



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVT ACCEPTS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS
ON REMUNERATION FOR LEGCO MEMBERS

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THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ACCEPTED ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON REMUNERATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS THAT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF REMUNERATION FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LEGCO) MEMBERS IS REASONABLE AND THAT IT ENABLES PEOPLE FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AS LEGCO MEMBERS. IT HAS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED NO CHANGE IN THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION.

TO ENABLE DIRECTLY ELECTED LEGCO MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE DISTRICT THEY REPRESENT, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE OF UP TO \$10,000 PER MONTH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THEM IN ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCY.

IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF LEGCO MEMBERS IN THE USE OF THEIR ALLOWANCES, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE IN THEIR CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, THE NAMES AND SALARIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS THEY EMPLOY.

THEY WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO HAND OVER TO THE LEGCO SECRETARIAT CAPITALISED ITEMS PURCHASED WITH THEIR ALLOWANCES WHEN THEY VACATE THEIR SEATS.

"WE SHALL SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACKAGE OF REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION FOR LEGCO MEMBERS, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO CONDUCT PERIODIC REVIEWS ON THE LEVEL AND SCOPE OF THE REMUNERATION PACKAGE AND ADVISE ON THE INTERPRETATION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE ALLOWANCES BY MEMBERS.

"WE SHALL ANNOUNCE THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CURRENT REMUNERATION PACKAGE, WHICH COMPRISES A MONTHLY HONORARIUM OF \$43,250 (AS ADJUSTED IN OCTOBER 1993) AND A GENERAL EXPENSES ALLOWANCE OF \$73,000, WAS APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN MAY 1993.

AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION FOR LEGCO MEMBERS. SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MANY LEGCO MEMBERS URGED THAT AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION SHOULD BE SET UP TO REVIEW THE REMUNERATION PAID TO LEGCO MEMBERS.

IN JULY 1993, THE GOVERNOR APPOINTED AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE REMUNERATION PACKAGE FOR LEGCO MEMBERS.

THE COMMISSION COMPRISED PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU AS CHAIRMAN, DR CHENG HON-KWAN, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, MR CHRISTOPHER CHENG WAI-CHEE AND DR THOMAS LEUNG KWOK-FAI. MR SO RESIGNED FROM THE COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY UPON HIS APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS.

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT IS PUBLISHED TODAY, AND THE COMMISSION WILL PRESENT ITS FINDINGS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT 11.30 AM.

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OPTOMETRISTS TO BE REGISTERED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR UNDER THE OPTOMETRISTS (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE.

"THE REGULATION HAS BEEN DRAWN UP AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL, AND WILL PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE PUBLIC BY ENSURING ADEQUATE STANDARDS IN THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"UNDER THE REGULATION, THE REGISTER FOR OPTOMETRISTS IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS: PARTS I, II AND III FOR FULL REGISTRATION AND PART IV FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ONLY OPTOMETRISTS REGISTERED IN PART I CAN PRACTISE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS.

THOSE REGISTERED IN PART II SHALL NOT USE DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS (EXCEPT STAINING AGENTS) AND THOSE IN PART III SHALL NOT PERFORM WORK OTHER THAN REFRACTION.

OPTOMETRISTS REGISTERED IN PART IV SHALL ONLY PERFORM WORK RELATING TO REFRACTION, OR REFRACTION AND CONTACT LENSES, AS APPROPRIATE.

ON QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID ANY PERSON WHO HOLDS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN OPTOMETRY OR A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY ISSUED BY THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WILL BE REGISTERED IN PART I OF THE REGISTER.

ANY PERSON WHO HOLDS A HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN OPTOMETRY OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC OR A CERTIFICATION FROM THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD SHOWING A PASS IN AN EXAMINATION IN OPTOMETRY CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 15A OF THE ORDINANCE WILL BE REGISTERED IN PART II.

THOSE WHO HOLD A CERTIFICATION FROM THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD SHOWING A PASS IN AN EXAMINATION IN REFRACTION CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 15A OF THE ORDINANCE WILL BE REGISTERED IN PART III.

