



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN PROTECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AND ADOPT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE GENERAL NON-INTERVENTIONIST PHILOSOPHY IN ITS APPROACH TO PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION PROCESSED BY COMPUTERS, THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON EAST LUNCHEON MEETING.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THAT IN PRINCIPLE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG AFTER HAVING MONITORED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THE TREND IN MANY COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BROUGHT IN DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

"WE RECOGNISE HOWEVER THAT THE SUBJECT IS COMPLEX, THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN A HAPPY ONE, AND THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY EVERYONE," MR TSAO SAID.

"FOR HONG KONG IN PARTICULAR, DEPENDENT AS IT IS ON SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO STRIKE THE BEST POSSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO USE PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THEIR EVERYDAY BUSINESS AND THOSE WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF THAT INFORMATION, WHILE NOT FORGETTING THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE."

BESIDES SHARING THE CONCERNS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD, MR TSAO NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO MAJOR REASONS WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING LEGISLATION.

FIRST, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, TO WHICH HONG KONG SUBSCRIBES THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM, PROVIDES THAT NO ONE SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO ARBITRARY OR UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH HIS PRIVACY AND THAT EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW AGAINST SUCH INTERFERENCE.

"THE GOVERNMENT TAKES THE VIEW THAT DATA PROTECTION IS A MATTER DESERVING ATTENTION IN ITS OWN RIGHT, DIVORCED FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF PRIVACY," MR TSAO SAID.

THE SECOND CONSIDERATION IS THAT HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE COULD BE JEOPARDISED IF THERE WERE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE FREE FLOW OF PERSONAL DATA TO THE TERRITORY FROM ABROAD.

MR TSAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT IGNORE THIS ALTHOUGH HOW LIKELY SUCH A THREAT WOULD BE TO HONG KONG WAS NOT YET KNOWN.

"THERE IS HOWEVER NO INDICATION OF ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO HONG KONG," HE SAID.

/"IT IS

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"IT IS A MATTER ON WHICH I AM CONSULTING WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

"AND I EXPECT THE PERCEPTION FROM ABROAD AS TO THE SAFETY OF PERSONAL DATA IN HONG KONG TO DEPEND AS MUCH ON EVIDENCE OF GOOD DATA PROTECTION PRACTICE AS ON THE PRESENCE OR OTHERWISE OF LEGISLATION."

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT THE BOOKLET "DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES", ISSUED LAST WEEK, SOUGHT TO PROMOTE GOOD DATA PROTECTION PRACTICE, BOTH BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"IT PROVIDES FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE FOR COMPUTER USERS, ALBEIT IN GENERAL TERMS, WITHOUT INTRODUCING ANY BIG STICK TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE, AND WITHOUT AT THIS STAGE CREATING ANY NEW RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUALS."

MR TSAO STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT RUSHING TO LEGISLATE, NEITHER WAS IT PROCRASTINATING.

"DATA PROTECTION IS A COMPLEX SUBJECT AND I WANT ANY EVENTUAL LEGISLATION TO STRIKE THE BEST POSSIBLE BALANCE, COMPATIBLE WITH OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

"OVER THE NEXT YEAR, A WORKING GROUP WILL EXAMINE CRITICALLY OTHER COUNTRIES' LEGISLATION AND THEIR EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING IT, WITH A VIEW TO ASSESSING WHAT MIGHT BEST SUIT HONG KONG AND, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, IDENTIFYING FEATURES TO AVOID," MR TSAO ADDED.

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INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW
DISCIPLINED SERVICES' PAY AND CONDITIONS
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AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE HAS COMMISSIONED AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PAY AND CONDITIONS OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STANDING COMMISSION SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE REVIEW WILL HAVE REGARD TO RECENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND WILL CONSIDER APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF REMUNERATION IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE REVIEW IS TO BE CONDUCTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN TWO DISTINCT PARTS, DEALING FIRST WITH THE POLICE AND THEREAFTER WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLINED SERVICES.

/THE REVIEW

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THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR VIA THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS APPOINTED MR A.L. RENNIE, A RETIRED SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE.

