



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1979

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WORLD'S HOUSING PREDICAMENT WORSE  
THAN EVER -- SECRETARY FOR HOUSING

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AFTER 50 YEARS OF INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT THE HOUSING PREDICAMENT OF MANKIND AS A WHOLE IS WORSE TODAY THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. A.J. SCOTT, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

+THERE IS NO COUNTRY WHICH BY ITS OWN STANDARDS DOES NOT HAVE A HOUSING PROBLEM= AND VERY MANY COUNTRIES, BY MINIMAL STANDARDS, HAVE SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

MR. SCOTT SAID THIS IN OPENING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS.

+HOUSING FOR THE POOR OR THE LOWEST INCOME GROUPS, OR HOWEVER ONE DESCRIBES THEM, HAS IN THE LAST 50 YEARS GENERALLY WORSENERD, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IN OUR LIFETIME HAS OCCURRED THE MOST RAPID PERIOD OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE HUMANITY HAS KNOWN,+ HE SAID.

+AT AN EVER INCREASING PACE, MANPOWER AND ITS PRODUCTIVITY HAVE MOVED FROM AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS AND MARKET TOWNS INTO CITIES, TOWARDS THE FACTORIES AND MACHINES, AND THUS FORCING ON THE URBANISING PROCESS. SO THAT IN WESTERN SOCIETIES, FOR EXAMPLE, RATHER LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION IS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE, AND 90 PER CENT LIVE IN URBANISED SETTLEMENTS.+

TURNING TO THE HOUSING PROBLEM OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, MR. SCOTT SAID: +ON THE ONE HAND, THERE IS SINGAPORE WHERE THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED STRONG LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL POLICIES TO ALLOCATE A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE WEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS THEIR LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

+THE RESULTS ARE GOOD IN TERMS OF HOUSING, BUT IT HAS LEFT THE PRIVATE SECTOR VIRTUALLY ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE ONLY AT THE UPPER END OF THE HOUSING STOCK.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, IN JAPAN, THE MAJOR ROLE IN PRODUCING HOUSING IS LEFT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALSO A NUMBER OF LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEMES.

+THE THRUST OF THE JAPANESE SYSTEM IS TO ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF MORTGAGE FACILITIES THROUGH THE PRIVATE BANKING SYSTEM AND THROUGH VARIOUS SPONSORED AGENCIES.

+HOWEVER, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE EASE OF GETTING MORTGAGES, THE COST OF HOUSING HAS GONE UP BECAUSE DEMAND HAS BEEN SO THOROUGHLY STIMULATED. SO LAND AND HOUSE PRICES HAVE RISEN BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LOWEST AND LOWER MIDDLE INCOME GROUPS.+

MR. SCOTT SAID THAT IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES LITTLE HAD BEEN DONE DIRECTLY BY GOVERNMENTS, AND INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN LEFT TO +GET ON WITH IT THEMSELVES.+

/+HONG KONG .....

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+HONG KONG COMES SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN THESE EXTREMES IN THAT SO FAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED PUBLIC HOUSING AT RELATIVELY LOW RENTS FOR ABOUT 45 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION= HAS AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME WHICH BY MID-1980 WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WITH RENTED OR ASSISTED-PURCHASE FLATS= AND AT THE SAME TIME THERE IS SCOPE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PRODUCE HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE CURRENT YEAR, THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR IN HONG KONG SHOULD PRODUCE ABOUT 30,000 AND 35,000 UNITS RESPECTIVELY.+

MR. SCOTT SAID SOUTHEAST ASIAN GOVERNMENTS FACE STAGGERING PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF GROWING URBANISATION.

IN THE 10 YEARS 1968-1977, THE POPULATION OF THE 25 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAD LEAPT FROM 995 MILLION TO 1,220 MILLION PEOPLE OF WHOM 24 PER CENT LIVE IN URBAN AREAS.

THESE COUNTRIES ALL FACED A COLOSSAL DEMAND FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING AND WHERE HOUSEHOLDS COULD NOT MEET THE COST OF MINIMAL HOUSING THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE SHOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUBSIDY, HE SAID.

+WHAT THIS MEANS IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION IS THAT FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF HOUSEHOLDS, A HIGH DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS UNAVOIDABLY NECESSARY FOR ANY EFFECTIVE INROADS TO BE MADE ON THE PRESENT HOUSING SITUATION AND ON FUTURE PROBLEMS AS THEY DEVELOP,+ HE SAID.

