



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

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PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENT OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 24 PER CENT AND 46 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1987 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATE.

HENCE, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 33 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT THE PRICES OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

COMPARING NOVEMBER 1987 WITH NOVEMBER 1986, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT AND 38 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HENCE, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT; RE-EXPORT PRICES ROSE BY 3 PER CENT WHILE IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 5 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 COMPILED. THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR NOVEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

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AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986.

THESE INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+11 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+8 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+8 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+7 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+7 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+6 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+5 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+2 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+2 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+1 PER CENT) AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WAS RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-1 PER CENT).

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986, INCLUDING METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+41 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+33 PER CENT); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+33 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+17 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+8 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+3 PER CENT) AS WELL AS CLOTHING (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-19 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-12 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-4 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-3 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-1 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR NOVEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN NOVEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986, RANGING FROM 2 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 18 PER CENT FOR FUELS, WHICH WAS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE RELATIVELY LOW IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS IN NOVEMBER 1986.

IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN SUGAR; TEA AND COFFEE AS WELL AS FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS.

/HOWEVER, DECREASES

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD AS WELL AS RICE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT. THE COMMODITIES WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS AS WELL AS RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 23 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 1987 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986. THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RAW COTTON; PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS AS WELL AS MAN-MADE FIBRES.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR AS WELL AS COTTON YARN AND THREAD.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN NOVEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986.

FOR THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR NOVEMBER 1987 AS COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN NOVEMBER 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1986, RANGING FROM 15 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 67 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 58 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER 1987 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AROUND FEBRUARY 12 AT \$2.5 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP.

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JAN-NOV 1987 WITH JAN-NOV 1986			COMPARING NOV 1987 WITH NOV 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	27	8	18	8	7	1
TEXTILE FABRICS	53	6	44	25	7	17
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	36	5	30	-5	8	-12
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	10	4	6	*	2	-1
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	16	3	12	-13	8	-19
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	15	-2	17	32	-1	33
FOOTWEAR	18	4	14	3	6	-3
METAL MANUFACTURES	29	2	26	37	2	33
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	59	4	52	57	11	41
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	17	*	16	9	1	8
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	3	4	-1	*	5	-4
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	17	3	14	4	1	3
ALL COMMODITIES	27	3	24	15	3	12

/TABLE 2:

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-NOV 1987 WITH JAN-NOV 1986			COMPARING NOV 1987 WITH NOV 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	12	1	10	20	2	18
CONSUMER GOODS	41	4	36	36	4	31
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	39	4	34	29	5	23
FUELS	6	3	3	7	18	-9
CAPITAL GOODS	42	7	33	42	9	30
ALL COMMODITIES	36	4	31	32	5	25

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-NOV 1987 WITH JAN-NOV 1986			COMPARING NOV 1987 WITH NOV 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	13	-1	14	13	-1	15
CONSUMER GOODS	57	2	54	47	2	44
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	47	3	43	39	6	31
FUELS	-8	10	-16	-51	16	-58
CAPITAL GOODS	47	*	48	68	1	67
ALL COMMODITIES	49	2	46	43	3	38

NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

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

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

\$30M CENTRE OFFERS HIGH STANDARD OF TRAINING FOR SEAMEN

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THE COMPLEX AND SUBSTANTIAL TRAINING STRUCTURES OF THE SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE, WHICH DOMINATE THE WATERFRONT AT TAI LAM CHUNG, ARE BEING GIVEN FINISHING TOUCHES AND FINAL INSPECTIONS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST GROUP OF TRAINEES EARLY IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

MANAGED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, THE \$30 MILLION CENTRE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE A PROPER TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL SEAFARERS.

"CREW MEMBERS OF HIGH STANDARD ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR SHIPPING INDUSTRY," SAID THE MANAGER OF THE CENTRE, CAPTAIN JACK HAWORTH.

