



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEC SEEKS VIEWS ON ELECTION GUIDELINES

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED ITS PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THE GUIDELINES WERE AIMED AT ENSURING THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED OPENLY, FAIRLY AND HONESTLY.

THE ONE-MONTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION WILL START NEXT MONDAY (MAY 16).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES TO THE COMMISSION BEFORE JUNE 16.

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO MEET, BY APPOINTMENT, INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS DURING THE WEEK FROM MAY 30 TO JUNE 5.

THE 16-CHAPTER PROPOSED GUIDELINES EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURE, THE REGULATIONS WHICH CANDIDATES AND THEIR AGENTS SHOULD OBSERVE AND THE AREAS TO WHICH THEY SHOULD PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION.

MR JUSTICE WOO SAID, IN DRAWING UP ITS DRAFT GUIDELINES, THE COMMISSION HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE PUBLIC VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE PAST REGARDING THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURES.

THE MAIN FEATURES COVERED BY THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE:

- * SIMPLIFIED PAYMENT OF ELECTION DEPOSIT - A CANDIDATE WILL BE ABLE TO PAY HIS ELECTION DEPOSIT, IN CASH OR BY CHEQUE, AT THE SAME TIME WHEN HE SUBMITS HIS NOMINATION FORM TO THE RETURNING OFFICER. PREVIOUSLY, A CANDIDATE HAD TO PAY THEIR DEPOSIT AT THE TREASURY, AND THEN PRESENTED THE RECEIPT TOGETHER WITH THE NOMINATION FORM TO THE RETURNING OFFICER.
- * TIGHTENED CONTROL OF THE DISPLAY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS - CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO SERIAL NUMBER ALL THEIR ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS AND SUBMIT DECLARATIONS ON SUCH ADVERTISEMENTS TO THE RETURNING OFFICER BEFORE DISPLAY OR DISTRIBUTION, STATING THE QUANTITIES, LOCATIONS OF DISPLAY AND SO ON. THEY HAVE TO FILE TWO COPIES OR TWO PHOTOS OF EACH TYPE OF ADVERTISEMENTS FOR RECORD. ANY ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS DISPLAYED NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS WILL BE REMOVED AND SEIZED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES. THE CANDIDATE OR ELECTION AGENT SO RESPONSIBLE MAY ALSO BE LIABLE TO A FINE OR IMPRISONMENT.
- * AN APPEAL TO OWNERS AND TENANTS OF PRIVATE PREMISES TO ACCORD ALL CANDIDATES WITH EQUAL AND FAIR ACCESS INTO THEIR BUILDINGS FOR ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES.

- * A "RESTRICTED CANVASSING AREA SCHEME" WILL BE INTRODUCED TO REGULATE CANVASSING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE POLLING STATIONS ON POLLING DAY. THIS IS TO MAINTAIN FREE AND SAFE PASSAGE FOR ELECTORS AND TO ALLOW CANDIDATES A FAIR CHANCE OF PROMOTING THEMSELVES.
- * DETAILED EXPLANATION ON ELECTION EXPENSES, DONATIONS AND THE PROVISIONS UNDER THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE.
- * A DEDICATED COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE SET UP BY THE COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH ALL COMPLAINTS PROPERLY AND PROMPTLY. THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES THE THREE COMMISSION MEMBERS AND DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, JUDGE WESLEY WONG.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMISSION RECEIVES VIEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS, SO THAT IT CAN MAKE A BALANCED DECISION ON ITS FINAL GUIDELINES," MR JUSTICE WOO SAID.

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HIGHER EXPENSE LIMIT FOR DB ELECTION CANDIDATES

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF ELECTION EXPENSES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR FROM \$30,000 TO \$60,000, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE MAXIMUM SCALE OF ELECTION EXPENSES (DISTRICT BOARDS) ORDER 1994 UNDER THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE WILL BE GAZETTED NEXT WEEK TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE CHANGE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW CEILING WOULD ENABLE CANDIDATES TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON THE ONE HAND, AND ENSURE THAT THE MORE WELL-OFF CANDIDATES WOULD NOT ENJOY AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE ON THE OTHER.

THE CURRENT EXPENSE LIMIT OF \$30,000 FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WAS SET IN 1990 AND WAS BASED ON VARIOUS BASIC EXPENDITURE ITEMS THAT WERE COMMONLY EMPLOYED BY CANDIDATES IN THEIR CAMPAIGNING ACTIVITIES.

THESE INCLUDED EMPLOYMENT OF ELECTION AGENTS, MEALS AND DRINKS FOR HELPERS, PRINTING OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND PRODUCTION OF BANNERS, PLACARDS AND POSTERS.

"SINCE THEN, THE COSTS FOR THESE ITEMS HAVE GONE UP SUBSTANTIALLY AND AS ELECTIONS BECOME MORE KEENLY CONTESTED, THE EXPENDITURE ITEMS USED BY CANDIDATES IN FUTURE ELECTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN BOTH VARIETY AND QUANTITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT INCREASINGLY POPULAR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS SUCH AS PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLICITY BOARDS, T-SHIRTS AND ARMBANDS FOR ELECTION HELPERS, AGENT ID CARDS, AS WELL AS MAILING AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES SHOULD ALSO BE FACTORED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION EXPENSE LIMIT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HE SAID THE CALCULATION OF THE NEW LIMIT OF \$60,000 WAS BASED ON THESE EXPENDITURE ITEMS AND ASSUMING THAT A CANDIDATE WAS CONTESTING IN A DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCY WITH THE LARGEST POPULATION.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE PRESENT MAXIMUM SCALE OF ELECTION EXPENSES AT \$30,000 REMAINED APPLICABLE TO ANY BY-ELECTIONS THAT MIGHT BE HELD IN THE MEANTIME IN RESPECT OF THE EXISTING DISTRICT BOARDS.

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SUCCESS OF HK DEPENDS ON FINE CIVIL SERVANTS

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THE SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG HAS DEPENDED ON A CIVIL SERVICE WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"I KNOW THAT OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE PRC HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME HIGH REGARD FOR THE QUALITY OF HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE," HE SAID.

"SO I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT ALL OUR FINE CIVIL SERVANTS IN HONG KONG WILL SET THEIR MINDS AT REST ABOUT THE TRANSITION," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN SAID WHATEVER THE OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS, HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY THE CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PROSPERITY AND DECENCY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE.

SPEAKING AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATION, MR PATTEN SAID THE CIVIL SERVANTS' FAITHFUL COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG'S INTERESTS WAS ONE OF THE BEST POSSIBLE SAFEGUARDS OF THE WAY OF LIFE.

"THAT COMMITMENT HAS BEEN SHOWN BOTH IN HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND BY A STRONG SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STAFF AND MANAGEMENT," HE ADDED.

"WE ARE ALL INVOLVED IN THE TASK OF MAKING THE CIVIL SERVICE MORE EFFECTIVE, BETTER ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE DEMANDS BEING PLACED ON IT.

"A KEY GOAL FOR ALL OF US IS GREATER USER-FRIENDLINESS BOTH TOWARDS COLLEAGUES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND IN THE SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY," MR PATTEN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR PRAISED THE ASSOCIATION FOR HELPING TO FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND A SENSE OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN STAFF AND MANAGEMENT.

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TWO ANTI-DRUG ORDINANCES TO BE AMENDED

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TWO ANTI-DRUG ORDINANCES WILL BE AMENDED TO BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND TO MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS.

BILLS TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE AND THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) ORDINANCE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR ALASDAIR SINCLAIR, EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO BE IN LINE WITH THE 1988 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994 WOULD BRING IN NEW PROVISIONS TO SUPPRESS ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC BY SEA, HE ADDED.

THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 PROPOSES TO EXTEND THE EXISTING SCOPE OF CONTROL OVER CHEMICALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS TO COVER AN ADDITIONAL 21 CHEMICALS SPECIFIED IN THE UN CONVENTION.

"THE CHEMICALS WILL BE ARRANGED INTO THREE GROUPS TO WHICH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONTROL WILL APPLY.

"TWELVE TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS, AND THE FOUR INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSED CONTROL MEASURES, AND SO FAR NO OBJECTION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED," REVEALED MR SINCLAIR.

THIS AMENDMENT BILL ALSO INTRODUCES A NEW SECTION TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORT, OR DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIFIED CHEMICALS, KNOWING OR HAVING REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE TO BE USED IN OR FOR THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

THE BILLS PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL, IN BOTH ORDINANCES, OF PROVISIONS THAT A PERSON IN POSSESSION OF THE KEYS TO ANY MOTOR VEHICLE CONTAINING A DANGEROUS DRUG IS PRESUMED TO HAVE HAD POSSESSION OF THE DRUG.

"THIS PRESUMPTION HAS BEEN HELD BY THE HIGH COURT TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS," MR SINCLAIR SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 MAKES A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL CHANGES TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES.

"THESE INCLUDE EMPOWERING HIM TO CULTIVATE CANNABIS AND SYNTHESISE DANGEROUS DRUGS AND LISTING CANNABIS RESIN SEPARATELY FROM CANNABIS," THE COMMISSIONER SAID.

THE BILL WILL ALSO LOWER THE CONCENTRATION OF CODEINE IN COUGH PREPARATIONS TO WHICH THE ORDINANCE APPLIES, ENABLING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO MONITOR THE IMPORTATION OF CODEINE SYRUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANUFACTURING COUGH MEDICINES.

"FOLLOWING A RECENT HIGH COURT RULING ON THE POWER OF ENTRY AND SEARCH WITHOUT A WARRANT, THE BILL LIMITS THIS POWER TO SITUATIONS WHERE IT IS NOT REASONABLY PRACTICABLE TO OBTAIN ONE," MR SINCLAIR CONCLUDED.

THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THEIR FIRST READING AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON MAY 18.

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AUTHORITY DISCUSSES TV SERIES COMPLAINTS

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MET YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) AND DISCUSSED THE RECENT DECISIONS BY ATV AND TVB TO SHOW EPISODES OF THE "PAO THE JUDGE" SERIES CONCURRENTLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID MEMBERS EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE ACTIONS OF BOTH BROADCASTERS WHO, BY COMPETING IN THIS WAY, WERE NOT ACTING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE VIEWING PUBLIC.

HE SAID MEMBERS WERE VERY CONCERNED THAT THE PUBLIC WAS NOT BEING GIVEN AN ADEQUATE CHOICE OF PROGRAMMING MATERIAL, AND THIS WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE AUTHORITY'S GENERAL APPROACH OF ENCOURAGING COMPETITION IN ORDER TO INCREASE CHOICE FOR HONG KONG VIEWERS.

AS OF MAY 11, THERE HAD BEEN SOME 74 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SITUATION.

IN VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING PUBLIC CONCERN, THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY DECIDED TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING AND TO INVITE THE TWO STATIONS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER NEXT WEEK.

IT WILL REQUEST THE TWO STATIONS TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR RECENT DECISIONS AND TO ADVISE ON THEIR NEXT PROGRAMMING PLANS.

IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY'S COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE WILL BE DEALING WITH THE COMPLAINTS SEPARATELY.

THE AUTHORITY ALSO CONSIDERED SOME PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE BROADCAST ON TELEVISION OF AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A COMPACT DISC ENTITLED "MARLBORO RED HOT HITS".

THE COMPLAINANTS HAD ALLEGED THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT HAD THE EFFECT OF PROMOTING MARLBORO CIGARETTES, A PRODUCT THAT MAY NOT BE ADVERTISED ON TELEVISION.

THE AUTHORITY'S CODES OF PRACTICE PROHIBIT ANY ADVERTISEMENT FOR AN ACCEPTABLE PRODUCT IF A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OF THE ADVERTISEMENT IS TO PROMOTE AN UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD STUDIED THE CASE CAREFULLY AND IN GREAT DETAIL, AND HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT DID NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OF PROMOTING MARLBORO CIGARETTES.

HE SAID THE AUTHORITY NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT ILLEGAL IN HONG KONG TO USE AN ESTABLISHED BRAND NAME FOR THE PROMOTION OF OTHER LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR SUCH CASES VERY CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT ANY LEGITIMATE ADVERTISEMENTS DID NOT OVER-STEP THE MARK AND HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OF PROMOTING ANY UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS.

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AMENDMENTS TO THREE SETS OF MARITIME REGULATIONS
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVISED THE DEFINITION OF "FERRY VESSEL" UNDER REGULATION 2 OF THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (HONG KONG - CHINA AND MACAU FERRY TERMINALS) REGULATION TO MAXIMISE THE UTILISATION OF THE TWO FERRY TERMINALS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENT, CONTAINED IN THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (HONG KONG - CHINA AND MACAU FERRY TERMINALS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994, WAS GAZETTED TODAY.

PREVIOUSLY, "FERRY VESSEL" WAS DEFINED AS A VESSEL CARRYING PASSENGERS PLYING REGULARLY BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU OR HONG KONG AND ANY PLACE IN CHINA.

"THIS DEFINITION IMPOSED A GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARY AND LIMITED THE USE OF THE TERMINALS BY FERRIES OTHER THAN THOSE AS STIPULATED IN THE PRINCIPAL REGULATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"TO DEFINE 'FERRY VESSEL' AS FERRY CARRYING PASSENGERS AND SERVICES FOR SHORT INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES TO AND FROM HONG KONG PERMITS THE USE OF HONG KONG'S FERRY TERMINALS BY VESSELS ENGAGED IN, FOR EXAMPLE, VOYAGES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CERTAIN OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REGULATION ALSO PROVIDES THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WITH POWERS TO PERMIT PASSENGERS TO STAY ON BOARD AN INTERNATIONAL FERRY; SUCH POWERS WERE FORMERLY GRANTED TO THE MASTER OF A VESSEL.

"HONG KONG AND MACAU FERRY TERMINALS AND CHINA FERRY TERMINALS ARE NOT ONLY LOCATIONS FOR EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING PASSENGERS, THEY ARE ALSO BORDER CHECK POINTS. IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT REASONS FOR THE MASTER OF A VESSEL TO BE GIVEN SUCH POWERS," HE SAID.

TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF TERMINAL OPERATIONS, CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR REGULATING PASSENGER, CARGO AND VESSEL MOVEMENTS AT THE TERMINALS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER ALL VESSELS WHICH ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE TERMINALS.

THE REGULATION ALSO SIMPLIFIED THE ISSUE OF PASSES TO ENTER THE RESTRICTED AREA WITHIN THE TERMINAL PREMISES. THE TYPES OF PASSES HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM FIVE TO THREE.

IT ALSO EXEMPTS HELICOPTER PASSENGERS FROM WEARING PASSES WHEN ENTERING THE RESTRICTED AREA.

PROVISIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO ALLOW PERSONS TO BE ESCORTED INTO RESTRICTED AREA UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS FOR RECORDING A COMPLAINT OR TO VISIT PERSONS DETAINED IN A TERMINAL.

ALSO GAZETTED TODAY WAS THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (FEES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 WHICH REVISED THE FEE STRUCTURES FOR SURVEYING OF PASSENGER SHIPS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD THE SURVEYORS ARE STAYING OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"THE REVISION IS TO RECTIFY THE UNDER-RECOVERY OF COSTS. THE REGULATION PROVIDES THAT ALL FEES RELATING TO SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS OF PASSENGER SHIPS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG SHOULD INCLUDE ELEMENTS FOR TRAVELLING TIME AND COSTS," HE SAID.

