



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS SECURE HK'S SUCCESS

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ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS WILL ENSURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS ONE OF THE GREAT SUCCESS STORIES AT THE HEART OF ASIA'S OWN SUCCESS STORY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

NOTING THAT EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE YEAR HAD INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SUCCESS WAS A REMINDER OF THE ENORMOUS UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, HE ATTRIBUTED THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS TO A NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING ITS COMMITMENT TO MARKET ECONOMICS.

"IT'S A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT TO YOU IN BUSINESS THAT WE THINK THAT YOU CAN DO YOUR JOB BETTER THAN WE COULD DO IT FOR YOU."

ANOTHER REASON IS HONG KONG'S POSITION AT THE GATEWAY OF THE ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL TRANSFORMATION WHICH IS TAKING PLACE WITH CHINA'S ECONOMY.

"ONE WHICH WE CAN HELP, AND ONE FROM WHICH WE CAN CONSIDERABLY BENEFIT AND ARE CONSIDERABLY BENEFITING," HE SAID.

HONG KONG HAD DONE WELL AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO WELL BECAUSE IT WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE LIVING ECONOMIC EXAMPLE OF FREE TRADE AND ITS BENEFITS, MR PATTEN SAID.

NOTING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SPEND A GOOD DEAL OF TIME NEXT YEAR ARGUING UNEQUIVOCALLY THE CASE FOR RENEWAL OF MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS FOR CHINA, MR PATTEN SAID: "I WILL DO THAT BOTH AS AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE AND AS AN ISSUE OF COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC EXPEDIENCY FOR US IN HONG KONG.

"I HOPE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG WILL BE JOINING US IN THAT ENDEAVOUR, JOINING US IN ARGUING IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE, THE CASE FOR MFN RENEWAL."

MR PATTEN ALSO CITED THE COMBINATION OF THE NATURAL ENTREPRENEURIALISM OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WITH THE RULE OF LAW WHICH HAD GIVEN HONG KONG ITS SYSTEM AND ITS WAY OF LIFE.

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NO SECRET NEGOTIATIONS: GOVERNOR

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A PRESS REPORT ABOUT BRITAIN HOLDING SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING IS NOT TRUE, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION LUNCH, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THERE ARE NO SECRET NEGOTIATIONS."

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS AND OTHER PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WERE STARTING TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS AS WELL.

"IN DUE COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO PUT PROPOSALS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THEY WILL BE DEBATED OVER, I GUESS, SEVERAL WEEKS AND MONTHS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

"I'M SURE THAT THE RESULT WHICH COMES OUT AT THE OTHER END WILL BE ONE WHICH REPRESENTS WHAT THE COMMUNITY JUDGES TO BE IN ITS BEST INTEREST.

"I'M SURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE CRITICAL AT THE MOMENT WILL FIND LESS TO CRITICISE WHEN THAT'S HAPPENED. BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED WHICH IS AFFECTING OR CHANGING THAT POSITION.

"I'VE SAID CONTINUALLY THAT I'M PREPARED TO GO ANYWHERE AT ANYTIME TO TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT ANY IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE, BUT SO FAR THAT HASN'T PROVED POSSIBLE."

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TRANSPORT STAFF GEARED UP TO BETTER SERVE THE PUBLIC

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT STAFF ARE GEARED UP TO BETTER THEIR SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME FOR LICENSING SERVICES AT A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE TODAY (MONDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, SAID STAFF OF THE FOUR LICENSING OFFICES HAD A LONG TRADITION OF HARD AND DEDICATED SERVICE.

"DESPITE THE 32 PER CENT INCREASE IN WORKLOAD WITHOUT ANY INCREASE IN STAFF DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, THEY ARE ALWAYS COMMITTED TO SERVING THE PUBLIC," MR HUI SAID.

"I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THEM TO CONTINUE THIS HIGH SPIRIT AND SUPPORT THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE SCHEME," HE ADDED.

/MR HUI

MR HUI SAID THE PLEDGE COVERED FOUR MAIN AREAS OF LICENSING SERVICES. THEY ARE:

- * THE FIRST ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE;
- * THE FIRST ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF FULL DRIVING LICENCE;
- * THE RENEWAL OF VEHICLE LICENCE; AND
- * THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

HE EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE SCHEME, LISTS OF THE PLEDGED TIME FOR PROCESSING WERE POSTED AT PROMINENT LOCATIONS AT THE FOUR LICENSING OFFICES IN CENTRAL, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG AND SHA TIN.

"THIS ENABLES CUSTOMERS TO SELECT THE BEST TIME SLOT WHICH SUITS THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS."

