DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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KWUN TONG POLLUTION PROBLEM BEING TACKLED
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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL SOON CARRY OUT A SURVEY ON SMOKE EMISSION FROM FACTORY CHIMNEYS IN ITS EFFORT TO COMBAT THE POLLUTION PROBLEM IN THE DISTRICT.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR DAVID TSUI AT TODAY'S MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE'S ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE AND THE KWUN TONG LABOUR EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH RECENTLY CONDUCTED A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN KWUN TONG.

AT THE MEETING MR TSUI TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SURVEY WOULD ALSO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF AIR POLLUTION, INCLUDING EMISSION OF POLLUTED AIR AND FIBRE FRAGMENTS.

IT WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH THE SPECIFIC AIM OF IDENTIFYING THE POLLUTION PROBLEM AND DOING WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE COULD TO MINIMISE IT.

IT WAS ALSO DISCLOSED AT THE MEETING THAT PLANS ARE NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION TO BUILD TWO LARGE PARKS AND MORE RECREATIONAL AREAS WILL BE PROVIDED IN KWUN TONG.

ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KWUN TONG LABOUR EDUCATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ASSERTED THAT SOCCER PITCHES AT TSUN YIP PLAYGROUND WERE UNDER-UTILISED AND ASKED WHETHER THE SPACE COULD BE TURNED INTO A RESTING AREA FOR WORKERS WHO BADLY NEEDED MORE OPEN SPACE TO REST DURING THEIR LUNCH BREAK.

IN REPLY, MR TSUI PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE SUGGESTION AND SAID THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD AGREED TO SURVEY THE ACTUAL USAGE OF THE SOCCER PITCHES BEFORE MAKING A DECISION TO CONVERT IT INTO AN OPEN AREA.

MR TSUI ALSO TOLD THE MEETING THAT A PILOT SCHEME TO CLEAR OBSTRUCTIONS AND CLEAN UP BACK LANES IN THE DISTRICT HAD PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS.

THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED BY THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED. MORE STAFF WILL BE SOUGHT TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME WHICH AIMS TO RESTORE CROWN LAND TO ITS PROPER USAGE SO AS TO PROVIDE MORE RESTING PLACES FOR RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MR TSUI APPEALED TO ALL TO ASSIST IN THE CLEARANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BLACKSPOTS. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED INDUSTRIAL OPERATORS TO KEEP THEIR PREMISES CLEAN AND WORKERS TO REPORT ANY UNSATISFACTORY SITUATIONS.

+THE EFFORT BY THE TWO ORGANISATIONS IN PREPARING THE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RESIDENTS OF KWUN TONG,+ HE SAID.

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PLEA FOR SAFETY AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

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BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AND CONTRACTORS WERE URGED TODAY TO ADOPT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WORKERS AT HIGH LEVELS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE PLEA WAS MADE BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP YUK-LUN, FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S ACCIDENT ON A TSIM SHA TSUI SITE, IN WHICH A WORKER DIED IN A FALL.

MR YIP EMPHASISED THAT THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF WORKING AT HEIGHTS COULD BE MINIMISED BY ADEQUATE PRECAUTIONS, SUCH AS FENCING AND RAILINGS.

+THOSE ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, WHICH LAY DOWN LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE WORKERS.+

MR YIP SAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SAFETY OF PLANK BOARDS AS ACCESS BRIDGES OR WORKING PLATFORMS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

+BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THESE BOARDS ARE OF ADEQUATE WIDTH AND STRENGTH AND FREE FROM DEFECTS.+

MR YIP ALSO CALLED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE REGULATIONS REGARDING FENCING MACHINERY, OPENINGS AND DANGEROUS SPOTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THREE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WERE FINED A TOTAL OF $15 000 AT WESTERN COURT YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS.

THE FIRST COMPANY WAS FINED $4 000 FOR FAILING TO SECURELY FENCE A FLOOR OPENING, THE SECOND $5 000 IN RESPECT OF A LIFT SHAFT AND THE THIRD $6 000 IN CONNECTION WITH ACCESS BRIDGES AND A PLATFORM.

+THE PROVISIONS REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO FENCE SECURELY MACHINERY, WORKING PLATFORMS, OPENINGS IN FLOORS AND EXCAVATIONS,+ HE SAID.

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TICD TOUR BY SIR PHILIP
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THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY TOURED THE OCEAN CENTRE OFFICES OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND DISCUSSED THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AT A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH THE FULL DIRECTORATE.

THESE PLANS COVERED THE MODERNISATION OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS, CONSUMER PROTECTION, TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE NEW IMPETUS TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL COME FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR, MR BILL DORWARD, SIR PHILIP VIEWED THE GROUND FLOOR LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION ISSUING OFFICES. HE WAS TOLD BY MR GORDON MORTIMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATION) THAT LAST YEAR THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED NEARLY 64 000 CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN AND GENERAL PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS VALUED AT $24 000 MILLION - REPRESENTING 43 PER CENT OF ALL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN 1979.