"THEY ARE ONE OF THE PREREQUISITES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR 'INDEPENDENT REGISTER' IN THE EARLY 1990'S."

CAPTAIN HAWORTH HAS ALMOST FOUR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE OF RUNNING THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) COURSE FOR SERVING SEAMEN AT THE COUNCIL'S TEMPORARY CENTRE AT LITTLE SAI WAN.

HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMPREHENSIVE AND STRINGENT TRAINING TO BE OFFERED AT THE PERMANENT CENTRE WILL BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN ENABLING NEW ENTRANT RATINGS, AS WELL AS EXISTING SEAFARERS, TO ACQUIRE TECHNICAL SKILLS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD.

"WITH AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION, THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG SEAMEN WILL ALSO BE GREATLY ENHANCED," HE ADDED.

THE COUNCIL IS NOW INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN PRE-SEA COURSES FOR TRAINING JUNIOR SEAMEN, ENGINE ROOM AND GENERAL PURPOSE RATINGS. THESE COURSES WILL START SOON AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

MALE HONG KONG RESIDENTS AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 34, PREFERABLY WITH A FORM THREE EDUCATION BACKGROUND, MAY APPLY FOR THESE PRE-SEA COURSES.

"IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THESE TRAINEES TO TAKE THE 23-WEEK GENERAL PURPOSE COURSE AS IT COMBINES THE SPECIALIST PARTS OF THE TWO 16-WEEK COURSES FOR SEAMEN AND ENGINE ROOM RATINGS," CAPTAIN HAWORTH SAID.

"MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SAILORS WITH ALL-ROUND TRAINING."

THE TRAINING FOR NEW ENTRANTS AND RATINGS AT THE CENTRE IS FREE AND, IN ADDITION, THERE IS AN ALLOWANCE FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO DEFRAY PART OF THEIR TRAVELLING AND MEAL EXPENSES.

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SERVING SEAFARERS MAY ENROL IN REFRESHER COURSES, SUCH AS FIRE-FIGHTING AND FIRST AID, OR FOR TWO UPGRADING CERTIFICATE COURSES LEADING TO THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROGRESSION TO SENIOR POSTS.

THE CENTRE IS LOCATED ON 1.6 HECTARES OF LAND BY THE SEA BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN.

IT IS COMPREHENSIVELY EQUIPPED AND HAS FULL FACILITIES FOR TRAINING IN SEAMANSHIP, ENGINEERING, WATCHKEEPING, FIRE-FIGHTING, PERSONAL SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES, CARGO HANDLING, AND OTHER SKILLS.

"THE PRIME OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING ARE TO PROMOTE SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AT SEA AND ENCOURAGE THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT," CAPTAIN HAWORTH SAID.

"TRAINING AT THE CENTRE WILL STRESS THE VALUES OF DISCIPLINE AND TEAMWORK. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL ALSO BE EMPHASISED DURING THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION."

THE CENTRE AIMS TO TRAIN 440 NEW ENTRANTS AND 600 IN-SERVICE SEAFARERS EACH YEAR.

THOSE INTERESTED IN MAKING APPLICATIONS, OR ENQUIRIES, SHOULD CONTACT THE CENTRE'S RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT OFFICER ON 0-4583833.

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THE CHANGING FACE OF JUNK BAY

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A QUIET COVE TO THE EAST OF THE KOWLOON PENINSULA IS SLOWLY BUT STEADILY BEING DEVELOPED AS THE HOME FOR MORE THAN 325,000 PEOPLE.

JUNK BAY, SEPARATED FROM KOWLOON PROPER BY HILLY TERRAIN, WAS AT ONE TIME ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY SEA OR, FOR THE MORE ADVENTUROUS, BY AN ARDUOUS TREK THROUGH THE STEEP HILLS.

HOWEVER, MANY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

FOR EXAMPLE, A MODERN NETWORK OF ROADS IS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO JUNK BAY. THE MAJOR ROADS LINKING THE BAY TO KOWLOON ARE PO LAM ROAD, HANG HAU ROAD AND THE JUNK BAY ROAD TUNNEL.

