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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR JUNE PUBLISHED

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STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SHOW THAT HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN JUNE COMPARED WITH MAY, WHILE FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS REGISTERED MODERATE GROWTH.

HK$M1 RECORDED SOME INCREASE IN JUNE, WHILE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE BROADER DEFINITION, THAT IS HK$M2 AND HK$M3, FELL SLIGHTLY.

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS GREW MODERATELY IN JUNE COMPARED WITH MAY, AS DID ITS LARGEST COMPONENT - OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG.

LOANS FOR FINANCING VISIBLE TRADE EXPERIENCED A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE, HOWEVER, WHILE LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG SHOWED A SLIGHT DECLINE.

TABLE 1 SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR JUNE 1988 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 PRESENTS FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.3 PER CENT IN JUNE FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.1 PER CENT IN APRIL AND 0.2 PER CENT IN MAY. OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS GREW BY 4.7 PER CENT, SAVING DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 5.4 PER CENT AND TIME DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 2.6 PER CENT. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1988, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 18.3 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.3 PER CENT IN JUNE FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.9 PER CENT AND 4.0 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY. OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 1.6 PER CENT WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 1.0 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS ROSE BY 25.5 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS ROSE BY 10.6 PER CENT IN JUNE AFTER INCREASES OF 10.7 PER CENT AND 19.5 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY.

ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 0.7 PER CENT IN JUNE AND BY 16.5 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN JUNE AND BY 28.1 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

/DEPOSITS OF .....

DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH BANKS INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT IN JUNE WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY 0.3 PER CENT. THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1988 WERE 23.9 PER CENT AND 7.1 PER CENT.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK$M1 GREW BY 3.3 PER CENT IN JUNE, WHILE HK$M2 AND HK$M3 FELL BY 0.4 PER CENT AND 0.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THESE COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING RATES OF -1.6 PER CENT, -0.5 PER CENT AND 0 PER CENT IN MAY. DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE, THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES FOR HK$M1, HK$M2 AND HK$M3 WERE 29.3 PER CENT, 21.7 PER CENT AND 19.6 PER CENT.

ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SWAP DEPOSITS, HK$M2 GREW BY 0.5 PER CENT WHILE HK$M3 ROSE BY 0.7 PER CENT IN JUNE. OVER THE YEAR, THEY GREW BY 19.5 PER CENT AND 17.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 GREW BY 3.6 PER CENT IN JUNE WHILE TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3 BOTH GREW BY 0.6 PER CENT. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES WERE -1.4 PER CENT, 2.1 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT IN MAY.

DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 26.1 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 24.1 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 22.2 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES GREW BY 0.8 PER CENT IN JUNE, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.8 PER CENT AND 1.9 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR GREW BY 2.8 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES FELL BY 0.7 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG GREW BY 6.8 PER CENT IN JUNE AFTER INCREASES OF 0.5 PER CENT AND 3.8 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY; OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 19.4 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.9 PER CENT IN JUNE COMPARED WITH RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES OF 3.5 PER CENT AND 3.3 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY; OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 28.0 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG FELL BY 0.5 PER CENT IN JUNE AFTER INCREASES OF 4.8 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT IN APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 56.7 PER CENT.

/QUARTERLY ANALYSIS .....

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1988, LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 8.8 PER CENT, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 6.6 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 29.3 PER CENT.

LOANS TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES INCREASED BY 13.4 PER CENT THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.9 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 40.8 PER CENT.

LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR INCREASED BY 4.2 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER, FOLLOWING A GROWTH OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 19.9 PER CENT.

LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) GREW BY 9.2 PER CENT THIS QUARTER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 6.7 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 30.4 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (OTHER THAN BANKS AND DTC'S) ROSE BY 13.4 PER CENT THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 6.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 68.3 PER CENT.

LOANS TO STOCKBROKERS FELL BY 1.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 3 PER CENT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS DROPPED BY 38.8 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY TWO TO 158. THE NUMBER OF LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 35, WHILE THAT OF REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY TWO TO 226.

