HKGIS 香港政府新聞處

# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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# THREE COUNTRY PARKS PROPOSED

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THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, SET UP UNDER THE RECENTLY ENACTED COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE, HAS PREPARED DRAFT MAPS OF THE FIRST THREE COUNTRY PARKS.

THE PLACES MAPPED OUT FOR USE AS COUNTRY PARKS ARE AREAS SURROUNDING THE SHING MUN RESERVOIR (TSUEN WAN), A PART OF LION ROCK (KOWLOON) LANDSCAPE AND LAND ROUND BOTH THE KOWLOON AND SHEK LI PUI RESERVOIRS.

A NOTICE GIVING GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE THREE AREAS AND DETAILS OF WHERE THE MAPS MAY BE INSPECTED WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION.

THE NOTICE STIPULATES THAT ANY PERSON, WHO IS AGGRIEVED BY THE DRAFT MAPS MAY, WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM TODAY, RAISE THEIR OBJECTIONS BY WRITING TO THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD AT THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, 393 CANTON ROAD.

IF NO OBJECTION IS RECEIVED WITHIN THIS PERIOD, THE AUTHORITY WILL RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL THAT THE THREE AREAS BE DESIGNATED AS COUNTRY PARKS.

FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE TODAY NO NEW DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS BUILDING, ENGINEERING, MINING OR OTHER SIMILAR OPERATIONS, WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PROPOSED AREAS WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY, APART FROM THOSE FOR WHICH APPROVAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN.

HOWEVER, MAINTENANCE WORKS, REPAIR WORKS AND THE USE OF THE LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

ALSO, IF IT APPEARS THAT THE USE OR PROPOSED USE OF LEASE LAND WITHIN A COUNTRY PARK WOULD REDUCE THE ENJOYMENT AND AMENITIES OF THE COUNTRY PARK, THE AUTHORITY MAY REQUEST THE LAND AUTHORITY TO HAVE IT STOPPED OR MODIFIED.

OWNERS OR DEVELOPERS OF THE LAND CONCERNED, WHO ARE REFUSED PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED OR WHO ARE ORDERED TO STOP OR MODIFY THE PROPOSED USE OF THE LAND, CAN CLAIM COMPENSATION.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO ENABLES THE GOVERNOR TO EXCLUDE FROM ANY COUNTRY PARK OR SPECIAL AREA CERTAIN BUILDINGS SUCH AS TRADITIONAL BURIAL GROUNDS, TEMPLES AND MONUMENTS.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ENACTED EARLY THIS YEAR AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-RANGE PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION, THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY (DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS.

/HE IS .....

HE IS EMPOWERED TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE VEGETATION AND WILD-LIFE INSIDE THE PARKS OR AREAS AND TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN BUILDINGS AND SITES OF HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL INTEREST.

HE WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS FOR RECREATION AND TOURISM AND PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC ENJOYMENT.

THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD, ALSO SET UP UNDER THE ORDINANCE, CONSISTS OF SIX OFFICIALS AND 10 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS. IT IS CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED COUNTRY PARKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES LATER TODAY.

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COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976

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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO STREAMLINE AND SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR THE WINDING-UP OF COMPANIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

KNOWN AS THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976, IT PROVIDES FOR A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE IN LINE WITH THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

IF ENACTED, THE AMOUNT OF A DEBT WHICH ENTITLES A CREDITOR TO PETITION FOR THE WINDING-UP OF A COMPANY, ON THE GROUND THAT IT IS UNABLE TO PAY ITS DEBT, WILL BE INCREASED FROM $500 TO $5,000 -- IN LINE WITH THE RECENT SIMILAR AMENDMENT TO THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

ALSO, THE AMOUNT WHICH ENTITLES A CREDITOR TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPROMISES AND ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INCREASED FROM $100 TO $250 TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH CURRENT MONETARY VALUES.

ANOTHER PROVISION IS FOR SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO A WINDING-UP WHERE THE VALUE OF THE COMPANY'S PROPERTY IS NOT LIKELY TO EXCEED $10,000.

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FIRST STAGE OF SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE READY TO GO

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON RELEASE TWO PRIME DEVELOPMENT SITES IN SHA TIN IN THE FIRST STAGE OF A PLAN TO PROVIDE THE NEW TOWN WITH A THRIVING AND PRESTIGIOUS TOWN CENTRE.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID THAT THE TWO SITES WOULD BE DEVELOPED UNDER GOVERNMENT SPECIFICATIONS INTO A HIGH-QUALITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

HE SAID THE TWO ADJOINING SITES, BETWEEN THE OLD MARKET AND THE NEW LEK YUEN ESTATE, TOTALLED ABOUT 23,225 SQUARE METRES (250,000 SQUARE FEET).

