DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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UNDERSTANDING SOUGHT IN OVERSEAS PR EFFORT

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HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT WAS AIMED ESSENTIALLY AT PROMOTING A CORRECT AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF ITS PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY BY THE MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, MR CHAN SAID HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT SUCH UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS FOR HONG KONG'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

+I ALSO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS MUCH THAT MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION, AS MEN AND WOMEN OF STANDING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS AND BUSINESSES, CAN DO TO ENGENDER THAT INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING,+ HE TOLD THEM.

EACH YEAR, HE NOTED, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN TRAVELLED TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD +DOING A MARVELLOUS JOB IN MARKETING THEIR OWN PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.+ THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP NEW MARKETS AND TO ATTRACT FOREIGN VISITORS.

+AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE TOTAL OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT BY PRESENTING THE FACTS ABOUT HONG KONG AND COUNTERING ADVERSE PUBLICITY GENERATED BY PROTECTIONIST LOBBIES INSIDE OUR MAIN MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

MUCH OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK HAD BEEN DONE +BENEATH THE SURFACE, IN THE SENSE THAT IT HAD NOT PRODUCED HEADLINES IN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.+

+THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE. THE AIM OF OUR OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS IS NOT TO GET HONG KONG INTO THE HEADLINES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS: INDEED, IF YOU BELIEVE THAT GOOD NEWS IS NO NEWS WHILE BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST, THEN PERHAPS THE SUCCESS OF OUR OVERSEAS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS SHOULD BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE ABSENCE OF REPORTING ON HONG KONG IN THE FOREIGN MEDIA,+ MR CHAN SAID.

THIS EFFORT, HE SAID, HAD LARGELY BEEN GEARED TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS PROMOTING THE QUALITY AND VALUE-FOR-MONEY IMAGE OF THE +MADE IN HONG KONG+ LABEL OR TO ATTRACT FOREIGN BUSINESS INVESTMENTS, AND HAD BEEN TARGETED AT OPINION-FORMERS AND DECISION-MAKERS, OR AT THOSE WHO HAD THE MEANS TO BUY FROM OR INVEST IN HONG KONG.

AND WHILE THE NEWS MEDIA WERE IMPORTANT FOR ATTRACTING ATTENTION, THERE WAS NO REAL SUBSTITUTE FOR DIRECT CONTACT.

/HONG KONG'S .....

HONG KONG'S PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK, MR CHAN SAID, HAD RECENTLY TAKEN ON A NEW DIMENSION.

+THE SINO-BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG DID MORE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE TERRITORY THAN ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENT IN POST-WAR HISTORY,+ HE SAID.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD WERE ON HONG KONG AS THE NEGOTIATIONS UNFOLDED, AND THE WORLD WAS CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN +TO THIS TINY CAPITALIST ENCLAVE IN 1997, WHEN 92 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY WAS DUE TO BE RETURNED TO SOCIALIST CHINA.+

+EVERYONE EVERYWHERE FOUND OUT A LITTLE MORE ABOUT US THAN THEY HAD EVER KNOWN BEFORE AND I HAVE HEARD VIVID ACCOUNTS OF HOW NEW YORK TAXI DRIVERS WERE EAGERLY SHOWING OFF TO VISITORS FROM HONG KONG THEIR NEWLY-ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE GLOBE,+ HE SAID.

BUT THE ONE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE HONG KONG STORY WAS THAT THE UNIQUE AND IMAGINATIVE CONCEPT OF 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS,' ON WHICH THE JOINT DECLARATION IS BASED, EXCITED THE INTELLECT OF WORKING JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL COMMENTATORS THE WORLD OVER.

THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE +A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SCEPTICISM+ AS TO WHETHER, EVEN WITH THE BEST WILL AND THE SINCEREST INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF CHINESE LEADERS, TINY CAPITALIST HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AND PROSPER UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE NEXT CENTURY ONCE IT HAD BECOME PART OF GIANT SOCIALIST CHINA.

OBSERVERS IN THE WORLD WOULD, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO HONG KONG — EITHER IN ITS OWN RIGHT OR TO HONG KONG AS PART OF THE MUCH BIGGER CHINA STORY IN WHICH THEY HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED.

