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MARINE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON FLOATING REFUSE

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO ASSESS THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG WATERS AND THE DAMAGE IT CAUSES TO VESSELS, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR JOHN TSE YAN-CHI, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

AS PART OF THE DATA GATHERING EXERCISE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED CREW OR STAFF MEMBERS OF FERRIES AND HIGH SPEED FERRIES, TUGS, LAUNCHES, PLEASURE CRAFT, FISHING VESSELS AND OTHER CRAFT USING HONG KONG WATERS TO REPORT THE DETAILS OF THEIR ENCOUNTER OF FLOATING REFUSE BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER, THE SAMPLING PERIOD FOR THE SURVEY.

"WE WANT TO KNOW WHEN AND WHERE A VESSEL ENCOUNTERS FLOATING REFUSE, THE AMOUNT OF REFUSE ENCOUNTERED, THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THEIR VESSELS, THE DOWNTIME AND THE ESTIMATED REPAIR COSTS," MR TSE SAID.

TO FACILITATE THE REPORTING OF SUCH INCIDENTS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNED A BILINGUAL QUESTIONNAIRE AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE FERRY OPERATORS, MAJOR RIVER TRADE AGENCIES, RELEVANT TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND YACHT CLUBS. THE QUESTIONNAIRE ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES CAN BE RETURNED BY MAIL TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, GPO BOX 4155, OR FAX IT TO 545 0556 OR HAND IT IN AT ANY MARINE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICES.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY WILL ENABLE US TO IDENTIFY THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM. IT WILL ALSO GIVE US A CLEARER IDEA ON THE ECONOMIC COST THE PROBLEM HAS CAUSED TO BOTH INDIVIDUAL VESSEL OWNER AND THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE," MR TSE SAID.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS CHARGED TO COLLECT FLOATING REFUSE IN VICTORIA HARBOUR AND IN WATERS INSIDE THREE SPECIFIC TYPHOON SHELTERS IN ABERDEEN, CHEUNG CHAU AND SAI KUNG.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, PROVIDED TEMPORARY SCAVENGING SERVICES IN WATERS AROUND TUEN MUN TYPHOON SHELTER AS LONG AS ITS RESOURCES PERMITTED.

"SEVEN SPECIALISED SCAVENGING VESSELS ARE OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND 27 CONTRACTED BOATS AND SAMPANS ARE ALSO USED," MR TSE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE PATTERN AND THE AMOUNT OF FLOATING REFUSE WERE AFFECTED BY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS WATER CURRENT, TIDES, SHIP MOVEMENTS AND WASHES.

"URBANISATION, RECLAMATION, RAINFALL, CONSTRUCTION ALONG SEASHORE, AND THE LACK OF CIVIC-MINDEDNESS ALSO HAVE A PART TO PLAY," MR TSE SAID.

"WHILE THE AMOUNT OF FLOATING REFUSE IS DETERMINED BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS, LACK OF CIVIC-MINDEDNESS IS PERHAPS A MAJOR CAUSE," MR TSE SAID.

/"PEOPLE SHOULD .....

"PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TREAT THE HARBOUR AS A GIGANTIC REFUSE BIN. EVERY BIT OF REFUSE DUMPED INTO THE SEA COSTS," HE STRESSED.

"CURRENTLY THE COST OF COLLECTING ONE TONNE OF FLOATING REFUSE IS $2,100," HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE TAXPAYERS HAVE SPENT MORE THAN $4 MILLION IN COLLECTING SOME 2,000 TONNES OF REFUSE FROM THE SEA.

"THIS IS ONLY A VISIBLE COST QUANTIFIED ON BOOKS, INVISIBLE COSTS SUCH AS REPAIRING THE DAMAGES TO SHIP HULL, PROPELLERS AND ENGINES AND THE DOWNTIME OF THE VESSELS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," MR TSE SAID.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT COLLECTED A TOTAL OF 5,020 TONNES OF FLOATING REFUSE FROM THE SEA IN 1993. IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, SOME 2,000 TONNES WAS COLLECTED, 500 TONNES MORE THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1993.

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PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT ACP

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ABOUT 280 PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS HAVE TODAY (SATURDAY) GAINED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE 10 AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS DURING A BOAT TOUR TO VARIOUS PROJECT AREAS.

