



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
JANUARY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND	1
HK HAS MUCH TO OFFER, VISITING U.S. MAYORS TOLD	4
DEPARTMENT SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND SERVICES ...	5
TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN	6
REFRESHER COURSES IN ENGLISH FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS	7
CHILDREN'S PLAYS GET GOOD RESPONSE	7
TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN NORTH POINT	8
PARKING METERS ALONG AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD	8

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

- 1 -

JANUARY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED STATISTICS FROM THE MONTHLY SURVEY FOR JANUARY 1983.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES (CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979) AS WELL AS THE 43 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS.

AS THE SAMPLE WAS NOT DRAWN ON A RANDOM BASIS, THE RESULTS ON MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE MIGHT NOT REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, BUT SHOULD GIVE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

FOR ALL THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED TAKEN TOGETHER, EMPLOYMENT DECLINED SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY 1983, COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. THE DECLINE OCCURRED MAINLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND THE +OTHERS+ CATEGORY OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ON ACCOUNT OF LABOUR TURNOVER.

PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN ALL THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED AS BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY WERE GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN A NUMBER OF FACTORIES AT THE END OF JANUARY PRECEDING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN FEBRUARY.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR AND IN THE HOTELS SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT DECREASED OWING TO THE RETRENCHMENT OF EMPLOYEES BY SEVERAL COMPANIES.

SIMILAR TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, PAYROLL AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND MOST OF THE SERVICES SECTORS ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE OF YEAR-END AWARDS. HOWEVER, PER CAPITA EARNINGS DROPPED SLIGHTLY IN THE BANKS SURVEYED BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAD ALREADY ISSUED BONUSES AND DOUBLE PAY TO THEIR EMPLOYEES IN THE PRECEDING MONTH.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS), AS REPORTED BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED FOR JANUARY 1983, INCREASED SLIGHTLY AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WHEREAS THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WAS THE ONLY INDUSTRY WITH A DECLINE IN THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND.

/FOR ALL

FOR ALL THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED TAKEN TOGETHER, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK BY OPERATIVES REMAINED UNCHANGED IN JANUARY 1983, COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH. HOWEVER, IT DECREASED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY ON ACCOUNT OF INSUFFICIENT ORDERS RECEIVED BY A FEW FACTORIES SURVEYED, EVEN THOUGH THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE INDUSTRY SHOWED AN INCREASE. THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING AN INCREASE IN ORDERS-ON-HAND IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY DID NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, PER CAPITA EARNINGS AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS ARE SHOWN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TABLE.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1983 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7212832).

(A) EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

<u>INDUSTRY/SERVICE</u>	<u>PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED</u>			<u>PER CAPITA EARNINGS</u>			<u>PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR JANUARY 1983 (HK\$)</u>
	<u>(PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)</u>						
	<u>NOV 1982</u>	<u>DEC 1982</u>	<u>JAN 1983</u>	<u>NOV 1982</u>	<u>DEC 1982</u>	<u>JAN 1983</u>	
<u>MANUFACTURING</u>	-1	-1	-1	2	4	16	2 729
FOOD AND DRINKS	-2	-1	*	2	5	54	4 914
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	*	*	5	4	12	2 335
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	*	-3	*	-1	12	21	2 816
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-3	-2	-2	-1	-6	22	2 069
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-1	*	*	6	-10	24	2 368
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-3	-2	*	5	3	13	2 633

/OTHERS

- 3 -

OTHERS	-1	*	-2	-1	6	5	3 328
<u>CONSTRUCTION **</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>4 781</u>
<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>-3</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>6 335</u>
BANKS	*	*	*	*	64	-2	5 740
HOTELS	-1	-1	-2	2	55	23	4 716
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*	*	-5	9	51	6 357
OTHERS	*	*	2	-3	12	35	8 380

(B) ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>(PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH)</u>			<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND (IN TERMS OF MONTHS) FOR JANUARY 1983</u>
	<u>NOV 1982</u>	<u>DEC 1982</u>	<u>JAN 1983</u>	
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	*	4	1	4.81
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	9	*	*	2.30
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-7	*	5	2.82
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-16	11	-2	2.05
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	*	1	*	4.38
OTHERS	-1	3	1	3.55
ALL ABOVE INDUSTRIES	-1	2	1	3.82

* CHANGES WITHIN + OR - 0.5 PER CENT.

** PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS NOT INCLUDED.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

- 4 -

HK HAS MUCH TO OFFER, VISITING U.S. MAYORS TOLD

HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO OFFER AS A MARKET IN ITSELF, AS AN ENTREPOT AND AS A BASE FOR INDUSTRIAL JOINT VENTURES OR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, THE HONG KONG TRADE COMMISSIONER (DESIGNATE) TO THE UNITED STATES, MR BILL DORWARD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS CURRENTLY HELD IN HONG KONG, MR DORWARD ASKED THE DELEGATES NOT TO LOOK ON HONG KONG AS MERELY A SOURCE OF INVESTMENT.

