



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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1981 PROPERTY REVIEW ON SALE

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THE 1981 PROPERTY REVIEW, PUBLISHED BY THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT, IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$50 A COPY.

COMMENTING ON THE REVIEW, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION, MR R.A. FRY, SAID THAT OVERALL THE MARKET IN 1980 HAD REMAINED BUOYANT WITH RENTS AND PURCHASE PRICES CONTINUING TO MOVE UPWARDS.

THE RETURN TO HIGH INTEREST RATES IN THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR HOWEVER HAD EFFECTIVELY DAMPENED DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC PREMISES AND THE MARKET WOULD APPEAR TO BE ENTERING A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION.

COMPLETIONS OF AND CONSENTS TO COMMENCE NEW BUILDING WORKS AT 2.6 MILLION SQUARE METRES AND NEARLY 2.9 MILLION SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY WERE SLIGHTLY DOWN ON THE 1979 FIGURES BUT THIS IS SEEN AS NO MORE THAN PART OF THE CYCLICAL PATTERN OF THE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SECTOR.

DOMESTIC :

THE 1980 SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AT 24 995 UNITS WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN FORECAST. IF, HOWEVER, UNITS FOUND TO BE IN A COMPLETED STATE AT THE END OF THE YEAR AWAITING THE ISSUE OF AN OCCUPATION PERMIT ARE INCLUDED COMPLETIONS WERE FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE 1979 LEVEL. SOME 63 000 UNITS ARE FORECAST TO BE COMPLETED OVER THE TWO YEARS 1981 AND 1982.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC UNITS COMPLETED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES SURPASSED THAT FOR HONG KONG ISLAND. AS SUITABLE SITES ON THE ISLAND BECOME DEPLETED THIS TREND SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE SINCE THE GREATER PROPORTION OF THE SUPPLY FORECAST FOR 1981 AND 1982, SOME 41 PER CENT IN BOTH YEARS, WILL BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALLER UNITS CONTINUED TO PREDOMINATE WITH UNITS IN THE SIZE RANGE 20 TO 29.9 SQUARE METRES BEING THE MOST POPULAR. UNITS IN THE SIZE RANGE 30 TO 39.9 SQUARE METRES ARE EXPECTED TO FORM THE BULK OF NEW DEVELOPMENT IN 1981. ALTHOUGH THE PRODUCTION OF HOUSES IN 1980 WAS UP ON PREVIOUS YEARS A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE YEAR'S SUPPLY WAS OF SMALL UNITS IN AN OUTLYING DISTRICT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TOTAL DOMESTIC VACANCIES AT DECEMBER 1980 WERE AROUND 17 000 UNITS AND ALTHOUGH THIS IS UP ON LAST YEAR'S FIGURE IT REPRESENTS ONLY 3.6 PER CENT OF THE YEAR-END STOCK, A REASONABLY INSIGNIFICANT PROPORTION GIVEN THE NORMAL DAY TO DAY MOVEMENTS WHICH MUST OCCUR IN SUCH A MARKET. FURTHERMORE, OVER 7 800 UNITS OR 46 PER CENT WERE IN BUILDINGS COMPLETED ONLY IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

RENTALS SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FOR ALL CLASSES OF DOMESTIC PREMISES DURING 1980, WITH AVERAGE INCREASES RANGING FROM 50 PER CENT TO 75 PER CENT OVER 1979 FIGURES. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, SOME INDICATION OF A LEVELLING OFF OF RENTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, PARTICULARLY AT THE TOP END OF THE MARKET WHERE AN ANTICIPATED IMPROVED SUPPLY OF LARGER UNITS IN 1981 AND 1982 SHOULD FURTHER EASE THE SITUATION.

/SALE PRICES

SALE PRICES, FOLLOWING AN INITIAL DOWNTURN AS A RESULT OF THE EXTENSION OF RENT CONTROLS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT GOVERNMENT INTENDED INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO COMBAT SPECULATION, INCREASED SLOWLY DURING THE YEAR WITH AVERAGE INCREASES VARYING FROM 18 PER CENT TO 39 PER CENT OVER 1979.

SHOPS :

IN THE RETAIL SECTOR, 180 600 SQUARE METRES OF SHOP SPACE WAS COMPLETED IN 1980, A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE ON 1979. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES ARE FORECAST FOR 1981 AND 1982 AS MORE SPACE IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI EAST DEVELOPMENTS COMES ON-STREAM. VACANCIES AT THE END OF 1980 STOOD AT 221 700 SQUARE METRES, UP ALMOST 50 PER CENT ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND THE HIGHEST VACANCY SITUATION EVER RECORDED.