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TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - JUNE 1988

(HK$mn)

	Jun 1988	Earlier months (% change to June 1988)					
Money Supply		May 1988		Mar 1988		Jun 1987	
M1 - HK$	73,920	71,539	(3.3 %)	73,024	(1.2 %)	57,157	(29.3 %)
Foreign currency	8,783	8,282	(6.0 %)	7,740	(13.5 %)	8,437	(4.1 %)
Total	82,703	79,822	(3.6 %)	80,764	(2.4 %)	65,594	(26.1 %)
M2 - HK$	324,297	325,720	(-0.4 %)	323,122	(0.4 %)	266,480	(21.7 %)
Foreign currency	405,033	399,001	(1.5 %)	371,776	(8.9 %)	321,060	(26.2 %)
Total	729,330	724,721	(0.6 %)	694,899	(5.0 %)	587,541	(24.1 %)
M3 - HK$	356,355	357,020	(-0.2 %)	351,388	(1.4 %)	298,050	(19.6 %)
Foreign currency	435,067	429,682	(1.3 %)	401,430	(8.4 %)	349,550	(24.5 %)
Total	791,422	786,702	(0.6 %)	752,818	(5.1 %)	647,601	(22.2 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	30,493	30,241	(0.8 %)	32,253	(-5.5 %)	24,185	(26.1 %)
of which held by public	26,736	26,489	(0.9 %)	28,642	(-6.7 %)	21,126	(26.6 %)
Total Deposits							
Total Demand deposits	55,967	53,333	(4.9 %)	52,122	(7.4 %)	44,468	(25.9 %)
Total Savings deposits	172,513	176,199	(-2.1 %)	181,924	(-5.2 %)	141,408	(22.0 %)
Total Time deposits with banks	460,649	455,027	(1.2 %)	419,327	(9.9 %)	370,350	(24.4 %)
Total Time deposits with dtcs	60,109	59,955	(0.3 %)	55,950	(7.4 %)	56,139	(7.1 %)
HK$ deposits	318,225	319,066	(-0.3 %)	311,697	(2.1 %)	268,996	(18.3 %)
US$ deposits	231,617	227,991	(1.6 %)	217,406	(6.5 %)	213,562	(8.5 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	199,396	197,455	(1.0 %)	180,219	(10.6 %)	129,807	(53.6 %)
All deposits	749,237	744,513	(0.6 %)	709,322	(5.6 %)	612,364	(22.4 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	33,540	30,324	(10.6 %)	22,921	(46.3 %)	33,058	(1.5 %)
Total Loans and advances							
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	50,696	47,451	(6.8 %)	45,505	(11.4 %)	42,447	(19.4 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	5,212	5,180	(0.6 %)	5,210	(0.0 %)	5,497	(-5.2 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	396,895	389,431	(1.9 %)	364,510	(8.9 %)	310,044	(28.0 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	325,034	326,624	(-0.5 %)	309,568	(5.0 %)	207,446	(56.7 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	57,272	60,081	(-4.7 %)	58,729	(-2.5 %)	37,076	(54.5 %)
Loans in HK$	350,448	340,919	(2.8 %)	318,875	(9.9 %)	286,934	(22.1 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	484,660	487,848	(-0.7 %)	464,648	(4.3 %)	315,576	(53.6 %)
Total loans and advances	835,108	828,767	(0.8 %)	783,523	(6.6 %)	602,510	(38.6 %)

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TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - JUNE 1988

(HK$mn)

	Jun 1988	Earlier quarters (% change to June 1988)		
		Mar 1988	Dec 1987	Jun 1987
Manufacturing	34,591	31,795 (8.8 %)	29,833 (15.9 %)	26,762 (29.3 %)
Transport and transport equipment	22,472	20,156 (11.5 %)	19,598 (14.7 %)	18,208 (23.4 %)
Building, construction and property development	42,934	41,187 (4.2 %)	39,512 (8.7 %)	35,822 (19.9 %)
Wholesale and retail trade	50,125	44,212 (13.4 %)	43,404 (15.5 %)	35,593 (40.8 %)
Financial concerns*	41,436	36,554 (13.4 %)	34,445 (20.3 %)	24,621 (68.3 %)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	7,569	7,498 (0.9 %)	7,497 (1.0 %)	7,260 (4.3 %)
to purchase other residential property	67,461	61,772 (9.2 %)	57,915 (16.5 %)	51,744 (30.4 %)
other purposes	48,750	45,263 (7.7 %)	44,019 (10.7 %)	38,408 (26.9 %)
Others	81,556	76,072 (7.2 %)	76,464 (6.7 %)	71,626 (13.9 %)
Total	396,895	364,510 (8.9 %)	352,685 (12.5 %)	310,044 (28.0 %)