THESE AMENDMENTS ARE TO RECTIFY THE UNDER-RECOVERY OF COSTS BECAUSE THE EXISTING FEES CHARGED FOR SURVEYING OF PASSENGER SHIPS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ARE BASED ON AS IF THEY WERE CARRIED IN HONG KONG.

AS SURVEYORS WERE OUTSIDE HONG KONG, IT WAS ONLY FAIR THAT THEIR ACTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A THIRD MARITIME REGULATION, SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (TYPHOON SHELTERS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994, WAS ALSO GAZETTED TO DELETE CERTAIN REGULATIONS IN THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (TYPHOON SHELTERS) REGULATIONS WHICH APPLY SPECIFICALLY TO THE OLD YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER.

"THESE PROVISIONS ARE OBSOLETE FOLLOWING THE RECLAMATION OF THE OLD YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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GREATER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE RECOMMENDED

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THE WORKING PARTY ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA) HELD ITS FOURTH MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE WORKING PARTY REAFFIRMED ITS EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG, BEGINNING WITH THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1994.

THIS WOULD MEAN FULL DISCLOSURE OF BANKS' PROFITS FOR 1994, INCLUDING ANY TRANSFERS TO AND FROM INNER RESERVES. MUCH MORE DETAILED BALANCE SHEET INFORMATION WOULD ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN THE 1994 ACCOUNTS.

THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE DISCLOSURE BY BANKS OF EXISTING INNER RESERVES ON THE BALANCE SHEET SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN MID-1995 IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE INCREASED DISCLOSURE IN THE 1994 ACCOUNTS.

IT ALSO APPROVED A REVISED PRESENTATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON A "CHECK-LIST" OF RELEVANT ITEMS.

"THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE BY THE BANKING SECTOR WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND WELCOME INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG," THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, COMMENTED.

"FROM 1994 ONWARDS, INVESTORS AND DEPOSITORS WILL HAVE FULL INFORMATION ON THE OPERATING PERFORMANCE OF INSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DISCLOSURE STANDARDS," HE SAID.

THE NEXT STEP WILL BE FOR THE HKMA TO CONSULT THE BANKING SECTOR MORE WIDELY ON THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE HKMA WILL ALSO USE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS THE BASIS FOR ITS COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED DISCLOSURE BY LISTED BANKS CONTAINED IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S DISCUSSION PAPER OF MARCH 28.

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FEEs AND CHARGES REVISED TO RECOVER COST
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE A NUMBER OF TRANSPORT-RELATED FEEs AND CHARGES, INCLUDING THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION FEEs AT GOVERNMENT-OWNED VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRES, TO OFFSET HIGHER OPERATING COSTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MOST OF THE FEEs AND CHARGES HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE LAST REVISION IN 1990. THE PROPOSED INCREASES WILL TAKE EFFECT ON JUNE 20.

APART FROM VEHICLE EXAMINATION FEEs, THE PROPOSED REVISION WILL INCLUDE FEEs FOR CAR CLEANER'S PERMITS, PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCES FOR PUBLIC BUS, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND PRIVATE BUS, CLOSED ROAD PERMITS, VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMITS AND REMOVAL OF VEHICLE FROM GOVERNMENT TUNNELS.

THE REVISION IS PROPOSED ON THE BASIS THAT FEEs AND CHARGES SHOULD, IN GENERAL, BE SET AT LEVELS SUFFICIENT TO RECOVER THE FULL COST.

TO AVOID SHARP INCREASES, THE ISSUING FEE AND THE ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE FOR THE LANTAU CLOSED ROAD PERMIT WILL INITIALLY BE RAISED TO A LEVEL REPRESENTING 50 PER CENT OF THE COST. THE INTENTION IS THAT THESE TWO FEEs WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY WITH A VIEW TO FULL-COST RECOVERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED REVISION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NATURE OF FEE -----	CURRENT FEES (\$) -----	PROPOSED FEES (\$) -----
1. VEHICLE EXAMINATION FEE		
A) MOTOR CYCLE, MOTOR TRICYCLE	190	290
B) PRIVATE CAR	310	485
C) TAXI OR TRAILER	310	485
D) GOODS VEHICLE OR SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE NOT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	370	580
E) GOODS VEHICLE OR SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	500	775
F) LIGHT BUS	370	580
G) SINGLE-DECKED BUS	500	775
H) DOUBLE-DECKED BUS	560	870
2. CAR CLEANER'S PERMIT	20	30
3. DUPLICATE HIRE CAR PERMIT	60	100
4. PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE FEE - PUBLIC BUS SERVICE, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS SERVICE, PRIVATE BUS SERVICE	150	320
5. DUPLICATE LICENCE OF PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE	60	115
6. PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE FOR PUBLIC BUS, PRIVATE BUS & PUBLIC LIGHT BUS	60	135
7. DUPLICATE PASSENGER SERVICE LICENCE CERTIFICATE	40	75
8. CERTIFICATE OF PARTICULARS IN REGISTER FEE	25	35
9. REGISTRATION FEE OF MOTOR VEHICLE	60	70
10. INTERNATIONAL FISCAL PERMIT	50	110
11. INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE FOR MOTOR VEHICLE	60	110

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12. CERTIFICATE OF MAXIMUM LOAD & MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WEIGHT	50	110
13. CLOSED ROAD PERMIT OTHER THAN LANTAU		
A) PRIVATE	420	468
B) GOODS VEHICLE	360	396
C) BUS	360	396
14. GOODS PERMIT	60	150
15. EXCESS PASSENGERS PERMIT	140	155
16. MOVEMENT PERMIT	210	430
17. LONG LOAD PERMIT	90	200
18. WIDE LOAD PERMIT	90	200
19. ADVERTISING VEHICLE PERMIT	100	120
20. EXPRESSWAY PERMIT	130	170
21. VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT (FIRST ISSUE & RENEWAL)		
A) DRIVER-OPERATED	110	230
B) PEDESTRIAN CONTROLLED	110	230
C) GOLF CART	110	230
22. DUPLICATE VILLAGE VEHICLE PERMIT	30	50
23. REMOVAL FEE FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL, ABERDEEN TUNNEL, AIRPORT TUNNEL, SHING MUN TUNNELS & TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL		
A) PRIVATE CARS, TAXI & MOTOR CYCLES	80	130
B) PUBLIC & PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES, PUBLIC & PRIVATE SINGLE-DECKED BUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES OF A PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES	100	160

C) PUBLIC & PRIVATE DOUBLE-DECKED BUSES, SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES AND GOODS VEHICLES OF A PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES	120	195
24. PERMIT FEE (ALL VEHICLE) TO PASS THROUGH A TUNNEL UNDER SPECIAL CONDITION	45	72

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FINDINGS OF TV BROADCASTING SURVEY 1993/94 RELEASED

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NEARLY ALL INDIVIDUALS AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 64 HAVE TELEVISION SETS IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, A SURVEY COMMISSIONED BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY REVEALS.

COMPARED WITH ITS EARLIER SURVEY IN 1990, THE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS OWNING TWO OR MORE TELEVISION SETS HAS INCREASED FROM 23 PER CENT TO 30 PER CENT.

THE SURVEY ALSO FINDS THAT THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING SCENE HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE 1990.

MULTI-CHANNEL SOUND TELEVISION BROADCASTS USING THE NICAM SYSTEM WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SUMMER OF 1991. THE SURVEY SHOWS THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS HAD NICAM DECODERS IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS AT THE BEGINNING OF 1994.

SATELLITE AND SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISIONS WERE INTRODUCED TO HONG KONG IN 1991 AND 1993 RESPECTIVELY BY STAR TV AND WHARF CABLE.

