



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1991

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HK IS A BIG INCENTIVE TO INVESTORS

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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, HAS URGED OVERSEAS INVESTORS TO GRASP THE "GREAT OPPORTUNITIES" OFFERED BY THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, PARTICULARLY HONG KONG.

IN A SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CEBIT FORUM - "BUSINESS WITH HONG KONG" AT HANNOVER, GERMANY, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG ITSELF WAS A BIG INCENTIVE TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

"WHILE THE OPENING UP OF EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET, HAVE OBVIOUSLY DISTRACTED EUROPEAN INVESTORS, IT WOULD BE A PITY IF THEY MISSED OUT ON THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, WHICH IS NOT STANDING STILL.

"A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE REINFORCED THE FACT THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AREAS IN THE WORLD.

"HONG KONG, WITH ITS SOUND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND EXCELLENT BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE, FREE TRADE AND FREE ENTERPRISE POLICY, HARD-WORKING AND EFFICIENT LABOUR FORCE, LOW TAXATION RATE AND EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, THE HUB FOR DOING BUSINESS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC.

"SO, HONG KONG IS THE OBVIOUS PARTNER FOR THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG HAD, OVER THE PAST DECADES, ATTRACTED MANY INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SURVEY ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, TOTAL INVESTMENT FROM ALL SOURCES AT THE END OF 1989 WAS US\$3,812 MILLION, 13.6 PER CENT UP FROM 1988 AND MORE THAN DOUBLE (260 PER CENT) THE FIGURE RECORDED IN 1984.

"INVESTMENT FROM EEC COUNTRIES HAS ALSO BEEN INCREASING STEADILY, AND THE VALUE OF GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS IN 1989 BY EEC COUNTRIES (WHICH INCLUDES PURCHASES OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, LAND AND BUILDINGS, AND OTHER ASSETS) AMOUNTED TO US\$68 MILLION AND WAS 12.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE VALUE RECORDED IN 1988," HE SAID.

ON HONG KONG'S ATTRACTIONS FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS, MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG OCCUPIED A PIVOTAL POSITION AS A MAJOR FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRE FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND WAS ALSO THE GATEWAY TO CHINA.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH HONG KONG WAS SMALL AND HAD FEW NATURAL RESOURCES IT HAD BEEN THE SUCCESS STORY OF A FREE MARKET ECONOMY.

"HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON EXPORT TRADE, HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE EXCELLED IN THE PURSUIT OF SUCCESS, THROUGH A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN A FAST CHANGING WORLD.

/"BOTH EMPLOYERS .....

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"BOTH EMPLOYERS AND LABOUR HAVE LEARNED TO RESPOND AND ADJUST SWIFTLY TO CHANGES IN EXTERNAL DEMAND AND TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY NEW SKILLS AND KNOW-HOW PROMPTLY, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF THEIR PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT BUSINESSMEN, NOT BUREAUCRATS, WERE THE BEST PEOPLE TO TAKE BUSINESS DECISIONS.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THE ECONOMY IS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND A STABLE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CAN FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH A MINIMUM OF RED TAPE.

"IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER AN INVESTOR IS LOCAL OR FROM OVERSEAS; THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE, AND THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PARTICIPATION OR EXPORT ORIENTATION IN PROJECTS," HE SAID.

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#### STUDY ON EEC SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME COMMISSIONED

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKTDC) TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED A \$1 MILLION CONTRACT TO PRICE WATERHOUSE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC).

THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME IS AN INTERNAL PROGRAMME WITHIN THE EEC WHICH AIMS TO ACHIEVE THE FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS, CAPITAL, PEOPLE AND SERVICES AMONG ITS MEMBER STATES BY THE END OF 1992.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE CONSULTANCY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ALAN N. LAI, SAID INFORMATION ABOUT THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME WAS SO MASSIVE AND DIVERSE THAT IT HAD BECOME VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN BRUSSELS, WITH THEIR LIMITED RESOURCES, TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

"IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO EMPLOY THE SERVICES OF A PRIVATE CONSULTANCY FIRM WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO HONG KONG SO THAT WE WILL NOT LOSE TRACK OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

THE HKTDC HAS ALSO FOUND THAT IT NEEDS TO KEEP PACE WITH DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME IN ORDER TO ADVISE LOCAL TRADERS TO PREPARE FOR A SINGLE MARKET IN EUROPE IN 1992.

