



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1994

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NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION APPOINTMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR ANDREW LI KWOK-NANG CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) FOR TWO YEARS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR LI, THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, IS A BARRISTER AND AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER.

WITH AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, HE IS SEEN AS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE TO LEAD THE LDC.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, HAS WRITTEN TO THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, MR STEVEN POON KWOK-LIM, EXPRESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE FOR HIS ENERGETIC AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LDC OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

THE GOVERNOR HAS REAPPOINTED MR SIMON KWAN SIN-MING, MR AMBROSE LAU HON-CHUEN, MR LAU WAH-SUM, MR LEUNG CHUN-YING, MR PAO PING-WING, MR DAVID WONG SHOU-YEH AND MR J C SHAW TO THE BOARD FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS IN A MOVE SEEN AS PROVIDING CONTINUITY IN THE BOARD.

THE DIRECTORS OF PLANNING AND LANDS AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARY, HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, ARE ALSO REAPPOINTED.

TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THEY ARE THE DIRECTOR OF THE SAINT JAMES' SETTLEMENT, MR MICHAEL LAI KAM-CHEUNG, AND A BUILDING SURVEYOR, MR DAVID LEE TSUNG-HEI.

MR LAI'S APPOINTMENT WILL BRING TO THE LDC VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN CONSIDERING THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ITS WORK.

HE HAS ALREADY WORKED WITH THE LDC IN SETTING UP CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN TWO LDC PROJECTS AND IS THUS FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATIONS OF THE CORPORATION.

MR LEE, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSING SOCIETY, IS A SURVEYOR WITH CONSIDERABLE PROJECT EXPERIENCE. HIS EXPERIENCE WILL ALSO BE OF VALUE TO THE LDC IN ITS DELIBERATIONS ON PROJECTS.

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MORE STRINGENT CONTROL ON BUILDER'S LIFT BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE NEED TO CONTROL BUILDER'S LIFTS IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER LIFTS IN DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, SINCE BOTH OF THEM CARRY PASSENGERS.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A SEMINAR ON PLANT AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

HE SAID THE MATTER WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY HIM.

/FOR CRANES

FOR CRANES AND OTHER HEAVY PLANT, MR BLAKE SAID, STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS, SUCH AS REQUIRING THESE HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO BE EXAMINED BY REGISTERED ENGINEERS AND OPERATED BY QUALIFIED OPERATORS, ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED FOR IMPROVING SITE SAFETY.

CODES OF PRACTICE FOR SAFE OPERATION AND CARE OF LIFTING EQUIPMENT ARE ALSO BEING PREPARED, HE SAID

THE WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO CONSIDER HOW REGULATIONS AND CONTROL OF CONSTRUCTION SITE HEAVY MACHINERY COULD BE TIGHTENED.

IT CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WORKS BRANCH, LABOUR DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE GROUP HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD WHICH REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION.

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DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR TUNG CHUNG GAZETTED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE GAZETTING OF THE DRAFT TUNG CHUNG TOWN CENTRE AREA OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE DRAFT PLAN ILLUSTRATES THE BROAD PLANNING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE RECLAMATION AREA AROUND TUNG CHUNG BAY ON NORTH LANTAU.

THE PLANNING SCHEME AREA EXTENDS FROM KEI TAU TOK ON NORTH LANTAU ISLAND AT THE EAST TO LAU FAU SHA AT THE WEST. IT IS BOUNDED BY THE FUTURE RECLAMATION LIMIT ON THE NORTH AND MOUNTAIN SLOPES ON THE SOUTH.

THE AREA IS SEPARATED FROM THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT ISLAND BY A 200-METRE WIDE SEA CHANNEL. THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY WILL PASS THROUGH THE SEA CHANNEL TO LINK UP THE AREA WITH THE NEW AIRPORT BY BRIDGES.

THE AREA COVERS A TOTAL LAND AREA OF ABOUT 194 HECTARES, 120 HECTARES OF WHICH ARE RECLAIMED LAND. UPON COMPLETION, THE AREA WILL HOUSE ABOUT 55,000 PEOPLE.