+THE DISPOSAL OF THESE TWO SITES MEANS WE ARE GETTING ON QUICKLY WITH ESTABLISHING IN SHA TIN A MODERN AND INTEGRATED TOWN CENTRE WHICH WILL HAVE A SAFE, CONVENIENT AND ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

+THE PLANNERS HAVE PROVIDED FOR MANY INNOVATIONS, INCLUDING THE SEPARATION OF VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC, AND GIVING PRIORITY TO PEDESTRIAN SHOPPERS.

+THE TOWN CENTRE, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE AT THE HEART OF A COMMUNITY OF 500,000, AND THIS FIRST STAGE WILL PROVIDE THE TOWN WITH A COMPLEX OF A HIGH STANDARD AS WELL AS HOMES FOR 8,000 PEOPLE.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE TWO SITES WOULD BE DISPOSED OF BY TENDER TO HOLDERS OF GOVERNMENT LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENT DOCUMENTS.

UNDER THIS PROCEDURE, LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE SURRENDERED FIVE SQUARE FEET OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES ARE ENTITLED TO TWO SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING LAND AT A LATER DATE.

+IT IS PLANNED TO HOLD THE FIRST TENDER IN JANUARY AND THE SECOND IN MARCH,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID. +BY DISPOSING OF THE LOTS IN THIS WAY, THE GOVERNMENT IS HONOURING ITS COMMITMENT TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SURRENDERED THEIR LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET ITS TARGETS IN THE 10-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME.+

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE SHA TIN SITES WOULD BE DEVELOPED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN COMPLIANCE WITH CONTROL DRAWINGS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS DRAWN UP BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

ACCORDING TO THE PWD'S PROJECT MANAGER IN SHA TIN, MR. JOHN DON, THE PLANS CALL FOR EACH SITE TO HAVE A THREE-STOREY PODIUM SUPPORTING FOUR RESIDENTIAL TOWER BLOCKS.

+THE FIRST TWO FLOORS WILL BE RESERVED FOR PUBLIC AND RESIDENTS' CAR PARKING WHILE THE TOP FLOORS WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO HIGH-CLASS SHOPPING MALLS WHICH WILL COMPARE WELL WITH THE BEST ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG,+ MR. DON SAID.

/+BOTH .....

+BOTH SITES WILL BE LINKED BY TWO-LEVEL WALKWAYS AND SHOPPERS USING THE COMMERCIAL AREA WILL HAVE THE CHOICE OF USING AN OPEN AIR VERANDAH OR AN INTERNAL ARCADE SYSTEM, BOTH OF WHICH WILL GIVE EASY ACCESS TO THE SHOPS.

+SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE BY THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE RAMPS AND LIFTS THROUGHOUT THE CENTRE.

+ALL OF THE SHOPPING AREA WILL BE CENTRALLY AIR-CONDITIONED, SO THAT SHOPPERS WILL ENJOY AN EVEN-TEMPERATURED, PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT RATHER THAN BEING SUBJECTED TO DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES, HUMIDITIES AND COOLING SYSTEMS IN THE INDIVIDUAL SHOPS.

+WE FORESEE THE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX ATTRACTING SPECIALIST AND HIGH-QUALITY SHOPS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE OCEAN TERMINAL, FOR EXAMPLE.

+IN FACT, THIS SHOPPING AREA SHOULD BECOME TO SHA TIN WHAT QUEEN'S ROAD AND NATHAN ROAD ARE TO HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.+

MR. DON SAID THAT THE 8,000 PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIVE IN THE TOWER BLOCKS ABOVE THE COMMERCIAL AREA REPRESENTED NEARLY HALF OF THE 20,000 PEOPLE WHO WILL EVENTUALLY LIVE IN THE TOWN CENTRE ITSELF.

MOST OF THE REMAINDER WILL LIVE IN A SIMILAR COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL AREA WHICH WILL FORM THE SECOND 'WING' OF THE OVERALL TOWN CENTRE PLAN.