THE CHIEF ECONOMIST OF HKTDC, MRS ANNA LAI, SAID: "THE TDC HAS REGULARLY RECEIVED ENQUIRIES FROM LOCAL TRADERS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME.

/"WE BELIEVE .....

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"WE BELIEVE THE CONSULTANCY STUDY WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ASSIST HONG KONG TRADERS IN MAXIMISING THEIR EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND IN UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING MARKET ENVIRONMENT UNDER A SINGLE MARKET," SHE SAID.

IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND OPTIMISE THE USE OF RESOURCES, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND HKTDC DECIDED IT WOULD BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO ENGAGE THE CONSULTANCY PROJECT JOINTLY.

UNDER ITS TERMS, PRICE WATERHOUSE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS ARE TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME WHICH MAY HAVE A BEARING ON HONG KONG'S TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE EEC AND TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS SO THAT HONG KONG CAN REACT RAPIDLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

THE INITIAL PERIOD OF THE CONSULTANCY IS ONE YEAR, DURING WHICH PRICE WATERHOUSE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ADVICE RELATING TO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF THE EEC AND ITS MEMBER STATES; CHANGES IN THE MARKET ENVIRONMENT FOR HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS; AND THE ACTIVITIES OF HONG KONG'S COMPETITORS IN THE EEC WHICH MIGHT AFFECT HONG KONG'S PENETRATION OF THOSE MARKETS.

THE CONSULTANTS WILL PRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THEIR STUDY IN REGULAR AND TOPICAL REPORTS COVERING SPECIFIC PRODUCTS OR SECTORS OF INDUSTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT AND HKTDC WILL OWN THE COPYRIGHT OF ALL REPORTS PRODUCED UNDER THE CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS WILL BE USEFUL TO TRADERS IN HONG KONG AND HKTDC INTENDS TO PUBLISH THEM FOR REFERENCE BY HONG KONG TRADERS.

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LAND COMMISSION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

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THE TWO SIDES OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION HAVE AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION'S TWENTY-SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 20).

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE 1991-92 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR PETER LAI, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE LAND COMMISSION WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 1, 1991. HE HAS REPLACED MR DARWIN CHEN.

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ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES  
FOR JANUARY RELEASED

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IN JANUARY 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 1% WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, BUT IT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN JANUARY 1991 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY. THESE INCREASES WERE MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SEASONAL EFFECTS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ORDERS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES, BUT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN JANUARY 1991 DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES, AND SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN JANUARY 1991 DECREASED BY 1% WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, AND BY 10% WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, EXCEPT FOR THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WHICH REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY 1991 DECREASED IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH THE LARGEST DECREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

IN JANUARY 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 40%, IN MONEY TERMS, WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990.

HOWEVER, CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY, AS THE LARGE INCREASE BETWEEN DECEMBER 1990 AND JANUARY 1991 WAS DUE MAINLY TO THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BY MANY MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED.

/OVER THIS .....

OVER THIS PERIOD, INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, PARTICULARLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A SLIGHT DECREASE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WAS RECORDED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY, FOLLOWING THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES IN DECEMBER 1990 BY A NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED IN THIS INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JANUARY 1991 INCREASED BY 11%, IN MONEY TERMS, IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED. PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH THE LARGEST INCREASES RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, FOOD AND DRINKS AND THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE CAUTIONED THAT THE DIFFERENT RATES OF INCREASE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS AMONG THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED WERE PARTLY AFFECTED BY THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TIMING OF ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BETWEEN 1990 AND 1991 BY SOME MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990 AND MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JANUARY 1991 INCREASED MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, DUE TO THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JANUARY 1991 DECREASED MODERATELY, DUE TO THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TIMING OF ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BETWEEN 1990 AND 1991 BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990, BUT INCREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990.

IN JANUARY 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SLIGHTLY OVER DECEMBER 1990 AND MODERATELY OVER JANUARY 1990.

AGAIN, IT SHOULD BE CAUTIONED THAT THE COMPARISON OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES BETWEEN JANUARY 1991 AND DECEMBER 1990 WAS AFFECTED BY THE ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES, WHILE THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE JANUARY 1991 AND JANUARY 1990 FIGURES WAS AFFECTED BY THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TIMING OF ISSUE OF DOUBLE-PAY AND ANNUAL BONUSES BETWEEN 1990 AND 1991 BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLES.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY IS NOT BASED ON A SCIENTIFICALLY SELECTED SAMPLE, THE MAGNITUDES OF CHANGE INDICATED BY THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE MERELY A REFLECTION OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPANIES SURVEYED.

