



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
SWAC DISCUSSES TWO PAPERS	1
NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE WORKING GROUP	2
DIRECTOR OF TRADE WARNS OF TOUGH GATT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD ...	3
COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR VISITS JEWELLERY FACTORY	5
1988 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION	5
DB ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BUDGET	7
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME OF TWO BUS COMPANIES	7
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITIES ...	8
CCY MEMBERS VISIT GIRLS' HOME	8
DB FUNDS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS	9
TAP MUN "TA CHIU" RITUAL ON WEDNESDAY	10
TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR IN CONCERT	11
ENTRY SCHEME FOR MACAU RESIDENTS	12
MUSIC OFFICE STRING ORCHESTRA TO VISIT USA	12
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	14
WATER SUSPENSION IN FOUR DISTRICTS	14
SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL	15
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI	15

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 1 -

SWAC DISCUSSES TWO PAPERS

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THE BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL PLACES IN PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WAS DISCUSSED AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) TODAY (MONDAY).

THE MEETING FELT THE PROPOSAL WAS FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, NO DECISION WAS REACHED ON WHETHER THE SCHEME SHOULD PROCEED IMMEDIATELY AS THERE COULD BE OTHER OPTIONS TO EASE THE SHORTFALLS OF RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT SWAC MEETING.

THE BOUGHT PLACES SCHEME IS A DUAL-PURPOSE PROJECT. IT AIMS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL PLACES, THROUGH THE USE OF PRIVATE HOMES, TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE CENTRAL WAITING LIST OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR ADMISSION TO ELDERLY HOMES.

IT ALSO TIES IN WITH THE VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE ELDERLY HOMES SCHEME TO PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE TO OPERATORS OF PRIVATE HOMES TO RAISE THEIR SERVICES STANDARDS TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

CURRENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES 1,860 SUBVENTED CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES AND 5,759 SUBVENTED AGED HOME PLACES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AN ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF AROUND 1,700 PLACES IN CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND 1,700 PLACES IN HOMES FOR THE AGED WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 1990/91, BUT THIS WILL STILL FALL FAR SHORT OF DEMAND.

TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, SWD PROPOSED THAT PLACES IN PRIVATE HOMES BE BOUGHT FOR ELDERLY PERSONS ON THE SWD CENTRAL WAITING LIST.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG INFORMED THE MEETING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS CONSIDERING FURTHER USE OF DISCRETIONARY GRANTS UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO ENABLE ELDERLY RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WHO WERE ON THE SWD CENTRAL WAITING LIST TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES OF REGISTERED PRIVATE HOMES.

SHE SAID THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE TO AVOID ELDERLY PERSONS BEING ACCOMMODATED IN HOMES SITUATED FAR AWAY FROM THEIR RELATIVES, AND EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO DISTRIBUTE SUCH PLACES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AND TO REFRAIN FROM CONCENTRATING THE BOUGHT PLACES IN ONLY A FEW HOMES.

SWAC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED AN INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT PREPARED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

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ON A SEPARATE ISSUE, SWAC MEMBERS ALSO HAD A DETAILED DISCUSSION ON A POLICY PAPER ON THE PROVISION OF DAY CRECHE SERVICE WHICH WAS PRODUCED BY SWD, HAVING REGARD TO THE VIEWS OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT:-

- * THE FEE ASSISTANCE FOR THE DAY NURSERY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO DAY CRECHES.
- * SWD TO ESTABLISH A CENTRAL DAY CRECHE REGISTRY TO COLLECT AND ANALYSE INFORMATION FROM DAY CRECHES ON SUCCESSFUL, UNSUCCESSFUL, AND WAITLISTED APPLICATIONS IN ORDER TO ASSESS DEMAND FOR SUBVENTED DAY CRECHE PLACES, BOTH OVERALL AND IN SPECIFIC LOCALITIES AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE TARGET POPULATION IS BEING APPROPRIATELY SERVED BY THE PREVAILING SOCIAL NEED AND INCOME CRITERIA.
- * TO ASSIST IN A PHASED MANNER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-PROFIT-MAKING DAY CRECHES THROUGH ASSISTANCE IN ACCOMMODATION, REIMBURSEMENT OF RENT AND RATES AND FITTING-OUT COSTS, AND A SUBSIDY TO CUSHION THE OPERATOR AGAINST ENROLMENT FLUCTUATION.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 19 DAY CRECHES (18 SUBVENTED AND ONE NON-PROFIT-MAKING CRECHE), PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 981 PLACES. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FIVE MIXED CENTRES (DAY AND RESIDENTIAL CRECHE AND NURSERY) IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THESE FIVE PRIVATE CENTRES PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 302 PLACES OF VARIOUS KINDS INCLUDING DAY CRECHES.

