



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1983

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STATEMENT BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY:

+I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT TWO STEPS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING NOW TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

+FIRST LET ME GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND. FOR 37 YEARS FROM 1935 TO JULY 1972 THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS PEGGED TO STERLING. IN THOSE DAYS THE STERLING AREA EXISTED AND FOR MOST OF THAT PERIOD THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM WAS CHARACTERISED BY FIXED EXCHANGE RATES. FROM 1972 TO NOVEMBER 1974 THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS PEGGED TO THE U.S. DOLLAR. SINCE 1974 HONG KONG IN COMMON WITH OTHER MAJOR MARKET ECONOMIES HAS HAD A FREELY FLOATING EXCHANGE RATE. THIS FLOATING SYSTEM HAS SERVED US WELL. IT HAS GIVEN US A MEASURE OF INSULATION FROM THE UPS AND DOWNS OF OTHER ECONOMIES, AND UNDER IT HONG KONG HAS RECORDED VERY HIGH RATES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. LIVING STANDARDS HAVE RISEN ACCORDINGLY.

+TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR THE EXCHANGE RATE STARTED MARKEDLY TO WEAKEN, REFLECTING AMONGST OTHER FACTORS UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

+BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THREE WEEKS AGO THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSALS TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE RATE, CURRENCY DEPRECIATION WAS TENDING INCREASINGLY TO FEED ON ITSELF IN AN UNSTABLE AND IRRATIONAL MANNER. THIS DEPRECIATION WAS NOT JUSTIFIED BY EITHER CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OR FUTURE PROSPECTS. THE ECONOMY HAS REBOUNDED AND IS DOING VERY WELL. THERE IS LITTLE UNEMPLOYMENT AND EXPORTS ARE BOOMING. HONG KONG HAS SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES, A GENERALLY LIQUID BANKING SYSTEM AND VIRTUALLY NO GOVERNMENT DEBT.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCERNED BY THE FALLING EXCHANGE RATE AND HAS DONE EVERYTHING IN REASON, WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK, TO ATTEMPT TO STABILISE IT. THESE EFFORTS HAVE ACHIEVED ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS.

+THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG PRECLUDE EXCHANGE CONTROL. AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF REALISTIC OPTIONS, WE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO ALTER THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE EXCHANGE RATE IS DETERMINED. WITH EFFECT FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, THE TWO NOTE-ISSUING BANKS WILL PAY THE GOVERNMENT'S EXCHANGE FUND FOR ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, WHICH THEY ARE REQUIRED TO HOLD AS BACKING FOR ANY INCREASE IN THEIR NOTE ISSUES, IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT A FIXED RATE OF HK\$7.80 EQUALS US\$1.

+FROM THE SAME DATE, WHEN NOTES ARE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION AND THE NOTE-ISSUING BANKS SURRENDER CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL PAY THEM THE EQUIVALENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT THE SAME FIXED RATE. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO HOLD THIS RATE UNCHANGED.

/+THE RATES .....

+THE RATES OF EXCHANGE WHICH A BANK CUSTOMER WILL OBTAIN, WHETHER EXCHANGING BANK NOTES OR MAKING ANY OTHER FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS, WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETERMINED BY MARKET FORCES, BUT WILL IN PRACTICE BE CLOSE TO THE FIXED RATE OF HK\$7.80 EQUALS US\$1. THIS WILL BE THE CASE BECAUSE FROM NEXT MONDAY MARKET FORCES WILL OPERATE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE FIXED RATE FOR CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS. I MUST EMPHASISE THAT THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL MEAN BUSINESS AS USUAL BETWEEN BANKS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS AT STABILISED RATES.

+YOU WILL ASK ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY OF STABILISING THE EXCHANGE RATE IN THIS WAY. IN THE SHORT TERM THERE MAY BE SOME UPWARD PRESSURES ON HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES. ONCE THE STABILITY OF THE EXCHANGE RATE BECOMES EVIDENT AND ACCEPTED, INTEREST RATES SHOULD FALL BELOW PRESENT LEVELS. LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, CHANGES IN THE EXCHANGE RATE WILL NO LONGER BE AN ELEMENT IN OUR ECONOMY'S ADJUSTMENT PROCESS. FACTORS SUCH AS INTEREST RATES AND MONEY SUPPLY WILL ADJUST TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PRESSURES AUTOMATICALLY WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

+THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT MUST NOW BE PREFERRED TO THE FREELY FLOATING EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM. WE CANNOT RUN THE RISK OF FURTHER SPIRALLING DEPRECIATION, WITH THE RAMPANT INFLATION AND DISTRESS WHICH THAT WOULD BRING TO ALL OUR COMMUNITY. A RETURN OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR CURRENCY IS ESSENTIAL.