HOWEVER, GIVEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1991 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3222.

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	AS AT THE END OF JANUARY 1991	ORDERS-ON-HAND	
		CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH DEC. 90	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH JAN. 90
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	(MONTHS)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.25	+1	*
WEARING APPAREL	4.63	+1	+1
TEXTILES	2.18	+5	-11
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.58	+12	-17
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.20	+2	-2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.22	*	+2
OTHERS	4.08	*	-1

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED	
	AT THE END OF JANUARY 1991	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	DEC. 90	JAN. 90
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	-1	-10
FOOD AND DRINKS	-1	*
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-9
TEXTILES	-2	-18
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-2	-22
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	*	-5
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	-11
OTHERS	*	-4
CONSTRUCTION #	-2	-8
SERVICES	-1	+3
BANKS	-1	+4
HOTELS	-1	-4
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*
OTHERS	-3	+6

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

# PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

/PER CAPITA .....

## PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	AVERAGE	CHANGE WHEN	
	AS IN JANUARY 1991	DEC. 90	JAN. 90
	(HK\$)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	9,634	+40	+11
FOOD AND DRINKS	9,907	-1	+13
WEARING APPAREL	6,455	+19	+7
TEXTILES	9,057	+38	+9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	10,770	+78	+12
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	10,643	+69	+10
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	9,166	+37	+17
OTHERS	13,868	+61	+7
CONSTRUCTION #	9,913	+9	-6
SERVICES	14,717	+1	+8
BANKS	14,338	-11	+12
HOTELS	13,948	+76	-29
PUBLIC UTILITIES	14,312	+6	+17
OTHERS	15,794	-1	+3

# PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE : DUE TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

NOTE TO TABLES 1-3 :

UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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STRONGER SANCTIONS AGAINST UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS

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STRONGER SANCTIONS WILL BE APPLIED TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS (UBW) IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR CHENG WEI-DART, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY).

MR CHENG SAID A REVIEW OF THE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF UBW HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN FACE OF THE SPATE OF MAJOR AND MINOR BUILDING COLLAPSES THAT OCCURRED IN THE LATTER PART OF 1990.

IT HAD BECOME ABUNDANTLY CLEAR AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW THAT THE USE OF STRONGER SANCTIONS AGAINST UBW WAS JUSTIFIED, HE SAID.

"BUILDING SAFETY IS OUR MAIN CONCERN," MR CHENG SAID. "ILLEGAL BUILDING ACTIVITY IS A MAJOR FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED," HE ADDED.

APART FROM OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO ENFORCE BUILDING SAFETY, TWO IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE SHOULD BE MADE AND ANNOUNCED FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, MR CHENG SAID.

THESE TWO CHANGES ARE:

- PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS FOR CARRYING OUT UBW SHOULD BE STEPPED UP, AND
- STRUCTURES WHICH PROJECT OVER BUSY THOROUGHFARES AND POSE A GREATER DANGER TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD BE FIRST DEMOLISHED.

MR CHENG EMPHASISED THAT THE NEED HAD BECOME MORE URGENT TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR THE BUILDING LAW AND TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN, HE SAID, THAT WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO INSTITUTE PROSECUTION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WOULD ACCORD THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO COMMITTED AN OFFENCE UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE:

- (A) REPEATED OFFENDERS;
- (B) OFFENDERS WHOSE UBW ARE EXCESSIVE IN NATURE OR SCALE AND IN BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE BUILDING LAW OR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC;
- (C) OFFENDERS WHOSE UBW ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION;
- (D) OFFENDERS WHO DISREGARD A "CEASE WORKS ORDER" ISSUED UNDER SECTION 23 OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE;

/(E) OFFENDERS WHO .....

- (E) OFFENDERS WHO DISREGARD AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER SECTION 25 OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REGARDING MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE; AND
- (F) OFFENDERS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH AN ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION OR RECTIFICATION OF UBW ISSUED UNDER SECTION 24(1) OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

MR CHENG POINTED OUT THAT OFFENDERS FALLING WITHIN CATEGORIES (C) AND (F) COULD NUMBER IN EXCESS OF 1,000 PER YEAR IF THEY DID NOT CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE BUILDING LAW.

HE REMINDED BUILDING OWNERS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS CHANGE IN THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR PROSECUTION.

"AND AS REGARDS CATEGORY (F) IN PARTICULAR, THE IMPOSITION OF A CONTINUING FINE WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE COURTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ENFORCING DEMOLITION," MR CHENG SAID.

