOR WILL THUS COMMAND AN INCREASED SHARE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN THE ECONOMY. THIS CAN BE ACCEPTED ONLY AS A SHORT-TERM PHENOMENON, BECAUSE IT IS STILL THE FIRM MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTRAIN PUBLIC SPENDING SO AS NOT TO FRUSTRATE THE DEMAND FOR RESOURCES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT WILL ALSO INCREASE FURTHER FROM 43 PER CENT IN 1981 TO 49 PER CENT IN 1982.

+AS THERE APPEARS TO BE SPARE CAPACITY IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, I DO NOT EXPECT THE INCREASE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S SHARE IN EXPENDITURE TO HAVE A CROWDING OUT EFFECT ON PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY.

+THERE WILL BE A NARROWING OF THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP FROM 11.7 PER CENT IN 1981 TO 10.7 PER CENT IN 1982.

A SMALL NARROWING IN THE COMBINED GAP ON THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE TRADE ACCOUNT IS ALSO ENVISAGED.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR, VARIOUS FURTHER STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

THUS BUSINESS THAT WAS AT LEAST PARTLY BEING CARRIED ON OUTSIDE HONG KONG IS NOW BEING TRANSACTED ENTIRELY WITHIN HONG KONG AND THE FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT BASE OF THE MONETARY SECTOR HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED.

HE SAID THAT THE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN US DOLLAR AND HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES HAS BEEN WIDENING RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH US DOLLAR/INTEREST RATES HAVE BEEN FALLING, HONG KONG DOLLAR RATES HAVE BEEN FALLING EVEN FASTER.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE HIGH INTEREST RATE -- THOUGH PLAYING AN ANTI-INFLATIONARY ROLE -- WAS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES TO VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

+THUS I WELCOME THE RECENT FALLS,+ HE SAID.

BUT HE RECOGNISED THAT INTEREST RATES ARE STILL HIGH IN BOTH REAL AND NOMINAL TERMS RELATIVE TO THEIR LEVELS PRIOR TO THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS. AS A RESULT AND ALTHOUGH THE RELIEF IS WELCOME MANY INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES ARE STILL UNDER PRESSURE.

DESPITE THE SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY AND A FALL IN THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED, THE MEASURED RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN ONLY SLIGHTLY.

AT 3.5 PER CENT IN MARCH THIS YEAR, UNEMPLOYMENT WAS LOWER THAN A YEAR BEFORE WHEN IT WAS 4.1 PER CENT, AND ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE RATE IN DECEMBER 1981 OF 3.1 PER CENT.

+IN HONG KONG WE RECKON THAT ANY RATE BELOW THREE PER CENT REPRESENTS FULL EMPLOYMENT. BUT I ACKNOWLEDGE A DEGREE OF RESTRICTED WORKING, WITH LOWER EARNINGS FOR SOME,+ HE ADDED.

DEALING WITH PRICES, MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE SLOWDOWN IN THE RATE HE FORECAST IN THE BUDGET WAS OCCURRING.

THE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN JULY 1981 AND JULY 1982 WAS 11 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 15 PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER. THIS MARKED DOWNWARD TREND SHOULD CONTINUE.

+INFLATION IS A CURSE, AND I AM PLEASED THAT OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT ARE MEETING WITH A DEGREE OF SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT THE SLUGGISH STATE OF THE ECONOMY HAD INEVITABLY AFFECTED GOVERNMENT REVENUES. THOUGH IT WAS TOO EARLY TO ESTIMATE ACCURATELY THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OUTTURN FOR THE YEAR, LAND SALES REVENUE HAD BEEN BELOW ORIGINAL EXPECTATIONS, AND IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT REVENUE COLLECTIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT RECESSION, SUCH AS EARNINGS AND PROFITS TAX, WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN FORECAST.

+IN CONSEQUENCE ANY SURPLUS MUST BE MODERATE, AND INDEED AT PRESENT A BREAKEVEN RESULT SEEMS INDICATED. I WOULD BE RELIEVED TO SEE SUCH AN OUTCOME, WHICH MIGHT BE UNIQUE IN THE WORLD,+ THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

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RECALLING THAT IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH HE HAD PROMISED TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE AND THE RELATIVE SIZE OF PUBLIC SECTOR IN RELATION TO THE GDP HE SAID HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE UNOFFICIALS' VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR FIRM CONTROL.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THE BUDGET ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE ON THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT FOR THIS YEAR WAS \$37.7 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OVER 1981-82 OF 22 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS.

