



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1977

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LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT TO HELP
FISHERMEN CLAIM COMPENSATION OVER OIL SPILLAGE
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SOK KWU WAN FISH FARMERS WHO CANNOT AFFORD THEIR OWN LAWYERS TO PRESS COMPENSATION CLAIMS OVER THE OIL SPILLAGE FROM THE DANISH FREIGHTER +ADRIAN MAERSK+ WERE TODAY ADVISED TO APPROACH THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, ISLANDS, MR. VICTOR YUNG, TOLD THE FARMERS THAT THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT WOULD GIVE THEIR APPLICATIONS TOP PRIORITY.

+THE APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO FORMULATE THEIR CLAIMS,+ MR. YUNG SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY BEGAN HELPING THE FISH FARMERS AT SOK KWU WAN TO ASSESS THEIR LOSSES.

A TEAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT WAS AT SOK KWU WAN WEIGHING AND RECORDING FISH APPARENTLY KILLED BY THE SPILLAGE.

+THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE AFFECTED STOCK IS OBTAINED,+ MR. YUNG SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL REGISTER ALL CLAIMS MADE BY THE FISHERMEN.+

MR. YUNG SAID THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAERSK LINE (HONG KONG) LTD. AT THE INVITATION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WAS PRESENT AT TODAY'S RECORDING AND REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

TEAMS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE AT THE SCENE OF THE SPILLAGE TODAY TO CONTINUE THE MOPPING UP OPERATION TO CLEAR THE AREA OF THE OIL, MR. YUNG ADDED.

+THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS THE SPILLAGE CONTAINED AROUND THE TANKER,+ HE SAID. +THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT USED 100 FOAM SHEETS AROUND THE FORESHORES YESTERDAY TO SOAK UP THE SPILLED OIL AND WE HAVE ANOTHER 700 SHEETS TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION.+

+THERE ARE MORE THAN 50 WORKERS FROM THE P.W.D. AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE WORKING FULL TIME ON THE CLEAN-UP AND WE WILL BE DOUBLING THE SIZE OF THIS TEAM TO GET THE JOB DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.+

MR. YUNG SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE ANY ESTIMATE OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE SPILLAGE. +IT COULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE ANY PROPER ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR TO CONSULT ON MFA IN LONDON
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. WILLIAM DORWARD, COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) EVENING FOR CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON ABOUT THE MULTI-FIBRE TEXTILE ARRANGEMENT AND THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT SHORTLY TO BE NEGOTIATED UNDER IT WITH THE EEC.

SIR MURRAY WILL MEET MR. EDMUND DELL, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WILL BE ABSENT IN NEW YORK, BUT SIR MURRAY WILL ALSO MEET FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

HE IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN IN LONDON OR BRUSSELS.

SIR MURRAY EXPECTS TO RETURN ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY OF NEXT WEEK.

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DEVELOPMENT OF HK WATER RESOURCES

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THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, TODAY REVEALED GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DEVELOP MORE WATER RESOURCES IN AN EFFORT TO MEET FUTURE DEMANDS.

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, HE SAID THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WOULD EMBARK ON A PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPING MINOR CATCHMENTS AND CONSIDER THE PHASING OF POSSIBLE FUTURE DESALTING PLANTS IN THE EARLY 1980'S FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE HIGH ISLAND SCHEME.

IN THE COMING YEAR, MR. TUCKER SAID, HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO INITIATE SOME EXPERIMENTAL WORK ASSOCIATED WITH +REVERSE OSMOSIS AND WATER RECLAMATION+ TOGETHER WITH FURTHER STUDIES OF THE REMAINING UNTAPPED CATCHMENTS, TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THERE WERE ANY FURTHER ECONOMICALLY VIABLE SCHEME WHICH WOULD BE SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE.