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POST OFFICE GETS MORE THAN 10,000 +DEAD+ LETTERS A DAY  
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AS COLD WATER TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY -- THIS MOTTO CARRIES AN EXTRA SPECIAL MEANING FOR A GROUP OF OFFICERS AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

FOR THEIR JOB, UNUSUAL AS IT MAY SOUND, IS TO +RESURRECT DEAD LETTERS+ -- MAIL WITH WRONG OR INCOMPLETE ADDRESSES.

+WITH MORE THAN 10,000 OF THESE LETTERS EVERY DAY, THE JOB, NEEDLESS TO SAY, IS VERY COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT,+ A SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE LETTERS, HE POINTED OUT, ARE POSTED LOCALLY AND THE REST FROM ABROAD.

IN MOST CASES, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, THERE IS NO RETURN ADDRESS +WHICH ADDS TO OUR PROBLEM.+

HE ATTRIBUTED IT TO SHEER CARELESSNESS AND POOR AND ILLEGIBLE WRITING ON THE PART OF THE SENDER.

BUT EVERY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO SAVE AS MANY OF THESE LETTERS AS POSSIBLE.

/+IT IS AN ARDUOUS .....

+IT IS AN ARDUOUS TASK WITH EVERY MEMBER OF THE TEAM HAVING TO GO THROUGH TELEPHONE AND BUSINESS DIRECTORIES, STREET GUIDES, AND MAPS SEARCHING FOR CLUES AS TO THE ADDRESSEE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONLY AS A LAST RESORT WILL MAIL BE OPENED AND THIS IS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A SENIOR POSTAL OFFICIAL.

DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, THE SPOKESMAN ADMITTED THAT THE SUCCESS RATE STOOD AT BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT PER CENT FOR LOCALLY POSTED ITEMS AND 30 PER CENT FOR OVERSEAS MAIL.

EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENS TO WRONGLY ADDRESSED LETTERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THEY ARE KEPT FOR TWO MONTHS IN THE HOPE THAT SOME OF THE RECIPIENTS MIGHT TURN UP TO CLAIM THEIR MAIL.

+THE LETTERS ARE DESTROYED IF THERE ARE NO CLAIMANTS AFTER THIS PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

BUT LETTERS CONTAINING CASH, DRAFTS OR CHEQUES ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY.

+WE ALSO DEAL WITH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRINTED MATTER -- MAINLY BOOKS AND MAGAZINES. IF WE CANNOT TRACE THE RECIPIENT OR THE SENDER, WE NORMALLY DONATE THEM TO CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS, HOSPITALS AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS,+ HE SAID.

PARCELS ARE MUCH EASIER TO HANDLE AS THE MAJORITY HAVE THE SENDERS' ADDRESS.

BUT, IF THEY CANNOT BE DELIVERED OR RETURNED, THE ARTICLES ARE THEN AUCTIONED.

+SO, MAKE SURE YOU WRITE THE CORRECT ADDRESS AS WELL AS YOUR OWN RETURN ADDRESS. AFTER ALL, IT ONLY TAKES A FEW SECONDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED.

HE SAID THAT TO ENSURE DELIVERY:

\* PLEASE USE A FULL POSTAL ADDRESS -- THAT IS,

NAME OF ADDRESSEE  
FLAT AND FLOOR NUMBERS  
NAME OF BUILDING  
NUMBER AND NAME OF STREET  
NAME OF VILLAGE, TOWN OR DISTRICT (IN LARGE LETTERS)  
HONG KONG OR KOWLOON AS APPROPRIATE AND -- IF  
ADDRESSED ABROAD --  
THE POSTAL DISTRICT NUMBER, IF ANY=  
NAME OF COUNTY, STATE OR PROVINCE=  
NAME OF COUNTRY.

\* LEAVE A SPACE ALONG THE TOP OF THE ENVELOPE FOR POSTAL FRANKING.

\* PUT NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER ON THE BACK.

\* STAMPS TO BE PLACED IN TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER -- SIDE BY SIDE IF MORE THAN ONE.

\* DO NOT USE AIR MAIL ENVELOPES FOR SURFACE POST.

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INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND  
RESUMED IN URBAN AREAS

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THE COMPENSATION RATE FOR OLD SCHEDULED AGRICULTURAL LOTS RESUMED IN NEW KOWLOON OR ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM \$43 TO \$58 PER SQUARE FOOT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY). THE NEW RATE IS EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1979.

THE RATE OF \$600 PER SQUARE FOOT FOR OLD SCHEDULED BUILDING LAND RESUMED IN NEW KOWLOON OR ON HONG KONG ISLAND REMAINS UNCHANGED.

