DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GO AHEAD FOR LAMMA ISLAND POWER STATION GIVEN

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT A POWER STATION AT PO LO TSUI ON LAMMA ISLAND.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EXTRA GENERATING PLANT IS ESSENTIAL TO COPE WITH THE RAPIDLY INCREASING DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY ON HONG KONG ISLAND. THIS IS EXPECTED TO GROW AT AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT NINE PER CENT EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE EXTRA CAPACITY IS VITAL, IF THE COMPANY IS TO MEET THE EXPECTED REQUIREMENT FOR POWER AND TO MAINTAIN PRUDENT RESERVE CAPACITY TO MEET EMERGENCIES (E.G. THE FAILURE OF A GENERATOR) AND NORMAL MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS.

RESERVE CAPACITY IS LIKELY TO AVERAGE 35 PER CENT, THOUGH IT WILL BE HIGHER FOR A TIME AFTER THE COMMISSIONING OF A NEW GENERATING SET, AND LOWER JUST BEFORE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE NEXT SET.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXAMINED WITH GREAT CARE A NUMBER OF OTHER POSSIBLE SITES FOR THE PLANT AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT LAMMA ISLAND WAS THE MOST SUITABLE, BEARING IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND IS ALREADY ZONED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES CONSIDERED HAD BEEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PLANT AT AP LEI CHAU, ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING POWER STATION, BUT THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE THE DEGREE OF POLLUTION TO WHICH THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED TOLERABLE LIMITS.

THE NEW RECLAMATION AT AP LEI CHAU WAS ELIMINATED, BECAUSE THE AREA IS NEEDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIGHT INDUSTRY, WHICH WILL GIVE EMPLOYMENT TO RESIDENTS OF HOUSING ESTATES TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE ISLAND.

TAI TAM HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT REJECTED BECAUSE THE AREA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A COUNTRY PARK.

THE POSSIBILITY HAD ALSO BEEN EXAMINED OF CONCENTRATING ALL GENERATING EQUIPMENT AT TAP SHEK KOK, WHERE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY ARE TO BUILD A POWER PLANT.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL. IN PARTICULAR, THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE COMPLEX AND HAVE CAUSED INCONVENIENCE, PARTICULARLY THE SECTION THROUGH CENTRAL AND KENNEDY TOWN.

A SINGLE SOURCE OF SUPPLY WOULD, MOREOVER, BE VULNERABLE TO ACCIDENT OR OTHER INTERFERENCE.

/IN ADDITION,.....

IN ADDITION, THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY STATION, AND OTHER PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TAP SHEK KOK AREA WOULD ABSORB MOST OF THE AVAILABLE LAND.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT A FURTHER OBJECTION TO CONCENTRATING ALL GENERATION AT THE TAP SHEK KOK SITE WAS THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED BY THE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE, PARTICULATE MATTER AND OXIDES OF NITROGEN WHICH WOULD BE EMITTED IF ALL GENERATORS WERE LOCATED CLOSE TOGETHER.

SUCH A VOLUME OF EMISSIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE A HAZARD TO THE HEALTH OF THE PROJECTED 500,000 INHABITANTS OF TUEN MUN. UNDER SOME METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, THE EFFECTS WOULD BE MUCH MORE FAR REACHING, ESPECIALLY ON THE VICTORIA HARBOUR AREA.

THERE WAS A FURTHER DANGER, THAT THE EMISSIONS FROM A SINGLE LARGE GENERATING SITE MIGHT COMBINE WITH EXISTING EMISSIONS FROM THE DESALTER, THE TSING YI POWER STATION AND THE INCINERATORS TO PRODUCE A HIGH DEGREE OF AIR POLLUTION AND SMOG IN THE HARBOUR.

THE CHOICE OF A SITE FOR A FURTHER POWER STATION IS VERY LIMITED, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED. ANY SITE ON HONG KONG ISLAND OR KOWLOON WOULD BE RULED OUT ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. THE POSSIBILITY OF A REPLACEMENT AIRPORT ELIMINATES NORTH LANTAU= THE CLEARWATER BAY AREA IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT AIRPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES= THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES IS UNSUITABLE BECAUSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS.

ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LAMMA ISLAND, THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND IS ZONED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DEEP WATER ACCESS AVAILABLE TO THIS PART OF THE ISLAND. THE AREA ALREADY CONTAINS CEMENT AND QUARRY WORKS. +THE SITING OF A POWER STATION ON NORTH LAMMA IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH THE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND, OR WITH THE TWO GAZETTED BEACHES,+ HE SAID.

HE COMMENTED THAT A POWER STATION ON LAMMA ISLAND WOULD UNAVOIDABLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE LANDSCAPE, BUT THIS WAS PREFERABLE TO THE UGLINESS OF THE EXTRA TRANSMISSION LINES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED AND THE ADDITIONAL POLLUTION WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED IF ALL CAPACITY WERE CONCENTRATED AT TAP SHEK KOK.

