



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1988

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GOVT FORMULATES PROPOSALS ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING THAT FOREIGN LAW FIRMS BE PERMITTED TO EMPLOY, OR ADMIT AS PARTNERS, LOCAL SOLICITORS TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

BUT IT HAS REJECTED A REQUEST THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS BE PERMITTED TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW ON MOTION WITHOUT HAVING TO PASS ANY EXAMINATIONS.

THIS MEANS THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS WHO ARE NOT QUALIFIED IN HONG KONG'S SYSTEM OF LAW WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEAL WITH WORK WHICH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE MAY ONLY BE DEALT WITH BY QUALIFIED SOLICITORS.

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DO SO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO PASS THE EXAMINATIONS AND FULFIL ALL THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE.

THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED IN THE LIGHT OF HONG KONG'S GROWING IMPORTANCE AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

"AND WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSALS WILL ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED DEMANDS FOR LEGAL SERVICES OF THE FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY.

"THEY ARE ALSO LIKELY TO PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL LAWYERS TO BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL PRACTICE THUS INCREASING THEIR RANGE OF EXPERTISE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS.

IT IS INTENDED TO BRING THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE BY MEANS OF A STATUTORY SCHEME.

THIS WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LAW SOCIETY.

"THERE MUST BE SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT FOREIGN LAW FIRMS PERMITTED TO PRACTISE HERE ARE OF SUBSTANTIAL REPUTATION AND INTEGRITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WITH THIS IN MIND, IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE CHANGES PROPOSED SHOULD BE PROPERLY REGULATED AND THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO GOVERN THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

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HE SAID THE LAW SOCIETY HAD A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS AND IT WAS HOPED THAT DISCUSSION WOULD BEGIN SOON WITH THE LAW SOCIETY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN LAW FIRMS TO WORK OUT THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE WERE POLICY PROPOSALS REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES FOLLOW A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT POLICY.

THE REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE, WHICH DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN LAWYERS IN HONG KONG.

THE COMPLETION OF THE REPORT COINCIDED WITH A PETITION IN JANUARY TO THE GOVERNOR FROM A NUMBER OF AMERICAN LAWYERS.

IN CONSIDERING THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE REPORT AND THE PETITION, THE GOVERNMENT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE SUBMISSION MADE BY THE LAW SOCIETY IN RESPONSE TO THE PETITION.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO FOREIGN LAW FIRMS HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN LETTERS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG AND TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PETITIONERS.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED: "IN CONSIDERING THE ISSUES AND IN FORMULATING THE POLICY PROPOSALS, THERE WERE TWO PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATIONS: FIRSTLY, HONG KONG'S BEST INTERESTS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR HIGH QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES COMMENSURATE WITH HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE; AND SECONDLY, THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT OF PROMOTING FREE COMPETITION IN SERVICES IN THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER AREAS OF TRADE."

ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER FOREIGN LAW FIRMS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO EMPLOY OR ADMIT AS PARTNERS HONG KONG SOLICITORS TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW, THE PETITIONERS HAD CALLED FOR A CHANGE IN THE CURRENT POLICY WHICH PROHIBITS FOREIGN LAW FIRMS FROM EMPLOYING HONG KONG LAWYERS.

"WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE TWO PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATIONS REFERRED TO EARLIER WEIGHED DECISIVELY IN FAVOUR OF ACCEPTING THEIR SUBMISSION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CONSIDERED THE PETITIONER'S ARGUMENT THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS SHOULD BE PERMITTED, ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG ON MOTION WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

/IT CAME .....

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IT CAME TO THE VIEW THAT THE ARGUMENTS SET OUT IN THE PETITION WERE "DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN AND THAT IT CANNOT BE RIGHT IN PRINCIPLE FOR LAWYERS WHO ARE NOT QUALIFIED IN OUR SYSTEM OF LAW TO BE PERMITTED TO ADVISE ON AND PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW."

ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER FOREIGN LAW FIRMS SHOULD BE FREE TO ADVISE ON THE LAW OF "THIRD" COUNTRIES THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS SHOULD NOT BE PREVENTED FROM ADVISING ON THE LAW OF "THIRD" COUNTRIES.

EXPLAINING THE REASONING BEHIND THIS PROPOSAL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO RESTRICTIONS ON ANY LAWYER IN HONG KONG ADVISING ON THE LAW OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

"WE CAN SEE NO OVERWHELMING REASON WHY FOREIGN LAWYERS SHOULD BE PLACED IN ANY DIFFERENT POSITION FROM OTHER LAWYERS IN HONG KONG IN THIS RESPECT," HE SAID.

