



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

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TRADE DEPT WELCOMES DECISION TO TERMINATE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) IT HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HAD TERMINATED THE ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING AGAINST RE-EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN ORES AND CONCENTRATES OF CHINESE ORIGIN FROM HONG KONG INTO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC).

THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR STUART HARBINSON, SAID THAT, AS IN THE SILICON METAL CASE WHICH WAS TERMINATED LAST WEEK, HONG KONG WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE PROCEEDING BECAUSE THE INVESTIGATION HAD SHOWN THAT THERE WAS NO EXPORT OF TUNGSTEN ORES AND CONCENTRATES ORIGINATING IN HONG KONG TO THE EEC.

"WE WELCOME THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO EXCLUDE HONG KONG FROM THE PROCEEDINGS," MR HARBINSON SAID.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN HONG KONG'S VIEW THAT NO ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING SHOULD BE INITIATED IN RESPECT OF A COUNTRY OR TERRITORY THROUGH WHICH THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION ARE MERELY TRANS-SHIPED," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THIS IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN THE POINT.

"TO PUT THE ISSUE BEYOND DOUBT FOR THE FUTURE, WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED, AS ONE OF HONG KONG'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GATT ANTI-DUMPING CODE, THAT THIS PRINCIPLE BE EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE CODE," MR HARBINSON EXPLAINED.

FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THE SILICON METAL AND TUNGSTEN ORES CASES, THERE WAS NOW NO OUTSTANDING ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDING CONCERNING HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, WE ARE STILL AWAITING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS IN RESPECT OF THE EEC ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF PHOTO ALBUMS, AUDIO TAPES, SMALL SCREEN COLOUR TELEVISION RECEIVERS AND DENIM CLOTH," MR HARBINSON SAID.

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DIRECTION OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NOT AFFECTED BY 1997

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THE DIRECTION OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY 1997, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY THE JAPANESE, WERE TAKING A LONG-TERM VIEW AND VALUED THE TERRITORY FOR ITS ACCESS TO THE CHINA MARKET.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR BARMA SAID LOCAL MANUFACTURERS HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO IGNORE THE BORDER WITH CHINA, AND HAD SHOWN THAT THEY COULD OPERATE OUT OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE AND STILL MAKE HANDSOME PROFITS.

"THE SYNERGY OF HONG KONG AND THE PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION IS A FACT ALREADY, AND 1997 WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO IT," HE SAID.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE 1990S WOULD BE YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

MR BARMA EXPECTED ALL THE TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES TO BE FLOURISHING 10 YEARS FROM NOW.

"ELECTRONICS WILL PROBABLY BE AN EVEN MORE IMPORTANT INDUSTRY THAN IT IS NOW. NEW INDUSTRY SECTORS, SUCH AS BIOTECHNOLOGY, MAY WELL EMERGE.

"OUR 'SWEATSHOP' IMAGE, ALWAYS EXAGGERATED, WILL HAVE GONE FOR EVER. OUR FACTORIES WILL BE CLEAN, SAFETY STANDARDS WILL BE HIGH, AND OUR PRODUCTS WILL HAVE ESTABLISHED AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR QUALITY."

MR BARMA HOWEVER CAUTIONED THAT HONG KONG HAD ALWAYS BEEN VULNERABLE TO EVENTS OUTSIDE ITS CONTROL.

"THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE SURPRISES IN STORE, BUT THE FLEXIBLE STRUCTURE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ENABLES US TO RESPOND WITH ENVIABLE SPEED TO CHANGING CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID CHINA'S TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EXPAND, AND HONG KONG'S SERVICE SECTOR WOULD CONTINUE TO FLOURISH AS A RESULT.

"HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURERS THEREFORE WILL CONTINUE TO FACE COMPETITION FROM THE SERVICE SECTOR FOR MANPOWER.

"THE PRESENT SLOW DRIFT OF EMPLOYMENT FROM MANUFACTURING INTO SERVICES WILL THEREFORE PROBABLY CONTINUE, BUT I WOULD EXPECT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE 1990S TO ATTRACT ITS FAIR SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO REMAIN BOTH A MAJOR EMPLOYER AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE ECONOMY," HE SAID.

/MR BARMA .....

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MR BARMA SAID HONG KONG MUST RETAIN A BALANCED AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY, AND THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WOULD CONTINUE TO EMPLOY SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

HE ALSO SAID AUTOMATION WOULD BE ONE PART OF THE UPGRADING PROCESS, BUT SUCCESS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE MANUFACTURERS TO ADOPT A PHILOSOPHY DIRECTED AT THE CONSUMER'S REQUIREMENTS.

"QUALITY, FLEXIBILITY, RESPONSIVENESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE WILL BE EQUALLY IMPORTANT," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING WOULD BE ASSISTED BY INCREASING OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MR BARMA SAID HE WOULD EXPECT THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WEST GERMANY TO BE MAJOR SOURCES OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

"AT ITS CURRENT RATE OF INVESTMENT, JAPAN MAY WELL BE OUR LARGEST OVERSEAS INVESTOR BY THE YEAR 2000," HE SAID.

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SALE OF EXCHANGE FUND'S REMAINING SHARES IN HK TELECOM  
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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DAVID NENDICK, ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS TODAY (TUESDAY) AGREED TO SELL THE WHOLE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND'S REMAINING SHAREHOLDING IN HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED ("HK TELECOM"), AMOUNTING TO 377,544,752 SHARES REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY 3.4 PER CENT OF THE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF HK TELECOM, TO SMITH NEW COURT SECURITIES PLC, A LEADING UK SECURITIES HOUSE, FOR A TOTAL CONSIDERATION OF APPROXIMATELY HK\$1.85 BILLION.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THIS TRANSACTION, THE EXCHANGE FUND WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY EQUITY INTERESTS IN HK TELECOM.