DURING THE THREE-AND-A-HALF-HOUR BOAT TOUR, THE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS SAW THE EXTENSIVE PHYSICAL PROGRESS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE SO FAR, INCLUDING THE TWIN 206 METRES HIGH TOWERS OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WHICH IS BEING CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST OF LANTAU, AND THE LARGE PIECES OF LAND THAT HAVE BEEN RECLAIMED BOTH AT CHEK LAP KOK AND IN WEST KOWLOON.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE 10 ACP PROJECTS AS WELL AS THEIR LATEST WORK PROGRESS BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

"TODAY'S BOAT TRIP IS CO-ORGANISED BY NAPCO AND THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PUBLICISE THE ACP TO SCHOOLS AND TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE ACP TEACHING KIT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS," SAID NAPCO'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MR PAUL TANG.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHING KIT WAS INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO USE IT AS A TEACHING TOOL IN PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH A GENERAL INTRODUCTION ON THE ACP PROJECTS AS WELL AS THEIR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES TO THE COMMUNITY.

/SO FAR, ...

SO FAR, OVER 1,100 SETS OF THE TEACHING KIT HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS, VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS, THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

DESIGNER OF THE TEACHING KIT, DR C C LAM OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, ALSO WENT ON BOARD TODAY TO EXPLAIN TO TEACHERS HOW BEST THEY COULD MAKE USE OF THE KIT IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THEIR STUDENTS ON THE 10 ACP PROJECTS.

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LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION

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ONE HUNDERD VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION TODAY (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF $4,251,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK *AJ3 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF $368,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK *9868 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF $350,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS $1,000 EACH FOR FX5168, FX8346, FX4493, FX5682.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE MORNING SESSION AUCTION:

	$		$		$		$
FX877	18,000	FX138	88,000	FX611	11,000	AU638	73,000
AS8805	13,000	CE269	13,000	FX880	31,000	FX654	10,000
*ER333	100,000	*BS83	304,000	*CC92	62,000	*FC2	215,000
FX159	3,000	FX6681	6,000	FX5168	1,000	AW376	12,000
FY218	11,000	EE1638	18,000	FW338	65,000	FX921	8,000
AA3680	20,000	BR238	82,000	AZ3222	25,000	BW3828	43,000
FX463	6,000	FX113	24,000	FX968	40,000	FY6629	6,000
*EC5	110,000	*HK4000	84,000	*9868	350,000	*FW989	64,000
FX890	8,000	BV8198	13,000	AW1319	10,000	FW267	4,000
FY1289	5,000	FX1386	9,000	FX9188	12,000	FX8346	1,000
FW3998	10,000	FX987	20,000	*FU444	17,000	FY625	7,000
FY3799	2,000	EM8122	5,000	FY3298	17,000	*FU6767	50,000
FX4493	1,000	FX5682	1,000				

/FOLLOWING ARE .....

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION AUCTION:

	$		$		$		$
FX911	98,000	CT817	9,000	XX104	70,000	FY288	58,000
FX3328	28,000	FX663	30,000	AW375	10,000	FW3368	10,000
*ER66	160,000	*EC300	65,000	*FC28	210,000	*AJ3	368,000
FY413	7,000	FY510	6,000	FX311	28,000	CT955	23,000
FY1928	7,000	FX668	60,000	HK588	60,000	FX2788	8,000
FY2111	8,000	FY1128	20,000	DP1968	28,000	FY148	16,000
FY9088	9,000	AU866	40,000	FX638	30,000	FX152	8,000
*8872	100,000	*EN99	100,000	*920	250,000	*CN1001	16,000
FX2663	8,000	FX1328	22,000	FX7003	13,000	FY2829	8,000
AV3826	13,000	FY9912	3,000	FY6882	25,000	FY8038	9,000
FY117	20,000	ER3088	13,000	*AY656	15,000	FY7178	2,000
AU579	14,000	FY9880	7,000	FX2887	5,000	*CL9595	20,000
FY4493	2,000	FY2962	4,000				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE CAR REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO CARS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 228TH AND 229TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO $323,243,905.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE ($ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,359	0930	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,064	1000	NIL
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	NIL
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	NIL	1200	NIL
LAF TODAY	-295	1500	
		1600	

LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 125.1 *+0.2* 4.6.94

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STARTS WITH FAMILIES

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SHOULD START WITH THE FAMILIES WHICH ARE THE BASIC UNITS OF THE SOCIETY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY 1994 CELEBRATION, MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THE SLOGAN FOR THIS YEAR WAS "GREEN FAMILY, GREEN ACTION."

"A FAMILY CAN BECOME GREEN WHEN THEY START CLAIMING THEIR RIGHTS AS A GREEN CONSUMER AND BEGIN TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR BEHAVIOUR ON THE ENVIRONMENT," MRS CHAN SAID.

"IF ALL SIX MILLION OF US ARE A LITTLE BIT MORE CONSCIOUS IN CONDUCTING OUR LIVES IN A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WAY, WE WILL HELP TREMENDOUSLY IN REDUCING THE DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PRODUCTION OF WASTE," SHE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH "MUST NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT".