MR RENNIE HAS SERVED IN NUMEROUS SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND; AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND; AS REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND AND AS AN UNDER SECRETARY AT THE SCOTTISH OFFICE.

HE RETIRED IN 1984 AS SECRETARY, SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. MR RENNIE WAS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING DISCUSSIONS ON POLICE AND PRISON PAY, AND IN RETIREMENT, HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE COMMITTEE ON MERIT AWARDS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

MR RENNIE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN APPOINTED LOCALLY. THEY ARE SIR ROGER LOBO, WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND AS SENIOR MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MRS RITA FAN, CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WILL BE SERVED BY AN INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT COMPRISING A TEAM OF CIVIL SERVANTS SECONDED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTORATE GRADE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MR ROGER GARCIA, WHO HAS BEEN SPECIALLY SECONDED FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT FOR THE REVIEW.

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STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED ANNUAL FEE

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AN ANNUAL FEE OF \$14.5 MILLION IS PAYABLE BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2, 1988 TO APRIL 1, 1989, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE STOCK EXCHANGES UNIFICATION ORDINANCE, THE EXCHANGE COMPANY WAS GIVEN THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A STOCK MARKET IN HONG KONG AND THE COMPANY WAS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE GOVERNMENT AN ANNUAL FEE IN RESPECT OF THAT EXCLUSIVE RIGHT.

/THE ANNUAL

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THE ANNUAL FEE IS DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

"FOR THE THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION, THAT IS, 1988-89, THE ANNUAL FEE HAS BEEN SET AT \$14.5 MILLION.

"THIS FEE HAS BEEN CALCULATED TO RECOVER COSTS INCURRED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN REGULATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND CONSIDERED THE FEE APPROPRIATE.

"IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TO THE SECURITIES COMMISSION, THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING THE TRADING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

"WHILE FEES ARE LEVIED ON SOME OF THESE SERVICES INCLUDING THE REGISTRATION OF BROKERS AND DEALERS, NO FEE IS LEVIED ON OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATION UNDER THE STATUTORY LISTING RULES AND MATTERS CONCERNING TAKEOVERS, MARKET SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATIONS.

"THE FEE OF \$14.5 MILLION WILL RECOVER THE COST OF PROVIDING SUCH SERVICES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT IN DETERMINING THE FEE FOR THIS YEAR, FULL ACCOUNT HAD BEEN TAKEN OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE EXCHANGE COMPANY AND IT SHOULD NOT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF TRANSACTION LEVY PRESENTLY BORNE BY INVESTORS.

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TRAINING HELPS SPUR JEWELLERY INDUSTRY

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TRAINING IN BETTER CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR WORKERS PROVIDED BY THE JEWELLERY INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL IS ONE OF THE FACTORS ACCOUNTING FOR THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S JEWELLERY INDUSTRY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CENTRE, WHICH RUNS INDUSTRY-WIDE TRAINING COURSES IN GOLDSMITH TECHNIQUES AND IN PRECIOUS STONE SETTING, AT PRESENT PROVIDES PLACES FOR 105 CRAFTSMEN BUT EVENTUALLY WILL PROVIDE TRAINING FACILITIES FOR 150 CRAFTSMEN EACH YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG JEWELLERY SHOW GALA EVENING ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD NOW BECOME A MAJOR AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED JEWELLERY MANUFACTURING CENTRE.

/"THE SIZE

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"THE SIZE OF THE JEWELLERY INDUSTRY HAS MORE THAN TRIPLED, AND THE VALUE OF ITS EXPORTS HAS INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 24 PER CENT FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS," HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S FREE PORT STATUS ALSO ENABLED MANUFACTURERS TO BE ABLE TO SOURCE MATERIAL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.

"THE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG'S JEWELLERY INDUSTRY IS DUE TO THE FLEXIBILITY AND IMAGINATION OF ITS MANUFACTURERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE LATEST MARKET TRENDS AND STYLES."

HONG KONG COULD NOW OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF REASONABLY-PRICED, WELL-MADE AND FASHIONABLE JEWELLERY PRODUCTS, HE SAID.