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EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MARKET REGULATION SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED  
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ON THE ADVICE OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF ALL THE 14 MARKET MAKERS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS HAS FORMED A MARKET REGULATION SUB-COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND GIVE ADVICE ON SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR THE MARKET IN EXCHANGE FUND BILLS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR JOSEPH YAM, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THE SUB-COMMITTEE COMPRISES FOUR MARKET MAKERS AND FOUR RECOGNISED DEALERS.

"IT WAS THE ADVICE OF THE MARKET COMMITTEE THAT AS RECOGNISED DEALERS ALSO HAVE A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE MARKET, THEY SHOULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAKING OF MARKET REGULATIONS," HE SAID.

THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE MARKET REGULATION SUB-COMMITTEE ARE:

MARKET MAKERS:  
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- THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED;
- IBJ ASIA LIMITED;
- MANUFACTURERS HANOVER ASIA LIMITED; AND
- SCHRODERS ASIA LIMITED.

RECOGNISED DEALERS:  
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- BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS;
- BARCLAYS BANK PLC;
- SANWA INTERNATIONAL FINANCE LIMITED; AND
- WESTPAC FINANCE ASIA LIMITED.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR YAM AND WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

COMMENTING ON THE ROLE INTENDED FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE, MR YAM SAID THE EXCHANGE FUND BILLS MARKET WAS A PROFESSIONAL MARKET AND IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF REGULATION.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AS AND WHEN THERE WAS A NEED TO DO SO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WOULD BE PUT TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS FOR DECISION, IF NECESSARY, THROUGH THE MARKET COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY PUBLISHED

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY COMPARED WITH JANUARY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

BUT REFLECTING THE DECLINE IN CASH HOLDING AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY, PARTICULARLY THE NARROWEST DEFINITION, DECREASED DURING FEBRUARY. TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES INCREASED DURING THE MONTH.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1990, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.6 PER CENT AND 0.3 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1989 AND JANUARY 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEMAND AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 1.9 PER CENT AND 3.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING FEBRUARY, WHILE TIME DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.9 PER CENT.

DURING THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 12.7 PER CENT, BROADLY IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 2.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1990, AFTER INCREASES OF 2.5 PER CENT AND 3.9 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1989 AND JANUARY 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 0.6 PER CENT WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 5.5 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 26.9 PER CENT.

DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS ROSE BY 1.8 PER CENT AND 4.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY AND BY 21.5 PER CENT AND 29.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE YEAR.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 0.6 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY AND BY 12.7 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE REFLECTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

/MONEY SUPPLY .....

## MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 (ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS) FELL BY 7.8 PER CENT, 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY. THESE DECLINES (PARTICULARLY FOR HK\$M1) WERE RELATED TO THE DECREASE IN CASH HOLDING AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

IN JANUARY, THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 WERE 8.0 PER CENT, 1.8 PER CENT AND 1.7 PER CENT.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 2.4 PER CENT, 14.0 PER CENT AND 12.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 DECLINED BY 6.9 PER CENT DURING FEBRUARY WHILE TOTAL M2 AND M3 EACH GREW BY 1.1 PER CENT. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN JANUARY WERE 9.2 PER CENT, 3.3 PER CENT AND 2.8 PER CENT.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 3.5 PER CENT, 20.9 PER CENT AND 19.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

## LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 7.0 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1990, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 6.0 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 1989 AND A DECLINE OF 0.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1990.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 1.6 PER CENT DURING FEBRUARY WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES INCREASED BY 11.1 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG ROSE BY 1.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND A DECLINE OF 0.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 12.5 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 1.1 PER CENT AND 2.5 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 23.9 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 17.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 8.1 PER CENT IN DECEMBER AND A DECLINE OF 3.9 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 42.0 PER CENT.

/LOANS TO .....

LOANS TO FINANCE MERCHANDISING TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG FELL BY 0.1 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY, AFTER A ZERO GROWTH IN DECEMBER AND A DECLINE OF 22.0 PER CENT IN JANUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS DECLINED BY 31.2 PER CENT. IN TERMS OF RELATIVE SHARE, HOWEVER, THESE LOANS ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF TOTAL LOANS.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS  
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THE NUMBERS OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 165 AND 37 RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) DECREASED BY ONE TO 199.

NOTE:  
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- (1) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1990, "RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS" AND "DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" WERE KNOWN AS "LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" AND "REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" RESPECTIVELY.
- (2) IN THE TEXT ABOVE, TOTAL HK\$ DEPOSITS, HK\$ TIME DEPOSITS, HK\$m2 AND HK\$m3 HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS. ON THE OTHER HAND, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS AND U.S.\$ DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS.