IN THE DRAFT OUTLINE ZONING PLAN, ABOUT 50 HECTARES HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA USES; ABOUT 16 HECTARES FOR GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY USE; ABOUT 68 HECTARES FOR OPEN SPACE AND GREEN BELT USES; 58 HECTARES FOR ROADS AND TWO HECTARES FOR OTHER SPECIFIED USES.

THE DRAFT PLAN NO. S/I-TCTC/1 IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES UNTIL MARCH 14:

* PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG;

/* LANTAU AND

* LANTAU AND ISLANDS DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG; AND

* ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE DRAFT PLAN MAY SEND HIS WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 13TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE MARCH 14.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT PLAN ARE 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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TV STATIONS ADVISED TO OBSERVE CODE OF PRACTICE

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (BA) HAS FOUND THAT TVB BREACHED THE TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE ON PROGRAMME STANDARDS IN BROADCASTING SEVERAL SCENES OF ANIMALS FIGHTING IN THE PROGRAMME "THE SEX OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM", BROADCAST ON TVB PEARL ON NOVEMBER 13 LAST YEAR.

AT A MEETING HELD YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT TELEVISION BROADCASTS, BA MEMBERS FELT THAT THE SCENES UNDER COMPLAINT WERE CONTRIVED, STAGE MANAGED AND INHUMANE.

"CONSIDERING HOWEVER THAT THE BROADCAST WAS MADE WELL OUTSIDE FAMILY VIEWING HOURS, THE AUTHORITY DECIDED TO ADVISE TVB TO OBSERVE THE CODE OF PRACTICE MORE CAREFULLY IN THE FUTURE," A SPOKESMAN FOR BA SAID.

THE AUTHORITY STRONGLY ADVISED ATV TO OBSERVE THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE BROADCAST OF NON-ENGLISH MATERIAL ON ATV WORLD, AFTER IT FOUND THAT ATV HAD ON ONE OCCASION EXCEEDED THE 20 PER CENT DAILY LIMIT FOR NON-DESIGNATED LANGUAGES SET BY BA IN RESPECT OF THE ENGLISH TELEVISION SERVICES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE AUTHORITY ALSO STRONGLY ADVISED BOTH ATV AND TVB TO OBSERVE MORE CAREFULLY THE PROVISIONS IN THE TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE ON PROGRAMME STANDARDS RELATING TO THE CORRECTION OF FACTUAL ERRORS."

"MEMBERS FOUND THAT BOTH STATIONS HAD GIVEN OUT INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIVIDEND PAYMENTS OF SOME SHARES DURING THE BROADCAST OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS IN THE MORNING NEWS PROGRAMMES ON OCTOBER 22, 1993."

"MEMBERS FELT THAT, ALTHOUGH MOST SERIOUS INVESTORS WOULD NOT RELY SOLELY ON TELEVISION FINANCIAL REPORTS, THE TELEVISION STATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION," HE SAID.

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MORE FUNDS TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS ON A YEARLY BASIS FOR FINANCING INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS FROM APRIL THIS YEAR, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THUS ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

SHE SAID THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED EACH YEAR WOULD BE DECIDED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1994/95, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL ESTIMATES FOR THAT YEAR, A PROVISION OF HK\$180 MILLION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, SHE ADDED.

MISS YUE POINTED OUT THAT FOUR MAIN TYPES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING SUPPORT, NAMELY, INDUSTRY-SUPPORT BODIES, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

ON THE NATURE OF THE PROJECTS, MISS YUE SAID NO PRIORITIES WOULD BE GIVEN FOR ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR OF INDUSTRY OR ANY SPECIFIC AREA OF TECHNOLOGY.

HOWEVER, SHE NOTED THAT PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING SUPPORT SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

EXAMPLES ARE THOSE THAT AIM TO PROVIDE A COMMUNAL INDUSTRY-SUPPORT SERVICE, INTRODUCE NEW TECHNIQUES OF MANUFACTURING, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY OR ENHANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY.

ANOTHER CRITERION IS THAT PROJECTS SHOULD BE NON-PROFIT-MAKING IN NATURE, EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE LONG TERM.

MISS YUE SAID THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT UPON THE ADVICE OF THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC).

"ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE ITDC, WHICH WILL BE ASSISTED BY A PROJECTS VETTING COMMITTEE COMPRISING THE CHAIRMEN OF ITDC'S COMMITTEES AND OTHER ITDC MEMBERS.

"THE ITDC WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY ON WHETHER AN APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND, IF SO, THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING SUPPORT," SHE SAID.

FUNDING SUPPORT WILL IN MOST CASES TAKE THE FORM OF GRANTS, THOUGH IT MAY ALSO BE IN THE FORM OF INTEREST-FREE OR INTEREST-BEARING LOANS.

MISS YUE URGED INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS TO SEND IN APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE MARCH 3.

/APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE MIGHT ONLY BE CONSIDERED SHOULD THERE STILL BE FUNDS AVAILABLE, SHE SAID.

APPLICATION FORMS AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS INTRODUCING THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ITDC SECRETARIAT IN ROOM 1445, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, 5 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON. NO APPLICATION FEES WILL BE CHARGED.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 737 2206 OR BY FAX AT 730 4633.

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TEACHERS AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

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TEACHERS ARE AT THE HEART OF EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"THEIR KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING, TEACHING SKILLS, ATTITUDE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALL HAVE DIRECT INFLUENCES ON STUDENTS," MR WONG POINTED OUT.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF ST PAUL'S CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE, HE EXPLAINED THAT TEACHERS WERE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION GENERALLY AND WITHIN EACH SCHOOL.

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THIS AND EXPLAINED THAT VARIOUS IMPROVEMENT MEASURES HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, MR WONG STRESSED.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW TAKING FURTHER ACTION TO RAISE TEACHING STANDARDS.

"A NEW HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION IS BEING PLANNED TO COMMENCE OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, CONSTITUTED BY THE MERGER OF THE EXISTING FIVE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND WITH THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE WORKLOAD OF TEACHERS AND THE NEED FOR THEM TO DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS. IMPROVEMENT MEASURES TAKEN INCLUDE:

CLASS SIZE

SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER THE CLASS SIZE IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS WAS REDUCED FROM 40 TO 35 PUPILS, STARTING WITH PRIMARY 1 AND EXTENDING TO HIGHER LEVELS A YEAR AT A TIME.

TEACHERS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE GIVEN MORE TEACHERS AT THE RATE OF ONE MORE EACH YEAR UP TO A MAXIMUM INCREASE OF THREE.

FROM THE COMING SEPTEMBER, GRADUATE TEACHER POSTS WILL START TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE FIRST TIME SO THAT EVENTUALLY THE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHING FORCE WILL COMPRISE 35 PER CENT GRADUATE TEACHERS.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL ALSO BENEFIT - EACH SCHOOL WILL HAVE UP TO TWO MORE NON-GRADUATE TEACHERS; UP TO FOUR NON-GRADUATE POSTS MAY BE REPLACED BY GRADUATE TEACHERS; AND ONE MORE POST WILL BE UPGRADED TO SENIOR GRADUATE RANK.

THERE WILL, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY BE MORE TEACHERS BUT ALSO GREATER PROSPECTS FOR PROMOTION.

IN ADDITION, THE STAFFING RATIO FOR SPLIT CLASSES FOR THE SIXTH FORM WILL BE IMPROVED FROM 1.6 TEACHERS PER CLASS TO TWO TEACHERS PER CLASS.

FOR SCHOOLS WITH A HIGH PROPORTION OF STUDENTS WITH ACADEMICALLY VERY LOW STANDARDS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN EVEN MORE TEACHERS.

"YOU MAY WONDER WHY I HAVE SPOKEN AT LENGTH ABOUT THESE BORING STATISTICS. NO, NOT BORING AT ALL," MR WONG SAID.

THESE, HE POINTED OUT, WERE GOOD NEWS FOR SCHOOLS AND UNDERLINED THE SERIOUS DETERMINATION AND EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS.

"BUT BY THE END OF THE DAY, THIS LARGE INCREASE IN TEACHERS, BETTER QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND SENIOR POSTS WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECTS ONLY IF TEACHERS THEMSELVES PROPERLY PLAY THE ROLE EXPECTED OF THEM. THIS, I BELIEVE, WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE TEACHING PROFESSION," HE SAID.