OFFICES :

A RECORD SUPPLY OF 296 700 SQUARE METRES OF OFFICE SPACE WAS PRODUCED IN 1980, A 66 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SUPPLY FOR 1979. FORECASTS INDICATE THAT THE RAPID INCREASE IN SUPPLY WILL BE MAINTAINED OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WITH 417 600 SQUARE METRES SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1981 AND 554 000 SQUARE METRES IN 1982.

A HIGHER STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION IS NOW BEING PRODUCED, MR FRY SAID, WITH OVER 70 PER CENT OF THE YEAR'S SUPPLY CLASSIFIED AS GRADE A, AND FORECASTS INDICATE THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE IN 1981. THEREAFTER, THE BALANCE WILL SHIFT TO THE LOWER GRADES. WHILE THE BULK OF NEW ACCOMMODATION CONTINUED TO BE LOCATED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, FORECASTS FOR 1981 AND 1982 INDICATE A LARGER PROPORTION OF COMPLETIONS OCCURRING IN OTHER AREAS.

OF A TOTAL OF 202 900 SQUARE METRES VACANT AT DECEMBER 1980, 46 PER CENT WAS COMPLETED ONLY IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR WHILE ONLY 14 PER CENT RELATED TO PREMISES BUILT BEFORE 1980.

RENTS MORE THAN DOUBLED DURING THE YEAR WITH AVERAGE RENTS RANGING FROM THE LOWEST GRADE C AT \$80 PER SQUARE METRE TO THE HIGHEST GRADE A AT \$217. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, SOME INDICATION OF A LEVELLING OFF OF RENTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR AS THE BULK OF THE SUPPLY CAME ON-STREAM.

FLATTED FACTORIES :

THE OUTTURN OF FLATTED FACTORY ACCOMMODATION AT 976 700 SQUARE METRES WAS IN LINE WITH THE FORECAST. ANTICIPATED COMPLETIONS TOTAL 1 074 200 SQUARE METRES IN 1981 AND A RECORD 1.75 MILLION SQUARE METRES IN 1982.

THE LARGEST ADDITIONS CONTINUED TO BE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH NOW ACCOUNTS FOR 41 PER CENT OF THE ENTIRE STOCK.

THE TOTAL VACANCY POSITION AS AT DECEMBER WAS JUST OVER 476 000 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 79 PER CENT WAS IN BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN 1980. DEMAND FOR NEW ACCOMMODATION CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL WITH THE AMOUNT OF SPACE TAKEN UP IN 1980 EQUAL TO 111 PER CENT OF THE YEAR'S SUPPLY.

THE COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT PURCHASE PRICES HAD INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 43 PER CENT OVER 1979 AS COMPARED TO AVERAGE RENTS WHICH REGISTERED A 33 PER CENT INCREASE FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

/CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION :

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN STATISTICS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE YEARS 1979 AND 1980 WITH FORECAST FIGURES FOR 1981 AND 1982 :

		<u>FORECAST</u>			
<u>DOMESTIC</u>		<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
SUPPLY IN YEAR	UNITS	27 795	24 995	33 880	29 265
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	UNITS	14 550	*17 000	-	-
<u>SHOPS</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ.M.	131 000	180 600	244 300	291 300
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	SQ.M.	148 500	221 700	-	-
<u>OFFICES</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ.M.	178 300	296 700	417 600	554 000
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	SQ.M.	78 700	202 900	-	-
<u>MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ.M.	96 200	91 700	112 100	109 300
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	SQ.M.	115 000	111 300	-	-
<u>FLATTED FACTORIES</u>					
SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ.M.	1 277 700	976 700	1 074 200	1 745 600
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	SQ.M.	581 000	476 100	-	-

/STORAGE

STORAGE

SUPPLY IN YEAR	SQ.M.	235 100	43 000	140 900	143 400
TOTAL AMOUNT VACANT AT DECEMBER OF YEAR	SQ.M.	76 100	24 800	-	-

* BASED ON SAMPLE SURVEY

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PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED ON SSPA WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS
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PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE INVITED ON THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY SET UP TO REVIEW THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

COPIES OF THE REPORT TOGETHER WITH A LEAFLET ON THE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS. THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

INTERESTED GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31.