AT THE TIME THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED, 13 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS HAD INSTALLED STAR TV IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS AND TWO PER CENT WERE ENJOYING THE WHARF CABLE SERVICE, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED ONLY TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE SURVEY FINISHED AND COVERED ONLY LIMITED AREAS IN HONG KONG.

IN KEEPING WITH AN AFFLUENT SOCIETY, VIEWERS NOW HAVE MORE CHOICES IN TELEVISION VIEWING, THE SURVEY REVEALS.

NONETHELESS, INDIVIDUALS TEND TO SPEND LESS TIME ON AVERAGE WATCHING COMMERCIAL, WIRELESS TELEVISION WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 1990 SURVEY RESULTS, FROM 4.2 HOURS PER DAY IN 1990 TO 3.5 HOURS PER DAY THIS YEAR.

DESPITE THE CHOICES AVAILABLE, TVB JADE IS CLAIMED BY 91 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE THE CHANNEL THEY WATCH MOST OFTEN.

SEVEN PER CENT WATCH ATV HOME MOST OFTEN AND TWO PER CENT TVB PEARL.

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 1990 SURVEY, FEWER INDIVIDUALS RATE THE VARIOUS SPECIFIED PROGRAMME TYPES AS BEING HIGH IN QUALITY; THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION BEING NEWS PROGRAMMES.

/IN PARTICULAR,

IN PARTICULAR, MORE INDIVIDUALS THIS YEAR CONSIDER DRAMA SERIES, VARIETY PROGRAMMES, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES, ADULT MAGAZINE PROGRAMMES AND CULTURAL AND ARTS PROGRAMMES VERY OR QUITE LOW IN QUALITY.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, MORE INDIVIDUALS TEND TO FIND THE PORTRAYALS OF VIOLENCE, SEX, NUDITY, TRIAD RITUALS, TRIAD JARGON, AND HOMOSEXUALITY ON COMMERCIAL TELEVISION UNACCEPTABLE THAN ACCEPTABLE, THOUGH ABOUT A THIRD DO NOT HAVE STRONG VIEWS.

FURTHER ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT THOSE WHO THINK THE PORTRAYALS UNACCEPTABLE FOR TRIAD RITUALS (43 PER CENT), TRIAD JARGON (44 PER CENT) AND HOMOSEXUALITY (44 PER CENT) ARE TWICE AS NUMEROUS AS THOSE WHO FIND THESE PORTRAYALS ACCEPTABLE (22 PER CENT, 24 PER CENT AND 20 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY).

COMPARED WITH THE 1990 SURVEY, THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CONSIDER THE PORTRAYALS OF TRIAD RITUALS (1990: 30 PER CENT; 1994: 53 PER CENT) AND THE USE OF TRIAD JARGON (1990: 37 PER CENT; 1994: 60 PER CENT) EXCESSIVE (TOO MANY/A BIT TOO MANY).

A MAJORITY OF INDIVIDUALS (87 PER CENT) CONSIDERS THE PRESENT LICENCE REQUIREMENT THAT EACH CHANNEL SHOULD BROADCAST A MINIMUM OF TWO COMPREHENSIVE NEWS BULLETINS BETWEEN 6 PM AND MIDNIGHT APPROPRIATE.

THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO BROADCAST, ON EACH CHANNEL PER WEEK, AT LEAST TWO HALF-HOUR CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES AND HALF AN HOUR OF PROGRAMMES ADVISING YOUNG PEOPLE AGED UNDER 21 ON HOW TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR LEISURE TIME OR FOR THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE ALSO ENDORSED AS BEING NECESSARY BY 74 PER CENT AND 87 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS RESPECTIVELY.

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWS THAT AROUND 60 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS NEITHER STRONGLY BELIEVE IN NOR DOUBT THE TRUTHFULNESS OF THE CLAIMS IN TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO TEND NOT TO BELIEVE IN THE TRUTHFULNESS OF ADVERTISEMENTS OUTNUMBER THOSE WHO DO BY OVER TWO TO ONE (26 PER CENT VS 11 PER CENT)

REGARDING THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS, 57 PER CENT OF THOSE WHO COMMENTED CONSIDER SUCH PORTRAYAL AS REFLECTING THE TRUTH.

THIS IS MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY AS THOSE WHO THINK THAT WOMEN ARE GLAMORISED (25 PER CENT) AND MORE THAN THREE TIMES AS MANY AS THOSE WHO CONSIDER WOMEN ARE DENIGRATED (18 PER CENT) IN TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS.

A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS (22 PER CENT) ADMIT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THE FAMILY VIEWING HOURS (4 PM TO 8.30 PM) AND 77 PER CENT CANNOT CORRECTLY IDENTIFY BOTH THE STARTING AND END TIMES OF THE SLOT.

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1994

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THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWS THAT HALF OF INDIVIDUALS (50 PER CENT) ARE AWARE OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY'S COMPLAINTS HOTLINE ON PROGRAMMES AND ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE OTHER HALF ARE NOT.

BOTH FACTS SUGGEST THAT MORE PUBLICITY ON THE FAMILY VIEWING HOURS AND THE COMPLAINTS HOTLINE IS NEEDED.

MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF INDIVIDUALS CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO RETAIN THE OPTION OF THE IMPOSITION OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY FOR BREACHES OF THE TELEVISION PROGRAMME AND ADVERTISING STANDARDS.

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TRADE DEPARTMENT TO REVISE FEES AND CHARGES

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APPLICATION FEES FOR CERTAIN TRADE LICENCES, CERTIFICATES, RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SERVICES WILL BE REVISED AS FROM JUNE 30 UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (FEES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1994 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

IN PARALLEL, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR NOTICES TO EXPORTERS AND OTHER CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO BE REVISED, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

"IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION BY FINANCE BRANCH, A 9.9 PER CENT INCREASE ON CURRENT FEES AND CHARGES WILL BE APPLIED.

"IN CERTAIN CASES, THE PROPOSED FEE LEVELS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP OR DOWN FOR CONVENIENCE OF COLLECTION OR FOR HARMONISATION WITH STAMP DENOMINATION AS SOME FEES ARE PAID BY AFFIXING STAMPS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE PERCENTAGE IS BASED ON THE GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE DEFLATOR WHICH HAS BEEN WORKED OUT TO BE 9.9 PER CENT THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

"STARTING FROM LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPLIED AN ESCALATING FACTOR TO THE FEES AND CHARGES FOR THOSE YEARS WHEN A FULL COSTING EXERCISE IS NOT CARRIED OUT."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MOST OF THE NEW FEES WOULD TAKE EFFECT AS FROM JUNE 30, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN CERTIFICATES AND REGISTRATION FEES WHICH WOULD BE REVISED AT A LATER STAGE.

"THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD AND THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

/THE NEW

THE NEW SCALE OF FEES WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TYPE OF APPLICATION	F E E S		DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
	CURRENT	NEW	
	\$	\$	
I TEXTILES LICENCES, DOCUMENTS AND SERVICES			
(A) APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF TEXTILES EXPORT LICENCE - NON-RESTRAINED ITEMS (FORM 4)	44	48	30 JUNE 1994
(B) APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF TEXTILES EXPORT LICENCE - RESTRAINED ITEMS (FORM 5)	132	145	30 JUNE 1994
(C) APPLICATION FOR SWING OF QUOTA	193	212	30 JUNE 1994
(D) APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF QUOTA	193	212	30 JUNE 1994
(E) APPLICATION FOR FREE QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATION	358	393	30 JUNE 1994
(F) APPLICATION FOR SURVEILLANCE EXPORT AUTHORISATION AND QUOTA EXPORT AUTHORISATION	193	212	30 JUNE 1994
(G) APPLICATION FOR TEXTILES IMPORT LICENCE (FORM 7)	28	31	30 JUNE 1994
(H) APPLICATION FOR LICENCE ISSUED UNDER THE SPECIAL EXPORT AND IMPORT LICENSING (TEXTILES) SCHEME FOR PIECE-KNITTED GARMENTS:			30 JUNE 1994
EXPORT LICENCE (FORM 8)	132	145	
SPECIAL EXPORT LICENCE (FORMS 8A AND 8D)	44	48	
SPECIAL IMPORT LICENCE (FORMS 8B, 8C AND 8E)	28	31	
(I) ANNUAL FEE FOR REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES FOR TEXTILES CONTROL PURPOSES	1,210	1,330	30 JUNE 1994
(J) ANNUAL FEE FOR REGISTRATION OF TEXTILES TRADER	2,000	2,200	30 JUNE 1994