A DROP-IN BOX IS PROVIDED AT EACH OF THE LICENSING OFFICES TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FROM CUSTOMERS WHO DO NOT WISH TO WAIT.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AND NEW LICENCES WILL BE SENT BY REGISTERED POST WITHIN 14 WORKING DAYS, MR HUI SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE ON LICENSING WAS BEING UPGRADED.

"WE ARE TRYING OUT A NEW INTERACTIVE VOICE AND FAX RESPONSE SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS MORE THAN 10 INCOMING CALLS TO BE ANSWERED AT THE SAME TIME. IT WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE APPLICATION FORMS THROUGH THE FAX MACHINE," HE SAID.

TO MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS OF THE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY DURING PEAK HOURS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED TO MOVE THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE TO A BIGGER PLACE AND AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION IS BEING HUNTED.

"WE VALUE OUR CUSTOMERS' SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS. SIMPLE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED ON THE SPOT AND REPLIES TO MORE COMPLEX ONES WILL BE GIVEN WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS," MR HUI SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT IS SERVING ABOUT 460,000 REGISTERED VEHICLE OWNERS AND 1.2 MILLION DRIVERS.

LAST YEAR, THE 160 COUNTER STAFF IN THE FOUR LICENSING OFFICES PROCESSED ABOUT 2.5 MILLION LICENSING CASES.

THESE FIGURES SHOW HOW BUSY THE OFFICES ARE AND EXPLAINED WHY PEOPLE HAVE TO WAIT OVER THE COUNTER, PARTICULARLY DURING PEAK HOURS.

MR HUI POINTED OUT THAT A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

A SINGLE-QUEUE ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN ADOPTED SINCE JANUARY 1990, RESULTING IN MORE ORDERLY QUEUING AND MORE EVEN WAITING TIMES FOR PEOPLE.

BROADCASTING OF LIGHT MUSIC HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN ALL LICENSING OFFICES.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1991, THE HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE HAD BEEN RENOVATED TO GIVE A MORE PLEASANT SETTING.

THE DELETION OF THE DRIVER'S PHOTOGRAPH ON THE DRIVING LICENCE IN 1990 HAS ALSO RESULTED IN SHORTENED PROCESSING TIME OF A LICENCE.

IT ALSO MEANS THAT PEOPLE NO LONGER NEED TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF PRODUCING PHOTOGRAPHS.

FOLLOWING AN IMPROVEMENT IN COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR LICENSING OF DRIVERS AND VEHICLES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THE PROCESSING TIME FOR LICENCE APPLICATIONS HAS SHORTENED.

CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE NOW PRINTED ON DRIVING LICENCES, ENSURING ACCURACY AND REDUCING MANUAL WORK.

"OUR PLEDGE IS TO GIVE A CLEARER MESSAGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS OF THE APPROXIMATE WAITING TIMES REQUIRED, AND ENSURE THAT THEIR WAITING ENVIRONMENT IS MORE FRIENDLY AND COMFORTABLE, AND THAT THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND ENQUIRIES ARE SPEEDILY DEALT WITH," MR HUI SAID.

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PLAN TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC LINKS IN NW-NT
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AT A MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR DR TANG SHIU-TONG AND A GROUP OF YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TODAY (MONDAY), REASSURED THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE TRAFFIC SITUATION IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES.

MR LEUNG SAID THERE WERE PLANS TO IMPROVE FERRY AND BUS SERVICES IN THE REGION, TO WIDEN SECTIONS OF THE CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TO BUILD ADDITIONAL CLIMBING LANES IN UPHILL SECTIONS OF TUEN MUN HIGHWAY.

"WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED A JOINT DISTRICT BOARD/ADMINISTRATION WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER WHAT SHORT-TERM MEASURES ARE AVAILABLE TO RELIEVE THE PEAK-HOUR CONGESTION OF TUEN MUN HIGHWAY.

"THE WORKING GROUP WILL REPORT TO ME BY NEXT FEBRUARY. WE WILL CONSIDER ITS RECOMMENDATIONS CAREFULLY AND WHERE PRACTICABLE, INCLUDE THEM IN OUR ACTION PLAN.

"OF COURSE, THE LONGER-TERM SOLUTION LIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 3 (COUNTRY PARK SECTION) AND A POSSIBLE RAIL LINK TO NWNT," HE SAID.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN WORK FOR ROUTE 3 (COUNTRY PARK SECTION) IS IN HAND AND THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING INVITING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN BUILDING THIS MAJOR TRUNK ROAD, MR LEUNG SAID.

ON THE POSSIBLE RAIL LINK, MR LEUNG SAID THAT WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED VERY SOON.