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NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE WORKING GROUP
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THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE WORKING GROUP, AT ITS FOURTH MEETING TODAY, HAS AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PUT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR DECISION.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE :

- * TO CONTINUE THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE AS A SCHEME TO PROVIDE ECONOMICAL MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR COMPULSORY EDUCATION FROM PRIMARY ONE TO SECONDARY THREE.
- * TO RECOMMEND TO THE FORTHCOMING REVIEW OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE A COMPREHENSIVE SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN.

/* TO CONTINUE

- * TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS THE PARENTS, RATHER THAN THE SCHOOL, TO CHOOSE THE DOCTOR. THIS HAS PROVED POPULAR. THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD WILL ALLOW PARENTS TO MAKE UP TO THREE CHOICES OF DOCTORS FROM THE PANEL OF DOCTORS IN EACH DISTRICT STARTING FROM THE 1989/90 ACADEMIC YEAR.
- * TO INTRODUCE A CHARGE FOR EACH VISIT MADE BY A STUDENT TO HIS OR HER DOCTOR. THE SIZE OF THE CHARGE WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD BY REFERENCE TO THE OUT-PATIENT CLINIC CHARGES. THESE ARE CURRENTLY \$13 PER VISIT.
- * TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF FREE MEDICINE FROM TWO DAYS' TO THREE DAYS'. THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR MEDICINE UNDER THE WORKING GROUP'S PROPOSALS.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD IS SEPARATELY REVIEWING THE RATE OF CAPITATION GRANT PAID TO THE DOCTORS IN RESPECT OF EACH STUDENT IN THE SCHEME, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY.

THIS AT PRESENT IS \$75, MADE UP OF \$10 ENROLMENT FEE PAID BY THE PARENTS AND \$65 PAID BY GOVERNMENT.

THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE ENROLMENT FEE SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, SAID THAT THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY MEMBERS.

HE SAID HE WOULD PRESENT THE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WHO WOULD SEEK ADVICE FROM THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

HE HOPED THAT AGREED PROPOSALS WOULD BE IN PLACE FOR THE START OF THE 1989/90 ACADEMIC YEAR IN SEPTEMBER 1989.

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DIRECTOR OF TRADE WARNS OF TOUGH GATT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD
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THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE URUGUAY ROUND WAS A TEST OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE TOUGH TIMES AHEAD IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS OR SO WHEN THERE WOULD BE REAL BARGAINING, THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE KOWLOON CLUB, MR SZE SAID THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WAS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE BY OCTOBER 1990.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 4 -

THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE URUGUAY ROUND WAS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AT THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEES MEETING HELD IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS MONTH.

AN AGREEMENT WAS MADE ON AGRICULTURE, FOLLOWED BY TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING AND SAFEGUARDS.

INTERIM AGREEMENTS ON THE OTHER 11 SUBJECTS PUT "ON HOLD" AT THE MID-TERM MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GATT LAST DECEMBER IN MONTREAL WERE ALSO ADOPTED.

SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD START IMMEDIATELY ON HOW TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE IN THE SECTOR OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, INCLUDING HOW TO ELIMINATE THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA), WHEN TO START THE PROGRAMME AND HOW LONG SHOULD THE PROGRAMME TAKE, MR SZE SAID.

