



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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IMPROVED STATUS OF HOKLAS

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THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED ON FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HONG KONG LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SCHEME (HOKLAS) AND THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT ACCREDITATION SERVICE (NAMAS) OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE STATUS OF HOKLAS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF LABORATORY TESTING.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR K.Y. YEUNG, AND DR PAUL DEAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UK NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY (NPL), FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, AND BY MR JOHN SUMMERFIELD, HEAD OF NAMAS, AND MR ERNEST EVANS, DEPUTY HEAD OF HOKLAS, ON BEHALF OF THE SCHEMES.

IT IS ONLY THE EIGHTH SIMILAR-TYPE MOU BETWEEN THE MAJOR SCHEMES OF THE WORLD, SHOWING THAT HOKLAS'S REPUTATION HAS GAINED IN STATURE WORLDWIDE.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, HOKLAS-ENDORSED TEST CERTIFICATES WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NAMAS CERTIFICATES WILL BE ACCEPTED IN HONG KONG WITHOUT RESORTING TO FURTHER TESTING OF PRODUCTS. THIS MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF THE SCHEME BY BOTH PARTIES HAS FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOKLAS AND, IN THE LONG RUN, HOKLAS'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NAMAS MAY LEAD TO ACCEPTANCE BY OTHER EUROPEAN SOVEREIGN COMMUNITY STATES AND POSSIBLY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

HOKLAS IS A MATURE QUALITY SERVICE BUILT ON OVERALL COMPETENCY AND THE INTERGRITY OF TESTING AND IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EXISTING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

HOKLAS-ACCREDITED LABORATORIES OFFER SERVICES TO MANUFACTURERS FOR THE PROPER TESTING OF THEIR PRODUCTS, GIVING ASSURANCE OF THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS AND SAFETY REGULATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY ARE BEING EXPORTED.

ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THERE ARE AT PRESENT 20 ACCREDITED LOCAL LABORATORIES, PERFORMING A WIDE RANGE OF TESTING. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BY NEXT MARCH THE NUMBER OF ACCREDITED LABORATORIES COULD BE OVER 30.

LABORATORIES ARE ACCREDITED ONLY AFTER A METICULOUS ASSESSMENT PROCESS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED VERY SERIOUSLY.

LABORATORIES THAT ARE UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH HOKLAS CRITERIA ARE NOT ACCREDITED AND THOSE THAT ARE ACCREDITED AND SUBSEQUENTLY FAIL TO MAINTAIN THEIR OBLIGATIONS ARE SUSPENDED FROM THE SCHEME, MR EVANS SAID.

"MANUFACTURERS SHOULD USE HOKLAS-ACCREDITED LABORATORIES TO SEEK THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION THAT THEIR PRODUCTS COMPLY WITH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS DEMANDED BY THEIR CUSTOMERS," HE SAID.

/"THE PRODUCTION

"THE PRODUCTION OF A HOKLAS-ENDORSED CERTIFICATE MIGHT ALSO PROVE TO ONE'S ADVANTAGE SHOULD MANUFACTURERS BE FACED WITH A PRODUCT LIABILITY LAW SUIT IN FUTURE."

HOKLAS IS A VOLUNTARY, PRODUCT-BASED SCHEME, OPEN TO ANY LABORATORY THAT PERFORMS OBJECTIVE TESTING, FALLING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEME AND MEETING THE HOKLAS CRITERIA OF COMPETENCE.

HOKLAS WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN MAY 1985 WITH THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF UPGRADING THE STANDARD OF TESTING AND MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORIES IN HONG KONG AND TO PROVIDE ACCREDITED LABORATORIES WITH OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR COMPETENCE.

IT WAS ALSO DEVELOPED WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE ACCREDITATION OF TESTING SERVICES SUPPORTING THE MANUFACTURING-FOR-EXPORT SECTOR OF INDUSTRY.

THE SCHEME HAS, HOWEVER, EXPANDED ITS SCOPE TO ADDRESS THE OVERALL TESTING NEEDS OF THE TERRITORY.

SENIOR STAFF OF HOKLAS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TESTING AUTHORITIES, AUSTRALIA (NATA) HAVE ALSO RECENTLY ASSESSED EACH OTHER'S SCHEMES WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING AN MOU. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.

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UNDUE DEDUCTION OF WAGES PROHIBITED
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EMPLOYERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT UNDULY DEDUCT THE WAGES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AGAINST THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, OTHERWISE THEY MAY BE PROSECUTED.

THIS FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH THE OWNER OF A BOUTIQUE WAS FINED \$2,000 BY A WESTERN MAGISTRATE FOR DEDUCTING THE WAGES OF A SALESGIRL WHO RESIGNED.

