



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
FS TO VISIT U.S.	1
BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ENVISAGED: GOVERNOR	2
GOVT COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SOCIAL SERVICES	2
SIGNING OF SENT LANDFILL CONTRACT	3
COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO TACKLE UNDERAGE DRINKING	4
NEW TIN SHUI WAI HEALTH CENTRE OPENS	7
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING	7
SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL	8
EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED	9
BEACH WATER GRADES	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	13

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

- 1 -

FS TO VISIT U.S.
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND/WORLD BANK.

HE WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CENTRE.

MR MACLEOD WILL FIRST VISIT WASHINGTON FOR THE IMF/WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS.

DURING HIS STAY THERE, HE WILL BE MEETING KEY PERSONALITIES IN THE FINANCIAL AND BANKING SECTORS.

MR MACLEOD WILL TRAVEL FROM WASHINGTON TO PHILADELPHIA ON SEPTEMBER 29.

HE WILL SPEAK ON THE WAY AHEAD FOR HONG KONG AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL GO TO NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 30.

IN NEW YORK, HE WILL SPEAK ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AT A BREAKFAST MEETING TO BE HOSTED BY THE MORGAN STANLEY GROUP AND THE ASIA SOCIETY AND VISIT TWO CREDIT RATING AGENCIES - MOODY'S AND STANDARD & POOR.

HE WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THE CEO INSTITUTE.

MR MACLEOD WILL ALSO BE MEETING LEADING FINANCIERS AND BUSINESSMEN AT A MEETING HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

HE WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB'S MORNING NEWSMAKER PROGRAMME, AND APPEAR ON TWO TV PROGRAMMES - CNN'S BUSINESS ASIA AND THE BLOOMBERG FORUM.

IN ADDITION, HE WILL BE GIVING INTERVIEWS TO A NUMBER OF BUSINESS MAGAZINES.

MR MACLEOD WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 3.

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BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE ENVISAGED: GOVERNOR

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THE MAJOR RECLAMATION WORKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WILL, OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS, GIVE HONG KONG THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE OLDER URBAN AREAS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR FORUM 7 OF ARCASIA THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

MR PATTEN SAID THERE HAD BEEN CLEAR AND CONSISTENT COMMITMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT.

"THERE HAS ALSO BEEN TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF IN BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

OVER SEVERAL DECADES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REMAINED COMMITTED TO A HIGH LEVEL OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

ON AVERAGE, 25 PER CENT OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE EACH YEAR HAS BEEN ON CAPITAL PROJECTS.

"BY PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, WE HAVE ACCUMULATED THE RESERVES THAT ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN LEVELS OF INVESTMENT DESPITE ALL THE VAGARIES IN THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS."

ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF WASTE AFTER IT WAS CREATED.

"MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE POLLUTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE," HE SAID.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SOCIAL SERVICES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (THURSDAY) PLEDGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

SPEAKING AT THE PO LEUNG KUK DIRECTORS' LUNCHEON MEETING, MR MACLEOD SAID THE STRENGTH OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD ENABLED THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SERVICES TO MEET RISING EXPECTATIONS.

"OUR PRINCIPLE IS TO MAINTAIN AN ECONOMY WHICH CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND PROSPER, GENERATING THE WEALTH REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SOCIAL SERVICES TO MEET PUBLIC DEMAND AND TO LET THE COMMUNITY SHARE THE FRUITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID HONG KONG'S STRONG ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HAD CONTINUED DESPITE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY CHINA TO DAMPEN ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO TACKLE ITS INFLATION PROBLEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 16 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

"OUR GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW BY 5.3 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 AND THE ESTIMATED GROWTH RATE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR WAS MAINTAINED AT 5.5 PER CENT," HE ADDED.

ON INFLATION, MR MACLEOD WELCOMED THE DOWNWARD TREND WHILE CONCEDED THAT IT WAS STILL A PROBLEM.

THE INFLATION RATE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR WAS 8.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 9.4 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

"THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR HAS THEREFORE BEEN REVISED DOWNWARDS FROM 9.5 TO 9 PER CENT," HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS, HE CAUTIONED THAT LABOUR AND THE LAND SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VERY TIGHT.

HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY CASE FOR BANKS TO RELAX THEIR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING GUIDELINE AT THIS STAGE.