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TECHNICAL INSTITUTE THREE QUARTERS COMPLETE

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SUPERSTRUCTURE WORK ON THE \$12.5 MILLION KOWLOON TONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IS ABOUT THREE QUARTERS COMPLETE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT WORK ON THE PROJECT WAS BEING CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES.

+WE ARE NOW DOING THE INTERNAL FINISHES SUCH AS PARTITIONS AND DOOR FRAMES FOR PHASE ONE AND WE ARE ABOUT TO START DOING PLASTERING WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE INSTITUTE, OCCUPYING AN AREA OF JUST OVER TWO HECTARES, IS SITUATED AT THE CORNER OF RENFREW ROAD AND HEREFORD ROAD OPPOSITE TO OSBORN BARRACKS.

THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMPRISES A FOUR-STOREY ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK AND A FIVE-STOREY TEACHING BLOCK WITH 55 CLASSROOMS, SPECIAL ROOMS AND WORKSHOPS PROVIDING COURSES FOR ENGINEERING, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, FOOTWEAR TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL DESIGN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WORK ON PHASE ONE WOULD BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER.

MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT IS ABOUT 50 PER CENT COMPLETE.

THE ENTIRE INSTITUTE IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

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SHELTERED WORKSHOPS - JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED  
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AN 18-YEAR-OLD MENTALLY RETARDED GIRL, WHO WAS FOR SOME TIME SEEN AS A BURDEN ON HER FAMILY, IS TODAY HAPPILY OCCUPIED AND LEADING A USEFUL WORKING LIFE.

AFTER UNCOVERING HER PLIGHT, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOUND HER A PLACE IN ONE OF ITS SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WHICH PROVIDE SIMPLE INDUSTRIAL WORK FOR THE DISABLED.

WORKING THE NORMAL EIGHT-HOUR DAY DOING CRAFTWORK, THE GIRL, APART FROM EARNING A MODERATE WAGE, IS BEING HELPED TO REGAIN CONFIDENCE AND ACQUIRE WORKING HABITS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) SOME DISABLED PEOPLE, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THEIR DISABILITIES, MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER OPEN EMPLOYMENT AND A SHELTERED WORKSHOP WAS AIMED AT ENABLING THEM TO LEAD A USEFUL WORKING LIFE.

AT PRESENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE DEPARTMENT IS RUNNING EIGHT SHELTERED WORKSHOPS OFFERING SIMPLE INDUSTRIAL WORK IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT TO 700 DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE EITHER BLIND, DEAF, EX-MENTAL PATIENTS, MENTALLY RETARDED OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SET UP 13 MORE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS TO PROVIDE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1,600 DISABLED PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+THE PROVISION OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED AND TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, HE SAID, ARE ALSO RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WITH GOVERNMENT SUBVENTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SHELTERED WORKSHOPS WERE PURPOSE-BUILT, WITH FEATURES AND FACILITIES SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE DISABLED.

+FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE HANDRAILS FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, RAMPS FOR THOSE ON WHEELCHAIRS, AND EXTRA PRECAUTIONARY FITTINGS TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR THE WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID SHELTERED WORKERS WERE ALSO PROVIDED WITH WELFARE BENEFITS WHICH INCLUDE FREE TRANSPORT, FREE LUNCH AND INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.

+THEY ARE PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN SIMPLE INDUSTRIAL WORK WHICH ARE EITHER PART-FINISHED, LABOUR-ADDED OR PACKAGING WITH THE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY MANUFACTURERS.

+THEIR WORK IS SCHEDULED, TAUGHT AND SUPERVISED BY TRADE INSTRUCTORS AND THE WORKSHOP SUPERVISOR,+ HE SAID.

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DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT  
VISITS PWD PROJECTS  
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THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MR. DAVID STEAD, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED A NUMBER OF WORK SITES IN KOWLOON DURING HIS MONTHLY FAMILIARISATION TOUR OF PWD PROJECTS.

AMONG THE PROJECTS VISITED WAS THE HUNG HOM FERRY CONCOURSE WHICH AIMS AT PROVIDING BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC. IT COMPRISES A BUS TERMINUS, A TAXI STAND AND A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINUS.

THE PROJECT IS NOW 70 PER CENT COMPLETED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN AUGUST.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE NEW HUNG HOM FERRY PIER HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED EARLY NEXT MONTH.