A CONTINUING FINE MEANS A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 PER DAY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH AN ORDER ISSUED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY FOR DEMOLITION OF UBW, HE EXPLAINED.

MR CHENG SAID FOR REASONS OF EQUITY, THE CHANGE IN THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR PROSECUTION WOULD NOT BE APPLIED RETROSPECTIVELY. IT WOULD BE USED AS FROM APRIL 1, 1991.

HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF STAFF HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ASSUME PROSECUTION DUTIES AND ALL OFFENDERS IN THE CATEGORIES LISTED WOULD BE PROSECUTED, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN 10 TIMES MORE CONVICTIONS PER YEAR THAN HAD HITHERTO BEEN THE CASE.

DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, 153 SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS WERE MADE AND A TOTAL FINE OF \$571,200 WAS IMPOSED.

ON STRUCTURES SUCH AS CANOPIES AND "METAL CAGES" WHICH OVERHANG BUSY PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES, MR CHENG SAID THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SHOULD INDEED BE CONCERNED ABOUT DANGER OF COLLAPSE AND RISKS TO INNOCENT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

IN ADDITION TO THE ROUTINE CHECKS WHICH ALL STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE IN THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE, AN OPERATION, CODE NAMED "OPERATION APPENDAGES", HAD BEEN LAUNCHED, MR CHENG SAID.

IN THIS OPERATION, 30 BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS HAD BEEN SELECTED AS TARGETS FOR CLEARANCE OF PROJECTING UBW.

SOME 3,500 ORDERS TO REQUIRE DEMOLITION OF ABOUT 4,500 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES WOULD BE ISSUED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MR CHENG SAID SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT MEASURES WOULD BE ADOPTED ON A LONG-TERM BASIS TO REDUCE CHANCES OF INJURY TO PERSONS WALKING ON PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES.

FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, HE ADDED, A DEDICATED TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS HAD RECENTLY BEEN FORMED TO SEEK OUT, ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS, DANGER AND POTENTIAL DANGER FROM CANOPIES.

"IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER THESE CANOPIES ARE LEGAL OR ILLEGAL. OUR JOB IS TO PREVENT CANOPY COLLAPSES AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE LOSS OF A CANOPY IF IT IS FOUND BY US TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION," MR CHENG SAID.

HE ALSO URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ANY CANOPY WHICH THEY FELT WAS UNSAFE.

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#### PASSENGER SHIPS MUST FULFIL SAFETY RULES

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PASSENGER SHIPS OPERATING EXCURSION VOYAGES FROM HONG KONG WITHOUT CALLING ON ANY OTHER PORT DURING SUCH VOYAGES MUST COMPLY WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) ORDINANCE AS IF THEY WERE HONG KONG REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS, A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

RESPONDING TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THIS MEANT THAT OPERATORS OF SUCH SHIPS MUST SUBMIT THEIR VESSELS TO A FULL SAFETY SURVEY BY MARINE DEPARTMENT SURVEYORS.

"SUCH SHIPS WILL ALSO NEED TO BE STAFFED BY CREWS HOLDING CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY ISSUED BY, OR ACCEPTABLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE," HE ADDED.

OPERATORS HAVE BEEN INFORMED AND BEEN GIVEN SIX WEEKS FROM MARCH 4 THIS (1991) YEAR TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS.

THE MARINE ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THESE SHIPS ARE REGISTERED HAVE ALSO BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE REQUIREMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME WITH THE VALIDITY OF THE PASSENGER SAFETY CERTIFICATES OF PASSENGER SHIPS WHICH OPERATE OUT OF HONG KONG AND DO NOT CALL AT ANY PORT OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"THE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN CONCERN IS THE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS WHO GO ON SUCH EXCURSIONS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE HONG KONG RESIDENTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S SURVEYORS HAD MADE UNSCHEDULED INSPECTIONS ON SUCH SHIPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONDUCT INDEPTH EXAMINATIONS OF THESE SHIPS TO ENSURE THAT SAFETY STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG PASSENGER SHIPS WERE BEING MET.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD RECENTLY BEEN CONFIRMED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS WHICH OBLIGATED THE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT THE PASSENGER SAFETY CERTIFICATES OF SUCH PASSENGER SHIPS ON INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES WERE NOT APPLICABLE TO THE TYPE OF EXCURSION VOYAGES CONDUCTED BY THESE SHIPS.