IN CLOSING, HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE YEARS TO COME AND HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO ENSURE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

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SIGNING OF SENT LANDFILL CONTRACT

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THE SOUTH-EAST NEW TERRITORIES (SENT) LANDFILL CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) AND GREEN VALLEY LANDFILL LIMITED, A CONSORTIUM COMPRISING WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL PLC, CITIC PACIFIC LTD AND SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES LTD.

THE LANDFILL IS THE SECOND OF THE THREE STRATEGIC LARGE-CAPACITY LANDFILLS TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE LONG-TERM WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY, EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, SAID THE \$3.5 BILLION CONTRACT WOULD PROVIDE A NEW REGIONAL LANDFILL SERVING THE MAJOR URBAN AREAS OF HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON AND WOULD REPLACE THE EXISTING LANDFILL AT TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE LANDFILL WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 39 MILLION TONNES OF WASTE FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WASTE COLLECTORS AND IS EXPECTED TO START OPERATION IN AUGUST 1994.

MR STOKOE SAID: "LIKE OTHER STRATEGIC LANDFILLS, THE SENT LANDFILL WILL ONLY ACCEPT WASTE WHICH CANNOT OTHERWISE BE RECYCLED OR USED AS FILL."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WASTE MINIMISATION PROPOSALS, WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WOULD LIKELY INCREASE THE LIFE SPAN OF THE SENT LANDFILL BEYOND ITS PROJECTED 13 YEARS OF OPERATION.

ON THE LANDFILL GAS WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED FROM THE DEGRADING OF WASTE, MR STOKOE SAID IT WOULD INITIALLY BE USED TO PRODUCE ENERGY TO POWER ALL ON-SITE EQUIPMENT AND AT A LATER STAGE BE EXPORTED OFF SITE TO THE ADJACENT TSEUNG KWAN O INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO LIGHT UP TO 5,000 HOMES COULD BE GENERATED DURING THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF OPERATION.

"AND THIS COULD INCREASE TO 15,000 HOMES WHEN THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANT IS AT FULL CAPACITY," MR STOKOE ADDED.

THE CONTRACT REQUIRES THE CONTRACTOR TO SATISFY VERY STRINGENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR BOTH CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE LANDFILL, INCLUDING LINING THE SITE WITH AN IMPERMEABLE MEMBRANE AS WELL AS COLLECTING AND TREATING THE POLLUTED LIQUIDS AND LANDFILL GAS PRIOR TO ANY DISCHARGE FROM THE SITE.

IN ADDITION, AIR, NOISE AND WATER QUALITY WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED BOTH WITHIN THE LANDFILL AND IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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COMMISSION ON YOUTH TO TACKLE UNDERAGE DRINKING

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A WORKING GROUP WILL BE SET UP TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE MEASURES TO TACKLE UNDERAGE DRINKING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR LI SAID THE COMMISSION WAS OF THE VIEW THAT POSITIVE ACTION WAS REQUIRED TO CONTROL ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE SECURITY BRANCH, AS HIGH AS 73.1 PER CENT OF THE CHINESE-SPEAKING SECONDARY SCHOOL (INCLUDING GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS) STUDENTS SURVEYED HAVE CONSUMED BEER AND WINE, WITH 13.6 PER CENT OF WHICH ADMITTING TO DRINKING THESE TYPES OF ALCOHOL JUST FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE SURVEY.

NEARLY 15 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE DRUNK ALCOHOL HAD THEIR FIRST TASTE OF BEER AND WINE AT THE AGE OF SIX OR BELOW.

"THE FIGURES CAUSE CONCERN," MR LI SAID.

"MANY OF THE STUDENTS (60.4 PER CENT) ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD TAKEN THEIR FIRST DRINK OUT OF CURIOSITY. ALTHOUGH WE REALISE THAT IN MANY INSTANCES, DRINKING IS REGARDED AS A SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR, EXCESSIVE DRINKING WILL RESULT IN DEPENDENCY," HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION FIRST DELIBERATED THE PROBLEM IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

"WE THEN DECIDED TO URGE THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS TO STEP UP PUBLICITY ON THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE AND TO WAIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM.