"SWAP DEPOSITS" ARE DEPOSITS INVOLVING CUSTOMERS BUYING FOREIGN CURRENCIES (MOSTLY U.S. DOLLARS) IN THE SPOT MARKET AND PLACING THEM AS DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL SUCH FOREIGN CURRENCIES (PRINCIPAL PLUS INTEREST) FORWARD IN LINE WITH THE MATURITY OF SUCH DEPOSITS. FOR MOST ANALYTICAL PURPOSES, THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

MONETARY STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 1990

(HK\$mn)

	Feb 1990	Earlier months (% change to February 1990)		
		Jan 1990	Nov 1989	Feb 1989
<b>Money Supply</b>				
M1 - HK\$	84,842	92,014 (-7.8 %)	85,661 (-1.0 %)	82,844 (2.4 %)
Foreign currency	11,598	11,554 (0.4 %)	8,894 (30.4 %)	10,331 (12.3 %)
Total	96,441	103,568 (-6.9 %)	94,554 (2.0 %)	93,175 (3.5 %)
M2 - HK\$*	471,636	475,354 (-0.8 %)	457,017 (3.2 %)	413,571 (14.0 %)
Foreign currency*	560,272	545,818 (2.6 %)	509,022 (10.1 %)	440,237 (27.3 %)
Total	1,031,908	1,021,172 (1.1 %)	966,039 (6.8 %)	853,807 (20.9 %)
M3 - HK\$*	502,477	505,900 (-0.7 %)	488,230 (2.9 %)	447,803 (12.2 %)
Foreign currency*	600,156	584,484 (2.7 %)	549,183 (9.3 %)	473,764 (26.7 %)
Total	1,102,633	1,090,384 (1.1 %)	1,037,413 (6.3 %)	921,567 (19.6 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	40,537	48,563 (-16.5 %)	36,542 (10.9 %)	36,415 (11.3 %)
of which held by public	35,598	41,811 (-14.9 %)	31,974 (11.3 %)	31,757 (12.1 %)
<b>Total Deposits</b>				
Total Demand deposits	60,843	61,757 (-1.5 %)	62,580 (-2.8 %)	61,418 (-0.9 %)
Total Savings deposits	192,478	194,819 (-1.1 %)	183,354 (5.0 %)	170,136 (13.1 %)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	726,387	706,270 (2.8 %)	671,205 (8.2 %)	574,512 (26.4 %)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	36,871	35,242 (4.6 %)	37,402 (-1.4 %)	28,562 (29.1 %)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	32,419	32,626 (-0.6 %)	32,562 (-0.4 %)	37,129 (-12.7 %)
HK\$ deposits*	454,845	451,930 (0.6 %)	443,662 (2.5 %)	403,490 (12.7 %)
US\$ deposits*	261,143	262,812 (-0.6 %)	250,874 (4.1 %)	222,982 (17.1 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	333,209	315,771 (5.5 %)	292,567 (13.9 %)	245,285 (35.8 %)
All deposits	1,048,997	1,030,512 (1.8 %)	987,103 (6.3 %)	871,758 (20.3 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	61,734	63,033 (-2.1 %)	61,488 (0.4 %)	47,751 (29.3 %)
<b>Total Loans and advances</b>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	64,089	63,024 (1.7 %)	63,215 (1.4 %)	56,955 (12.5 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	8,126	8,134 (-0.1 %)	10,425 (-22.1 %)	11,816 (-31.2 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	606,886	599,267 (1.3 %)	577,988 (5.0 %)	489,677 (23.9 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	569,594	485,628 (17.3 %)	467,631 (21.8 %)	401,220 (42.0 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	101,382	105,411 (-3.8 %)	80,205 (26.4 %)	76,202 (33.0 %)
Loans in HK\$	547,319	538,757 (1.6 %)	518,205 (5.6 %)	436,541 (25.4 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	802,758	722,708 (11.1 %)	681,257 (17.8 %)	599,329 (33.9 %)
Total loans and advances	1,350,077	1,261,465 (7.0 %)	1,199,462 (12.6 %)	1,035,870 (30.3 %)

\* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

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SUPPLY OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT PARTICULARS TO PRIVATE SECTOR  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTER OF AROUND 350,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG TO SERVE MAINLY AS THE SAMPLING FRAME FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC SURVEYS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO MAKE USE OF THE REGISTER FOR PUBLICITY, SURVEY AND RESEARCH WORK.

STARTING FROM DECEMBER 1 LAST YEAR, A SAMPLE LISTING CONTAINING 20 PER CENT OF THE RECORDS RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THE CENTRAL REGISTER HAS BEEN CREATED FOR USE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THEIR MARKET RESEARCH, STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND BUSINESS OR PRODUCT PROMOTION.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF A PHOTOCOPY OR A MAGNETIC TAPE OF THE LISTING OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL PARTICULARS SUCH AS THE NAME, ADDRESS, MAJOR TYPE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASS OF INDIVIDUALS ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS 20 PER CENT SAMPLE LISTING CAN BE MADE TO THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED FOR THIS SERVICE, AND THE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) \$3.2 PER PAGE OF PHOTOCOPY; AND
- (B) A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$340 FOR A JOB REQUIRING UP TO 20 CRU'S (COMPUTER RESOURCES UNIT) PLUS \$17 FOR EACH CRU IN EXCESS OF 20 CRU'S, IF THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED ON MAGNETIC TAPES. THE MAGNETIC TAPES ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY APPLICANTS.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION ON TEL. 823 4760.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES  
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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY (MONDAY) CONTAINS A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 8.04 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 7.08 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

/INTEREST ON .....

