



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT LONDON

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL VISIT LONDON FROM JULY 20 TO 22.

THIS WILL BE HIS FIRST VISIT SINCE HE TOOK UP HIS DUTIES AS GOVERNOR ON APRIL 9.

HE AND LADY WILSON WILL THEN HAVE A SHORT HOLIDAY. THEY PLAN TO RETURN TO HONG KONG ON AUGUST 12.

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NUMBER OF FOREIGN LAWYERS ON THE RISE

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THERE IS A SMALL BUT GROWING NUMBER OF FOREIGN LAWYERS IN HONG KONG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF VICTORIA, MR THOMAS SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME A MAJOR CENTRE FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE, FOR BANKING, FINANCING, INVESTMENT AND TRADE.

THIS HAD CREATED A NEW DEMAND FOR SOPHISTICATED LEGAL SERVICES, BEYOND THE RANGE OF LEGAL WORK IN A SELF-SUFFICIENT COMMUNITY, SUCH AS REPRESENTATION AT CRIMINAL TRIALS, BUYING AND SELLING PROPERTY, SETTLING FAMILY AFFAIRS, INHERITANCE AND SO ON.

THE NEW DEMANDS WERE FOR LAWYERS TO ADVISE ON REGIONAL LOAN SYNDICATION, PROJECT FINANCE, BOND ISSUES, CROSS-BORDER LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION PLANS, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATE DEALS AND THE LIKE.

MR THOMAS SAID HONG KONG HAD RESPONDED IN THREE WAYS TO THE NEW DEMANDS.

FIRST, SOME OF THE LONG ESTABLISHED FIRMS RAPIDLY EXPANDED, RECRUITED OVERSEAS STAFF, FORMED ASSOCIATIONS WITH OVERSEAS LAW FIRMS, AND LEARNED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE NEW PROBLEMS THAT THEIR CLIENTS BROUGHT TO THEM.

SECOND, BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS FROM ENGLAND AND WALES WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO PRACTISE HERE, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXPANDING MARKET FOR LEGAL SERVICES, HE SAID.

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THERE ARE NOW BRANCH OFFICES OF 22 MAJOR LAW FIRMS FROM THE CITY OF LONDON, ABLE TO UNDERTAKE ALL FORMS OF HONG KONG WORK BUT CHIEFLY BIDDING FOR COMMERCIAL WORK.

SAID MR THOMAS: "YOUNG BARRISTERS CAME TOO, BUT AT THE BAR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREND HAS BEEN THE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF QUEEN'S COUNSEL FROM ENGLAND AND WALES WHO ARE ADMITTED EACH YEAR TO TAKE PART IN THE MORE COMPLEX AND SPECIALIST DISPUTES THAT COME BEFORE THE COURTS OF HONG KONG.

"FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, AROUND 90 TO 100 QUEEN'S COUNSEL HAVE COME TO HONG KONG EACH YEAR.

"THIS INFLUX OF TALENT TO SUPPLEMENT HONG KONG'S RESOURCES HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY HONG KONG'S LEGAL PROFESSIONS.

"THEY HAVE BEEN QUICK TO RECOGNISE THE BENEFITS TO HONG KONG'S BUSINESS ACTIVITY THAT SKILLED PRACTITIONERS FROM ENGLAND AND WALES HAVE PROVIDED."

THE THIRD RESPONSE TO HONG KONG'S RAPID TRANSFORMATION INTO AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ALSO CAME FROM OVERSEAS.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID FOREIGN LAWYERS WHO ARRIVED WERE NOT QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE AS BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS IN HONG KONG, BUT WHOSE CLIENT HAD WORK TO GIVE THEM IN HONG KONG.

THE FIRST OVERSEAS LAW FIRMS APPEARED IN THE EARLY '70S AND AT THE LAST COUNT THERE WERE 20 OF THEM, MOSTLY FROM THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, BUT INCLUDING OTHERS FROM WEST GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN AND THE PHILLIPINES. THESE FIRMS HAVE ENGAGED ABOUT 70 LAWYERS.

ANOTHER 34 OVERSEAS LAWYERS WORK IN ONE PARTICULAR FIRM WHICH HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS A LOCAL LAW FIRM.

IN OTHER LOCAL LAW FIRMS, SOME 17 OVERSEAS LAWYERS ARE AT WORK.