(K) CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES (CTC) OF TEXTILES LICENCES	50	55	30 JUNE 1994
II NON-TEXTILES TRADE DOCUMENTS			

(A) LANDING CERTIFICATE	231	254	30 JUNE 1994
(B) PROVISION OF OFFICIAL RECORDS OF STATISTICAL DATA DERIVED OR EXTRACTED FROM IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS (PER PAGE)	13.2	14.5	30 JUNE 1994
(C) DELIVERY VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE	99	109	30 JUNE 1994
(D) OFFICIAL SIGNATURE FEES FOR CERTIFYING COPY OF TRADE DECLARATION AND CARGO MANIFEST	154	169	30 JUNE 1994
(E) INTERNATIONAL IMPORT CERTIFICATE	39	43	30 JUNE 1994
(F) CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES (CTC) OF NON-TEXTILE TRADE LICENCES	50	55	30 JUNE 1994
III CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN AND RELATED SERVICES			

(A) CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, OTHER THAN GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE	110	121	3 JAN 1995
(B) GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE	150	165	3 JAN 1995
(C) ANNUAL FEE FOR FACTORY REGISTRATION	1,650	1,813	1 AUG 1994
(D) OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE FEES CHARGED FOR THE ISSUE OF STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ANTIQUÉ	825	907	3 JAN 1995
(E) CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES (CTC) OF CERTIFICATES	50	55	30 JUNE 1994
IV ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR NOTICES TO EXPORTERS AND OTHER CIRCULARS			

(A) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR DIRECT MAILING SERVICES OF "NOTICES TO EXPORTERS"			30 JUNE 1994
FOR "A" SERIES	66	73	
FOR "O" SERIES	149	164	

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(B) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR DIRECT MAILING SERVICES OF "CERTIFICATION BRANCH CIRCULARS"	72	79	30 JUNE 1994
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(C) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR DIRECT MAILING SERVICES OF "COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS"	143	157	30 JUNE 1994
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(D) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS OF "NOTICES TO EXPORTERS" (NOTE)			30 JUNE 1994
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FOR ASIA:

"A" SERIES -

USA	292/ 435	321/ 479
EU	341/ 490	375/ 539
OTHERS	358/ 985	394/ 1,083

"O" SERIES -

USA	226/ 616	249/ 677
EU	231/ 649	254/ 714
OTHERS	407/ 1,282	448/ 1,409

FOR REGIONS OTHER THAN
ASIA:

"A" SERIES -

USA	396/ 539	436/ 593
EU	468/ 611	515/ 672
OTHERS	490/ 1,117	539/ 1,228

/"O" SERIES -

"O" SERIES -

USA	286/ 677	315/ 745
EU	297/ 715	327/ 786
OTHERS	545/ 1,419	599/ 1,560

(E) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS OF "COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS" (NOTE)

30 JUNE 1994

FOR ASIA:	281/ 820	309/ 902
FOR REGIONS OTHER THAN ASIA:	363/ 902	399/ 992

(F) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS OF "CERTIFICATION BRANCH CIRCULARS" (NOTE)

30 JUNE 1994

FOR ASIA:	176/ 413	194/ 454
FOR REGIONS OTHER THAN ASIA:	226/ 468	249/ 515

NOTE: 2ND CLASS AIR MAIL/EXPRESS

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RESPONSIBLE LINE ON PUBLIC SPENDING URGED

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED POLITICAL PARTIES TO TAKE A RESPONSIBLE LINE IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC SPENDING AS WELL AS TAXES AND FEES.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON NORTH, MR TSANG SAID PARTY MANIFESTOS MUST BE COHERENT, COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE PORTRAITS OF THE COMMUNITY THE PARTIES WISHED THE GOVERNMENT TO BUILD.

HE NOTED THAT VOICES WERE BEING RAISED TO URGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ON A DIRECT ROLE IN AREAS WHERE IT DID NOT BELONG, OR AN EXCESSIVE ROLE IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT DID BELONG.

/"THE RESULT

"THE RESULT WOULD BE PUBLIC SPENDING INCREASES MUCH FASTER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF OUR ECONOMY, FOLLOWED BY THE GRADUAL SQUEEZING OUT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, LOWER RATES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, LESS PROSPERITY FOR ALL," HE SAID.

MR TSANG SAID COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE MEDIA MUST EXAMINE SUCH CLAIMS CRITICALLY.

"THOSE WITH OPPOSING VIEWS, OR THOSE WHO SIMPLY WISH TO ADVOCATE CAUTION, MUST NOT BE SHY ABOUT SPEAKING UP," HE SAID.

"FOR IF THEY FAIL TO DO SO, SLOWLY, INSIDIOUSLY, THE DEBATE WILL BE LOST," HE ADDED.

ON TAXES AND FEES, MR TSANG SAID HONG KONG HAD BY FAR THE LOWEST RATE OF TAXATION OF ANY ADVANCED ECONOMY IN THE WORLD.

HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE STILL VOICES RAISED IN FAVOUR OF LOWER RATES; AND LOUDER VOICES WHO OPPOSED MODEST INCREASES IN RATES AND CHARGES EVEN WHEN THESE DID NO MORE THAN KEEP UP WITH INFLATION.

"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS 'GOVERNMENT MONEY'," MR TSANG SAID.

"ALL OUR RESOURCES COME FROM THE POCKETS AND HANDBAGS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE, AND MUST BE SPENT FOR THEIR BENEFIT.

"THAT MEANS A DECISION NOT TO SET FEES TO RECOVER THE FULL COST FOR ONE SERVICE MUST BE COMPENSATED FOR BY TAX LOADED FEES FOR ANOTHER SERVICE, PLUS OF COURSE OUR GENERAL TAXATION.

"DECISIONS TO SUBSIDISE MUST BE CONSCIOUS ONES, TAKEN AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHT AND APPLIED SPARINGLY.

"WE MUST NOT DRIFT INTO A SITUATION WHERE AN ELEMENT OF SUBSIDY IS ASSUMED FOR ALMOST EVERY SERVICE," HE SAID.

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACT FOR NORTH LANTAU WATER SUPPLY AWARDED

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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS APPROVED THE AWARD OF A \$19.28 MILLION WATERWORKS CONTRACT UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) TO INCHCAPE INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS LIMITED.

THE CONTRACT IS PART OF THE NORTH LANTAU WATER SUPPLY PROJECT TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK KAP KOK, TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN AND OTHER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH LANTAU.

IT COVERS THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL PLANTS AT SIU HO WAN FRESH WATER AND PUI O 'B' RAW WATER PUMPING STATIONS AND TUNG CHUNG FRESH WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR.

THE ELECTRICAL PLANTS INCLUDE POWER SUPPLY SWITCHBOARDS, FLOWMETERS, CONTROL AND INSTRUMENTATION EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ACCESSORIES.

THE CONTRACT ALSO COMPRISES NON-ACP WORKS WHICH INVOLVE THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AN ELECTRICAL PLANT AT SIU HO WAN RAW WATER PUMPING STATION.

IT WAS DECIDED TO INCLUDE THESE WORKS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$4 MILLION, IN THE CONTRACT AS IT IS MORE CONVENIENT AND MORE ECONOMICAL TO CARRY OUT WORKS AT THE SAME TIME IN THE SAME LOCATION.