OTHER PROJECTS VISITED INCLUDED THE FOUNDATION WORK FOR THE FUTURE ELEVATED ROAD CONNECTING THE AIRPORT TUNNEL ROAD WITH KWUN TONG, THE LAI CHI KOK RECLAMATION AND THE MONG KOK RAILWAY STATION REMODELLING PHASE I AND II.

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JURY LIST  
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THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, MR. SIMON HERBERT MAYO ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT A FURTHER LIST OF COMMON JURORS WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING ON MAY 7.

THE LIST WILL REMAIN POSTED FOR 14 DAYS DURING WHICH ANY PERSON MAY APPLY BY WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE REGISTRAR REQUIRING THAT HIS NAME OR THE NAME OF SOME OTHER PERSON BE POSTED OR REMOVED.

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE REQUEST SHOULD BE GIVEN IN THE NOTICE, AND THE REGISTRAR MAY AT HIS DISCRETION ALTER THE LIST IF NECESSARY.

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SPECIAL TRAINS TO RACE COURSE STATION ON WEDNESDAY

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THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL OPERATE THREE SPECIAL TRAINS TO SHA TIN RACE COURSE STATION ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THE SPECIAL NON-STOP TRAINS WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM AT 5.40 P.M., 6.15 P.M. AND 6.48 P.M.

THERE WILL BE FOUR SPECIAL TRAINS FOR THE RETURN JOURNEY TO TAKE PASSENGERS BACK FROM THE RACE COURSE STATION TO KOWLOON STATION.

THE RUNNING TIME OF THE SPECIAL TRAINS IS 20 MINUTES AND THEIR TIMETABLES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT ALL RAILWAY STATIONS AND AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES.

IN ADDITION, KCR WILL RE-ROUTE TWO OF ITS SCHEDULED TRAINS VIA THE RACE COURSE STATION AT 9.01 P.M. AND 9.52 P.M. TO PICK UP PASSENGERS.

A KCR SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) ENCOURAGED THOSE GOING BY PRIVATE CARS TO MAKE USE OF THE HUNG HOM MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK ABOVE THE KOWLOON STATION.

HE ALSO SAID THAT APART FROM SEVERAL BUS CONNECTING ROUTES AND FERRY SERVICES OPERATING BETWEEN WAN CHAI, NORTH POINT AND HUNG HOM PIER, THERE WILL BE FOUR SPECIAL FERRIES OPERATED BY THE STAR FERRY COMPANY FROM HUNG HOM TO CONNECT WITH THE TRAINS. THESE FERRIES WILL LEAVE HUNG HOM AT 9.50 P.M., 10.30 P.M., 11.15 P.M. AND 11.50 P.M.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE TIMETABLES OF THE SCHEDULED TRAIN SERVICES HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY AMENDED AND THE REVISED SCHEDULE BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 11 P.M. IS:

FROM KOWLOON STATION:

5 P.M., 5.27 P.M., 6 P.M., 6.33 P.M., 7.23 P.M., 7.51 P.M., 9.11 P.M. AND 10.30 P.M.

FROM LO WU STATION:

5.26 P.M., 6.23 P.M., 7.15 P.M., 7.46 P.M., 8.12 P.M. AND 9.04 P.M.

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PART OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY TO CLOSE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT A LENGTH OF ABOUT 100 METRES OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY BETWEEN TAI CHUNG HAU AND TUI MIN HOI WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO FACILITATE INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE ADJACENT SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF THIS SECTION OF HIRAM'S HIGHWAY WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS ALTERNATIVELY. TRAFFIC FLOW WILL BE REGULATED BY SIGNALS OPERATING 24 HOURS DAILY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

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THE SECTION OF TEXACO ROAD BETWEEN YEUNG UK ROAD AND SHA TSUI ROAD, CLOSED SINCE APRIL 7 BECAUSE OF SLOPE STABILISATION WORKS, IS NOW TEMPORARILY OPENED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ONLY.

SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG TEXACO ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED AT THE TEXACO ROAD-SHA TSUI ROAD JUNCTION TO TRAVEL VIA SHA TSUI ROAD, KWU HANG ROAD, YEUNG UK ROAD TO REJOIN TEXACO ROAD SOUTHBOUND.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE EFFECTIVE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS UNTIL THE STABILISATION WORKS ARE COMPLETED.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT SALT WATER SUPPLY IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY TO 11 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS CONNECTION WORK AT WING LUNG STREET NEAR CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CHEUNG SHA WAN, TAI KOK TSUI, MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI AND SHEK KIP MEI.

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