+ALL PROPOSED WORKS AND STUDIES,+ HE ADDED, +WILL BE GEARED TOWARDS PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE DEMAND CURRENTLY ESTIMATED TO BE INCREASING AT SIX PER CENT PER ANNUM.+

TURNING TO THE PRESENT WATER SITUATION, MR. TUCKER SAID THE RESERVOIR STORAGE TODAY WAS 36,293 MILLION GALLONS WHICH WAS SOME 28,000 MILLION GALLONS LESS THAN THE STORAGE AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

AS A LITTLE OF THE WET SEASON STILL REMAINED, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE LEVEL OF SUPPLY, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

+EVERYONE IS AGREED THAT THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS IS AN INCONVENIENCE WE COULD ALL WELL DO WITHOUT,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, BEFORE ANY SUGGESTION OF RELAXATION CAN BE ENTERTAINED, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MAINTAINING PARTICULAR LEVELS OF SUPPLY SO THAT ANY RELAXATION WOULD NOT LEAD TO A SITUATION WHERE THE PROVISION OF BASIC, DAILY SUPPLIES IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE JEOPARDISED BY SUCH A RELAXATION NOW.

+THE AIM IS TO HUSBAND OUR RESOURCES TO MAXIMISE THEIR USAGE WHILST AVOIDING, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE NEED FOR VERY SEVERE RESTRICTIONS.+

ON THE PROSPECTS OF MEETING FUTURE DEMANDS, MR. TUCKER SAID THERE WERE TWO POINTS TO BE MADE ON INTERNAL RESOURCES.

/+FIRST,

+FIRST, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MINOR CATCHMENT AREAS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED UNECONOMICAL TO DEVELOP OWING TO THE HIGH UNIT COST OF WATER FROM THEM, IN COMPARISON WITH THE UNIT COST OF DESALTED WATER PREVAILING PRIOR TO THE INCREASE IN FUEL OIL PRICES.

+THESE HAVE NOW BEEN RE-EXAMINED AND A PROGRAMME DEVISED FOR BRINGING THEM INTO COMMISSION OVER THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

SECONDLY, HE SAID, WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE MINOR CATCHMENTS THE FUTURE APPEARED TO BE ALIGNED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE DESALTING PLANTS.

+SUCH PLANTS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE CONNECTED WITH A DISTILLATION PROCESS AND SOME DEGREE OF SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN DESALTING SEA WATER IN REVERSE OSMOSIS PILOT PLANTS ELSEWHERE,+ MR. TUCKER SAID.

THE APPLICATIONS OF REVERSE OSMOSIS TO BRACKISH WATER ON A LARGE SCALE, HE SAID, WAS WELL ESTABLISHED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT BASICALLY, THE PROCESS REQUIRED THE APPLICATION OF HIGH PRESSURES TO SEAWATER IN A MEMBRANE CAPSULE, WHEREBY A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE FRESH WATER CONTENT OF THE SEA WATER WAS PASSED THROUGH THE MEMBRANE, WHILE THE MAJOR PART OF THE SALT CONTENT WAS REJECTED TO WASTE.

MR. TUCKER POINTED OUT THAT AT THE PRESENT STATE OF TECHNOLOGY, SUCH PLANTS DID NOT COMPETE ECONOMICALLY WITH DISTILLATION PROCESSES ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBRANES WAS PROGRESSING IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE.

BUT THE MANUFACTURERS WERE CONFIDENT THAT TECHNOLOGY WOULD IMPROVE WITHIN THE FIVE YEARS OR SO, SO AS TO MAKE SUCH A PROCESS MORE ECONOMICALLY ATTRACTIVE THAN DISTILLATION.

+THE BENEFIT OF THE REVERSE OSMOSIS PROCESS IS THAT IT CONSUMES MUCH LESS ENERGY THAN A DISTILLATION PROCESS AND IS FAR MORE ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENTALLY, AS IT DOES NOT PRODUCE THE ATMOSPHERIC AND THERMAL POLLUTION ASSOCIATED WITH DISTILLATION PROCESSES,+ HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, MR. TUCKER ADDED THAT THE HIGH COST OF DESALTING SEA WATER HAD OF NECESSITY DIRECTED OUR INVESTIGATION INTO OTHER AREAS, PRINCIPALLY TOWARDS INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF WATER USAGE.

HE SAID THAT IN SOME COUNTRIES, FRESH WATER WAS RECLAIMED FROM WASTE WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND IRRIGATION PURPOSES AND WITH SUITABLE TREATMENT, SUCH WATER COULD BE BROUGHT TO A STANDARD SUITABLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

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IN FACT, ONE TOWN IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY OPERATING SUCH A SYSTEM FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT PHYSICAL HARM TO ITS POPULATION.