"GIVEN THEIR DOMESTIC PRESSURE, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE UNLIKELY TO GIVE UP THE MFA OVERNIGHT," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE MID-TERM REVIEW DECISION ALSO COMMITTED IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO HONOURING A PLEDGE TO AVOID FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

"IT SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF PRESIDENT BUSH IN WARDING OFF NEW PROTECTIONIST OFFENSIVES BY THE U.S. TEXTILE LOBBY," HE ADDED.

MR SZE SAID THAT HONG KONG'S OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES WERE TO HAVE A STRONGER GATT WHICH COULD MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE OVER MEMBERS' TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO COMBAT PROTECTIONISM.

"WE WANT AN IMPROVED GATT PROCEDURES AND RULES FOR SETTLEMENT OF TRADE DISPUTES AS WELL AS GREATER CLARIFICATION AND OPERATIONAL GROUND RULES FOR TAKING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO RESTRICT IMPORTS (SAFEGUARDS)," SAID MR SZE.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GRADUAL RETURN OF THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TRADE FROM THE MFA TO THE GATT.

"WE ALSO WANT AN EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF GATT TO COVER TRADE IN SERVICES AND TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RULES," HE CONCLUDED.

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MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 5 -

COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR VISITS JEWELLERY FACTORY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED THE MERIT JEWELLERY MANUFACTORY LTD. IN TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON, TO FAMILIARISE HIMSELF WITH LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

THE FACTORY IS ENGAGED MAINLY IN THE MANUFACTURING, EXPORTING AND RETAILING OF JEWELLERY PRODUCTS FOR BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKETS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND EUROPE.

AFTER BEING MET BY THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL DIRECTOR, MR CHRISTOPHER CHAN, AND THE PERSONNEL MANAGER, MISS JULY KONG, MR HAMMOND WAS TAKEN TO SEE THE DESIGN SECTION, THE PRODUCTION LINES AND THE SHOW ROOMS.

HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH THE MANAGEMENT THE LABOUR SHORTAGE ISSUE AND LABOUR LEGISLATION.

ON STAFF WELFARE, MR HAMMOND WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES, ON TOP OF BASIC WAGES, WERE GIVEN YEAR-END PAYMENTS, ATTENDANCE BONUS, PERFORMANCE BONUS, DESIGN BONUS AND MARRIAGE LEAVE PAY AS ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES. THE COMPANY ALSO OPERATES A SUBSIDISED MEDICAL SCHEME AND A PROVIDENT FUND.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THESE FRINGE BENEFITS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE LOW TURNOVER RATE OF STAFF IN SPITE OF THE LABOUR SHORTAGE.

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1988 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 1988 HAS JUST COMMENCED.

THE SURVEY IS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY AND REPRESENTS PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME IN THE DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT ECONOMIC STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN HONG KONG.

THE AIMS OF THE SURVEY ARE TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE DATA FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SECTORS TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AND FOR ASCERTAINING THEIR COST STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTPUT LEVELS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

ABOUT 8,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY, COVERING THE SECTORS OF MANUFACTURING; MINING AND QUARRYING; AND ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER.

/INFORMATION SOUGHT

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 6 -

INFORMATION SOUGHT IN THE SURVEY INCLUDES: TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF INVESTMENT, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (THAT IS WAGES, SALARIES AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS), PAYMENTS FOR SUB-CONTRACT WORK, VALUE OF PURCHASES AND OTHER EXPENSES, SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, AS WELL AS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND STOCKS.

THE SURVEY IS BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION) ORDER 1984, WHICH WAS MADE UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 316) AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICE NO. 15 IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS SAMPLED FOR THE SURVEY.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31, 1989.

IF NECESSARY, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THESE OFFICERS WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY WHILST ON DUTY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO THE MANAGERMENTS OF ALL SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES PROMPTLY AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF ENUMERATION, SO AS TO FULFIL THEIR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE. ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION, WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WILL BE RELEASED.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AUDITED ACCOUNTS WERE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUPPLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA REQUIRED IN THE SURVEY.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATES WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE RETURNS, IF AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-8235079.

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MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 7 -

DB ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BUDGET
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED BUDGET AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.

