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DEBATE ON LANDLORD AND TENANT AMENDMENT BILL TO RESUME

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S DEBATE ON THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL INTRODUCE AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BILL A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS.

"THESE ADJUSTMENTS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EQUITABLE, AFFORDABLE AND FAIR TO BOTH AFFECTED TENANTS AND LANDLORDS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO IN JUNE 1992 AND HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY A LEGCO AD HOC GROUP. CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC COMMENTARY HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE BILL.

SUMMING UP THE CHANGES, HE SAID: "IT WILL BE PROPOSED THAT THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MINIMUM RENT IN PART II CONTROLLED TENANCIES BE REDUCED FROM 7.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS OF THE PREVAILING MARKET RENT TO 5. THIS IS IN LINE WITH PAST INCREASES UP TO 1991."

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE EXPIRY DATE FOR PART II CONTROLS WHICH AFFECT 97% OF ALL CONTROLLED PREMISES FROM DECEMBER 31, 1994 TO DECEMBER 31, 1996.

FINALLY IT IS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE MULTIPLIER FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION FOR TENANTS DISPOSSESSED ON REDEVELOPMENT FROM 1.3 OF THE CURRENT RATEABLE VALUE TO 1.7.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE RENTAL MARKET WOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY AND CAREFULLY MONITORED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION.

"IT WILL BE RELATIVELY EASY BY WAY OF LEGCO RESOLUTION TO ADJUST THE ANNUAL INCREASES IN MINIMUM RENT LEVELS, THEIR TIME-FRAME AND THE LEVEL OF STATUTORY COMPENSATION," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT IN JULY AND AUGUST 1992 THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF ALL PART II CONTROLLED PREMISES.

FROM THIS SURVEY IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT CONTROLS AFFECT SOME 45,500 HOUSEHOLDS, 137,000 PERSONS IN SOME 32,500 PREMISES.

"MANY TENANTS OF THESE PREMISES HAVE ENJOYED BELOW MARKET RENTS FOR 20 YEARS. CONTROLS DISCOURAGE LANDLORDS FROM REFURBISHING OR MAINTAINING THEIR UNITS.

"MOREOVER, MANY LANDLORDS ARE SINGLE-PREMISES OWNERS AND ARE DEPENDENT ON RENTS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD. IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT ABOUT 70% OF LANDLORDS BOUGHT THEIR PREMISES BEFORE RENT CONTROLS WERE INTRODUCED IN 1973," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT UNDER THE NEW PROPOSALS MANY TENANTS WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY SUB-MARKET RENTS FOR A FURTHER FOUR TO FIVE YEARS.

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"FAILURE TO START THE PROCESS OF DECONTROL WILL MAKE EVENTUAL DECONTROL MORE DIFFICULT AS THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONTROLLED RENTS AND MARKET RENTS WILL GROW," HE SAID.

TURNING TO PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE LESS-PRIVILEGED TENANTS OF CONTROLLED PREMISES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE.

"THESE ARE THE 2,100 TENANTS OCCUPYING BED-SPACES. LAST YEAR'S SURVEY CONFIRMED THAT MANY WERE IN FACT PAYING MARKET-LEVEL RENTS.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UNDER THE NEW PROVISIONS THESE BED-SPACE TENANTS WILL ON AVERAGE FACE NO ADDITIONAL INCREASES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF DECONTROL AND VERY MODEST ADDITIONAL INCREASES THEREAFTER.

THE SURVEY CONFIRMED THAT THE AVERAGE CONTROLLED BED-SPACE RENT WAS \$279 WHICH REPRESENTED SOME 7.3% OF THE OCCUPANTS' INCOMES.

THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF ANTICIPATED RENT INCREASES ON THE LESS-PRIVILEGED GROUP HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

"WE ARE SATISFIED THAT, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A CONTROLLED TENANT FACING HARDSHIP, THERE IS ADEQUATE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO CAN PROVE A GENUINE NEED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER RENT CONTROLS ARE PHASED OUT, AFFECTED TENANTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY SECURITY OF TENURE IF THEY PAY MARKET RENTS, HE POINTED OUT.