MR. TUCKER WAS OF THE OPINION THAT WHILE THE NEED FOR SUCH MEASURES IN HONG KONG WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT, THE POTENTIAL OF SUCH RECLAMATION SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED AS THE SUPPLY WAS AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL SOURCES AND COULD PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN THE FUTURE.

MR. TUCKER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION AND THE RELATION BETWEEN THE RAINFALL AND THE YIELD TO RESERVOIRS.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE PASSAGE OF TROPICAL STORM CARLA, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RECORDED A TOTAL OF 255 MM OF RAIN IN THE 72 HOURS UP TO THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6, BUT THE AVERAGE CATCHMENT RAINFALL OVER THE SAME PERIOD WAS 173.8 MM.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE FIRST 48 HOURS OF CARLA PROVIDED HONG KONG WITH 61 PER CENT OF THE THREE DAY RAINFALL, THE YIELD IN THIS PERIOD WAS ONLY 45 PER CENT OF THE THREE DAY TOTAL OF 2,837 MILLION GALLONS.

+THIS INDICATES THAT DAILY READINGS OF RAINFALL AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY CANNOT BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO INCREASES IN RESERVOIR STORAGE OVER THE SAME PERIOD,+ MR. TUCKER SAID.

+MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RAINFALL FIGURES ARE NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE OF RAINFALL IN CATCHMENT AREAS.

+WHAT COUNTS IS THE AMOUNT OF WATER WE RECEIVE IN OUR RESERVOIRS.+

IN ORDER TO RESTORE OUR RESERVOIR STORAGE TO A MORE HEALTHY POSITION, MR. TUCKER SAID, HONG KONG, NEEDED CONTINUOUS RAIN OVER THE CATCHMENT AREA.

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YUEN LONG DEVELOPMENT MOVES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD
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THE \$500 MILLION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM YUEN LONG INTO A MARKET TOWN FOR 90,000 PEOPLE MOVED A MAJOR STEP FORWARD TODAY WITH THE SIGNING OF ANOTHER CONTRACT.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION, WAS THE SECOND TO BE LET BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUEN LONG UNDER THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

IT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR BUS TERMINUS AT KIK YEUNG ROAD AS WELL AS SEWERS, DRAINS AND ROAD WORKS. LAND NOW BEING FORMED IN THE WESTERN PART OF YUEN LONG FOR SUCH WORKS IS FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL, OPEN SPACES, AND GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES USE.

SERVICES SUCH AS WATER AND ELECTRICITY WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE SAME TIME.

THE CONTRACT, AWARDED TO TAI FOO COMPANY, WAS FORMALLY SIGNED AT THE SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES TODAY.

MR. BOSCO KEOWN, P.W.D.'S SENIOR ENGINEER (NEW TERRITORIES), SAID WORK WOULD BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THAT WORK HAD ALREADY BEGUN ON THE FIRST CONTRACT FOR THE FORMATION OF THREE HECTARES OF LAND IN THE WESTERN PART OF YUEN LONG AS SITES FOR THE SECONDARY SCHOOL, AND THE USE BY GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

THIS WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MR. KEOWN SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT OF YUEN LONG FROM ITS PRESENT SIZE WITH A POPULATION OF 38,000 TO A MAJOR MARKET TOWN FOR 95,000 WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A NUMBER OF STAGES.

+THE FIRST STAGE INCLUDES THE WIDENING OF EXISTING ROADS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONES, DRAINAGE WORKS, A LARGE BUS TERMINUS, A GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACES AND THE FIRST PART OF A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY PROVIDE HOMES FOR 10,000 PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

+ALSO INCLUDED IN THE FIRST STAGE ARE A NEW POST OFFICE, PROVISION OF FORMED AND SERVICED SITES FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.+

IN THE SECOND STAGE, HE SAID, A MARKET AND HAWKER BAZAARS WOULD BE BUILT ALONG WITH A PLB TERMINUS, REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS, A YOUTH CENTRE AND ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE.

PLANS FOR THE FINAL STAGES CALL FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNG YIK BAZAAR, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREA, A DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX.

ON COMPLETION OF THE RE-DEVELOPMENT, MR. KEOWN SAID, YUEN LONG WOULD BE A MODERN AND IMPORTANT MARKET TOWN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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SAI KUNG SITE SNAPPED UP FOR \$3.4 MILLION

A PRIME RESIDENTIAL SITE AT SILVER STRAND NORTH IN SAI KUNG WAS SOLD FOR NEARLY \$3.4 MILLION AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY -- MORE THAN \$2 MILLION ABOVE THE UPSET PRICE.