THEY WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE SITE NEXT TO NO. 6 WAN CHAI GAP ROAD INTO AN AMENITY AREA.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, THE STREET MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME, AND AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS TO ORGANISE A CLEAN FOOTBRIDGE CAMPAIGN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (APRIL 25) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME OF TWO BUS COMPANIES
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MEMBERS OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME AS APPLIED TO THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO ALLOCATE \$30,000 FOR THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT.

AT THE SAME TIME THE MEETING WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ORGANISE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN IN MONG KOK IN 1989-90.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITIES

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THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES PROPOSED TO COMMEMORATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) 1989.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO JUNE 5 WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS WED 89, INCLUDE THREE PLANTING, MURAL PAINTING, WALLBOARD DESIGN COMPETITION AND COLOURING COMPETITION.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN 1989/90, A PROPOSED CIVIC EDUCATION CAMP FOR YOUNG ISLANDERS DURING THE SUMMER, AND EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLISHING A NEWSPAPER FOR THE ISLANDS DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE RECEPTION OF TELEVISION SIGNALS IN SUN KEI PANG AND SUN SHA PANG IN TAI O, LANTAU AND THE ALLOCATION OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES WHICH AMOUNT TO \$107,000 IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING STARTING AT 2 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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CCY MEMBERS VISIT GIRLS' HOME

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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH (CCY) WERE IMPRESSED BY THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THEIR VISIT TO THE MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME IN HO MAN TIN THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY LEARNED THAT IN ADDITION TO EXISTING FACILITIES OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN CLASS-ROOMS AND PRE-VOCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, (SEWING, HANDICRAFT AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE), BEAUTY THERAPY AND OFFICE-PRACTICE CLASSES WOULD BE INCLUDED TO WIDEN THE CHOICE OF SKILL-LEARNING.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR KWOK KA-CHI, THE CCY MEMBERS, MR CHAN CHEUK, MR HUI CHIU-YIN AND MRS C.K. KONG, WERE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE HOME WHICH PROVIDES TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR GIRLS AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND UNDER 21.

/MR KWOK

MR KWOK EXPLAINED THAT THE BEAUTY THERAPY CLASS WOULD SUIT GIRLS WHO WISHED TO EARN A LIVING AS A BEAUTY THERAPIST WHEREAS THE OFFICE-PRACTICE CLASS WOULD HELP THOSE WHO HAVE A FAIR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND WISHED TO WORK IN OFFICES AS OFFICE OR CLERICAL ASSISTANTS.

THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE HOME CURRENTLY PROVIDES 96 PLACEMENTS FOR GIRLS WITH RESIDENTIAL TRAINING UNDER PROBATION ORDER AND CARE AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE; AND ANOTHER 96 PLACEMENTS FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY UNDER JUVENILE OFFENDERS ORDINANCE, PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE AND IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

THEY WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED THIS SERVICE WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING THE COURTS' DIRECTIVES ON THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF PROBATION SUPERVISION, RESIDENTIAL TRAINING, AFTERCARE SERVICES AND REMAND HOME SERVICES.

MR KWOK POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED RESIDENTIAL TRAINING TO YOUNG OFFENDERS WITH THE AIM OF HELPING TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIAL ATTITUDE SO THAT, UPON DISCHARGE, THEY WOULD BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO LIVE AS LAW-ABIDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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DB FUNDS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS

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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN WONG TAI SIN ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO CARRY OUT DISTRICT-WIDE SOCIAL SERVICES PROJECTS IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE DECIDED AT A RECENT MEETING TO SET ASIDE FUNDS TO ENABLE NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS SERVING BEYOND AN AREA OR SERVING THE WHOLE DISTRICT TO ORGANISE SOCIAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET ON JUNE 20, AUGUST 22 AND OCTOBER 31 TO VET APPLICATIONS, AND THAT THE EARMARKED AMOUNT WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE EQUAL PORTIONS FOR APPORTIONMENT AT EACH MEETING.

"APPLICATIONS SHOULD REACH THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT PRIOR TO EACH VETTING. THE DEADLINES ARE JUNE 3, AUGUST 5, AND OCTOBER 14," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO AGENCIES OR ORGANISATIONS WHICH SERVE THE WHOLE DISTRICT, AND THAT APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY AREA COMMITTEES WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AT THE LAST VETTING ON OCTOBER 31.