MR CHAN SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL OF DETAILED WORK REMAINED TO BE DONE BY BOTH SIDES TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION AND FOR THE SMOOTH TRANSITION IN 1997. AS FOREIGN OBSERVERS WOULD AT TIMES FACE PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON, IT WAS +IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG THAT THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND OUR SITUATION AND BE ABLE TO SEE THINGS IN THEIR TRUE PERSPECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

+WE MUST STRIVE TO GET THROUGH TO THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT HONG KONG STILL IS, AND WILL FOR A LONG TIME REMAIN A WORTHY TRADING PARTNER AND A PLACE IN WHICH THEY CAN SAFELY INVEST THEIR CAPITAL,+ MR CHAN SAID.

THE BULK OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS EFFORTS WOULD +CONTINUE TO BE DEVOTED TO THE KIND OF WORK THAT NEVER GETS INTO THE HEADLINES, NAMELY THE PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN POLITICIANS, OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, THE MEDIA, AND INDEED, ANYONE WHO CAN HELP TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HONG KONG.

/+NEEDLESS TO .....

+NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE DO NOT WANT TO OVERSELL. NOR DO WE WANT TO PRESENT HONG KONG AS A BED OF ROSES, AS A PLACE WHERE MIRACLES ARE PERFORMED. HONESTY AND BALANCE ARE THE KEY INGREDIENTS IN ANY EFFORT TO SECURE A TRUE UNDERSTANDING.

+WE NEED NOT, OF COURSE, BE TOO MODEST IN PUBLICISING HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT EQUALLY WE MUST NOT SEEK TO HIDE OUR PROBLEMS AND WORRIES,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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ELECTION PUBLICITY IN FULL SWING

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PUBLICITY FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE FIRST REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE IN FULL SWING IN THE COMING WEEKS LEADING UP TO A CLIMAX ON MARCH 6.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID: +DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, THE PUBLIC WILL BE CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF THE ELECTIONS THROUGH TELEVISION, RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS. THE MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE CONVEYED BY ELECTION POSTERS DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AND BY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE 19 DISTRICTS.+

A TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY PACKAGE COSTING MORE THAN $1 000 000 HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATION WORKING GROUP FOR THE 1986 ELECTIONS WHICH COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION, MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

THIRTY-SECOND FILMS PUBLICISING THE ELECTION DAY WILL BE SCREENED ON TELEVISION AND BROADCAST ON RADIO. THESE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A SERIES OF FIVE +COUNTDOWN+ ANNOUNCEMENTS NEARER THE ELECTION DAY.

MORE THAN 15 000 COLOURFUL ELECTION POSTERS HAVE BEEN PRINTED AND ARE BEING DISPLAYED AT MTR AND KCR STATIONS, BUS STOPS, FERRY PIERS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES, DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, NOTICE BOARDS OF MUTRAL AID COMMITTEES, URBAN COUNCIL AND PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL FACILITIES.

IN ADDITION, FOUR BROADCASTING VEHICLES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL TOUR THE 19 DISTRICTS FROM FEBRUARY 20 UNTIL ELECTION DAY, BROADCASTING A MESSAGE RECORDED BY FILM STAR JACKIE CHAN, CALLING ON THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT THE ELECTIONS.

THESE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS ON MARCH 5 AND 6.

/REGISTERED VOTERS .....

REGISTERED VOTERS WILL BE FULLY AWARE OF THE ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY RECEIVE THE POLL CARDS SENT OUT BY THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL DIVISION AROUND FEBRUARY 17, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO ENABLE ELECTORS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES, THE GOVERNMENT IS PRINTING MORE THAN 1.4 MILLION COPIES OF CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS WHICH WILL BE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS SHORTLY, HE ADDED.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, PUBLIC FORUMS ARE BEING HELD TO ENABLE ELECTORS TO MEET THE CANDIDATES. ANYONE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THESE FORUMS MAY CONTACT THEIR LOCAL DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE SCHEDULE.

THE DISTRICTS WILL CONTINUE TO ORGANISE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ELECTIONS. THESE INCLUDE MOBILE EXHIBITIONS, SLIDE SHOWS, VARIETY SHOWS AND OTHER SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION, SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS ON THE ELECTIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DISTRICT NEWSPAPERS TO PUBLICISE THE WORK AND FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL. THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ELECTORS TOGETHER WITH THE CANDIDATES' PLATFORMS.