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.67 PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 4.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE APRIL 4 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS -

4.32 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 11, 1988 AND BEFORE JUNE 16, 1988;
4.80 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 16, 1988 AND BEFORE JUNE 29, 1988;
5.28 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 29, 1988 AND BEFORE JULY 27, 1988;
5.76 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 27, 1988 AND BEFORE AUGUST 17, 1988;
6.36 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 17, 1988 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 7, 1988;
6.84 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 7, 1988 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 1989;
7.32 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 15, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 8, 1989;
7.80 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 8, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 22, 1989;
8.28 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JUNE 22, 1989;
7.80 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 22, 1989 AND BEFORE JULY 12, 1989;
7.32 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 12, 1989 AND BEFORE AUGUST 9, 1989;
6.84 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 9, 1989 AND BEFORE MARCH 7, 1990 AND
7.08 PER CENT	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 7, 1990 AND BEFORE APRIL 4, 1990.

/BUT ALWAYS .....

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON APRIL 4, 1990, MAY 4, 1990 AND JUNE 4, 1990 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JULY 3, 1990 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

ON \$1,000, APRIL 4, 1990 TO JULY 3, 1990 3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$6.70 PER MONTH	= \$20.10
ON \$1,000, MAY 4, 1990 TO JULY 3, 1990 2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$6.70 PER MONTH	= \$13.40
ON \$1,000, JUNE 4, 1990 TO JULY 3, 1990 1 COMPLETE MONTH AT \$6.70 PER MONTH	= \$ 6.70
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	\$40.20
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#### LAW CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ON SALE OF GOODS AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES AIMED AT GIVING CONSUMERS BETTER PROTECTION.

THE COMMISSION PUBLISHED A REPORT ON THE SUBJECT TODAY (TUESDAY).

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON SALE OF GOODS AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES, MISS CHRISTINE LOH, SAID THE REPORT WAS THE RESULT OF TWO YEARS' WORK BY THE COMMISSION AND A SUB-COMMITTEE OF LAWYERS, CONSUMER ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES AND BUSINESSMEN.

MISS LOH POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE REPORT WAS CONCERNED WITH A RELATIVELY SMALL PART OF THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSION WAS NEVERTHELESS RECOMMENDING IMPORTANT CHANGES IN LAW THAT WOULD GO SOME WAY IN IMPROVING THE POSITION OF CONSUMERS IN HONG KONG.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION TO CONTROL "HARSH AND UNCONSCIONABLE" TERMS FOR CONSUMER SALE OF GOODS AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES CONTRACTS.

A DEFINITION OF "HARSH AND UNCONSCIONABLE" HAD NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED BUT A LIST OF FACTORS TO WHICH A COURT SHOULD HAVE REGARD IN CONSIDERING WHETHER THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT WERE SUCH HAD BEEN PROPOSED.

MISS LOH POINTED OUT THAT THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION IS MEANT TO CONTROL EXTREME CASES OF UNFAIRNESS. THE COMMISSION HOPED THAT IF THERE WAS SUCH LEGISLATION IN PLACE THAT IT WOULD HAVE SOME RESTRAINING EFFECT ON CORPORATIONS WHEN THEY DRAFTED THEIR SALES CONTRACTS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS A BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF THE CORPORATIONS AND THAT OF CONSUMERS.

THE COMMISSION HAD NOT RECOMMENDED SIMILAR LEGISLATIVE CONTROL FOR COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS BECAUSE IT MAINTAINED THE VIEW THAT BUSINESSMEN WERE BETTER ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THEIR BUSINESS CONTRACTS AND PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.

MISS LOH ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 13(3) OF THE ORDINANCE HAD THE EFFECT THAT IF A BUYER ACCEPTED DEFECTIVE GOODS, HE LOST THE RIGHT TO REJECT THEM AND COULD ONLY RESORT TO CLAIMING DAMAGES.

ONE OF THE SITUATIONS IN WHICH THERE WAS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTANCE PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 37 OF THE ORDINANCE WAS WHEN THE BUYER EXPRESSLY ACCEPTED THE GOODS.

IN RELATION TO EXPRESS ACCEPTANCE, IT IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR A BUYER TO BE ASKED TO SIGN A NOTE ON DELIVERY OF THE GOODS AND BEFORE THE BUYER HAS HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE THE GOODS.

SECTION 36(1) OF THE ORDINANCE STATES THAT A BUYER CANNOT BE DEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED GOODS WHICH HE HAS NOT HAD A REASONABLE CHANCE OF EXAMINING.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THIS SECTION BE AMENDED TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE SIGNING OF AN ACCEPTANCE NOTE WOULD NOT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO REJECT UNLESS HE HAD HAD A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE GOODS.

ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SUPPLIER OF SERVICES, MISS LOH SAID THAT COMMON LAW PRINCIPLES WERE APPLICABLE WITH REGARD TO THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICES, THE TIME FOR PERFORMANCE AND THE CONSIDERATION FOR IT, BUT THERE WAS NO STATUTE IN HONG KONG IN THIS AREA.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT HONG KONG ADOPT LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO THE ENGLISH SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES ACT 1982 WHICH SET OUT THE MAIN COMMON LAW OBLIGATIONS.

THE COMMISSION EXAMINED THE EXISTING OBLIGATION OF A SELLER OF GOODS UNDER THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE TO SUPPLY GOODS "OF MERCHANTABLE QUALITY AND REASONABLY FIT FOR THEIR PURPOSE" IN SECTION 16.

SECTION 16, MISS LOH SAID, WAS ESSENTIALLY A NEGATIVE STATEMENT WITH EXCEPTIONS. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, THE SECTION IN EFFECT SAID THAT EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HERE AND IN OTHER STATUTES, THERE WAS NO IMPLIED TERM AS TO QUALITY.

THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT SECTION 16 BE REDRAFTED IN A POSITIVE FORM TO EMPHASISE THE FACT THAT THERE WAS POSITIVE REQUIREMENT FOR GOODS TO COMPLY WITH THE QUALITY STANDARD.

