



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1993

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1993

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COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD ENVIRONMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR OUR NATURAL RESERVE WAS THE COMMITMENT OF A NEW GENERATION TO SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY DEDICATING TWO GEI WAIS TO THE WORLDWILD FUND FOR THE NATURE AT MAI PO, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE INTEND TO GIVE MORE LEGAL PROTECTION TO THE AREA IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINS THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED SITE THAT IT IS.

"BUT I THINK THE BEST PROTECTION THAT WE CAN POSSIBLY PROVIDE IS BY ENSURING THAT MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE, MORE AND MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE ABLE TO SEE THIS RESERVE AND UNDERSTAND FOR THEMSELVES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HABITAT, OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

"THE BEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION IS THE COMMITMENT OF A NEW GENERATION TO SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS PART OF THE INHERITANCE, PART OF THE TRUST WHICH ALL OF US WILL IN DUE COURSE PASS ON TO THEM."

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT MAI PO ATTRACTED ABOUT 30,000 VISITORS EVERY YEAR, 10,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN AS WELL AS 100,000 MIGRATORY BIRDS.

HE THANKED WHARF HOLDING FOR MAKING THE DONATION TO ADD A LARGE NUMBER OF HECTARES OF GEI WAIS TO THE NATURE RESERVE.

"I THINK OUR AMBITION IS ALTOGETHER TO ADD ABOUT 115 HECTARES," HE SAID.

"YOU'VE MADE A SPLENDID CONTRIBUTION TO THAT AND IN ADDITION TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION, GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO BE PUTTING IN \$16 MILLION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESERVE."

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CS HEADS HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION TO WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, IS TO HEAD A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION TO PROMOTE HONG KONG AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) AT DAVOS IN SWITZERLAND.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WEF BRINGS TOGETHER SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

HONG KONG WILL HAVE NINE REPRESENTATIVES - SIR DAVID FORD, MR T H CHAU (SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY), MR JOHN BOND (GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HSBC HOLDINGS), DR EDGAR CHENG (CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, WORLD-WIDE INVESTMENT), DR VICTOR FUNG (CHAIRMAN, TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL), MR MICHAEL GALE (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS), MR RICHARD LI (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, HUTCHVISION), MR ROBERT NG (CHAIRMAN, SINO GROUP) AND MR DAVID WONG (CHAIRMAN, DAH SING FINANCIAL HOLDINGS).

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DURING THE CONFERENCE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL BE ONE OF THE SPEAKERS AT A PLENARY SESSION ON "CHINA AND THE NEW EAST ASIA CONFIGURATION" AS WELL AS A PARTICIPANT IN A WORLD ECONOMIC "BRAINSTORMING" SESSION WITH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LEADERS.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL HOST AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON BILLED AS THE "MEET THE BUSINESS LEADERS FROM HONG KONG".

THE THEME FOR THIS FUNCTION IS "WILL HONG KONG LOSE OR INCREASE ITS RELEVANCE AS THE KEY LOCATION FOR DOING BUSINESS IN AND WITH SOUTHERN CHINA".

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL ALSO HOST TWO DINNERS FOR ABOUT 100 TOP-LEVEL BUSINESSMEN AND ACADEMICS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM WAS AN IMPORTANT WORLD STAGE WHERE HONG KONG GAINED VALUABLE EXPOSURE.

"OUR PRESENCE AT DAVOS IN RECENT YEARS RESULTED IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM HOLDING THE FIRST-EVER EUROPE-EAST ASIA ECONOMIC FORUM IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

"THIS EVENT FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE THRIVING ECONOMIES OF THE EAST ASIAN REGION, PARTICULARLY HONG KONG, AND COULD BE THE PRECURSOR TO SIMILAR HIGH-POWERED MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID WILL FLY TO LONDON ON MONDAY (JANUARY 18) ON A DUTY VISIT AND LEAVE BEFORE JOINING THE DELEGATION IN DAVOS FOR THE WEF WHICH WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 28.

HE WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 1.

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MEASURES TO SPEED UP PUBLIC WORKS

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REFERRING TO ARTICLES IN THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AND MING PAO THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO SPEED UP APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO CUT RED-TAPE BY SPEEDING UP THE PROCESSES BY WHICH CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE LET," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE HAVE ASKED THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS TO INVITE TENDERS AND TO SEEK APPROVAL OF FUNDS FROM PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE/FINANCE COMMITTEE IN PARALLEL INSTEAD OF CONSECUTIVELY.

"THIS SHOULD SHORTEN THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE COMPLETION OF DESIGN AND THE START OF WORKS BY SOME MONTHS, AND SO FACILITATE SPEEDIER COMPLETION OF PROJECTS. BUT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CIRCUMVENT FINANCE COMMITTEE. NO CONTRACT CAN BE LET UNLESS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED ITS FUNDING.

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"WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO REMOVE A BOTTLENECK AFFECTING END-OF-THE-YEAR PAYMENTS FOR WORKS. THESE MOVES SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY CONTRACTORS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE BEING TRIED THIS YEAR ON THE ADVICE OF THE WORKS BRANCH TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE.

IF THEY PROVE SUCCESSFUL, THEY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON A PERMANENT BASIS, HE SAID.

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TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL OPENS ROUND THE CLOCK
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THE OPENING HOURS OF THE TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL WILL BE EXTENDED TO 24 HOURS DAILY FROM NEXT MONDAY (JANUARY 18), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE TUNNEL JOINS TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN AND SAU MAU PING.

ON THE SAME DAY, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TUNNEL WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY THE MACK AND CO TUNNEL MANAGEMENT LTD.

SINCE ITS OPENING IN NOVEMBER 1990, THE TUNNEL HAS BEEN OPERATING BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 10.30 PM. THE OPENING HOURS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO MIDNIGHT FROM JULY 1 LAST YEAR.