ALTHOUGH THE CASE WAS EARLIER SETTLED AT THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, PROSECUTION WAS TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE EMPLOYER WHO ILLEGALLY DEDUCTED \$1,385 FROM THE WAGES OF THE EMPLOYEE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, DEDUCTIONS MAY ONLY BE MADE FOR ABSENCE FROM WORK, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION SUPPLIED BY THE EMPLOYER, DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF THE EMPLOYER'S GOODS OR PROPERTY UP TO A LIMIT OF \$300, AND FOR THE RECOVERY OF ANY ADVANCE OR OVER-PAYMENT OF WAGES OR LOANS.

"MOREOVER, THE TOTAL OF ALL DEDUCTIONS MADE IN ANY ONE WAGE PERIOD, EXCEPT THOSE FOR ABSENCE FROM WORK, MUST NOT EXCEED ONE HALF OF THE WAGES PAYABLE.

"ANY EMPLOYER GUILTY OF THE OFFENCE WILL BE LIABLE, ON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000," THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

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SHA TIN COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS POLLUTION GENERATED BY TUNNEL WORKS
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4) TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS GENERATED BY WORKS TO BE STARTED SOON AT SHA TIN WAI ROAD AS PART OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL NETWORK PROJECT.

ONE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS IS CONCERNED THAT THE WORKS MIGHT GENERATE AIR POLLUTION AND NOISE NUISANCE AFFECTING RESIDENTS IN TO SHEK AND CHAP WAI KON VILLAGES AS WELL AS PATIENTS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

THE PROBLEM OF CRIMINALS LURKING ON TOP OF ELEVATORS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS OF STAIRS TO THE FOOTBRIDGE AT TAI WAI WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND THE APPROVED ESTIMATES FOR 1989-90 WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4). THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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TRAINING COURSE IN EASTERN ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT
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A TRAINING COURSE HAS BEEN ORGANISED TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN EASTERN DISTRICT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

THE TRAINING COURSE HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF MOTIVATING RESIDENTS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS.

EXPERTS IN THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT FIELD WILL SPEAK ON TOPICS SUCH AS DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS' INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AND PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING AN OWNERS' INCORPORATION MEETING.

THE CURRICULUM WILL ALSO COVER ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IN PUBLIC AREAS, FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES AND BUILDING SECURITY.

/THE COURSE

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THE COURSE WILL BE HELD OVER FOUR EVENINGS ON MAY 2, 5, 9 AND 16 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AT 880-886 KING'S ROAD, FROM 8 PM TO 9.30 PM.

AN ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED TO EACH PARTICIPANT WHO COMPLETES THE COURSE WITH AN ATTENDANCE RATE OF AT LEAST 75 PER CENT.

A NOMINAL FEE OF \$10 WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE COURSE IN WHICH UP TO 60 PEOPLE MAY ENROL.

COURSE OUTLINES AND APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT TO OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS IN THE DISTRICT. COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE BY APRIL 20.

RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE TRAINING COURSE CAN TELEPHONE THE EASTERN DISTRICT BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM ON 5-630181, EXT 40.

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS TO GET SUBSIDIES
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TWENTY-SIX PROJECTS TO BE ORGANISED FOR THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WILL RECEIVE SUBSIDIES TOTALLING \$756,022 OFFERED UNDER A COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION SCHEME FOR 1989-90.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION SAID THIS AFTER THE VETTING OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE SCHEME WAS COMPLETED.

THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR RECEIVED 71 APPLICATIONS FOR A SUBSIDY UNDER THE SCHEME WHICH IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS TO ORGANISE CROSS-DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TO ENABLE MORE COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHEME, THE COMMITTEE HAD RAISED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUBSIDIES FROM ABOUT \$600,000 IN 1988-89 TO MORE THAN \$700,000 THIS YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPROVED THIS YEAR, AT 26, WAS AN INCREASE OF FIVE ON LAST YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF THE APPROVED PROJECTS FOCUSED ON ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AS WELL AS INCREASING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PRESENT SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SYSTEMS IN THE TERRITORY.

/AMONG THE

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AMONG THE 26 PROJECTS APPROVED, 19 WILL OFFER A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION. THERE ARE ALSO TWO EXHIBITIONS, TWO EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTIONS, TWO TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND A SEMINAR.

THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY GRANTED BY THE COMMITTEE TO AN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT THIS YEAR WAS \$50,500.

THE APPROVED PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THE OUTSTANDING CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT AWARD TO BE HELD IN MAY NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMITTEE BEGAN TO INFORM APPLICANTS OF THE RESULTS YESTERDAY (SATURDAY).

