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HK CONTINUES TO RELY ON RESETTLEMENT TO SOLVE VR PROBLEM

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT UNTIL A DURABLE SOLUTION TO HONG KONG'S VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS FOUND, HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON RESETTLEMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED SEVERAL YEARS AGO THAT ALL NEW ARRIVALS SHOULD BE SCREENED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WERE GENUINE REFUGEES AND THAT THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE REFUGEES SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO VIETNAM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM AND WAS THEREFORE A MATTER FOR THE UK GOVERNMENT.

DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS THE UK GOVERNMENT HAD NOT THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE VIETNAMESE.

OUTLINING THE HISTORY OF HONG KONG'S REFUGEE PROBLEM, MR JEAFFRESON NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED AT A UNHCR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN JULY 1979 THAT ALL THOSE LEAVING VIETNAM WERE PRESUMED TO BE REFUGEES; THAT THE COASTAL STATES WOULD GRANT THEM ASYLUM; AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD PROVIDE RESETTLEMENT PLACES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THESE THREE DECISIONS WERE STILL IN OPERATION, SOME COUNTRIES HAD DECIDED THAT SOME OF THOSE IN HONG KONG WERE NOT REFUGEES WHILE SOME PLACES OF FIRST ASYLUM WERE THREATENING TO TURN AWAY NEW ARRIVALS AND, IN THE MEANTIME, RESETTLEMENT PLACES WERE DRYING UP.

THEREFORE, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON RESETTLEMENT BEFORE A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS FOUND, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

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STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SHOW THAT HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW FASTER IN FEBRUARY THAN IN JANUARY 1987, BUT THAT NOTES AND COINS HELD BY THE PUBLIC DROPPED AFTER THE SEASONAL DEMAND DUE TO THE CHINESE NEW YEAR WAS OVER. DEPOSITS IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES ALSO CONTINUED TO GROW.

HONG KONG DOLLAR M1 (THE NARROWEST DEFINITION OF MONEY SUPPLY) FELL, REFLECTING THE DROP IN THE AMOUNT OF CASH HELD BY THE PUBLIC. HONG KONG DOLLAR M2 AND M3, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO GROW.

/TOTAL LOANS .....

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO INCREASE. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG REGISTERED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN FEBRUARY BUT LOANS TO FINANCE HONG KONG'S VISIBLE TRADE FELL.

DEPOSITS

IN FEBRUARY, HONG KONG DOLLAR SAVINGS DEPOSITS CONTINUED TO GROW AT A RAPID RATE, BY 4.2 PER CENT AFTER INCREASES OF 3.7 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1986 AND 4.7 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1987. DEMAND DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 2.7 PER CENT AND TIME DEPOSITS BY 0.5 PER CENT.

TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 2.3 PER CENT AFTER INCREASES OF 3.3 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND 1.4 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR TO END FEBRUARY, THESE DEPOSITS GREW BY 16.3 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ALSO GREW FASTER IN FEBRUARY, BY 2.3 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.0 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE DEPOSITS GREW BY 28.3 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 6.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.4 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND BY 14.5 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR; ADJUSTED FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 3.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND BY 31.6 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

DEPOSITS (ALL CURRENCIES) WITH BANKS INCREASED BY 2.9 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 1.8 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, THE FORMER GREW BY 32.9 PER CENT WHILE THE LATTER FELL BY 23.1 PER CENT.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY

A FALL IN NOTES AND COINS HELD BY THE PUBLIC AFTER THE CHINESE NEW YEAR LED TO A DECREASE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR M1, BY 6.0 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AFTER AN INCREASE OF 12.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY.

HK$M2 AND HK$M3 ON THE OTHER HAND CONTINUED TO GROW, BY 1.0 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, HK$M1 GREW BY 27.6 PER CENT, HK$M2 BY 24.9 PER CENT AND HK$M3 BY 16.8 PER CENT.

/TOTAL MONEY .....

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY M1 FELL BY 5.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY, AFTER HAVING INCREASED BY 12.0 PER CENT IN JANUARY. TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 GREW BY 2.0 PER CENT AND 1.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1 INCREASED BY 26.3 PER CENT WHILE TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 INCREASED BY 32.0 PER CENT AND 22.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO GROW IN FEBRUARY, BY 1.3 PER CENT AFTER HAVING INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND 3.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THEY GREW BY 15.8 PER CENT.