+LOOK ON IT AS A POTENTIAL PARTNER IN THE SPREAD OF YOUR BUSINESS INTERESTS IN THIS, THE MOST DYNAMIC PART OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

MR DORWARD SAID THAT BY THIS HE MEANT WAYS OF SHARING AND THEREFORE INCREASING PRODUCTION; AND IMPROVED CASH FLOWS, ALLOWING FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES, WHILE STILL MAINTAINING A WORLD POSITION IN FAR FROM OBSOLETE MODELS.

+I SPEAK OF MARKETING POSSIBILITIES IN AREAS ALIEN TO SO MANY OF YOUR PRODUCERS WHO WILL FIND IN HONG KONG THE BRIDGE WHICH PERHAPS THEY NEED,+ HE SAID.

MR DORWARD SAID HONG KONG WAS THE THIRD FINANCIAL CENTRE OF THE WORLD AFTER NEW YORK AND LONDON AND WAS ALSO THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF CLOTHING, TOYS AND WATCHES.

HONG KONG ALSO HAD ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST HARBOURS, AIRLINE COMMUNICATIONS OF A VERY HIGH ORDER, AND THE THIRD LARGEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD AFTER NEW YORK AND ROTTERDAM, HE SAID.

HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, MR DORWARD ADDED, HAD BEEN GROWING AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 12 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS UNTIL THE WORLD RECESSION CAUGHT UP WITH IT IN 1982.

+BUT THE COMMUNICATIONS HONG KONG PROVIDES ARE MORE THAN THE PHYSICAL - AIRLINES, SHIPS, CONTAINER PORT AND THE LIKE - OR INFRASTRUCTURAL. UNIQUELY, HONG KONG OFFERS A POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN PEOPLES OF WIDELY VARYING INTERESTS AND PHILOSOPHIES AND CULTURES; AND BY VIRTUE OF ITS LONG COSMOPOLITAN EXPERIENCE, IT CAN INTERPRET ONE TO THE OTHER TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL.+

+I DO NOT USE THE WORD INTERPRET IN THE NARROW LINGUISTIC SENSE - ALTHOUGH THERE IS THAT TOO - BUT IN THE SENSE OF BRIDGING THE COMPREHENSION GAP BETWEEN BUSINESSMEN AND TRADE OFFICIALS FROM OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE EARTH,+ MR DORWARD SAID.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

- 5 -

DEPARTMENT SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND SERVICES

THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND ITS SERVICE TO COPE WITH THE EVER RISING NEEDS FOR SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MR CHRIS WONG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR WONG, WHO WAS SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK, STRESSED THAT THE PROVISION OF AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES IN NEW TOWNS AND PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAD ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR CONCERNS.

DURING THE TALK, MR WONG ALSO OUTLINED THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MUSIC OFFICE.

MR WONG SAID THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE STARTED ON A VERY MODEST FOOTING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND, INDEED, IN THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG.

ACTING ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, THE RSS WHICH WAS THEN A SMALL SECTION WITHIN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, STARTED OPERATION IN OCTOBER 1974 IN SIX DISTRICTS.

ONLY ONE OF THOSE DISTRICTS — YUEN LONG — FELL WITHIN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE RECALLED.

MR WONG SAID THE RSS NOW OPERATES IN 19 OFFICES, WHICH INCLUDE NINE DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS THREE FITNESS CENTRES, TWO CAMPS AND ONE WATER SPORTS CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+UNTIL WE CAN REASONABLY CLAIM THAT WE ARE ABLE TO MEET THE MAIN THRUST OF PUBLIC DEMAND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE COMPLACENT OVER OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR,+ HE SAID.

+I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR SEARCH IN THE WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPANDING OUR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY TO COPE WITH THE EVER RISING NEEDS FOR RECREATION AND SPORT OPPORTUNITIES BOTH IN THE N.T. AND IN THE URBAN AREAS,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RCD'S TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE WAS AVAILABLE NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BUT ALSO THE VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF RECREATION FACILITIES PLANNING.

ON THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE, MR WONG SAID IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1977 WITH THE AIMS OF RUNNING A FULL-SCALE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING PROGRAMME IN BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE MUSIC; PROMOTING THE INTEREST AND STANDARD OF MUSIC, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION; AND ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING IN THE ORGANISATION OF MUSIC ACTIVITIES IN ALL DISTRICTS.

/THE MUSIC

THE MUSIC OFFICE NOW RUNS ABOUT 600 INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING CLASSES IN BOTH WESTERN AND CHINESE INSTRUMENTS FOR ABOUT 2 600 STUDENTS.

+WE HOPE TO OPEN MORE CLASSES IN THE COMING MONTHS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE APPROVED TARGET OF 5 000 STUDENTS,+ MR WONG SAID.

THE MUSIC OFFICE HAS FORMED AND MANAGES 23 ORCHESTRAS, BANDS AND CHOIRS, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 1 200 PEOPLE.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE SERVES TSUEN WAN, SHA TIN, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS WHILE THE NEW YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE WHICH WILL OPEN THIS WEEKEND WILL SERVE YUEN LONG, NORTH, TUEN MUN AND TAI PO DISTRICTS.