+AS THERE IS WIDE INTERESTS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM, I FEEL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO AIR THEIR VIEWS ON THE REPORT,+ MR C.H. HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE SYSTEM WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED IN 1978 TO REPLACE THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WITH THE AIM OF ABOLISHING UNDUE PRESSURE ON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS AND VARIOUS ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED UNHEALTHY AND WERE DISTORTING THE OBJECTS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATED POLICY THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD BE REVIEWED IN 1980, A WORKING PARTY WAS SET UP BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE :

- * IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED TO DATE, AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN OPERATING THE SYSTEM AND PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY, TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF ALLOCATION OF JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES, AND HAVING REGARD TO THE NEEDS AND LEGITIMATE INTEREST OF PUPILS, SCHOOLS AND OPERATING BODIES, TO RECOMMEND TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR REFINEMENTS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM AS THE WORKING PARTY DEEMS APPROPRIATE- AND

/x TO MAKE

- * TO MAKE SUCH OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS THE WORKING PARTY MAY CONSIDER RELEVANT TO THE ABOVE.

AS A RESULT OF THE WORKING PARTY'S INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, A TOTAL OF 61 SUBMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED OF WHICH 34 WERE FROM INDIVIDUALS AND 27 FROM GROUPS.

ALL THE SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED WERE CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING PARTY UNDER THE FOLLOWING MAIN HEADINGS: PUPIL ASSESSMENT- SCHOOL NETS- THE FEEDER AND NOMINATED SCHOOL SYSTEM- THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM, AND OTHER COMMENTS.

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY WERE:

PUPIL ASSESSMENT

- (I) SCHOOL INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE CONTINUED- AND
- (II) A NEW CURRICULUM-ORIENTATED TEST IN THE USE OF CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED FOR SCALING PURPOSES ONLY.

THE NET SYSTEM

- (I) THE OVERALL STRUCTURE AND SIZE OF THE PRESENT NETS, WITH A BALANCE OF TECHNICAL, PUBLIC GRAMMAR (ANGLO-CHINESE AND CHINESE) AND PRIVATE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS FOR EACH NET SHOULD BE RETAINED-
- (II) FOR ALLOCATION PURPOSES ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED OF EQUAL QUALITY- AND
- (III) THE PRESENT NEW TERRITORIES NET 6 SHOULD BE SPLIT INTO TWO TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TAI PO AND NORTH DISTRICTS MORE ADEQUATELY.

THE FEEDER AND NOMINATED SCHOOL SYSTEM AND DISCRETIONARY PLACES

- (I) AS A LONG TERM MEASURE PROVIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS BECOME MORE COMPARABLE IN STANDARD AND PROVIDED THERE WAS CONTROL OF ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THE FEEDER AND NOMINATED SCHOOL SYSTEMS SHOULD BE RETAINED, EXTENDED AND MODIFIED TO MINIMISE DIFFERENCES-
- (II) AS AN INTERIM MEASURE THE FEEDER QUOTA SHOULD BECOME 50 PER CENT IN 1983- AND
- (III) THE FEEDER QUOTA SHOULD BE BASED ON ALL FORM/MIDDLE 1 CLASSES, INCLUDING +FLOATING+ CLASSES, AS FROM 1983.

THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM

- (I) THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM SHOULD GIVE EACH SCHOOL AN ACCEPTABLE RANGE OF ABILITY WHICH COULD BE CONTROLLED-

/(II) THE

(II) THE PRESENT RANDOM ELEMENT IN ALLOCATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF POSSIBLE- AND

(III) FURTHER RESEARCH SHOULD BE CONDUCTED INTO THE BEST METHOD OF ALLOCATION.

MR HAYE STRESSED THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL DUE CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

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SELECTION SYSTEMS AIM TO MINIMISE PRESSURE ON STUDENTS
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THE PRESENT SELECTION SYSTEMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO GIVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS WITH THE MINIMUM EXAMINATION PRESSURE, MR ARTHUR BROWN, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE VICTORIA LIONS CLUB MR BROWN REVIEWED CHANGES IN HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY IN THE ALLOCATION OF FREE AND COMPULSORY FORM 1 AND SUBSIDISED FORM 4 PLACES.

WITH THE SCALING TEST IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM A CHILD'S FATE WAS NOT DECIDED IN ONE DAY, AND IT DID NOT MATTER EVEN IF HE MISSED THE TEST ENTIRELY, HE SAID.

WHAT WAS NOW MORE VITAL WAS THE STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY 5 AND 6 ON WHICH THE INTERNAL ASSESSMENT WAS BASED, AND A CHILD MUST WORK HARD AT ALL SUBJECTS.

+THIS HAS CERTAINLY INCREASED INTEREST IN SUBJECTS LIKE SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES,+ MR BROWN SAID.