THERE WERE 1,300 FACTORIES WITH A TOTAL WORKFORCE OF OVER 17,000. THE TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS EXPORTED NOW AMOUNTED TO \$4,600 MILLION.

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24 FARMS CHOSEN FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT

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THE STEERING GROUP OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED 24 NOMINATIONS FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS.

AT THE GROUP'S MEETING THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) SUBMITTED A LIST OF 24 LIVESTOCK FARMS FOR MEMBERS' DISCUSSION.

THESE FARMS WERE LOCATED MAINLY IN SHEUNG SHUI, FANLING, TAI PO AND SHA TIN, WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

AN EPD OFFICIAL SAID THAT PENDING THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPOINT A CONSULTANT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT A FURTHER SITE INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT TO SHORT-LIST 12 TO 15 FARMS FOR DEMONSTRATION OF THE DRY MUCK-OUT, WET MUCK-OUT, HYBRID AND PIG-ON-LITTER TREATMENT METHODS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT OF THE 24 NOMINATIONS, 11 WERE PIG FARMS, NINE WERE POULTRY FARMS AND FOUR WERE MIXED FARMS.

/GROUP MEMBERS

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GROUP MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE FORMAT OF LISTING THE DETAILED COST ESTIMATES OF THE TREATMENT METHODS. THEY UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED FORMAT WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE LIVESTOCK BREEDERS A GENERAL IDEA OF THE COST OF THE TREATMENT METHODS SO AS TO HELP THEM DECIDE WHICH ONE THEY SHOULD OPT FOR IN THE DEMONSTRATION SCHEME.

MEANWHILE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, MR LEO KWAN, SAID THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS A PILOT SCHEME IN THE TOLO HARBOUR, TOLO CHANNEL, ANGLER'S BEACH AND MUI WO AREAS FROM JUNE 24 THIS YEAR.

HE REITERATED THAT BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, CONTROLS WOULD NOT BE GENERALLY APPLIED TO THE NORTH DISTRICT AND OTHER CONTROL AREAS.

"IF NECESSARY, THE REGULATIONS CAN BE AMENDED IN THE LIGHT OF A REVIEW ON THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS," MR KWAN SAID.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING THE CARRYING OUT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS HAD BEEN ACCEPTED, HE ADDED.

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RG ON LIQUIDATION OF DEAK PERERA FAR EAST LIMITED

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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND LIQUIDATOR OF DEAK PERERA FAR EAST LIMITED ("DPFE"), NOTED THAT THE PAYMENT THIS WEEK OF \$82.9 MILLION INTO THE LIQUIDATION OF DEAK & CO. (MACAU) LIMITED WILL MARK AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN FINALISING THE LIQUIDATION OF DPFE.

THE PAYMENT REPRESENTS A DIVIDEND OF 45 CENTS IN THE DOLLAR TO THE MACAU COMPANY WHICH IS A CREDITOR OF DPFE. THE OTHER ORDINARY CREDITORS OF DPFE RECEIVED THEIR DIVIDEND OF 45 CENTS IN THE DOLLAR IN FEBRUARY 1987.

THE DIVIDEND TO DEAK & CO. (MACAU) LIMITED WAS ALSO DECLARED IN FEBRUARY 1987 BUT PAYMENT WAS POSTPONED, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE MACAU LIQUIDATOR, PENDING RECOGNITION BY THE MACAU COURT OF THE CLAIMS OF NUMEROUS FORMER CUSTOMERS OF THE MACAU COMPANY, MOSTLY HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

/THEIR DIVIDEND

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THEIR DIVIDEND DUE IN THE LIQUIDATION OF THE MACAU COMPANY WILL BE PRINCIPALLY MADE UP OF THE DIVIDEND FROM HONG KONG TOGETHER WITH OTHER MONEY HELD BY THE MACAU LIQUIDATOR.

MR GLEESON RECALLED THAT DPFE WAS WOUND UP BY COURT ORDER ON THE PETITION OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN FEBRUARY 1985.