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PART IV OF THE REGISTER IS FOR PERSONS ISSUED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE ORDINANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT PERSONS CURRENTLY PRACTISING IN THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION WITHOUT A RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION OR FORMAL TRAINING MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR REGISTRATION IN AN APPROPRIATE PART OF THE REGISTER BY THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL.

PERSONS HOLDING OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS IN OPTOMETRY MAY ALSO APPLY TO THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD FOR REGISTRATION.

"THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS COUNCIL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT A PARTICULAR OVERSEAS QUALIFICATION IS REGISTRABLE AND IF SO, WHICH PART OF THE REGISTER ITS HOLDER SHOULD BE REGISTERED IN," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"TO FACILITATE SUCH APPLICATIONS, THE COUNCIL IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD WILL SHORTLY DRAW UP A LIST OF OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

THE REGULATION ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE FORMATION OF A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE UNDER THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD TO CONSIDER ANY CASE OF COMPLAINT AND TO REFER COMPLAINTS TO THE BOARD FOR INQUIRY.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT WHILE THE BOARD WOULD RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS FROM DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE PROVISIONS IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBIT PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY BY UNREGISTERED PERSONS WILL NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL APRIL 1, 1996.

"THIS WILL ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE OPTOMETRY PROFESSION TO OBTAIN THEIR REGISTRATION," HE EXPLAINED.

HE ADDED THAT OPTOMETRY WAS THE THIRD PROFESSION TO ADOPT A REGISTRATION SYSTEM UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ORDINANCE, FOLLOWING THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND THE MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONS.

"WE HOPE THAT LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND RADIOGRAPHERS COULD BE MADE IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DETAILED PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE OPTOMETRISTS BOARD LATER.

THE OPTOMETRISTS (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) REGULATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON SEPTEMBER 9 (FRIDAY).

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SECRETARY OF STATE TO VISIT FAR EAST

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

THE RT HON DOUGLAS HURD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, WILL VISIT THAILAND FROM SEPTEMBER 12 TO 14, VIETNAM FROM SEPTEMBER 14 TO 15, HONG KONG FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO 16 AND JAPAN FROM SEPTEMBER 16 TO 19.

IN THAILAND AND VIETNAM HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GROUP OF PROMINENT BRITISH BUSINESSMEN WHO WILL BE SEEKING TO EXPAND BRITISH TRADE IN THE REGION.

IN THAILAND, HE HOPES TO CALL ON THE KING, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS, AND GIVE AN ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THAI BUSINESSMEN.

IN VIETNAM, CALLS ARE PLANNED ON THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND THERE WILL BE OTHER EVENTS INVOLVING THE BUSINESS DELEGATION.

IN HONG KONG, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL HOLD MEETINGS WITH THE GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. HE ALSO VISIT THE NEW AIRPORT SITE.

IN JAPAN, MR HURD WILL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER MINISTERS. THERE WILL ALSO BE SEVERAL BUSINESS-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LAST VISITED HONG KONG IN JULY 1993 AND JAPAN IN APRIL 1993. THESE WILL BE HIS FIRST VISITS TO THAILAND AND VIETNAM.

HE WILL LAND IN HONG KONG AT 2.50 PM ON SEPTEMBER 15 BY SPECIAL FLIGHT. THE PRESS ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT. DETAILS OF THE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR COVERING HIS ARRIVAL AND HIS ACTIVITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME OF HIS VISIT.

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BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH DEPARTS FROM
ESTABLISHED POLICY ON SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT IMPLEMENTATING THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH COMMISSIONED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR ADOPTING A NEW BASIS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS WOULD COST AN ADDITIONAL \$9 BILLION TO \$25 BILLION EACH YEAR; PUSH TAXES UP BY NO LESS THAN THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS; DRAW UP TO 240,000 PEOPLE OUT OF THE WORK FORCE AND RAISE SOME OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) PAYMENTS ABOVE THE MEDIAN WAGE.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MISS JACQUELINE WILLIS, TOLD MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO WELFARE SERVICES PANEL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT BY RAISING THE CSSA THRESHOLD, IT MIGHT BRING IN NEARLY 160,000 MORE HOUSEHOLDS INTO THE SAFETY NET, AND THAT THE AVERAGE PAYMENTS FOR A FOUR-PERSON HOUSEHOLD WOULD INCREASE TO \$10,150, WHICH IS 123 PER CENT OF THE MEDIAN WAGE.