+THE LATEST ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT, BASED ON PERFORMANCE OVER THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS, IS \$39.7 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF \$2 BILLION OVER THE BUDGET ESTIMATE.

+THE UPWARD REVISION IS DUE PARTLY TO LAND ACQUISITION AND OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN EXCESS OF SAVINGS ELSEWHERE BUT IN THE MAIN TO CIVIL SERVICE PAY INCREASES.

+THE LATTER (INCLUDING THE ASSOCIATED SUBVENTED SECTOR) REPRESENTED A RISE OF ABOUT \$1.6 BILLION DUE TO THE ANNUAL INCREASE, FOR WHICH AS USUAL IN THE PAST NO FORWARD PROVISION WAS MADE,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID FURTHER THAT THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE GROWTH RATE STILL REQUIRES CLOSE MONITORING FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, AND WILL HAVE TO BE SLOWED DOWN FURTHER NEXT YEAR, TO ENSURE THAT WHEN THE RECOVERY COMES IN OVERSEAS ORDERS, SUFFICIENT RESOURCES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+THIS WILL INVOLVE CAREFUL SELECTION OF PRIORITIES AS GOVERNMENT CARRIES ON STEADILY AND CONSISTENTLY WITH ITS MAJOR PROGRAMMES. HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL SO CONTINUE,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT THE PROPERTY MARKET WAS AN AREA IN WHICH HIGH INTEREST RATES HAD HAD +A MARKED DAMPENING EFFECT ON ACTIVITY+.

+AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIGH RATES, A STAGNANT EXPORT PERFORMANCE AND AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF LAND AND NEW PROPERTY IN THE MARKET, PRICES AND RENTALS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN FALLING THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR, THOUGH THERE ARE NOW SIGNS OF LEVELLING OFF.+

THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY MARKET IS BUT ONE JUSTIFICATION, HE SAID, FOR THE SYSTEM OF CONTINUOUS, CAREFUL MONITORING OF THE LIQUIDITY OF BANKS AND DTC'S.

+THE POSITION IS SATISFACTORY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IN TERMS OF THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX, THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR HAD STRENGTHENED BY ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT SINCE THIS TIME LAST YEAR, WHILE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP FOR THE PERIOD JUNE TO AUGUST HAD NARROWED FROM 11 PER CENT TO 7.4 PER CENT.

THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE HONG KONG CURRENCY HAS BEEN GOOD, HE SAID.

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ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS FOR MERCHANDISE,
RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1982
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1982.

THIS SERIES IS DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING ALL SIX-DIGIT COMMODITY EXPORT ITEMS UNDER THE PRESENT EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE COMMODITY ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID. SINCE ITS SCOPE IS CONFINED TO MERCHANDISE TRADE, TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE NOT INCLUDED.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITY EXPORT ITEMS BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN IS STRUCTURED UPON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (I.S.I.C.), AS DISTINCT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (S.I.T.C.) WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

WHEN INTERPRETING THESE RECLASSIFIED FIGURES, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AN EXPORTED COMMODITY REQUIRING SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES IS WHOLLY ALLOCATED TO THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH IT IS FINALLY PRODUCED, BUT THAT INDUSTRY WILL NOT NORMALLY BE THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO ITS OVERALL EXPORT VALUE, HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, THE CLASSIFICATION OF AN EXPORTED COMMODITY TO A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE COMMODITY IS ACTUALLY PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THAT INDUSTRY, SINCE SOME MAY BE SECONDARY PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED ELSEWHERE,+ HE ADDED.

IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY GROUPS WERE WEARING APPAREL, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS, TEXTILES, PLASTIC PRODUCTS, PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT, AND METAL PRODUCTS. THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 86 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1982.