"IT REMAINS OUR INTENTION TO RELEASE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS EARLY NEXT YEAR," MR LEUNG SAID.

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HEALTH PROGRAMMES FOR BETTER PATIENT CARE

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EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICES SHOULD BE TARGETED TOWARDS SPECIFIC DISEASES AND SPECIAL CLIENT GROUPS, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, DR LEE SAID THE NEW TARGET GROUPS FOR ACTION IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WERE STUDENTS, ELDERLY AND WOMEN.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE DISTINCTIVE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH HEALTH EDUCATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION.

HE SAID: "PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR IMPRESSIVE HEALTH INDICES."

HE THEN WENT ON TO OUTLINE THE DEPARTMENT'S FUTURE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMMES AIMING AT PROMOTING BETTER PATIENT CARE.

ON CLINIC PROJECTS, THE DIRECTOR SAID TWO NEW CLINICS IN TUEN MUN AND TIN SHUI WAI AND A NEW MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE IN NORTH DISTRICT WOULD BE OPENED NEXT YEAR.

NEW X-RAY FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT TAI PO JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND SERVICES IN 11 EXISTING CLINICS BE ENHANCED, HE ADDED.

A NEW STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN 1994, COVERING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF OPERATION.

HOWEVER, AS HONG KONG IS EXPERIENCING AN AGEING OF POPULATION, DR LEE SAID:

"THE TIMELY INTRODUCTION OF A HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTIVE CARE PROGRAMME FOR THE ELDERLY WOULD FULFIL THE GOALS OF ADDING YEARS TO LIFE AND LIFE TO YEARS."

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE HEALTH PROGRAMME WOULD BE OFFERED AT HEALTH CENTRES AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR ELDERLY AGED 65 AND ABOVE AND THE FIRST ONE WOULD BE SET UP IN EARLY 1994.

WHILE NOTING THAT THERE WAS PRESENTLY A GAP IN THE PROVISION OF PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICES TO THE MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN, THE DIRECTOR SAID THESE WOMEN WERE VULNERABLE TO DISEASES SUCH AS CANCER OF THE BREAST AND CERVIX.

"WHEN DETECTED THROUGH SCREENING, THESE DISEASES HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF CURE," DR LEE SAID.

"TO CATER FOR THEIR NEEDS, WE WILL BE SETTING UP WELL-WOMAN CLINICS, TARGETED AT WOMEN AGED 45 AND ABOVE WITH THE FIRST ONE ESTABLISHED AT THE LAM TIN POLYCLINIC BY END 1993."

TURNING TO ORAL HEALTH CARE, DR LEE STRESSED THAT IT WAS AN ESSENTIAL AND INSEPARABLE COMPONENT OF TOTAL HEALTH.

HE SAID A LARGE-SCALE ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS WOULD BE LAUNCHED NEXT FEBRUARY.

THE PRESENT SIX SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS NOW SERVING 400,000 PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL ALSO BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL MANPOWER IN A BID TO PROVIDE BETTER FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR THESE CHILDREN.

IN ADDITION, TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF CARE AND TO SUSTAIN SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH STATUS, DR LEE SAID DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG DENTAL ASSOCIATION WERE UNDER WAY REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF A TRANSFER SCHEME FOR STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE.

DR LEE ADDED THAT A PILOT SCHEME WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ONE OF THE HOSPITAL DENTAL UNITS TO PROVIDE CURATIVE CARE FOR THOSE PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL ORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$59.75 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL AND FOR RECLAMATION AT CHA KWO LING, ADJACENT TO THE FORMER OIL DEPOT.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 720-METRE-LONG VERTICAL SEAWALL AND THE RECLAMATION OF ABOUT FOUR HECTARES OF LAND, WHICH WILL PRIMARILY BE USED AS A PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA (PCWA).

THE WORKS FORM PART OF THE KAI TAK AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS TO COPE WITH INCREASING TRAFFIC DEMAND.

THE RECLAMATION WORK CAN PROVIDE LAND FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE PRESENT KOWLOON BAY PCWA TO MAKE WAY FOR AIRCRAFT PARKING BAYS.

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THE CONTRACT WORKS, WHICH FORM THE FINAL PHASE OF THE REPROVISIONING OF THE PCWA, ARE TO BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MR FRANK LOONG, SIGNED THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE PENTA-OCEAN CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

THE DEPARTMENT'S PORT WORKS DIVISION WILL SUPERVISE THE WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

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CAS - THE MUCH APPRECIATED, ADMIRER AND DEPENDABLE SERVICE
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CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) IS NEITHER A PUBLICITY SEEKING SERVICE NOR A POLITICAL FORUM, IT IS A SUPPORT SERVICE, A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN UNIFORM WHO ARE FRIENDLY, RESPECTED, ADMIRER AND DEPENDABLE, SIR ROGER LOBO SAID TONIGHT (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY CAS TO BID FAREWELL TO HIM AS ITS COMMISSIONER, SIR ROGER RECALLED HIS 37 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CAS.