/SETTLEMENT IN

SETTLEMENT IN JUNK BAY CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE 13TH CENTURY, BUT LARGE-SCALE SETTLEMENT DID NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE LATE 16TH CENTURY WHEN MANY OF THE EXISTING VILLAGES WERE FOUNDED.

HANG HAU WAS AT ONE TIME THE MOST POPULATED AND PROSPEROUS VILLAGE IN THE WHOLE OF THE CLEARWATER BAY PENINSULA.

IN THE 1960'S, HANG HAU BECAME A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL AREA MAINLY FOR SHIP BREAKING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES, BUT THIS WAS GRADUALLY PHASED OUT FROM 1982 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT FOR JUNK BAY TO BE DEVELOPED AS A THIRD GENERATION NEW TOWN.

AS WITH OTHER NEW TOWNS, JUNK BAY WILL BE DEVELOPED AS A COMPLETELY SELF-CONTAINED ENTITY BUT WILL RETAIN MUCH OF ITS RURAL FLAVOUR.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA ARE BEING CO-ORDINATED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S NEW TERRITORIES/SOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

THESE INCLUDE ALL ESSENTIAL FACILITIES SUCH AS SCHOOLS, A MEDICAL CLINIC, A FIRE STATION AND AMBULANCE DEPOT, A POLICE STATION, SEWERAGE NETWORK, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND SERVICE RESERVOIRS.

THE FIRST PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING ESTATE - PO LAM ESTATE - IS NOW SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED AND THE FIRST BATCH OF RESIDENTS IS EXPECTED TO MOVE IN SOON.

ON FULL DEVELOPMENT SOME TIME IN THE NEXT DECADE, JUNK BAY WILL BE HOME TO AROUND 300,000 PEOPLE WHO WILL BE HOUSED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES, HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES AND VILLAGE-TYPE HOUSES.

THE GROWING POPULATION IN JUNK BAY MAY WELL SEE THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION EXTENDING ITS KWUN TONG LINE TO THIS ONCE QUIET COVE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, WILL VISIT JUNK BAY ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) AFTERNOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER MR BARNES' VISIT. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO USE THIS TRANSPORT SHOULD ASSEMBLE AT THE LIFT LOBBY OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 1.30 PM SHARP.

THOSE WHO ARE USING THEIR OWN TRANSPORT SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE SENIOR RESIDENT ENGINEER'S SITE OFFICE (MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA) ON PO LAM ROAD, AT THE JUNCTION WITH A ROAD LEADING TO RENNIE'S MILL AND THE HAVEN OF HOPE HOSPITAL, BEFORE 2.30 PM.

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OVERHEIGHT LOADS POSE HAZARD

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OPERATORS AND DRIVERS OF GOODS VEHICLES WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED THAT THE MOVEMENT OF OVERHEIGHT LOADS CAN BE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE OVERHEIGHT LOADS COULD CAUSE DAMAGE TO OVERHEAD STRUCTURES SUCH AS FOOTBRIDGES, GANTRY SIGNS AND TROLLEY WIRES. ACCIDENTS INVOLVING OVERHEIGHT LOADS AND SUCH STRUCTURES COULD EVEN CAUSE SEVERE INJURY TO PEOPLE IN THE VICINITY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 55 (D) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC CONTROL) REGULATIONS STIPULATED THAT THE HEIGHT OF ANY LOAD, WHEN CARRIED ON A VEHICLE, MUST NOT EXCEED 4.6 METRES ABOVE THE ROAD SURFACE.

"IT ALSO STATES THAT A DRIVER STILL COMMITS AN OFFENCE IF THE LOAD ON HIS VEHICLE CAUSES DAMAGE TO ANY OBJECT LAWFULLY ERECTED ABOVE THE ROAD, EVEN THOUGH THE LOAD DOES NOT EXCEED THE 4.6 METRE HEIGHT LIMIT.