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JSEA RESULTS TO BE RELEASED TOMORROW

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THE RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) WILL BE RELEASED TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

A TOTAL OF 55,438 SECONDARY 3 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED AIDED SECONDARY 4 PLACES UNDER THE REVISED JSEA SYSTEM COMPARED WITH 54,364 LAST YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

A TOTAL OF 77,572 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S JSEA, HE SAID.

AMONG THEM, 4,436 STUDENTS ACCEPTED POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR. ANOTHER 1,435 STUDENTS OPTED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

OF THE REMAINING 71,701 STUDENTS, 77.3 PER CENT OR 55,438 STUDENTS WERE ALLOCATED AIDED SECONDARY 4 PLACES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OF THE STUDENTS GIVEN AIDED SECONDARY 4 PLACES, 47,352 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED BACK TO THEIR OWN SCHOOLS AND THE REMAINING 8,086 STUDENTS ALLOCATED TO OTHER SCHOOLS THROUGH CENTRAL ALLOCATION.

/IN ADDITION, .....

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IN ADDITION, 825 STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED TO POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES THROUGH CENTRAL ALLOCATION.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO OTHER SCHOOLS SHOULD REPORT TO THE RESPECTIVE ALLOCATED SCHOOLS FOR REGISTRATION ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10).

WHEN REPORTING FOR REGISTRATION, THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THE FOLLOWING: (A) REGISTRATION FORM; (B) STUDENT'S HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD; AND (C) TWO RECENT PASSPORT-SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS AND SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF MONEY UP TO ABOUT ONE MONTH'S SCHOOL FEE WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SCHOOL FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSE.

REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS ALLOCATED TO POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10). STUDENTS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR REGISTRATION FORMS AND THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WHEN THEY REPORT TO THE RESPECTIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR REGISTRATION.

IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO COLLECT HIS ALLOCATION RESULT TOMORROW (TUESDAY) OR UNABLE TO TURN UP FOR REGISTRATION ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10), THE PARENT SHOULD AUTHORISE, IN WRITING, A REPRESENTATIVE TO COLLECT THE RESULT OR REPORT TO THE ALLOCATED SCHOOL FOR REGISTRATION ON HIS BEHALF.

THE LETTER OF AUTHORISATION MUST HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL. IT SHOULD BE PRODUCED AT THE TIME OF COLLECTION OR REGISTRATION BY THE AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE.

IN REGISTERING WITH A SCHOOL, A STUDENT MUST SURRENDER HIS REGISTRATION FORM TO THE ALLOCATED SCHOOL.

"SCHOOLS MAY NOT ADMIT ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS TO PRODUCE HIS REGISTRATION FORM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED AIDED SECONDARY 4 PLACES OR POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES WILL EACH BE PROVIDED WITH AN INFORMATION SHEET OUTLINING THE ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM.

THE SHEET CONTAINS THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS FROM WHICH STUDENTS MAY OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION. PAMPHLETS ON POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSES WILL ALSO BE ISSUED TO THESE STUDENTS.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO GOVERNMENT EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSES WILL CLOSE ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 11).

/APPLICANTS MUST .....

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APPLICANTS MUST CALL IN PERSON AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY (TEL. NO. 5-8392309), BRINGING WITH THEM THE SLIP OF "STUDENT'S PARTICULARS" ISSUED BY THE JSEA SECTION AND A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SLIP FOR RETENTION PURPOSE.

IN THE EVENT OF A TYPHOON AFFECTING HONG KONG DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD, HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE MEDIA FOR NECESSARY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING ALLOCATION RESULTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EDUCATION RECORDS AND JSEA SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-8919099.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MAY

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 8 PER CENT AND 41 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 23 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE MONTH OF MAY 1988 WITH MAY 1987, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 41 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 20 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF BILATERAL TRADE IN ANY SINGLE MONTH, AS THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL MONTHS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATIONS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR MAY 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN MAY 1988 COMPARED WITH MAY 1987, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-26 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-21 PER CENT); CLOTHING (-15 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-11 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-10 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (-6 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, THESE DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE MORE THAN OFFSET BY INCREASES RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+22 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+22 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+14 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+12 PER CENT) AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+6 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MAY 1988 COMPARED WITH MAY 1987. THESE INCLUDED TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+6 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+5 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+4 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+3 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+3 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+3 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+3 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE FABRICS (+3 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MAY 1988 COMPARED WITH MAY 1987. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN SUGAR; TEA AND COFFEE; VEGETABLES; AND FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND LIVE POULTRY.