A 100 PER CENT PREFERENTIAL DIVIDEND WAS PAID BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER IN EARLY 1986, IN ADVANCE OF THE FEBRUARY 1987 DIVIDEND TO ORDINARY CREDITORS.

ACTIVITY IN THE WINDING UP OF DPFE WAS CONTINUING, INCLUDING A LAWSUIT AGAINST FORMER DPFE DIRECTORS AND BANKERS, FOR US\$2.3 MILLION, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO SAY IF THERE WOULD BE ANY FURTHER DIVIDEND FOR CREDITORS.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES URGED
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, TODAY (TUESDAY) SPOKE AGAIN OF THE NEED TO OBSERVE CLOSELY ALL THE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN TAKING PART IN SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

SPEAKING AT THE 45TH SILVER AWARD PRESENTATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME, MR LI URGED PARTICIPANTS AND LEADERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE EXPEDITION AND PHYSICAL RECREATION SECTIONS, TO HEED SAFETY RULES.

THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT ALL CONCERNED WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERGO TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT IN A CHALLENGING BUT SAFE SETTING.

MR LI NOTED THAT THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN 1956 WITH THE AIM OF FOSTERING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENTHUSIASM AND READINESS TO ACCEPT CHALLENGE THROUGH A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OPEN TO ALL PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 25.

HE SAID THE SCHEME WAS ALSO INTENDED TO HELP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP MATURITY, CIVIC AWARENESS, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WOULD BENEFIT THEM THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.

THIS WOULD APPLY IN THEIR HOMES, IN THEIR JOBS AND IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, WHATEVER THEIR ABILITIES OR CIRCUMSTANCES.

"THROUGH THE PROGRAMME OF THE AWARD SCHEME, WE ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP YOUNG PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL AND CHARACTER, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE ARE ABLE TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED SETBACKS TO REBUILD THEIR SELF CONFIDENCE," MR LI SAID.

"THUS THE SCHEME IS SUITABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF WHATEVER ABILITIES, AND FOR ALL ADULTS WHO WISH TO LEND A HAND," HE ADDED.

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ALLOWANCES UNDER LEGAL AID LEGISLATION INCREASED

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL AID (ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES AND CONTRIBUTIONS) REGULATIONS WHICH WILL INCREASE THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCES SET AGAINST INCOME AND CAPITAL IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES.

THESE AMENDMENTS ARE IN LINE WITH A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME BASIC RATES AND COME INTO FORCE ON APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

THE AMENDMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

INCOME

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| A) AN APPLICANT WITH NO DEPENDANTS. | INCREASED FROM \$510 TO \$560. |
| B) AN APPLICANT WITH ONE DEPENDANT. | INCREASED FROM \$380 FOR HIMSELF AND \$380 FOR THE DEPENDANT TO \$420 FOR HIMSELF AND \$420 FOR DEPENDANT. |
| C) AN APPLICANT WITH TWO OR THREE DEPENDANTS. | INCREASED FROM \$370 TO \$410 FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD DEPENDANTS IN ADDITION TO B). |
| D) AN APPLICANT WITH MORE THAN THREE DEPENDANTS. | INCREASED FROM \$360 TO \$400 FOR EACH OF THE ADDITIONAL DEPENDANTS IN ADDITION TO B) AND C). |

CAPITAL

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A) AN APPLICANT WITH NO DEPENDANTS. | INCREASED FROM \$6,450 TO \$7,100. |
| B) AN APPLICANT WITH DEPENDANTS:- | |
| I) THE APPLICANT HIMSELF | INCREASED FROM \$4,300 TO \$4,730. |
| II) IN RESPECT OF EACH DEPENDANT | INCREASED FROM \$4,300 TO \$4,730. |

FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, 24TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HONG KONG.

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FULL OPERATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSERS' CENTRE IN APRIL

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THE FIRST COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG ABUSERS WILL BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL FROM APRIL 15 WITH THE PROVISION OF WALK-IN SERVICES.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), DR GERALD CHOA, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THE CENTRE, RUN BY THE HONG KONG CHRISTIAN SERVICE (HKCS) AS A THREE-YEAR PILOT PROJECT, IS LOCATED AT THE HKCS HEADQUARTERS AT 33 GRANVILLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI," HE SAID.