MR THOMAS SAID THIS MEANS THERE WERE NOW WELL OVER 100 LAWYERS WORKING IN HONG KONG WHO LACKED THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY THE LAWS OF HONG KONG TO PRACTISE HERE AS BARRISTERS OR SOLICITORS.

"SO THEY CANNOT APPEAR FOR CLIENTS IN THE COURTS OF HONG KONG OR CONVEY TITLE TO REAL ESTATE IN HONG KONG, TO DEAL WITH PROBATE OF WILLS OR OFFER FOR SALE ADVICE ON HONG KONG LAW. BUT THEY ARE BUSY CHIEFLY HANDLING COMMERCIAL WORK IN THE REGION," HE EXPLAINED.

AS A RESULT OF ADVICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1977, OVERSEAS LAWYERS WHO WISH TO OPEN UP OFFICES HERE AND BUILD UP PRACTICES ARE REQUIRED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FIRST WITH THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG.

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THIS THEY DO BY UNDERTAKING THAT THEY WILL NOT DO THE KIND OF WORK RESERVED BY LAW FOR BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS WITH HONG KONG QUALIFICATIONS, THAT THEY WILL NOT EMPLOY OR SHARE THEIR FEES WITH LOCALLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS, AND THAT THEY WILL OBSERVE THE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT THAT ARE ACCEPTED BY HONG KONG LAWYERS.

SAID MR THOMAS: "ON THE WHOLE, THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE WORKED WELL AND HAVE ENABLED MANY OVERSEAS LAWYERS TO CONTRIBUTE NOTABLY TO HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL SUCCESS.

"BUT THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICISMS. BECAUSE THE PRECISE TERMS OF THE UNDERTAKINGS REQUIRED BY THE LAW SOCIETY HAVE ALTERED FROM TIME TO TIME, SOME OVERSEAS LAWYERS FEEL AGGRIEVED THAT OTHERS ENJOY LESS RESTRICTED OPPORTUNITIES. THIS IS NOT A FAIR CRITICISM.

"THE LAW SOCIETY'S POLICY INEVITABLY EVOLVES AS LOCAL NEEDS CHANGE, AND AS FRESH POINTS ARISE EACH TIME THERE ARE NEGOTIATIONS, AND DIFFERENT OVERSEAS LAWYERS HAVE DIFFERING WORK OBJECTIVES."

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERSEAS LAWYERS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG LOCAL LAWYERS, TO FORGE LONG TERM LINKS WITH THE TERRITORY. "BUT THIS THE LAW SOCIETY IS AGAINST BECAUSE IT DOES NOT SEEM TO THEM RIGHT THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC FOR ADVICE ON HONG KONG LAW SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY A PARTNERSHIP OF FOREIGN LAWYERS WHO HAVE NO QUALIFICATIONS IN HONG KONG LAW.

"SOME WOULD SAY IT IS ALSO LESS THAN SATISFACTORY THAT THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS ARE NOT REGULATED BY LAW, AND ARE INSTEAD LEFT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INCOMING OVERSEAS LAWYERS AND THEIR NATURAL COMPETITORS IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

"THERE IS ALSO A QUESTION ABOUT THE STATUS OF NOTARIES FROM CHINA AND ELSEWHERE TO PERFORM NOTARIAL ACTS IN HONG KONG THAT NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED," MR THOMAS SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHY HONG KONG SHOULD NOT CONTINUE AS IT WAS, FOLLOWING "A PRAGMATIC CASE BY CASE APPROACH" WITH EACH NEW FIRM OF FOREIGN LAWYERS BEING GIVEN RIGHTS OF PRACTICE ON MUTUALLY AGREED TERMS OF UNDERTAKING.

BUT SOME WILL SAY THAT HONG KONG, LIKE OTHER JURISDICTIONS, SHOULD NOW BE LOOKING TOWARDS A SIMILAR STATUTORY APPROACH, HE SAID.

"AFTER ALL, THE JOINT DECLARATION SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO PROVISION IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION FOR LAWYERS FROM OUTSIDE TO WORK AND PRACTISE HERE AFTER 1997 ON THE BASIS OF THE SYSTEM PREVIOUSLY OPERATING IN HONG KONG.

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"ALSO THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS NOT AS CLEAR OR AS SETTLED OR AS EVEN-HANDED AS IT COULD BE. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT SET OUT IN OUR LAWS FOR ALL TO SEE," MR THOMAS SAID.