"ANY OFFENDER OF THIS REGULATION IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT ON FIRST CONVICTION, AND A FINE OF \$10,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT ON A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION.

"WHERE A VEHICLE CARRYING ANY LOAD WHICH EXTENDS BEYOND THE VEHICLE'S OWN BODYHEIGHT, AND PARTICULARLY WHERE THE LOAD IS SOME TYPE OF ENGINEERING PLANT, SUCH AS AN EXCAVATOR, OR CRANE, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL ROAD USERS THAT THE DRIVER CHECKS THE HEIGHT OF THE LOAD ABOVE THE ROAD BEFORE SETTING OFF ON HIS TRIP," THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED.

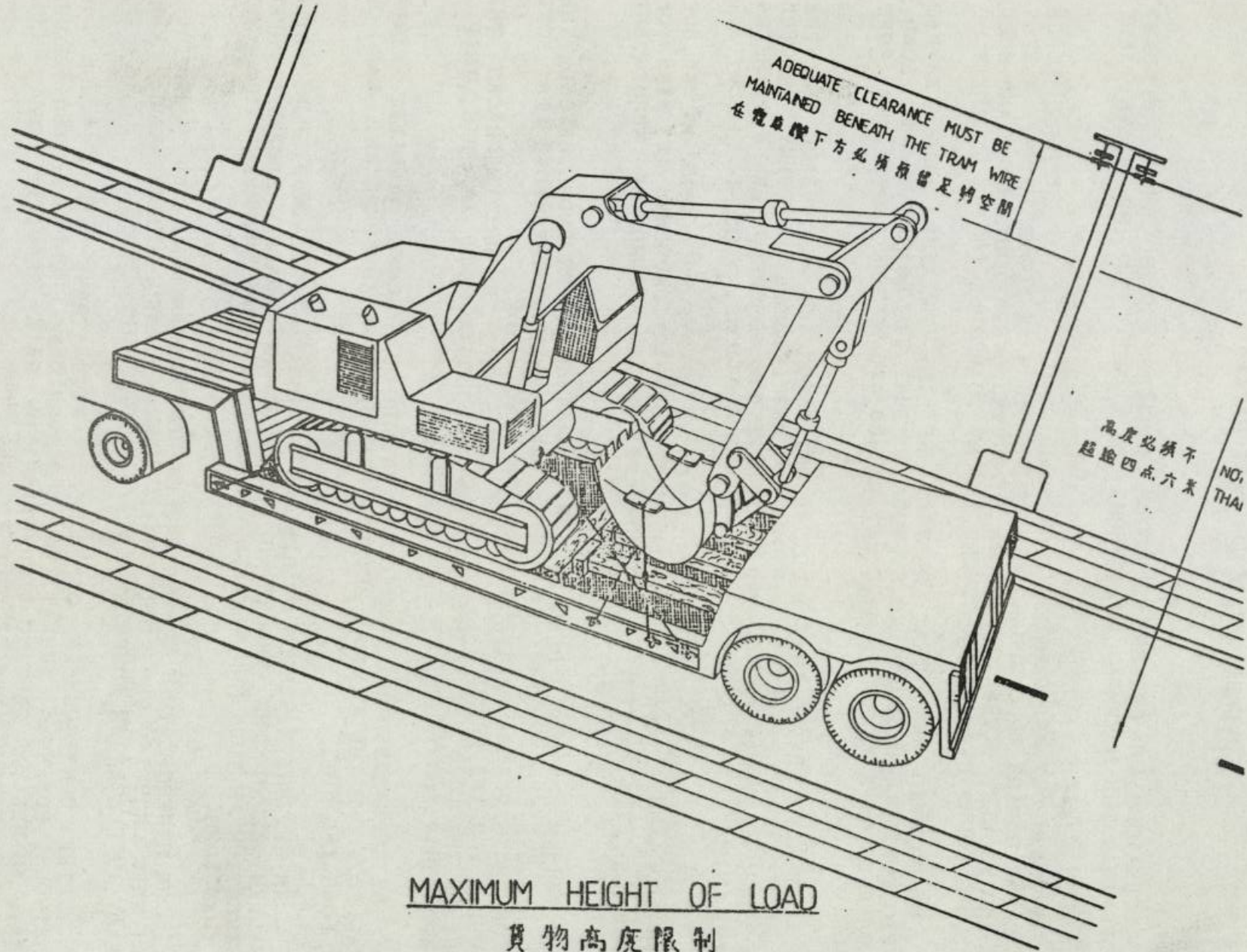
HE EMPHASISED THE PARTICULAR HAZARD OF OVERHEAD TROLLEY WIRES INSTALLED ALONG THE TRAMWAY BETWEEN KENNEDY TOWN AND SHAU KEI WAN ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