LOANS DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 2.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY WHILE LOANS DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, THE FORMER GREW BY 16.8 PER CENT WHILE THE LATTER GREW BY 14.7 PER CENT.

WITHIN THE TOTAL, LOANS TO FINANCE THE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG FELL BY 1.3 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 3.4 PER CENT IN JANUARY; OVER THE YEAR THEY GREW BY 16.4 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 2.4 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AFTER AN INCREASE OF 2.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY; OVER THE YEAR, THEY GREW BY 18.4 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS DECREASED BY ONE TO 148= THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE TO 37 WHILE THE NUMBER OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY THREE TO 249.

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/MONETARY STATISTICS .....

MONETARY STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 1987

(HK$mn)

	Feb 1987	Earlier months (% change to February 1987)		
		Jan 1987	Nov 1986	Feb 1986
Money Supply				
M1 - HK$	54,473	57,967 (-6.0 %)	48,581 (12.1 %)	42,690 (27.6 %)
Foreign currency	5,046	4,875 (3.5 %)	4,821 (4.7 %)	4,433 (13.8 %)
Total	59,519	62,842 (-5.3 %)	53,403 (11.5 %)	47,123 (26.3 %)
M2 - HK$	251,490	249,029 (1.0 %)	228,167 (10.2 %)	201,422 (24.9 %)
Foreign currency	294,225	286,233 (2.8 %)	272,526 (8.0 %)	211,938 (38.8 %)
Total	545,714	535,262 (2.0 %)	500,693 (9.0 %)	413,360 (32.0 %)
M3 - HK$	282,105	280,358 (0.6 %)	261,551 (7.9 %)	241,476 (16.8 %)
Foreign currency	333,484	326,813 (2.0 %)	314,902 (5.9 %)	261,279 (27.6 %)
Total	615,589	607,172 (1.4 %)	576,453 (6.8 %)	502,755 (22.4 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	23,914	29,294 (-18.4 %)	21,549 (11.0 %)	21,581 (10.8 %)
of which held by public	20,998	25,367 (-17.2 %)	18,813 (11.6 %)	18,615 (12.8 %)
Deposits				
Demand deposits	38,521	37,475 (2.8 %)	34,590 (11.4 %)	28,509 (35.1 %)
Savings deposits	136,541	130,241 (4.8 %)	120,926 (12.9 %)	100,976 (35.2 %)
Time deposits with banks	341,407	334,388 (2.1 %)	319,369 (6.9 %)	259,234 (31.7 %)
Time deposits with dtcs	65,875	67,103 (-1.8 %)	70,992 (-7.2 %)	85,626 (-23.1 %)
All HK$ deposits	254,208	248,477 (2.3 %)	237,184 (7.2 %)	218,574 (16.3 %)
All foreign currency deposits	328,136	320,731 (2.3 %)	308,693 (6.3 %)	255,770 (28.3 %)
Total	582,344	569,208 (2.3 %)	545,877 (6.7 %)	474,344 (22.8 %)
Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	36,228	36,717 (-1.3 %)	34,864 (3.9 %)	31,131 (16.4 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	4,558	4,408 (3.4 %)	3,978 (14.6 %)	4,732 (-3.7 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	285,110	278,341 (2.4 %)	265,894 (7.2 %)	240,740 (18.4 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	165,597	165,510 (0.1 %)	160,084 (3.4 %)	152,196 (8.8 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	32,250	32,213 (0.1 %)	29,665 (8.7 %)	23,619 (36.5 %)
All loans in HK$	263,659	257,712 (2.3 %)	246,805 (6.8 %)	225,712 (16.8 %)
All loans in foreign currencies	260,084	259,476 (0.2 %)	247,680 (5.0 %)	226,705 (14.7 %)
Total	523,743	517,188 (1.3 %)	494,485 (5.9 %)	452,417 (15.8 %)

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HK'S SHARE IN UK TEXTILE MARKET DROPS
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HONG KONG'S SHARE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S IMPORT MARKET FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS HAS CONTINUED TO FALL IN RECENT YEARS.