HE WARNED HOWEVER THAT ANY REVIEW IN THIS AREA WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY. THERE WILL BE A NEED TO CONSULT FULLY LOCAL AND OVERSEAS LAWYERS IF HONG KONG IS TO CONSIDER HAVING A STATUTORY CODE TO GOVERN THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN LAWYERS IN HONG KONG.

SAID MR THOMAS: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION NOW AND IN THE LONG TERM TO HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS.

"ONE WAY OF DOING SO WOULD BE TO GIVE THEM LEGAL RECOGNITION AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM."

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TOPIC OF FOREIGN LAWYERS WORKING IN HONG KONG HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE WORKING PARTY LOOKING AT THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' ORDINANCE, SET UP BY THE GOVERNOR IN AUGUST LAST YEAR UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE. "THIS SEEMS THE OBVIOUS PLACE FOR THESE IDEAS TO BE CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

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NO JOBS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) STRESSED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO FIND A JOB IN HONG KONG.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EVEN IF THEY WOULD GET AWAY FOR A SHORT WHILE, THEY WOULD SOON BE DISCOVERED.

"THIS IS BECAUSE LABOUR INSPECTORS ARE MAKING REGULAR VISITS TO ANY PLACE OF WORK TO ENFORCE LABOUR LEGISLATION AS WELL AS PART IVB OF THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITS THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITHOUT VALID PROOF OF IDENTITY," HE SAID.

DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS THIS YEAR, SOME 38,000 SUCH INSPECTIONS WERE MADE ON BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, RANGING FROM FACTORIES, CONSTRUCTION SITES AND RESTAURANTS TO DEPARTMENT STORES.

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AS A RESULT, 100 WORKERS WHO WERE SUSPECTED TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OR TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS WERE REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PENALTY FOR EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAS SO SEVERE AND THE CHANCE OF THEIR BEING DISCOVERED SO HIGH THAT NO EMPLOYER IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD RISK DOING IT.

"UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, ANY EMPLOYER WHO OFFERS JOBS TO II'S ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR ONE YEAR."

DURING THE SAME FIVE-MONTH PERIOD, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ALSO TOOK OUT EIGHT PROSECUTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO FAILED TO KEEP A PROPER RECORD OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE RECORD SHOULD CONTAIN THE NAMES OF ALL EMPLOYEES, THE TYPE OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS THEY USE AND THE NUMBER OF SUCH DOCUMENTS.

"FAILING TO DO SO CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$10,000," HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, OFFICERS FROM THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS CARRIED OUT A JOINT INSPECTION ON SOME INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS IN KOWLOON THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY VISITED A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN WONG TAI SIN AND SOME FACTORIES IN SAN PO KONG WHERE THEY INSPECTED THE EMPLOYEES' RECORDS AND THE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF WORKERS EMPLOYED THERE. HOWEVER, NO SUSPECTED II'S WERE FOUND DURING THE VISITS.

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WOMEN URGED TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT WOMEN IN THE REGION COULD INVOLVE MORE ACTIVELY IN CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT.

SHE WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A WEEK-LONG SEMINAR CO-SPONSORED BY THE ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF CREDIT UNIONS AND THE CREDIT UNION LEAGUE OF HONG KONG.

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SHE TOLD SOME 40 CREDIT UNIONISTS FROM 15 COUNTRIES THAT IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT THEY HAD CHOSEN "WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN CREDIT UNIONS" AS THE THEME OF THE SEMINAR AS MORE AND MORE WOMEN IN THE REGION PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY.

CITING HONG KONG AS AN EXAMPLE, MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT WOMEN IN THE TERRITORY ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 37 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE: OVER 46 PER CENT OF THE FEMALE POPULATION HAD ATTAINED AN EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF SECONDARY SCHOOL OR ABOVE.

"THIS FIGURE WILL RISE AS OUR POPULATION AGES. IN THE 20-29 AGE GROUP, 76 PER CENT OF THE FEMALE POPULATION ARE AT WORK. THE NUMBERS OCCUPYING SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS ARE GROWING. THESE WOMEN CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE.