NEARLY 2.5 MILLION DECLARATIONS FOR IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WERE LODGED LAST YEAR, AND AD VALORUM CHARGES TOTALLING $81 MILLION WERE COLLECTED.

SIR PHILIP, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, WAS INTERESTED IN THE NEWLY-OPENED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY, MR ALEX PURVES SAID THE OFFICE WAS TO ASSIST TOWARDS THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD HAVE A +ONE-STOP+ FACILITY SO THAT MOST QUESTIONS ASKED BY POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL INVESTORS, WHATEVER ASPECT THEY COVERED, COULD BE ANSWERED ON THE SPOT BY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS.

IN ADDITION TO DESCRIBING THE CURRENT REORGANISATION OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO MEET THE GROWTH AND CONTEMPORARY NEEDS OF HONG KONG TRADE, THE WORK OF THE TRADE INVESTIGATION BRANCH WAS OUTLINED TO SIR PHILIP BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND CONTROLS, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN.

LAST YEAR OFFICERS OF THE BRANCH INSPECTED 41 000 FACTORIES AND CONSIGNMENTS. LEGAL ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST 720 COMPANIES AND PERSONS, RESULTING IN COURTS IMPOSING FINES TOTALLING $2 MILLION.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR JUSTIN YUE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE (INTERNAL AFFAIRS), SIR PHILIP VISITED THE TEXTILE QUOTA OFFICES. MR YUE SAID THAT LAST YEAR 823 000 APPLICATIONS FOR TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES WERE HANDLED, INCLUDING 372 000 FOR RESTRAINED TEXTILES.

THE NUMBER OF QUOTA HOLDERS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S BOOKS HAD DOUBLED, TO 16 000 COMPANIES, SINCE 1977. IN THE PAST YEAR THE SPEED OF PROCESSING HAD BEEN STEPPED UP FOLLOWING THE COMPUTERISATION OF QUOTA CONTROLS FOR THE UNITED STATES. A SIMILAR SYSTEM IS BEING DEVISED FOR THE EEC QUOTAS AND WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN 1982, HE TOLD SIR PHILIP.

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MR CALLAGHAN ARRIVES TOMORROW
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THE RT HON JAMES CALLAGHAN, MP, AND HIS WIFE ARE DUE TO ARRIVE FROM GUANGZHOU BY HOVERFERRY TOMORROW (THURSDAY) FOR A ONE-DAY STOPOVER FOLLOWING THEIR VISIT TO CHINA.

THEY WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL AT TAI KOK TSUI FERRY PIER BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE.

DURING HIS STAY, MR CALLAGHAN WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

MR CALLAGHAN IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR LONDON ON FRIDAY (MAY 23) EVENING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE RT HON JAMES CALLAGHAN IS DUE TO ARRIVE AT TAI KOK TSUI FERRY PIER, MONG KOK, AT 5.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY). A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE PROVIDED. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO MEET GIS OFFICERS OUTSIDE THE PIER AT 5 PM.

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CARE AND ATTENTION HOME DOCUMENTS SIGNED
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DOCUMENTS FOR A CARE AND ATTENTION HOME TO BE OPERATED BY POK OI HOSPITAL AT HA TSUEN, YUEN LONG, WERE SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR LEUNG SHUI-FAT.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED A 3 090 SQUARE METRE SITE, AT PING HA ROAD, TO THE HOSPITAL BY PRIVATE TREATY.

THE HOME WILL BE A THREE-STOREY BUILDING PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR 150 PEOPLE. ONE THIRD OF THE PLACES WILL BE RESERVED FOR THOSE REFERRED BY THE POK OI HOSPITAL, WHILE THE REMAINING 100 PLACES WILL BE RESERVED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CASES.

THE HOSPITAL HAS RAISED $1.5 MILLION TOWARDS THE PROJECT WHICH IS TO COST $6.5 MILLION. AN APPLICATION TO THE LOTTERIES FUND THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE FUNDS HAS BEEN MADE.

OPERATING COSTS OF THE HOME ARE EXPECTED TO BE $1.5 MILLION PER ANNUM.

A COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCING OF THE PROJECT HAS BEEN FORMED.

THE HOME, WHOSE FOUNDATION STONE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, LAID IN MARCH, WILL BE READY NEXT YEAR. IT WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN YUEN LONG DISTRICT.

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LADY MACLEHOSE VISITS SWD SHELTERED WORKSHOP

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LADY MACLEHOSE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAW FOR HERSELF HOW DISABLED PEOPLE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO USEFUL WORK DURING A VISIT TO THE LEK YUEN SHELTERED WORKSHOP IN SHA TIN.

THE WORKSHOP IS THE SEVENTH RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS ONE OF ITS REHABILITATION SERVICES.

LADY MACLEHOSE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT THIS MORNING BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, AND THE SHA TIN-TAI PO DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR CHEUNG HON-LEUNG.

