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VOTER REGISTRATION REACHES 1.2 MILLION

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THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HAS PASSED THE 1.2 MILLION MARK, WITH MORE PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY SIGNING UP.

THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP INCLUDE HOUSEWIVES, FISHERMEN, WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

+IT IS SPECIALLY ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT MORE AND MORE PUBLIC-SPIRITED EMPLOYERS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ARE RESPONDING TO THE CAMPAIGN AND ARRANGING BULK REGISTRATION FOR THEIR STAFF MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

THE LATEST GROUP TO ADD THEIR NAMES TO THE GROWING LIST OF VOTERS WILL BE THE 4 500 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE FIVE TUNG WAH GROUP HOSPITALS.

TO HELP THEM COMPLETE THEIR FORMS, REGISTRATION TEAMS FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES WILL CALL AT THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL, TUNG WAH EASTERN HOSPITAL, SANDY BAY SANATORIUM, KWONG WAH HOSPITAL AND WONG TAI SIN SANATORIUM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MR MOK WAH-CHIU, HAS ISSUED A PERSONAL LETTER TO HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERS, URGING THEM TO REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

APART FROM TUNG WAH, THE CNTA SPOKESMAN ADDED, OTHER MAJOR EMPLOYERS WERE ALSO DISPLAYING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE REGISTRATION DRIVE BY MAKING SIMILAR APPEALS AND HELPING TO DISTRIBUTE REGISTRATION FORMS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES.

THEY INCLUDE THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, JARDINE MATHESON AND COMPANY LIMITED, THE HONG KONG LAND GROUP, HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED, THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED AND AMOY INDUSTRIES (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED.

EVERYONE WHO IS 21 YEARS OR OVER, AND HAS LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS OR MORE, IS ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, IMMIGRATION OFFICES, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, AND SOME 400 BRANCHES OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND THE HANG SENG BANK.

THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO PICK UP REGISTRATION FORMS PERSONALLY CAN TELEPHONE THE CNTA HOTLINE AT 3-688062, AND ASK FOR FORMS TO BE MAILED TO THEM.

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TEXTILE PROBLEMS TO BE DISUCSSED
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL CHAIR A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) BETWEEN SENIOR OFFICERS OF HIS DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN ISSUING ORGANISATIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE PROPOSED U.S. RULES OF ORIGIN ON TEXTILES EXPORTS TO AMERICA, AND TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HONG KONG JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE TRADE DEPARTMENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM IN OCEAN CENTRE.

+THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WILL BE VERY USEFUL SINCE MR MACLEOD WILL HAVE THE LATEST THINKING OF THESE ORGANISATIONS TO BRING WITH HIM TO THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TEXTILES COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) IN GENEVA ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO BE ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES,+ A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

MR MACLEOD WILL LEAVE HONG KONG BY AIR TOMORROW NIGHT FOR GENEVA.

THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR MACLEOD MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG KNITWEAR ASSOCIATIONS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, MR KENNETH FANG, AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR FRANK LIN.

HE BROUGHT THEM UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS, AND THEY EXPLAINED THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE INDUSTRY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTERWARDS, MR MACLEOD COMMENTED THAT HE WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT PRESSURES EXERTED BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY WOULD BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE.

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COURTESY CALL

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MR DENG PUFANG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN CHIEF OF THE CHINA WELFARE FUND FOR THE HANDICAPPED, PAID A COURTESY CALL TODAY ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR MARTIN LEWIS.

MR DENG, WHO IS WHEELCHAIR-BOUND, WILL BE VISITING REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG AND ATTENDING AN EXHIBITION OF DONATED PAINTINGS OF CHINESE ARTISTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHINA'S HANDICAPPED.

MR LEWIS EXPLAINED HIS ROLE IN COORDINATING REHABILITATION SERVICES WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES THROUGH THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN, AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON REHABILITATION MATTERS WITH MR DENG. MR LEWIS WAS ASSISTED IN INTERPRETATION BY MR BASIL WONG, SENIOR ACCOUNTING OFFICER (AG) WHO IS ALSO CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR.

AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION, MR LEWIS HOSTED A LUNCHEON IN MR DENG'S HONOUR.

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LABOUR ADVISERS ELECTED

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FOUR EMPLOYEES' UNION MEMBERS WERE ELECTED TODAY (THURSDAY) AS EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, TO BE FORMALLY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE YEARS 1985 AND 1986.