ANOTHER STEP TAKEN TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ON SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM, HE SAID.

WITHOUT THE JSEA, THE SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO KEEP AS MANY FORM 3 GRADUATES AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR OWN SECONDARY SCHOOLS DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE FORMS 4 AND 5 PLACES.

THIS WILL MEAN PRIMARY 6 GRADUATES WOULD SCRAMBLE TO ENROL IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF SENIOR SECONDARY PLACES, THUS PUTTING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON SELECTION AT AN EARLIER LEVEL.

+MANY PEOPLE ARE PRESSING FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE JSEA WITHOUT FULLY REALISING THE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE IT WOULD PUT ON PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN,+ MR BROWN SAID.

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WORK ON TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER STARTS NEXT MONTH

THE 1981-82 ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT GOT OFF TO A FINE START TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH THE AWARD OF THE FIRST MAJOR ROAD CONTRACT THIS YEAR.

THE CONTRACT, WORTH \$74 MILLION, IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER.

IT WAS AWARDED TO LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS PTY. LTD.

MR YEUNG KIM-CHOY, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE CONSULTANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, SAID WORK ON THE CONTRACT, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE AND AN OFF-STREET BUS TERMINUS, WOULD START NEXT MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THE FLYOVER, MEASURING 550 METRES IN LENGTH, WOULD RUN FROM THE LOWER END OF TAI HANG ROAD THROUGH MORETON TERRACE CROSSING CAUSEWAY ROAD TO JOIN GLOUCESTER ROAD ON THE WEST SIDE OF VICTORIA PARK.

INTENSIVE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS SERVED BY TAI HANG ROAD HAS GENERATED A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC VOLUME ON THIS ROAD.

DURING PEAK HOURS, TRAFFIC CONGESTION OFTEN OCCURS AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI HANG ROAD AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD WHERE THE SITUATION IS FURTHER WORSENER BY THE LARGE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT, MAINLY SCHOOL CHILDREN, ACROSS THE ROADS.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE ELEVATED ROAD, MR YEUNG SAID, THE SITUATION WOULD BE IMPROVED AS TRAFFIC COMING DOWN OR GOING UP TAI HANG ROAD COULD AVOID A SERIES OF ROAD JUNCTIONS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN THE AREA. THIS, IN TURN, SHOULD IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

ON THE ALIGNMENT OF THE ELEVATED ROAD, HE SAID: +IT HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN AN 'S' SHAPE IN ORDER TO MINIMISE THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE FLYOVER INTO THE SOUTH-WESTERN CORNER OF VICTORIA PARK.

+TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT IN THE AREA, A 35-METRE LONG COVERED FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE BUILT ACROSS CAUSEWAY ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH SHELTER STREET.+

REFERRING TO THE NEW BUS TERMINUS, MR YEUNG SAID IT WOULD BE LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF MORETON TERRACE AND TUNG LO WAN ROAD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT BUS TERMINI IN THE AREA WERE SCATTERED IN THREE DIFFERENT PLACES -- AT THE BACK OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, KINGSTON STREET AND MORETON TERRACE.

+THIS IS NOT SATISFACTORY, AS THE TERMINI AT THE LAST TWO SPOTS HAVE TAKEN UP THE KERB-SIDE SPACE, THUS AFFECTING PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC CIRCULATION,+ MR YEUNG ADDED. +ADDITIONAL NEW BUS ROUTES TO SERVE THIS BUSY COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREA ARE ALSO HINDERED.+

/THEREFORE, THE

THEREFORE, THE PROVISION OF A NEW BUS TERMINUS WILL MEET THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL BUS TERMINATING FACILITIES FOR NEW PROPOSED BUS ROUTES, HE SAID.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY PETER Y.S. PUN AND ASSOCIATES ON BEHALF OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE PWD.

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LAW COURSE FOR JOURNALISTS

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AN INTRODUCTORY LAW COURSE FOR WORKING JOURNALISTS WILL BE OFFERED BY THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY EXTRA-MURUAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEXT MONTH (MAY) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL.

AND IN THE COMING SEPTEMBER, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO OFFER AN ADVANCED LAW COURSE FOR JOURNALISTS IN THE FORM OF A WORKSHOP WITH ACTUAL CASE EXAMPLES TO BE STUDIED AND DISCUSSED.

ONE PRE-REQUISITE FOR ENROLMENT TO THE ADVANCED COURSE IS COMPLETION OF THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRAINING BOARD, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG, POINTED OUT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE TWO COURSES WILL MEET AN URGENT NEED FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS.