HE SAID: "DURING MY PERIOD OF SERVICE, I MET MANY PEOPLE, MADE MANY FRIENDS AND I ENJOYED MOMENTS OF GREAT FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

"BUT I ALSO HAD DIFFICULT TASKS, AMONG WHICH, WAS TO PICK UP DEAD OR DYING BODIES COMING DOWN THE STREAM IN WONG NEI CHUNG DURING HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING; ENTER COLLAPSED BUILDINGS TO SEARCH FOR INJURED AND TRAPPED PEOPLE."

SIR ROGER JOINED THE CAS ON AUGUST 3, 1955 AS A COMMANDER OF THE ACCOMODATION UNIT WHICH NO LONGER EXISTS IN THE SERVICE.

HIS JOB WAS TO PLAN FOR ALL POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES BUT IN PARTICULAR, MAKE PROVISION TO ACCOMMODATE HOMELESS OR EVACUATE PEOPLE.

HE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE. HE SAID: "I WAS GIVEN UNIFORMS WHICH, UNDER THE RAIN, WOULD MAKE MY BODY ALSO BLUE."

HE THEN HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE COMPLAINTS ABOUT UNIFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS.

IN THE PAST 16 YEARS, SIR ROGER PLAYED A ROLE AS A RESPONSIBLE AND CONCERNED LEADER.

TOGETHER WITH CAS HEADQUARTERS AND SENIOR OFFICERS, THEY HAD DEVISED NEW METHODS, CHANGED NEW EQUIPMENT, IMPROVED TRAINING, DEVELOPED MOUNTAIN RESCUE AND INDEED, CONTINUED TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF TRAINING, SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY.

HE SAID: "WE ALSO ENSURED WE WOULD CREATE AND DEVELOP GOOD CADETS FORCE - MALES AND FEMALES."

PRAISING THE CAS MEMBERS, SIR ROGER SAID: "IT IS YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, YOUR EXEMPLARY AND HARD WORK - THAT HAS MADE CAS 'THE BEST', THE MUCH APPRECIATED AND THE ADMIRER, DEPENDABLE SERVICE."

SIR ROGER ALSO THANKED THE SPOUSE, THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CAS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING GIVEN TO THEM.

COMING TO THE END OF HIS CAREER IN CAS, SIR ROGER SAID: "I LEAVE WITH PRIDE, PROUD OF YOU, PROUD OF THE SERVICE AND OUR HEADQUARTERS, AND GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK YOU ARE DOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO FOR HONG KONG."

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ACTIVITIES CALL FOR LOVE OF COUNTRYSIDE
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A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN LINED UP BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN THE COMING MONTHS TO MARK THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD'S PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MR GEORGE TAN, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE IN SAI KUNG THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR TAN SAID THE SCHEME, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED 10 YEARS AGO TO PUBLICISE THE MESSAGE OF CONSERVING THE COUNTRY PARKS, HAD ATTRACTED MORE THAN 80,000 COUNTRYSIDE LOVERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS MANY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES.

"APART FROM GIVING COUNTRYSIDE VISITORS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY NATURE, THE SCHEME HAS HELPED TO KEEP COUNTRY PARKS CLEAN AND GREEN," HE SAID.

ON THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMMES, MR TAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE LAUNCHED BY A SPECIAL LIVE "ENJOY YOURSELF TONIGHT" SHOW ON TVB JADE CHANNEL ON DECEMBER 18 (FRIDAY).

TWO TERRITORY-WIDE COMPETITIONS, EACH OFFERING ATTRACTIVE PRIZES TO WINNERS, WILL BE HELD IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO PROMOTE THE "CLEAN AND GREEN" THEME.

THE PHOTO COMPETITION, TO BE HELD BETWEEN THIS MONTH AND END OF FEBRUARY, IS OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

IT WILL THEN BE FOLLOWED BY THE "COUNTRYSIDE TREE MATCHING COMPETITION" WHICH CONSISTS OF TWO PHASES - LITTER COLLECTION AND THE MATCHING OF FLOWERS AND FRUITS TO TREES OF THE SAME KINDS.

MR TAN SAID THE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ROUNDED UP BY A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT APRIL.