"THE HKCS HAS ADOPTED A SHORT CODE NAME TO MAKE THE CENTRE MORE WIDELY KNOWN AMONG YOUNGER PEOPLE.

"THE CODE NAME IS 'PS33' WHICH STANDS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AT 33 GRANVILLE ROAD."

DR CHOA SAID INFORMATION, ADVICE, COUNSELLING, RECREATION AND ALTERNATIVE PURSUITS AS WELL AS REFERRAL SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED TO DRUG ABUSERS WHO ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE OR WHO WERE REFERRED TO THE CENTRE BY OTHER AGENCIES.

ALTHOUGH NO MEDICAL TREATMENT SERVICES WOULD BE AVAILABLE, THE CENTRE WOULD MAKE REFERRALS TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE TO ABUSERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND TEACHERS WHERE NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

"THE CENTRE HAS ALREADY STARTED OPERATION SINCE MARCH 1 AND PROVIDED INITIAL SERVICES THROUGH REFERRALS FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND THROUGH APPOINTMENTS," DR CHOA CONTINUED.

"STARTING FROM APRIL 15, WALK-IN CASES WILL ALSO BE ENTERTAINED FROM 7 PM TO 10 PM ON MONDAYS, AND FROM 2 PM TO 5.30 PM AND 7 PM TO 10 PM ON TUESDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

"TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES MADE TO THE CENTRE'S HOTLINE, 3-688269, WILL BE ANSWERED BY TRAINED STAFF BETWEEN 9 AM AND 10 PM DURING WEEKDAYS AND ON SATURDAYS. TELEPHONE RECORDING SERVICE WILL BE ARRANGED IN THE REMAINING HOURS AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS."

COSTING MORE THAN \$2.2 MILLION, THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE LOTTERIES FUND. THE NECESSARY GOVERNMENT APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED WITH SUPPORT FROM ACAN AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

REVIEWING THE DRUG SITUATION, THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY, SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE YEAR 1987 SAW SOME POSITIVE SIGNS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG.

/"THE DOWNWARD

"THE DOWNWARD TREND IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS NEWLY REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF DRUG ABUSE, WHICH HAD BEGUN IN 1984, CONTINUED.

"THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OF ALL AGES NEWLY REPORTED DECREASED BY 13.5 PER CENT, FROM 2,747 TO 2,377, AS COMPARED WITH 1986.

"THE NUMBER OF NEWLY REPORTED YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 DROPPED BY 10.5 PER CENT, FROM 788 TO 705.

"THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR ALL DRUG OFFENCES DECREASED BY 9.9 PER CENT, FROM 12,494 TO 11,252.

"PROSECUTION OF YOUNG PERSONS AGED UNDER 21 ALSO SHOWED A DECREASE FROM 1,035 TO 772, REPRESENTING A FALL OF 25.4 PER CENT.

"THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1.6 PER CENT, FROM 5,745 TO 5,839, IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PROSECUTED FOR MAJOR DRUG OFFENCES," MR MULLOY SAID.

HE SAID THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS LAST YEAR SEIZED A TOTAL OF 745 KILOGRAMS OF ILLICIT OPIATES, AGAINST 649 KILOGRAMS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

"DURING THE YEAR, WHILST THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE SEIZURE OF NO. 4 HEROIN AND CANNABIS, THE AMOUNT OF MANDRAX TABLETS SEIZED DECREASED CONSIDERABLY TO 73,899 FROM 273,745 IN 1986.

"THIS MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO CHINA'S NEW CONTROLS ON THE MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF MANDRAX."

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT THE DECLINE IN BOTH THE PREVALENCE AND INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE LAST YEAR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HONG KONG'S INTEGRATED POLICY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AS WELL AS PREVENTIVE EDUCATION WERE CONTINUING TO SHOW GOOD RESULTS.

"IT IS HEARTENING TO NOTE THAT HONG KONG IS GOING AGAINST THE WORLD TREND IN DRUG ABUSE."