"THE FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN HONG KONG IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF DEVELOPED INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS AND IS GENERALLY HIGHER THAN OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE ASIAN REGION. WOMEN WILL HAVE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY IN THE YEARS TO COME," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT IF WOMEN WERE TO BE BROUGHT IN AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN CREDIT UNIONS, THERE MUST BE A FIRM INSTITUTIONAL BASE WITHIN WHICH THEIR PARTICIPATION, INVOLVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION COULD BE ACCELERATED AND STRENGTHENED.

"THE ONUS OF DRAWING WOMEN INTO THE CREDIT UNION, TEACHING AND TRAINING THEM TO SHARE EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH THEIR MALE PARTNERS RESTS WITH INDIVIDUAL CREDIT UNIONS AND LEAGUES AT ALL LEVELS," SHE SAID.

SHE ASSURED THAT CREDIT UNIONS WOULD STILL HAVE A USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY DESPITE THE RAPID GROWTH OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION.

"CREDIT UNIONS ARE A MINIATURE COMMUNITY. THEY BRING TOGETHER A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE COMMON AIM OF PRACTISING THRIFT AND SAVING FOR THE RAINY DAY. IN HELPING YOURSELF, YOU ALSO HELP OTHERS. THIS SPIRIT OF MUTUAL HELP AND CONCERN PROVIDE A VERY SOUND FOUNDATION FOR SOCIETY TO PROGRESS AND MATURE.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF CREDIT UNIONS IN HONG KONG BY PROVIDING A SOUND AND, I HOPE, HELPFUL, LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THEY CAN OPERATE," SHE SAID.

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STATUTORY DECLARATIONS PROVE POPULAR

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STATUTORY DECLARATIONS PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES (PESC) OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAVE BECOME A POPULAR SERVICE AND WERE WIDELY USED WITH MORE THAN 242,298 DECLARATIONS MADE IN THE PAST FIVE MONTHS.

THIS REPRESENTED 49 PER CENT OF A TOTAL OF 500,000 DECLARATIONS HANDLED BY THE PESC STAFF FOR THE WHOLE OF 1986, A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ARE USUALLY MADE WHEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CANNOT PRODUCE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTARY PROOF TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CLAIM OR TO SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATION FOR DOCUMENTS FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID AMONG THE POPULAR STATUTORY DECLARATIONS MADE DURING THE PERIOD WERE DECLARATION OF TRUE COPIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS AND EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS.

"THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE IN ALL 66 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

"MAKING A STATUTORY DECLARATION IS SIMPLE AND COSTS NOTHING TO ANYONE WISHING TO USE THE SERVICE," HE ADDED.

A DECLARATION MAY BE MADE, TAKEN OR RECEIVED IN ENGLISH OR CHINESE AND THE DECLARANT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE CONTENTS OF HIS OR HER STATEMENT IN A STATUTORY DECLARATION FORM AVAILABLE AT ALL PESC'S.

AFTER FILLING IN THE FORM, THE DECLARANT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SWEAR AN OATH BEFORE A COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS.

THE ONLY DOCUMENT REQUIRED IS THE DECLARANT'S IDENTITY CARD OR ANY DOCUMENT WHICH CAN PROVE HIS OR HER IDENTITY. AS NOT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND THEIR SUB-OFFICES PROVIDE DECLARATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE DAY, PROSPECTIVE DECLARANTS ARE ADVISED TO TELEPHONE THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES TO ENSURE THAT SUCH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

ANYONE WISHING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SERVICE CAN GO PERSONALLY TO ANY OF THE 66 PESC'S OR CONTACT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE SECTION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ON THE 13TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON, OR CALL 3-692255.

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WATER CARNIVAL TO LAUNCH SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME

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A SPECTACULAR WATER CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY (JULY 4) TO LAUNCH THIS YEAR'S KWUN TONG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME.

THE WATER CARNIVAL, FEATURING WATER SAFETY AND LIFE-SAVING DEMONSTRATION, AQUATIC GAMES AND FREE SWIMMING SESSIONS WILL BE STAGED AT THE KWUN TONG SWIMMING POOL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE SAID TODAY.

SOME 600 YOUTHS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THIS OPENING EVENT TO KICK OFF A SERIES OF 400 ACTIVITIES BEARING THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE 1987 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME - 'SHARE THE FUN, SERVE THE COMMUNITY'.

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE OUTINGS, CAMPAIGNS, SPORTS, COMPETITIONS, SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES, PROVIDING EIGHT WEEKS OF MEANINGFUL SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO 250,000 YOUTHS IN KWUN TONG.

"TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS YEAR'S KWUN TONG SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS AWARD SCHEME HAS BEEN SET UP TO COMMEND THE FIVE MOST DISTINGUISHED PROJECTS TO PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY BUILDING IN THE DISTRICT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WINNERS OF THE SCHEME WILL EACH BE AWARDED A PRIZE WORTH \$500 AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE PROGRAMME.

"TO MARK THE CLOSING HIGHLIGHT, A DISCO NIGHT WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 28," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A PAMPHLET LISTING THE ADDRESSES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TAKING PART IN ORGANISING ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROGRAMME IS AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND BRANCH OFFICES.

THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF \$404,300 FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB FUNDS HAS BEEN GRANTED TO 105 ORGANISATIONS TO ORGANISE SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

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PLACEMENT OF REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN PROGRESS

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ABOUT 200 OF THE 400 REDUNDANT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS REGISTERED WITH THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PLACED IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS SINCE THE PLACEMENT SERVICE THIS YEAR BEGAN LAST MONTH.

THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF PLACING REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN NEW POSTS WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH TO COMPLETE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

TO SPEED UP THE PLACEMENT EXERCISE, THE SPOKESMAN URGED ALL AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPERVISORS TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES ALL AVAILABLE TEACHING VACANCIES IN THEIR SCHOOLS, ARISING FROM NEW CLASSES, WASTAGE AND RETIREMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CALLED ON THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT REDUNDANT TEACHERS REFERRED BY THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN FILLING THEIR VACANCIES.

"WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT FROM SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PLACEMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PLACE ALL REDUNDANT TEACHERS AT AN EARLY DATE."

"AS A RESULT, TEACHING VACANCIES IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE FROZEN," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, SCHOOL SUPERVISORS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH OTHER TEACHERS BEFORE THE PLACEMENT SERVICE HAS COMPLETED ITS TASK.

FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS CARRIED OUT THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF HELPING TO PLACE REDUNDANT AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN NEW JOBS BECAUSE OF A DROP IN POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AND A SHIFT OF POPULATION FROM URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TOWNS.

BETWEEN 1975 AND 1986, ABOUT 4,500 AFFECTED TEACHERS WERE HELPED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POSTS.

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NT GREEN MINIBUSES ALLOWED TO CARRY GOODS
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APPLICATIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF PERMITS TO NEW TERRITORIES GREEN MINIBUSES (GMB) FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS WILL BE OPEN FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE MOVE TO ALLOW NT GMB'S TO CARRY GOODS IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GMB SERVICES AND HAS GAINED THE SUPPORT FROM DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND OPERATORS OF THE TRADE, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE LARGER TYPES OF GREEN MINIBUSES ARE SUITABLE FOR CARRYING GOODS, WHILE THE OLDER TYPES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CARRY GOODS WITHOUT REMOVING SOME SEATS FROM THE VEHICLES. APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT TO MODIFY THE INTERIOR LAYOUT OF THE VEHICLES.

GMB OPERATORS SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THE VEHICLES ARE CLEAN AND TIDY; THAT ALL EXITS ARE FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION; THAT THE MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT IS NOT EXCEEDED; AND THAT NO DANGEROUS GOODS ARE CARRIED.

ON THE FARE SCALE, THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT IMPOSE SCALE OF CHARGES FOR THE GOODS AS IT IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE EXACT SIZE AND WEIGHT OF THE GOODS BEING CARRIED. THE OPERATORS SHOULD DECIDE THE CHARGES DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO FUTURE REVIEW, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION, ROOMS 906-909, 9/F, HUTCHISON HOUSE, 10 HARCOURT ROAD, HONG KONG; AND AT KOWLOON PUBLIC VEHICLES OFFICE, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 9/F, DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON.

GOODS PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED AT \$15 AND WILL BE VALID NOT MORE THAN 12 MONTHS.

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ISLAND OFFICE TO RECEIVE PLB DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENTS
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PUBLIC LIGHT BUS DRIVING TEST APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO TAKE THEIR TEST AT THE EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD CENTRE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO TRAVEL TO SHA TIN TO MAKE THEIR TEST APPOINTMENTS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

FROM WEDNESDAY (JULY 1), APPLICATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE DRIVING TEST SECTION'S HONG KONG APPOINTMENT OFFICE AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, CENTRAL.