"AS A COMMUNITY, WE MUST JOIN HANDS TO CULTIVATE HIGHER ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND GREEN FAMILY HABITS.

"ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE ENJOY AN IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT," SHE SAID.

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ROUTE 3 RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE TAKES SHAPE

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WORK ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME'S (ACP) RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE HAS REACHED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE WITH THE START OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE DECK.

THE RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE FORMS PART OF THE ACP'S ROUTE 3 PROJECT LINKING TSING YI ISLAND AND KWAI CHUNG.

ROUTE 3 IS A MAJOR ELEMENT IN THE ACP'S HIGHWAYS NETWORK CONNECTING THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN TO KOWLOON AND CENTAL HONG KONG.

IN THE COMING WEEKS, THE BRIDGE WILL START TO TAKE SHAPE AS THE FIRST OF ABOUT 1,000 PRECAST CONCRETE SEGMENTS, WHICH WILL FORM THE DECK, ARE PLACED IN POSITION.

THE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WILL USE THE PRECAST SEGMENTAL BALANCED CANTILEVER METHOD UTILISING A LAUNCHING GIRDER, AN ADVANCED PIECE OF SPECIALIST BRIDGE EQUIPMENT PIONEERED IN HONG KONG BY THE LEAD CONTRACTOR ON THE PROJECT, DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS.

/THIS SPECIAL .....

THIS SPECIAL LAUNCHING GIRDER WHICH HAS BEEN USED TWICE PREVIOUSLY IN EUROPE BUT ONLY ONCE BEFORE IN HONG KONG ON THE KWUN TONG BYPASS PROJECT WILL LIFT AND POSITION THE LARGE PRECAST CONCRETE SEGMENTS ON TOP OF THE BRIDGE PIERS UP TO 30 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL AND RAMBLER CHANNEL WATER LEVEL.

ORIGINALLY FABRICATED IN ITALY, AND AFTER HAVING BEEN TOTALLY REFURBISHED AND EXTENDED FOR USE ON THE RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE, THE LAUNCHING GIRDER NOW WEIGHS 450 TONNES AND MEASURES 133 METRES LONG AND 15 METRES HIGH.

EACH SEGMENT, WEIGHING BETWEEN 80 AND 120 TONNES, IS POSITIONED BY THE LAUNCHING GIRDER AND DURING THE CANTILEVERING OF THE DECK SEGMENTS, ONE BY ONE ALTERNATIVELY ON BOTH SIDES OF A BRIDGE PIER, EACH SEGMENT IS BOLTED TO THE NEXT ONE UNTIL THE CLOSING OF ONE SPAN IS ACHIEVED.

THE PROCESS IS THEN REPEATED UNTIL THE 1.2 KILOMETRES LONG BRIDGE DECK IS FORMED.

A SENIOR ENGINEER FROM THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, MR DUNCAN SIU, EXPLAINED THAT AN IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE OF THE BALANCED CANTILEVER TECHNIQUE WAS THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK WAS DONE WITHOUT TEMPORARY SUPPORT FROM THE GROUND AND THUS ELIMINATES THE NEED TO CLOSE OFF SECTIONS OF THE RAMBLER CHANNEL.

"THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION AS IT MEANS THAT DISRUPTION TO VESSELS MOVING THROUGH THE CHANNEL AS WELL AS HEAVY ROAD TRAFFIC ALONG THE TWO APPROACHES AT TSING YI AND KWAI CHUNG ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUN," MR SIU SAID.

"THIS TECHNIQUE UTILISING THE LAUNCHING GIRDER WILL ALSO CUT SHORT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. IT ALLOWS THE CONTRACTOR TO ERECT UP TO 100 METRES OF BRIDGE DECK IN ONE WEEK, CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN OTHER MORE CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF BRIDGE BUILDING," MR SIU SAID.

"ALL THE PRECAST SEGMENTS CAN BE MADE IN A CENTRALISED PRESCASTING YARD UNDER GOOD QUALITY CONTROL. THE PRODUCTION RATE IS THEREFORE QUICKER THAN SOME CONVENTIONAL CAST IN-SITU CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION METHODS," HE ADDED.

THE RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, AWARDED IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO DRAGAGES-BSG-PENTA JOINT VENTURE AT A COST OF $669.8 MILLION, COMPRISES THE BUILDING OF A 490 METRES LONG MAIN BRIDGE, AND APPROACH VIADUCTS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CHANNEL.