/OVER THE .....

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT. THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; FOOTWEAR; AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 20 PER CENT IN MAY 1988 COMPARED WITH MAY 1987. THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN SILK FABRICS; PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; BASE METALS OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR RAW COTTON; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND WOVEN COTTON FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MAY 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1987.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT IN MAY 1988 OVER MAY 1987. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN OFFICE MACHINES; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND TEXTILE MACHINERY.

IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN MAY 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1987, RANGING FROM 3 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 6 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. PRICES OF IMPORTS OF FUELS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN MAY 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1987, RANGING FROM 35 PER CENT FROM CONSUMER GOODS TO 60 PER CENT FOR FUELS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN MAY 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1987. THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 7 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MAY 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND AUGUST 15 AT \$2.50 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MAY 1988 WITH MAY 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1988 WITH JAN-MAY 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-12	3	-15	1	4	- 3
TEXTILE FABRICS	- 3	3	- 6	2	4	- 2
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	- 1	*	- 1	- 7	4	-11
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-16	6	-21	- 2	6	- 7
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-24	3	-26	-26	4	-29
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	21	-1	22	33	-1	34
FOOTWEAR	- 8	3	-11	6	5	2
METAL MANUFACTURES	29	5	22	27	6	20
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	10	4	6	34	7	25
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	15	3	12	27	3	23
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-10	1	-10	- 5	3	- 8
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	14	*	14	12	1	10
ALL COMMODITIES	5	2	3	12	3	8

/TABLE 2: .....

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAY 1988 WITH MAY 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1988 WITH JAN-MAY 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	28	4	23	21	3	17
CONSUMER GOODS	28	3	24	30	3	26
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	26	5	20	27	5	20
FUELS	15	*	15	3	2	*
CAPITAL GOODS	28	6	21	33	7	24
ALL COMMODITIES	27	4	22	27	5	22

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAY 1988 WITH MAY 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1988 WITH JAN-MAY 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	61	1	60	44	1	42
CONSUMER GOODS	39	3	35	42	2	39
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	48	5	42	48	5	41
FUELS	49	-7	60	29	-4	34
CAPITAL GOODS	60	4	54	48	3	44
ALL COMMODITIES	46	3	41	45	3	41

NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

\* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES TAKEN TO MORE DECIMAL PLACES THAN THOSE IN THE PUBLICATION "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS". THEY MAY THEREFORE DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES TO BE COMPUTED DIRECTLY FROM THE FIGURES TO BE PUBLISHED.

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SHA TIN DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS HOMOSEXUAL LAW  
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE CONSULTATION PAPER ON HOMOSEXUAL OFFENCES AND THE EDUCATION REPORT NO. 3 AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10) AFTERNOON.

AT THE MEETING, A CO-OPTED MEMBER, MR HUI CHING-HON, WILL ASK ABOUT THE MONTHLY VOLUME OF SLUDGE DISCHARGED FROM THE SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT TO TOLO HARBOUR AND SILT DREDGED FROM SHING MUN RIVER; THE SMELL LEVEL OF THE RIVER; AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS VIOLATING LIQUID DISCHARGE LEGISLATIONS.

A DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LI PO-MING, WILL ASK ABOUT THE MEASURES TAKEN IN RELATION TO A RECENT CASE CONCERNING THE CONSUMPTION OF TOXIC CABBAGES BY MA ON SHAN RESIDENTS.

THE MEETING WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF MISSING PERSONS IN SHA TIN AND THE ALLOCATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE'S WORKING GROUPS, APPLICATION FOR FUNDS AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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CONSTRUCTION WORK ON HONG KONG PARK BEGINS  
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THE FORMER SITE OF THE VICTORIA BARRACKS WAS OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL TODAY TO BE DEVELOPED INTO A MAGNIFICENT RECREATION AND LEISURE PROJECT TO BE NAMED HONG KONG PARK.

DEMOLITION AND SITE FORMATION WORK BEGAN AT THE 10-HECTARE SITE TODAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

/THE CHAIRMAN .....

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S RECREATION SELECT COMMITTEE, MR SAMUEL WONG, SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE IN TWO PHASE, WITH THE FIRST PHASE ESTIMATED TO COST \$260 MILLION.

"THE JOCKEY CLUB IS DONATING \$170 MILLION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION COST, ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF ITS CONTINUING GENEROUS SUPPORT IN THE PROVISION OF SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES," SAID MR WONG.