THEY ARE THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' UNION, MR SZETO WAH (159 VOTES); A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND WELFARE OFFICER OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON DEPARTMENTAL STORE WORKERS ASSOCIATION, MR TAM YIU-CHUNG (135 VOTES); THE AUDITOR OF THE HONG KONG STEVEDORES UNION, MR LEE SHING-CHU (126 VOTES); AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS GENERAL UNION, MR LUK TUNG-CHING (118 VOTES).

THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE BY SECRET BALLOT AT QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL HALL AND WAS SUPERVISED BY OFFICERS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

OF THE 385 REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS, 249 TOOK PART IN THE ELECTION AND CAST VOTES.

THE BOARD IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON LABOUR MATTERS, INCLUDING LABOUR LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

IT COMPRISES SIX EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE COMMISSIONER AS CHAIRMAN.

FOUR OF THE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED BY THE REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND THE OTHER TWO ARE DIRECTLY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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KMB FRANCHISE EXTENDED TWO YEARS
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THE FRANCHISE FOR THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY HAS BEEN EXTENDED BY TWO YEARS TO AUGUST 31, 1989.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE BUS COMPANY TO PLAN SUFFICIENTLY AHEAD TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY SERVICE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE AUGUST 1982 BUS REVIEW, THE COMPANY HAD IMPROVED ITS PERFORMANCE IN COMPLYING WITH SERVICE SCHEDULES AND ROUTE DEVELOPMENT.

THE COMPANY HAD ALSO BEEN DEVELOPING NEW DEPOT SITES AND HAS EXPANDED ITS PASSENGER ENQUIRY HOT-LINE SERVICE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PUBLIC, HE SAID.

ITS TRAINING UNIT, SET UP IN 1965, HAD BEEN ENLARGED AND RE-EQUIPPED. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HK POLYTECHNIC, FULL-TIME INTENSIVE TRAINING WAS BEING GIVEN TO NEW DRIVERS AND AN 'ADVANCED COURSE' PROVIDED FOR EXPERIENCED DRIVERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE COMPANY IS CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING A PROPER AND EFFICIENT SERVICE AND HAS RECOMMENDED THE FRANCHISE EXTENSION,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS HAD COME INTO FORCE YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF A FRANCHISED BUS COMAPNY AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AND TO ALLOW THE COMPANY TO HAVE APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE POWERS TO GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF PASSENGERS.

THESE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES REGULATIONS 1984, PUBLISHED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE YESTERDAY, ARE BASICALLY AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE PREVIOUS ROAD TRAFFIC (PUBLIC OMNIBUS, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS AND PUBLIC CAR) REGULATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN REVOKED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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CROSS-HARBOUR LORRY FARES TO CHANGE

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CHARGES FOR GOODS VEHICLES USING THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE VEHICULAR FERRY WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ADJUSTMENT IN CHARGES WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY A RECLASSIFICATION OF GOODS VEHICLES UNDER NEW ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS.

AT PRESENT, GOODS VEHICLES ARE CLASSIFIED BY THEIR UNLADEN WEIGHT. THEY ARE CHARGED IN THREE STEPS FOR USING VEHICULAR FERRIES: UNDER 40 CWT ($7), BETWEEN 40 AND 100 CWT ($11), AND ABOVE 100 CWT ($16 IF NOT EXCEEDING 10.976 METRES IN LENGTH, OTHERWISE $75). FOR THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, THE RESPECTIVE CHARGES FOR THESE THREE STEPS ARE $15, $20 AND $25 (INCLUDING TAX).

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE CLASSIFIED BY THEIR PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT, WHICH MUST BE PAINTED OR MARKED CONSPICUOUSLY ON THEIR SIDES.

+IT IS NOT PRACTICAL, HOWEVER, TO DEVISE WEIGHT STEPS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY THE EXISTING LEVEL OF CHARGES TO THE SAME GROUPS OF VEHICLES, SINCE THERE IS NO DIRECT CORRELATION BETWEEN UNLADEN WEIGHT AND PERMITTED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

INSTEAD, A CLOSE APPROXIMATION WILL BE ADOPTED AND GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE CHARGED UNDER THE THREE CORRESPONDING CATEGORIES: NOT EXCEEDING 5.31 TONNES, NOT EXCEEDING 12.73 TONNES, AND EXCEEDING 12.73 TONNES.

AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVERSION, ABOUT 3 700 OUT OF NEARLY 20 700 VEHICLES AT PRESENT IN THE MEDIUM GROUP WILL MOVE TO THE LIGHTER GROUP AND ONLY 12 WILL MOVE TO THE HEAVIER GROUP, HE SAID.

THE ADJUSTMENT IN CHARGES FOR GOODS VEHICLES USING THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE UNDER THE VARIATION OF CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TOLLS NOTICE 1984 AND, IN RESPECT OF VEHICULAR FERRIES, UNDER THE FERRY SERVICES (HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY CO., LTD.) (DETERMINATION OF FARES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1984.

THE FERRY SERVICES ORDER ALSO DETERMINES THE EXISTING MAXIMUM FARES FOR THE REMAINING YAUMATI FRANCHISED FERRY SERVICES, PUBLISHED PREVIOUSLY WHEN THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WAS OPERATING UNDER A TEMPORARY LICENCE PENDING THE NEW FRANCHISE WHICH HAS NOW TAKEN EFFECT.

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BROADCASTING REVIEW WILL BE EXHAUSTIVE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO CONDUCT THE MOST THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF BROADCASTING EVER UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF TASKS THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD TO CARRY OUT, THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, MR A. G. COOPER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) AT A Y'S MEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON.

BEFORE SUBMITTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, MR COOPER SAID, THE BOARD WHICH WAS APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY, THIS YEAR, WILL THOROUGHLY REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF RADIO AND TELEVISION IN THE 1990'S, AND BEYOND.

THE RELEVANCE TO HONG KONG OF THE MANY TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BROADCASTING WORLDWIDE, SUCH AS CABLE SYSTEMS, DIRECT BROADCASTING BY SATELLITE AND TELETEXT, WILL ALSO BE STUDIED.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST WHICH ARE WITHIN THE REVIEW FRAMEWORK INCLUDE THE FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES IN THE INDUSTRY; THE CONDITIONS OF ADVERTISING CONTROL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BANNING CERTAIN ADVERTISEMENTS, AS WELL AS REVIEWING THE ADVERTISING AND PROGRAMME CODES OF PRACTICE; THE FUTURE OF RTHK AND THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY; ETV AND THE CENSORSHIP AND MONITORING ARRANGMENTS.

MR COOPER CONSIDERED THE BOARD WAS WELL QUALIFIED TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK, HAVING A HIGH COURT JUDGE AS CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS DRAWN FROM A WIDE SECTION OF INTERESTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR INCLUDING THE ELECTRONICS AND ADVERTISING INDUSTRIES, EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITIES, SOCIAL WORK AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

TO ASSIST IN ITS WORK, THE BOARD HAD FORMED 10 SUB-COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO SPECIFIC AREAS.

THE SOLICITING OF PUBLIC OPINION WAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE REVIEW, MR COOPER POINTED OUT, AND THE BOARD HAD SPECIFICALLY INVITED THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT VIEWS. IN RESPONSE TO AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED EARLIER THIS MONTH (AUGUST), LETTERS AND PROPOSALS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND INTERESTED PARTIES WERE COMING IN AT A GOOD RATE.

IN ADDITION, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WAS CONDUCTING A TERRITORY-WIDE SURVEY TO ASSESS PUBLIC OPINION AND TO IDENTIFY NEEDS, IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY, OF BOTH TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING.

PUBLIC HEARINGS WOULD BE HELD IN NOVEMBER AND INTERESTED PARTIES WOULD BE INVITED TO DISCUSS WITH THE BOARD THEIR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND ANY OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE URGED TO FORWARD THEIR VIEWS TO THE BOARD AT G.P.O. BOX 7000.

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LI TO REPLACE LEONARD
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THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS DESIGNATED MR JUSTICE LI AS VICE-PRESIDENT TO PRESIDE OVER THE THIRD DIVISION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL IN SUCCESSION TO MR JUSTICE LEONARD WHO IS DUE TO RETIRE IN MARCH, 1985.

MR JUSTICE LI WILL TAKE UP HIS NEW APPOINTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 30, THIS YEAR WHEN MR JUSTICE LEONARD COMMENCES PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE.