THE LARGEST INCREASES BY ABSOLUTE VALUE OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1981 OCCURRED IN WEARING APPAREL (\$454 MILLION), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (\$236 MILLION), AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS (\$143 MILLION). IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, THE LARGEST INCREASES WERE : MINING AND QUARRYING (30 PER CENT), NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (23 PER CENT), PLASTIC PRODUCTS (14 PER CENT), PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTED MATERIALS (12 PER CENT), AND WEARING APPAREL (10 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED NOTABLY FOR PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (-\$280 MILLION), TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (-\$34 MILLION), TEXTILES (-\$32 MILLION), WOOD PRODUCTS (-\$26 MILLION), METAL PRODUCTS (-\$26 MILLION), AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS (-\$19 MILLION).

IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE OBSERVED IN ELECTRICITY (-68 PER CENT), AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (-50 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS STATISTICS FOR MERCHANDISE RECLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7213066).

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Value of domestic exports for merchandise,
reclassified by industrial origin for the 2nd quarter of 1981 and of 1982

| Industrial origin of the commodities exported | (HK\$'000) | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | Merchandise domestic exports | | |
| | 2nd qtr. 1981 | 2nd qtr. 1982 | % change |
| <u>Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing</u> | | | |
| Agricultural, livestock and poultry production | 10 548 | 11 421 | 8 |
| Ocean and coastal fishing | 33 361 | 34 118 | 2 |
| <u>Mining and Quarrying</u> | 230 | 299 | 30 |
| <u>Manufacturing</u> | | | |
| Food | 238 025 | 251 252 | 6 |
| Beverages | 8 785 | 9 137 | 4 |
| Tobacco | 34 488 | 27 773 | -19 |
| Textiles (including knitting) | 3 571 536 | 3 539 227 | -1 |
| Wearing apparel, except footwear and knitwear | 4 768 475 | 5 222 296 | 10 |
| Leather and leather products | 132 666 | 126 714 | -4 |
| Footwear | 93 305 | 92 116 | -1 |
| Wood and cork products, furniture and fixtures | 148 905 | 122 896 | -17 |
| Paper and paper products, printing and publishing | 263 197 | 293 469 | 12 |
| Chemicals and chemical products | 199 184 | 202 561 | 2 |
| Products of petroleum and coal | 591 | 542 | -8 |
| Rubber products | 19 735 | 15 564 | -21 |
| Plastic products | 1 714 793 | 1 951 281 | 14 |
| Non-metallic mineral products | 74 399 | 55 015 | -26 |
| Basic metals and fabricated metal products | 1 101 682 | 1 075 772 | -2 |
| Machinery, except electrical | 171 942 | 210 887 | 23 |
| Electrical machinery and appliances (incl. electronics) | 3 936 517 | 4 079 450 | 4 |
| Transport equipment | 67 777 | 33 840 | -50 |
| Professional and optical equipment | 1 987 346 | 1 706 910 | -14 |
| Other manufacturing industries | 843 105 | 1 105 270 | 31 |
| <u>Electricity</u> | 22 954 | 7 248 | -68 |
| <u>Miscellaneous items</u> (e.g. small postal packages, developed photographic plates and film, antiques, and works of art) | 96 907 | 147 657 | 52 |
| Total | 19 540 454 | 20 322 715 | 4 |

Individual entries of a column may not add up exactly to the corresponding total due to rounding.

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INTRODUCING NEW TITLES

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ALL CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WILL BE RE-TITLED DISTRICT OFFICERS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TITLE OF CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICTS WILL BE CHANGED TO ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICERS.

IN TSUEN WAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER WILL BECOME DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TOWN OFFICERS IN TSUEN WAN WILL BECOME ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICERS, IN LINE WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE URBAN REGION AND THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OFFICES IN THE 18 DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE CALLED DISTRICT OFFICES, PREFIXED BY THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT. FOR EXAMPLE, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (MONG KOK) WILL BECOME MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RETITLING WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AFTER THE MERGER OF THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION LAST DECEMBER INTO THE PRESENT CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

+THE CDCS IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS AND DOS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE ALL STAFF GRADE C ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND THEY ARE ALSO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE 18 DISTRICT BOARDS. IT IS APPROPRIATE TO STANDARDISE THEIR TITLES TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFUSION.