"THE ADDITIONAL ANNUAL COST NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS REPRESENTS ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT TO 23 PER CENT OF GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL RECURRENT SPENDING, AND WE COULD ONLY SPEND THAT SORT OF MONEY BY EITHER CUTTING BACK ON OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES OR BY RAISING TAXES," MISS WILLIS SAID.

"ADOPTING THE BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH WOULD MOVE THE FLOOR OF 'RELATIVE POVERTY' EVER UPWARDS, AND TO PAY FOR THIS, YOU WOULD NEED A BOTTOMLESS PIT OF FUNDS," MISS WILLIS CAUTIONED.

"EVIDENCE FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD SUGGESTS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE EARNING AN INCOME CLOSE TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY RATES ARE DISCOURAGED FROM WORKING.

"WE ESTIMATE THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR FORCE WOULD FALL BY 1.5 TO 5.0 PERCENTAGE POINTS, OR 70,000 TO 240,000 PEOPLE IF THE HIGHER RATES ARE ADOPTED. WE WOULD NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN IN HONG KONG," SAID MISS WILLIS.

MISS WILLIS CAUTIONED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD HAVE WIDE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"TAKING THIS ROUTE WOULD AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO EXPAND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, LOWER THE GROWTH POTENTIAL, PUSH UP WAGES AND INFLATION, AND BLUNT OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE," MISS WILLIS SAID.

"TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO OTHER WELFARE STATES EXCEPT GERMANY PRACTISED A STRAIGHT BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH IN ITS SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES. AS A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER OUR COMMUNITY COULD AFFORD SUCH AN EXPERIMENT," MISS WILLIS SAID.

MISS WILLIS SAID TO ADOPT A "BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH" IN DETERMINING THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF LIVING AND HENCE THE CSSA PAYMENTS WOULD BE A MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM THE PHILOSOPHY AND ESTABLISHED POLICY ON THE PROVISION OF WELFARE IN HONG KONG.

"OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE A 'SAFETY NET' FOR THE DISADVANTAGED AND NEEDY TO MEET THEIR BASIC AND SPECIAL NEEDS. OVER THE YEARS, THE SAFETY NET HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED TO ENSURE THAT PAYMENTS ARE BETTER TAILORED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED," MISS WILLIS SAID.

MISS WILLIS EMPHASISED THAT THE CSSA SCHEME WAS INFLATION-PROOF, AND REAL INCREASES HAD BEEN MADE TO ENABLE THE NEEDY TO SHARE IN HONG KONG'S GROWING WEALTH.

"OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES, THE CSSA RATES HAVE INCREASED BY ABOUT 15 TIMES WHILE THE RATE OF INFLATION MEASURED BY CPI(A) HAS GONE UP BY ONLY SIX TIMES.

"THESE PAYMENTS REPRESENT 35 PER CENT TO 98 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE MANUFACTURING WORKER'S WAGE OR 30 PER CENT TO 83 PER CENT OF THE MEDIAN WAGE," MISS WILLIS SAID.

SHE SAID SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WERE REVIEWED REGULARLY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA THIS YEAR.

"IMPROVEMENTS TO CSSA IS AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME WHICH WILL CONTINUE," MISS WILLIS STRESSED.

THE BUDGET STANDARD APPROACH WAS ADVOCATED IN AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH COMMISSIONED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TO STUDY THE ADEQUACY OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RATES IN HONG KONG.

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EDUCATION DIRECTOR WELCOMES END OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WELCOMES THE DECISION MADE BY THE LECTURING STAFF UNIONS TO CALL OFF INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHICH STARTED ON AUGUST 30.