BUT THE EFFECTS OF ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE NULLIFIED IF THE SPIRIT AND ATMOSPHERE IN SCHOOLS WERE NOT MODERNISED, HE WARNED.

MR WONG SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVOCATING A CHANGE IN THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD AVOID GIVING EXCESSIVE PRESSURES, TESTS AND HOMEWORK TO STUDENTS.

STUDENTS' WORKLOAD SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PLANNED AND MONITORED. SO THAT MENTAL PRESSURES COULD BE REDUCED, AND STUDENTS COULD HAVE TIME FOR RECREATION AND TIME TO SPEND HAPPILY WITH THEIR PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS - A HAPPY CHILDHOOD SHOULD NOT COMPRISE STUDIES ALONE.

"TEACHERS MUST DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN TO MAKE STUDENTS FEEL THAT LEARNING IS A RELAXING, PLEASURABLE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE," HE EMPHASISED.

IN CONCLUSION, HE APPEALED TO ALL SCHOOL HEADS, SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION TO DO WHATEVER THEY COULD TO REFORM THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

"I BELIEVE THAT, WITH THE BEST WILL, UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS, WE EDUCATORS CAN MAKE SCHOOL LIFE A VERY PLEASURABLE AND MEMORABLE STAGE IN LIFE FOR EVERY ONE OF OUR YOUNGER GENERATION," HE ADDED.

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GOVT TO DRAW UP MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY LIST

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THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY IS INVITING REGISTERED COMPANIES PROVIDING MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN HONG KONG TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN AN ORDINARY LIST.

COMPANIES ON THE LIST MAY SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR FUTURE SPECIFIC CONSULTANCY PROJECTS AS AND WHEN THEY ARISE IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THEY MUST EITHER BE REGISTERED COMPANIES IN HONG KONG OR POSSESS A VALID HONG KONG BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

IN THEIR APPLICATIONS, THEY SHOULD FURNISH SUPPORTING INFORMATION SUCH AS THEIR SIZE, SPECIALISATION AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF CONSULTANCY PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS.

A NOTICE ABOUT THE INVITATION HAS BEEN GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

COMPANIES WISHING TO BE INCLUDED MAY APPLY BEFORE FEBRUARY 18 TO THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FOURTH FLOOR, EAST WING, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL TEL 810 2221.

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EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER

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LAST SEPTEMBER SAW CONTINUED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AS COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER.

BUT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DECLINED FURTHER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID THIS MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUED ORIENTATION OF THE ECONOMY TOWARDS SERVICES, ALONG WITH THE PROGRESSIVE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA.

VACANCIES IN SOME MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES IN SEPTEMBER 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, VACANCIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL FURTHER.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, THE AVERAGE EARNINGS OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO SHOW FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS IN SEPTEMBER 1993. AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS STILL AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS IN THE AVERAGE EARNINGS OF PERSONS ENGAGED FOR MOST SECTORS.

ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE DEPARTMENT, THERE WERE 508,100 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1993, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 11.0% FROM SEPTEMBER 1992.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 958,000 IN SEPTEMBER 1993, WAS 5.6% HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1992.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 336,000, WAS UP BY 9.3% OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES (MANUAL WORKERS ONLY), AT 52,200, WAS 17.7% LOWER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1992.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1993 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 AND JUNE 1993, ARE:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEPT 92	JUN 93	SEPT 93	SEPT 93 OVER SEPT 92	SEPT 93 OVER JUN 93
MANUFACTURING	571 200	522 000	508 100	-11.0	-2.7
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	63 400	56 900	52 200	-17.7	-8.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	906 900	932 700	958 000	+ 5.6	+2.7
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	307 500	327 200	336 000	+ 9.3	+2.7

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN SEPTEMBER 1993 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE FORMER SURVEY, EMPLOYMENT IN THE RETAIL TRADE EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS, HE SAID.

THE TWO SURVEYS ALSO PROVIDE THE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY FIGURES TOGETHER WITH COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 AND JUNE 1993 ARE:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	SEPT 92	JUN 93	SEPT 93	SEPT 93 OVER SEPT 92	SEPT 93 OVER JUN 93
MANUFACTURING	19 150	14 760	14 130	-26.2	- 4.2
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	550	490	550	+ 0.4	+11.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	32 130	27 240	31 370	- 2.4	+15.1
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	9 060	10 540	11 210	+23.7	+ 6.4

VACANCIES IN SOME MAJOR SERVICES SECTORS CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN SEPTEMBER 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES INCREASED BY 23.7%.