ABOUT THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEAR, MR MULLOY NOTED THAT EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, SUCH AS MANDRAX AND CANNABIS, AND AROUSING PARENTAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE.

"PUBLICITY WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON AN UNDIMINISHED SCALE THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED MEDIA, DISPLAYS AT POPULAR VENUES, DISTRICT CAMPAIGNS AND VARIOUS KINDS OF EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES.

"AN ANTI-DRUG WEEK IS PLANNED TO BE HELD IN THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER TO HIGHLIGHT THE YEAR'S PROGRAMMES SO AS TO CREATE MAXIMUM IMPACT AND AWARENESS."

HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT NEGLECT THE MAIN PROBLEM WHICH WAS STILL THE ABUSE OF HEROIN.

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WAN APPOINTED TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER

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MR JOHN WAN WILL TAKE UP OFFICE AS DISTRICT OFFICER IN TUEN MUN FROM NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 28), SUCCEEDING MR STEPHEN SELBY, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR WAN JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IN JUNE 1970 AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER II AND WAS PROMOTED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER I AND TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN APRIL 1975 AND JANUARY 1979 RESPECTIVELY.

AFTER JOINING THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER GRADE IN APRIL 1981, MR WAN WORKED IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND OMELCO BEFORE TAKING A COURSE AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN 1984-85.

HE SERVED AS SECRETARY OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD AND THEN WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE NEWLY FORMED BROADCASTING AUTHORITY.

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DB FOCUS ON CHEUNG CHAU INDOOR CENTRE

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THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO BUILD AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE ON CHEUNG CHAU.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN WHICH CALLS FOR WORK TO BEGIN IN MID-1988 AND BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES IN 1988-89 AND CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED BY A WORKING GROUP.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS ON CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. IT WILL BEGIN AT 10.30 AM.

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TSUEN WAN DB TO REPORT ON YEAR'S WORK

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL SUMMARISE ITS WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR AT A CONFERENCE TO BE ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24) EVENING.

MEMBERS FROM RURAL COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTAL AID COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL, AND BEGIN AT 8 PM.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, AND CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING, REPORT ON THE WORK DONE AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE ASSISTED THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT BOARD IN ORGANISING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO PARTICIPANTS IN ARTS AND SPORTS NURTURE SCHEMES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CONFERENCE.

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FINAL REPORT ON KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATOR

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A WORKING GROUP TO LOOK INTO THE EMISSION FROM THE INCINERATOR AND ABATTOIR IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL SUBMIT THEIR FINAL REPORT TO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24).

THE REPORT RECOMMENDS A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE PLANTS.

MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE SEWAGE SYSTEM IN KENNEDY TOWN.

/ALSO ON

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ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE A REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON HUI SING-KEUNG AND CHIU CHEUNG ON AUGUST 26, 1986 AND MARCH 5, 1986 RESPECTIVELY SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A RESPECTIVE SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND 12 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

THE DECISION WAS MADE AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

HUI WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF CHENG KWOK-CHI AND CHIU WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF HIS THREE YEARS OLD SON CHIU KOON-HUNG AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF HIS FIVE YEARS OLD DAUGHTER CHIU SUK-CHING.

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NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FACTORIES

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PROPRIETORS WHO INTEND TO SET UP FACTORIES ARE REMINDED THEY MUST NOTIFY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE PARTICULARS BEFORE THEY START AN INDUSTRIAL PROCESS OR CARRY ON AN INDUSTRIAL OPERATION.

SUCH NOTIFICATION ALSO APPLIES TO CHANGES IN COMPANY NAME, ADDRESS, MANAGEMENT OR THE NATURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES ORIGINALLY CONDUCTED WHEN THE FACTORY WAS FIRST NOTIFIED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

/"FACTORY OWNERS

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"FACTORY OWNERS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO GIVE THE PARTICULARS, IN A PRESCRIBED FORM OF A NOTIFIABLE WORKPLACE OR A RELEVANT CHANGE IN THE PARTICULARS, COMMIT AN OFFENCE AND ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 ON CONVICTION," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

NOTIFICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM ANY BRANCH OFFICES OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8150678.