"I AM GLAD THAT THE LECTURERS HAVE ADOPTED A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE, AND WILL NOW RETURN TO THEIR NORMAL DUTIES IN THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SO THAT THE IMPORTANT TASK OF TEACHER EDUCATION WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT DISRUPTION," MR WONG SAID.

"WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE WITH STAFF DURING THE REST OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, WHICH ENDS ON OCTOBER 31," MR WONG ADDED.

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DSD LOOKING INTO OVERFLOWING OF DRAINAGE CHANNEL

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL HIRE AN EXTERNAL INSTITUTION TO ASSIST IN LOOKING INTO THE OVERFLOWING OF A DRAINAGE CHANNEL IN TAN KWAI TSUEN, YUEN LONG DURING THE RECENT HEAVY RAINS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR NG YEE-YUM, WHEN HE MET REPRESENTATIVES OF VILLAGERS FROM TAN KWAI TSUEN AND WO PING SAN TSUEN TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REPRESENTATIVES TOLD MR NG THAT OVERFLOWING OF THE DRAINAGE CHANNEL HAD CAUSED FLOODINGS IN THEIR VILLAGES.

NOTING THAT HE APPRECIATED THE VILLAGERS' CONCERNS, MR NG SAID IT APPEARED THAT SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE DRAINAGE CATCHMENT HAD LED TO THE EXTREMELY HIGH FLOW RATE RECORDED IN THE DRAINAGE CHANNEL.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR NG ADDED, IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, A LOCAL FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM WOULD BE INSTALLED.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO IMPLEMENTING A NUMBER OF URGENT SHORT TERM MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE DRAINAGE SITUATION OF THE AREA.

"THE MEASURES INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A FLOOD STORAGE BUFFER IN AN ABANDONED RESERVOIR AT THE UPSTREAM AREA OF THE CATCHMENT AND INCREASING THE INLET CAPACITY OF THE DRAINAGE CHANNEL BY RAISING THE CHANNEL WALLS ALONG THE UPSTREAM PORTION OF THE CHANNEL," MR NG SAID.

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APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND BALLOT EXERCISE OF APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY OF PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS FROM CHINA FOR EMPLOYMENT IN HONG KONG.

"UP TO THE END OF AUGUST 1994, A TOTAL OF 2,683 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE APPLICATIONS CAME FROM THE TRADING, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE SECTORS AND JOBS AS ENGINEERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND MARKETING EXECUTIVES WERE MOST POPULAR.

IN A BALLOT EXERCISE HELD TODAY, 250 APPLICATIONS WERE RANDOMLY SELECTED BY COMPUTER FROM THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYERS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING INDIVIDUALLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS IN THE BALLOT EXERCISE WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSEQUENT EXERCISES TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER 1994 AND MARCH 1995.

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"EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT SUBMIT DOUBLE APPLICATIONS FOR THE SAME VACANCY. OVERBIDDING WILL RESULT IN REFUSAL OF THE APPLICATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

FOR ENQUIRIES, EMPLOYERS MAY TELEPHONE 824 6111.

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LOCAL COMPANY RECEIVES R AND D FUND

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A LOCAL COMPANY HAS RECEIVED A \$570,000 FUNDING BOOST FROM THE HONG KONG APPLIED R AND D FUND COMPANY LIMITED TO DEVELOP A RELIABLE AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SECURITY SYSTEM THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE PROJECT, THE FOURTH SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION GRANTED FUNDING SUPPORT UNDER THE \$200 MILLION APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R AND D) SCHEME, AIMS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SECURITY TO CLIENTS THROUGH THE UTILISATION OF DATA ENCRYPTION TECHNOLOGY.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, SAID: "THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE SCHEME IS TO IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND HENCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING TO SUSTAIN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH."

HE NOTED THAT THE SCHEME HAD SO FAR RECEIVED 28 APPLICATIONS AND MORE THAN 300 WRITTEN AND TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES.

"IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR CONTRACTS THAT HAVE BEEN SIGNED, FOUR OTHER APPLICATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE," HE SAID.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE HONG KONG APPLIED R AND D FUND COMPANY LIMITED AT ROOM 1445, 14TH FLOOR, OCEAN CENTRE, 5 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 737 2206 FOR DETAIL INFORMATION ON THE SCHEME.