ON THE PROPOSAL FOR STATUTORY COMPENSATION FOR TENANTS DISPOSSESSED ON REDEVELOPMENT, HE SAID IT WOULD MORE THAN DOUBLE THE CURRENT RATE.

"IT WILL ALLOW A DISPOSSESSED TENANT TO RENT SIMILAR PREMISES FOR SOME EIGHT MONTHS. IT IS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE GENEROUS THAN THE PREVAILING LEVEL OF CONSENT ORDERS.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED THAT ITS NEW PROPOSALS ARE FAIR TO BOTH TENANTS AND LANDLORDS AND WILL NOT CAUSE HARDSHIP. FURTHER DELAY IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE UNFAIR," HE CONCLUDED.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR AUGUSTINE K LEE, AND SENIOR VALUATION SURVEYOR, MR S N POON, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AT 3.30 PM TODAY (MONDAY) AT CNTA HEADQUARTERS, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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TELEVISION (ROYALTY AND LICENCE FEES) REGULATION

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE TELEVISION (ROYALTY AND LICENCE FEES) REGULATION UNDER THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNTS OF ROYALTY AND LICENCE FEES PAYABLE BY ASIA TELEVISION LTD, TELEVISION BROADCASTS LTD AND WHARF CABLE.

THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE REQUIRES ROYALTY AND LICENCE FEE TO BE PROVIDED FOR BY REGULATION.

WHARF CABLE HAS BEEN GRANTED A 12-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION LICENCE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 1, 1993.

THE ROYALTY RATES FOR SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION STIPULATED IN THE REGULATION ARE, THEREFORE, NEW.

THE ROYALTY RATES FOR COMMERCIAL TELEVISION REFLECT A REDUCTION IN THE ROYALTY RATE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF THEIR NET ADVERTISING REVENUE.

THIS IS TO TIE IN WITH THE LIFTING OF THE RESTRICTION ON CANTONESE BROADCASTING ON THREE OF STAR TV'S FIVE FREE-TO-AIR CHANNELS, AND THE FORMAL LAUNCH OF WHARF CABLE'S SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION SERVICE.

ATV, TVB AND WHARF CABLE LIMITED HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND HAVE SEEN THE REGULATION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

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CONSULTANCY STUDY ON URBAN LANDFILL RESTORATION

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE RESTORATION OF URBAN LANDFILLS.

THE STUDY WILL LAST NINE MONTHS UNTIL EARLY 1994.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE \$5.25-MILLION STUDY WAS SIGNED TODAY (MONDAY) BETWEEN EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF BINNIE CONSULTANTS LIMITED.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID: "UNLIKE THE THREE NEW STRATEGIC LANDFILLS, THE EXISTING URBAN LANDFILLS WERE NOT DESIGNED TO MINIMISE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT."

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS OF FIVE CLOSED LANDFILLS AT JORDAN VALLEY, NGAU CHI WAN, MA YAU TONG CENTRAL, MA YAU TONG WEST AND GIN DRINKERS BAY, IDENTIFIED THE NEED TO REMOVE THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS, MINIMISE THE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION AS WELL AS RESTORE THE SITES TO ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNITY USE.

A RESTORATION PROGRAMME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO PROVIDE THE FACILITIES NEEDED TO CONTROL THE IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE INVESTIGATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MAIN TASKS WILL INCLUDE TREATMENT OF LEACHATE AND PROPER COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF THE LANDFILL GAS.

AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME, THE TREATABILITY OF LEACHATE WILL BE ASSESSED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO DESIGN LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANTS, HE SAID.