THE 3,000 SQUARE METRE SITE, SITUATED AT A QUIET AND PEACEFUL SPOT WITH AN EXCELLENT SEAVIEW, IS FOR TWO-STOREY, PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. GORDON MOFFOOT, WHO CONDUCTED THE SALE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, INVITED AN OPENING BID OF \$1.3 MILLION AND STEADY BIDDING QUICKLY FOLLOWED.

THE HAMMER FELL AT THE HIGHEST BID OF \$3.38 MILLION -- ABOUT \$106 PER SQUARE FOOT -- OFFERED BY THE FOOK MOW ENTERPRISES CO. LTD.

MR. MOFFOOT SAID AFTER THE AUCTION THAT THE KEEN BIDDING WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE SITE BEING IN AN AREA IDEALLY SUITED FOR EITHER TOWNHOUSE OR APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT.

+SUCH DEVELOPMENT HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR -- SO POPULAR IN FACT THAT A SUPERMARKET IS ABOUT TO BE BUILT TO SERVICE SILVER STRAND,+ HE SAID.

THE BUILDING COVENANT OF THE SITE IS \$640,000 OVER THREE YEARS, EXCLUDING THE COST OF SITE FORMATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, ACCESS ROADS AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS.

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HEARING OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON SEK KONG INCIDENT
AT VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT

THE COMMISSION SET UP TO INQUIRE INTO EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE COURSE OF A LIVE TELEVISION BROADCAST BY TVB LTD. AT SEK KONG ON JULY 1, 1977 WILL HOLD A PRELIMINARY HEARING AT ROOM 1J1, VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG, NEXT TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 27) AT 10 A.M.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITNESSES WILL BE CALLED TO GIVE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION EARLY NEXT MONTH (OCTOBER).

THE VENUE AND DATES FOR THESE HEARINGS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THREE MPS TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE

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THE THREE VISITING CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MR. DAVID HOWELL (SURREY, GUILDFORD), MR. PAUL CHANNON (SOUTHEND WEST) AND MR. JOHN NOTT (CORNWALL, ST. IVES), WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) AT 10 A.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED.

TELEVISION CREWS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE EARLIER SO THAT THEY HAVE AMPLE TIME TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION INAUGURATES NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, TODAY INAUGURATED THE NEW PRIMARY AND KINDERGARTEN BUILDING OF MUNSANG COLLEGE AT DUMBARTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY, MR. HAYE SAID THAT MUNSANG HAS GROWN WITH THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT AND GENEROUS PRIVATE DONORS AND, AS ONE OF THE LEADING ASSISTED PRIVATE SCHOOLS, IT IS MOVING ON TO FULL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

HE SAID IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE EXTENSION, WHICH PROVIDES ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR KINDERGARTEN AND LOWER PRIMARY CLASSES, WAS BUILT WITH PRIVATE FUNDS AT A COST OF OVER \$2 MILLION.

+IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE COLLEGE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE MORAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY. THE CHILDREN WHO PASS THROUGH THE DOORS OF MUNSANG ARE FORTUNATE. MANY DISTINGUISHED MEN AND WOMEN OF HONG KONG HAVE HAD THEIR EDUCATION HERE AND IN THIS THEY AND THE COLLEGE TAKE GREAT PRIDE,+ MR. HAYE SAID.

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OVER 180 FIREMEN TO RECEIVE HONOURS
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A TOTAL OF 182 SERVING AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE PRESENTED WITH COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND CLASPS BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. F.M. WATSON, AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 24) COMMENCING AT 9 A.M.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT. THEY SHOULD MEET MR. H.F. CHUI, SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER, AT HARBOUR ROAD FIRE STATION NOT LATER THAN 8.45 A.M.

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TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING IN FANLING
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THE SECTION OF LUEN SHING STREET BETWEEN WO TAI STREET AND WO LUNG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHWESTERLY WITH EFFECT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 26). AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF WO TAI STREET BETWEEN LUEN SHING STREET AND LUEN HING STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY SOUTHWESTERLY TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE AREA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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