



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ACTION TO REGULATE NT LAND USE GATHERS MOMENTUM

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LAND OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS WHO UNDERTAKE UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA (DPA) IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000, A PLANNING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS, SUCH AS TURNING AGRICULTURAL LAND INTO CONTAINER STORAGE AND CAR DUMP, OR FILLING UP FISH PONDS FOR OTHER USES, HAS POSED SERIOUS TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS TO THE RESIDENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN RECENT YEARS.

"THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ENACTED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR HAS EXTENDED STATUTORY PLANNING CONTROL TO NON-URBAN AREAS IN AN EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY UNREGULATED LAND USE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD IS EMPOWERED TO PREPARE PLANS TO DESIGNATE ANY AREA AS A DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREA.

SO FAR, 31 DPA PLANS COVERING A TOTAL OF 14,554 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE RURAL AREAS HAVE BEEN GAZETTED.

"ANYONE WISHING TO CHANGE THE LAND USE OR UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A DPA IS REQUIRED TO APPLY TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR PERMISSION TO DO SO, UNLESS IT IS AN EXISTING USE OR PERMITTED BY THE DPA PLAN CONCERNED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PATROL TEAMS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT REGULAR PATROL IN THE DPAS TO IDENTIFY SUSPECTED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT.

"ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF ENFORCEMENT NOTICES, STOP NOTICES AND REINSTATEMENT NOTICES, WILL BE TAKEN WHEN AN UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IS DETECTED.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IS GATHERING MOMENTUM AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STRENUOUS EFFORT."

THIS HAS BEEN BORNE OUT BY THE NUMBER OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS A RESULT OF THE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, HE SAID.

"SINCE THE AMENDED LEGISLATION CAME INTO EFFECT TWO YEARS AGO, A TOTAL OF 58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED UP TO MID-DECEMBER CONCERNING UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS FOUND IN AREAS COVERED BY STATUTORY PLANS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

FORTY-SIX OF THESE APPLICATIONS WERE CONSIDERED BY THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD. OF THEM, SEVEN WERE APPROVED WITH OR WITHOUT CONDITIONS.

THE REST WERE REJECTED AND MANY OF THEM HAVE SOUGHT A REVIEW OF THE DECISION OF THE BOARD AND ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES OF BEING PROCESSED, HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN AN UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WAS DETECTED, A WARNING LETTER WOULD BE SENT TO THE PERSON OR PARTY CONCERNED.

"IF NO EVIDENCE OF AN EXISTING USE OR PLANNING PERMISSION IS PRODUCED REQUIRING WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD, AN ENFORCEMENT NOTICE REQUIRING THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONCERNED BY A SPECIFIED DATE MAY BE ISSUED.

"THE SPECIFIED DATE WOULD NORMALLY BE THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ENFORCEMENT NOTICE WAS ISSUED, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE PERSON OR PARTY CONCERNED TO OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION," HE SAID.

IF IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONSTITUTE A HEALTH OR SAFETY HAZARD, OR ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT, OR MAKE IT IMPRACTICABLE OR UNECONOMIC TO REINSTATE THE LAND, A STOP NOTICE MAY BE ISSUED REQUIRING THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT BY A DATE EARLIER THAN THAT SPECIFIED IN THE ENFORCEMENT NOTICE, HE ADDED.

WHEN AN UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT FAILS TO OBTAIN PLANNING PERMISSION AND WHEN ALL RIGHTS OF REVIEW OR APPEAL HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED, A REINSTATEMENT NOTICE MAY BE ISSUED REQUIRING THE PERSON OR PARTY CONCERNED TO REINSTATE THE LAND TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S SATISFACTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY LAND OWNER OR OCCUPIER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE NOTICES COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$100,000 AND A DAILY FINE OF \$10,000 DURING THE PERIOD OF THE OFFENCE.

THE DIRECTOR IS ALSO EMPOWERED TO ENTER THE LAND AND TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENSURE THE UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IS DISCONTINUED, TO PREVENT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OR TO REINSTATE THE LAND WITH EXPENSES RECOVERABLE FROM THE PERSON CONCERNED.