AN EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF SIMILAR OVERHEAD WIRES WAS NOW BEING INSTALLED ALONG THE TRACKS OF THE LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TUEN MUN, AND IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

HE STRESSED THAT GOODS VEHICLE DRIVERS SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY ALERT WHEN CROSSING THE LIGHT RAIL TRACKS SINCE THESE WIRES WERE ALREADY IN PLACE AND ENERGISED.

"THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTACT WITH THESE WIRES COULD BE DISASTROUS, POSING A THREAT TO THE VEHICLE OCCUPANTS AND PEOPLE NEARBY, AS WELL AS CAUSING DISRUPTION TO RAIL SERVICES THAT WOULD INCONVENIENCE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE," HE ADDED.

/Diagram



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TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO DISCUSS THE TWO ISSUES OF SEATING CAPACITY FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF COACHES.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT AT 2.30 PM.

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SCOUTING GOOD FOR INFORMAL EDUCATION

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THE SCOUT MOVEMENT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST UNIFORMED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD AND HAS PROVED ITS WORTH IN MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND CULTURES OVER MANY GENERATIONS, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT A FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY AT TAI TAM SCOUT HOSTEL, MR LI SAID SCOUTING WAS A FORM OF INFORMAL EDUCATION, WHICH COMPLEMENTED THE EDUCATION RECEIVED AT HOME AND IN SCHOOL.

"ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR ITS SUCCESS LIES IN THE CHALLENGE WHICH IT PROVIDES AND THE SENSE OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT WHICH IT OFFERS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE," HE SAID.

"ITS PROGRAMMES COMBINE ADVENTURE WITH SELF-DISCIPLINE AND EXCITEMENT WITH A SENSE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS."

NOTING THAT REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO DEVELOP IN HONG KONG, MR LI SAID, "IT IS OUR PRIMARY TASK AND RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

"IN PARTICULAR, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNGER GENERATION TO DEVELOP A GREATER INTEREST IN AND A GREATER COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY.

"I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION, WITH ITS WIDE NETWORK, ITS LONG AND SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE AND ITS DEVOTION AND DEDICATION, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS EDUCATIONAL PROCESS,"

MR LI SAID THE TAI TAM SCOUT HOSTEL WAS DESIGNED MAINLY TO PROVIDE INDOOR ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BOTH SCOUTS AND NON-SCOUTS, WHO WISHED TO USE THE CAMP SITE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

/THE HOSTEL

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THE HOSTEL IS BEING BUILT WITH FUNDS RAISED BY THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION'S HONG KONG ISLAND REGION AND ITS SEVEN DISTRICTS, WITH GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE BRADBURY CHARITABLE TRUST AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

MR LI EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION FOR WHAT IT HAD DONE AND WHAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, MOST OF WHOM WERE IN FACT STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS.