+SIGNBOARDS IN VARIOUS OFFICES WILL BE ALTERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

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PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS, HOSPITALS PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION
TO MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG

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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, TODAY PRAISED PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND HOSPITALS FOR MAKING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL NEW WING THIS MORNING, HE SAID THAT MEDICAL FACILITIES SHOULD NOT ONLY BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED AGENCIES, BUT ALSO BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND HOSPITALS, AS THE TWO SECTORS MUST BE +COMPLIMENTARY TO RATHER THAN IN COMPETITION WITH EACH OTHER+.

+THIS ARRANGEMENT IS ONLY LOGICAL AS IT ALLOWS THE BEST USE OF AVAILABLE MEDICAL MANPOWER AND RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

/DR THONG

DR THONG EXPLAINED THAT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED AGENCIES PROVIDE A MEDICAL SERVICE WHICH IS EFFICIENT, EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND, ABOVE ALL, AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE WHO NEEDS IT AT ONLY NOMINAL COST.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS HAS THE EFFECT OF GENERATING AN INSATIABLE DEMAND BY THE PUBLIC.

+THE PRESSURE UPON AVAILABLE RESOURCES IS TREMENDOUS AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING A GOOD, BASIC AND ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SERVICE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT, WITHOUT OVERLY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL COMFORTS AND CONVENIENCES,+ SAID DR THONG.

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE WHO REQUIRE OR CHOOSE IN THEIR MEDICAL TREATMENT A LITTLE MORE COMFORT AND CONVENIENCES THAN THE PUBLIC FACILITIES ARE MEANT TO PROVIDE AND ARE PREPARED TO PAY FOR SUCH EXTRA FACILITIES, HE SAID.

+IT IS FOR THESE PEOPLE THAT PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS CATER,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG SAID THAT THE SERVICES WHICH THE HONG KONG BAPTIST HOSPITAL PROVIDE ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOWARDS IMPROVING MEDICAL CARE IN HONG KONG.

HE COMMENDED THE DIRECTORS OF THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL FOR THEIR FORESIGHT IN PLANNING THE EXTENSION OF THE HOSPITAL.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS WILL FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.

THE NEW WING OF THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 374 BEDS, BRINGING TO 648 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE IN THE PRIVATE INSTITUTION.

THE TOTAL COST OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME AMOUNTED TO \$40 MILLION, AND AS A POSITIVE FORM OF ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT MADE A LOW INTEREST BEARING LOAN OF \$10 MILLION TO THE HOSPITAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT, SAID DR THONG.

IN THE NEW EXTENSION, 32 BEDS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS LOW COST BEDS, WHICH MEANS THE DAILY CHARGE OF THESE BEDS WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE CHARGES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, INCLUSIVE OF BED, FOOD AND GENERAL SERVICES, HE SAID.

THE HOSPITAL'S BRADBURY HEART CENTRE IN THE NEW WING WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CORONARY AND INTENSIVE CARE FOR PATIENTS.

THE NEW OPERATING THEATRE SUITE COMPRISING SEVEN OPERATING THEATRES, ARE ALL AIR-CONDITIONED WITH AN UP-TO-DATE AIR FLOW SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE AN ASSET TO SURGEONS AND MEDICAL STAFF AS WELL AS THE PATIENT, DR THONG SAID.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE HOSPITAL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AU SHUE HUNG HEALTH CENTRE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A DAY NURSERY, A GERIATRIC CENTRE AND AN ENROLLED NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL, HE ADDED.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

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SIR PHILIP SEES COMMUNITY WORK
* * * *

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SPENT MOST OF THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON VISITING THREE COMMUNITY CENTRES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

HE FIRST CALLED AT TAI WOR HAU ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN, WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON COMMUNITY AND WELFARE SERVICES BEING PROVIDED TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE BY BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES UNDER THE SAME ROOF.

SIR PHILIP WAS THEN TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WHICH RUN A CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE, A DAY NURSERY, A RECREATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY, AND A LIBRARY AND STUDY ROOM.

FROM THERE, SIR PHILIP PROCEEDED TO THE NEWLY-OPENED LAI KOK COMMUNITY HALL IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, AND HAD A CHANCE TO SEE SWD STAFF AND LOCAL LEADERS IN CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY SERVICES.