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AT PRESENT, ALL DRIVING TEST APPOINTMENTS FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES HAVE TO BE MADE THROUGH THE SHA TIN APPOINTMENT OFFICE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER APPLICANTS ARE TAKING THEIR TESTS AT THE EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD CENTRE OR THE SHEK LEI CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HOPED THE NEW MEASURE WOULD MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR APPLICANTS LIVING OR WORKING ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

"HOWEVER, CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO BE TESTED AT THE SHEK LEI CENTRE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE SHA TIN APPOINTMENT OFFICE AT 5/F, KCR BUILDING, SHA TIN STATION, NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

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POSTFAX SERVICE EXTENDED TO SAUDI ARABIA
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THE POSTFAX SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM WEDNESDAY (JULY 1), THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS A JOINT POST OFFICE AND CABLE AND WIRELESS(HK) LTD. PUBLIC FACSIMILE SERVICE. POSTFAX ITEMS HANDED IN AT GPO BEFORE 6 PM WILL BE ACCORDED SAME-DAY DELIVERY IN SAUDI ARABIA. DOCUMENTS (HAND-WRITTEN OR TYPED), DRAWINGS AND DIAGRAMS UP TO A4 SIZE ARE ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMISSION.

"ALL POSTFAX ITEMS ARE HANDLED WITH CARE AND CONFIDENTIALITY," A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE, THESE ITEMS WILL BE SCANNED, CONVERTED INTO HIGH-SPEED ELECTRONIC IMPULSES AND TRANSMITTED DIRECT TO THE RECEIVING GATEWAY IN THE DISTANT COUNTRY.

THE CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE TO SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE :

'SHORT MESSAGE' FACILITY	\$55
FOR THE FIRST SIZE OF AN A4 SHEET OF PAPER	\$80
FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT A4 SIZE SENT TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE AT THE SAME TIME	\$35

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THIS SERVICE CAN HAND IN THEIR DOCUMENTS AT ANY ONE OF THE 30 ACCEPTANCE POST OFFICES OR THE TWO CABLE AND WIRELESS SALES OFFICES AT THE EXCHANGE SQUARE AND HERMES HOUSE.

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POSTFAX SERVICE IS NOW OFFERING HIGH-SPEED FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND 70 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. ALL THE IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS OF HONG KONG ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICE NETWORK, SUCH AS THE U.S., THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

POSTFAX HAS BEEN CALLED THE FASTEST MAIL ON EARTH BECAUSE IT ONLY TAKES A NUMBER OF HOURS FOR A MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED ABROAD AFTER TRANSMISSION, RATHER THAN DAYS BY CONVENTIONAL MAIL FACILITIES. IT IS ALREADY ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLIC ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICES AND IS STILL GROWING FAST.

FOR SPEEDIER TRANSMISSION AND AT NO EXTRA COST, FACSIMILE MACHINE OWNERS IN HONG KONG CAN 'FAX' THEIR MESSAGES TO THE POST OFFICE UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO ADDRESSEES ABROAD WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SERVICE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE POSTFAX MANAGER ON 5-8471148.

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WORKSHOPS ON TEACHING OF LISTENING COMPREHENSION
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE WILL ORGANISE FOUR WORKSHOPS ON THE TEACHING OF LISTENING COMPREHENSION FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH NEXT MONTH.

TWO WORKSHOPS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE HELD AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 165 MA TAU WAI ROAD, TO KWA WAN, BETWEEN JULY 6 AND 10.

OF THE TWO WORKSHOPS FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS, ONE IS DESIGNED FOR TEACHERS AT JUNIOR SECONDARY LEVEL WHILE THE OTHER IS FOR TEACHERS AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL. THESE TWO COURSES WILL BE HELD AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE BETWEEN JULY 16 AND 21.

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE SHORT TALKS ON THE TEACHING OF LISTENING COMPREHENSION AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE USE OF VARIOUS LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES.

TEACHERS ATTENDING THE WORKSHOPS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO DESIGN A LISTENING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE SUITABLE FOR USE IN THEIR OWN CLASSES.

SCHOOL HEADS ARE ADVISED TO NOMINATE TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1987

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JUNK BAY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO BE DISCUSSED

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS PROPOSED COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AT JUNK BAY.

THEY WILL ALSO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WORK PLANS

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE ANNUAL WORK PLANS OF ITS SIX WORKING GROUPS.