STARTING FROM MAY 16, THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE WILL BE HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S TOWN CENTRE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR IN WING ON CENTRE EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, LASTING FOR 13 WEEKS. IT WILL BE CONDUCTED MAINLY IN CANTONESE AND THE COURSE FEE IS \$180.

CONSISTING OF 13 LECTURES TO BE GIVEN BY MR S.H. CHAN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, THE SYLLABUS OF THE COURSE CONCERNS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE NATURE OF LAW, THE LEGAL SOURCES OF LAW, THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, LEGAL AID AND ADVICE, THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A CONTRACT, ASPECTS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION, COURT PROCEDURES, REPORTING, POLICE POWERS OF ARREST AND DETENTION, ICAC AND THEIR POWERS.

ENROLMENT TO THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE WILL BEGIN ON MAY 9 AND ENROLMENT FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRE.

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TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS IN WESTERN DISTRICT

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN WESTERN DISTRICT BETWEEN 0.30 AM AND 6 AM ON APRIL 26 AND 27 TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER.

THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL INCLUDE THE PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES FROM ENTERING THE SECTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN WHITTY STREET AND HILL ROAD.

THE SECTION OF QUEEN'S ROAD WEST BETWEEN BELCHER'S STREET AND HILL ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND WHILE EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WILL BE DIVERTED INTO CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD.

THE SECTION OF HILL ROAD BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT THOSE REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES IN THE AREA.

MOTORISTS IN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST WISHING TO GO TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT MAY USE QUEEN'S ROAD WEST VIA WHITTY STREET OR WESTERN STREET.

VEHICLES COMING DOWN FROM THE UPPER SECTION OF HILL ROAD WILL HAVE TO TURN LEFT INTO QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

CMB ROUTE NOS. 5B, 10 AND 101 ON THEIR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS IN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KENNEDY TOWN PRAYA, CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST, CENTRE STREET AND DES VOEUX ROAD WEST.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE THE MOTORISTS.

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COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS GOES ON LECTURE TOUR

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THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR THOMAS GARNER, WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF A FOUR-WEEK LECTURE TOUR DURING WHICH HE WILL SPEAK ON THE WORK OF HONG KONG'S PRISON SERVICE.

MR GARNER WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEVENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPEAKERS CONSORTIUM ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK. HE WILL TOUR AT LEAST FIVE STATES ON THE EAST COAST.

SUBJECTS OF HIS TALK WILL COVER THE VARIED WORK OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING SECURITY PRISONS, THE COMPULSORY PLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR DRUG ADDICTS, THE SUCCESSFUL CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, THE COMPREHENSIVE AFTER-CARE SERVICE AS WELL AS PRISON INDUSTRIES.

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CANTONESE OPERA TRAINING COURSE FOR SHA TIN RESIDENTS
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SHA TIN WILL START A SIX-MONTH CANTONESE OPERA TRAINING COURSE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS NEXT MONTH.

THE CLASS, THE SECOND TO BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT, IS BEING ORGANISED BY SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AND WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL.

IT IS OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS, BUT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IS BEING LIMITED TO 30.

TRAINING SESSIONS, CONDUCTED BY PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS, WILL BE HELD AT WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS AND AT SHA TIN KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE ON THURSDAY EVENINGS.

TRAINEES AND THEIR INSTRUCTORS WILL GIVE REGULAR PERFORMANCES DURING THE COURSE. STUDENTS WILL BE PROMOTED TO AN INTERMEDIATE CLASS AFTER IT ENDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID IT WAS PLANNED THAT A THIRD CLASS WOULD BE HELD ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, LEK YUEN ESTATE SUB-OFFICE AND WO CHE COMMUNITY HALL.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SATURDAY (APRIL 25). CANDIDATES SELECTED TO ATTEND THE CLASS WILL PAY A MONTHLY TUITION FEE OF \$10.

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WATER CUT IN PAT HEUNG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN PAT HEUNG YUEN LONG WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY (APRIL 24) TO 6 AM ON THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS ALONG KAM TIN ROAD, BETWEEN KO PO TSUEN AND WING LUNG WAI, INCLUDING KAM SHEUNG ROAD, TSZ TONG TSUEN, KO PO TSUEN, YUEN KONG TSUEN, YUEN KONG SAN TSUEN, TAI WO, CHEUNG PO, HO PUI, MA ON KONG, SHUI LAU TIN, SHUI TSAN TIN, NGAU KENG TSUEN, LIN FA TEI, KEI LING AND SHEUNG TSUEN.

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