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NEW PROJECTS FOR WONG TAI SIN SQUATTER AREA
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MEMBERS OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S SQUATTER AREAS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4) TO DISCUSS NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1989-90.

THE PROJECTS ALL INVOLVE IMPROVEMENTS TO SQUATTER AREAS IN THE DISTRICT AND AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$500,000.

THE PROGRESS REPORT ON MINOR WORKS AND A LIST OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN TUNG YEUNG VILLAGE WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO STUDY THE 16TH REPORT ON CASES OF LANDSLIP/MUDSLIP, STRUCTURAL FAILURE, FIRE AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S SQUATTER AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING, WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, FOURTH FLOOR, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KING FUK STREET.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ALLOCATION OF DB FUNDS

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MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION OF ABOUT \$1.1 MILLION IN DB FUNDS FOR VARIOUS COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN 1989-90 AT A MEETING TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE ALLOCATION OF \$85,000 FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A "BLOCK ALLOCATION SCHEME". THE SCHEME ENTRUSTS THE DISTRICT'S AREA COMMITTEES WITH THE TASK OF VETTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS OF UP TO \$1,800 TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO ORGANISE MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS.

MEMBERS WILL CONSIDER A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR DB FUNDS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF 1989 ABERDEEN DRAGON BOAT RACES AND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED BY LOCAL BODIES.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL FORM A VETTING SUB-COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A REPORT OF A SURVEY ON LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF YOUTHS IN ANOTHER DISTRICT -- EASTERN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN. THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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SCHOOLS, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN SAI KUNG ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR JOCKEY CLUB FUNDS TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMES.

THE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE HELD IN JULY AND AUGUST WITH THE THEME OF SHARING THE JOY OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY. YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN SIX AND 25 WILL BE THE MAIN TARGET OF ALL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED THIS SUMMER.

/THE PURPOSES

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THE PURPOSES OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE TO ENHANCE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AMONG LOCAL YOUTHS AND TO ENRICH THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO HELP PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTAND THE ESSENCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIP AND ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR ABILITIES AND POTENTIAL.

A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP TO CO-ORDINATE AND ALLOCATE RESOURCES FOR SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS WHICH DO NOT WISH TO APPLY FOR THE JOCKEY CLUB FUNDS MAY OPT TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS. HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT APPLY FOR THE TWO FUNDS AT THE SAME TIME FOR THE SAME ACTIVITY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO MR CHIM CHUN-YUEN ON 3-7924455 (EXT. 25). THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS IS APRIL 15.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YUEN LONG FOR CHING MING

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ON TAI SHU HA NULLAH-BUND ROAD IN YUEN LONG DURING CHING MING FESTIVAL, THE NORTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD FROM TAI KEI LENG TO TAI SHU HA WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND WHILE THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM ON THAT DAY (APRIL 5).

DURING THIS PERIOD, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 73 (YUEN LONG TOWN - SUNG SHAN SAN TSUEN) WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO YUEN LONG TOWN.

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WINNERS' PERFORMANCE CONCLUDES DANCE CONTEST

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PRIZE-WINNING TEAMS IN THE 18TH OPEN DANCE CONTEST WILL RECEIVE PRIZES AND GIVE A PERFORMANCE IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL ON TUESDAY EVENING (APRIL 4).

NINETEEN TEAMS, WHICH WON OUT OVER 47 OTHER TEAMS IN THE TERRITORY-WIDE CONTEST HELD IN JANUARY, WILL PERFORM.

THE OPEN DANCE CONTEST WAS ORGANISED BY KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT CULTURE AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND SPONSORSHIP BY THE KWUN TONG ROTARY CLUB.

OFFICIATING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR GREGORY LEUNG; KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRIS WAN; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS MRS ELSIE TU AND MR POON CHI-FAI; PRESIDENT OF THE KWUN TONG ROTARY CLUB, MR CHOI SIU-WAI, AND PRESIDENT OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, MR NG PING-TAK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 18TH OPEN DANCE CONTEST PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AND WINNERS' PERFORMANCE TO BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL CONCERT HALL, ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4), BEGINNING AT 7.30 PM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD COLLECT ADMISSION TICKETS FROM THE RECEPTION TABLE OUTSIDE THE VENUE.

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SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY IN TWO DISTRICTS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN KOWLOON CITY PREMISES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 4) TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT AN AREA BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, NGA TSIN WAI ROAD AND NGA TSIN LONG ROAD.

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN KWAI CHUNG PREMISES WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 6) TO 7 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES ALONG LAI KING HILL ROAD BETWEEN SOUTH KWAI CHUNG HOSPITAL AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

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