LEACHATE MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS LAND USE OPTIONS FOR THE SAI TSO WAN LANDFILL, WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE CURRENT STUDY, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE AGREEMENT INCLUDED TWO PACKAGES OF WORKS.

PACKAGE ONE IS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LEACHATE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LAND USE OPTIONS FOR SAI TSO WAN LANDFILL.

PACKAGE TWO IS TO CARRY OUT A LEACHATE TREATABILITY TRIAL FOR THE TWO PROPOSED LEACHATE MANAGEMENT SCHEMES WHICH WILL SERVE THE FIVE URBAN LANDFILLS.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF QUARTERLY SURVEY
OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND
PURCHASES FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1993
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, ESTIMATED AT \$11.3 BILLION, INCREASED BY 4% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1992, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RECEIPTS DECREASED BY 6% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES OF RESTAURANTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, ESTIMATED AT \$4.1 BILLION, WAS 1% LOWER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1992.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, BY 21% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME AS COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO.

FOLLOWING RAPID GROWTH IN 1991 AND 1992, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS INCREASED AT A MUCH SLOWER RATE IN THIS QUARTER, BY 9% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ALSO REGISTERED A MODERATE INCREASE OF 10% IN VALUE, BUT VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS REMAINED UNCHANGED IN VALUE TERMS AND DROPPED BY 9% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS DECREASED BY 2% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME.

RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN VOLUME TERMS ARE DERIVED FROM RECEIPTS IN VALUE TERMS AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO.: 802 1258).

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 WITH THOSE OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992.

TABLE 1: TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		4th qtr. 1992 (Revised figures)	1st qtr. 1993 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK\$ million)	11 590.0	11 319.1
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK\$ million)	4 238.4	4 106.9

TABLE 2: VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 4th QUARTER 1992 AND 1st QUARTER 1993

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	4th quarter 1992	1st quarter 1993	1st qtr. 1993 compared with 4th qtr. 1992		1st qtr. 1993 compared with 1st qtr. 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	127.5	124.6	-3.0	-2.3	+0.4	+0.3
	Volume	95.3	90.3	-5.0	-5.2	-8.9	-9.0
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	129.1	129.5	+0.4	+0.3	+11.4	+9.7
	Volume	98.4	94.9	-3.5	-3.6	-0.1	-0.1
Fast food shops	Value	185.6	174.5	-11.0	-5.9	+14.8	+9.3
	Volume	147.3	134.0	-13.2	-9.0	+2.1	+1.6
Bars	Value	203.3	191.0	-12.3	-6.0	+33.4	+21.2
	Volume	152.0	138.7	-13.2	-8.7	+13.6	+10.9
Other eating and drinking places	Value	153.4	160.2	+6.8	+4.4	+7.5	+4.9
	Volume	122.5	118.7	-3.7	-3.0	-8.8	-6.9
All restaurant types	Value	134.9	131.7	-3.2	-2.3	+4.6	+3.6
	Volume	102.0	96.4	-5.6	-5.5	-5.7	-5.6

SCAFFOLD SAFETY URGED AFTER TYPHOON

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED SITE CONTRACTORS OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SCAFFOLDS ARE IN SAFE WORKING CONDITION IN PARTICULAR BAMBOO SCAFFOLDS AFTER EXPOSURE TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS SUCH AS TYPHOON AND RAINSTORM.

UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, A CONTRACTOR HAS TO ENSURE THAT HIS SCAFFOLDS ARE OF GOOD CONSTRUCTION, MADE OF STRONG AND SOUND MATERIALS, FREE FROM PATENT DEFECTS AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

IN ADDITION, THE SCAFFOLDS SHOULD ALSO BE SECURED AND FIXED IN POSITION TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DISPLACEMENT.

"IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT SCAFFOLDS SHOULD NOT BE USED AFTER EXPOSURE TO ADVERSE WEATHER UNLESS IT HAS BEEN INSPECTED BY A COMPETENT PERSON AND HAS BEEN CERTIFIED TO BE IN SAFE WORKING CONDITION," DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR KAN HON-SANG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL CONTRACTORS SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO MAKE GOOD ALL THOSE DEFECTIVE SCAFFOLDS IN THEIR SITE AFTER TYPHOON KORYN.