* This excludes funds advanced to banks and deposit-taking companies

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TEST RUNS OF LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES

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AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UK RAILWAY INSPECTING OFFICER, MR ALAN COOKSEY, 15 LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES WILL BE RELEASED FOR TEST RUNS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 1, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

HOWEVER, FULL SCHEDULED PRACTICE RUNS OF THE LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES ARE STILL BEING SUSPENDED.

THE TEST RUNS WILL OPERATE FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM ON MONDAY AT A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 35 KM PER HOUR OVER THE WHOLE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TEST RUNS IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING THE TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS ARE PUT BACK TO WORKING CONDITION BEFORE THE RAILWAY INSPECTOR CONDUCTS INSPECTION OF THE LRT SYSTEM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2.

TEST RUNS WILL BE REPEATED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9 AM ON TUESDAY, USING 15 VEHICLES AT THE SAME MAXIMUM SPEED OF 35 KM PER HOUR.

AFTER 9 AM , TWO VEHICLES WILL BE USED, RUNNING AT A NORMAL OPERATING SPEED TO ENABLE THE INSPECTING OFFICER AND THE INSPECTION TEAM TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH INSPECTION OF THE SYSTEM.

MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRAINS ARE URGED TO STRICTLY OBEY THE TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS AT THE ROAD JUNCTIONS WITH LRT TRACK.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER TEST RUNS OF LRV AFTER AUGUST 2 WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.

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INTERIM PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES BEFORE LRT OPENS

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ALL TRANSPORT SERVICES IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG WILL BE MAINTAINED AT THE PRESENT LEVEL BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL OPENING OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

AFTER A MEETING BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE TRANSPORT BRANCH AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB), AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCRC), THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MRS ALICE LAI, TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID THAT ADEQUATE BUS SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DURING THE INTERIM.

/THE EXISTING .....

THE EXISTING TIMETABLE AND FARES WILL BE MAINTAINED.

AT PRESENT KMB IS PROVIDING SERVICES ON SEVEN ROUTES AND KCRC ON TWO ROUTES IN THE AREA.

UNDER THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, KMB WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE ROUTES NO. 59, 61A AND 63 WHILE THE REST WOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY KCRC.

THIS INTERIM ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CO-OPERATION OF KMB BUS CAPTAINS IN AGREEING TO POSTPONE THEIR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS. THE CO-OPERATION OF KCRC BUS CAPTAINS IS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED.

APART FROM BUS SERVICES, MRS LAI SAID, THE OPERATORS OF THREE GREEN MINI-BUS SERVICES PLYING BETWEEN LONG PING ESTATE AND FOOK HONG STREET; LUNG KWU TAN AND TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE (SAN CHING STREET); SHAN KING ESTATE AND ON TING ESTATE HAD BEEN APPROACHED AND ASKED TO CONTINUE THEIR SERVICES UNTIL LRT OPENS FOR COMMERCIAL RUNNING.

THIS INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM AUGUST 8 UNTIL AUGUST 20 AND WILL BE FURTHER EXTENDED IF NECESSARY.

ROUTES TO BE RUN BY KMB ARE:

* NO. 59 TAI HING TO TUEN MUN PIER HEAD
* NO. 61A YUEN LONG (EAST) TO TUEN MUN PIER HEAD
* NO. 63 YUEN LONG (EAST) TO YAU OI (SOUTH)

THE ROUTES TO BE OPERATED BY KCRC ARE:

* NO. 59B SIU HONG COURT TO BUTTERFLY ESTATE (RUN BY KCRC AT PRESENT)
* NO. 63A LEUNG TIN ESTATE TO YUEN LONG (EAST) (RUN BY KCRC AT PRESENT)
* NO. 55 YUEN LONG (EAST) TO LAU FAU SHAN
* NO. 56 YUEN LONG (WEST) TO TAI TONG (WONG NAI TUN)
* NO. 61 YUEN LONG (WEST) TO TUEN MUN TOWN CENTRE
* NO. 62 SIU HONG COURT TO CASTLE PEAK BAY

ROUTES NO. 55 AND 56 WILL BE OPERATED BY KCRC'S 24-SEATER BUSES AT THE EXISTING BUS FARES WITH INCREASED FREQUENCY IF REQUIRED.