THIS WAS THE MAIN FINDING OF AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF UK'S TRADE IN TEXTILES UNDER THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

THE REVIEW, CARRIED OUT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN LONDON, SHOWED THAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LDCS) IN GENERAL, AND HONG KONG IN PARTICULAR, WAS WORSE UNDER MFA III THAN UNDER MFA II.

WHILE THE LDCS SHARE OF THE UK IMPORT MARKET, CALCULATED IN VALUE TERMS, DECLINED FROM 29 PER CENT UNDER MFA II (1978-1982) TO 25 PER CENT UNDER MFA III (1983-86), HONG KONG FARED EVEN WORSE WITH ITS SHARE DECLINING FROM 13 PER CENT TO 10 PER CENT.

+THAT HONG KONG, WITH ITS COMPLETELY OPEN MARKET, SHOULD HAVE MERITED SUCH TREATMENT IS GROSSLY INEQUITABLE.

+IT IS ALSO COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO THE UK'S DECLARED INTENTION THAT NEWLY-INDUSTRIALISING COUNTRIES SHOULD OPEN UP THEIR MARKETS.

+IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE SLIGHT RECOGNITION PAID TO HONG KONG'S OPEN MARKET UNDER MFA IV (1987-1991) WILL HELP MATERIALLY TO REDRESS THIS SITUATION,+ THE REVIEW SAID.

THE REVIEW SAID THAT THE UK'S TRADE DEFICIT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING REACHED +A MASSIVE+ 2.6 BILLION POUND STERLING, OF WHICH TWO-THIRDS WAS DUE TO TRADE WITH OTHER EEC COUNTRIES, FROM WHICH THE UK IMPORTED TWICE AS MUCH AS IT EXPORTED.

DESPITE THE DEFICIT, THE UK TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES REGISTERED FASTER GROWTH THAN THE AVERAGE OF THE UK ECONOMY, WITH PROFITABILITY INCREASING.

THE REVIEW SAID: +EEC SUPPLIERS INCREASED THEIR SHARE OF THE UK IMPORT MARKET AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LDCS.

+THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE UK TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES DERIVED NO BENEFIT AT ALL FROM MFA III, IF ONLY BECAUSE THE ARTIFICIALLY INFLATED PRICE LEVEL WILL HAVE ENLARGED THE INDUSTRIES' PROFITS.

+BUT THE GREATEST DIVERSION OF TRADE FROM COMPETITIVE SOURCES TO HIGHER-PRICED SUPPLIERS WILL HAVE INCREASED THE COST TO THE BRITISH CONSUMER AND TO THE UK ECONOMY OF THE PROTECTION PROVIDED TO THE INDUSTRIES, WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING TO REDRESS THE LARGE TRADE DEFICIT THE INDUSTRIES HAVE WITH THE EEC.+

/POINTING TO .....

POINTING TO THE FACT THAT UK'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IS LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT IT IMPORTS FROM EEC COUNTRIES, THE REPORT ARGUED THAT IT IS THIS LACK OF COMPETITIVENESS WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES, DESPITE LOWER UK WAGES IN MANY CASES, THAT IS THE INDUSTRIES' MAIN WEAKNESS.

+THE MFA AND THE FOCUS ON TRADE WITH LDCS IS CERTAINLY IRRELEVANT TO THAT PROBLEM AND IN ALL PROBABILITY DISTRACTS FROM PROPER ATTENTION TO IT,+ THE REVIEW SAID.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE REVIEW SAID THAT FOR MFA IV WHICH RUNS FROM 1987 TO 1991, THE EEC HAS ADOPTED A LESS RESTRICTIVE POLICY AND HAS GIVEN SOME RECOGNITION TO HONG KONG'S OPEN MARKET.

BUT GROWTH RATES FOR HONG KONG'S TEXTILES PRODUCTS ARE STILL LOWER THAN OTHER LDCS +SO IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE BALANCE PROVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL MFA WILL BE RESTORED.+

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CHAI WAN COMPOSTING PLANT TO BE UPGRADED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A CONSULTANCY STUDY TO CONSIDER THE UPGRADING OF CHAI WAN COMPOSTING PLANT INTO A REFUSE TRANSFER STATION.