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TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED CAPACITY

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, TODAY (MONDAY) SAID THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE HAS RELOCATED SEVERAL BLOCKS OF FREQUENCY SPECTRUM FOR THE TRUNKED RADIO SERVICE WHICH HE BELIEVED WILL PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED CAPACITY IN THE COMMUNICATIONS MARKET.

"WE HAVE ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE GUANGDONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES FOR THE 800 MHZ TRUNKED RADIO SERVICE TO BE EXTENDED INTO GUANGDONG GRADUALLY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF FIRST PACIFIC MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED'S TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM, MR WONG SAID DEMAND FOR PERSONAL COMMUNICATION FACILITIES WAS VERY HIGH.

"AS A COROLLARY, THERE IS HIGH DEMAND ALSO FOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS WITHIN COMPANIES, THAT IS TO SAY, BETWEEN A COMPANY'S OFFICE AND ITS FLEET OF VEHICLES.

"THIS DEMAND HAS BEEN ACCELERATING AS THE NUMBER OF BUSINESS VEHICLES INCREASES IN HONG KONG AND AS MORE AND MORE GOODS VEHICLES COMMUTE DAILY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE SITUATION HAD RESULTED IN HIGH CONGESTION IN THE PRIVATE MOBILE RADIO FREQUENCY BANDS AND TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM. SEVERAL BLOCKS OF FREQUENCY SPECTRUM HAD BEEN RELOCATED FOR THE TRUNKED RADIO SERVICE.

HE NOTED THAT USING THE TRUNKED RADIO SERVICE, COMPANIES COULD HAVE GOOD QUALITY TERRITORY-WIDE COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR OWN VEHICULAR FLEET, OR ALLOW THEIR OWN VEHICLE OPERATORS TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH ONE ANOTHER.

MR WONG SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT PRIVATE FIRMS WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE OBJECTIVES BY INVESTING IN THE TRUNKED RADIO SERVICE.

"FIRST PACIFIC MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED HAS JOINED IN AND MADE HEAVY INVESTMENTS TO BRING THE LATEST STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY INTO HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN HONG KONG, MR WONG SAID THERE WAS EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF THE SERVICES AND THEIR UTILISATION IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE RENOWNED WORLDWIDE FOR HIGH EFFICIENCY AND READINESS TO ADOPT NEW IDEAS AND TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY.

"ADVANCES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ALWAYS GET A GOOD RECEPTION HERE," HE NOTED.

/LAST YEAR .....

LAST YEAR PEOPLE IN HONG KONG MADE A TOTAL OF 1,350 MILLION MINUTES OF INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CALLS, REPRESENTING AN AVERAGE OF 5.5 HOURS BY EACH ADULT OR AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

TODAY, OVER 710,000 PEOPLE OR 12 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION SUBSCRIBED TO THE RADIO PAGING SERVICE AND THIS RATE OF PENETRATION WAS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD, MR WONG SAID.

WITH 135,000 MOBILE TELEPHONE USERS, HE SAID HONG KONG ALSO HAD THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF HAND HELD PORTABLE TELEPHONES IN ANY SIZEABLE CELLULAR RADIOTELEPHONE MARKET IN THE WORLD.

"RECENTLY, I HAVE ISSUED FOUR LICENCES FOR THE OPERATION OF TELEPOINT SERVICES BASED ON THE SECOND GENERATION CORDLESS TELEPHONE TECHNOLOGY (CT2), AND SERVICE WILL BECOME AVAILABLE TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH SATELLITE TELEVISION PROGRAMMES FROM A PAN-ASIAN SERVICE BASED HERE," HE SAID.

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SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL PUBLICLY EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1991-92 AT TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD THIS THURSDAY (MARCH 21) AND FRIDAY (MARCH 22).

THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS WILL TAKE ON A NEW FORMAT.

EACH BRANCH SECRETARY WILL ATTEND WITH HIS CONTROLLING OFFICERS AND MAKE A PRESENTATION OF ABOUT 15 MINUTES ON POLICIES IN THEIR PROGRAMME AREAS, THEIR PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD, THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THEM AND OTHERS.

MEMBERS CAN THEN RAISE QUESTIONS ON POINTS MADE DURING THE PRESENTATION AND THE DRAFT EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES.