COMMENTING ON THE SECURITY SYSTEM PROJECT, MR YOUNG SAID: "IT IS CONSIDERED WORTH SUPPORTING SINCE IT HAS A HIGH DEVELOPMENT CONTENT AND IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF APPLYING EXISTING TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS."

THE PRODUCT IS TARGETED AT BOTH THE LOCAL AND ASIAN MARKETS AND ITS MAJOR USERS WILL INCLUDE MAJOR CORPORATIONS, HOTELS, SUPERMARKETS, POLICE STATIONS AND JEWELLERY SHOPS.

THE PROJECT, COSTING A TOTAL OF \$1.8 MILLION, IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE COMPANY HAS COMMISSIONED THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO UNDERTAKE THE APPLIED R AND D WORK REQUIRED.

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YOUTH FUNDING SCHEME ON AIDS INVITES APPLICATIONS

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THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS) REMINDED YOUNG PEOPLE INTENDING TO TAKE PART IN THE YOUTH FUNDING SCHEME ON AIDS TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH (SEPTEMBER 30).

THE SCHEME IS RUN BY CEPAIDS' WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH TO ENCOURAGE AND MOBILISE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ORGANISE INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS FOR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR CEPAIDS SAID: "YOUTH GROUPS EACH COMPRISING NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PROJECT PLANS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE AWARENESS ON AIDS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

"BY ORGANISING AND IMPLEMENTING AN AIDS PROJECT, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT AIDS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY," HE EXPLAINED.

SELECTED PROJECT PLANS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR AND THE MAXIMUM FUNDING FOR EACH PROJECT IS \$6,000.

AMONG THE SELECTED PROJECTS, THE BEST THREE WILL EACH BE AWARDED A CASH PRIZE OF \$2,000 AND AN "OUTSTANDING AWARD" TROPHY.

YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE FUNDING SCHEME CAN OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS AND RELATED PROSPECTUS FROM THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLS OR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, OR CONTACT THE SECRETARY OF CEPAIDS' WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH ON TEL 835 1821.

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749 ELECTION COMPLAINTS LODGED

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THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 749 COMPLAINTS ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES AS AT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS, 585 WERE RELATED TO ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS, 57 ON ELECTIONEERING IN PRIVATE PREMISES AND 107 ON OTHER MATTERS.

OUT OF THE 749 CASES, ACTION FOR 521 CASES HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

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NEW CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CATERING TRADE

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RECENTLY PUBLISHED A NEWLY REVISED CODE OF LABOUR RELATIONS PRACTICE FOR THE CATERING TRADE TO HELP EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES DEVELOP HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS.

INTRODUCING THE CODE OF PRACTICE AT A SEMINAR TODAY (WEDNESDAY), ACTING SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MR LI SIU-KWAI SAID: "HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS IS ESSENTIAL IN INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF INDIVIDUAL CATERING ESTABLISHMENT.

"TO ACHIEVE THIS, EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SHOULD JOINTLY ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE," MR LI SAID.

"EMPLOYERS SHOULD FORMULATE FAIR AND REASONABLE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, SET UP A GOOD PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND PROVIDE VARIOUS CHANNELS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH EMPLOYEES.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYEES SHOULD MAKE USE OF THESE CHANNELS TO REFLECT THEIR OPINIONS," MR LI ADDED.

APART FROM GIVING THESE HINTS IN ACHIEVING GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS, THE NEW PUBLICATION ALSO HAS A NEW CHAPTER ON WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN TYPHOONS AND RAINSTORMS.

A SAMPLE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND A SAMPLE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ARE ALSO PROVIDED.

THE CODE IS NOW OBTAINABLE AT THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT AND THE BRANCH OFFICES OF LABOUR RELATIONS DIVISION.

THE SEMINAR HELD TODAY WAS ORGANISED BY THE TASK FORCE ON CATERING INDUSTRY WHICH COMPRISED TRIPARTITE REPRESENTATION FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MAJOR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, AS WELL AS WORKERS' UNIONS AND ORGANISATIONS OF THE CATERING INDUSTRY.