THEY INCLUDE THE EDITORIAL ADVISORY GROUP, CONCERN FOR THE AGED WORKING GROUP, WORKING GROUP ON CIVIC EDUCATION, WORKING GROUP FOR THE CONCERN OF PORNOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES IN WAN CHAI, CONCERN FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP AND THE NEWLY FORMED ANTI-SMOKING WORKING GROUP.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER APPLYING FOR DB FUNDS FOR ORGANISING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT, AMONGST THEM A SURVEY ON THE VALUE AND BEHAVIORAL PATTERN OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN WAN CHAI, AND A CIVIC EDUCATION FOR YOUTHS PROJECT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 201 HENNESSY ROAD, 8TH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, WAH CHAI.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FIVE YEAR FORECAST

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FIVE YEAR FORECAST AND ANNUAL ESTIMATES FOR FUNDS OF THE BOARD AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

ALSO ON THE AGENDA WILL BE THE REVISION TO FINANCIAL RULES, APPLICATION FOR FUNDS AND CREATION OF SUBHEADS. THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ASKED TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CHANNELS AT WONG NAI TAU AND SIU LEK YUEN, AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SITTING-OUT AREA AT TAI WAI NEW VILLAGE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FOR HOLDING INDIVIDUAL RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DISTRICT BOARD SPONSORED RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ICAC TUEN MUN OFFICE WILL ATTEND THE MEETING TO BRIEF THE COMMITTEE ON THEIR ANTI-CORRUPTION PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) WHICH BEGINS AT 3 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG.

PLEASE ALSO BE REMINDED THAT THE TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1, HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO JULY 22 AT 3 PM.

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MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1987

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FANLING COCKLOFT TO BE DEMOLISHED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN RESPECT OF A GROUND FLOOR SHOP AND ILLEGAL COCKLOFT AT KUEN WONG BUILDING, LUEN FAT STREET, LUEN WO MARKET, FANLING.

AN AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) IT WANTED TO CLOSE THE PREMISES SO THAT DEMOLITION OF THE COCKLOFT COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DANGER TO OCCUPIERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER FROM SHA TIN DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 29 WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURE TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DEMOLITION WAS ORDERED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO BECAUSE CRACKING OF THE STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE COCKLOFT HAD DEVELOPED, BUT THE WORK HAD NEVER BEEN CARRIED OUT. NOW, HE SAID, THE DEMOLITION WOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER WAS MADE.

HE SAID THE CLOSURE ORDER ON THE GROUND FLOOR SHOP WOULD BE LIFTED WHEN DEMOLITION OF THE COCKLOFT HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

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SITE FORMATION FOR DIAMOND HILL DEVELOPMENT

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ABOUT 3 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF SOIL AND ROCK ARE TO BE REMOVED TO FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT AT DIAMOND HILL IN KOWLOON.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SITE FORMATION, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO QUARRY STONE, AT PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

THE SITE WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP DIAMOND HILL PARK AND FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL USES.

APART FROM CREATING DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT LAND IN THE AREA, THE WORK WILL ALSO GENERATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE.

THE AGGREGATE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST AND BE COMPLETED IN JULY, 1992.

STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONTROL MEASURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT TO LIMIT DUST AND NOISE NUISANCE.

THE MEASURES WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE WORK DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH PUBLIC TRANQUILITY.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JULY 24.

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MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1987

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KEUNG SHAN ROAD ON LANTAU TO BE IMPROVED
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FOUR SECTIONS OF KEUNG SHAN ROAD ON LANTAU ISLAND ARE TO BE IMPROVED TO INCREASE TRAFFIC CAPACITY AND ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY.

SECTIONS OF THE ROAD NEAR THE 10, 10-1/2, 10-3/4 AND 12 MILESTONES ARE TO BE WIDENED TO A STANDARD TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY.

WHEN THIS WORK IS COMPLETED, THE WHOLE OF KEUNG SHAN ROAD WILL HAVE A MINIMUM WIDTH OF SIX METRES AND BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC MORE EASILY.

THE WORK IS PART OF THE 'PHASED IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH LANTAU ROAD, CHEUNG SHA TO KEUNG SHAN' PROJECT.

IT IS DUE TO COMMENCE IN AUGUST AND TAKE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON JULY 17.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 63.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 371.220 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 311.090 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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