EACH MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SPECIAL MEETINGS:

SESSION NO.	DATE/TIME	POLICY SECRETARY INVOLVED
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	MARCH 21, 1991 (THURSDAY)	
	-----	
1	9 AM - 10 AM	SECRETARY FOR WORKS
2	10 AM - 11 AM	SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS
	(11 AM - 11.15 AM	TEA BREAK)

/3. 11.15 AM - 12.15 PM .....

3	11.15 AM - 12.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES
4	12.15 PM - 1 PM	SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT
	(1 PM - 2 PM	LUNCH BREAK)
5	2 PM - 2.45 PM	SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS
6	2.45 PM - 3.45 PM	SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
	(3.45 PM - 4 PM	TEA BREAK)
7	4 PM - 5 PM	SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER
MARCH 22, 1991 (FRIDAY) -----		
8	9 AM - 10 AM	SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE
9	10 AM - 11 AM	SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE
	(11 AM - 11.15 AM	TEA BREAK)
10	11.15 AM - 12.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
11	12.15 PM - 1.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY
	(1.15 PM - 2.15 PM	LUNCH BREAK)
12	2.15 PM - 2.45 PM	SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS
13	2.45 PM - 3.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
14	3.15 PM - 4.15 PM	SECRETARY FOR SECURITY
	(4.15 PM - 4.30 PM	TEA BREAK)
15	4.30 PM - 5.30 PM	DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDING MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

ENGLISH AND CHINESE COPIES OF THE QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS ON THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1991-92 AND THE ANSWERS PROVIDED BY CONTROLLING OFFICERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN GIS PRESS BOXES.

SWAC CONSIDERS LEGISLATION ON RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) SUPPORTED THE LICENSING SYSTEM FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AIMED TO REGULATE ALL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND SUBVENTED SECTORS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION APPLIES TO PREMISES AT WHICH MORE THAN FIVE PERSONS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 60 YEARS ARE HABITUALLY RECEIVED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARE WHILE RESIDENT THEREIN. ALL RESIDENTIAL HOMES WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

"WHILE IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO SUPPORT THE CARE OF THE ELDERLY IN THE FAMILY AND IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE IS NEVERTHELESS A CLEAR NEED TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR THOSE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO, FOR HEALTH OR OTHER REASONS, ARE UNABLE TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES AND WHO HAVE NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS TO ASSIST WHEN REQUIRED," MR CHUI SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 106 NON-PROFIT-MAKING AND SUBVENTED HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY, PROVIDING ABOUT 12,700 PLACES. EVEN SO, THE DEMAND FOR PLACES IN RESIDENTIAL HOMES IS ONLY PARTIALLY MET AND THE SHORTFALL HAS LED TO THE RAPID GROWTH OF PRIVATE HOMES, THE SERVICE QUALITY OF SOME OF WHICH HAS BEEN A CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

MR CHUI SAID THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION REQUIRED BOTH THE OPERATOR OF A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME AND THE HOME ITSELF TO APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DSW) FOR A LICENCE.

"IN THIS REGARD, THE DIRECTOR WILL BE GIVEN POWERS TO ISSUE, SUSPEND, AND RENEW A LICENCE," HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF EXEMPTION, MR CHUI NOTED THAT A PROVISION WOULD BE MADE TO ENABLE DSW TO ISSUE, AND RENEW, A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION IN RESPECT OF A RESIDENTIAL HOME.

"THE EXEMPTION PROVISION WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY TO DSW TO EXEMPT RESIDENTIAL HOMES FROM COMPLYING WITH THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES.

"THIS PROVISION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THESE HOMES WILL NOT BE DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS WHEN THE BILL IS ENACTED TO AVOID THE DISPLACEMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY REGULATIONS IN RELATION TO THE LICENSING OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CARE HOMES, STRUCTURE AND DESIGN, HYGIENE AND SANITATION, MINIMUM SPACE AND STAFFING STANDARDS.

HOWEVER, SWAC MEMBERS WILL FURTHER DISCUSS THESE REQUIREMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING IN APRIL.

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GOVT HOUSE TO OPEN FOR COMMUNITY CHEST

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A SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO VIEW THE GARDENS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WILL BE PROVIDED ON MARCH 24 (SUNDAY) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM, IN ORDER TO HELP THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 10, AN ANNUAL TRADITION DATING BACK TO 1968. THIS ADDITIONAL "OPEN DAY" WILL GIVE VISITORS A CHANCE TO DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST BY PAYING A \$10 ADMISSION CHARGE PER PERSON.