THE COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO MINIMISE THE STATION'S INTRUSION INTO ITS BACKGROUND. A MAJOR ADVANTAGE OF A LAMMA ISLAND POWER STATION WAS THAT CHIMNEY EMISSIONS WOULD BE RELATIVELY EASILY DISPERSED AND SHOULD NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT EITHER EXISTING OR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT. NOR WOULD THE COUNTRY PARKS BE AFFECTED. DISRUPTION THROUGH CENTRAL AND KENNEDY TOWN WOULD BE AVOIDED SINCE THE TRANSMISSION NETWORK FROM LAMMA ISLAND WOULD CLOSELY FOLLOW HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY'S NETWORK FROM AP LEI CHAU.

/+THE GOVERNMENT.....

+THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT, BEING OBLIGED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO FIND A SITE FOR A POWER STATION, NORTH LAMMA OFFERS THE LEAST OBJECTIONABLE CHOICE FROM BOTH THE LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS OF VIEW,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT REACTION TO THE PROPOSED POWER STATION FROM VILLAGERS HAD ON THE WHOLE BEEN FAVOURABLE. THE LAMMA ISLAND RURAL COMMITTEES HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT, SUBJECT TO THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS BEING TAKEN TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. THE PROJECT SHOULD PROVIDE EXTRA EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE LIVING ON THE ISLAND.

+LEASE CONDITIONS WILL REGULATE THE LANDSCAPING OF THE POWER STATION AND THE DESIGN AND ROUTE OF TRANSMISSION LINES AND WILL IMPOSE EFFECTIVE EMISSION CONTROLS,+ HE SAID. THESE SAFEGUARDS SHOULD GO SOME WAY TO MEETING THE OBJECTIONS RAISED ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT REALISES THAT THE SITING OF A POWER STATION IN ANY LOCATION IS BOUND TO BE UNPOPULAR, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING POWER STATIONS LOOK ATTRACTIVE, AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF THEIR UNPLEASANT EMISSIONS. BUT THE GROWING DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY, AS HONG KONG'S STANDARD OF LIVING RISES, LEAVES NO ALTERNATIVE BUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF FURTHER CAPACITY. THE GOVERNMENT EXHAUSTIVELY STUDIED THE ALTERNATIVES BEFORE COMING TO ITS DECISION IN FAVOUR OF LAMMA.

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FIRST CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE OPENS

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HONG KONG'S FIRST CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE, RUN BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WAS OPENED TODAY BY THE REV. JOYCE M. BENNETT, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR AND HEADMISTRESS OF ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

THE CENTRE HAS A CAREERS REFERENCE LIBRARY, INCLUDING A COLLECTION OF 800 BOOKS AND MAGAZINES, FILMS, SLIDES AND CASSETTE TAPE RECORDINGS. THESE ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE, CAREERS TEACHERS, PARENTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

SPEAKING AT THE CENTRE'S OPENING CEREMONY, MISS BENNETT SAID STUDENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DROP IN AFTER SCHOOL. THERE ARE STAFF AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND DISCUSS CAREERS.

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+NEVER FORGET THOUGH,+ SHE ADDED, +THAT EACH CAREER WILL HAVE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT THESE ARE IN GOOD TIME SO THAT YOU CAN BE SURE YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE MOST SUITABLE COURSES FOR THAT CAREER. ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT CAREER YOU ARE HOPING TO FOLLOW, YOU WILL FIND YOUR SCHOOL WORK FAR MORE MEANINGFUL. THEREFORE, COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE CENTRE, SO THAT YOU WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DECIDE ON YOUR CAREER.+

MISS BENNETT SAID THAT CITY LIFE HAD BECOME SO COMPLICATED THAT CHILDREN WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO FOLLOW THEIR FATHER'S OR MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

+SOCIETY IS MORE MOBILE= THERE ARE MANY MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE NEWS MEDIA AND THE TELEVISION HAVE WIDENED THE HORIZONS OF THE TEENAGERS. THEY ARE CONSIDERING JOBS THEIR PARENTS HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF. BUT THEY ARE ALSO CONFUSED BY THE GREAT VARIETY OF CHOICES,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT PAID TRIBUTE TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE FOR TRYING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE WORLD OF SCHOOL AND THE WORLD OF WORK.

SHE RECOUNTED THAT IN THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR THE SERVICE PROVIDED CAREERS SEMINARS, LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS WHICH WERE ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 170,000 AND ALSO DEALT WITH 10,000 ENQUIRES FOR CAREERS INFORMATION AND ADVICE.

MISS BENNETT APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO SUPPORT THE NEW CENTRE. +IT NEEDS THE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION WHICH ONLY YOU CAN GIVE. IF YOU HAVE PRODUCED A LEAFLET ON YOUR TRADE OR MADE A FILM OR SLIDE PRESENTATION ABOUT IT, LET THE CENTRE HAVE A COPY. MAKE USE OF THE CENTRE'S DISTRIBUTION SERVICE FOR YOUR CAREERS LEAFLETS SO THAT YOU CAN ATTRACT THE MOST SUITABLE SCHOOL LEAVERS INTO YOUR INDUSTRY OR TRADE. THE CENTRE WILL HELP YOU AS WELL AS THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS AND TEACHERS.+

EARLIER, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID SIMILAR CENTRES WOULD BE SET UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN TSUEN WAN IF THE PRESENT ONE PROVES TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE NEW CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE, MANAGED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, IS SITUATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE MA TAU KOK ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN KOWLOON.