THE WORKS WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN JUNE 1996.

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO 40, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF MORE THAN \$32 BILLION.

TOGETHER WITH THE SIX CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, VALUED AT \$10.7 BILLION, AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, AND THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE ACP IS OVER \$48.3 BILLION.

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COMAC ORDINANCE NOW COVERS REO

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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE (REO) IS NOW INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS GOVERNED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS (COMAC) ORDINANCE BY AN AMENDMENT ORDER PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE REO WAS PREVIOUSLY PART OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH (CAB) AND AS SUCH FELL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF COMAC BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT CAB WAS INCLUDED IN SCHEDULE 1 TO THE COMAC ORDINANCE UNDER THE BROAD CATEGORY OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

"WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC), THE REO, WHICH BECOMES ITS EXECUTIVE ARM, WAS SEPERATED FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFIARS BRANCH AS FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE SEPERATION IS TO REFLECT BETTER THE NEW ROLE OF THE REO AND TO UNDERLINE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BEC. BUT AS A RESULT, THE REO HAS FALLEN OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF COMAC.

"TO ENABLE THE COMAC TO CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE REO, IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ADD THE REO TO SCHEDULE 1 TO THE COMAC ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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MAIL SERVICES TO RWANDA SUSPENDED

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ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO RWANDA HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF THE PREVAILING SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE AS SOON AS THE SERVICES RESUME.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FEES AND CHARGES REVISED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO INCREASE FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES UNDER MOST ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO OFFSET THE RISE IN OPERATION COST DUE TO INFLATION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ALL THESE FEES, EXCEPT THOSE UNDER THE DUMPING AT SEA ACT, AN OVERSEAS ORDER FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE THEY WERE INTRODUCED.

HE SAID THE GENERAL PUBLIC WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AS THE REVISED FEES REPRESENTED A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE OPERATING COST BORNE BY THE SECTORS USING THE SERVICES.

THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASES HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY COVER FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED UNDER ALL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION EXCEPT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE.

THE REVISED FEES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY). IT IS INTENDED THAT THEY WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 22 THIS YEAR.

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	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed with effect from 22.6.94</u>
	\$	\$
I. Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance 1989		
- For registration	1,000.00	1,505.00
- For a licence	500.00	755.00
II. Noise Control Ordinance - Cap. 400		-
(a) Noise Control General Regulations		
- General Works (8(1))	100.00	150.00
- Percussive Piling (8(2))	100.00	150.00
(b) Noise Emission Label		
- Air Compressors	100.00	120.00
- Hand Held Percussive Breakers	100.00	120.00
III. Waste Disposal Ordinance - Cap. 354		
(a) - Licence for Provision of Waste Collection Services (S.21(1))	13,000.00	15,615.00
(b) - Renewal of Licence (a)(S.23(2))	6,500.00	7,810.00
(c) - Licence for Collection of Waste Produced by Licensee (S.21(1))	3,000.00	3,605.00
(d) - Renewal of Licence (c)(S.23(2))	1,500.00	1,805.00
(e) - Licence for Provision of a Waste Disposal Service (S.21(2))	24,000.00	28,825.00
(f) - Renewal of Licence (e) (S.23(2))	12,000.00	14,415.00
(g) - Licence for Disposal of Waste Produced by Licensee (S.21(2))	2,400.00	2,885.00
(h) - Renewal of Licence (g)(S.23(2))	1,200.00	1,445.00
(i) - Waste Producer Registration Fee (S.7)	200.00	240.00
(j) - Certified Copy of an entry in register (S.7)	10.00	125.00
IV. Air Pollution Control Ordinance - Cap 311		
(a) - For an application for a licence (S.14)	100.00	190.00
(b) - For an application for renewal of a licence (S.16)	NIL	NIL
(c) - For an application for variation of a licence (S.18)	100.00	190.00

(d) - For an application for transfer of a licence (S.18A)	100.00	190.00
(e) - For an application for variation or cancellation of any term or condition (S.23)	100.00	190.00
(f) - For a certified copy of an entry in the register	20.00	125.00

V. Road Traffic Ordinance - Cap. 374: (Amendment of Tenth Schedule) Order 1994

(a) - Fee payable for designation or renewal of designation of a place as a vehicle emission testing centre	1,000.00	1,205.00
(b) - Fee to be charged in respect of a test of a motor vehicle (\$/examination)	140.00	170.00
(c) - Fee payable for supply of Form of Certificate of Compliance (\$/Cert.)	14.00	17.00

VI. Dumping at Sea Act 1974 (Overseas Territories) Order 1975

(a) - Licence referred to in section 2 of Schedule 1 to the Order to dump the following substances in the territorial waters of Hong Kong or in the sea outside such waters:-	
(i) dispersants	150
(ii) spoil or sewage sludge	7,515
(iii) other substances or articles	15,030

AMENDMENTS TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST GAZETTED

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LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT UPDATED CONTROLS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES ON STRATEGIC COMMODITIES WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AMENDMENTS WERE CONTAINED IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 1) ORDER 1994.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE 1 OF THE REGULATIONS REFLECTED CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON ELECTRONICS, COMPUTERS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INTRODUCED BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS (COCOM) BEFORE ITS DISSOLUTION ON MARCH 31, 1994.

FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE AMENDMENTS, COMPUTERS THAT OPERATE UP TO 260 MILLION THEORETICAL OPERATIONS PER SECOND (MTOPS) WOULD NO LONGER BE CONTROLLED.

"COCOM MEMBERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A NEW REGIME AIMED AT ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND RESTRAINT IN ARMS SALES AND TRANSFERS OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY. PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW REGIME, THEY AGREED TO MAINTAIN EXISTING COCOM CONTROLS TO ALL DESTINATIONS ON A NATIONAL LEVEL. HONG KONG FOLLOWS THIS ARRANGEMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

BESIDES, THE CONTROL LISTS OF PLANT PATHOGENS AND CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN AMENDED TO REFLECT THE UPDATED CONTROLS OF THE AUSTRALIA GROUP, THE INTERNATIONAL REGIME SPECIALISED IN EXPORT CONTROLS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DUAL-USE GOODS.

NO CHANGE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN MADE TO SCHEDULES 2, 3 AND 4 AS REGARDS GOODS IN-TRANSIT, END-USE CONTROL AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO ARTICLES SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 3 RESPECTIVELY, HE ADDED.

THE AMENDMENT ORDER SHALL BE TABLED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 18 AND BECOME EFFECTIVE ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE BY NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE, IF THE COUNCIL RAISES NO OBJECTION TO THE ORDER AFTER 28 DAYS.

"THE PURPOSE OF IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSING CONTROLS IS TO MONITOR AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES TO PREVENT HONG KONG FROM BEING USED AS A CONDUIT FOR THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS AND RELATED SYSTEMS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS ANY ARTICLE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULES WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE ON CONVICTION ON INDICTMENT TO AN UNLIMITED FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS, HE ADDED.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT ORDER ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE STRATEGIC COMMODITIES SECTION, TRADE DEPARTMENT TOWER, 700 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK, KOWLOON OR ON TEL 398 5581 OR 398 5572.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO INFORM TRADERS OF DETAILS OF THE AMENDED SCHEDULE 1 BY CIRCULAR.

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DAM PLANNED FOR KAU SAI CHAU

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A 140-METRE DAM WILL BE BUILT ACROSS THE KWAT TAU TAM INLET FOR THE CREATION OF A FRESHWATER RESERVOIR TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A PROPOSED PUBLIC GOLF COURSE AT KAU SAI CHAU, SAI KUNG.