MR JUSTICE LI WAS BORN IN HONG KONG IN 1922. HE RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, CHINA AND BRITAIN. HE WAS AWARDED AN LL.B. BY LONDON UNIVERSITY IN 1950 AND WAS CALLED TO THE ENGLISH BAR IN 1951. HE IS A MEMBER OF LINCOLN'S INN.

MR JUSTICE LI JOINED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AS A CROWN COUNSEL IN 1953 AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1962. DURING THAT PERIOD, HE SAT AS A MAGISTRATE FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

HE WAS APPOINTED AS A DISTRICT JUDGE IN 1966, A PUISNE JUDGE IN 1971 AND A JUSTICE OF APPEAL IN 1980.

MR JUSTICE LI WILL JOIN MR JUSTICE HUGGINS AND MR JUSTICE MCMULLIN AS VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUDICIARY SAID: +AT PRESENT, THE COURT OF APPEAL SITS IN THREE DIVISIONS -- COMPRISING ONE CIVIL DIVISION, ONE CRIMINAL DIVISION AND ONE MIXED DIVISION. EACH DIVISION CONSISTS OF THREE JUDGES.

+NORMALLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY, THE THREE SENIOR JUSTICES OF APPEAL PRESIDE OVER THE THREE DIVISIONS AND THEY ARE APPOINTED 'VICE-PRESIDENTS'. THE PRESIDENT, BEING EX-OFFICIO, IS THE CHIEF JUSTICE WHO FOR MUCH OF THE TIME SITS AS A JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT, AND NOT IN THE COURT OF APPEAL.

+A VICE-PRESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THE WORK OF HIS DIVISION. HE PRESIDES OVER THE DIVISION IN COURT AND PLAYS THE LEADING ROLE IN THE HEARING OF CASES. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, HE DELIVERS THE JUDGEMENT OF COURT OR, WHERE ALL THREE JUDGES DELIVER JUDGEMENTS, WILL DELIVER THE LEADING JUDGEMENT,+ HE SAID.

+IN CRIMINAL CASES, IT IS THE USUAL PRACTICE TO DELIVER ONLY ONE JUDGEMENT. IN EXCEPTIONAL CRIMINAL CASES AND IN CIVIL CASES, THREE JUDGEMENTS ARE COMMONLY DELIVERED TO INDICATE HOW EACH JUDGE ARRIVES AT HIS CONCLUSION. THE LEADING JUDGEMENT IS THE FIRST ONE TO BE DELIVERED AND HAS TO DEAL AT LENGTH WITH THE MATERIAL FACTS. WHERE THE THREE JUDGES ARE NOT UNANIMOUS IN THEIR CONCLUSIONS, THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY IS BINDING,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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HOSPITAL STAFF REGISTER TO VOTE

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VOTER REGISTRATION IS A VERY SIMPLE ACTION BUT IT LEADS TO VERY BIG BENEFITS, THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR JONES MADE THE COMMENT WHEN HE LED A MOBILE REGISTRATION TEAM TO ST. TERESA'S HOSPITAL TO ASSIST SOME 500 STAFF MEMBERS THERE TO REGISTER.

+IF THE DISTRICT BOARD IS TO CONTINUE TO DO ITS GOOD WORK FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, IT WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT -- EXPRESSED THROUGH VOTING AT NEXT YEAR'S DB ELECTIONS,+ MR JONES TOLD THE PROSPECTIVE VOTERS.

HE SAID DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS WERE ALSO CONDUCTING HOME VISITS EVERY NIGHT TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO REGISTER.

+IN ADDITION, PUBLICITY LEAFLETS, PERSONAL APPEAL LETTERS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND REGISTRATION FORMS HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED. RESIDENTS CAN ALSO COMPLETE THEIR FORMS AT MOBILE REGISTRATION COUNTERS SET UP IN VARIOUS CONVENIENT LOCATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

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TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE FOR PUPILS

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THE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE SCHEME, INTRODUCED TWO YEARS AGO, WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED IN THE 1984/85 SCHOOL YEAR, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

UNDER THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY, BY DIRECT BANK TRANSFER, A CASH GRANT TO THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF ELIGIBLE PUPILS STUDYING IN PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS, AND TO THOSE OCCUPYING BOUGHT PLACES IN PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ALTHOUGH THOSE RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE ARE NOT REGARDED AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A FULL GRANT WILL BE $135 PER PUPIL, PER ANNUM, FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS AND $325 PER PUPIL, PER ANNUM, FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

/THE FINAL .....