IN ADDITION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, ANY NOTICE ISSUED AGAINST A SUSPECTED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE REGISTERED AT THE LAND OFFICE.

SINCE JULY LAST YEAR, PATROL TEAMS HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT REGULAR PATROL WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION AREAS TO IDENTIFY SUSPECTED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS.

ON RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND REFERRALS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THEY ALSO CARRY OUT INDIVIDUAL SITE INSPECTIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE NATURE OF THE SUSPECTED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ENFORCEMENT ACTION.

UP TO MID-DECEMBER, A TOTAL OF 142 CASES OF SUSPECTED UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS, WARNING LETTERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED IN RESPECT OF 84 CASES, AND 15 ENFORCEMENT NOTICES AND THREE STOP NOTICES HAVE BEEN SERVED.

OF THE REPORTED CASES OF UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT, 23 HAVE EITHER OBTAINED PLANNING PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD OR HAVE DISCONTINUED.

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LANTAU FIXED CROSSING - A MAMMOTH HIGHWAY PROJECT  
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THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING (LFC) IS THE BIGGEST PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO LFC PROJECT DIRECTOR, MR KWONG HONG-SANG.

"THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING LIKE THIS IN HONG KONG BEFORE. THE \$17 BILLION (MONEY OF THE DAY) PROJECT IS NOT MY FIRST BIG PIONEERING JOB, HOWEVER," SAID MR KWONG, WHO HEADS THE LFC MANAGEMENT OFFICE WHICH HAS MORE THAN 50 ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT STAFF.

"WHEN I JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1963 AS AN APPRENTICE ENGINEER, I WENT TO WORK ON THE THEN BIGGEST PROJECT - CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHATIN APPROACH ROAD TO LION ROCK TUNNEL. THE PROJECT SUM AT THAT TIME WAS \$6 MILLION."

THE FACT THE LFC PROJECT HAS BEEN IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT DOES NOT CREATE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE FOR THE PROJECT DIRECTOR.

"WORK IN THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT ALWAYS HAS ITS OWN PRESSURES, SUCH AS IN MAINTAINING SCHEDULES AND SO ON. THIS JOB, IN MY VIEW, WILL BE JUST AS DEMANDING AS THE OTHERS," SAID MR KWONG.

HE RECALLED BEING INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE TERRITORY'S FIRST BUS PRIORITY SCHEME IN THE 1970'S. A HOTLINE WAS SET UP IN THE FIRST WEEK. HE RECEIVED MORE THAN 300 TELEPHONE COMPLAINTS THAT WEEKEND, WHEN HE WAS ON DUTY.

"BUT THESE DAYS MANY PEOPLE ARE ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF BUS-ONLY LANES," HE EXCLAIMED WITH A GRIN.

AFTER YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK, MR KWONG NOW LEADS A TEAM OF OVER 50 IN THE LFC MANAGEMENT OFFICE, 17 OF THEM PROFESSIONALS. MANY OF THESE ENGINEERS ARE EXPERIENCED IN BUILDING BRIDGES IN HONG KONG.

SOME, LIKE MR KWONG, WERE INVOLVED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DESIGN WORK FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE IN THE EARLY 1980'S WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS THEN CONSIDERING BUILDING THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

"TODAY, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE SIX CONTRACTS UNDER THE LFC, WHICH INCORPORATES TWO CABLE SUPPORTED BRIDGES AND A VIADUCT. IT IS A KEY ELEMENT IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

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THE TWO BRIDGES ARE THE TSING MA BRIDGE, A SUSPENSION BRIDGE, AND THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, WHICH WILL BE A CABLE STAYED BRIDGE.

"ONE OF OUR DUTIES HERE IS TO MANAGE THE CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS ON THE PROJECT, TO MONITOR THEIR WORK AND HELP IN SOLVING PROBLEMS SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET. THIS IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE."

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE WILL COST \$7 BILLION. IT WILL BE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE CARRYING BOTH RAIL AND ROAD TRAFFIC ON THE SAME STRUCTURE.