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EMPLOYERS GIVEN LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT NEW YEAR'S DAY AND THE SECOND AND THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH FALL ON FEBRUARY 17, 18 AND 19, ARE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$11,500 A MONTH ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAYS AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAYS OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A NORMAL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH CAN BE BETWEEN 28 AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT
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MORE THAN 1,000 SAI KUNG RESIDENTS TODAY (SUNDAY) ATTENDED THE ANNUAL CONCERT OF THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR AT THE SAI KUNG JOCKEY CLUB TOWN HALL.

ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND SPONSORED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, THE ANNUAL CONCERT WAS AIMED AT DISPLAYING THE CHOIR'S PROGRESS IN THE PAST YEAR, PROMOTING LOCAL PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN SINGING AND FOSTERING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

PERFORMANCES WERE ALSO GIVEN BY THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND THE ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE STUDENTS' CHOIR.

THE SAI KUNG CHILDREN'S CHOIR WAS FORMED IN 1979 BY A GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTS TO PROVIDE MUSIC TRAINING FOR TALENTED CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE CHOIR HAS RECEIVED MUCH SUPPORT FROM VARIOUS BODIES SUCH AS THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MUSIC OFFICE AS WELL AS SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

AT PRESENT, THE CHOIR HAS ABOUT 100 MEMBERS WHO ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGES. CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 16 YEARS OLD ARE IN THE SENIOR GROUP, WHILE THOSE BETWEEN SIX AND 11 ARE IN THE JUNIOR GROUP.

THEY RECEIVE TRAINING IN SINGING AND ATTEND CLASSES IN PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS.

THE MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN PART IN MANY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SINGING CONTESTS, MUSIC CAMPS, ANNUAL CONCERTS, AND RECREATIONAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS VISITS TO TUNG LUNG ISLAND AND SHEUNG YIU VILLAGE.

A COLLECTION OF THE SONGS SUNG BY THE CHOIR, KNOWN AS THE "SAI KUNG SUITE", WAS ISSUED IN 1982 AND HAS GAINED WIDE APPLAUSE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS. THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE SUITE IS NOW BEING PREPARED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED AROUND APRIL AND MAY.

CHILDREN LIVING OR STUDYING IN SAI KUNG WHO ARE UNDER 16 YEARS OLD AND HAVE GREAT INTEREST IN SINGING ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE CHOIR.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE ON 3-7924455.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THA FIRES
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) MORNING TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE RECENT FIRES IN THE YUEN CHAU KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

DB MEMBER MR CHAN HON-YING WILL ASK WHY SOME FIRE HOSES THERE HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE INEFFECTIVE AND WHETHER THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT CARRIES OUT REGULAR CHECKS ON FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES IN THA'S. HE ALSO WANTS TO KNOW WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS PLANS TO ALLOCATE SOME 400 VACANT UNITS IN THE YUEN CHAU KOK THA TO THOSE IN NEED.

ANOTHER DB MEMBER, MR LAU KONG-WAH, WILL ENQUIRE ABOUT MEASURES TO PREVENT BURGLARY IN THE TRIDENT BLOCKS OF POK HONG ESTATE, FUNG SHING COURT, MEI SHING COURT AND HIN KENG ESTATE.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF HAWKING ACTIVITIES ON FOOTBRIDGES LINKING SHA TIN CENTRE AND LUCKY PLAZA; THE INSTALLATION OF "EMERGENCY HELPLINES" ALONG THE CYCLETRACK AND IN SOME REMOTE PLACES; THE PROPOSED MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 1988-89; AND THE BUDGET ESTIMATES AND APPLICATION FOR FUNDS IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REPORT ON A THA QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY; NOTES OF MEETINGS OF THE "CONCERN OF TEMPORARY HOUSING GROUP" AND THE "PRIVATE HOUSING WORKING GROUP"; AND REPORTS BY OTHER WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE COMMITTEE.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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PUBLIC REMINDED NOT TO CUT TREES
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RESIDENTS WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED NOT TO CUT ANY TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR DECORATIVE USE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR C.W. LAI, SAID CUTTING TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE FOREST AND COUNTRYSIDE ORDINANCE.