THE PRESENT PLANT CONVERTS REFUSE INTO COMPOST, BY A FERMENTATION PROCESS, AND THE PRODUCT PRODUCED AS A SOIL CONDITIONER. THE ODOUR FROM THIS PROCESS, AND FROM THE OPEN BARGE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF THAT PART OF THE WASTE STREAM THAT CANNOT BE COMPOSTED, CAUSES ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THEREFORE TO CONSIDER OTHER MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUITABLE METHODS OF DISPOSING OF THE WASTE THAT IS GENERATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

CONSULTANTS ARE BEING COMMISSIONED TO ASSIST WITH THIS PROJECT AND THE CONSULTANCY, WHICH WILL COST $2.5 MILLION, WILL CONSIDER WAYS OF UPGRADING THE PRESENT PLANT INTO A REFUSE TRANSFER STATION.

WITH A TRANSFER STATION ON THE CHAI WAN SITE, MUNICIPAL WASTE, COLLECTED BY URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT VEHICLES, WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ENCLOSED CONTAINERS AND TRANSPORTED TO LARGE SANITARY LANDFILL SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BY EITHER LARGE BARGE OR BULK ROAD VEHICLES.

/THIS METHOD .....

THIS METHOD OF BULK TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY IF BARGING IS USED, WILL GREATLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ROAD TRIPS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE NECESSARY IF COLLECTION VEHICLES THEMSELVES WERE REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT WASTE TO LANDFILLS.

ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE WASTE HANDLING METHODS WILL BE EMPLOYED IN THE NEW PLANT IN ORDER TO AVOID THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF ODOUR, DUST AND BIRD NUISANCE.

THE CONSULTANCY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY MOTT, HAY AND ANDERSON.

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ANTI-PROTECTIONISM COMMITTEE AGREES ON WORK PROGRAMME

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THE STEERING COMMITTEE AGAINST PROTECTIONISM (SCAP) HELD ITS FIRST MEETING THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON AND DISCUSSED THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING TRADE LEGISLATION.

THE SCAP HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO MONITOR AND ASSESS THE THREAT OF PROTECTIONISM IN THE UNITED STATES ON HONG KONG'S TRADE INTERESTS, AND TO CO-ORDINATE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY RELATED BODIES TO MAXIMISE EFFECTIVENESS.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE IS DRAWN FROM THE OMELCO PANEL ON TRADE, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS AND THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES. THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE SCAP AGREED ON A PROGRAMME OF WORK, INVOLVING REGULAR MONITORING OF TRADE LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND WAYS TO PUT FORWARD HONG KONG'S CASE FOR FREE TRADE EFFECTIVELY.

+WE HAD A VERY LIVELY AND USEFUL DISCUSSION. MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED THEIR IDEAS FULLY,+ THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR ERIC HO SAID AFTER THE MEETING.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SCAP WILL BE HELD IN LATE APRIL.

MEMBERS OF THE SCAP ARE MR STEPHEN CHEONG, MR IRA KAYE, MR ALLEN LEE, MR MICHAEL MILES, MR S.K. NGAI, MR JACK SO, MR JACK C. TANG, MISS ELEANOR WONG, DR PHILIP WONG, DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES.

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CONTRACT AWARDED FOR FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A $57.7 MILLION CONTRACT TO THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL WATER AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION TO PROVIDE FLOOD PROTECTION FACILITIES FOR FOUR LOW-LYING VILLAGES NEAR TIN SHUI WAI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE VILLAGES ARE LO UK TSUEN, SIK KONG TSUEN, SIK KONG WAI AND KIU TAU WAI.

AT A CEREMONY TODAY (MONDAY), THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR KENNETH KWOK, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY, MR LUO FU.

+THE CONTRACT INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION EMBANKMENTS AROUND THE VILLAGES, CHANNELS AND CULVERTS, FOUR FLOOD-CONTROL PONDS, ONE PUMPING STATION FOR EACH VILLAGE, TWO BRIDGES, AND A NUMBER OF FOOTBRIDGES AND ASSOCIATED ROADS,+ MR KWOK SAID.

+THIS IS PART OF A SCHEME TO PROTECT THE FOUR LOW-LYING VILLAGES FROM FLOODING,+ HE ADDED.

THE WORKS WILL TAKE ABOUT 17 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING CLOSURE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN THE LANE BOUNDED BY 16-28 GORDON ROAD, 82-86 HING FAT STREET AND 1-1B AND 3 WING HING STREET, HONG KONG.