THE COMMISSION ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEFINITION OF MERCHANTABLE QUALITY IN SECTION 2(5) OF THE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE BETTER CLARIFIED BY INCLUDING ASPECTS OF QUALITY TO WHICH A BUYER IS ENTITLED TO EXPECT.

THE RECOMMENDED INCLUSIONS WERE APPEARANCE AND FINISH OF GOODS, THEIR FREEDOM FROM MINOR DEFECTS, DURABILITY AND SAFETY.

REGARDING REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO A BUYER, MISS LOH SAID THAT THE BUYER HAD THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO REJECT DEFECTIVE GOODS UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND THAT THE COMMISSION WISHED THAT RIGHT TO BE PRESERVED.

THE COMMISSION HAD NOT RECOMMENDED THAT A SELLER BE GIVEN A STATUTORY RIGHT TO CORRECT DEFECTS IN GOODS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS AWARE THAT THE RULE MIGHT BE THOUGHT TOO HARSH TO THE SELLER IF THE DEFECT WAS SMALL AND COULD BE EASILY REMEDIED.

"IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO DEVISE CURE PROVISIONS FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS WHICH ARE SIMPLE TO OPERATE. IN ANY CASE, BUSINESSMEN GENERALLY FIND SOLUTIONS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

"WE ARE UNCONVINCED THAT GIVING THE SELLER A STATUTORY RIGHT TO CURE WOULD HELP BUSINESSMEN IN THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.

"AS FOR CONSUMER PURCHASES, THE GENERAL LEVEL OF CONSUMER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG IS RELATIVELY LOW AND CONSUMER LEGISLATION NOT WELL DEVELOPED.

"THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR SAYING THAT THE LAW SHOULD PROTECT THE CONSUMER WHO IS OFTEN IN A WEAKER BARGAINING POSITION THAN THE SELLER.

"WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE SELLER ANY GROUND FOR ARGUING THAT HE HAS A LEGAL BASIS TO RESIST REJECTION OF DEFECTIVE GOODS," MISS LOH SAID.

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#### RISE IN SMOKING-RELATED DISEASE

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HONG KONG HAS SEEN A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN THE INCIDENCE OF SMOKING-RELATED DISEASES IN RECENT YEARS, WITH 2,361 DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER IN 1988, ACCOUNTING FOR 29 PER CENT OF ALL CANCER.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE 7TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON TOBACCO AND HEALTH IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

/MR SHIPMAN .....

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MR SHIPMAN SAID THE INCREASE HAD PRODUCED A MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION OF 51.4 FOR MALES AND 31.1 FOR FEMALES.

"THE RELATIVELY HIGH AND RISING INCIDENCE OF FEMALE LUNG CANCER DEATHS IS A SURPRISING FEATURE OF HONG KONG'S HEALTH STATISTICS, GIVEN THAT ONLY 2.9 PER CENT OF THE FEMALE POPULATION ARE SMOKERS," HE SAID.

"CORONARY HEART DISEASES ACCOUNTED FOR 2,744 DEATHS IN 1988 GIVING A MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION OF 51 FOR MALES AND 45.4 FOR FEMALES."

TURNING TO SMOKING PATTERNS IN HONG KONG, MR SHIPMAN TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT A RECENT GOVERNMENT SURVEY SHOWED A CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE PROPORTION OF HABITUAL SMOKERS, FROM 23.3 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IN 1982 TO 16.8 PER CENT IN 1988.

"TOTAL CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION FIGURES HAVE ALSO SHOWN A DOWNWARD TREND SINCE 1981," HE SAID.

"THE DECLINE IN TOTAL CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A TREND TOWARDS LOW-TAR BRANDS, SO THAT THE AVERAGE TAR YIELD LAST YEAR WAS 14.8 MILLOGRAMS PER CIGARETTE COMPARED WITH 17.6 IN 1983."

MR SHIPMAN POINTED OUT THAT SMOKING IN HONG KONG WAS OVERWHELMINGLY A MALE HABIT, WITH 30 PER CENT OF THE MALE POPULATION BEING HABITUAL SMOKERS COMPARED WITH UNDER THREE PER CENT FOR FEMALES.

"SMOKING AMONG MALES IS SPREAD THROUGH ALL AGE GROUPS, WHEREAS FOR FEMALES IT IS CONCENTRATED AMONG THE OLDER POPULATION," HE SAID.

"WHILE LESS THAN TWO PER CENT OF WOMEN UNDER 30 SMOKE, THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE SMOKING HABIT AMONG TEENAGE GIRLS."

MR SHIPMAN TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT THE EVOLUTION OF POLICY IN HONG KONG HAD, BY AND LARGE, REFLECTED THE OVERALL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SMOKING CONTROLS AT A PARTICULAR TIME.

"THIS APPROACH MAKES SENSE IN THE HONG KONG CONTEXT IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO CONSULTATION AND CONSENSUS," HE SAID.

"THUS IN THE MID-70'S WHEN SMOKING WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED LOW-KEY PERSUASIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES.

"THESE WERE REPLACED IN 1982, WHEN THE COMMUNITY WAS MORE ALIVE TO THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOKING, BY LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS TO ESTABLISH AND ENCOURAGE NO-SMOKING AREAS.

"THROUGHOUT THE 1980'S, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGNS IN MAKING THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE EVIDENCE ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS OF SMOKING, THERE DEVELOPED MORE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NO-SMOKING AREAS IN ENCLOSED PLACES."