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"CONTRAVENTION OF THE ORDINANCE MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS HAVE BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, SIX PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED LAST YEAR FOR CUTTING TREES AND PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

"SOME OF THESE CASES INVOLVED FLOWERING BRANCHES OF TIU CHUNG TREES WHICH ARE SOUGHT AFTER AS ORNAMENTAL FLOWER DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR," HE ADDED.

MR LAI SAID WILD FLOWERS AND TREES ARE BEST APPRECIATED IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT AND SHOULD NOT BE PICKED OR CUT.

HE APPEALED FOR PUBLIC CO-OPERATION TO REPORT SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO THE NEAREST COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

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CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN IN KOWLOON CITY
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A CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN IN KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 10) TO DEAL WITH REFUSE DISCARDED BY HOUSEHOLDS PREPARING FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE CAMPAIGN, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE, IS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE IS NOT MARRED BY LARGE QUANTITIES OF REFUSE LITTERING PUBLIC PLACES.

THE CLEAN-UP WILL BE LAUNCHED AT 10 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) AT THE CHEUNG NING STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT, TO KWA WAN.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WILL BE URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR PAO PING-WING; KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG; AND THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, RESPECTIVELY MR TANG TAI-CHUEN AND WONG CHI-KEUNG.

WINNERS OF A CLEAN BUILDING COMPETITION WILL BE PRESENTED PRIZES AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT YEAR-END CLEAN-UP AT 10 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) AT THE CHEUNG NING STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINT (NEAR SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD), TO KWA WAN.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

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COVERED BAZAAR FOR JADE HAWKERS

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A COVERED BAZAAR FOR JADE HAWKERS IS TO BE BUILT AT KANSU STREET, YAU MA TEI.

OCCUPYING 1,850 SQUARE METRES, THE BAZAAR WILL BE BUILT IN THE FORM OF A STEEL STRUCTURE AND PROVIDE SPACE FOR 460 JADE STALLS.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE TWO SWITCH ROOMS AND TWO PUMP ROOMS.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE AFFECTED HAWKERS TO OPERATE FROM A BASKETBALL COURT AT THE JUNCTION OF SHANGHAI STREET AND PUBLIC SQUARE STREET DURING THE YEAR-LONG CONSTRUCTION PERIOD BEGINNING IN APRIL.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO BE CLOSED AT NIGHT

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A SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TAI HO ROAD AND SAI LAU KOK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY FROM 1.15 AM TO 5.45 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 9) AND WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 10).

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE. AFFECTED VEHICLES, INCLUDING KMB ROUTE NO. 598, WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA SAI LAU KOK ROAD.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

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WATER CUTS IN SAU MAU PING, SAN PO KONG
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAU MAU PING WILL BE TURNED OFF ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 10) AND THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 11), FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

ON WEDNESDAY, THE AREA AFFECTED COVERS SAU MING ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PING ROAD TO SAU MAU PATH, SAU MAU PING ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF SAU MING ROAD TO SAU MAU PATH, SAU MAU PATH AND BLOCKS 33-41, SAU MAU PING ESTATE, INCLUDING SAU PO STREET.

ON THURSDAY, THE SUSPENSION AFFECTS SAU MAU PATH, SAU MING ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PATH TO THE JUNCTION OF HIU KWONG STREET, AND HIU KWONG STREET FROM THE JUNCTION OF SAU MING ROAD TO THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PING ROAD.

THE SUSPENSION ALSO AFFECTS SAU MAU PING ROAD FROM THE JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PATH TO THE JUNCTION OF HIU KWONG STREET, INCLUDING BLOCKS 20-32, SAU MAU PING ESTATE.

IN ADDITION, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 12), FOR LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TSEUK LUK STREET, CHOI HUNG ROAD, SZE MEI STREET, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST AND KING TAI STREET.

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