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CONTENTS

	PAGE NO.
CRUCIAL ROLE FOR BAPTIST COLLEGE: GOVERNOR	1
TOYS BILL TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS	2
PUBLIC VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES SOUGHT	4
ERA OF NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD - SHA	5
EXCITING PROGRAMME FOR TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL	6
PROSECUTION OF LITTER OFFENDERS ON DB AGENDA	7
DP COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRANSPORT MATTERS	8
SOCIAL SERVICES ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA	8
EASY TRAVEL SCHEME AT LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT	9
ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED	9
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	10
WATER CUT IN YAU MA TEI	10
WATER CUTS IN TUEN MUN AND HA KWAI CHUNG	11
TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST	11
ROAD CLOSURE IN FANLING	11

CRUCIAL ROLE FOR BAPTIST COLLEGE: GOVERNOR

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THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE WILL HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FULFILMENT OF THE FAR REACHING OBJECTIVES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW BUILDING AND THE SCIENCE TOWER AT THE COLLEGE, SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO HAVE COMPLETED BOTH THESE NEW BUILDINGS WHICH TOGETHER PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED SPACE FOR MANY NEW DEGREE COURSES.

THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR WAS ENTERING AN EXCITING PHASE OF RAPID EXPANSION TO MEET THE MANPOWER NEEDS OF AN INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY IN THE 1990'S AND BEYOND, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

"AS I TOLD MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 11, OUR AIM IS TO DOUBLE THE PRESENT 7,000 FIRST YEAR DEGREE PLACES TO ABOUT 15,000 PLACES BY 1995.

"THIS WILL REPRESENT 18 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP IN THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE.

"THESE AMBITIOUS PLANS HAVE RECEIVED GENERAL WELCOME AND SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE WAS NOW WORKING WITH THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAMME OF EXPANSION WHICH WOULD ENSURE NOT ONLY THAT THE TARGETS WERE ACHIEVED BUT ALSO THAT THE TRADITIONALLY HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS WERE MAINTAINED.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT THE COLLEGE HAD ACHIEVED A RECORD ENROLMENT OF 3,000 STUDENTS THIS YEAR.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, ALL OF THE FIRST YEAR INTAKE ARE PURSUING HONOURS DEGREES OR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.

"THIS IN ITSELF IS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COLLEGE ONLY STARTED TO OFFER DEGREE COURSES IN 1986.

"THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COLLEGE HAVE BOTH PLAYED THEIR PART," SIR DAVID SAID.

"BUT THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT AT THE COLLEGE'S 30TH COMMENCEMENT EARLIER, NEARLY 1,000 STUDENTS HAD RECEIVED THEIR ACADEMIC AWARDS, AND FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME THE COLLEGE WAS AWARDING DEGREES.

/CONGRATULATING THE .....

CONGRATULATING THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE COLLEGE COUNCIL, THE PRESIDENT AND ALL THE COLLEGE STAFF ON A JOB WELL DONE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COMPLETION OF THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW BUILDING AND THE SCIENCE TOWER BUILDING PROJECTS BROUGHT MANY YEARS OF PLANNING AND HARD WORK TO FRUITION.

OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD MADE THE COLLEGE'S EXPANSION POSSIBLE, SIR RUN RUN STOOD OUT AS A REAL CHAMPION OF THE COLLEGE, SIR DAVID SAID.

"SINCE 1986, HE HAS MADE AVAILABLE THE SIR RUN RUN SHAW ENDOWMENT FUND.

"HE HAS ALSO TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AT THE COLLEGE OF PROGRAMMES IN FILM AND TELEVISION EDUCATION.

"THE NAMING OF THE WEST BUILDING AFTER SIR RUN RUN IS A FITTING RECOGNITION OF HIS SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT HONG KONG COULD ACCOMPLISH WITH LEADERSHIP, DETERMINATION AND IMAGINATION.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL WITH THE NEW WIDER INITIATIVES WE HAVE TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF TERTIARY EDUCATION," HE ADDED.