/VETTING OF

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 10 -

VETTING OF APPLICATIONS WOULD FOLLOW THE CRITERIA LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE AMOUNT APPROVED FOR A PARTICULAR ORGANISATION WOULD NOT EXCEED \$10,000 WITHIN A FINANCIAL YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED.

"REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE APPLICANT ORGANISATIONS WOULD HAVE TO ATTEND THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TO PRESENT THEIR PROJECTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO SUBMIT REPORTS ON THEIR PROJECTS TO THE SECRETARIAT WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED," HE ADDED.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 3-222261 EXT. 451.

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TAP MUN "TA CHIU" RITUAL ON WEDNESDAY

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ADOLF HSU, AND THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT A RITUAL OF THE 19TH TAP MUN "TA CHIU" TO BE HELD ON TAP MUN CHAU (GRASS ISLAND) ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 26).

THE TAP MUN "TA CHIU" IS HELD ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS.

PARTICIPATING IN THE EVENT ARE SIX VILLAGES LOCATED IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. THEY ARE TAP MUN, SAM MUN TSAI, SHUM WAN, KAT O, KO LAU WAN AND WONG WAN.

THE "TA CHIU" WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND WILL END ON APRIL 29.

THERE WILL BE PUPPET SHOWS AND CHINESE OPERA PERFORMANCES DURING THE PERIOD.

A PROCESSION OF VESSELS AROUND THE ISLAND WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 27 (THURSDAY).

THE RITUAL TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26 WILL START AT 12.30 PM AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY UNICORN AND LION DANCES AND A CHINESE OPERA PERFORMANCE.

/THE 19TH

THE 19TH TAP MUN "TA CHIU" IS ORGANISED BY THE 19TH TAP MUN TA CHIU ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 19TH TAP MUN "TA CHIU" TO BE HELD ON TAP MUN CHAU (GRASS ISLAND) AT 12.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 26). A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR HO TAI-WAI, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR IN CONCERT
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THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL GIVE A CONCERT FEATURING BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN COMPOSITIONS ON SATURDAY (APRIL 29) IN THE TUEN MUN TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM.

THE CONCERT WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE "THE SOUND OF MUSIC", "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH", "SING, SING, SING", "LITTLE CHICKEN", "THE MOONLIGHT" AND SEVERAL INSTRUMENTAL PIECES.

THE CHOIR WILL ALSO TEAM UP WITH POPULAR SINGERS CHENG KING-KAY AND WONG PO-YAN TO PERFORM "THIS IS MY HOME".

TICKETS AT \$10 AND \$20 CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE BUILDING AT CHING YIN STREET AND THE ON TING/YAU OI SUB-OFFICE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE.

AN INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE HELD SHORTLY BEFORE THE CONCERT. OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR HAIDER BARMA; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR LAU WONG-FAT; AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JOHN WAN.

THE TUEN MUN CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS SPONSORED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 12 -

ENTRY SCHEME FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE FOLLOWING EX-CHINA RESIDENTS OF MACAU WHO HAVE HELD MACAU IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED AFTER JANUARY 14, 1979 FOR SEVEN YEARS MAY APPLY FOR ENTRY TO HONG KONG:-

- (i) HUSBANDS/WIVES (TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN) TO JOIN THEIR RESIDENT SPOUSE IN HONG KONG; &
- (ii) AGED PARENTS/DEPENDENT CHILDREN TO JOIN THEIR RESIDENT CHILDREN/PARENTS IN HONG KONG.

APPLICATION CAN BE SUBMITTED AS FROM MAY 1, 1989 (MONDAY) BY THE HONG KONG SPONSORS IN PERSON TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, 61 MODY ROAD, TSIMSHATSUI EAST, KOWLOON. THE SPONSOR'S STAY IN HONG KONG MUST NOT BE LIMITED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS ENTRY SCHEME MAY TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION OFFICE AT 3-7333126.