MEANWHILE, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN APPEARING ON TELEVISION AND RADIO TO EXPLAIN THE WORK AND FUNCTIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG HAS ALSO HELPED IN PROMOTING THE ELECTIONS. THE RADIO STATION IS ORGANISING TEN FORUMS FOR LIVE BROADCAST ON RADIO ONE, BETWEEN 5 PM - 6 PM, STARTING FEBRUARY 17. CANDIDATES WILL ALSO TAKE TURNS IN PRESENTING THEIR PLATFORMS AT 8 AM, 11 AM AND 10 PM, STARTING THE SAME DAY. FROM FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 4 BETWEEN 7 PM AND 8 PM, MARCH 1 TO MARCH 5 BETWEEN 11.05 PM AND 11.30 PM THERE WILL BE GENERAL ANALYSIS ON THE ELECTIONS.

FOR TELEVISION VIEWERS, RTHK HAS PRODUCED A +LOOK AND LEARN+ CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES.

THE EPISODES ON FEBRUARY 16 AND FEBRUARY 23 WILL BE ON ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG AND WORK OF THE UC AND RC RESPECTIVELY. THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED ON TVB JADE FROM 3 PM TO 3.30 PM.

ELECTORS WHO WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE VOTING PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT MISS THE ACCESS PROGRAMME ON MARCH 5.

APART FROM GOVERNMENT PROMOTIONAL EFFORT, COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVING REGULAR EXPOSURE TO CANDIDATES, AND MOST MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ARE DEVOTING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE ELECTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES ARE BUSY PUBLICISING THEIR PLATFORMS,+ HE SAID.

+EFFORTS FROM ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ARE BUILDING UP, AND WE CAN EXPECT THE ATMOSPHERE TO INTENSIFY AS ELECTION DAY DRAWS NEARER,+ HE ADDED.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS RELEASED

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION REMAINED STABLE IN THE QUARTER BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1985 WAS 3.2 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 3.4 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1985. THE RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1984 WAS 3.8 PER CENT.

WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, THE DECREASE OF 0.6 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984 IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THAT IS, THE CHANGE IS GREATER THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM SAMPLING ERROR.

THE NUMBER OF THE UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 85 500, COMPARED WITH 89 600 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1985 AND 99 500 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1985 WAS 1.1 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE RATE OF 1.3 PER CENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1985. THE RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1984 WAS 0.8 PER CENT.

WHILE THE DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT, THE INCREASE OF 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984 IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYMED PERSONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 WAS 29 700, COMPARED WITH 35 600 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1985 AND 21 800 FOR THE SAME QUARTER OF 1984.

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE SEEKING MORE WORK OR WERE NOT SEEKING MORE WORK BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED MORE WORK WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR COLIN GREENFIELD SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WHICH HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FOR THE VARIATION IN FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

/MR GREENFIELD .....

MR GREENFIELD ADDED THAT BASED ON A SYSTEM OF MANUAL EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION FROM SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LATEST MONTH, PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST MOVING THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST TREND IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) FOR NOVEMBER 1985 TO JANUARY 1986 WAS 3.2 PER CENT, AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.2 PER CENT. THE UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1985 WAS 3.4 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (GHS) CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14 000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52 000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED. IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

MR GREENFIELD FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TO CONFORM TO THE LATEST STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO, THE GHS DEFINITIONS OF +UNEMPLOYMENT+ AND +UNDEREMPLOYMENT+ HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SINCE JANUARY 1985.

HOWEVER, A COMPLETE CONVERSION WILL ONLY BE INTRODUCED IN MAY 1986 WHEN A SUFFICIENTLY LONG SERIES OF THE STATISTICS UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS IS AVAILABLE.

USING THE NEW DEFINITIONS THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1985 WAS 3.1 PER CENT, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.3 PER CENT.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1985 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND MARCH 20, 1986.

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STI LEAVES FOR TRADE TALKS

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, LEFT HONG KONG TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR TALKS ON TRADE ISSUES IN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

MR HO WILL HOLD TALKS IN OTTAWA WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON A NUMBER OF TRADE MATTERS ON MONDAY. THE FOLLOWING DAY HE WILL JOIN A DELEGATION OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHICH IS IN CANADA, AND THE GROUP WILL THEN TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.

AFTER THE THIRD JOINT PLENARY SESSION OF THE HONG KONG-UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES-HONG KONG ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEES, MR HO WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

HE WILL THEN LEAVE FOR EUROPE WHERE HE WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF CAPITALS BEFORE RETURNING TO HONG KONG ON MARCH 5.