"A SHELTERED LOWER DECK WHICH WILL CARRY ROAD TRAFFIC IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE.

"THE WORK THEREFORE IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT ON OTHER SUSPENSION BRIDGES, FOR EXAMPLE THE AKASHI-KAIKYO IN JAPAN WHICH, THOUGH LONGER, DOES NOT CARRY RAIL TRAFFIC.

"WITH AN OVERALL LENGTH OF AROUND 2,200 METRES AND A MAIN SPAN OF 1,377 METRES, TSING MA WILL REQUIRE THE LARGEST QUANTITY OF STEEL WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER LONG SUSPENSION BRIDGES," MR KWONG NOTED.

"THE PROJECT IS A CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US IN THIS OFFICE BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST MAJOR SUSPENSION BRIDGE TO BE BUILT IN HONG KONG. IT IS NEW TO US AND NATURALLY WE HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD TO SEE THAT ITS PROGRESS IS SMOOTH," MR KWONG SAID.

"WE ARE NOW WORKING CLOSELY WITH A GROUP OF SECONDED ENGINEERS WHO ARE EXTREMELY EXPERIENCED IN THE BUILDING OF LONG-SPAN SUSPENSION BRIDGES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

"THEY INTEGRATE WITH GOVERNMENT STAFF IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TSING MA PROJECT. THEY WILL BE FREQUENTLY ON SITE TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS AND ENSURE THAT CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

"THEREFORE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE TOO MANY DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING OUR GOAL," HE SAID.

BUT MR KWONG IS CONCERNED THAT THERE SHOULD BE WAYS TO RETAIN THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO PREPARE IT FOR BUILDING MAJOR BRIDGES IN HONG KONG IN THE FUTURE, FOR EXAMPLE A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN SHAM TSENG AND MA WAN AND A FURTHER BRIDGE LINK BETWEEN TSING YI AND STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

"THERE WILL BE SOME YEARS BEFORE THESE ARE CONSTRUCTED. BY THEN, MANY OF US WORKING HERE NOW MAY HAVE RETIRED. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A PROPER RECORD OF HOW THE BRIDGE IS CONSTRUCTED IS KEPT SO THAT FUTURE ENGINEERS WILL HAVE SOME READY REFERENCE.

"I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT EVERY CRITICAL PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS RECORDED CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY. FILMING THE PROCESS IS ONE OF THE WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS."

/"SITE VISITS .....

"SITE VISITS FOR OUR ENGINEERS ARE ESSENTIAL AS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION IS CARRIED OUT, HOW PROBLEMS MAY ARISE, AND BE SOLVED," MR KWONG SAID.

"SUCH EXPERIENCE WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT IN FUTURE MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE LFC," HE ADDED.

THE TIGHT SCHEDULE IN BUILDING THE LFC MEANS THAT ENGINEERS IN THE LFC MANAGEMENT OFFICE HAVE TO WORK HARD, JUST LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS.

"NEVERTHELESS, IT IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN BE PROUD OF. EVEN THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BUILT ANY SUSPENSION BRIDGE OF A COMPARABLE SCALE IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, WHILE OUR ENGINEERS HERE ARE BUILDING ONE OF THE MAJOR LANDMARKS NOT ONLY IN HONG KONG BUT PROBABLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS WELL," MR KWONG SAID.

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PROCEDURE FOR WAIVER OF MEDICAL  
CHARGES FOR NEEDY SIMPLIFIED  
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A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR WAIVER OF MEDICAL CHARGES WILL COME INTO OPERATION FROM THIS WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 30) FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) RECIPIENTS, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

"THE PRACTICE WILL ENABLE A PA RECIPIENT TO APPLY FOR WAIVER OF MEDICAL CHARGES AT A GOVERNMENT CLINIC OR A HOSPITAL OR SPECIALIST CLINIC UNDER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN DOING SO, THE CLIENT SHOULD ONLY NEED TO PRODUCE A VALID PA CASH ORDER BOOK FOR SINGLE PERSON CASES, OR A CERTIFICATE OF PA RECIPIENTS (FOR MEDICAL WAIVERS) FOR CASES WITH MORE THAN ONE ELIGIBLE MEMBERS, HE ADDED.