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MUSIC OFFICE STRING ORCHESTRA TO VISIT USA

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THIS YEAR, THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH WILL ORGANISE A STRING ORCHESTRA TO VISIT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS IN LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO AND WILL TAKE PART IN VARIOUS JOINT CONCERTS, MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, MISS LOLLY CHIU SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"IN 1988, OUR YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA HAD A SUCCESSFUL CONCERT TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND PERFORMED IN THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND THE 1988 WORLD EXPO IN BRISBANE," SHE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE DINNER MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES, MISS CHIU SAID THAT IN ORDER TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND TO WIDEN HONG KONG MUSICIANS' HORIZON, THE MUSIC OFFICE HAD ALSO ORGANISED ON REGULAR BASIS INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES.

"IN THE PAST 12 YEARS, THE MUSIC OFFICE HAD PROVIDED MUSIC EDUCATION TO THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. SOME OF THEM HAVE CONTINUED TO PURSUE A CAREER IN MUSIC IN THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS LOCALLY OR ABROAD, SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE MUSIC OFFICE'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME WAS THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME (IMTS) UNDER WHICH MUSIC TRAINING WAS PROVIDED TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SIX TO 23 AGE GROUP.

/ "AT PRESENT

"AT PRESENT, WE HAVE SOME 4,000 TRAINEES, MOSTLY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS COMING FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG. BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE MUSIC ARE TAUGHT.

"LEARNING TO PLAY MUSIC HELPS TO DEVELOP A CHILD'S INTELLECTUAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH, IMPROVES HIS PHYSICAL CO-ORDINATION AND POWER OF EXPRESSION. IN PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT IN GROUPS, HE ALSO LEARNS TO CO-OPERATE AND WORK WITH OTHERS," MISS CHIU STRESSED.

NOTING THAT TRAINING FOR THE MAJORITY TOOK THE FORM OF GROUP CLASSES AT THE EIGHT CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, MISS CHIU SAID THAT A FEW MORE GIFTED TRAINEES WERE GIVEN SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL TRAINING.

"TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR TRAINING SCHEME, A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT HIRE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED, UNDER WHICH THE MUSIC OFFICE PROVIDES EVERY TRAINEE WITH HIS OWN INSTRUMENT FOR PRACTICE AT HOME AT A MONTHLY CHARGE OF \$20.

"WHEN THE ACCUMULATED HIRING CHARGE PAID BY THE TRAINEE MEETS THE ORIGINAL COST, THE INSTRUMENT BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE TRAINEE AND ABOUT HALF OF OUR TRAINEES MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS SCHEME," SHE SAID.

MISS CHIU EXPLAINED THAT ALL TRAINEES WHO ATTAINED A CERTAIN STANDARD WERE REQUIRED TO JOIN AN ORCHESTRA OR BAND.

"AT PRESENT, THE MUSIC OFFICE MANAGES AND TRAINS 18 YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS.

"WE ARRANGE REGULAR CONCERTS FOR THESE ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS, SO AS TO EXPOSE THEM TO A WIDE RANGE OF MUSIC AND SITUATION," SHE SAID.

MISS CHIU POINTED OUT THAT THE MUSIC OFFICE ALSO HAVE A PROGRAMME OF REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND SHARING THE JOY OF MUSIC WITH THE AVERAGE MEN IN THE STREET.

"OUR PROGRAMME OF THE MUSIC FOR THE MILLION CONCERTS BRINGS OUR ORCHESTRAS AND BANDS TO SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY CENTRES, CHILDREN'S HOMES, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES AND PARKS," SHE SAID.

IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, THE MFM CONCERTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD FOR ABOUT 4,200 TIMES, HAVE CATERED FOR AND PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT TO OVER 2.7 MILLION AUDIENCE.

IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, MISS CHIU SAID THAT THE MUSIC TRAINING PROGRAMME HAVE ALSO EXPANDED INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES IN RECENT YEARS.

HAVING MENTIONED THAT THREE MUSIC CENTRES HAD BEEN SET UP IN YUEN LONG, TAI PO AND TSUEN WAN, MISS CHIU NOTED THAT THE TAI PO MUSIC CENTRE AT KWONG FUK ROAD WILL BE RE-PROVISIONED TO TAI WO ESTATE BY THE END OF 1990 TO PROVIDE A BETTER LOCATED VENUE TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE NEW TOWN.

"WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE IN THE LONG RUN A MUSIC CENTRE IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES," SHE ADDED.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 14 -

WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 34.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 203.105 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 195.088 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 33.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER SUSPENSION IN FOUR DISTRICTS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO MIDNIGHT TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY WAH KING HILL ROAD, INCLUDING WONDERLAND VILLAS AND WAH YUEN ESTATE.

ALSO, FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE AREA WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 2 PM ON THE SAME DAY TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY (WEDNESDAY) TO FACILITATE REPAIR WORKS TO A DEFECTIVE SALT WATER SLUICE VALVE.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG, HA KWAI CHUNG, CONTAINER TERMINALS, TSUEN WAN AREA TO THE NORTH OF MEI WAN STREET, SAI LAU KOK ROAD, KWOK SHUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN MTR STATION, LUK YEUNG SUN CHUEN AND SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE.

TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TEST, CERTAIN PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL BE AFFECTED BY A SUSPENSION OF FRESH WATER SUPPLY FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 26) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY ARGYLE STREET, YIM PO FONG STREET, HO MAN TIN STREET, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD, SOARES AVENUE, PEACE AVENUE AND VICTORY AVENUE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 27) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, TUNG LUNG ROAD, TUNG FAT ROAD, TUNG KWONG ROAD, CHOI HUNG ROAD AND TAI SHING STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 16, 17, 26 AND 27 LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, TAK MING HOUSE, KAI MING HOUSE, TAI TUNG HOUSE, FU TUNG HOUSE, YIU TUNG HOUSE AND YUE TUNG HOUSE.

TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 27) TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, CARPENTER ROAD, SA PO ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST.

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MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989

- 15 -

SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN NORTH POINT (EAST) FERRY PIER AND JOSS HOUSE BAY WILL BE OPERATED BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY DURING THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE SPECIAL FERRIES WILL START RUNNING AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 27) AND OPERATE OVERNIGHT UNTIL 4 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY (FRIDAY).

THE SERVICE WILL BE OPERATED AT AN INTERVAL OF 90 MINUTES BUT THE FREQUENCY WILL BE INCREASED TO 45 MINUTES BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM ON FRIDAY. THE LAST FERRY WILL DEPART FROM NORTH POINT TO JOSS HOUSE BAY AT 2.30 PM ON FRIDAY.

FARES PER SINGLE JOURNEY WILL BE \$18 FOR ADULTS AND \$12 FOR CHILDREN ON DELUXE CLASS AND \$13 AND \$8 RESPECTIVELY FOR THOSE RIDING ON ORDINARY CLASS.

IN ADDITION, FERRY SERVICES LINKING NORTH POINT WITH KWUN TONG, KOWLOON CITY AND HUNG HOM RESPECTIVELY WILL BE EXTENDED TO OPERATE UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 27.

MEANWHILE, THE BUS TERMINAL FOR OVERNIGHT CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE 122 OUTSIDE THE NORTH POINT (EAST) FERRY PIER WILL BE RELOCATED TO JAVA ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH KAM HONG STREET ON APRIL 28 TO FACILITATE CROWD CONTROL.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HART AVENUE IN TSIM SHA TSUI, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 26) FOR FIVE MONTHS.

THE SECTION OF HART AVENUE BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH MODY ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 34 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED.

MOTORISTS ON EASTBOUND MODY ROAD HEADING FOR NORTHBOUND HART AVENUE ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA EASTBOUND MODY ROAD, NORTHBOUND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, WESTBOUND HART AVENUE AND NORTHBOUND HART AVENUE.

THE LEFT TURN FROM EASTBOUND MODY ROAD ONTO NORTHBOUND HART AVENUE WILL BE BANNED.

THE SECTION OF HART AVENUE, FROM A POINT ABOUT 34 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MODY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 75 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION, WILL BE RE-ROUTED FOR TWO WAY TRAFFIC FOR LOCAL ACCESS.

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