HE THANKED THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 AND FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS FOR CO-ORGANISING THIS YEAR'S SCHEME, AND THE KODAK (FAR EAST) LIMITED AND WILTONA ENTERPRISES FOR DONATING THE PRIZES FOR THE COMPETITIONS.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRY PARKS (FCP), DR TAM WING-KUN, SAID THE NEWLY FORMED ASSOCIATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE PROPER CARE FOR COUNTRY PARKS.

DR TAM STRESSED THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD BACK UP THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND PROMOTION OF NATURE CONSERVATION EDUCATION.

"THE FCP WILL CALL FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR COUNTRY PARKS. IT WILL ALSO HELP CARRY OUT VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS THROUGH FUND RAISING," HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303, MR STEPHEN CHOW AND TVB'S DEPUTY MANAGER (VARIETY), MR LAI MAN-CHEUK.

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DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION

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SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD SHEK LUI IS THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY AND PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 4 LAST YEAR, SHEK LUI, THEN 15, JUMPED INTO THE COLD WATER FROM THE TONG SHUI ROAD PUBLIC PIER TO RESCUE A DROWNING ELDERLY WOMAN.

TOGETHER WITH POLICE CONSTABLE TSANG CHI-BUN WHO RESPONDED TO A CALL FOR HELP AND ALSO JUMPED INTO THE SEA, SHEK LUI MANAGED TO RESCUE THE WOMAN FROM THE SEA.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE WOMAN DIED LATER.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (MONDAY) PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATION TO SHEK LUI, POLICE CONSTABLE TSANG CHI-BUN AND 22 OTHER RECIPIENTS IN A CEREMONY AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN HARBOUR BUILDING, PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

MR MILLER SAID: "IT IS SOMETIMES SAID THAT HONG KONG IS A CITY OF SELFISH PEOPLE, ONLY INTERESTED IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

"THE PRESENCE OF THESE BRAVE PEOPLE HERE TODAY, PARTICULARLY 16-YEAR-OLD SHEK LUI, IS A HEARTENING REMINDER THAT THIS IS UNTRUE. EACH ONE HAS RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE A COMPLETE STRANGER FROM THE SEA."

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OTHER RECIPIENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION ARE 17 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG FERRY (HOLDINGS) COMPANY LIMITED.

THEY ARE MESSRS LO YAU-KAN, CHAN MO, MA LOI-SHING, LAW KAM-SHING, CHENG KUM-MUN, KWOK SAI-MING, LEUNG KAU, LO TAI-HE, LEUNG TIK-LUN, WONG CHEUNG, LEE KAM-MOON, LI KAN, WONG LAO, WONG TAI-YAU, SUNG CHIU-WAI, LAM YAU-FOOK AND LO KAU.

APART FROM POLICE CONSTABLE TSANG CHI-BUN, POLICE SERGEANTS CHAN SIU-KAI AND LEUNG KWAN-WAH, AND POLICE CONSTABLES KWAN WING-KWONG AND WONG WAI-MAN ALSO RECEIVED THE COMMENDATION.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION HAS A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF HONOURING THE GALLANTRY OF PEOPLE WHO RESCUE OTHERS AT THE RISK OF THEIR OWN SAFETY.

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WATER CUTS IN KOWLOON EAST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 16) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, CHING TAK STREET, FUNG MO STREET AND WANG TAU HOM NORTH ROAD.

THESE PREMISES INCLUDE MORSE SWIMMING POOL, LUNG ON HOUSE AND LUNG LOK HOUSE OF LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE AS WELL AS WANG HAU HOUSE, WANG CHIU HOUSE, WANG CHUNG HOUSE AND WANG LEUNG HOUSE OF WANG TAU HOM ESTATE.

OWING TO CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL ALSO GO OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE LAM TIN ESTATE, HONG TIN COURT, HONG WAH COURT, HING TIN ESTATE, SAU MAU PING ESTATE, UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, HONG NING ROAD TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA (THA) AND CHEUNG WO COURT.

ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE SHUN TIN ESTATE, SHUN ON ESTATE, SHUN LEE ESTATE, SHUN LEE TSUEN THA, CHOI WAN ESTATE, LOK WAH ESTATE, SHUN CHI COURT AND PREMISES AT KUNG LOK ROAD, HONG LEE ROAD AND HIU KWONG STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 60.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 357.126 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 207.886 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 35.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,480
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-70
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,430
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114 *+0.0* 14.12.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.15 PCT	15 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.35	5.25
1 MONTH	3.68 PCT	18 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.24	5.39
3 MONTHS	4.01 PCT	21 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.34	5.49
6 MONTHS	4.10 PCT	24 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.39	5.59
12 MONTHS	4.80 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 3,281MN

CLOSED 14 DECEMBER 1992

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