+I SAID THAT I HAD TWO MEASURES TO ANNOUNCE. THE SECOND IS THIS. AS FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 17) INTEREST ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WILL NO LONGER BE TAXED. THIS MEANS THAT THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A TAX ADVANTAGE IN HOLDING FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS OR IN HOLDING HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS OFFSHORE.

+AS I SAID LAST MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBLE EROSION OF PROFITS TAX REVENUE ARISING FROM THE REMOVAL OF INTEREST TAX. WE ARE STILL STUDYING THIS COMPLEX ISSUE. IN REMOVING INTEREST TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WE ARE DOING THE MOST THAT IS POSSIBLE, PENDING THE OUTCOME OF OUR STUDY. I HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO PROPOSE MORE LASTING REFORMS IN THESE FIELDS OF TAXATION IN THE BUDGET NEXT FEBRUARY.

+THESE MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO STABILISE THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AND THUS TO PROVIDE A CLIMATE FOR GROWING PROSPERITY WITH RESTRAINED INFLATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIDENCE IN THE STABILISED EXCHANGE RATE. SO CAN THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. LET US NOW GET ON WITH OUR BUSINESS.+

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GOVERNOR'S COMMENTS ON CURRENCY MEASURES

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COMMENTING ON THE NEW MEASURES, AND RECALLING WHAT HE HAD SAID IN HIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID THAT THEY WERE THE RESULT OF THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THEY REPRESENTED A FIRM EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CURRENCY AND THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY WHICH UNDERLIES IT- AND WERE A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO ASSURE THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY AND THE WELL-BEING OF ITS PEOPLE.

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GOVERNOR VISITS VOLUNTEERS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY (SATURDAY) VISITED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT WHO ARE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED FOR DUTIES AT THE BORDER.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE HONORARY COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, DR SOLOMON BARD, AND THE VOLUNTEERS' COMMANDING OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIM VILLIERS, THE GOVERNOR FIRST WENT TO PAK FU SHAN TO TALK TO SOLDIERS WHO ARE CARRYING OUT ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DUTIES.

HE LATER FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE CREST HILL OBSERVATION POST WHERE HE MET VETERAN OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT'S HOME GUARDS WHO ARE ON DUTY THERE.

FROM CREST HILL, SIR EDWARD PROCEEDED TO LOWU CAMP -- HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE REGIMENT DURING THEIR CURRENT DEPLOYMENT -- AND HAD LUNCH IN THE OFFICERS' MESS.

SINCE LAST SUNDAY (OCTOBER 9), THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT HAVE TAKEN OVER DUTIES AT THE BORDER IN AN ANNUAL EXERCISE DESIGNED TO RELIEVE THE REGULAR ARMY AND TO GIVE THE VOLUNTEERS MORE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE.

DURING THE WEEK, SOME 600 SOLDIERS OF THE REGIMENT, INCLUDING 18 NEWLY RECRUITED WOMEN SOLDIERS, HAVE BEEN MOUNTING PATROLS, MANNING OBSERVATION POSTS AND LAYING AMBUSHES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

UP TO THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING, THEY HAVE ARRESTED 27 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND TWO SUSPECTED AIDERS AND ABETTORS.

THE VOLUNTEERS WILL HAND BACK BORDER DUTIES TO THE REGULAR ARMY TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN CONFERENCE MONDAY  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH ARTS ADMINISTRATORS AT HOTEL FURAMA AT 11.15 AM ON MONDAY.

SIR EDWARD WILL GIVE AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME FOLLOWING THE OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, MR ALEX WU.

THE GOVERNOR WILL THEN PROCEED TO MEET THE DELEGATES AT A PRIVATE RECEPTION. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO REFRAIN FROM FOLLOWING SIR EDWARD TO THE RECEPTION.