THE WORKSHOP WAS STARTED IN 1978, OFFERING PRODUCTIVE AND REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT IN A SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT TO UP TO 100 DISABLED PEOPLE.

LADY MACLEHOSE INSPECTED ITS FACILITIES AND TOURED THE PREMISES WHERE SHE MET THE DISABLED WORKERS DOING HANDICRAFT, MACHINE SEWING AND METAL WORK UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF TRADE INSTRUCTORS.

MR PETER LAU, THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, EXPLAINED THAT THE WORKERS WERE PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN ASSEMBLING OR PACKING WORK, WITH MATERIALS AND JOB ORDERS SUPPLIED BY FIRMS AND MANUFACTURERS.

HE SAID MOST OF THE WORKERS WERE MENTALLY RETARDED, WHILE OTHERS WERE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, EX-MENTALLY ILL, BLIND OR MULTI-HANDICAPPED.

THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO DIFFERENT WORKSHOP CLASSES ACCORDING TO ABILITY AND CAN EARN AS MUCH AS $700 A MONTH ON A PIECE-RATE BASIS, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO WAGES, MR LAU SAID, THE DISABLED WORKERS ARE GIVEN AN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OF $3.50 A DAY AND FREE LUNCH.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE WHEELCHAIR-BOUND OR WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT, THE WORKSHOP PROVIDES A BUS SERVICE TAKING THEM TO AND FROM WORK EVERYDAY, HE ADDED.

THE WORKSHOP STAFF ALSO ORGANISE REGULAR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PICNICS, BARBECUES AND TEA PARTIES FOR THE WORKERS, HE SAID.

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NEW LOOK MAIL BOX

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THE POST OFFICE HAS INTRODUCED A NEW DESIGN MAIL BOX FOR USE IN HONG KONG'S BUSY COMMERCIAL AREAS.

A PROTOTYPE WAS INSTALLED IN MARCH AT THE JUNCTION OF PEDDER STREET AND WYNDHAM STREET IN CENTRAL DISTRICT AS AN EXPERIMENT. IT HAS PROVED HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

THE BOX IS SQUARE INSTEAD OF ROUND AND CAN HOLD TWICE THE AMOUNT OF MAIL OF A CONVENTIONAL PILLAR BOX. IT HAS A DETACHABLE CANVAS BAG WITHIN, WHICH CAN BE EASILY REMOVED AND REPLACED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR POSTMEN TO CLEAR THE LETTERS.

+WITH SUCH INCREASED CAPACITY, THE CHANCE OF SUCH A MAIL BOX OVERFLOWING IS MUCH REDUCED,+ A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+MORE NEW BOXES WILL BE PUT IN SELECTED AREAS AS AND WHEN THE NEED ARISES,+ HE ADDED.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT SOME 600 PILLAR BOXES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

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BEWARE OF BOGUS LABOUR OFFICER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST A MAN POSING AS AN OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT A MAN WAS CHEATING FAMILIES OF WORKERS KILLED IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE REPORTS SAID THE IMPOSTOR, CLAIMING TO BE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNIT, HAD APPROACHED THREE FAMILIES ON THE PRETEXT OF MAKING ENQUIRIES ABOUT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

HE LATER RETURNED, SAYING HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN A MINOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, AND ASKED FOR AND WAS GIVEN LOANS RANGING FROM $60 TO $150 +TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE WITH THE OTHER PARTIES+.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL SIMILAR REPORTS WERE RECEIVED EARLIER THIS YEAR AND A WARNING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC.

+IMPOSTORS ARE USING EVERY KIND OF TRICK AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ON THE ALERT AGAINST IMPERSONATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

+ALL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT CARRY GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARDS AND WARRANTS BEARING THEIR NAMES AND PHOTOGRAPHS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NEW ACCESS TO ABERDEEN WATERFRONT

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WORK WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE ROAD ON THE ABERDEEN RECLAMATION NEAR THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET.

THE NEW ROAD, WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WILL SERVE AS A TEMPORARY ACCESS TO STATIONARY CRAFT AND FERRIES WHICH WILL BE MOVED TO THE WATERFRONT IN THIS AREA TO MAKE FOR THE SECOND STAGE OF RECLAMATION.

A CONTRACT FOR THE WORK, WORTH MORE THAN $840 000, WAS SIGNED TODAY BY MR PANG HAU-CHUNG, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (HONG KONG) DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF KO'S CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE WORK WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 200 METRE TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WITH A FOOTPATH ALONG ONE SIDE. SOME 175 METRES OF STORMWATER DRAINS WILL ALSO BE LAID.

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KOWLOON TONG TRAFFIC RESTRICTION

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THE TEMPORARY ACCESS ROAD FROM KENT ROAD TO KOWLOON TRUE LIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 24).

VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR TO LOAD OR UNLOAD GOODS WITHIN THIS CLEARWAY.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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