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TOYS BILL TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS

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A BILL ON TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY, WHICH IS NOW BEING DRAFTED, WILL ADOPT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED SAFETY STANDARDS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR CHAN SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER SET OF SAFETY STANDARDS IN HONG KONG AS MANY LOCAL TOY MANUFACTURERS HAD ALREADY COMPLIED WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL, THEREFORE, ADOPT THE EXISTING STANDARDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN FORMULATING THE LEGISLATION, WHICH WILL ON ONE HAND SPEED UP THE PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AND ON THE OTHER ENABLE MANUFACTURERS TO OBSERVE THE SAME STANDARDS IN BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKETS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THE ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS IN HONG KONG'S LEGISLATION WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

/"THE PRACTICE .....

"THE PRACTICE OF COMMON STANDARDS IS EQUALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH EXPORT TO HONG KONG BECAUSE IN MOST CASES, IMPORTED GOODS SATISFYING DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS WILL AUTOMATICALLY ACCORD WITH THE STANDARDS OF HONG KONG WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ANY ALTERATIONS OF COMPONENTS OR DESIGNS.

"AND, INFERIOR PRODUCTS NOT UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WILL NOT FLOW INTO THE LOCAL MARKET," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE WORKING GROUP ON TOYS SAFETY, WHICH WAS SET UP IN APRIL LAST YEAR, AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES FROM CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MANUFACTURERS, HAD INITIALLY DECIDED TO ADOPT THE STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF TOY INDUSTRIES AS THE BASE FOR LEGISLATION ON THE CONTROL OF TOYS SAFETY.

"THE STANDARDS ARE VERY COMPREHENSIVE, AND INCLUDE DRIVEN TOYS, SCIENTIFIC TOYS, HANDICRAFT TOYS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND TOYS USED IN THE GARDEN.

"THE MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, FUNCTIONS SUCH AS THE NOISE AND HEAT EMITTED, PACKAGING AND LABELS OF THE TOYS ALL FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CONTROL," HE SAID.

ON CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS, MR CHAN SAID THAT AS THERE WERE NO EXISTING INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS, THE WORKING GROUP HAD SUGGESTED USING THE STANDARDS OF THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION AS THEY WERE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE OF ALL THE VARIOUS STANDARDS AND MIGHT BE RECOGNISED AS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"THE SCOPE INCLUDES BUNK BEDS, PUSHCHAIRS, SAFETY BARRIERS, HIGHCHAIRS, ETC. EVEN THOUGH THE ITEMS UNDER CONTROL ARE BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTIVE, THEY INCLUDE THE MOST COMMONLY USED CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE TOYS SAFETY STANDARDS UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WERE AIMED AT PROTECTING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14 WHILE IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY, THOSE BEING PROTECTED WERE MUCH YOUNGER.

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD SET OUT CLEAR INTERPRETATION OF "TOYS" AND "CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS", AND IT WOULD ALSO LIST THE PRODUCTS WHICH WERE NOT SUBJECT TO CONTROL SO THAT BUSINESSMEN COULD KNOW SPECIFICALLY IF THEIR PRODUCTS WERE RESTRICTED BY THE LAW OR NOT.

ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PRELIMINARY PLAN WAS TO EMPOWER THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TO BE THE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT WHOSE MAIN DUTIES WERE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS, MAKE INVESTIGATIONS AND THEN TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS SUCH AS PROSECUTION.

HE SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THE BILL WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

/"AS THE .....

"AS THE GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MANUFACTURERS WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO CHANGE THE STANDARDS OF THEIR PRODUCTS TO BE IN LINE WITH THE LAW, WE WILL PERMIT A SUITABLE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE MANUFACTURERS AS WELL AS IMPORTERS SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATION AND ADJUSTMENT," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS SAFETY WOULD NOT BE THE LAST OF THE LEGISLATION IN THE AREA OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

"IN FUTURE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER OTHER NEEDS OF CONSUMERS AND PROVIDE REASONABLE PROTECTION FOR THEM," HE SAID.