THE FIRST TWO SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON, WITH SPEECHES ENTITLED +THE ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: AN EDUCATION FOCUS+ AND +ARTS EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.+

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER BOTH THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THE AFTERNOON SESSIONS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE JADE BALLROOM AND PACIFICA ROOM, HOTEL FURAMA. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE EARLY AND BE SEATED 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE OPENING CEREMONY. TELEVISION STATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE EARLY TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT.

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SOCIAL WORK OFFICER PAY SCALES IMPROVED  
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AFFECTING SOCIAL WORK OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC AND SUBVENTED SECTORS.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS COVER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PAY SCALES OF THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER GRADE AS WELL AS A CHANGE IN THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE GRADE. THEY TAKE EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 1.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +THESE MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD AND ALSO TO ASSIST IN RETAINING QUALIFIED STAFF.+

THE IMPROVED PAY SCALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>NEW</u>
ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER	MPS 20 - 34 (\$5 120 - \$9 910)	MPS 20 - 37 (\$5 120 - \$11 410)
SOCIAL WORK OFFICER	MPS 35 - 40 (\$10 410 - \$13 360)	MPS 38 - 43 (\$12 060 - \$15 310)
SENIOR SOCIAL WORK OFFICER	MPS 41 - 47 (\$14 010 - \$18 170)	MPS 44 - 47 (\$15 960 - \$18 170)

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER GRADE WILL BE MODIFIED SO AS TO RE-OPEN IT TO ALL DEGREE HOLDERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE WERE A DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM A HONG KONG OR BRITISH UNIVERSITY OR EQUIVALENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY A DEGREE IN A SUBJECT OTHER THAN SOCIAL WORK PLUS APPROVED POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN SOCIAL WORK.

UNDER THE REVISED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, GRADUATES IN SUBJECTS OTHER THAN SOCIAL WORK WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE GRADE AND WILL THEN BE GIVEN IN-SERVICE TRAINING LEADING TO AN ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATION IN THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD.

+OBTAINING SUCH A QUALIFICATION WOULD BE A PRE-REQUISITE OF PROMOTION OR ADVANCEMENT BEYOND A CERTAIN LEVEL IN THE ASSISTANT SOCIAL WORK OFFICER RANK,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TRAINING FOR NON-SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES RECRUITED TO THE GRADE WILL INITIALLY TAKE THE FORM OF PART-TIME IN-SERVICE TRAINING AT THE TWO UNIVERSITIES. THIS IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER 1984.

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#### NT DWELLERS URGED NOT TO SMOKE

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URBAN DWELLERS WHO RECENTLY MOVED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE TODAY (SATURDAY) URGED TO JOIN THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS IN CONSERVING THE RUSTIC AND CLEAN ATMOSPHERE OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY BY NOT SMOKING.

THE APPEAL CAME FROM THE PERMANENT HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION, MR LAU WONG-FAT WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION HEAT OF THE 1983 INTER-SCHOOL OLYMPIAD AT KWAI CHUNG SPORTS GROUND.

THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION HEAT IS THE FINAL OF FOUR PRELIMINARIES FOR THE TERRITORY-WIDE ATHLETIC MEET DESIGNED TO PROMOTE HEALTHY PURSUITS AMONG YOUNGSTERS AND TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM TAKING UP SMOKING.

IT WAS ORGANISED BY THE ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE, ASSISTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, THE HONG KONG SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION, THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG SCHOOL SPORTS COUNCIL.

/MR LAU .....

MR LAU SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AIMS AT DECREASING THE NUMBER OF SMOKERS IN HONG KONG, THUS REDUCING SMOKING-RELATED DISEASES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.

+RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR THEIR SIMPLE AND UNCOMPLICATED WAY OF LIFE,+ HE SAID. +THOUGH NO SUPPORTING DATA IS AVAILABLE, IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THE PROPORTION OF SMOKERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IS NOT HIGH, AND THE PROBABILITY OF YOUTHS BEING IN TOUCH WITH CIGARETTES IS EVEN SMALLER.+

HOWEVER, MR LAU POINTED OUT THAT DUE TO THE MARKED INCREASE IN POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN RECENT YEARS RESULTING FROM AN INFLUX OF RESIDENTS FROM THE URBAN AREAS, A CHANGE IS UNDERWAY IN THE LIVING PATTERN OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY.