+ONE OF THE CONDITIONS THAT THE DEVELOPERS WILL HAVE TO MEET IN THE PRESENT DEVELOPMENT IS THE PROVISION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ONE BLOCK TO MEET GOVERNMENT STANDARDS,+ HE SAID.

+THE DEVELOPERS WILL HAVE TO LANDSCAPE THE DECKS OF THE PODIUM AS WELL AS PROVIDE SITTING OUT AND PLAYING AREAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS AND SHOPPERS+.

MR. DON ESTIMATED THAT THE SITES SHOULD BE FULLY DEVELOPED WITHIN ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS TIME.

HE SAID THAT OTHER MAJOR AREAS OF THE TOWN CENTRE PLAN INCLUDED THE BUILDING OF A NEW RAILWAY STATION AND BUS TERMINUS INTERCHANGE STATION, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND A CULTURAL COMPLEX WITH A CITY HALL, LIBRARY, AUDITORIUM, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER FACILITIES.

+THE TRANSPORTATION COMPLEX WILL PROVIDE A CO-ORDINATED CENTRE FOR PASSENGER TRANSFER FOR THE TOWN WHILE PEDESTRIANS WILL BE SAFELY AND CONVENIENTLY SEPARATED FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BY A SERIES OF WALKWAYS AND UNDERPASSES LINKING THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TOWN CENTRE,+ HE ADDED.

+AND THE CENTRE ITSELF WILL FACE A LARGE OPEN SPACE AREA WITH MANY COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING BICYCLE PATHS AND BICYCLE PARKS.+

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DETENTION CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976
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YOUNG ADULT OFFENDERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 24 WILL BE LIABLE TO BE SENTENCED TO DETENTION IN A DETENTION CENTRE IF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE DETENTION CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 SEEKS TO EXTEND FROM 20 TO 24 THE MAXIMUM AGE AT WHICH AN OFFENDER MAY BE SENTENCED TO A DETENTION CENTRE, AND PROVIDE FOR DETENTION FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS AND A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS FOR DETAINEES IN THE NEW 21-24 AGE GROUP.

DETAINEES UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE ON THE DATE OF THE DETENTION ORDER WILL CONTINUE TO BE LIABLE TO DETENTION FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF ONE MONTH AND A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS THERE HAD BEEN A NOTICEABLE CHANGE IN THE AGE RANGE OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO PRISONS DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS FOLLOWING CONVICTION OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.

+IN 1972, 53.6 PER CENT OF THOSE ADMITTED FOR VIOLENCE CRIMES WERE AGED UNDER 21 AND 24 PER CENT WERE IN THE AGE RANGE OF 21 TO 24 YEARS,+ HE SAID. +IN 1975 THE PERCENTAGES WERE 33.8 AND 29.5 RESPECTIVELY.+

+IN THE LIGHT OF THESE STATISTICS, TOGETHER WITH A REPORT BY A PRISONS DEPARTMENT WORKING PARTY APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DETENTION CENTRES REGIME FOR DEALING WITH OFFENDERS AGED 21 AND OVER, IT IS INTENDED THAT THE UPPER AGE LIMIT FOR SENTENCE TO A DETENTION CENTRE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO 24,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE FROM SIX TO 12 MONTHS THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISION TO WHICH A DETAINEE IS LIABLE AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM A DETENTION CENTRE.

ANOTHER PROVISION WILL ENABLE A PERSON RECALLED TO A DETENTION CENTRE FOR BREACH OF HIS SUPERVISION ORDER TO BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER SUPERVISION AFTER HIS NEXT RELEASE.

ANOTHER PART OF THE BILL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE COURTS TO MAKE A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT DETENTION ORDER AGAINST AN OFFENDER WHO HAD ALREADY UNDERGONE A PERIOD OF DETENTION.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER DETENTION WOULD HAVE A STRONG DETERRENT VALUE AND WOULD REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG YOUNG OFFENDERS STILL FURTHER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE TRANSFER OF A DETAINEE TO A PRISON OR A TRAINING CENTRE AS APPROPRIATE SHOULD IT PROVE, DURING HIS DETENTION, THAT HE IS UNSUITABLE FOR DETENTION, EXERCISING A BAD INFLUENCE ON OTHER DETAINEES, OR INCORRIGIBLE.

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## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER SHOW A DEFICIT OF $98 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF $85 MILLION IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF $398 MILLION FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF $506 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

GROSS EXPENDITURE AT $569 MILLION WAS $115 MILLION MORE THAN THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS AT $471 MILLION WAS $102 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED RECEIPTS FROM DUTIES, GENERAL INTERNAL REVENUE AND LAND SALES.