/MR SHIPMAN .....

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MR SHIPMAN SAID THAT ONLY RECENTLY, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A NEW PACKAGE OF ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES WHICH WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THESE INCLUDE BANNING SMOKING IN ALL FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND VIDEO-GAMES CENTRES, HE SAID.

TOBACCO ADVERTISING WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO NEW REQUIREMENTS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SMOKING ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, HE ADDED.

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EXCO APPROVES TWO ADDITIONAL RACE MEETINGS

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) GAVE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO RUN TWO ADDITIONAL RACE MEETINGS WITH AN OPTION FOR A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN JUNE 16 AND 30 THIS YEAR.

THE ADDITIONAL FIXTURES WILL NOT EXCEED THE ANNUAL QUOTA OF 70 RACE MEETINGS APPROVED FOR THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

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13 QUESTIONS, 6 BILLS AND MEMBER'S MOTION IN LEGCO TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 13 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

SECOND READING DEBATES ON THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL 1990 WILL RESUME. WHEN COMPLETED, THE BILLS WILL GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READINGS.

/A MEMBER'S .....

A MEMBER'S MOTION ON THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IS ON THE AGENDA FOR DEBATE.

MOVED BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, THE MOTION READS: "IN LIGHT OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE HKSAR BASIC LAW BY THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, THIS COUNCIL URGES THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG; TO HELP HONG KONG THROUGH MUTUAL AND SINCERE CO-OPERATION, TO SURMOUNT ITS PROBLEMS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER 1997; AND TO AMEND, AT A SUITABLE TIME, THE RELEVANT CLAUSES OF THE BASIC LAW ACCORDING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE OMELCO 'COMMENTS ON THE BASIC LAW (DRAFT)' SO AS TO FURTHER MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY."

IN ADDITION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL PRESENT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 1989, WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL SPEAK ON THE REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON MRS ELIZABETH WONG, WILL CHAIR A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO EXPLAIN FURTHER THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY'S REPORT WHICH WILL BE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 PM IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

COPIES OF THE REPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR READING AT 3 PM.

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KWAI TSING DB ALLOCATES FUNDS TO SIX COMMITTEES

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD HAS APPORTIONED MORE THAN \$5 MILLION TODAY (TUESDAY) TO ITS SIX COMMITTEES TO FUND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE 1990-91 FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE RECEIVED THE LARGEST SHARE OF \$1.78 MILLION FOR ORGANISING THE DISTRICT ARTS AND SPORTS FESTIVALS, AREA DAYS AND FOR MAKING GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF RELATED ACTIVITIES.

THE NEWLY SET UP HOUSING AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS GIVEN \$260,000 FOR CONDUCTING STUDIES ON PUBLIC HOUSING POLICIES AND ON MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, AS WELL AS FOR MAKING GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE OTHER FOUR COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING, COMMUNITY, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLICITY, AND TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT WERE ALLOCATED \$910,000, \$860,000, \$850,000 AND \$400,000 RESPECTIVELY.

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN KWAI TSING ARE BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR ORGANISING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND CONDUCTING SURVEYS AND STUDIES.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TO HOLD ACTIVITIES BETWEEN AUGUST AND NOVEMBER THIS YEAR SHOULD REACH THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, ITS SUB-OFFICES OR THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT BEFORE JUNE 1.

APPLICATIONS FOR HOLDING ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER THIS YEAR TO MARCH NEXT YEAR MAY BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 1.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE ABOVE OFFICES. THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS THE FINAL RIGHT IN APPROVING AN APPLICATION.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO ELECTED THE CHAIRMEN FOR THE SIX DISTRICT BOARD COMMITTEES FOR THE 1990-91 TERM.

THEY ARE MR SIN CHUNG-KAI FOR THE CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE; MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE; MR KWONG FU-SAM FOR THE COMMUNITY, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; MR TING YIN-WAH FOR THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE; AND MR CHOW YICK-HAY FOR THE HOUSING AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LEE WING-TAT, WILL REMAIN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

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ACAF MEMBERS VISIT TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE

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MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (ACAF) THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING VISITED THE TA KWU LING PIG BREEDING CENTRE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TO SEE EXPERIMENTS ON VARIOUS LIVESTOCK WASTE TREATMENT METHODS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION AT THE FORTHCOMING ACAF MEETING ON APRIL 9 (MONDAY) IN RELATION TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, WHICH IS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS' ABILITY TO COMPLY WITH WASTE CONTROL REQUIREMENTS.

/ACCOMPANIED BY .....

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ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACAF CHAIRMAN, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DR LAWRENCE LEE, AND OTHER AFD OFFICERS, THE PARTY FIRST INSPECTED THE PIG-ON-LITTER SYSTEM WHICH EMPLOYS A SPECIAL BEDDING MATERIAL IN THE PIG SHED COMPRISING SAWDUST AND BACTERIAL PRODUCTS TO DECOMPOSE PIG MANURE IN-SITU AS AND WHEN THEY ARE PRODUCED.

MEMBERS LEARNED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN EXPERIMENTING THE SYSTEM SINCE JUNE 1987 AND HAD RAISED SOME 1,400 PIGS ON IT. CONSISTENTLY GOOD RESULTS WERE OBTAINED.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, NO EFFLUENT IS DISCHARGED OUT OF THE FARM AND BECAUSE OF THE RAPID AND COMPLETE DECOMPOSITION OF THE WASTES, THERE IS NO OFFENSIVE SMELL COMING FROM THE PIGSTIES.