CURRENTLY, A PA RECIPIENT HAS TO APPROACH A SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT OR A MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER FOR A FEE-WAIVER CERTIFICATE EACH TIME BEFORE HE SEEKS MEDICAL TREATMENT.

"AS THIS PRACTICE GIVES RISE TO INCONVENIENCE TO OUR CLIENTS, THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE IS THEREFORE TO BE INTRODUCED," HE ADDED.

THE MOVE WILL FACILITATE 100,000 PEOPLE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

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NEW FEES FOR CERTIFICATION SERVICES

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT REMINDED TRADERS TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT FEES FOR CERTIFICATION SERVICES WILL BE REVISED FROM FRIDAY (JANUARY 1).

UNDER THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (FEES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 1992, THE REVISION WILL COVER APPLICATION FEES FOR CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN AND GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES.

CHARGES FOR APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN, CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN - PROCESSING (FORM TIC 185) OR OF ANY OTHER FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN OTHER THAN GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$55 TO \$100 WHILE THAT FOR THE ISSUE OF A GENERALISED PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE WILL GO UP TO \$135 FROM \$75.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE INCREASE WAS NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF HONG KONG'S CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

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AMENDMENTS TO HK I/E CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM)

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THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE HONG KONG IMPORTS AND EXPORTS CLASSIFICATION LIST (HARMONISED SYSTEM), 1992 EDITION.

THESE AMENDMENTS, PUBLISHED IN A NOTICE IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1.

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REMINDED THAT IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS FOR SHIPMENTS ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1 MUST BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED CLASSIFICATION.

THE AMENDMENTS INVOLVE CHANGES IN COUNTRY DESCRIPTIONS AND CODES MAINLY OF REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND CHANGES IN CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS CERTAIN INORGANIC ACIDS, HALOGENATED DERIVATIVES OF HYDROCARBONS, AROMATIC KETONES, VEGETABLE ALKALOIDS, SYNTHETIC MANOFILAMENT, WOVEN TERRY TOWELLING, CERTAIN KNITTED AND CROCHETED FABRICS, CORDLESS TELEPHONES AND OPTICAL FIBRES.

THESE AMENDMENTS WILL BRING THE CLASSIFICATION UP-TO-DATE BY INTRODUCING MORE APPROPRIATE SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS AS WELL AS UNITS OF QUANTITY AND DELETING UNNECESSARY SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS.

IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ARE REQUESTED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLETING IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS SHOULD FAMILIARISE WITH SUCH AMENDMENTS.

/COPIES OF .....

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT LIST ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES:

- \* GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE,  
GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING,  
CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL,  
HONG KONG.
- \* CUSTOMS & EXCISE DEPARTMENT,  
COLLECTION OFFICE (HONG KONG),  
SECOND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING,  
38 PIER ROAD,  
CENTRAL,  
HONG KONG.
- \* CUSTOMS & EXCISE DEPARTMENT,  
COLLECTION OFFICE (KOWLOON),  
GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING,  
TSM SHA TSUI,  
KOWLOON.
- \* CENSUS & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT,  
TRADE CLASSIFICATION SECTION,  
17TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1,  
12 HARBOUR ROAD,  
WAN CHAI,  
HONG KONG.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY A STATUTORY HOLIDAY

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT JANUARY 1 (FRIDAY) IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FOR EMPLOYEES.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR LONGER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE ON 717 1771.

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CAS GETS NEW COMMISSIONER

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MR NORMAN LEUNG AS THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES (CAS) TO SUCCEED SIR ROGER LOBO, WHO WILL BE RETIRING FROM CAS ON JANUARY 1.

MR NORMAN LEUNG IS A SOLICITOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF A NUMBER OF COMPANIES.

HE IS CHAIRMAN OF A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT STATUTORY BODIES SUCH AS THE BOARD OF REVIEW (FILM CENSORSHIP), AND THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY'S COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE AND TENANCY APPEALS COMMITTEE.