AT THE SEMINAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RESTAURANT MANAGERS, MR DAVID NG, GAVE A TALK ON MODERN MANAGEMENT IN CATERING TRADE.

PARTICIPANTS ALSO SHARED THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCE IN THE CASE STUDY SESSION DURING WHICH ACTUAL CASES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WERE DISCUSSED.

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MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN FINED FOR MAKING FALSE TAX RETURNS

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A MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN WAS FINED \$11,000 IN THE TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY FOR BREACHING THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE.

THE DEFENDANT MR NG WAI-KWONG, AGED 34, PLEADED GUILTY TO MAKING INCORRECT STATEMENTS IN HIS SALARIES TAX RETURNS WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE, CONTRARY TO SECTION 80(2)(B) OF THE ORDINANCE.

HE WAS CHARGED WITH MAKING INCORRECT CLAIMS FOR DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCE IN HIS TAX RETURNS FOR THE YEARS OF ASSESSMENT 1991/92 AND 1992/93.

DESPITE THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER ON NOVEMBER 6, 1990, THE DEFENDANT STILL NAMED HIS FATHER AS A DEPENDENT PARENT ON HIS TAX RETURNS AND CLAIMED FOR THE DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCE FOR THE YEARS OF ASSESSMENT 1991/92 AND 1992/93.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED TAXPAYERS THAT THEY MUST FILE CORRECT TAX RETURNS.

UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE, A TAX EVADER IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON EACH CHARGE, IN ADDITION TO A FURTHER FINE EQUIVALENT TO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

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"ENVIRONMENT HK 94" RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RELEASES THE CHINESE VERSION OF "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994".

UNLIKE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994" TAKES A NEW APPROACH TO REPORTING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"IT CONTAINS A SERIES OF FEATURE ARTICLES PROVIDING EASILY READABLE MATERIAL FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS WELL AS REFERENCE DATA FOR THOSE WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORK," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

TOPICS FEATURED INCLUDE THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN MAJOR WORKS PROJECTS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC LANDFILLS AND REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS TO MEET GROWING DEMANDS FOR WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES, WATER MONITORING WORK, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF AIR AND NOISE CONTROLS.

AT \$55 A COPY, THE CHINESE VERSION OF "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1994" IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG. THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT HAS BEEN ON SALE SINCE EARLY JULY.

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SECONDARY STUDENTS URGED TO VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 18

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SECONDARY STUDENTS WHO CAN VOTE SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND CAST THEIR BALLOTS AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18, THE ASSISTANT ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS BETTY TAM, SAID THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT TWO SEPARATE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES ON CHEUNG CHAU AND LANTAU, MISS TAM SAID THE POLLS SIGNIFIED ANOTHER PHASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE ELECTIONS, SHE SAID, WOULD PRODUCE THE FIRST FULLY ELECTED DISTRICT BOARDS AND THOSE ELECTED WOULD FORM AN ELECTION COMMISSION TO SELECT 10 MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995.

NOTING THAT DISTRICT BOARDS REPRESENTED THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF ADVISORY BODIES IN THE TERRITORY, MISS TAM SAID THEY FORMED AS ESSENTIAL PART OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG.

"THEY PROVIDE BETTER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT AND IN THIS CONNECTION, WILL ENSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION TAKES HEED OF THEIR PROBLEMS," SHE SAID.

THE LOWERING OF VOTING AGE TO 18, SHE ADDED, WOULD ALSO ENABLE YOUNGSTERS TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,493	0930	+14
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,825	1000	+14
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+34
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+38	1200	+38
LAF TODAY	-706	1500	+38
		1600	+38
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER	TWI 122.1	*+0.1*	7.9.94

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.17	18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.20	5.80
1 MONTH	4.21	24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	100.07	6.20
3 MONTHS	4.35	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.92	6.58
6 MONTHS	4.67	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.92	6.71
12 MONTHS	5.25	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.53	6.86

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,709 MN

CLOSED 7 SEPTEMBER 1994