HOWEVER, VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR FELL BY 2.4% AND 26.2% RESPECTIVELY.

VACANCIES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES RECORDED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.4% IN SEPTEMBER 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THE SEPTEMBER 1993 NOMINAL INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS AND THE CORRESPONDING REAL INDICES (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES) ARE:

/NOMINAL INDEX

NOMINAL INDEX OF
PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED
(MARCH 1991 = 100)

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	SEPT 92	SEPT 93	SEPT 93 OVER SEPT 92
MANUFACTURING	121.0	133.7	+10.5
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	117.8	134.3	+14.0
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	108.8	123.4	+13.4

REAL INDEX OF
PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED
(MARCH 1991 = 100)

SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	SEPT 92	SEPT 93	SEPT 93 OVER SEPT 92
MANUFACTURING	105.6	108.1	+ 2.4
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	102.8	108.6	+ 5.6
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	94.9	99.8	+ 5.2

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1992 AND LAST SEPTEMBER, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS, AS MEASURED BY PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS.

AN INCREASE OF 10.5% WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 14.0%. FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 13.4%.

AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1992 AND THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN SEPTEMBER 1993, AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1992, INCREASED BY 2.4% FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, 5.6% FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AND 5.2% FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1993 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, SEPTEMBER 1993.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT \$17 A COPY AND \$10.5 A COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR THIRD QUARTER 1993

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THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF LAST YEAR RECORDED VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992, ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTING INDUSTRY GROUP CONTINUED TO REGISTER A MARKED INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, BY 18.7%.

THE BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND OPTICAL GOODS REGISTERED A MODERATE INCREASE OF 4.5% IN PRODUCTION.

WITHIN THIS GROUP, THE PRODUCTION OF MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, PARTS AND COMPONENTS INCREASED NOTABLY BY 10.7%, WHEREAS THE PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS FELL MARGINALLY BY 1.6%.

THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY ALSO SHOWED A MILD INCREASE OF 3.3% IN PRODUCTION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP OF CHEMICALS, RUBBER, PLASTIC AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF 12.6% IN PRODUCTION. WITHIN THIS GROUP, THE PRODUCTION OF PLASTICS PRODUCTS FELL EVEN MORE MARKEDLY BY 17.8%.

THE TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING) INDUSTRY RECORDED A NOTABLE DECREASE OF 10.1%. THE PRODUCTION OF BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS ALSO DROPPED BY 6.4%.

THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO RECORDED A MILD DECREASE OF 3.1%.

COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION POSTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 12.4%. THIS INCREASE WAS, HOWEVER, LARGELY SEASONAL AS MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES USUALLY ENTER INTO PEAK SEASON IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION REFLECTS CHANGES OF LOCAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN REAL TERMS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE VOLUME OF LOCAL PRODUCTION IS MEASURED AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 3RD QUARTER 1993", WHICH IS ON SALE AT \$4 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 839 3238.

FOLLOWING IS A TABLE SHOWING CHANGES IN THE INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN GREATER DETAIL:

INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP AND
SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUP
(1986 = 100)

BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP / SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUP	INDEX FOR 3RD QTR 1993	% CHANGE OVER	
		3RD QTR 1992	2ND QTR 1993
1. FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	156	-3.1	+4.0
2. WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	124	+3.3	+21.6
3. TEXTILES (INCLUDING KNITTING)	133	-10.1	+18.8
4. PAPER PRODUCTS AND PRINTING	317	+18.7	+19.6
5. CHEMICALS, RUBBER, PLASTIC AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	76	-12.6	+1.3
--PLASTIC PRODUCTS	(60)	(-17.8)	(+7.1)
6. BASIC METALS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	103	-6.4	+12.0
--FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	(101)	(-5.6)	(+11.0)
7. ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND OPTICAL GOODS	164	+4.5	+3.1

--CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	(122)	(-1.6)	(-3.9)
--MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, PARTS AND COMPONENTS	(237)	(+10.7)	(+8.2)
8. MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	95	-5.0	+13.1
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	136	*	+12.4

NOTES : 1. FOUR SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUPS, WHICH CARRY RELATIVELY LARGE WEIGHTS AND ARE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE RESPECTIVE BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS, ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE TABLE. FOR EASY READING, THE FIGURES OF THESE SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUPS ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS.

2. AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (HSIC) IS USED TO FORM THE INDUSTRY GROUPS AND BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS PRESENTED IN THE TABLE. FOR THE EXACT COVERAGE OF THE GROUPS IN TERMS OF HSIC CODES, PLEASE REFER TO THE 'REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 3RD QUARTER 1993'.

* CHANGE WITHIN +/-0.05%.

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KWUN TONG DISTRICT FESTIVAL

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT FESTIVAL '94 WILL BE LAUNCHED ON JANUARY 23 TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE LIVING OR WORKING THERE TO JOIN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL TODAY (FRIDAY), THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, WONG HON-HO, HOPES THAT PEOPLE WOULD CONTRIBUTE THEIR TALENTS AND SKILLS TO BUILD FOR A BETTER KWUN TONG.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE KOWLOON BAY SPORTS GROUND ON JANUARY 23.

TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, THE DISTRICT'S 15 AREA COMMITTEES WILL JOIN A GRAND PARADE. LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN TELEMATCH GAMES.

A TALENT SHOW WILL BE HELD AT NGAU CHI WAN CIVIC CENTRE ON JANUARY 27.

MORE, THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE HAS ORGANISED AN ELECTION OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS, A CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION AND AN ESSAY COMPETITION ON THE THEME OF "IF I WERE A KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER".

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THE FESTIVAL WILL END WITH A GRAND CARNIVAL AT HONG NING RECREATION GROUND ON JANUARY 30 WITH PERFORMANCES BY POP SINGERS, TALENT SHOW BY THE ABLED AND THE DISABLED, CHINESE MUSIC, KARAOKE COMPETITION AS WELL AS GAMES STALLS FOR CHILDREN.

THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT FESTIVAL '94 IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE URBAN COUNCIL.

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SHA TIN INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL FESTIVAL

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SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S 1993/94 INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES FESTIVAL WILL START TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO FOSTER INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

THE SIX-DAY FESTIVAL, WHICH INCLUDES EXHIBITIONS AND SALES OF LOCAL PRODUCTS, WILL BE HELD AT SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK FROM 11 AM TO 8 PM FROM TOMORROW UNTIL JANUARY 19, AND FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM ON JANUARY 20.

MORE THAN 50 BOOTHS FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE SET UP AT THE VENUE. APART FROM LOCAL PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY, SALES COUNTERS WILL BE SET UP.

ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION AT SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK IS FREE.

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY SHA TIN DB'S PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON 1993/94 INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE FESTIVAL.

IT IS SPONSORED BY THE BOARD AND CO-ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF SHA TIN.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE CHUNG-YEE; THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER; THE ACTING SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR HOWARD CHAN; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHOY KAN-PUI WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FESTIVAL.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM AT SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK, SHA TIN TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

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EXHIBITION ON TEACHER EDUCATION

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AN EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION WILL BE LAUNCHED ON MONDAY (JANUARY 17) AT THE LANDMARK SQUARE.

THE COLLEGES COMPRISE THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, THE SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE SET UP AT THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN PLAZA AND TUEN MUN TOWN PLAZA.

LAUNCHING THE EXHIBITION ON MONDAY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, MR SIMON IP; THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, PROF LEUNG CHI-KEUNG; AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER EDUCATION), MR KWAN TING-FAI.

ON DISPLAY ARE PANELS DEPICTING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD BY THE FOUNTAIN OF THE LANDMARK SQUARE AT 10 AM ON MONDAY.

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WORKS FOR PUMPING STATIONS PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED PERMITTING THE DREDGING OF ABOUT 1,770 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT SHAM TSENG, TSUEN WAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAYING OF EFFLUENT DISCHARGE AND SEAWATER INTAKE PIPEWORKS AND SITE FORMATION WORKS FOR TWO PUMPING STATIONS.