THESE STRUCTURES SHOULD BE CLOSED IN ADVANCE SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR TO THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE DISTRICT COURT, HONG KONG, AT 9.30 AM ON MAY 8 WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF THE EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN DECEMBER 1986 REQUIRING DEMOLITION OF THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

DEMOLITION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDERS INVITED FOR FLYOVER WORKS

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPROVED CONTRACTORS TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION TO A LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED TENDERERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER ALONG KWAI CHUNG ROAD, OVER KWAI FOO ROAD AND KWAI ON ROAD JUNCTIONS IN KWAI CHUNG.

IN ADDITION TO WIDENING KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOX CULVERT AND A FOOTBRIDGE, THE WORKS ALSO COMPRISE THE WIDENING AND MODIFICATION OF EXISTING FOOTBRIDGES AND EXTENSIVE UTILITY AND TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS.

APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS CAN BE MADE TO FREEMAN FOX AND PARTNERS (FAR EAST), 16TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON APRIL 16.

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SUBWAY SYSTEM FOR JORDAN ROAD AREA

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PEDESTRIANS WILL SOON BE PROVIDED WITH A SAFE GRADE-SEPARATED FACILITY TO CROSS JORDAN ROAD AND FERRY STREET AS WELL AS IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE JORDAN ROAD BUS TERMINUS AND FERRY PIER IN YAU MA TEI.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE COMPLETION OF REMAINING BUILDING WORKS FOR A SUBWAY SYSTEM AT THE JUNCTION OF JORDAN ROAD, FERRY STREET AND CANTON ROAD, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ROAD AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

THE SUBWAY SYSTEM CONSISTS OF TWO SUBWAYS CROSSING JORDAN ROAD AND FERRY STREET WITH COVERED RAMPS AND STAIRCASES.

THE FERRY STREET SUBWAY WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING STEEL FOOTBRIDGE IN THE VICINITY.

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CHING MING HOLIDAY REMINDER

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CHING MING FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON SUNDAY (APRIL 5), IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE GIVEN A DAY OFF THE FOLLOWING DAY, IF THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY HAPPENS TO BE THEIR NORMAL REST DAY.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND THOSE NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN $10 500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY-TO-DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ALL BRANCH OFFICES OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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APPLY EARLY FOR EASTER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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ANYONE INTENDING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS SHOULD APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

+THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG USUALLY INCREASES DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. IN ORDER TO AVOID LAST-MINUTE RUSH, PEOPLE SHOULD APPLY FOR PASSPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAVEL,+ HE SAID.

+IT NORMALLY TAKES 10 WORKING DAYS TO ISSUE THESE DOCUMENTS IF APPLICATIONS ARE MADE IN THE HEADQUARTERS BUT LONGER IF MADE IN THE BRANCH OFFICES.

+RE-ENTRY PERMIT AND DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY BUT DELAY IS LIKELY IF THERE ARE MANY APPLICANTS COMING AT THE SAME TIME,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BY APPLYING EARLY IT WOULD NOT ONLY SPREAD THE WORKLOAD OF THE DEPARTMENT BUT ALSO GIVE APPLICANTS EXTRA TIME TO MEET ANY FURTHER VISA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS WHERE NECESSARY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-7333111.

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ROAD CLOSURE ON LANTAU ISLAND

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TO FACILITATE THE HOISTING OF A LARGE EQUIPMENT TO THE TUNG CHUNG POWER STATION ON LANTAU ISLAND, A 20-METRE SECTION OF TUNG CHUNG ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD TO TAI PO WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 1) TO 1.30 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, THE ROAD CLOSURE WILL BE POSTPONED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 2 AND 1.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 2) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE AFFECTED:

* THE SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL ON NAM FUNG ROAD;

* PREMISES ON 45-65 DEEP WATER BAY ROAD;

* PREMISES ON 4, 16-58 AND 37-91 REPULSE BAY ROAD;

* PREMISES ALONG BELLEVIEW DRIVE, INCLUDING REPULSE BAY GARDENS MANSION;
AND

* PREMISES ON 34-52, 33-55 ISLAND ROAD AND THE ANTI-MALARIA STORE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 50.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 295.355 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 296.499 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 50.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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