FACILITIES IN THE FIRST PHASE WILL COMPRISE A CENTRAL GARDEN WITH A GARDEN PROMENADE, A TERRACED GARDEN WITH WATER FEATURES, SITTING-OUT AREAS AND GENEROUS LANDSCAPING; A GARDEN PLAZA FOR THE STAGING OF A VARIETY OF INFORMAL ACTIVITIES; A WALK-THROUGH AVIARY; A LARGE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND; A GREENHOUSE; A PARK CAFE AND OTHER LEISURE FEATURES SUCH AS A LOGGIA, LAKES AND TRACTS OF LANDSCAPED AREA; AND A VANTAGE POINT.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, SAID MR WONG, AN ULTRA-MODERN INDOOR GAMES HALL WOULD BE BUILT ADJOINING THE EXISTING HONG KONG SQUASH CENTRE, WHILE A VISUAL ARTS CENTRE WAS PROPOSED AS A VENUE FOR SCULPTING, CERAMICS AND PRINT-MAKING ACTIVITIES.

"SPECIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE DESIGN TO PRESERVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE EXISTING TREES, PLANTS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE SITE."

BOTH PHASES ARE SCHEDULED FOR FULL COMPLETION BY 1991.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

PROPOSED BY A WORKING GROUP FORMED UNDER THE COMMITTEE IN RESPONSE TO WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY 1988, THE CAMPAIGN WILL INCLUDE A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH AND FOUR EXHIBITIONS/VARIETY SHOWS TO BE HELD ON LANTAU, CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND LAMMA ISLAND IN OCTOBER.

/MEMBERS WILL .....

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MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE 1988-89 CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH LANTAU.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE DISTRICT'S KEEP CLEAN CAMPAIGN AND SUBSIDIES FOR FIRE WATCH TEAMS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BEGIN AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS DISTRICT FESTIVALS SUBSIDY SCHEME

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THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE AMBIT AND INTENT OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVALS SUBSIDY SCHEME INTRODUCED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP FOR LIAISING WITH LOCAL BODIES THAT RECEIVE DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS IN ORGANISING ACTIVITIES.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS AND A REPORT ON DISTRICT ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1988

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TAI PO DFCC VISITS MAGISTRACY

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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) VISITED THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

THE VISIT WAS AIMED AT HELPING MEMBERS TO OBTAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES AND ENABLING MAGISTRATES TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMITTEE.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SHA TIN LAW COURTS AT YI CHING LANE, MEMBERS WERE MET BY THE PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE, MR RICHARD DAVIES, THE MAGISTRATES AND THE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE.

MR DAVIES BRIEFED MEMBERS ON THE KIND OF CASES HANDLED AND THE DIFFERENT COURTS IN THE MAGISTRACY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAI PO DFCC, MR TANG PUI-TAT, SAID MEMBERS WERE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT HOW THE MAGISTRATE COURT HANDLED CASES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCIES.

THE MAGISTRATES AND MEMBERS THEN HAD A DISCUSSION ON THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

MEMBERS ALSO SAT IN TWO LAW COURTS TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS.

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COMMENTS INVITED ON HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS INVITING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM TEACHER-RELATED AND TEACHING-RELATED ORGANISATIONS CONCERNING THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE (HKTC).

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE HKTC HAS SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ITS RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRE, AND THE STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CENTRE'S ADVISORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

AS THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSULT TEACHERS AND RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS BEFORE ACTING ON ITS REPORT, COPIES OF THE REPORT HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS FOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

ANY INTERESTED ORGANISATION WHICH FAILS TO RECEIVE THE REPORT SHOULD CONTACT THE HKTC AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT (TEL. NO. 5-655204).

A SIMILAR CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL BE HELD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL TERM TO GATHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS.

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MORE CAREERS EDUCATION COUNSELLING FOR FORM 5 LEAVERS

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FOUR ENQUIRY CENTRES OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS WILL BE OPEN SPECIALLY ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10) AND THURSDAY (AUGUST 11) FROM 3 PM TO 6 PM TO PROVIDE SECONDARY 5 SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT STUDYING AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

THE CENTRES ARE LOCATED AT ROOM 431, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY; THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF LOK SIN TONG WONG CHUNG MING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 161 LOK SIN ROAD, SAN PO KONG; THE COUNSELLING ROOM OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE, GROUND FLOOR, 45 SYCAMORE STREET, TAI KOK TSUI; AND ROOM 200 OF NCEC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FOURTH FLOOR, 6 LEI PUI STREET, KWAI CHUNG.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NORMAL OPENING HOURS OF THE CENTRES IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CAREERS EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON 5-8392540, 5-8392622, 5-8392538 AND 5-8392634.