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## BLOCK RELEASE INDUSTRIAL TRADE INSTRUCTORS' COURSE

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THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR A FULL-TIME TWO-WEEK BLOCK RELEASE INDUSTRIAL TRADE INSTRUCTORS' COURSE.

THE COURSE, WHICH WILL COMMENCE EARLY NEXT MONTH, OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRADE INSTRUCTORS AND WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR DAY TO DAY TEACHING DUTIES. FROM THIS COURSE THEY WILL LEARN TO IMPROVE THEIR METHODS OF TEACHING, STUDY EDUCATION THEORY AND EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS A TRADE OR A WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR AND MUST BE FULLY SKILLED IN HIS TRADE AND SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE SECONDARY EDUCATION, PREFERRABLY SECONDARY TECHNICAL OR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRADUATES.

THE FEE FOR THE COURSE IS $60 AND THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE CHINESE, BUT SOME ENGLISH TERMINOLOGY WILL BE USED.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COLLEGE AT 373 QUEEN'S ROAD, EAST, HONG KONG.

ALL COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 18.

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## SECURITIES ORDINANCE (COMMENCEMENT) NOTICE

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IT IS ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY THAT PART IX OF THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE CAP. 333, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SECTION 88, WILL BECOME OPERATIVE ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR. SECTION 88 IS TO COME INTO OPERATION ON DECEMBER 30, 1977.

PART IX -- ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT -- APPLIES ONLY TO DEALERS. UNDER THIS PART, A DEALER IS REQUIRED TO KEEP PROPER ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS, TO KEEP IN A SEPARATE TRUST ACCOUNT ALL MONIES HELD ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS AND TO APPOINT AN AUDITOR TO AUDIT HIS ACCOUNTS. HE IS ALSO REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES IN WRITING WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THIS PART COMMENCES, I.E., NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1977, OF THE DATE ON WHICH HIS FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS.

SECTION 88, WHICH REQUIRES A DEALER TO LODGE THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET EACH YEAR WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, TOGETHER WITH AN AUDITOR'S REPORT, WILL BECOME OPERATIVE ON DECEMBER 30, 1977, THE SAME DAY AS THE SECURITIES (ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT) REGULATIONS ARE TO COME INTO OPERATION, IN ORDER THAT THEY SHALL APPLY TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDITORS' REPORTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS ON OR AFTER, BUT NOT BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OR PART IX, JANUARY 1, 1977.

THE SECURITIES (ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT) REGULATIONS 1976 WHICH PRESCRIBE THE FORM OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS AND OF BALANCE SHEETS AND SPECIFY THE INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN THE AUDITOR'S REPORTS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON NOVEMBER 19, THIS YEAR AND ARE TO COME INTO OPERATION ON DECEMBER 30, 1977. COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION WILL SHORTLY BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT STAR FERRY CONCOURSE.

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## RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES

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THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976, PUBLISHED TO-DAY, PROPOSES INCREASES IN THE PERMITTED RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES.

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PROPOSED INCREASES WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE AUTHORISED IN 1975. ON AVERAGE, THE INCREASE WOULD AMOUNT TO $28 PER MONTH FOR A DOMESTIC UPPER FLOOR IN A TENEMENT BUILDING AND $78 PER MONTH FOR A GROUND FLOOR SHOP. SUB-TENANTS OCCUPYING PARTS OF FLOORS WILL PAY MUCH LESS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT LANDLORDS AND PRINCIPAL TENANTS ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE TENANTS AND SUB-TENANTS ONE MONTH'S NOTICE OF ANY RENT INCREASE, ON THE APPROPRIATE FORM.

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## EMPLOYMENT UP IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES

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ACCORDING TO A RECENT EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, A TOTAL OF 260,036 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN THE IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 5,501 PERSONS OR 2.2 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH JUNE 1976.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER ENGAGED, 126,255 WERE IN THE RETAIL SECTOR, 75,567 IN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESSES AND 22,150 IN THE WHOLESALE SECTOR. THE OTHER 36,064 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN A COMBINATION OF IMPORT/EXPORT, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL ACTIVITIES.