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NEWLY-ACQUIRED DEFIBRILLATOR PROVES ITS VALUE

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THE AMBULANCE COMMAND'S NEWLY ACQUIRED "DEFIBRILLATOR" FOR HEART DISEASE PATIENTS HAS PROVEN ITS WORTH IN A RECENT INCIDENT IN WHICH AN 81-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SAVED FROM A HEART ATTACK.

THE REWARDS PAID OFF TODAY (MONDAY) WHEN TWO SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN WERE AWARDED THE CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER COMMENDATIONS AND FOUR OTHER AMBULANCEMEN COMMENDED AT A CEREMONY AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN AMBULANCE DEPOT.

CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR PANG TAK-SUM, PRESENTED HIS COMMENDATIONS TO SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN WONG MUN-CHI AND YUEN KAI-CHEUNG FOR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONALISM, LEADERSHIP AND DEVOTION TO DUTY IN APPLYING THE DEFIBRILLATOR AND CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION OF A PATIENT'S HEART BEATS AND RESPIRATION.

THE OTHER FOUR AMBULANCEMEN WHO WERE COMMENDED FOR FAVOURABLE ENTRY IN THIS CASE WERE YU CHAU-YIU, LI PING-YAU, CHAU SIU-YUNG AND AU WING-SUN.

MR PANG SAID THIS WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO PROVE THE USEFULNESS OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR IN ATTENDING UNCONSCIOUS AND CARDIAC PATIENTS.

MR PANG SAID THE PATIENT WOULD BE IN REAL DANGER WITHOUT THE TREATMENT BY THE DEFIBRILLATOR.

THE DEFIBRILLATOR IS USED TO ATTEND UNCONSCIOUS OR CARDIAC PATIENTS WHO MAY NEED TREATMENT FOR VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION. VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION IS AN ABNORMAL, RAPID AND CHAOTIC RHYTHM OF THE HEART WITH NO ACTIVE MECHANICAL BLOOD PUMPING ACTION, AND EVENTUALLY COULD LEAD TO DEATH UNLESS TREATED PROMPTLY.

/DEFIBRILLATION IS .....

DEFIBRILLATION IS THE PROCESS OF ABOLISHING SUCH FIBRILLATION RHYTHM TO RE-ESTABLISH NORMAL RHYTHM AND CONTRACTION TO THE HEART, ACHIEVED BY PASSING A CONTROLLED ELECTRIC CURRENT THROUGH THE HEART.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AT ABOUT 1.30 PM LAST THURSDAY (MARCH 14) WHEN THE FIRE SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTRE RESPONDED TO AN EMERGENCY CALL IN SHA TIN, A NEARBY AMBULANCE FROM TIN SUM AMBULANCE DEPOT AND ANOTHER ONE WITH THE DEFIBRILLATOR FROM SHA TIN AMBULANCE DEPOT WERE SENT TO THE SCENE.

WHEN THE FIRST AMBULANCE FROM TIN SUM DEPOT ARRIVED, SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN YUEN KAI-CHEUNG FOUND THE PATIENT BREATHLESS AND PULSELESS. THE OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY APPLIED CPR TO RESUSCITATE THE PATIENT.

SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN WONG MUN-CHI AND HIS CREW, WHO ARRIVED LATER IN A SECOND AMBULANCE WITH THE DEFIBRILLATOR, IMMEDIATELY APPLIED THE MACHINE TO THE PATIENT AND PROVIDED HIM WITH CPR UNTIL THE PATIENT REGAINED PULSE, RESPIRATION AND HEART BEATS BEFORE ARRIVAL AT THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

THE AMBULANCE COMMAND OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT INTRODUCED A \$1.5 MILLION PILOT SCHEME ON THE USE OF DEFIBRILLATOR TWO MONTHS AGO.

AT PRESENT SIX AMBULANCE AID MOTORCYCLES AND SIX AMBULANCES WERE EQUIPPED WITH DEFIBRILLATORS. THE NUMBER OF DEFIBRILLATOR-MOUNTED AMBULANCE AID MOTORCYCLES WILL BE INCREASED TO 13 WHEN A LOAD OF NEW MOTORCYCLES ARRIVE TO REPLACE THE AMBULANCES IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

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THREE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TODAY FOR UC/RC ELECTIONS  
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THREE NOMINATIONS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY WERE RECEIVED TODAY (MONDAY).

NONE WAS RECEIVED FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THIS BRINGS TO 25 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE UC/RC ELECTIONS.