THE FINAL DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A GRANT IN THE 1984/85 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE SEPTEMBER 15, 1984. THIS MEANS THAT ANY NEW PUPIL JOINING A SCHOOL AFTER THAT DATE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT THIS YEAR.

SCHOOLS MAY AWARD FULL OR HALF GRANTS BASED ON A POINTS SYSTEM SET OUT IN THE TEXTBOOKS ASSISTANCE RECKONER.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SCHOOLS MAY AWARD GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE PUPILS NUMBERING UP TO 25 PER CENT OF THEIR TOTAL ENROLMENT. FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOUGHT PLACES, THE CEILING IS CALCULATED AT 25 PER CENT OF THE NUMBER OF BOUGHT PLACES IN THE CLASSES.

HE SAID HEADS OF SCHOOLS MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, AWARD FULL GRANTS OR HALF GRANTS FOR CASES OF EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING HARDSHIP NOT COVERED BY THE RECKONER.

+THESE DISCRETIONARY GRANTS, HOWEVER, MUST BE WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S OVERALL 25 PER CENT ENTITLEMENT AND ARE SUBJECT TO AN OVERALL MAXIMUM NUMBER CALCULATED AT THE RATE OF THREE FULL GRANTS PER CLASS,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS MAY, IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO AWARD AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF GRANTS OVER THE 25 PER CENT CEILING.

PUPILS WHO WISH TO BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME MUST APPLY THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS USING THE STANDARD FORM, TO BE COMPLETED BY THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

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TAX CERTIFICATE INTEREST REDUCED

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FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE REDUCED TO 9.6 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 10.8 PER CENT.

NOTICE OF THIS WILL APPEAR IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE $0.80 PER MONTH PER $100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED TODAY.

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, HE SAID.

/THE NEW .....

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED TOMORROW OR AFTER.

CERTIFICATES ISSUED BEFORE AUGUST 31 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

10.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982 AND BEFORE AUGUST 27, 1982;

9% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 27, 1982 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 3, 1982;

7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 3, 1982 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1983;

10.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1983 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1983;

12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1983 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 7, 1983;

9.6% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 7, 1983 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 10, 1984;

7.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 1984 AND BEFORE MARCH 23, 1984;

5.16% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 1984 AND BEFORE MAY 18, 1984;

8.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 18, 1984 AND BEFORE JULY 6, 1984;

10.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 6, 1984 AND BEFORE JULY 13, 1984;

12.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 13, 1984 AND BEFORE AUGUST 10, 1984; AND

10.8% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 10, 1984 AND BEFORE AUGUST 31, 1984

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

/EXAMPLE : $1 000 .....

EXAMPLE : $1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1984, OCTOBER 5, 1984 AND NOVEMBER 5, 1984 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON DECEMBER 5, 1984 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS :-

ON $1 000, SEPTEMBER 5, 1984 TO DECEMBER 5, 1984 3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $8 PER MONTH	= $24.00
ON $1 000, OCTOBER 5, 1984 TO DECEMBER 5, 1984 2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $8 PER MONTH	= $16.00
ON $1 000, NOVEMBER 5, 1984 TO DECEMBER 5, 1984 ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT $8 PER MONTH	= $ 8.00
	$48.00

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SPORTS COACHING FOR THE DEAF

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DEAF YOUNGSTERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE FUN OF SOME POPULAR SPORTS AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE, SHA TIN THIS SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 2).

A SPECIAL SPORTS COACHING SESSION, INTENDED TO INTRODUCE THE BASIC SKILLS OF SQUASH, BADMINTON AND TENNIS TO THE DEAF, HAS BEEN CO-ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE (RSS) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE DEAF AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

DEAF PERSONS AND THOSE WITH IMPAIRED HEARING, AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 30, ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART.

+THE AIM OF THIS PROJECT IS TO STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF THE DEAF IN THE THREE SPORTS, AND TO TEST THEIR ABILITY IN THEM,+ AN RSS SPOKESMAN SAID.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO HELP THE DEAF BUILD CONFIDENCE AND WE BELIEVE THAT, GIVEN ADEQUATE TRAINING, THEY CAN DO AS WELL IN SPORTS AS OTHERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SOME ELEMENTARY TRAINING COURSES IN SQUASH, BADMINTON AND TENNIS WERE BEING PLANNED FOR THOSE PLAYERS WHO DEMONSTRATED POTENTIAL IN THE THREE SPORTS.