"HAVING REVIEWED THE INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS, THE COMMISSION AGREED THAT A SMALL WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE SET UP TO EXAMINE MEASURES TO TACKLE UNDERAGE DRINKING," MR LI SAID.

POSSIBLE OPTIONS INCLUDED A BAN ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS AND DEVELOPING A CONTINUOUS AND CO-ORDINATED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALCOHOL ABUSE.

MR LI OBSERVED THAT THE BAN ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED IN MANY WESTERN COUNTRIES.

BUT HE RECKONED THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY IN HONG KONG.

"FOR THIS REASON, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE COMMISSION TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON A POLICY DECISION."

AT LAST THURSDAY'S MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, MEMBERS ALSO EXAMINED THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO YOUNG SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS.

"THE COMMISSION IS GLAD TO NOTE THAT IN THE COMING YEAR, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES FOR THE SCHOOL CAREERS MASTERS."

THESE PROGRAMMES WILL HELP TO EDUCATE SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR LI POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS VIRTUALLY VERY LIMITED INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER AND AGE OF STUDENTS WHO TOOK UP SUMMER JOBS.

"TO ASCERTAIN THE SIZE OF THE SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS, THE COMMISSION WILL ASK THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS TO COVER THIS ASPECT IN THEIR GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY.

AN INDICATION OF THE NUMBER OF THE SUMMER JOB-SEEKERS AND THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY ARE EMPLOYED WILL HELP THE ADMINISTRATION ASSESS WHETHER ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON SUMMER JOB GUIDANCE IS NECESSARY, MR LI SAID.

"WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH TO BAN YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18 TO WORK ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS PUT FORWARD THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT INVOLVES HIGHER RISKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL TRAINING."

WHILE APPRECIATING THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSAL, COMMISSION MEMBERS FELT THAT TOTAL PROHIBITION WOULD AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE PRESENTLY WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

RELAYING THE COMMISSION'S CONCERNS, MR LI SAID CONSIDERATION SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE GIVEN TO ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18 WHO HAVE RECEIVED PROPER TRAINING TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THESE SITES.

"WE NOTE THAT THE DETAILED LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS HAVE YET TO BE DRAWN UP. WE HAVE REGISTERED OUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND THE COMMISSION HAS MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST TO BE CONSULTED ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS," MR LI EMPHASISED.

AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, ON THE PROFILE OF UNDERAGE GIRLS WORKING IN KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES COLLECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FROM 120 GIRLS REFERRED BY THE POLICE TO THE MA TAU WEI GIRL'S HOME FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY, ALL INDICATED THAT THEY WORKED IN THE KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS ON THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

THE FACT THAT MANY UNDERAGE GIRLS ARE ATTRACTED TO WORKING IN SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS AND POSSIBLE VICE-RELATED ACTIVITIES, DEMONSTRATES THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE QUICK MONEY, HE SAID.

"WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNDERLYING REASONS FOR SUCH ATTITUDES.

"WE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT MEASURES TO STEP UP THE CONTROL OF KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS, HOWEVER WE FEAR THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IS A MANIFESTATION OF CHANGING SOCIAL VALUES WHICH CANNOT BE ADDRESSED BY CONTROLLING THE OPERATIONS OF KARAOKE ESTABLISHMENTS ALONE.

THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE ONLY ONE OF THE CHANNELS FOR YOUNG GIRLS TO MAKE EASY MONEY. THERE COULD WELL BE OTHERS, HE SAID.

"THE COMMISSION FEELS THAT THERE IS A NEED TO RE-EMPHASISE SOCIAL AND MORAL VALUES, WHICH HAS BEEN ERODED BY THE PREVALENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY, GLAMORISATION OF CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES BY FILMS AND TV DRAMAS AND EXAGGERATION OF MATERIALISM," MR LI SAID.