THE WORKS WILL START IN MARCH AND TAKE EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

ANY PERSON WHO FEELS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE AREA INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS WITHIN TWO MONTHS FROM TODAY, WHEN A GAZETTE NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS IS PUBLISHED.

THE OBJECTOR TO THE WORKS SHOULD DESCRIBE HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT AND THE MANNER HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE GAZETTE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH PROPOSED WORKS PLAN, CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE AS WELL AS AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1994

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179 CAUGHT IN OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A 24-HOUR OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ACROSS THE TERRITORY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 179 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE 179 PERSONS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM ON JANUARY 12 (WEDNESDAY) AND ENDED AT 5 AM YESTERDAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 17,385 PERSONS, 2,459 VEHICLES AND 432 VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,403 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 8,649 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

TWENTY-FIVE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$250,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO THREE YEARS IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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APPLICATION FOR PROJECT GRANT REJECTED

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A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING HAS UPHELD ITS DECISION NOT TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR A PROJECT GRANT BY AN ARTS GROUP TO PERFORM IN AN ARTS FESTIVAL IN BRUSSELS IN MAY.

THE SPECIAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 12) COMPRISED MEMBERS OF BOTH THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA) AND THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ADC) WORKING GROUPS TO RECONSIDER THE APPLICATION FROM THE ARTS GROUP, ZUNI ICOSAHEDRON.

ZUNI WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY ITS APPLICATION AT THE MEETING.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG, EXPLAINED THAT THE ZUNI REPRESENTATIVES HAD PROVIDED LITTLE MATERIAL AND TANGIBLE FRESH EVIDENCE TO PERSUADE MEMBERS TO REVERSE THE ORIGINAL DECISION.

THE DECISION REACHED BY MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING WAS UNANIMOUS, SIR JOSEPH SAID.

THE CFPA AND THE ADC WORKING GROUPS ARE ADVISERS TO THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR ARTS DEVELOPMENT.

THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING REPRESENTED A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE VARIOUS ART DISCIPLINES.

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WATER CUTS IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES ON TSING YI ISLAND WILL GO OFF FROM 8 PM ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 16) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE WATER CUT WILL AFFECT GREENFIELD GARDEN AND ALL THE PREMISES AT TSING YI HEUNG SZE WUI ROAD, CHEUNG WAN STREET, CHEUNG HO STREET, CHEUNG LUNG STREET, CHEUNG FAI ROAD, CHEUNG TAT ROAD AND CHEUNG FAT ROAD.

MEANWHILE, OWING TO MAINTENANCE WORK ON WATER MAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM TO 8 PM ON MONDAY (JANUARY 17).

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1994

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FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR PIK UK

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTING A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, SAI KUNG.

THE FOOTBRIDGE IS ABOUT 27-METRE LONG BY THREE-METRE WIDE AND SPANS ACROSS CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD. IT IS A COMPOSITE STRUCTURE CONSISTING OF STRUCTURAL STEEL TRUSSES AND REINFORCED CONCRETE RAMPS, BOTH COVERED WITH CORRUGATED SHEET STEEL ROOF.

UPON COMPLETION, THE NEW FOOTBRIDGE WILL SERVE AS A SAFE GRADE SEPARATED CROSSING MAINLY FOR THE STAFF AND VISITORS OF THE PIK UK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MAY THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY MAY NEXT YEAR.

A NOTICE ON TENDER INVITATION IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS FEBRUARY 4.

THE FOOTBRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE STRUCTURES DIVISION AND THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION OF HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

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326 VIETNAMESE SENT BACK

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A GROUP OF 326 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (FRIDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER A VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 113 MEN, 97 WOMEN, 67 BOYS AND 49 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 195TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 998 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 39,611 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,867
REVERSAL OF LAF	+2,133
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,770
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,230
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.5 *+0.0* 14.1.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.56 PCT	13 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.38	3.48
1 MONTH	2.70 PCT	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.14	3.67
3 MONTHS	2.89 PCT	19 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.22	3.86
6 MONTHS	3.04 PCT	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.24	4.05
12 MONTHS	3.34 PCT	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.26	4.53

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 36,014 MN

CLOSED 14 JANUARY 1994

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