SO FAR, FOUR CONSTITUENCIES RECEIVED TWO NOMINATIONS. THEY ARE THE SHAU KEI WAN, KOWLOON CITY WEST, KWUN TONG EAST AND YAU TSIM CONSTITUENCIES.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES WILL LAST UNTIL MARCH 25.

CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTESTING 27 SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCIES - 15 IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND 12 IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

/FOLLOWING ARE .....

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED TODAY:

URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER
-----	-----	---	---	-----	-----
KWUN TONG EAST	WONG PING-KUEN	M	47	SENIOR MONITOR	345 3966
WONG TAI SIN NORTH	YEUNG LAI-YIN, CECILIA	F	60	COLLEGE AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS, KINDERGARTEN'S SUPERVISOR	322 1163
YAU TSIM	TONG CHOR-YIN	M	35	SOLICITOR	521 1175 112 8741 CALL 87

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
-----	-----
1. CENTRAL AND WESTERN	NIL
2. WAN CHAI	1
3. NORTH POINT	1
4. SHAU KEI WAN	2
5. SOUTHERN	1
6. KOWLOON CITY WEST	2
7. KOWLOON CITY EAST	1
8. KWUN TONG WEST	1
9. KWUN TONG EAST	2
10. MONG KOK	1
11. SHAM SHUI PO EAST	NIL
12. SHAM SHUI PO WEST	1
13. WONG TAI SIN SOUTH	1
14. WONG TAI SIN NORTH	1
15. YAU TSIM	2
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SUB-TOTAL:	17

REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AREA	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
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1. ISLANDS	1
2. NORTH	1
3. SAI KUNG	1
4. SHA TIN EAST	1

/5. SHA TIN .....

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5. SHA TIN WEST	1
6. TAI PO	NIL
7. TSUEN WAN	NIL
8. TUEN MUN EAST	NIL
9. TUEN MUN WEST	1
10. YUEN LONG	NIL
11. KWAI CHUNG EAST	1
12. KWAI CHUNG WEST AND TSING YI	1
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SUB-TOTAL:	8

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ONE MORE NOMINATION FOR KWUN TONG BY-ELECTION  
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ONE NOMINATION FOR THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SHUN LEE  
CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION ON APRIL 21 WAS RECEIVED TODAY (MONDAY),  
BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS TO TWO.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE  
WHOSE NOMINATION FORM WAS RECEIVED TODAY:

NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
CHEUNG KWOK- KUEN (ALIAS CHEUNG KUEN)	M	43	MERCHANT	342 6891 OR 1128663 A/C 3426

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WORLD-RENOWNED ACADEMICS INVITED TO WELFARE SEMINAR  
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MORE THAN 250 SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS THIS  
(MONDAY) MORNING ATTENDED A SEMINAR ON FAMILY AND CHILD POLICY TO  
ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE ON SOCIAL SERVICE POLICY.

THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
(SWD), WAS HELD AT LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE. IT WAS ATTENDED BY SWD  
STAFF, SOCIAL WORKERS FROM VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SOCIAL WORK  
STUDENTS.

PROFESSOR ALFRED KAHN AND PROFESSOR SHEILA KAMERMAN FROM THE  
UNITED STATES WERE INVITED AS SPEAKERS. THEY HAD PRESENTED RICH AND  
ENLIGHTENING PUBLICATIONS IN SOCIAL POLICY AND PLANNING, FAMILY AND  
CHILD WELFARE AS WELL AS PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (TRAINING) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT, MR STEPHEN LAM, SAID THE SEMINAR FOCUSED ON NEW MODES  
AND APPROACHES IN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES, EFFECTS OF CHANGING SOCIAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES AND FAMILY STRUCTURE, AND FUNCTIONS ON POLICY  
CONCERNING FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

/"IN ADDITION .....

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"IN ADDITION, THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE BRIEFED ON NEW PERSPECTIVES AND DIRECTIONS IN THE PLANNING OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AS WELL AS THE BALANCE AND INTEGRATION BETWEEN PREVENTIVE, SUPPORTIVE AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES," MR LAM ADDED.

THE TWO PROFESSORS WILL ALSO MEET DIRECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FAMILY WELFARE BRANCH ON WEDNESDAY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE POLICY BOTH IN THE STATES AND IN HONG KONG.

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FRESH WATER SUSPENSION

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SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 20) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY WAN HON STREET, HIP WO STREET, KWUN TONG ROAD AND HONG NING ROAD.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF 5 KAI MING STREET IN TO KWA WAN SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 2 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (MONDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL BEGIN ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS GRANTED.

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