HE JOINED THE CAS IN 1977 AND HAS BEEN A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SINCE MARCH 1989.

SIR ROGER IS RETIRING FROM THE CAS AFTER 37 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, THE LAST 15 YEARS AS THE COMMISSIONER.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MR LEUNG WOULD CONTINUE THE INSPIRING LEADERSHIP DISPLAYED BY SIR ROGER AND ENSURE THAT THE CAS CONTINUED ITS FINE TRADITION OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"SIR ROGER HAS MADE A GREAT AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAS AND WILL BE MISSED BY BOTH MEMBERS OF CAS AND THOSE OF ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS.

"HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY ALL CAS MEMBERS AND HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND WISE LEADERSHIP HAVE MAINTAINED THE CAS AS A MODERN AND EFFICIENT AUXILIARY FORCE," MR ASPREY SAID.

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PROPER LABELLING FOR PRE-PACKAGED FOOD REQUIRED

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FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS MUST PROPERLY LABEL OR MARK PRE-PACKAGED FOOD ITEMS, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED, AS STIPULATED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT OFFENDERS WHEN CONVICTED WERE SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE REMINDER WAS ISSUED FOLLOWING THREE RECENT COURT CASES IN WHICH TWO MEDICINE SHOPS, ONE IN WONG TAI SIN AND THE OTHER IN ABERDEEN, AND A FOOD RETAIL SHOP IN YAU MA TEI WERE FOUND GUILTY OF SELLING IMPROPERLY LABELLED PRE-PACKAGED FOOD AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FINED A TOTAL OF \$2,000.

THE MEDICINE SHOPS SOLD A HIGH PROTEIN MILK FOOD WHICH DID NOT HAVE A LIST OF INGREDIENTS, A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR STORAGE, AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE IN ENGLISH OR IN CHINESE OR IN BOTH LANGUAGES.

THE FOOD RETAIL SHOP SOLD JELLY CANDIES WHICH WERE NOT MARKED OR LABELLED WITH ITS NAME OR DESIGNATION, A LIST OF INGREDIENTS, AN INDICATION OF ITS MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND THE ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER AND THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD.

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CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME DESIGN COMPETITION

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION ON THE DESIGN OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES.

THE THEME IS "IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOL".

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE COMPETITION WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING SCHOOLS TO ORGANISE EFFECTIVE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND SHARING EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WERE REQUIRED TO PRESENT THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES WHICH SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIATED BY DETAILED WORK PLANS AND RELEVANT TEACHING AND RESOURCE MATERIALS.

THE OVERALL LAYOUT OF ENTRY SHOULD COMPRISE THREE PARTS.

PART 1 SHOULD INCLUDE BACKGROUND OF THE SCHOOL; AIMS AND OBJECTIVES IN PROMOTING CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL; APPROACH AND STRATEGY ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION; AND ORGANISATION SUCH AS STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND BODY.

PART 2 IS TO GIVE AN OVERALL WORK PLAN OR PROGRAMME OUTLINE TO PROMOTE CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL.

PART 3 IS TO PROVIDE NOT MORE THAN FIVE EXAMPLES OF CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN THE SCHOOL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ENTRIES COULD BE PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF A FOLIO IN A4-SIZE PAPER OR A COMBINATION OF FOLIO AND SLIDES AND VIDEO TAPES.

ELEVEN PRIZES WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THREE CATEGORIES - THE PROGRAMME DESIGN AWARD, ACTIVITY DESIGN AWARD AND SPECIAL AWARD.

/EACH AWARD .....

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EACH AWARD WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH BOOK COUPONS RANGING FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000 AND A CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CIVIC EDUCATION/RELIGIOUS STUDIES SECTION, ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, BEFORE APRIL 30 NEXT YEAR.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON TEL 892 6517 OR 892 6514.

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN A BUILDING IN KOWLOON CITY SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE CANOPY AND FLAT ROOF AREAS ADJACENT TO FLAT B ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF 77-79 LION ROCK ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON FEBRUARY 24 NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE PREMISES.

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

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