DURING MR HO'S ABSENCE MR S.A. WEBB-JOHNSON WILL BE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

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STRIVING FOR NEW TOWN IMPROVEMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF NEW TOWNS AND THEIR SURROUNDING AREAS, REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, DR JAMES HAYES SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE DONE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND BODIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SPEAKING AT A HEUNG YEE KUK NEW YEAR RECEPTION, DR HAYES SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE A GROWING GAP BETWEEN THE NEW TOWNS AND THE AREAS OUTSIDE THEM, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH EXIST BETWEEN AND AROUND THE NEW TOWNS.

+QUITE DENSELY POPULATED, OCCUPIED BY AN INDISCRIMINATE, SHAPELESS MIXTURE OF DOMESTIC, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY, WITH INADEQUATE ROAD AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, AND AS OFTEN AS NOT LACKING IN OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES, THEY PRESENT A SITUATION WHICH IS OFTEN IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO THE EVER-IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN THE NEW TOWNS,+ HE SAID.

+WHILST NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS NEW IS BEAUTIFUL, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE SITUATION IN THESE OTHER PLACES IS TOO OFTEN UNACCEPTABLE,+ HE ADDED.

/+A LOT .....

+A LOT OF PREPARATORY WORK HAS BEEN DONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES, BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND ITS CONSULTANTS, AND THIS FORM THE BASIS FOR NEW INITIATIVES AND CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS WILL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE POSITION,+ DR HAYES SAID.

+TIED WITH THIS IMPROVEMENT IS THE EXTENSION OF PLANNING TO THE AREAS OUTSIDE THE NEW TOWNS,+ HE SAID.

DR HAYES SAID THERE COULD BE NO REAL PROGRESS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES UNLESS THERE WAS CONTINUED GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

+WE SHALL SHORTLY BEGIN WORK TOGETHER ON THE LAND POLICY LIAISON GROUP WITH ITS FOUR WORKING PARTIES TO REVIEW POLICY REGARDING RESUMPTION, THE SMALL HOUSES, LAND USE PLANNING AND DETERMINATION OF BOUNDARIES,+ HE SAID.

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VISIT TO HOSPITAL

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CONTINUING HIS SERIES OF FAMILIARISATION VISITS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DESIGNATE, MR PIERS JACOBS, THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING CALLED AT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL.

MR JACOBS WAS BRIEFED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MR ALOYSIUS CHU FEE-LOONG, AND THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF KWONG WAH, DR LIU WOON-TIM.

HE THEN VISITED THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE AND GERIATRIC WARDS, THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, ELECTRO-MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC UNIT, THE NEUROSURGICAL WARD, AND THE PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.

HE LATER MET OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AT A TEA RECEPTION.

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NEW PUBLICITY ON MENTAL HEALTH

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A NEW TELEVISION API (ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST), ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO BE HELPFUL AND SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS THE MENTALLY ILL, WILL BE SCREENED ON TELEVISION AS FROM TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

COMMENTING ON THE NEW API, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS SAID TODAY, THAT A +SOFT-SELL+ APPROACH WAS BEING ADOPTED TO PROVIDE THE BASIC FACTS OF MENTAL HEALTH TO PUBLIC.

THE FILM DRAWS THE COMPARISON BETWEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON BREAKS HIS LEG AND HIS SYMPATHETIC FRIENDS DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO RECOVER OVER NIGHT, TOGETHER WITH THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM AFTER HE HAS RECOVERED, AND THAT OF A MENTALLY ILL PERSON AND HIS RECOVERY.

+WHEN A PERSON IS FIT AGAIN, HIS FRIENDS WILL TREAT HIM NORMALLY AND FORGET THAT HE HAS EVER BEEN TEMPORARILY DISABLED. IF ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS GETS MENTAL ILLNESS, THE SAME RULES APPLY,+ MR LEWIS SAID.

+I FEEL THAT THE KEY POINT OF THE API IS EMPHASISED THROUGH THE VOICEOVER -- DON'T EXPECT HIM TO RECOVER OVER NIGHT. BE HELPFUL AND SYMPATHETIC AND AS HE RECOVERS, TREAT HIM LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.