HE SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN CAN CERTAINLY AROUSE THE AWARENESS OF THE HAZARDS OF SMOKING AMONG LOCAL PEOPLE.

+I HOPE THAT THE NEW-COMERS AND THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS COULD WORK TOGETHER TO CONSERVE THE RUSTIC AND CLEAN ATMOSPHERE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND MAKE IT A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR ALL.+

THREE BEST TEAMS IN EACH OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS DIVISIONS WERE CHOSEN IN TODAY'S HEAT TO COMPETE WITH THE 18 WINNING TEAMS FROM PREVIOUS HEATS AT THE GRAND FINAL TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5 AT WAN CHAI SPORTS GROUND.

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#### AVIATION CHIEF OFF TO TALKS

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THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR BRIAN KEEP, LEFT YESTERDAY (FRIDAY) FOR VANCOUVER, CANADA, TO ATTEND THE 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AIRPORT OPERATORS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL (AOCI) AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE AOCI ANNUAL MEETING, TO BE HELD FROM OCTOBER 16 TO 21, WILL FOCUS ON ASPECTS OF AIRPORT OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT, SAFETY AND MARKETING.

THESE TOPICS WILL BE BROADLY DEALT WITH IN THREE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND FIVE WORKSHOPS FOR PARTICIPATING MEMBERS.

MR KEEP WILL GIVE A TALK ON THE HONG KONG AIRPORT MANAGEMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF WORKERS.

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### KWAI CHUNG MARKET STALLS FOR AUCTION

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FORTY-TWO STALLS AT WING FONG STREET MARKET, TSING YI MARKET AND KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET IN KWAI CHUNG DISTRICT WILL BE PUT UP FOR PUBLIC AUCTION ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 18).

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 9.30 AM AT THE KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL AT LAI FONG STREET IN KWAI CHUNG, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

OF THE 40 STALLS AT WING FONG STREET MARKET, ONE IS FOR THE SALE OF FISH, SIX ARE FOR THE SALE OF FRESH MEAT, THREE FOR FROZEN MEAT, TWO FOR POULTRY, 19 FOR DRY GOODS, EIGHT FOR WET GOODS AND THE REMAINING ONE FOR ICE. THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL OF THE STALLS RANGE FROM \$600 TO \$3 000.

AT TSING YI MARKET, THE UPSET MONTHLY RENTAL OF THE FRESH MEAT STALL IS \$200 WHILE THE STALL AT KA TING COOKED FOOD MARKET IS AT \$8 000.

FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HAWKERS AND MARKETS SECTION OF THE KWAI CHUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON TELEPHONE 0-253624.

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### MORE HORTICULTURAL COURSES OFFERED

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NORTH DISTRICT AND SAI KUNG RESIDENTS WILL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO PLANT AFRICAN VIOLETS AND BONSAI IN TWO HORTICULTURAL COURSES TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH.

ENTRIES FOR THE TWO FREE COURSES ARE NOW BEING INVITED AND ENROLMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THESE ADDITIONAL COURSES ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT AND SAI KUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICES, AS A RESULT OF +ENCOURAGING RESPONSE FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS+.

TALKS WILL BE GIVEN ON SOIL KNOWLEDGE, FERTILISATION, WATERING, DETECTION OF PLANT DISEASE AND CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF INDOOR PLANTS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE PLANTING LESSONS AND FIELD VISITS.

THE NORTH DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL CLASS WILL BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 19 (SATURDAY) AND THE FOLLOWING FOUR SATURDAY MORNINGS BETWEEN 9 AM AND 11.30 AM AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE FANLING SUB-OFFICE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE.

/APPLICATION FORMS .....

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APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE CLASS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND, THE FANLING NEW TOWN SQUASH COURTS AND THE NORTH URBAN SERVICES OFFICE AT GROUND FLOOR, GARAGE NO. 1, TAI YUEN ESTATE, TAI PO.

THE SAI KUNG HORTICULTURAL COURSE WILL BE HELD AT THE SAI KUNG TANG SHIU KIN SPORTS GROUND EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 12 NOON FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS, STARTING NOVEMBER 25.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THIS COURSE CAN BE COLLECTED AT THE SAI KUNG URBAN SERVICES OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 69 MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG.