MR KAN SAID CONTRACTORS SHOULD PERSISTENTLY MAINTAIN THEIR SCAFFOLDS IN THE SAFEST CONDITION AND EXERCISE STRICT SUPERVISION TO ENSURE THAT THE SCAFFOLDS WERE USED SAFELY.

THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE SITUATION AND WILL TAKE OUT PROSECUTION AGAINST THOSE CONTRACTORS WHO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SAFETY REGULATIONS, MR KAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES RELATING TO SCAFFOLD SAFETY CAN BE MADE TO THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 815 0678.

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CPB SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF COUNTRY PARK AT TAI TONG

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THE COUNTRY PARK BOARD (CPB) HAS ENDORSED AT A MEETING TODAY (MONDAY) A PROPOSAL BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO EXTEND THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK AT TAI TONG NEAR YUEN LONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID: "THE PROPOSED COUNTRY PARK EXTENSION WHICH COVERS AN AREA OF 37 HECTARES IS LOCATED AT TAI TONG ON THE NORTH-WESTERN SIDE OF TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SITE WAS A FORMER BORROW AREA WHICH CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF PLATFORMS LEFT BEHIND FOLLOWING BORROWING ACTIVITIES.

THE MEETING NOTED THAT MANY OF THESE PLATFORMS HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S FOR AFFORESTATION AND RECREATION USE.

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IN THE PAST YEARS, THE SITE HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY AFD INTO AN INTENSIVE RECREATION AREA CONSISTING OF BARBECUE SITES, GAMES AREAS, A TREE WALK, VIEWING POINTS, INFORMATION BOARDS, WAYMARKERS, TOILETS AND SHELTERS.

IN ADDITION, IT IS ALSO THE SITE OF A TREE NURSERY WHICH PRODUCED OVER 800,000 TREE SEEDLINGS EVERY YEAR FOR USE BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AFFORESTATION PROJECTS.

APART FROM ITS HIGH RECREATION POTENTIAL, TAI TONG REPRESENTS A MAJOR AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN AFFORESTATION, EROSION CONTROL AND PROVIDING BENEFICIAL AFTER-USE FOR A FORMER BORROW AREA.

THE AREA IS NOW COVERED WITH A GOOD MIX OF ACACIA, EUCALYPTUS, PINUS ELLIOTII, TRISTANIA CONFERTA, CASUARINA AND MANY OTHER SPECIES OF TREE COMMONLY PLANTED IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARK.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE CPB ALSO ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER LIMITED'S PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS OF THE BLACK POINT POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, PART OF WHICH WILL TRAVERSE THROUGH SEVERAL COUNTRY PARKS.

THE PROPOSED ALIGNMENT WAS ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, INCLUDING LANDSCAPE RESTORATION, AND MINIMUM DISTURBANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AS ADVISED BY THE AFD.

THE BOARD NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED ALIGNMENT WAS CHOSEN WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, ENGINEERING AND GEOTECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS, LAND RESUMPTION, CLEARANCE AND COMPENSATION.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE VISUAL IMPACT OF COUNTRY PARK WOULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. THE ALIGNMENT HAD ALSO AVOIDED SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS THE HO CHUNG SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) AND NG TUNG CHAI SSSI.

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PAC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY

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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A FURTHER PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30) ON THE SECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT NO. 20 CONCERNING THE EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR THE CLEARANCE OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY.