A TOTAL OF 206 INSTRUMENTAL TRAINING CLASSES IN BOTH CHINESE AND WESTERN INSTRUMENTS ARE BEING HELD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR 439 PRIMARY AND 433 SECONDARY STUDENTS.

MAJOR FUNCTIONS BEING PLANNED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN 1983-84 INCLUDE THE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (A) AND THE YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA'S QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT IN JUNE 1983, THE DISTRICT YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRAS' COMBINED CONCERT WITH CHINESE FOLK SINGING CHILDREN ENSEMBLE IN JANUARY 1984, AND THE TRAINEES' CHINESE ORCHESTRA CONCERT IN MARCH 1984.

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TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN
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TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17).

FROM 10 AM ON THAT DAY, A SECTION OF THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY.

THE SECTION IS BETWEEN THE ACCESS ROAD'S JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD AND A POINT 60 METRES SOUTH OF THE BUS TERMINUS.

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY WITHIN THE ROAD SECTION.

MEANWHILE IN TUEN MUN, MING KUM ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17) TO 5 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR DRAINAGE WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PUI TO ROAD, TSUN WEN ROAD AND SHEK PAI TAU ROAD.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

- 7 -

REFRESHER COURSES IN ENGLISH FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS
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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO ATTEND TWO REFRESHER COURSES AIMED AT HELPING THEM IMPROVE THEIR FLUENCY AND CONFIDENCE IN THE USE OF SPOKEN ENGLISH.

THE TWO COURSES WILL BE RUN BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND WILL BE HELD FROM APRIL 11 TO JULY 7, COVERING 90 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION.

THE TEACHERS WILL BE INTRODUCED TO A RANGE OF COMMUNICATIVE TECHNIQUES, AND SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE RECENTLY-REVISED CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SYLLABUS IN ENGLISH (PRIMARY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. THE MORNING COURSE WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM AND THE OTHER FROM 2 PM TO 4.30 PM.

THERE WILL BE 150 PLACES FOR THESE COURSES, AND PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO TEACHERS WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF THE ENGLISH SUBJECT IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL, 253-261 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

SIMILAR COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE ASKED TO NOMINATE TEACHERS FOR THE COURSES AND TO SUBMIT THEIR NOMINATIONS NOT LATER THAN MARCH 23 TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR, ENGLISH SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LEE GARDENS, FIFTH FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AT THE ENGLISH SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE ON 5-8392442.

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CHILDREN'S PLAYS GET GOOD RESPONSE
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CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER FILLED THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL IN SHA TIN THIS AFTERNOON AS THEY WATCHED TWO ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PLAYS BY THE CHUNG YING THEATRE.

THE TWO CANTONESE PLAYS, +STRONGER THAN SUPERMAN+ AND +WOLF-BOY+, ARE PART OF THE SHA TIN DRAMA MONTH PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE DRAMA ART AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING YOUNG CHILDREN.

ABOUT 300 PUPILS, BETWEEN THE AGES OF NINE AND 12, WERE INVITED TO THE PLAY AND MOST OF THEM SAID IT WAS THEIR FIRST TIME THEY HAD SEEN A STAGE PERFORMANCE.

/THE TWO

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983.

- 8 -

THE TWO PLAYS WILL BE STAGED IN THE LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT ON THURSDAY (MARCH 17) FOR ANOTHER 300 PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

THEY WILL BE PUT ON FOR THE PUBLIC ON APRIL 6 AND 7 AT THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

AN AMERICAN COMEDY, +AH! WILDERNESS+ BY EUGENE O'NEILL WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE THESPIANS DRAMA SOCIETY AND STUDENTS FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY EACH EVENING FROM MARCH 24 TO 26.

TICKETS AT \$8 AND \$12 ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW HALL.

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TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION IN NORTH POINT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO PREMISES IN TWO AREAS OF NORTH POINT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVERAL HOURS FROM FRIDAY EVENING (MARCH 18) UNTIL 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

IN THE FIRST AREA, THE SUSPENSION WILL LAST FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY UNTIL 6 AM ON SATURDAY. THE AFFECTED PREMISES WILL BE NOS. 104-216 TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD, AND THOSE IN YEE KING ROAD, CLOUD VIEW ROAD, BRAEMAR HILL ROAD, WAN TIN PATH AND NOS. 60-74 KAI YUEN STREET.

IN THE SECOND AREA, THE SUSPENSION WILL BE FROM 11 PM ON FRIDAY UNTIL 6 AM THE NEXT DAY AND THE AFFECTED PREMISES WILL BE THOSE BOUNDED BY THE EAST SIDE OF KING'S ROAD FROM TONG CHONG STREET TO JAVA ROAD, AND WILL INCLUDE TONG CHONG STREET, HOI WAN STREET, HOI TAI STREET, SEA FRONT AND THE SECTION OF JAVA ROAD FROM HEALTHY STREET EAST TO KING'S ROAD.

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PARKING METERS ALONG AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD
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A TOTAL OF 33 PARKING METERS WILL BE IN OPERATION ALONG AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD FROM THURSDAY (MARCH 17), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

AN HOURLY RATE OF \$2 WILL BE CHARGED DURING THE OPERATING PERIOD FROM 8 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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