THE SURVEY ALSO RECORDED 106,058 PERSONS BEING ENGAGED IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, THE FIGURE SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 2,769 PERSONS OR 2.7 PER CENT. OF THESE 106,058 PERSONS, 89,337 WORKED IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS AND 16,721 IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

DETAILS OF THE CHANGES BETWEEN JUNE 1976 AND SEPTEMBER 1976 ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

| ACTIVITY | PERSONS ENGAGED IN JUNE 1976 | PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEP. 1976 | CHANGE | PER CENT CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RETAIL | 123,910 | 126,255 | +2,345 | 1.9 |
| IMPORT/EXPORT | 73,991 | 75,567 | +1,576 | 2.1 |
| WHOLESALE | 21,466 | 22,150 | + 684 | 3.2 |
| IMPORT/EXPORT/ WHOLESALE/RETAIL | 35,168 | 36,064 | + 896 | 2.5 |
| RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS | 86,806 | 89,337 | +2,531 | 2.9 |
| HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES | 16,483 | 16,721 | + 238 | 1.4 |
| TOTAL | 357,824 | 366,094 | +8,270 | 2.3 |

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SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK

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THE PROPOSED SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, SITUATED ON THE SOUTHERN SLOPES OF TAI MO SHAN, ENCOMPASSES A TOTAL OF 1,400 HECTARES (3,460 ACRES) OF TERRAIN MOST OF WHICH ARE FOREST PLANTATIONS. THIS COUNTRY PARK STRETCHES FROM NEEDLE HILL IN THE EAST TO THE SLOPES ABOVE TING KAU IN THE WEST.

BEFORE AFFORESTATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RESERVOIR IN 1933, THE AREA WAS MOSTLY COVERED WITH GRASS AND FARMLANDS INHABITATED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED FARMERS IN EIGHT VILLAGES.

DENSE GROWTH OF INDIGENOUS SHRUBS CAN BE FOUND ALONG THE STREAM COURSES OF THE CATCHMENT AREA AND THERE ARE PATCHES OF NATURAL WOODLAND (FUNG SHUI LAM) BEHIND THE ABANDONED VILLAGE SITES.

THESE WOODLANDS WERE PRESERVED BY THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS AND ARE INTERESTING BECAUSE OF THE GREAT VARIETY OF BROAD-LEAVED TREES AMONG THEM.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING PLANTATIONS HERE WAS TO STOP SOIL EROSION AND TO PROTECT THE WATER CATCHMENT AREA OF THE RESERVOIR. ALTHOUGH THE RESERVOIR WAS COMPLETED IN 1937, LARGE SCALE AFFORESTATION WAS DELAYED UNTIL 1946 BECAUSE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

NOW MOST OF THE LANDSCAPE IN THE AREA IS DENSELY COVERED WITH SLASH PINE, BRISBANE BOX AND ACACIA TREES.

THERE HAS BEEN A HISTORY OF SEVERE HILL FIRES IN THE AREA, AND SO PRECAUTIONS AGAINST DESTRUCTION DURING THE DRY WINTER MONTHS HAVE BECOME A TOP MANAGEMENT PRIORITY. THREE FOREST PROTECTION POSTS AND ONE FIRE LOOKOUT HAVE BEEN BUILT IN STRATEGIC PLACES AND THEY ARE MANNED 24 HOURS A DAY THROUGHOUT THE DRY SEASON.

THE RESERVOIR AREA HAS LONG BEEN A VERY POPULAR RECREATIONAL RESORT. A RECORD KEPT OF THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE AREA OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS SHOWS A SHARP INCREASE FROM 60,000 IN THE 1964-65 FINANCIAL YEAR TO 440,000 IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

IN 1971, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT INTRODUCED A PILOT SCHEME TO FIND OUT THE EXTENT OF THE POPULARITY OF THE SHING MUN AREA AS A PLACE FOR PICNIC AND BARBECUE OUTINGS.

USING FUNDS FROM THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION, A TRIAL NUMBER OF BENCHES, TABLES AND BARBECUE PITS OF A VARIETY OF DESIGNS FOR TESTING UNDER LOCAL CONDITIONS WERE CONSTRUCTED AND PLACED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE AREA.

/THE FACILITIES .....

THE FACILITIES PROVED TO BE A BOON TO THE PUBLIC AND THE BEST WERE ADOPTED AS THE STANDARD DESIGNS FOR COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION FACILITIES IN HONG KONG.

A YEAR LATER, THE AREA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR INFORMAL RECREATION AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNTRYSIDE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY. BY THE END OF MAY THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 48 PICNIC PLACES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH SOME 300 TABLE AND BENCH UNITS, ABOUT 400 BENCHES AND MORE THAN 200 BARBECUE PITS.