THE WORKS WILL START IN JULY AND FINISH IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED, COVERING 5.73 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT KAU SAU CHAU, IS DESCRIBED IN A GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A COPY OF THE PLAN DELINEATING AND DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED UNDERTAKING AND THE FORESHORE AND SEABED TO BE AFFECTED CAN BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE AFFECTED AREA MAY SEND HIS WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS, SECOND FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, ON OR BEFORE JULY 13.

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TWO RURAL OUTLINE ZONING PLANS GAZETTED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE GAZETTING OF THE DRAFT PING KONG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN (OZP) (NO. S/NE-PK/1) AND THE DRAFT KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG OZP (NO. S/ST-KYS/1).

THESE PLANS COVER THE RURAL AREAS IN PING KONG NEAR FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN AS WELL AS KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG NEAR SHA TIN NEW TOWN. THEY ARE THE FIRST TWO IN A SERIES OF RURAL OZP'S TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

"THEY ARE TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLANS COVERING THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES. THEY INDICATE DEFINITE AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE ZONES TO GUIDE AND CONTROL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREAS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

THE DPA PLANS ARE INTERIM PLANS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1991.

/THEY SERVE

THEY SERVE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND CONTROL ON LAND USES IN THE RURAL NEW TERRITORIES. UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE DPA'S ARE SUBJECT TO ENFORCEMENT.

THESE PLANS ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THEIR PUBLICATION AND ARE TO BE REPLACED BY OZP'S.

"ALTHOUGH THE DPA PLANS ARE REPLACED BY OZP'S, THE ENFORCEMENT POWERS PROVIDED THEREIN WILL CONTINUE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE PING KONG OZP COVERS ABOUT 140 HECTARES OF LAND TO THE SOUTHEAST OF FAN KAM ROAD WITH FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN IN THE NORTH, THE ROYAL HONG KONG GOLF CLUB IN THE WEST AND THE VOLUNTEER SLOPE IN THE EAST.

THE AREA IS MAINLY RURAL AND THE MAIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THERE IS AGRICULTURE, SUCH AS LIVESTOCK REARING AND VEGETABLE GROWING.

ABOUT 68 HECTARES OF LAND, WHICH REPRESENT HALF OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA THERE, HAVE BEEN ZONED "AGRICULTURE" ON THE PLAN TO PRESERVE AND SUPPORT THE EXISTING AGRICULTURAL USES.

TWO PIECES OF LAND OF ABOUT 8.6 HECTARES HAVE ALSO BEEN ZONED "VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT" TO INCLUDE THE EXISTING RECOGNISED VILLAGES AND AREAS SUITABLE FOR VILLAGE EXPANSION.

IN ADDITION, ABOUT 15 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR RECREATIONAL USES TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING SPORTS TRAINING GROUND AND HOLIDAY CAMP.

MEANWHILE, ABOUT 16 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN ZONED "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" TO COVER THE EXISTING TAI LUNG EXPERIMENTAL FARM AND A NEW POLICE DEPOT. ABOUT 31 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE ALSO BEEN ZONED "GREEN BELT" ON THE PLAN.

THE KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG OZP COVERS ABOUT 120 HECTARES OF LAND TO THE WEST OF MA ON SHAN COUNTRY PARK AND TO THE EAST OF LION ROCK COUNTRY PARK, ADJACENT TO THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

THE AREA IS HILLY AND CONSISTS OF SEVERAL RECOGNISED VILLAGES.

ON THE PLAN, ABOUT 59 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN ZONED "CONSERVATION AREA" TO PROTECT THE EXISTING NATURAL CHARACTER. ONLY CONSERVATION-RELATED USES SUCH AS FIELD STUDY CENTRE, EDUCATION CENTRE AND VISITOR CENTRE ARE PERMITTED.

THOSE USES THAT WOULD HAVE INSIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL PROVISIONS, SUCH AS TENT CAMPING GROUND, WOULD ONLY BE PERMITTED UPON APPROVAL BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD.

ABOUT 29 HECTARES OF LAND WHICH ARE WELL-SERVED BY RECENTLY UPGRADED IRRIGATION FACILITIES HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL USES, PARTICULARLY PLANT NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS.

OTHER USES INCLUDE ABOUT SIX HECTARES FOR VILLAGE TYPE DEVELOPMENT, TWO HECTARES FOR GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY USES, 25 HECTARES FOR GREEN BELT, 0.8 HECTARE FOR THE EXISTING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELEVISION TRANSMITTING STATION, AND 0.6 HECTARE FOR COUNTRY PARK DEVELOPMENT.

THE TWO DRAFT OZP'S ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL JULY 13 AT:

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT,
16TH FLOOR,
MURRAY BUILDING,
GARDEN ROAD,
HONG KONG;
- * SHA TIN AND NORTH EAST DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR,
SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICE, 6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,
SHA TIN,
NEW TERRITORIES;
- * NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE,
THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS,
NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
PIK FUNG ROAD,
FANLING,
NEW TERRITORIES (FOR DRAFT PING KONG OZP ONLY);
AND
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE,
SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE,
SHA TIN,
NEW TERRITORIES
(FOR DRAFT KWUN YAM SHAN AND FA SAM HANG OZP ONLY).

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE TWO DRAFT PLANS MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTION ON OR BEFORE JULY 13 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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60 VMS INTERCEPTED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT A BOAT WITH 60 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ON BOARD WAS INTERCEPTED INSIDE HONG KONG WATERS AT 8.30 AM TODAY (FRIDAY). THE VMS ARE NOW ACCOMMODATED IN THE CHI MA WAN DETENTION CENTRE.

"THIS BRINGS TO 190 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRIVALS THIS YEAR.

"THE LATEST ARRIVALS INDICATE THAT THE VM PROBLEM IS NOT YET OVER AND WE MUST THEREFORE REMAIN AS VIGILANT IN MAINTAINING A FIRM POLICY ON THE VMS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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APRIL AIR QUALITY REPORT

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR LAST MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS FROM MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG. THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN AREAS;
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) WHICH COMPRISE ALL SIZES OF DUST PARTICLES, AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE THE RESPIRABLE FRACTION OF THE DUST.

ALL THESE POLLUTANTS CAN AFFECT RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION.

IN APRIL, THERE WERE TWO EXCEEDANCES OF THE SULPHUR DIOXIDE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE AT MONG KOK.

LEVELS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE AND PARTICULATES WERE AGAIN HIGHER AT THE STREET-LEVEL MONG KOK SITE THAN AT THE ROOFTOP SITES AT KWAI CHUNG AND CENTRAL/WESTERN.

HIGHER NITROGEN DIOXIDE LEVELS AT ALL THREE STATIONS ON THE FIRST, SECOND AND 15TH OF THE MONTH WERE CAUSED BY CALM CONDITIONS WHICH PREVENTED VEHICLE EXHAUST FUMES FROM DISPERSING.

THERE WERE LOWER GASEOUS POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH AT THE TIME WHEN SOUTHERLY WINDS BLEW FROM SOUTH CHINA SEA.

THE GASES AND PARTICLES DESCRIBED ORIGINATE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. SO₂ IS MOSTLY PRODUCED WHEN FUELS THAT CONTAIN SULPHUR ARE BURNED. NO₂ IS FORMED DURING COMBUSTION BY THE COMBINATION OF NITROGEN AND OXYGEN.

HOWEVER THE MAJORITY OF IT IS FORMED IN THE ATMOSPHERE BY THE OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (N.O.), ALSO A PRODUCT OF COMBUSTION.

/VEHICLE EXHAUSTS

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VEHICLE EXHAUSTS ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF N.O. AND NO2 IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON LOCAL AIR QUALITY.

THESE EXHAUSTS ARE ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MATTER, ESPECIALLY THE SMALLER RESPIRABLE PARTICLES.