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OLD AGE ALLOWANCE FOR MORE ELDERLY PEOPLE

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THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (OAA) SCHEME WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE 68 AND 69 AGE GROUPS STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

UNTIL NOW, THE ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN AVAILABLE ONLY TO PEOPLE AGED 70 AND ABOVE.

THIS EXTENSION IS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION BY STAGES OF A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AT THE OPENING OF THE 1987-88 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE 68 AND 69 AGE GROUPS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR $280 PER MONTH, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS NORMAL OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (NOAA). THOSE AGED 70 AND ABOVE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING THE HIGHER OLD AGE ALLOWANCE (HOAA) OF $320 A MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR NOAA WOULD BE ACCEPTED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 1).

AT THE SAME TIME, DISTRICT SOCIAL WORK OFFICERS WILL HELP PUBLICISE THE EXTENSION OF OAA AMONG HOSTELS, HOMES AND OTHER TYPES OF SOCIAL AND MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY WITHIN THEIR DISTRICTS.

THEY WILL ALSO HELP DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THE APPLICATION LETTER TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS THROUGH LIAISON WITH THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THESE INSTITUTIONS AND CENTRES AND TO ARRANGE FOR GROUP APPLICATIONS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

IF THEY WISH, ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS CAN ELECT TO APPLY INDIVIDUALLY.

"TO QUALIFY, THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE RESIDED IN HONG KONG CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THE QUALIFYING AGE.

"THE PERSON IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MAKE A FINANCIAL DECLARATION UPON APPLYING FOR THE ALLOWANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SINGLE PERSONS WILL BE ENTITLED TO THE ALLOWANCE PROVIDED THEIR INCOME IS NOT MORE THAN $1,700 PER MONTH AND THEY HAVE ASSETS WORTH NOT MORE THAN $100,000.

THE LIMITS FOR A MARRIED COUPLE ARE A MONTHLY INCOME OF $2,800 AND ASSETS WORTH $150,000.

PERSONAL JEWELLERY, A FAMILY CAR, SELF-OCCUPIED PROPERTY, CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS, AND CHARITABLE FUNDS WILL BE DISREGARDED IN THE CALCULATION.

/ON MAKING .....

ON MAKING AN INITIAL APPLICATION AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT THE APPLICANT WILL BE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT TO RETURN FOR PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATION - SUPPORTED BY THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS (SUCH AS HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS).

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL HELP AVOID A SUDDEN RUSH OF APPLICATIONS ARRIVING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

"THE ELDERLY CAN HAND IN APPLICATIONS AT THEIR LEISURE, WHILE OUR STAFF WILL BE ABLE TO SPACE OUT THE PROCESSING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF PROCESSING THE APPLICATION, THE BENEFITS WILL START FROM SEPTEMBER 1, OR THE DATE OF INITIAL APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS APPROPRIATE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 51,000 PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS INITIAL EXTENSION OF THE OAA SCHEME.

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AIRPORT EASY TRAVEL SCHEME STARTS ON MONDAY

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THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1).

UNDER THIS, TRAVELLERS USING HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS FOR IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE AT THE AIRPORT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE CARDS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, HOLDERS OF NEW HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS, AGED 18 OR OVER, WILL FURTHER BENEFIT BY BEING EXEMPTED FROM PRODUCING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AT THE AIRPORT FOR TRAVELS TO AND FROM ALL PLACES.

"AND HOLDERS OF HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE *** SYMBOL WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WITHOUT THE HONG KONG RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR JOURNEYS TO AND FROM CHINA," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, ALL TRAVELLERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED FOR THEIR DESTINATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT TRAVELLERS WHO DO NOT USE THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WHEN PASSING THROUGH THE CONTROL POINTS AT THE AIRPORT SHOULD COMPLETE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE CARDS AND PRODUCE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS.