+MENTAL PATIENTS, AFTER RECEIVING PROPER TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, WILL BE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE.+

BY STRESSING FRIENDSHIP AS A WAY TO INTEGRATION, THE PUBLIC IS URGED THROUGH THE API TO GIVE A HELPING HAND TO THE MENTALLY ILL AND TO ACCEPT EX-MENTAL PATIENTS AS EQUAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

THIS API IS PART OF A CURRENT PUBLICITY EFFORT TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH.

OTHER PUBLICITY ITEMS INCLUDE A 12-PAGE BOOKLET, WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICT OFFICES, AND A SET OF EIGHT FACT SHEETS, WHICH WILL BE READY SOON.

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WORKING GROUP PROMOTES UC ELECTIONS

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RESIDENTS IN WONG TAI SIN WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ABOUT THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS AT TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 17) AND TUESDAY.

THE MEETINGS ARE ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION WHICH WAS RECENTLY SET UP UNDER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR LEE MAN-KWONG; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES (KOWLOON), MR T.K. CHOY; CHIEF MANAGER (LEISURE SERVICES) KOWLOON EAST OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR WOO WAI-MAN; AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL SPEAK AT THE MEETINGS, WHICH WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE WORKING GROUP LEADER, MR ALBERT LI.

/A DOCUMENTARY .....

A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE WORK OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, 'CITY VOICES', WILL ALSO BE SHOWN.

THE MEETING ON MONDAY WILL BE HELD AT 8.30 PM IN THE LOK SIN TONG WONG CHUNG MING SECONDARY SCHOOL.

FREE TRANSPORT WILL BE ARRAGED AT FOUR PICK-UP POINTS: THE JUNCTION OF HENG LAM STREET AND FU MEI STREET WEST, THE JUNCTION OF WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD AND WANG TAU HOM EAST ROAD, THE MEI TUNG ESTATE CARPARK ENTRANCE, AND THE CHOI HUNG ESTATE CAR PARK ENTRANCE.

THE MEETING ON TUESDAY WILL BE HELD AT THE PO LEUNG KUK C.F.A. NO. 1 COLLEGE AT 8.30 PM. PICK UP POINTS OF THE FREE COACH SERVICES WILL BE AT FUNG SHING STREET, CHOI WAN ESTATE OPPOSITE KAI FAI HOUSE, AND AT KA WAH TERRACE, HAMMER HILL ROAD.

RESIDENTS WHO ATTEND THE MEETING MAY BOARD THE COACH AT 7.45 PM AND AT 8.10 PM IN BOTH EVENINGS.

THE CIVIC EDUCATION WORKING GROUP HAS ALSO PRINTED A BOOK MARK FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PEOPLE ATTENDING THE MEETINGS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO MEETINGS HELD ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 17) AT LOK SIN TONG WONG CHUNG MING SECONDARY SCHOOL, AT 161 LOK SIN ROAD, SAN PO KONG AT 8.30 PM, AND ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 18) AT PO LEUNG KUK C.F.A. NO. 1 COLLEGE AT 173, PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD, TSZ WAN SHAN AT 8.30 PM.

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VILLAGERS HELP WITH BIG CLEAN-UP

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THE APPEARANCE OF TAI HAU WAN VILLAGE NEAR BISNEY ROAD IN POK FU LAM HAS BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED BY CLEAN-UP, CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENT WORKS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

ABOUT $26 000 WAS SPENT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SITTING-OUT AREA AND A BRIDGE, REPAIRS TO A FOOTPATH AND DRAINAGE, AND THE INSTALLATION OF GUARD RAILINGS IN THE VILLAGE WHICH HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 150 IN 40 HOUSEHOLDS.

THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND VILLAGERS HAD JOINTLY LAUNCHED A FIVE-DAY CLEAN-UP OPERATION TO CLEAR AWAY HEAPS OF JUNK FROM VARIOUS SPOTS IN THE VILLAGE.

/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR .....

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE ENDORSED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE LAST SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE IN AUGUST UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SQUATTER IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

+TAI HAU WAN VILLAGE WAS ONE OF THE FOUR SQUATTER AREAS SURVEYED UNDER THE SQUATTER IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+UNDER THIS SCHEME, AN IN-DEPTH STUDY IS ALSO BEING CONDUCTED TO LOOK INTO THE CURRENT LEVELS OF BASIS FACILITIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE VILLAGE AND THE MEASURES REQUIRED TO MEET DEMANDS,+ HE SAID.

THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT POWER AND WATER SUPPLY, REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES, STREET LIGHTING, POSTAL SERVICES, ACCESSES, LAW AND ORDER IN THE VILLAGE WERE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE SITTING-OUT AREA WILL MEET THE RESIDENTS' RECREATION AND AMENITY NEEDS,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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+STUDENTS OF YEAR+ GET PRIZES

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SIX OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN KOWLOON TONG AND MA TAU WAI AREAS WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) NAMED +STUDENT OF THE YEAR+.

THEY WERE AMONG THE 12 WINNERS OF AN AWARD SCHEME FOR STUDENTS WITH OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN STUDIES, CONDUCT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE WINNERS, SIX FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SIX FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HAD BEEN NOMINATED BY THEIR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS FOR THE AWARD.

THE SCHEME WAS ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, KOWLOON TONG AND MA TAU WAI AREA COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE FIRST THREE STUDENTS OF EACH SECTION WERE NAMED 'STUDENT OF THE YEAR', AND EACH RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP OF $400 AND A PLAQUE. THE OTHER WINNERS WERE GIVEN SOUVENIRS.

WINNERS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTION WERE CHAN WAI-HONG, SHEK MAY-CHEE, WONG WAI-CHUNG, CHOI MAY-SHAN, AU KING-CHEE AND TSANG WING-HANG AND THE SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION WINNERS WERE CHEUNG CHUNG-MING, POON KAM-HA, LAM HON-SANG, CHAN WING-WAH, LO KIN-YEE AND MA CHI-KIT.

THE COMPETITION WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING MORAL EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR WONG SIK-KONG AND THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS DIANA TONG PRESENTED PRIZES AND SOUVENIRS TO THE WINNERS.

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GOVERNOR RETURNING
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG FROM LONDON ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

HE WILL BE ARRIVING ON FLIGHT BA003, ETA 4.25 PM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THERE WILL BE A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL ON MONDAY. THOSE COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ASSEMBLE IN THE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM BY 3.35 PM.

GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES ANNOUNCED
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THE SOUTHBOUND SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN WAH KING HILL ROAD AND BUTTERFLY VALLEY INTERCHANGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 2.15 AM TO 4.15 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 18) TO FACILITATE THE TRANSPORTATION OF TRANSFORMER BY CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

VEHICLES ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR KOWLOON WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WAH KING HILL ROAD, TAI WO INTERCHANGE, WAH YIU ROAD, LAI CHI LING ROAD, LIM CHO STREET, KING CHO ROAD, LAI KING HILL ROAD, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL INTERCHANGE AND KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

MOTORISTS ON KOWLOON-BOUND JOURNEY ARE ALSO ADVISED TO USE KWAI CHUNG ROAD INSTEAD OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

FROM 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 18, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED PROHIBITED ZONES FOR VEHICLES EXCEEDING THREE TONNES:

* FEI NGO SHAN ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 750 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD;

* SHATIN PASS ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TSZ WAN SHAN ROAD; AND

* KING HONG STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH KING FUK STREET.

/WITH EFFECT .....

WITH EFFECT FROM THE SAME TIME, THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST WESTBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH WATERLOO ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 78 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA.

MEANWHILE, THE 24-HOUR DAILY RESTRICTED ZONES ON THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE LIFTED:

* YUET LUN STREET BETWEEN ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH PO LUN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 68 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND

* THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PO LUN STREET BETWEEN ITS SOUTHERN JUNCTION WITH YUET LUN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 16 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON DISTRICT OFFICE'S WORK

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 17) ON THE WORK OF THE OFFICE IN PREPARATION FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANGUS MIU, WILL CHAIR THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND GIVES DETAILS OF PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES.

THE THREE CANDIDATES FROM THE DISTRICT CONTESTING THE SINGLE CONSTITUENCY, MR CHEUNG CHUNG-YAN, MR YEUNG FUK-KWONG AND MR CHAN WAI-YIP WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE STARTING AT NOON IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING AT 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TSUEN WAN.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR CHILDREN FUN DAY

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MORE THAN 3 000 CHILDREN IN TO KWA WAN SOUTH AREA WILL BE TREATED TO A LUNAR NEW YEAR CHILDREN FUN DAY AT THE KO SHAN ROAD PLAYGROUND TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE TO KWA WAN SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE TWO-HOUR CHILDREN FUN DAY WILL FEATURE 15 GAMES STALLS PUT UP BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING THE AREA COMMITTEE, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

OTHER PROGRAMMES INCLUDE LION DANCES AND AN EXHIBITION ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION DISPLAYED BY THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THAT SUCH FREE ENTERTAINMENT HAD BEEN VERY POPULAR AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS, AND HELPED PROMOTE NEIGHBOURLINESS AMONG RESIDENTS.