THE REPORT WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 28. THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS ARE 5.1 - 5.20.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, STARTING AT 9 AM.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE REPORT INCLUDE:

/* MR F

- * MR F K HU,
CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING
AUTHORITY ON THE CLEARANCE OF
THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY
- * MR DARWIN CHEN,
DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND
LANDS
- * MR J S CORRIGALL,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
BUILDINGS AND LANDS
(POLICY)
- * MR R D POPE,
PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT LAND
AGENT (GENERAL)
BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT
- * DR SAM CHOY
SENIOR STATISTICIAN
HOUSING DEPARTMENT
- * MR J TELFORD,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOUSING
DEPARTMENT ON THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE
- * MR H T LUI;
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY AND
NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION
ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- * MR SHUM LAP-SHING,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REGISTRAR'S GENERAL DEPARTMENT
ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- * MR G M N URE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LANDS AND
WORKS BRANCH ON THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE
- * MR C M MO,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT
ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE HEARING AT THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE PUBLIC HEARING ARE ADVISED TO BRING WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

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JAMES TIEN ELECTED TO LEGCO

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (MONDAY) DECLARED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE THAT MR JAMES TIEN PEI-CHUN HAD BEEN ELECTED FOR THE FIRST INDUSTRIAL ELECTORAL DIVISION OF THE INDUSTRIAL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY SINCE MR TIEN IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE VALIDLY NOMINATED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION.

HE WILL FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY THE LATE STEPHEN CHEONG.

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SPEL VISITS PEARL RIVER DELTA

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON TODAY (MONDAY) LED A DELEGATION TO VISIT THE PEARL RIVER DELTA TO SEE AT FIRST HAND THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT THERE.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER PUN; THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN; AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC SERVICES, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCHES, TRANSPORT AND BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENTS.

DURING THE THREE-DAY VISIT, THE DELEGATION WILL MEET CHINESE OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF PLANNING, AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GUANGZHOU, SHUNDE AND ZHUHAI.

THE VISIT WILL PROVIDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND PORT DEVELOPMENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA.

OFFICIALS FROM BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL ALSO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

THE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30).

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APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
OF SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MR ROBERT GILMORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SUPERVISION OF MARKETS) OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SFC), IS APPOINTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SFC WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

THE APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN EXERCISE OF HIS POWER UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE SFC ORDINANCE.

THE CONTRACT OF MR ERMANNIO PASCUTTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE FINANCE) AND CURRENTLY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SFC, WILL BE EXPIRED BY THE END OF JUNE.

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WHILE MR GILMORE WILL BE TAKING OVER THE POST OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, MR PASCUTTO'S CONTRACT AS AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL BE EXTENDED UP TO FEBRUARY 28, 1994.

THE INTENTION IS FOR MRS LAURA CHA, AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN THE CORPORATE FINANCE DIVISION OF THE SFC, TO SUCCEED MR PASCUTTO AS AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFTER THE LATTER'S EXTENDED CONTRACT EXPIRES IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

BEFORE JOINING THE SFC TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AGO, MRS CHA PRACTISED LAW WITH AN AMERICAN LAW FIRM IN HONG KONG.

MR GILMORE JOINED THE SFC AS AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1989. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY WORKED IN THE PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE.

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SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON EAST

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OWING TO WATERMAINS CONNECTION WORK AT TAI WAN PUMPING STATION, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO MOST PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL GO OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30).

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KOWLOON HOSPITAL AND ALL THE PREMISES IN HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, TUNG TAU, WONG TAI SIN, LOK FU, KOWLOON CITY, WANG TAU HOM, CHUK YUEN, KOWLOON TONG, MA TAU WEI AND MA TAU KOK.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 70.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 413.573 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVIORS CONTAINED 441.978 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 75.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,785
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,015
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+980
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,780
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.4 *+0.0* 28.6.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.44 PCT	14 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.38	4.07
1 MONTH	3.40 PCT	17 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.50	4.29
3 MONTHS	3.37 PCT	20 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.50	4.48
6 MONTHS	3.53 PCT	23 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.45	4.67
12 MONTHS	3.94 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,446 MN

CLOSED 28 JUNE 1993

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