"TO HELP REDUCE WAITING TIME, PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO COMPLETE ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE CARDS ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN WHO DO NOT YET HAVE IDENTITY CARDS," HE SAID.

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CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR ACCESS TO COTTON TREE DRIVE MARRIAGE REGISTRY

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VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE COTTON TREE DRIVE MARRIAGE REGISTRY WILL BE CLOSED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN ITS VICINITY, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE TO USE THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY.

"HOWEVER, A SMALL NUMBER OF TEMPORARY PARKING SPACES ARE RESERVED NEAR THE REGISTRY FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF BRIDAL CARS," HE SAID.

"GUESTS ATTENDING THE CEREMONIES ARE ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT."

DISABLED PERSONS INTENDING TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE REGISTRY MAY CONTACT THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE ON 5-294099 FOR ASSISTANCE.

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FARMS CHOSEN FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

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THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE'S STEERING GROUP HAS FINALISED A LIST OF LIVESTOCK FARMS FOR TAKING PART IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP, MR LEO KWAN, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT ALTOGETHER 10 FARMS - SIX PIG FARMS AND FOUR CHICKEN FARMS - WERE SELECTED. THEY WERE LOCATED IN SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING, MA ON SHAN AND SHA TAU KOK.

HE SAID DURING AN EARLIER STEERING GROUP MEETING, MEMBERS HAD ALREADY CHOSEN EIGHT FARMS RECOMMENDED BY A CONSULTANT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, WHILE OTHER FARMS HAD TO BE FURTHER ASSESSED ON THEIR SUITABILITY.

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE FARM OPERATORS CONCERNED, MEMBERS AGREED ON SELECTING ONE PIG FARM AND ONE CHICKEN FARM FOR EXPERIMENTING THE WET MUCK-OUT METHOD IN THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

MR KWAN NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP, PARTICULARLY FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD VISITED THE PROPOSED FARMS DESPITE THE INCLEMENT WEATHER LAST WEEK, HAD MADE KEEN EFFORTS TO SPEED UP THE SELECTION PROCESS.

NOW THAT WORK ON THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IS IN FULL SWING, MR KWAN ANTICIPATED THAT THE CONSULTANT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THESE PROJECTS BY DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

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RENOVATION OF WAN CHAI POLICE HQ REPORT ROOM

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CLEANING UP WAN CHAI IS NORMAL DAY TO DAY DUTY FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE OLD DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON THE WATERFRONT IN GLOUCESTER ROAD.

BUT CLEANING UP THE CLUTTERED REPORT ROOM IS SOMETHING THAT HAS TAKEN THEM ALL BY SURPRISE.

OUT GO THE OLD TANGLE OF ELECTRIC WIRES, THE DRAB AND SHABBY PAINTWORK AND THE NOISY CLACKING TELEPRINTER.

IN COME NEW AND IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS FOR MEETING THE PUBLIC AND DEALING WITH WAN CHAI MISCREANTS.

DOWN COMES THE OLD CEILING TO IMPROVE ACOUSTICS.

UP GOES MORALE OF ALL CONCERNED.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME THE OLD REPORT ROOM HAS BEEN RENOVATED SINCE WAN CHAI POLICE STATION WAS BULIT IN 1933.

IT WAS TO THE CHAGRIN OF WAN CHAI DIVISIONAL COMMANDER MR JOHN BURTON THAT HE SAW A STAFF REPORT ON A NEWLY ARRIVED MEMBER OF HIS STAFF: +THE OFFICER'S WORKING CONDITIONS ARE WORSE THAN WAN CHAI REPORT ROOM.+

+IT STRUCK ME AS WRY,+ SAID MR BURTON, +THAT WE SHOULD HAVE THIS NEW INCUMBENT ARRIVING WITH SUCH A BLOT ON HIS POLICE RECORD AT THE VERY TIME THAT HE ARRIVED AT WAN CHAI.

+COINCIDENTALLY, WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WORK STARTED ON RENOVATING OUR REPORT ROOM. THE OFFICER CONCERNED MAY WELL IMAGINE THAT IT'S BEEN DONE JUST FOR HIM.+

NOT REALLY. THERE IS A LONG HERITAGE OF POLICE OFFICERS, NOW REACHING THEIR DECLINING YEARS, WHO HAVE VIVID MEMORIES OF WORKING IN THAT REPORT ROOM.