THE PROJECT HAS HAD A SUCCESSFUL START AND IS CURRENTLY ON PROGRAMME FOR COMPLETION IN 1996. WHEN COMPLETED, THE ROUTE 3 RAMBLER CHANNEL BRIDGE WILL CARRY A DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING WET SEASON URGED

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SITE MANAGEMENT STAFF SHOULD BE MORE VIGILANT AND TAKE SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT THEIR CONSTRUCTION SITES DURING THE RAINY AND TYPHOON SEASON TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR MR KAN HON-SANG SAID (SUNDAY) THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION HAD BEEN LAUNCHING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE CAMPAIGN SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR AS PART OF ITS EFFORTS TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SITE SAFETY AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS IN THE WET SEASON.

THE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT EXERCISE WILL LAST UNTIL OCTOBER.

MR KAN NOTED THAT FALLING OBJECTS, COLLAPSE OF SCAFFOLDS UNDER STRONG WIND, CAVE-IN OF SLOPES OR EXCAVATIONS AND ELECTRICAL FAULTS DURING HEAVY RAIN WERE THE COMMON MISHAPS IN SUMMER.

"EVEN AFTER THE LOWERING OF TYPHOON OR RAINSTORM SIGNALS, ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY SLIPPERY AND WET FLOOR, UNSTABLE WORKING PLATFORMS, DETERIORATED SCAFFOLDS, IRRUPTION OF WATER OR DISLODGMENT OF EARTH IN EXCAVATION OR UNSTABLE LIFTING APPLIANCES MAY ALSO OCCUR," HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS, MR KAN REMINDED SITE PERSONNEL TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ON WORKS THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED WHEN TYPHOON SIGNAL NO. 3 OR THE RAINSTORM WARNING SIGNAL "RED" WAS ABOUT TO BE HOISTED.

"CRANES SHOULD NOT BE USED WHEN THE WEATHER CONDITION IS LIKELY TO ENDANGER ITS STABILITY. GOOD HOUSE KEEPING, PROPER STACKING OF MATERIALS, SUITABLE PROTECTION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENTS ARE ALSO NECESSARY DURING BAD WEATHER CONDITION.

"IN ADDITION, STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND SCAFFOLDS SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY WALL-TIES, BALLASTING, LASHING OR GUY ROPES," HE SAID.

MR KAN ALSO URGED SITE PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON SAFETY MEASURES TO WORKERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO WORK AT HEIGHT.

NOTING THAT THE STABILITY OF LIFTING APPLIANCES, SCAFFOLDS AND EXCAVATIONS MIGHT BE AFFECTED AFTER EXPOSURE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, MR KAN ASKED CONTRACTORS TO ASSIGN COMPETENT PERSONS TO RE-EXAMINE THESE AREAS OF WORK TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE STABLE, SECURE AND SAFE.

"IF REMEDIAL WORKS ARE REQUIRED, CONTRACTORS SHOULD ADOPT A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK AND SHOULD FULLY INSTRUCT THE WORKERS EXECUTING THE JOB ON DETAILS OF THE SYSTEM," HE SAID.

"UNDER THE LAW, THEY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE SUPERVISION AS WELL AS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENTS TO THE WORKERS," HE ADDED.

/THE FACTORIES .....

THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE STATES THAT EMPLOYERS FAILING TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF $200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

MR KAN ALSO CALLED ON WORKERS TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY LAW AND TO TAKE REASONABLE CARE FOR THE SAFETY OF THEMSELVES AND OF OTHER PERSONS.

WORKERS WHO BREACH THE LAW WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF $50,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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QEH STAFF URGED TO REGISTER AS VOTERS

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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BART IRELAND, TODAY (SUNDAY) APPEALED TO MEDICAL STAFF AND VISITORS TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL TO ENROL AS VOTERS.

A VOTER REGISTRATION BOOTH HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE CANTEEN OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS WISHING TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ELECTORAL ROLL.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO BECOME AN ELECTOR IF YOU WANT TO BE HEARD," MR IRELAND SAID.

MEANWHILE, STAFF OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE CONDUCT HOUSEHOLD VISITS IN THE AREA TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THREE-TIER ELECTIONS.

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WELFARE PAYMENTS GIVEN OUT EARLIER

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RECIPIENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE UNDER THE BANK PAYMENT SYSTEM MAY RECEIVE PAYMENT EARLIER IF THEIR PAYDAYS FALL ON THE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) SAID PAYMENTS SCHEDULED BETWEEN SATURDAY (JUNE 11) AND NEXT TUESDAY (JUNE 14) WOULD BE ADVANCED TO FRIDAY (JUNE 10).

IN CASE OF DOUBT, RECIPIENTS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS.

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