MOREOVER, THE SAWDUST BEDDING IS GOOD FOR THE HOOVES OF THE ANIMALS WHILE THE SPENT COMPOST IS A GOOD SOIL CONDITIONER FOR CROP CULTIVATION.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO SEE TRIALS UNDERTAKEN BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AT THE CENTRE ON THE DRY MUCK-OUT AND THE WET MUCK-OUT SYSTEMS.

THE DRY MUCK-OUT METHOD INVOLVES THE PHYSICAL REMOVAL OF AS MUCH SOLID WASTES FROM THE FARM AS POSSIBLE FOR DELIVERY TO PUBLIC COLLECTION POINTS FOR ULTIMATE DISPOSAL. THE FLOOR OF THE PENS IS WASHED WITH MINIMAL AMOUNT OF WATER, WHICH IS THEN CHANNELLED TO A SOAKAWAY PIT AND DISPOSED OF THROUGH SOIL PERCOLATION.

UNDER THE WET MUCK-OUT METHOD, ANIMAL WASTES ARE HOSED DOWN AND CONVEYED TO A TREATMENT SYSTEM WHERE THE SOLIDS ARE PARTIALLY SEPARATED BY PHYSICAL MEANS, LEAVING THE FLUID PART TO UNDERGO BIOCHEMICAL DECOMPOSITION IN AN AERATION TANK.

THE LIQUID FRACTION IS THEN DISCHARGED INTO WATERCOURSES WHILE THE SEPARATED SOLIDS AND SLUDGE ACCUMULATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TANKS HAVE TO BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF THROUGH THE PUBLIC COLLECTION POINTS.

MEMBERS TAKING PART IN THE VISIT TODAY WERE THE HON ANDREW WONG, DR STAN CHEUNG, MR LEUNG CHIK, MR YUNG TIN-TACK, MR SO MOON-CHEUNG AND MR HO TAK-YAU.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

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HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS OF MARINE DEPT OFFICES

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SEVERAL OFFICES OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL (THURSDAY) AND EASTER HOLIDAYS (APRIL 13 TO 16), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY. (TUESDAY).

THESE OFFICES ARE:

- \* THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL (CENTRAL) WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY;
- \* THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL (TSIM SHA TSUI) WHICH WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM DAILY;
- \* THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AT WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, WESTERN DISTRICT, RAMBLER CHANNEL, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, SHEUNG WAN, CHA KWO LING AND THE PUBLIC WATERFRONTS AT YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON BAY AND TUEN MUN, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR NORMAL OPERATION FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM;
- \* THE VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY;
- \* THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE AT ROOM 314, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON APRIL 13 AND 15 FOR ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE ONLY; AND
- \* THE PORT FORMALITIES AND DANGEROUS GOODS OFFICE AT ROOM 318, HARBOUR BUILDING WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON APRIL 13 AND 15.

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YOUTH GROUPS INVITED TO APPLY FOR PROJECT GRANTS

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YOUTH GROUPS ARE REMINDED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE "OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME" (OYS) OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANNED PROJECTS.

THE PROJECTS SHOULD BE INNOVATIVE AND HAVE MEANINGFUL CONTENT. THEY MAY BE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, RURAL AREA AND DEPRIVED AREA SERVICE, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS, REHABILITATION SERVICE, SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY, OR COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

EACH OF THE APPROVED PROJECTS WILL BE GRANTED A SUBSIDY OF UP TO \$5,000.

/THE OYS .....

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

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THE OYS THIS YEAR EMPHASISES THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND THE PROMOTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.

YOUTH GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLAN PROJECTS RELATING TO SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FAMILY AND SOCIETY, FAMILIES WITH PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY DISABLED PERSONS, THE MISSION OF YOUTH IN THE 90'S OR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN LACKING CARE.

YOUTH GROUPS WISHING TO APPLY FOR GRANTS MAY SUBMIT THEIR PROJECT PROPOSALS THROUGH THE SOCIAL WORK OFFICER (YOUTH) OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BY APRIL 30.

EACH PARTICIPATING GROUP SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN 13 AND 25, AND SHOULD BE SPONSORED BY A SCHOOL, YOUTH AGENCY, OR AN INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL ORGANISATION.

HOWEVER, GROUPS WITHOUT SPONSORS MAY ALSO APPLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SWO (YOUTH) OF THEIR DISTRICT.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECTS, EACH DISTRICT WILL SELECT A MOST OUTSTANDING PROJECT, WHICH WILL OBTAIN A DISTRICT BEST OYS AWARD, TO COMPETE FOR THE HONG KONG BEST OYS AWARD.

THE ENTRIES BE WOULD ASSESSED ON THE EXTENT OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT, THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS, OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES AND INNOVATION.

THE OYS WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974 TO PROMOTE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE, ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND HELP TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL HELP.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEME AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE VARIOUS YOUTH OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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WINNERS PICKED FOR BEST COUNTRYSIDE TREE CONTEST  
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THE CLIMAX ACTIVITY TO THE 1989 CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME -- THE BEST COUNTRYSIDE TREE COMPETITION -- HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITH A TOTAL OF 42 ENTRIES RECEIVED.

THE ADJUDICATORS OF THE COMPETITION TODAY (TUESDAY) SPENT THE AFTERNOON SELECTING THE WINNING ENTRIES FOR THE 10 TOP PRIZES OF THE COMPETITION.

/THE ENTRY .....