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POSTER CONTEST FOR ISLANDERS  
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ISLANDS DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS WERE REMINDED TODAY (SATURDAY) TO SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES FOR A REHABILITATION POSTER DESIGN CONTEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE ON OCTOBER 29.

SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD, THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY, SECONDARY, POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS SECTIONS, AND A JOINT GROUP SECTION FOR BOTH HANDICAPPED AND ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE.

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EACH PARTICIPANT.

THE POSTERS MAY BE PAINTED IN EITHER POSTER COLOUR OR OIL PASTEL AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, TOGETHER WITH THE APPLICATION FORMS, TO THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AT 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, SINCERE BUILDING, THE CHEUNG CHAU COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE AT 22 SAN HING STREET, AND THE MUI WO COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE AT GRANDVIEW MANSION.

WINNING DESIGNS WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN REHABILITATION TO COMPETE WITH WINNING ENTRIES FROM OTHER 17 DISTRICTS.

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STUDENTS INVITED TO COMPETITIONS

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SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BEING INVITED TO TWO ANNUAL INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISERS SAID THE COMPETITION IN TRAMPOLINING WOULD BE HELD ON DECEMBER 20 AND 21, AND THAT IN GYMNASTICS ON MARCH 2, 3, 9 AND 10 NEXT YEAR.

SCHOOLS WISHING TO SEND PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT ENTRY FORMS TO THE PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION), THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SEVENTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, BEFORE OCTOBER 22.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE WITH MR H.Y. SUN ON 3-884111, EXT. 280.

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SONGS AND DANCES FOR CHILDREN

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THERE WILL BE AN EVENING OF SONGS AND DANCES TO PROVIDE FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN ON CHEUNG CHAU TODAY.

THE TWO-HOUR PROGRAMME, STARTING AT 8 PM AT THE TUNG WAN BASKETBALL PITCH, IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE CHEUNG CHAU CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE CHEUNG CHAU SINGING CHILDREN'S GROUP AND THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD.

IT WILL FEATURE CHINESE AND WESTERN FOLK SONG SINGING BY THE CHEUNG CHAU SINGING CHILDREN'S GROUP, DANCING PERFORMANCE BY STUDENTS FROM A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ON THE ISLAND, AND UNICORN AND LION DANCES.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, WILL BE PRESENT.

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FLYOVER TRAFFIC TO CLOSE FOR ROAD WORK

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FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 17) TO FRIDAY (OCTOBER 21), THE FLYOVER LEADING FROM GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND TO CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 11.30 PM AND 6.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON GLOUCESTER ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA O'BRIEN ROAD, LOCKHART ROAD, FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER, FLEMING ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD EASTBOUND AND THE APPROACH ROAD TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

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ABERDEEN WATER MAINS WORK  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN ABERDEEN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 PM ON TUESDAY (OCTOBER 18) TO 9 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

ALL PREMISES ALONG YUE KWONG ROAD, INCLUDING YUE KWONG CHUEN, SHEK PAI WAN ESTATE, YUE FAI COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE AND TIN WAN ESTATE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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BUS TERMINUS MOVES  
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THE TERMINUS FOR CMB ROUTE 24M WILL BE RELOCATED FROM ADMIRALTY MTR STATION TO JACKSON ROAD AS FROM MONDAY (OCTOBER 17).

BUSES FROM THE NEW JACKSON ROAD TERMINUS WILL OPERATE VIA CHATER ROAD, MURRAY ROAD, QUEENSWAY, TAMAR STREET AND DRAKE STREET BEFORE ENTERING COTTON TREE DRIVE SLIP ROAD. ON THE RETURN JOURNEY THEY WILL RUN VIA QUEENSWAY AND JACKSON ROAD INSTEAD OF FENWICK STREET.

HOWEVER, SERVICES WILL BE SUSPENDED AFTER 2 PM ON SATURDAYS.

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SECTION OF MARBLE ROAD CLOSED  
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FROM 2 PM ON MONDAY (OCTOBER 17), MARBLE ROAD BETWEEN TONG SHUI ROAD AND SHU KUK STREET IN NORTH POINT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT A WEEK FOR WORK ON THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

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