IN ADDITION, THE SECTION LOCATED AT ROOM 405, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, WILL EXTEND ITS SERVICE HOURS BETWEEN TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND SATURDAY (AUGUST 13).

THE OPENING HOURS WILL BE FROM 8.30 AM TO 6 PM BETWEEN TOMORROW AND FRIDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAY.

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START A CAREER WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING A CAREER IN INDUSTRIES ARE INVITED TO ENROL IN FULL-TIME COURSES OFFERED BY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

TWELVE TRAINING CENTRES, INCLUDING THE SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE, ARE NOW INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM FORM 5 AND FORM 3 LEAVERS FOR 30 BASIC COURSES BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COUNCIL SAID THAT THESE COURSES, LASTING FROM 15 TO 44 WEEKS, AIM TO PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE.

/"THE CURRICULA .....

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"THE CURRICULA ARE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND BOTH THEORY AND PRACTICE ARE EQUALLY EMPHASISED. TRAINING IS CONDUCTED IN CENTRES DESIGNED TO SIMULATE REAL-LIFE INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

"TRAINEES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY ANY FEES BUT ARE GIVEN A TRAINING ALLOWANCE.

"UPON COMPLETION OF TRAINING, CAREER COUNSELLING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THEM TO ENTER RELEVANT TRADES OR BECOME APPRENTICES AND RECEIVE FURTHER TRAINING ON-THE-JOB.

"SURVEYS SHOW THAT THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE TRAINEES IS NEARLY 100 PER CENT."

THE ELECTRONICS, HOTEL, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, PRINTING AND PLASTICS INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES ARE HOUSED AT THE KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX.

THE ELECTRONICS, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, AUTOMOBILE, ELECTRICAL, WELDING, GAS, TEXTILE AND JEWELLERY INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES ARE HOUSED AT THE KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX.

THE SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE IS LOCATED AT TAI LAM CHUNG.

FULL-TIME COURSES ARE OFFERED AT ALL THESE CENTRES.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE TWO COMPLEXES LOCATED AT 46 TAI YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY OR 13 SAN KWAI STREET, KWAI CHUNG. ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE BY CALLING THE TWO COMPLEXES ON 3-7506818 OR 0-204253.

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#### WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 32.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 191.679 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 436.318 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 74.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SAN PO KONG  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 11) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR WATER WORKS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST, CHOI HUNG ROAD, TSUEK LUK STREET, KING FUK STREET AND KING TAI STREET.

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PARKING SPACES IN TUEN MUN METERED  
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A TOTAL OF 103 NEW PARKING METERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN TUEN MUN AREA 37B TO REGULATE THE UTILISATION OF PARKING SPACES IN THE AREA, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

AFFECTED PARKING SPACES INCLUDE THOSE ALONG TSING SIN STREET, TSING HOI CIRCUIT AND TSING WUI STREET. THE NEW METERS AT TSING SIN STREET WILL START TO OPERATE FROM THURSDAY (AUGUST 11), WHILE THOSE AT TSING HOI CIRCUIT AND TSING WUI STREET WILL START TO OPERATE FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 12).

THE PARKING METERS ARE TO BE USED BY VEHICLES OTHER THAN MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, BUSES, MOTOR CYCLES AND PEDAL CYCLES. THEY WILL OPERATE DAILY BETWEEN 8 AM AND 8 PM, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ALL METERS ARE FOR TWO HOURS AND THE PARKING FEE WILL BE \$1 FOR EVERY 30 MINUTES. MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO NOTE THAT ONLY \$1 COINS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON SHA TIN ROAD  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT REMINDED MOTORISTS THAT FROM MIDNIGHT TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM ON WEDNESDAY, THE SOUTHBOUND SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD FROM CITY ONE SHA TIN TO PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE MEASURE WILL FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY ON DES VOEUX ROAD WEST

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THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST EASTBOUND BETWEEN HILL ROAD AND WHITTY STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 11), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS FOR CABLE-LAYING WORKS.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE SECTION OF APLIU STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO BETWEEN NAM CHEONG STREET AND SHEK KIP MEI STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM THE EXISTING TWO-WAY WORKING INTO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10).

THE MEASURE WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF NAM CHEONG STREET BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND YU CHAU STREET.

MOTORISTS ON NORTHBOUND SHEK KIP MEI STREET AND WESTBOUND APLIU STREET HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SHEK KIP MEI STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND NAM CHEONG STREET.

MEANWHILE, FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 12), THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF YU CHAU STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH BOUNDARY STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE MADE A 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY.

THE MEASURE IS TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS AND WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

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

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