IN ADDITION, RAIN SHELTERS, CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE PLAY EQUIPMENT AND LITTER BINS HAVE BEEN PLACED AT VARIOUS PARTS OF THE AREA.

AS THE PROPOSED PARK IS EXTREMELY POPULAR, PLANS TO DEVELOP THE EASTERN PART OF THE AREA HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND WORK WILL BEGIN ONCE THE SHING MUN EAST FOREST ROAD IS COMPLETED.

COMMENTING ON THE INTENTION TO DESIGNATE THIS AREA AS A COUNTRY PARK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THE POPULARITY OF THE PLACE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO GROW.

+SHING MUN IS NEVER WITHOUT PEOPLE, EITHER ON WEEKDAYS OR AT WEEKENDS,+ HE SAID.

+WE BELIEVE THAT THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE AREA WILL INCREASE YEAR AFTER YEAR. AS MORE PEOPLE VISIT THE PARK, THE DEMAND FOR VARIOUS FACILITIES WILL LIKEWISE INCREASE.

+WE HAVE VARIOUS PLANS IN HAND AND THEY INCLUDE MORE BARBECUE PITS, PLAY AREAS, TABLES AND BENCHES, SPECIAL PAGODA TYPE SHELTERS AND PUBLIC TOILETS.+

WITH MORE PEOPLE VISITING THE PARK, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, THE AREA WOULD REQUIRE STRINGENT MANAGEMENT. HE REVEALED THAT AT PRESENT THE PARK'S STAFF FACED TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS: HILL FIRES AND LITTER DUMPING.

+DURING THE LAST DRY SEASON, A TOTAL OF 62 FIRES OCCURRED, AFFECTING SOME 1,000 HECTARES (2,500 ACRES) OF PLANTATION AND OTHER VEGETATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE WORST FIRE WAS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR AND IT BURNED FOR 33 HOURS. MOST OF THESE FIRES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE CARELESSNESS OF INDIVIDUALS.+

BECAUSE OF THIS THE LIGHTING OF FIRES FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, EXCEPT IN AN +APPROVED BARBECUE SITE+ IS PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THIS IS A REGULATION WHICH MUST AND WILL BE ENFORCED, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

/+WITH .....

+WITH THE PARK'S POPULARITY GROWING WE BELIEVE THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY REMINDED AND EDUCATED ON THE DANGERS OF FIRE DESTROYING OUR COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE WINTER,+ HE SAID.

REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF LITTER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID AN AVERAGE OF 360 BASKETS OF RUBBISH HAD BEEN COLLECTED EVERY MONTH DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

AT 9.1 KILOGRAMMES (20 POUNDS) PER BASKET, HE ADDED, THIS REPRESENTED ABOUT 40.64 TONNES (40 TONS) A YEAR.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THREE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN G.I.S. PRESS BOXES THIS EVENING.

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MARCH IN SUPPORT OF ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN

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MORE THAN 1,500 PEOPLE ARE TAKING PART IN A +MARCH+ THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 5) IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT.

THE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING MANY FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT, WILL BEGIN THEIR SEVEN-MILE +MARCH+ FROM ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND. THEY WILL GO THROUGH SOME OF THE BUSIEST AREAS OF THE DISTRICT.

EACH OF THE PARTICIPANTS WILL WEAR A CAP WITH AN ANTI-DRUG DESIGN AND SOME WILL CARRY WITH THEM PLACARDS PAINTED WITH ANTI-DRUG SLOGANS, ALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPREADING THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE TO THE 420,000 RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

A BAND WILL LEAD THE PROCESSION AND A MOBILE BROADCASTING VAN WILL BROADCAST ANTI-DRUG JINGLES ALONG THE ROUTE.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR. PETER LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY AT 9 A.M. TO SIGNAL THE START OF THE PROCESSION.

AT THE END OF THE +MARCH+, AN ANTI-DRUG VARIETY SHOW WILL BE STAGED AT ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER THE PROCESSION WHICH WILL START AT 9 A.M. FROM THE ARGYLE STREET PLAYGROUND (NEAR THE KAI TAK AIRPORT ROUNDABOUT).

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VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS

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TWENTY-FIVE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN ENROLLED TO HELP PROBATIONERS IN A SCHEME RECENTLY INTRODUCED BY THE PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

KNOWN AS THE +VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS+, THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR MINOR OFFENDERS. THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO YOUNG OFFENDERS ON PROBATION.