WORK NOW UNDER WAY WILL TRANSFORM THE REPORT ROOM TO A PLACE OF BEAUTY AND A JOY TO WORK IN.

WORKING CONDITIONS WILL IMPROVE WITH THE NEW LOW CEILING, AIR CONDITIONING, SOUND PROOFED TELEPRINTER AND FITTED CUPBOARDS.

+IT WILL BRING ALL THE FACILITIES ROUGHLY IN LINE WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY,+ MR BURTON SAID.

+WILL IT IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE PEOPLE USING THE REPORT ROOM? WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT WE SHALL SEE A BETTER CLASS OF PEOPLE COMING TO THE STATION.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL FIND IT EASIER TO MAKE REPORTS AND IT WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT ON THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF OFFICERS IN THE REPORT ROOM.+

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KOWLOON HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME GETS UNDER WAY

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A MASSIVE LANDSCAPING PROJECT FOR HIGHWAYS IN KOWLOON IS WELL UNDER WAY UNDER THE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME JOINTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

"ALREADY LANDSCAPING HAS BEEN COMPLETED FOR TWO LINEAR ROADSIDE AMENITY PLOTS AT TSIM SHA TSUI WHILE WORK WILL SOON BEGIN ON THREE OTHERS IN KOWLOON CITY AND LAI CHI KOK," AN URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

"THE TWO NEWLY-COMPLETED AMENITY PLOTS STRETCH ALONG THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD AND GRANVILLE ROAD AS WELL AS ALONG SALISBURY ROAD, COVERING AN AREA OF 1,150 SQUARE METRES AND 270 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

"ALTOGETHER 5,200 FLOWERING SHRUBS, 9,000 GROUND COVERS AND TREES ARE PROVIDED IN RAISED PLANTERS TO SOFTEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE AREA.

"IN ORDER TO ADD MORE COLOUR AND TO ACHIEVE A BETTER VISUAL IMPACT, LANDSCAPE STAFF HAVE CAREFULLY SELECTED SUITABLE PLANTS SUCH AS FICUS MICROCAPA 'GOLDEN LEAVES' AND PODOCARPUS MICRIPHYLLA."

UNDER THE KOWLOON HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMME, A TOTAL OF 14 AMENITY PLOTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR LANDSCAPING, COVERING BOTH KOWLOON EAST AND KOWLOON WEST.

"IN ALL, NO FEWER THAN 69,000 PLANTS INCLUDING TREES, PALMS, FLOWERING SHRUBS, GROUND COVERS AND CLIMBERS WILL BE PROVIDED, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WILL BE SUPPLIED BY URBAN COUNCIL NURSERIES," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

"ON COMPLETION BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, THE $870,000 PROJECT WILL HAVE ADDED MORE GREENERY TO SOME OF THE CENTRAL ROAD DIVIDERS AND BARE ROADSIDES AS A WELCOME ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT."

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SEMINAR ON CHAIRMANSHIP SKILLS

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CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND THEIR COMMITTEES EXCHANGED VIEWS AND SHARED EXPERIENCES AT A SEMINAR TODAY (SATURDAY) TO BETTER THEIR CHAIRMANSHIP SKILLS IN A BID TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS.

THE SEMINAR ON CHAIRMANSHIP SKILLS WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE.

SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID AS DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS CAME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUND AND HAD DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, THEY MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

THEREFORE, THE SKILL OF THE CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES IN CONDUCTING MEETINGS WOULD BE CRUCIAL IN ENABLING MEMBERS TO FULLY EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS, HE SAID.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, VALUABLE AND EXPERT OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN REFLECTING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, RAISING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

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AIDS GUIDELINE FOR NURSES

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED A NEW INFORMATION BOOKLET ON AIDS FOR NURSES IN HONG KONG.

THE BOOKLET IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES - THE FIRST ONE WAS PRODUCED IN LAST DECEMBER FOR DOCTORS AND DENTISTS - RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE ON AIDS TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNELS.