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NEW FIRE STATION AT MID-LEVELS
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WORK HAS JUST STARTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE STATION AT THE JUNCTION OF KOTEWALL ROAD AND PO SHAN ROAD TO IMPROVE FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE MID-LEVELS OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THIS FOLLOWS THE AWARD OF A \$3.88 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE WORKS WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE CONTRACT COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING CONSISTING OF A THREE-BAY APPLIANCE ROOM, OFFICES, CONTROL AND STORE ROOMS, BARRACKS WITH ABLUTIONS, A DINING ROOM AND A DRYING ROOM.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A DRILL YARD, AN UNDERGROUND OIL TANK AND A GENERATOR ROOM.

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GOVERNMENT SITE TO LET BY TENDER
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A SITE IN KOWLOON IS BEING LET BY TENDER ON SHORT TERM TENANCY BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE SITE AT NAM CHEONG STREET, COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,050 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR OPEN STORAGE AND/OR PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES BUT EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS/CHASSIS ATTACHED.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

TENDER FORM AND NOTICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 8.

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WATER CUT IN SHEUNG SHUI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SHEUNG SHUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD FROM SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT TO PAK SHEK AU AND ALONG FAN KAM ROAD FROM SHEUNG SHUI ROUNDABOUT TO TA SHEK WU, INCLUDING TSUNG PAK LONG TSUEN, YIN KONG TSUEN, KAM TSIN TSUEN, HANG TAU TSUEN, KWU TUNG TSUEN, HO SHEUNG HEUNG TSUEN, CHAU TAU TSUEN, LOK MA CHAU, PAK SHEK AU, PING KONG TSUEN, TONG KUNG LENG TSUEN, LIN TONG MEI TSUEN, TSIU KENG TSUEN AND YING PUN TSUEN.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI, CENTRAL

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THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN O'BRIEN ROAD AND FENWICK PIER STREET IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 6 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25) TO FACILITATE THE ERECTION OF TRAFFIC GANTRY SIGNS.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD, FENWICK STREET AND HENNESSY ROAD.

IN CENTRAL, KENNEDY ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN A POINT ABOUT 35 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM COTTON TREE DRIVE AND A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 7 AM TO 10 AM AND 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 26).

THE RESTRICTION WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS.

NO VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR GOODS OR PASSENGERS.

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LEFT-TURN BAN, PLB RESTRICTED ZONE

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TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, NO VEHICLES ON LAI CHI KOK ROAD NORTHBOUND IN MONG KOK WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT ON TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND OR RECLAMATION STREET FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25).

AT THE SAME TIME, THE LEFT TURNING MOVEMENT FROM LAI CHI KOK ROAD SOUTHBOUND ON TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST EASTBOUND WILL ALSO BE BANNED.

MOTORISTS ON NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND OR RECLAMATION STREET WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL VIA LAI CHI KOK ROAD NORTHBOUND.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON LAI CHI KOK ROAD SOUTHBOUND, HEADING FOR PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST EASTBOUND AND PORTLAND STREET, WILL HAVE TO USE ARRAN STREET, NATHAN ROAD NORTHBOUND, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST AND PORTLAND STREET.

ALSO FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY, TWO SECTIONS OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE MADE 24-HOUR PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES.

THE TWO ROAD SECTIONS ARE:

- * CASTLE PEAK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SAI LAU KOK ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HO ROAD; AND
- * CASTLE PEAK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HO ROAD TO ITS JUNCTION WITH SHING MUN ROAD.

IN ADDITION, CASTLE PEAK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HO ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BECOME 7 AM TO 7 PM PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONE.

NO PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS WITHIN THE ABOVE RESTRICTED ZONES.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, SHA TIN

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TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW, THE SECTION OF CHEUNG LAI STREET IN CHEUNG SHA WAN BETWEEN CHEUNG YEE STREET AND CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC INTO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 24).

AT THE SAME TIME, NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN LEFT FROM CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WESTBOUND ON TO CHEUNG LAI STREET.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 25), ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THE HIN KENG BUS TERMINUS IN SHA TIN AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY.

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