THE VOLUNTEERS ARE FROM A CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AND THEY INCLUDE STUDENTS, NURSES, LIBRARIANS, TEACHERS AND FACTORY WORKERS. THEY ARE AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 60.

A TEA RECEPTION WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON AT THE LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE TO EXPLAIN THE SCHEME TO THE VOLUNTEERS AND ALSO TO LET THEM HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET ONE ANOTHER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID: +AFTER THE INITIAL INTRODUCTION, TRAINING SESSIONS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AT A LATER STAGE.

+THE TRAINING PROGRAMME INCLUDES TALKS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATION VISITS, ALL OF WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON THE CONCEPT OF PROBATION SERVICE, COURT PROCEDURES, SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE OFFENDERS AND THEIR ROLE AND FUNCTION IN THE SCHEME.+

+WHEN THEY ARE PROPERLY ORIENTATED,+ HE CONTINUED, +THEY WILL BE MATCHED TO THE PROBATIONERS AND START HELPING AND REFORMING THEM.+

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHEME WAS THAT A YOUNG OFFENDER MIGHT FEEL MORE AT EASE AND LESS SUSPICIOUS TOWARDS A VOLUNTEER WHO WAS NOT SPECIALLY ASSIGNED BY THE AUTHORITY TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

THE PROBATIONER, HE EMPHASISED, WOULD REGARD THE VOLUNTEER AS HIS FRIEND AND WOULD CONFIDE HIS SECRETS TO HIM.

SOMETIMES, HE WENT ON, A PROBATIONER MIGHT HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS OR TALENTS SUCH AS IN ART OR MUSIC AND A VOLUNTARY WORKER WITH THE SAME INTERESTS COULD MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY HELP THE PROBATIONER.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME SHOULD HELP REDUCE THE RATE OF RECIDIVISM BECAUSE A VOLUNTEER COULD ALWAYS LEAD THE PROBATIONER TO A NEW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, THUS HELPING HIM TO BREAK AWAY FROM HIS FORMER BAD ASSOCIATES.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR 'WALK FOR A MILLION'

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED ON HONG KONG ISLAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY CHEST'S +WALK FOR A MILLION+ TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5.

BETWEEN 7.30 A.M. AND 5.30 P.M. THE FOLLOWING DIVERSIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

* CAROLINE HILL ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY FROM LEIGHTON ROAD TO THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM=

* EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY FROM THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM TO TUNG LO WAN ROAD=

* LINK ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY FROM BROADWOOD ROAD TO CAROLINE HILL ROAD= AND

* EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON TAI HANG ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED INTO BLUE POOL ROAD.

TAI HANG ROAD BETWEEN BLUE POOL ROAD AND BROADWOOD ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL EASTBOUND TRAFFIC WITH THE EXCEPTION OF C.M.B. ROUTE 41 BUSES BETWEEN 7.30 A.M. AND 5 P.M.

MT. AUSTIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES OTHER THAN THOSE REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES IN THE ROAD BETWEEN 7.30 A.M. AND 3.30 P.M.

BOWEN DRIVE WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICLES BETWEEN 2 P.M. AND 5 P.M.

ALL PARKING SPACES IN LINK ROAD WILL BE SUSPENDED BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5.30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 5.

SEVERAL BUS ROUTES WILL BE AFFECTED. C.M.B. ROUTE 19 WILL TERMINATE AT BROOM ROAD IN HAPPY VALLEY INSTEAD OF AT TAI HANG ROAD FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 10.30 A.M.

C.M.B. ROUTE 11 WILL LEAVE JARDINE'S LOOKOUT VIA PRICE ROAD, MOUNT BUTLER DRIVE, MOUNT BUTLER ROAD, HENDERSON ROAD AND PERKINS ROAD FROM START OF SERVICE UNTIL 5 P.M.

THE BUS STOP FOR EASTBOUND JOURNEYS ON LEIGHTON ROAD OPPOSITE THE PO LEUNG KUK WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FROM 7 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH THE UTMOST CARE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE GOVERNMENT STADIUM, STUBBS ROAD ROUNDABOUT, BLACKS LINK, WANCHAI GAP AND THE PEAK.

TRAFFIC POLICE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AND APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED. ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AWAY BY THE POLICE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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