THE ENTRY BY MISS LAM SUK-LING WAS SELECTED THE BEST COUNTRYSIDE TREE. THE FIRST AND SECOND RUNNERS-UP WENT TO MR YIP KUNG-WAH AND MR TSUI YING-TAK. WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION WILL BE INFORMED IN WRITING.

THE CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION ARE BASED ON THE SPECIES, SIZE, HEALTH AND FORM OF THE TREES.

TODAY'S ADJUDICATION WAS CONDUCTED IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) BY A PANEL OF JUDGES COMPRISING COUNTRY PARKS BOARD MEMBERS, DR JIM CHI-YUNG AND DR JOHN HODGKISS; AFD'S ECOLOGIST, MR ANTHONY LEUNG, AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG HARBOUR, MR CHARLES WONG.

ATTRACTIVE PRIZES, INCLUDING A CAMERA SET, CAMPING EQUIPMENT, HIKING EQUIPMENT AND SPORTING GOODS GIFT COUPONS, WHICH ARE SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB, HONG KONG HARBOUR, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS.

THE COMPETITION IS ORGANISED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, AFD, WITH THE AIM OF ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC TO KNOW MORE ABOUT TREES AND BRINGING THEM TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THIS NATURAL ASSET OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON SALE FROM TOMORROW  
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THE POPULAR ANNUAL REPORT, HONG KONG 1990, COMES OUT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SPORTING A BRIGHT NEW-LOOK COVER AND A REFRESHING CHANGE IN THE FORMAT OF THE INSIDE PAGES, HONG KONG'S ONE AND ONLY OFFICIAL YEARBOOK REPRESENTS OUTSTANDING VALUE-FOR-MONEY AT \$45 A COPY. IT WILL BE WELCOMED BY STUDENTS, WRITERS AND PEOPLE IN BUSINESS AS THE DEFINITIVE REFERENCE BOOK ON HONG KONG.

COMBINING 360 PAGES OF INFORMATION, 60 PAGES OF STATISTICS AND 10 SECTIONS OF COLOUR PICTURES, THE REPORT RECORDS THE HONG KONG SCENE IN 1989 -- AN EVENTFUL YEAR IN THE TERRITORY'S HISTORY.

THE REVIEW CHAPTER, A VISION OF THE FUTURE, SETS OUT THE FORWARD-LOOKING MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IT EXAMINES HONG KONG'S SITUATION TODAY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. THESE INCLUDE THE FAR-REACHING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE PORT FACILITIES.

/VITAL STATISTICS .....

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VITAL STATISTICS OF THE PORT AND AIRPORT PROJECTS ARE ATTRACTIVELY ILLUSTRATED IN A COLOURFUL, EASY-TO-READ END-PAPER MAP.

AND THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS, INTRODUCED LAST YEAR, AGAIN PROVIDES A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE MAJOR LANDMARKS OF 1989.

THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION ON HONG KONG, COMPLEMENTED BY NUMEROUS COLOUR PRESENTATIONS ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ITS LIFE AND EVENTS, MAKES THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT A CONSISTENT BESTSELLER.

HONG KONG 1990, PUBLISHED IN SEPARATE ENGLISH AND CHINESE EDITIONS, IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT DISTRICT OFFICES AND LEADING BOOKSTORES.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN SAI YING PUN TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN SAI YING PUN SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPANTS AND TO THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURE IS ERECTED ON THE FLAT ROOF ADJACENT TO FLAT A, FIRST FLOOR, FUNG SING MANSION, 129-133 THIRD STREET.

THE CLOSURE FORMS PART OF AN EXERCISE TO ENFORCE AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR REQUIRING THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JULY 3 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE TODAY (TUESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WILL START IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSURE ORDER IS OBTAINED.

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REFUSE COLLECTION POINT FOR TSUEN WAN

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT IN TSUEN WAN.

SITUATED AT LUEN YAN STREET, THE SINGLE-STOREY REFUSE COLLECTION POINT WILL CONSIST OF A STORE ROOM, A STAFF TOILET, A PUMP ROOM AND AN OFFICE.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 20.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT AT KCR KOWLOON STATION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC FLOW DURING THE EASTER AND CHING MING HOLIDAYS, THE BAN ZONE FOR TAXIS OFF CHEONG WAN ROAD ON KCR KOWLOON STATION PODIUM WILL BE TEMPORARILY LIFTED FROM 7 AM TO 3 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 5) AND AGAIN ON APRIL 7 AND 8, AND FOR FIVE DAYS STARTING APRIL 12.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE SECTION OF VICTORIA ROAD BETWEEN BISNEY ROAD AND CONSORT RISE WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE FOR ACCESS FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 5) IN CONNECTION WITH CHING MING FESTIVAL.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE BISNEY ROAD AND CONSORT RISE.

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN YUEN LONG FOR CHING MING FESTIVAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 7 AM TO 10 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 5), THE NORTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD FROM TAI KEI LENG TO TAI SHU HA WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND AND THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, N.T. GREEN MINIBUS SERVICE ROUTE NO. 73 WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA THE SOUTHERN NULLAH-BUND ROAD ON ITS JOURNEY TO YUEN LONG TOWN.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AIRPORT WEST FLYOVER

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF THE ROLLER GRILL OF THE DROP ARM BARRIER, THE AIRPORT WEST FLYOVER LINKING THE WESTERN END OF THE DEPARTURE CIRCUIT IN THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WITH PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST (EASTBOUND) WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED, FROM 12 MIDNIGHT TO 5.30 AM FOR THREE DAYS STARTING THURSDAY (APRIL 5).

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