OFFICIATING GUESTS AT TOMORROW'S CHILDREN FUN DAY WILL INCLUDE THE ASSISTANT KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TOMMY YUEN; CHAIRMAN OF TO KWA WAN SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE, MR WONG LUNG-TAK, AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MR KONG PAK-KEUNG AND MR TANG PO-HONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TO KWA WAN SOUTH AREA LUNAR NEW YEAR CHILDREN FUN DAY AT THE KO SHAN ROAD PLAYGROUND AT 2 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

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DANCE COURSE FOR TEACHERS

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A LATIN AMERICAN AND BALLROOM DANCE COURSE FOR TEACHERS INCHARGE OF DANCE ACTIVITIES AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION EARLY NEXT MONTH.

AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PRACTICAL SKILL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS AND THEIR TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING, THE FREE COURSE WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH BY MRS JOAN CAMPBELL.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION), PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SEVENTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, YAUMATI, BEFORE FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 21).

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BRIEFING ON FLOATING RESTAURANT
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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WILL HOLD A MEETING WITH PROSPECTIVE OPERATORS OF THE PROPOSED SHA TIN +FLOATING RESTAURANT+ ON MONDAY.

THE MEETING IS TO BRIEF INTERESTED OPERATORS HOW THE RESTAURANT COULD BE BUILT AT THE SHING MUN RIVER SUPPORTED BY PILES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BRIEFING TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10 AM, SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, ON MONDAY.

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SPRING RECEPTION
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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL HOLD A SPRING RECEPTION ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 18) FROM 4 PM TO 6 PM AT THE HO MAN TIN HSIN KUANG RESTAURANT, SECOND FLOOR, 86 WATERLOO ROAD.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM WILL BE PRESENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION.

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NEW YEAR CARNIVAL

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MORE THAN 10 000 MONG KOK RESIDENTS WILL BE TREATED TO A FUN-PACKED CARNIVAL TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE TIGER.

THE CARNIVAL, HELD IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE SEVENTH TIME, FEATURES A LION DANCE, A VARIETY SHOW AND GAMES STALLS.

IT IS ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, URBAN COUNCIL AND THE TRUSTEES OF THE HONG KONG BANK FOUNDATION.

MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS BRENDA FUNG, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR POON CHEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE NEW YEAR CARNIVAL AT 1.40 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND, SAI YEE STREET.

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CHING CHEUNG ROAD TO BE REPAIRED

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REMEDIAL WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO A 500 METRE-SECTION OF THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CHING CHEUNG ROAD, KOWLOON, ADJACENT TO CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE.

THE LOCAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THIS PROJECT, WORK ON WHICH WILL START IN APRIL AND BE COMPLETED IN 10 MONTHS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ACCEPTING TENDERS IS NOON ON MARCH 7.

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RUNNING TRACK TO BE RESURFACED

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THE RUNNING TRACK AT KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND IS TO BE RESURFACED INTO AN ALL WEATHER TRACK.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN SIX MONTHS.

THE SPORTS GROUND IS THE MAIN ATHLETICS VENUE FOR KWAI CHUNG AND IS USED FREQUENTLY BY SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT. THE TRACK IS 400 METRES LONG.

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BUS-ONLY LANES ON POK FU LAM ROAD

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FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 18), THE PROHIBITION ON THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THE NORTHBOUND KERBSIDE LANE OF POK FU LAM ROAD WHERE NO VEHICLE EXCEPT BUSES IS ALLOWED TO ENTER BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9 AM FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS WILL BE LIFTED FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS:

* FROM A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MT. DAVIS ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 180 METRES NORTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION; AND

* FROM A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POKFIELD ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 290 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION.

HOWEVER, FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY, VEHICLES OTHER THAN BUSES WILL BE BANNED FROM THE NORTHBOUND KERBSIDE LANE OF POK FU LAM ROAD FROM A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POKFIELD ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 270 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9 AM FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS.

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