SIR PHILIP ALSO WATCHED 150 ELDERLY PEOPLE CELEBRATING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL IN THE HALL.

HIS LAST STOP WAS TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, LOCATED IN ONE OF THE OLDEST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN HONG KONG.

AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON THE CENTRE BY THE WARDEN, SIR PHILIP WAS SHOWN VARIOUS OF ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, INCLUDING ROOMS FOR THE ELDERLY AND YOUNG GIRLS, AN ACTIVITIES CENTRE FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS, A LIBRARY, AND RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS GROUNDS.

THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, SIR PHILIP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR SELWYN ALLEYNE.

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HEART DISEASE IS MAJOR KILLER

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MORE PEOPLE HAVE NOW DIED OF HEART DISEASES THAN THE MUCH DREADED DISEASE OF CANCER, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

LAST YEAR ALONE, THERE WERE MORE THAN 7 000 DEATHS FROM DISEASES OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM, SUCH AS ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE AND STROKE, HE SAID.

THIS REPRESENTED 28.3 PER CENT OF ALL DEATHS IN HONG KONG, EXCEEDING THE DEATH TOLL TAKEN BY CANCER, HE ADDED.

/DR THONG

DR THONG WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HEART HEALTH EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE EXHIBITION IS THE CLIMAX OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S KNOWLEDGE OF HEART DISEASES AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM.

DR THONG SAID THAT WHILE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT GREATLY IMPROVED THE CONTROL OF HEART DISEASES, IT WAS ALSO RECOGNISED THAT LIVING HABITS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISEASE CONTROL WERE SIGNIFICANTLY RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES.

+HEALTH EDUCATION IN THIS FIELD, BY CREATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO HEALTH AND DEVELOPING MORE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS THE PREVENTION OF SUCH DISEASES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE HEART HEALTH CAMPAIGN, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CARDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG HEART FOUNDATION, IS YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY DR HO KAM-FAI, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN HIS ADDRESS, DR HO URGED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE HEED OF THE EXHIBITION'S THEME : +PROTECT YOUR HEART, HAVE AN EARLY START+.

AMONG MANY FACTORS HARMFUL TO THE HEART, HE CITED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH CHOLESTEROL LEVEL, SMOKING, OVERWEIGHT, LACK OF EXERCISE AND STRESSFUL LIFESTYLE.

HOWEVER, SUCH RISK FACTORS COULD EITHER BE CONTROLLED OR AVOIDED, HE SAID.

+THROUGH THE VARIOUS DISPLAYS AND FASCINATING VISUAL PRESENTATIONS, I AM SURE THE MESSAGE FOR A HEALTHIER HEART WILL BE EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATED TO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

DURING THE CEREMONY, DR HO PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF A MENU-PLANNING AND COOKING COMPETITION, HELD AS PART OF THE OVERALL CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO KEEP THE HEART HEALTHY THROUGH PROPER DIETS.

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PART-TIME WORK PERMITTED FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL CHILDREN

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CHILDREN WITHIN THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE GROUP WHO ARE AGED 13 AND ABOVE MAY WORK PART-TIME OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS IN NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WITH THE CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS AND ON PRESENTATION OF VALID SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.

UNDER THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1979, ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND 15 WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED FORM III MUST ATTEND SCHOOL, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, THE EMPLOYMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION) ORDINANCE 1979 AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS 1979 HAVE BEEN ENACTED WHICH PROHIBIT THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF 15 IN INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

HOWEVER, CHILDREN OF AND OVER 13 MAY WORK PART-TIME IN NON-INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS PROVIDED THAT THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HAVE CONSENTED IN WRITING TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND CAN PRODUCE VALID SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.

+BUT THESE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED IN ANY PROHIBITED OCCUPATIONS AS SPECIFIED IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE MAY BE EMPLOYED IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, SUBJECT TO STRINGENT CONTROLS AND WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, HE SAID.

THESE AND OTHER CHILDREN WITHIN THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE GROUP WHO WISH TO WORK PART-TIME MUST POSSESS VALID SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE SCHOOLS WHERE THEY ARE ATTENDING A FULL SECONDARY OR PRIMARY COURSE.