THE COMMISSION FEELS STRONGLY THAT POSITIVE ACTION IS NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

"TOWARDS THIS END, WE WILL SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN INFLUENCING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND SOCIAL VALUES AND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBLE MEANS TO CONVEY POSITIVE AND PROPER MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

"THE ROLE OF THE MASS MEDIA, WHICH HAS AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S VALUES AND BELIEFS, WOULD FEATURE STRONGLY IN OUR STUDY," HE SAID.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

- 7 -

NEW TIN SHUI WAI HEALTH CENTRE OPENS

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A NEW HEALTH CENTRE LOCATED AT TIN SHUI ROAD IN TIN SHUI WAI WILL BEGIN OPERATION FROM SEPTEMBER 29.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE TIN SHUI WAI HEALTH CENTRE WILL PROVIDE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICE AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

IT WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM DURING WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

THE HEALTH CENTRE'S GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC CAN BE CONTACTED ON TEL 447 9188 AND THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE ON TEL 447 9088.

MEANWHILE, THE YUEN LONG TRAVELLING DISPENSARY SERVING LAU FAU SHAN RESIDENTS WILL CEASE OPERATING FROM SEPTEMBER 30.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENT OF THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

- 8 -

SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED THE SEPTEMBER 1993 SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN RESPECT OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 95,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1993 WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

A RANDOM SUB-SAMPLE OF ABOUT 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IS SELECTED FROM THE MAIN SAMPLE TO COLLECT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF JULY-SEPTEMBER 1993.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR HELP ON TEL 582 5076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS NEWLY INCLUDED IN THE REGISTER OF ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER 1993, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

OFFICERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NATURE OF BUSINESS, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS STARTED, NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES.

IN CASE OF ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4782.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

- 9 -

EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN SHA TIN TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED AND PUBLICISE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

THE EXHIBITION FORMS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MRS JENNIE CHOR, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD INTRODUCE FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE TO THE DISABLED AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE TO EMPLOYERS THROUGH VIDEO SHOWS AND DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYS ON VARIOUS DISABILITIES TO ENABLE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED, SHE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM AT THE ATRIUM GALLERY ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE NEW TOWN PLAZA PHASE III.

STAFF FROM THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION (SPD) WILL BE ON HAND TO RECORD VACANCY INFORMATION FROM PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AND PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS FOR FURTHER CONTACTS.

A PRIZE-WINNING QUIZ WILL BE HELD AT THE VENUE ON THE CONTENTS OF THE EXHIBITION.

AS AN APPRECIATION TO THE SPECIAL EFFORTS MADE BY EMPLOYERS IN EMPLOYING AND ACCOMMODATING DISABLED EMPLOYEES, MRS CHOR SAID A CEREMONY WOULD BE HELD ON OCTOBER 21 TO PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO EMPLOYERS.

SOUVENIR PLAQUES WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARD, SHE SAID.

VISITORS TO THE SAME EXHIBITION WILL BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE (EO) INCLUDING PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, LONG SERVICE AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS, MATERNITY PROTECTION, ENTITLEMENT UPON TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

PREPARED BY THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT, THE DISPLAYS WILL BE PRESENTED IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE AND VIVID ILLUSTRATIONS TO HELP EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EO.

LABOUR OFFICERS WILL ALSO BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON LABOUR RELATIONS AND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1993

- 10 -

BEACH WATER GRADES

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATER WAS USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN DISEASES OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATER IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

/* GRADE "3"

- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTE. THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 9.9.93)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 23.9.93)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	3	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	2
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	2	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	3	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	2
BUTTERFLY	4	4

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	1
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	2	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	2	2
SILVERMINE BAY	3	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	4	4
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	2
HOI MEI WAN	3	2
LIDO	3	2
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING
 * NON-GAZETTED BEACH

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

MIDDLE BAY, CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH AND SILVERSTRAND FROM "2" TO "1"; BIG WAVE BAY, SHEK O, SILVERMINE BAY, GEMINI, HOI MEI WAN, LIDO AND KADOORIE FROM "3" TO "2"; CHUNG HOM KOK FROM "1" TO "2".

ALL OF THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT DR M J BROOM, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, ON TEL 835 1234.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,935
REVERSAL OF LAF	+65
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-280
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,720
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.4 *+0.0* 23.9.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.60 PCT	14 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.36	3.43
1 MONTH	2.72 PCT	17 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.55	3.63
3 MONTHS	2.84 PCT	20 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.87	3.87
6 MONTHS	3.02 PCT	23 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.27	3.96
12 MONTHS	3.28 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,190 MN

CLOSED 23 SEPTEMBER 1993

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