OTHER SOURCES OF PARTICLES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND THE SOIL.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WHILST THE WEATHER AND CLIMATE ALWAYS AFFECT THE CONCENTRATIONS OF POLLUTANTS IN THE AIR, THE ONLY SURE WAY OF REDUCING THE LEVELS IS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THE MAN-MADE SOURCES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS AIR QUALITY REPORT AND OTHER AIR QUALITY ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR RAYMOND LEUNG ON TEL 594 6401.

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SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN SMI SCHEME

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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE BEING INVITED TO JOIN THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (SMI) SCHEME WHICH IS AIMED AT PROVIDING A MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK TO HELP RAISE THE STANDARDS OF LEARNING AND TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY): "THE SMI SCHEME IS AN EXCELLENT WAY FOR SCHOOLS TO MANAGE THEIR OWN FINANCES AND AFFAIRS MORE FLEXIBLY AND TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS, PAST STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR SCHOOLS.

"THE SCHEME HELPS ENHANCE COMMUNICATION, DETERMINE SCHOOL OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE STUDENTS.

"THE SMI ALSO PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE THEIR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE SO AS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION."

THE SMI HAS FOUR AIMS:

- * TO DEFINE CLEARLY THE ROLES OF SPONSORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND CONSEQUENTLY TO ENSURE GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY;
- * TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS, PARENTS AND PAST STUDENTS IN SCHOOL DECISION-MAKING AND MANAGEMENT;

/* TO ENCOURAGE

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- * TO ENCOURAGE MORE SYSTEMATIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND REPORTING THEIR PERFORMANCE; AND
- * TO GIVE SCHOOLS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF RESOURCES IN MEETING THEIR DEFINED INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SMI WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1991 AND SO FAR 128 SCHOOLS HAD JOINED IN THE SCHEME.

HE SAID THE SMI SCHEME HAD ADVANTAGES FOR SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND PAST STUDENTS AND CURRENT STUDENTS.

FOR SCHOOLS, IT WILL BE FREE FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION AND TO ADJUST WHAT THEY DO TO MEET THEIR NEEDS.

THE GREATER FLEXIBILITY PROVIDED BY THE BLOCK GRANT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR SCHOOLS TO MAKE USE OF THEIR FUNDS TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES OR SERVICE WHICH MEET THEIR OWN DEFINED NEEDS.

SOME DECISIONS WILL BE BETTER WHEN THEY ARE MADE AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL THAN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

FOR TEACHERS, IT WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, THEREBY FOSTERING JOB SATISFACTION AND COMMITMENT.

GREATER PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMME PLANNING AND BUDGETING WILL INCREASE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE TEACHERS.

TEACHERS WILL FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL WHEN THEY KNOW THEIR OPINIONS ARE VALUED, SOUGHT AND USED.

FOR PARENTS AND PAST STUDENTS, THE SCHEME WILL INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING, INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL.

FOR STUDENTS, RESOURCES ARE MORE LIKELY TO MATCH PUPIL NEEDS WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE BY THOSE WHO WORK MORE DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS.

REPLY FORMS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FOURTH PHASE OF THE SMI ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR REPLY FORM TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JULY 9.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE SMI OFFICE ON TEL 892 6656.

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NEW PIER AT KAU SAI CHAU

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BUILD A PIER ON THE NORTHWESTERN SHORELINE OF KAU SAI CHAU IN SAI KUNG TO SERVE THE PROPOSED PUBLIC GOLF CENTRE ON THE ISLAND.

WORK ON THE 320-SQUARE-METRE PIER WILL START IN JULY, FINISHING BY NEXT MARCH.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED, COVERING ABOUT 8,500 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT KAU SAI CHAU, IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE NOTICE, AND ITS RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 13.

THE OBJECTION SHOULD DESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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WU KAU TANG DEVELOPMENT PLAN PUBLISHED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT WU KAU TANG DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) PLAN.

ENCLOSED BY THE PLOVER COVE COUNTRY PARK, THE AREA COVERS ABOUT 104 HECTARES OF LAND ABOUT 8.5 KILOMETRES TO THE EAST OF THE FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN.

WU KAU TANG IS AN UPLAND RURAL VALLEY WITH SOME OF THE FLAT ARABLE LAND STILL UNDER ACTIVE CULTIVATION.

IT FALLS WITHIN THE WATER-GATHERING GROUNDS OF THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR AND IS ALSO A STRATEGICALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE AREA.

EXISTING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT MAINLY CONCENTRATES IN THE EIGHT RECOGNISED VILLAGES WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF POPULATION.

"THE PLAN SERVES TO PROVIDE PROPER PLANNING GUIDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL TO THE LAND USES IN THE AREA. IT AIMS TO PRESERVE THE RURAL LANDSCAPE AND TO PROTECT THE SURROUNDING PLOVER COVE COUNTRY PARK AND THE WATER-GATHERING GROUNDS FROM UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BOARD SAID.

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ON THE PLAN, ABOUT 83 HECTARES OR 80.29 PER CENT OF LAND HAVE BEEN ZONED "CONSERVATION AREA" TO PROMOTE NATURAL CONSERVATION.

STRINGENT LAND USE CONTROL HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THIS ZONE TO SAFEGUARD THE WATER-GATHERING GROUNDS FROM POLLUTION, PRESERVE A NATURAL INTERFACE WITH THE ADJACENT PLOVER COVE COUNTRY PARK, AND PROVIDE A BUFFER TO THE SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT CHIU KENG TAM TO THE SOUTHEAST OF THE AREA.

ABOUT FIVE HECTARES OF LAND HAVE ALSO BEEN RESERVED ON THE PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, EIGHT HECTARES FOR VILLAGE-TYPE DEVELOPMENT, 1.5 HECTARES FOR RECREATIONAL USE, AND 3.5 HECTARES FOR GREEN-BELT USE.

THE DRAFT PLAN (NO. DPA/NE-WKT/1) IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION UNTIL JULY 13 AT:

- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT,
16TH FLOOR,
MURRAY BUILDING,
GARDEN ROAD,
HONG KONG;
- * SHA TIN & NORTH EAST DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE,
GROUND FLOOR,
SHA TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
6 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD,
SHA TIN,
NEW TERRITORIES; AND
- * NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE,
THIRD FLOOR,
NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
3 PIK FUNG ROAD,
FANLING,
NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE DRAFT PLAN MAY SEND IN WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING ON OR BEFORE JULY 13.

THE DRAFT PLAN IS ALSO ON SALE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, AND KOWLOON MAP SALES OFFICE, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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LORRY LOADING AREA PROPOSED FOR TUEN MUN

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES BUILDING A LORRY LOADING AND UNLOADING AREA IN HO PONG STREET, TUEN MUN.

ASSOCIATED DRAINS AND FOOTWAYS WILL ALSO BE BUILT.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

A NOTICE GIVING DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN DURING OFFICE HOURS AT:

- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG; AND
- * TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, BOTH AT TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE JULY 12, DESCRIBING HIS INTEREST AND MANNER IN WHICH HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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CLOSURE OF MONG KOK ILLEGAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN A BUILDING IN MONG KOK SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO OTHER OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES USED FOR DWELLING PURPOSES ARE ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING IN 81-83 SAI YEE STREET.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION APPLYING FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON SEPTEMBER 30 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	<u>\$ MILLION</u>	<u>TIME (HOURS)</u>	<u>CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)</u>
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,346	0930	+ 1140
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,882	1000	+ 1250
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+ 1300
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+1,296	1200	+ 1297
LAF TODAY	+ 240	1500	+ 1297
		1600	+ 1296
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 125.1	*+0.1*	13.5.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.00	19 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.41	6.04
1 MONTH	3.63	22 MONTHS	2602	4.40	97.03	6.30
3 MONTHS	4.28	30 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.41	6.82
6 MONTHS	4.94	33 MONTHS	3701	4.60	94.50	6.97
12 MONTHS	5.41	36 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.77	7.12

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 44,778 MN

CLOSED 13 MAY 1994

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