THEY MUST ALSO HAVE THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES MUST ALSO BE MADE BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS DIRECT TO THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.

ALL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES ARE VALID ONLY UP TO SEPTEMBER 30 EACH YEAR, AFTER WHICH RE-APPLICATION WILL BE NECESSARY.

CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED BY LAW REGARDING THE WORKING HOURS AND CONDITIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND STUDIES OF CHILDREN WORKING PART-TIME.

A CHILD SHOULD NOT BE AT WORK BEFORE 7 AM OR AFTER 7 PM ON ANY DAY, AND DURING SCHOOL HOURS ON ANY SCHOOL DAY.

DURING THE SCHOOL TERM, A CHILD SHOULD NOT WORK FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS ON ANY SCHOOL DAY OR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS ON OTHER DAYS, DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS HE SHOULD NOT WORK FOR MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS ON ANY DAY.

HOWEVER, CHILDREN WORKING AS ENTERTAINERS MAY BE EMPLOYED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 12 MIDNIGHT BUT NOT DURING SCHOOL HOURS OR FOR MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS ON ANY DAY. THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE EMPLOYED FOR MORE THAN FOUR DAYS IN A WEEK, AND DURING SCHOOL TERM, MORE THAN THREE DAYS FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

+CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE AT WORK CONTINUOUSLY FOR MORE THAN FIVE HOURS AFTER WHICH THEY MUST HAVE AN INTERVAL OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HOUR FOR A MEAL OR REST.

+ALSO, THEY MUST NOT LIFT OR CARRY ANY LOAD EXCEEDING 18 KILOGRAMMES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

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BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

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FORTY-EIGHT NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 71 IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

OF THESE NEW PLANS, 18 WERE FOR NEW BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 14 FOR KOWLOON AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDE AN ELECTRIC SUB-STATION IN YUEN LONG, A REHABILITATION CENTRE AT O PUI SHAN, KWAI CHUNG AND A SQUASH COURT AND CARPARK AT HONG LOK YUEN, TAI PO.

THE DECLARED COST OF ALL THE NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$559.58 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$224.69 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THEIR USABLE FLOOR AREA TOTALLED 322 286.2 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 213 416.6 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC AND 108 869.6 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR SPACE.

IN THE SAME MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 46 NEW PROJECTS, INCLUDING TWO SCHOOLS IN TAI SHANG WAI, YUEN LONG AND CHUNG CHING STREET, SAI YING PUN, AN OIL DEPOT IN CHAI WAN, A PETROL FILLING STATION IN HIU KWONG STREET, KWUN TONG AND A SEA SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE IN SAI KUNG.

ALTOGETHER, 36 NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN AUGUST, INCLUDING A CINEMA IN UN CHAU STREET, TWO SCHOOLS IN PING TING ROAD, HAMMER HILL AND CHOI HUNG ROAD, AND A HOTEL EXTENSION IN CUMBERLAND ROAD.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE PERMISSION FOR 31 BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

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DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON CHAN CHAU ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1981, SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

CHAN WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF A WOMAN, LUNG SAU-KWAN, IN A FLAT IN NGAU TAU KOK ON NOVEMBER 15, 1979.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

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ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC IN CENTRAL
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ANOTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME TO IMPROVE BUS JOURNEY TIME AND GENERAL TRAFFIC FLOW IN CENTRAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE INTRODUCED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

ITS MAIN AIM IS TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE TRAVELLING TIME FOR BUSES BY MAXIMISING THE USE OF THE BUS-ONLY LANE IN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, A SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICER, MR ALDOUS CHUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+ONCE THE SCHEME IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED, 20 BUS ROUTES WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ALONG THIS RESERVE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

THE SCHEME WILL ALSO INVOLVE RE-ROUTING TRAFFIC IN THE AREA AND IMPROVING CERTAIN ROAD JUNCTIONS.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON OCTOBER 6 (WEDNESDAY) AND THE SECOND STAGE ON OCTOBER 8.

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SHAM SHUI PO TRAFFIC SCHEME DEFERRED
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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITY SCHEME IN SHAM SHUI PO, SCHEDULED FOR 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

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