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PUBLIC VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES SOUGHT

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (MONDAY) INVITED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE SERVICES IN THE 1990'S AND BEYOND.

SPEAKING AT THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING (1989-90) OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MRS WONG SAID MUCH CHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE 1979 WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL SERVICE.

"THERE CERTAINLY IS A NEED TO TAKE STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WELFARE FIELD, AND AFFIRM THEIR APPROPRIATENESS AND ADEQUACY, OR OTHERWISE, IN MEETING THE SOCIETY'S CHANGING NEEDS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG SAID A WORKING PARTY WOULD BE SET UP SOON TO CONDUCT THE REVIEW AND DRAFT THE WHITE PAPER WHICH SHOULD BE READY BY THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

SHE SAID DRAFTERS OF THE POLICY PAPER WOULD CONDUCT THE REVIEW UPON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING SOCIAL WELFARE STRUCTURE.

"WE AIM TO ACHIEVE WHAT IS POSSIBLE AT THE REALISTIC LEVEL, HAVING REGARD TO THE INEVITABLE NEED TO SET PRIORITIES BETWEEN SERVICES SHOULD THERE BE CONSTRAINTS IN RESOURCES," SHE SAID.

ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES WHICH COMPRISED OF A WIDE RANGE OF NON-CONTRIBUTORY SCHEMES FOR THOSE PROVEN TO BE IN NEED, MRS WONG SAID THE REVIEW WOULD LOOK INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THESE SCHEMES IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGES IN THE SOCIETY.

THE WORKING PARTY WOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER THE EXISTING PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WAS CONDUCIVE TO ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF "CARE IN THE COMMUNITY" AND WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT FAMILY AND CHILD CARE SERVICE WOULD CERTAINLY BE AN AREA IN WHICH THE WORKING PARTY WOULD LOOK INTO.

/MRS WONG .....

MRS WONG SAID THE FUNCTION OF FAMILY, THE ROLE OF ITS MEMBERS, THEIR RELATIONSHIP, THEIR EXPECTATIONS ON THE COMMUNITY TO SHARE FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ITS SMOOTH FUNCTIONING WOULD ALSO BE A REVIEW TOPIC FOR THE WORKING PARTY.

"THE WORKING PARTY'S JOB IN REVIEWING OUR POLICY ON SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR LARGE SIZE AS A GROUP, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE THE SOCIETY'S FUTURE HOPES AND ITS MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG SAID APART FROM DIRECT SERVICES, THE WORKING PARTY WOULD ALSO EXAMINE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF WELFARE SUCH AS RESEARCH, MANPOWER TRAINING AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

SHE ADDED THAT THE REVIEW ON HONG KONG'S WELFARE SERVICE WOULD INCLUDE THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTORS, WHICH WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

TO CONCLUDE, MRS WONG URGED THE PUBLIC TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR VIEWS BOTH IN WRITING OR THROUGH THE MEDIA OR AT PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE CONDUCTED LATER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATE THE PROPOSED WHITE PAPER.

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ERA OF NEW CHALLENGES AHEAD - SHA

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NEW CHALLENGES IN THE 1990'S SHOULD BE FACED WITH A SENSE OF CO-OPERATION AND HARMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY OF LIGHTING DECORATIONS FOR THE SHA TIN FESTIVAL, MR TSAO SAID HE HOPED THE SHA TIN COMMUNITY COULD CONTINUE THE CO-OPERATIVE AND CONCERTED EFFORTS TO BRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN INTO THE NEW ERA.