/THE SESSION .....

THE SESSION ON SUNDAY WILL BE HELD FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM AND INTERESTED PLAYERS MAY ENROL AS LATE AS 1 PM AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

EXPERIENCED COACHES, ASSISTED BY SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS, WILL BE ON HAND TO SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES.

PARTICIPANTS ARE REMINDED TO WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHES AND BRING THEIR OWN RACKETS.

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REMEDIAL TEACHING WORKSHOPS

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TWO REMEDIAL TEACHING WORKSHOPS WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE WORKSHOPS WILL INCLUDE SHORT TALKS, GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND PRACTICE AND PLENARY SESSIONS. REFERENCE MATERIALS WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY.

THE AIM OF THE FIRST WORKSHOP WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES OF REMEDIAL TEACHING, WHILE THE SECOND WORKSHOP WILL CENTRE ON THE TEACHING OF READING. EACH WORKSHOP WILL CONSIST OF TWO SESSIONS ON THE SAME DAY.

THE FIRST WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 26 AND 28, AND ON OCTOBER 1, 2 AND 5, AT TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 7TH FLOOR, 165 MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON.

THE SECOND WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30 AND 31, AND ON NOVEMBER 2, 5, 7, AND 9, AT 9A BONHAM ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, HONG KONG.

THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH WORKSHOP WILL BE LIMITED TO 24 AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

PRINCIPALS WHO WISH THEIR STAFF TO ATTEND SHOULD SUBMIT A LIST OF TEACHERS, NAMES, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY, WITH APPLICATION FORMS, TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE ON, OR BEFORE, SEPTEMBER 13 FOR THE FIRST WORKSHOP AND BEFORE OCTOBER 13 FOR THE SECOND WORKSHOP.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE TO THE CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE AT 3-7128476 AND 5-488230.

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FOCUS ON YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR C.W.B. OXLEY TODAY (THURSDAY) HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT SUMMER LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE EYES OF LOCAL YOUNGSTERS.

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF A SUMMER LIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION IN THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL.

THE PHOTO SHOW, ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND SPONSORED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IS AIMED AT FOSTERING THE INTEREST OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PHOTOGRAPHY. IT HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 100 ENTRIES FROM YOUNGSTERS BETWEEN THE AGE OF 15 AND 24.

DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR OXLEY PRESENTED SOUVENIR PENNANTS TO PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT.

OUTSTANDING ENTRIES IN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WERE ALSO ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON AND THE WINNERS RECEIVED THEIR PRIZES FROM THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR J.K. WILSON.

THE EXHIBITION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) AND IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT 3 000 VISITORS.

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WORK ON KWAI CHUNG SLOPES

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WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON A NUMBER OF SLOPES IN THE KWAI CHUNG AREA OF TSUEN WAN AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPING THE NEW TOWN.

THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE RECONSTRUCTION, STABILISATION AND PROTECTION WORK ON THE SLOPES. WHEN COMPLETED, THE SLOPES WILL BE HYDROSEEDED AND REPLANTED TO PROVIDE A MORE ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENT.

ALSO PART OF THE PROJECT WILL BE THE FORMATION OF PLATFORMS FOR RECREATIONAL USE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATHS TO LINK TAI WO HAU ROAD AND KWAI SHING CIRCUIT.

THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORK ON THE SLOPES, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER AND TAKE 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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URBAN CLEARWAY IN WAN CHAI

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FROM SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 1), THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF HENNESSY ROAD, BETWEEN HOUSE NUMBERS 57 TO 71, WILL BE MADE AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM. THE CLEARWAY RESTRICTION WILL THEN REMAIN IN FORCE FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY, FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS TO FACILITATE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

DURING THE RESTRICTION PERIODS, NO MOTOR VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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FIRING PRACTICE WARNING

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE NEXT MONTH, BETWEEN 8 AM AND 5 PM ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS: SEPTEMBER 1, 3-8, 12-15, 17-22, 24 AND 26-29.

ON SEPTEMBER 25 (TUESDAY) FIRING PRACTICE WILL BE HELD FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

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