A TOTAL OF 15,000 COPIES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN THE TERRITORY, INCLUDING NURSES IN GOVERNMENT, SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING THE 24-PAGE BOOKLET WAS TO KEEP THE NURSING PROFESSION INFORMED OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS SO AS TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DISEASE.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ALL HEALTH CARE WORKERS HAD AN IMPORTNAT ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING TO DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT AIDS AND ASSIST IN THE HEALTH EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC.

THE BOOKLET PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AIDS, ITS CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS, THE ASSESSMENT OF INFECTED HIV INDIVIDUALS, COUNSELLING SERVICE AND ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON AIDS PREVENTION.

IT ALSO CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY NURSES IN THE PREVENTION OF HIV INFECTION IN HOSPITAL AND THE MANAGEMENT OF AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS.

IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING INFORMATION BOOKLETS ON AIDS, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANISES LECTURES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS AND PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SUCH AS PAMPHLETS, SLIDES AND VIDEOS FOR DOCTORS AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNELS.

NURSES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A COPY OF THE INFORMATION BOOKLET CAN CONTACT THE AIDS COUNSELLING AND HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE ON 3-7102429.

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ID CARD REMINDER FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1967-69

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED WOMEN BORN IN 1967, 1968 AND 1969 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE AUGUST 27.

"TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, WOMEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW ID CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW ID CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF $3,000."

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO RENEW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS. TO AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP FOR A LONG TIME AT THE ISSUE OFFICES OR TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO TO THESE OFFICES IN THE MORNINGS AND THE AFTERNOONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/THEY MAY .....

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.
TEL. NO. 5-747070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 3-7553679

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.
TEL. NO. 3-7232424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-4981259

SHA TIN : SHATIN CENTRE, PODIUM FLOOR, 2-16 WANG POK STREET.
TEL. NO. 0-6059108

YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.
TEL. NO. 0-793291

TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, CHI LOK FA YUEN.
TEL. NO. 0-4580862

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.
TEL. NO. 0-927155

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN LOK FU FOR REDEVELOPMENT WORKS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF FU MEI STREET EAST IN LOK FU BETWEEN HENG LAM STREET AND A POINT OUTSIDE BLOCK 17 OF LOK FU ESTATE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1).

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE REDEVELOPMENT WORKS OF LOK FU ESTATE.

MOTORISTS ON HENG LAM STREET WESTBOUND HEADING FOR WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HENG LAM STREET, JUNCTION ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, MOTORISTS ON HENG LAM STREET EASTBOUND OR FUNG MO STREET NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD WILL HAVE TO USE FUNG MO STREET, FU MEI STREET AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

ROUTEINGS OF KMB ROUTES NO. 7 AND 11C WILL ALSO BE DIVERTED. ON ITS JOURNEYS TO STAR FERRY, ROUTE NO. 7 WILL OPERATE VIA WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, FU MEI STREET, FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET AND JUNCTION ROAD.

AS FOR ROUTE NO. 11C, IT WILL TRAVEL VIA WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD, HENG LAM STREET AND FUNG MO STREET ON ITS JOURNEYS TO SAU MAU PING. WHEN TRAVELLING TOWARDS CHUK YUEN ESTATE, IT WILL OPERATE VIA FUNG MO STREET, HENG LAM STREET, JUNCTION ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN KWUN TONG
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MOTORISTS TRAVELLING IN KWUN TONG ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE DISTRICT FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 1), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE ON A 94-METRE STRETCH OF THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF HIP WO STREET SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MUT WAH STREET WILL BE CUT SHORT BY ABOUT 24 METRES IN THE SOUTH.

THE MEASURE IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN THE AREA. ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 2), NGAN YUET LANE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS FOR ROAD RECONSTRUCTION.

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LUNG CHEUNG ROAD REDUCES TO ONE-LANE OPERATION

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TO FACILITATE THE ERECTION OF FLYOVER FALSEWORK, THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD IN WONG TAI SIN BETWEEN THE HK-TVB BROADCAST HOUSE AND TIN MA COURT FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE REDUCED TO ONE-LANE OPERATION FROM 11.30 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

MEANWHILE, THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN THE EDUCATION TELEVISION CENTRE AND TIN MA COURT FOOTBRIDGE WILL ALSO BE REDUCED TO ONE-LANE TRAFFIC FROM 11.30 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1) TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNS AND DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE AND PATIENCE.

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