NOTING THAT A NEW DECADE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN, MR TSAO SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION THE SHA TIN FESTIVAL, SPANNING TWO DECADES, WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

SINCE THE LAST DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD EMBARKED ON A PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPING THE NEW TOWNS, AND SHA TIN DEVELOPED RAPIDLY FROM A TRADITIONAL RURAL TOWNSHIP INTO A PROSPEROUS NEW TOWN WITH COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES.

HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE WHO HAD TAKEN PART IN COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS AND CO-OPERATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPING THE DISTRICT.

/THE FESTIVE .....

THE FESTIVE LIGHTING IN SHA TIN WAS TURNED ON THIS EVENING AS CHRISTMAS CAROLS WERE SUNG BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

THE FOCAL POINT OF THIS YEAR'S LIGHTING IS A 6.5-METRE HIGH, 33-METRE WIDE PICTURE ON SAND MARTIN BRIDGE FEATURING AMAH ROCK AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS.

ANOTHER MAJOR ATTRACTION IS A 33-METRE DIAMETER, 6.5-METRE TALL CHINESE LANTERN ROTATING AT A SPEED OF ONE CYCLE PER MINUTE ON A HILLTOP IN CENTRAL PARK.

ON BANYAN BRIDGE, A CHINESE PROVERB MEANING SUCCESS IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE WISHES RESIDENTS GOOD LUCK.

IN ADDITION, THE LAMP POSTS ALONG TAI CHUNG KIU ROAD BEAR COLOURFUL DECORATIONS.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON FROM 5.30 PM TO MIDNIGHT UNTIL FEBRUARY 10.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, NEW YEAR'S EVE, AND LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE TO THE SECOND DAY AFTER LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON UNTIL 5 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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EXCITING PROGRAMME FOR TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL

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A QUALITY PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DRAWN UP FOR THE 12TH TSUEN WAN ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM JANUARY 19 TO MARCH 2.

BOTH LOCAL AND VISITING ARTISTES WILL TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVAL WHICH WILL RUN FOR 43 DAYS.

HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA BY THE CHOR FUNG MING OPERA TROUPE, PERFORMANCES BY THE XIAO BAI HUA SHAOXING OPERA TROUPE AND THE JIANGSU WUXI MUSIC AND ART TROUPE FROM CHINA.

FURTHERMORE, THERE WILL BE PERFORMANCES BY THE JOHN WEY LING'S BALLET GALA, A DRAMA PRESENTED BY HIGH NOON PRODUCTION, AN ORCHESTRAL CONCERT BY HONG KONG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND A PERFORMANCE BY ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON.

OTHER EVENTS WILL INCLUDE MODERN DANCE, NAM YIN (SOUTHERN MELODIES) CONCERT, MIME PERFORMANCE, AND FOLK AND POP SONG CONCERTS.

/THE FESTIVAL .....

THE FESTIVAL IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT'S CULTURE AND RECREATION CO-ORDINATING ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE VARIOUS FORMS OF PERFORMING ARTS AND TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE FESTIVAL'S ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT $2 MILLION IS FUNDED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL SPONSORSHIP.

PEOPLE WISHING TO ATTEND THE SHOWS CAN BOOK THEIR TICKETS AT THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AND THE URBTIX OUTLETS NOW.

TELEPHONE RESERVATION CAN BE MADE ON 3-7349009 AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 0-4140144 OR 0-4149662.

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PROSECUTION OF LITTER OFFENDERS ON DB AGENDA

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS A PROSECUTION DRIVE AGAINST LITTER OFFENDERS IN THE DISTRICT'S PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND HOME OWNERSHIP COURTS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A FUND RAISING ACTIVITY -- THE NETHERSOLE HOSPITAL'S FLAG DAY IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THEY WILL CONSIDER SEVEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS INVOLVING MORE THAN $220,000.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TRANSPORT MATTERS

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT MEASURES TO REGULATE PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN TUNG CHOI STREET AND FA YUEN STREET AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20).