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COMMISSION TO DECIDE ON ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
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THE BILL RECENTLY ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO SET UP A BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO MANY PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT, EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE ONE OF THE COMMISSION'S FIRST TASKS WOULD BE TO DECIDE ON THE CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR THE NEXT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

"WHILE IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ME TO PRE-EMPT THE COMMISSION'S WORK, THE NEW STATUTORY POPULATION CRITERIA INCLUDED IN THE BILL WILL LIKELY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE EXISTING DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN EASTERN DISTRICT," HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR BARCLAY SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE CHAI WAN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, WHICH ORGANISED THE DISTRIBUTION OF RICE TO OVER 800 ELDERLY PEOPLE, FOR ITS CONCERN FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

HE SAID THROUGHOUT THE 23 YEARS OF ITS HISTORY, THE ASSOCIATION HAD DONE MUCH IN THE FIELDS OF YOUTH EDUCATION AND RELIEF FOR THE NEEDY WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY.

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YOUTH SHOULD TAKE ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE MORE CARE OF THE COMMUNITY.

ADDRESSING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ST TERESA SECONDARY SCHOOL, MR YAP SAID HONG KONG WOULD HAVE TO FACE MORE NEW CHALLENGES AS 1997 APPROACHES.

TO PREPARE FOR THIS, HE SAID, YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THE PLACE WELL AND UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

HE ADVISED THEM TO BROADEN THEIR HORIZON BY LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AS WELL AS ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

"THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO KNOW HONG KONG AND THE SIMPLEST IS THROUGH TELEVISION, RADIO, NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. I HOPE YOU WILL ALL ACQUIRE THE GOOD HABIT OF READING NEWSPAPERS DAILY," HE SAID.

"WHEN YOU HAVE GOT A FAIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNITY, THEN IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN IT. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY SHOWING CONCERN, EXPRESSING VIEWS OR BY VOTING IN ELECTIONS."

NOTING THAT HONG KONG HAD ENTERED A NEW ERA IN ITS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, MR YAP ALSO APPEALED TO RESIDENTS TO GIVE MORE VIEWS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS SO AS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN FORMULATING A PACKAGE THAT WAS FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE.

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REFORMS' GOAL: HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG

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THE PRIMARY AIM OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE HONG KONG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

THIS IS A STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME BUS PARADE TODAY (SATURDAY), DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE, SAID THE PROPOSED PACKAGE WAS FORMULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

SHE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE BLUEPRINT WAS BASED ON THE CRITERIA OF OPENNESS, FAIRNESS AND ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS, THEY HAVE ATTRACTED RESOUNDING VIEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, SHE SAID.

"THESE VIEWS, TOGETHER WITH THE PACKAGE ITSELF, WOULD LATER BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

"I WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO CALL ON YOU TO PUT FORWARD ANY CONCRETE IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE ON THIS ISSUE.

"YOUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS A FINAL DECISION THAT WOULD REFLECT THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY," SHE SAID.

ON THE CRIME RATE IN THE DISTRICT, MRS URE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION HAD IMPROVED WITH A GENERAL DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF CRIME CASES RECENTLY.

SHE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE PUBLICITY DRIVE LAUNCHED BY THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

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MORE URGED TO TAKE PART IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS
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MORE PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE IN THE 1994 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT AFFAIRS FOLLOWING RISING POLITICAL AWARENESS, WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, SAID THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR MANN WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE DISTRICT'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARDS.

HE CALLED ON THE RESIDENTS TO JOIN HANDS AND STRIVE FOR A BETTER HONG KONG.

HE ALSO COMMENDED THE 15 AWARDEES FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM IN SERVING THE DISTRICT AND BUILDING UP THE COMMUNITY.

THE RECIPIENTS, AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 75, AND IN THREE SECTIONS (STUDENTS, YOUTH AND OPEN), EACH RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE AND SOUVENIR.

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STREET SLEEPERS GIVEN BLANKETS
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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF DISTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF 542 BLANKETS AND 16 SLEEPING BAGS TO STREET SLEEPERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST (FRIDAY) NIGHT.

THE BLANKETS AND SLEEPING BAGS WERE GIVEN TO 170 STREET SLEEPERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 37 IN EAST KOWLOON, 236 IN WEST KOWLOON, 22 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EAST AND FOUR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE EXERCISE WAS THE SECOND ONE MOUNTED THIS WINTER TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE STREETS.

"MORE THAN 540 BLANKETS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE PREVIOUS EXERCISE HELD ON DECEMBER 15 LAST YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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EARLY WELFARE PAYMENT

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RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE HOLDING CASH ORDER COUPONS MAY RECEIVE THEIR WELFARE PAYMENT EARLIER IF THEIR PAYDAY FALLS ON THE COMING CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (SATURDAY) SAID PAYMENTS SCHEDULED BETWEEN JANUARY 22 AND 25 WOULD BE ADVANCED TO JANUARY 18 TO 21 RESPECTIVELY.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR RECIPIENTS TO COLLECT THEIR PAYMENTS AT THE DESIGNATED POST OFFICES AND TREASURY SUB-OFFICES, HE SAID.

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EMPLOYERS REMINDED OF LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

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EMPLOYERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE, THE NEW YEAR'S DAY AND THE THIRD DAY OF THE YEAR OF THE COCK ON JANUARY 22, 23 AND 25 RESPECTIVELY ARE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS.

AS THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT THE LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOULD INSTEAD BE MADE A STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

ALL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAYS AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAYS OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR LONGER IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

DAILY HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, THE HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH SHOULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS. PRECEDING THE HOLIDAYS.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THE HOLIDAY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS CAN BE MADE ON TEL 717 1771.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,750
REVERSAL OF LAF	-250
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-350
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	

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