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MAJOR EXPANSION PLANS FOR YAN CHAI HOSPITAL
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THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL IN TSUEN WAN -- WHICH OPENED AS A SMALL COMMUNITY-BACKED HOSPITAL TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS FIVE YEARS AGO -- HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO BECOME A FULLY-EQUIPPED 400-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER THIS EVENING, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THAT THE EXPANSION PLANS WERE NOW BEING EXAMINED.

HE ADDED THAT THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PLANS -- THE ADDITION OF 50 BEDS AND NURSES QUARTERS -- WAS ASSURED BY A $500,000 DONATION FROM THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, MR. WU CHUNG.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE GENEROUS DONATION WOULD ENABLE A THREE-FLOOR EXTENSION TO BE COMPLETED TO PROVIDE THE EXTRA BEDS AND QUARTERS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE HOSPITAL IS PLAYING A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LIFE OF TSUEN WAN AND POINTED OUT THAT THE HOSPITAL HAD NOW BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR REGIONALISING HOSPITAL SERVICES AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY, FROM THIS YEAR, RECEIVE A GRANT OF AID TO SUBSIDISE APPROVED EXPENDITURE.

HE ADDED, EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE FIRST CHILD CARE CENTRE RUN BY THE HOSPITAL WAS OPENED AND TODAY MARKED THE OPENING OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL THIRD ANNUAL DIRECTORS' CUP FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.

+THESE ARE BOTH EXAMPLES OF THE ROLE THE HOSPITAL AS AN ORGANISATION CAN PLAY IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY. I AM SURE THIS ROLE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND THAT MANY COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL COME FORWARD TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE HOSPITAL,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

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F.K. LI TO VISIT TUNG WAH MUSEUM

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, MR. F.K. LI, WILL VISIT THE TUNG WAH MUSEUM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) WHERE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL OBJECTS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP ARE KEPT.

THE TWO-STOREY MUSEUM, CONVERTED FROM THE FORMER HALL OF THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL IN WATERLOO ROAD, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1971 BY TUNG WAH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 1970 TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

AN ANNEX TO THE MUSEUM WAS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER, 1971 AT THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL.

ITEMS DISPLAYED IN THE MUSEUM INCLUDE A LIST OF DONORS PUBLISHED IN 1873, HISTORICAL PICTURES, BUILDING MODELS AND FURNITURE PIECES.

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN TO VISITORS ON PRIOR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TUNG WAH MANAGEMENT.

DURING THE VISIT TOMORROW, MR. LI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR. WILLIAM MA, AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AS WELL AS THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (YAU MA TEI), MR. THOMAS SHARR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER MR. F.K. LI'S VISIT TO THE TUNG WAH MUSEUM AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, WATERLOO ROAD AT 11 A.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO OFFICIATE AT GRADUATION CEREMONY

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE 10TH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE JU CHING CHU ENGLISH COLLEGE TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

MR. LEE WILL GIVE A SPEECH AT THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL AT 4.30 P.M.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SHUM WAN ROAD

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON SUNDAY (OCTOBER 1) THE EXISTING BAN ON FRANCHISED BUSES ON SHUM WAN ROAD WILL BE LIFTED AND AT THE SAME TIME, THE ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

IN ADDITION, THE UNNAMED ROAD OFF SHUM WAN ROAD ADJOINING ABERDEEN SWIMMING POOL AND LEADING TO THE FLOATING RESTAURANTS WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITED ZONE FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE AUTHORISED, IN WRITING, BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

THE TURN-AROUND AREA AND THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THE UNNAMED ROAD OFF SHUM WAN ROAD ADJOINING ABERDEEN SWIMMING POOL AND LEADING TO THE FLOATING RESTAURANTS WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR RESTRICTED AREA FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN WHICH NO PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING OF GOODS WILL BE PERMITTED.

MEANWHILE, A TAXI STAND WILL BE SET UP AT SHUM WAN ROAD.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREAS TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SWIMMING GALA

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ITS FOURTH ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA FOR ITS STAFF AND FAMILIES AT THE MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 30).

THE OCCASION IS TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES TO GET TOGETHER AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE CHILDREN.

ABOUT 300 DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER STAFF AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WILL COMPETE IN MORE THAN 20 EVENTS. IN ADDITION, 32 OFFICERS FROM EIGHT OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL TAKE PART IN AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INVITATION RELAY.

THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE BAND WILL PROVIDE MUSIC AND THERE WILL BE SWIMMING AND CANOEING DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE GALA.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS AT THE END OF THE EVENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S SWIMMING GALA WILL BE HELD AT THE MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL, 01 KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI ON SATURDAY FROM 1 P.M. TO 6.30 P.M. THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, WILL PRESENT THE PRIZES AT 6 P.M. YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE OCCASION.

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