THEY WILL ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WATERLOO ROAD/SHANGHAI STREET JUNCTION.

ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED IS THE PROGRAMME OF PROPOSED MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN MONG KOK DURING 1990-91.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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SOCIAL SERVICES ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDED FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO REHABILITATION PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

AT THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE'S FIVE WORKING GROUPS WILL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEAR 1989-90.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 880-886 KING'S ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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EASY TRAVEL SCHEME AT LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT

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DRIVERS OF GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME WHEN THE LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT BECOMES OPERATIONAL ON DECEMBER 29, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

INITIALLY, THE CONTROL POINT WILL BE OPEN TO GOODS VEHICLES ONLY AND THE DATE FOR ITS OPENING TO PRIVATE CARS AND COACHES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, DRIVERS OF GOODS VEHICLES HOLDING HONG KONG PERMANENT INDENTITY CARDS OR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE *** SYMBOL, WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM FILLING OUT ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE CARDS WHEN PASSING THROUGH THE LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD PRODUCE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BEARING VALID ENDORSEMENTS FOR PASSING THROUGH THE CONTROL POINT AND CARRY PROPER DOCUMENTS FOR CHINA," HE SAID.

WITH THE OPENING OF THE LOK MA CHAU CONTROL POINT, THERE WILL BE THREE VEHICULAR CROSSINGS AT THE BORDER. THE OTHER TWO ARE AT MAN KAM TO AND SHA TAU KOK WHERE THE EASY TRAVEL SCHEME IS ALREADY FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE A NUMBER OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN KOWLOON CITY SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ARE ON THE ROOFTOPS OF 127 AND 127A, MA TAU WAI ROAD.

THE CLOSURE IS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN FEBRUARY, MAY AND SEPTEMBER 1986; IN SEPTEMBER OF 1987; IN MARCH LAST YEAR AND IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 21 NEXT YEAR WERE POSTED ON CONSPICUOUS PARTS OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

/THE BUILDING .....

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS ALSO SEEKING THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN YUEN LONG SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT FLATS A1, A2, A4, B4 AND C4, 1/F, HING FUK HOUSE AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN YUEN LONG.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN JANUARY 1987, IN MARCH AND JUNE OF LAST YEAR AND IN JANUARY THIS YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURES.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 1 NEXT YEAR WERE POSTED ON CONSPICUOUS PARTS OF THE STRUCTURES TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER CLOSURE ORDERS ARE OBTAINED.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 46.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 273.907 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 230.437 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 39.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUT IN YAU MA TEI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT SOME PREMISES IN KANSU STREET, NATHAN ROAD, SAIGON STREET, NING PO STREET, SHANGHAI STREET, PAK HOI STREET, FERRY STREET AND CANTON ROAD.

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WATER CUTS IN TUEN MUN AND HA KWAI CHUNG

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9.30 AM TO 9 PM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20) TO FACILITATE WATERMAINS MAINTENANCE WORKS.

ON THE SAME DAY, FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN HA KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN LAI CHI KOK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT CHO YIU CHUEN, LAI YIU ESTATE, LAI KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, WONDERLAND VILLAS, WA YUEN CHUEN AND ALL PREMISES ALONG WAH KING HILL ROAD.

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TEMPORARY URBAN CLEARWAY IN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20), DES VOEUX ROAD WEST BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 334 AND WATER STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

THIS MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE TRAM TRACK RENEWAL.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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ROAD CLOSURE IN FANLING

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE WO TAI STREET SECTION BETWEEN LUEN HING STREET AND LUEN FAT STREET, FANLING, HAS BEEN CLOSED TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN REPAIR WORKS.

THE LUEN HING STREET SECTION BETWEEN WO TAI STREET AND WO LUNG STREET HAS BEEN RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND, WHILE LUEN FAT STREET SECTION BETWEEN WO TAI STREET AND WO FUNG STREET HAS BEEN RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC UNTIL WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20).

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