



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1990

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BILL TO GIVE HA POWERS TO MANAGE HOSPITAL SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BILL 1990 WILL GIVE THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SUFFICIENT POWERS TO MANAGE THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY, WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID THAT THE PRESENT CONCEPT OF A HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD EVOLVED OVER SEVERAL YEARS OF CAREFUL DELIBERATION AND IT WAS DESIGNED TO BRING SEVERAL BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY.

"FIRST, IT WILL BRING THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TOGETHER WITHIN AN INTEGRATED PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM, AND THE AUTHORITY WILL OFFER COMMON TERMS OF SERVICE TO ITS STAFF.

"THE SECOND BENEFIT IS THAT BY BEING ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE AUTHORITY WILL BE BETTER PLACED TO DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY AND TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CHANGING DEMANDS.

"THIRD, THERE WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT, WITH GREATER DEVOLUTION OF AUTHORITY FROM THE CENTRAL TO THE OPERATIONAL LEVELS.

"FINALLY, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROVISION AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES WILL BE ENHANCED," MRS WONG SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT ENVISAGED THAT THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS IMMEDIATELY UPON THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, SINCE THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNLIKELY BY THEN TO HAVE COMPLETED ALL OF THE ESSENTIAL PREPARATORY WORK, SUCH AS THE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SUBVENTED HOSPITAL BOARDS ON THE INTEGRATION PROCESS, CONSULTATIONS WITH STAFF ON ASPECTS OF THE PHA'S REPORT WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTED THEM, THE APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, AND THE SETTING UP OF VARIOUS COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR PAYROLL, AND SO ON.

"THEREFORE, CLAUSE 1(2) PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNOR MAY APPOINT DIFFERENT DAYS FOR THE COMING INTO OPERATION OF DIFFERENT PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

"DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS," MRS WONG SAID.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AS A BODY CORPORATE, WITH ITS MEMBERS AS THE GOVERNING BODY.

THE AUTHORITY WILL CONSIST OF NOT MORE THAN 31 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

/THE BILL

THE BILL ALSO SETS OUT THE FUNCTION, THE POWER, THE FINANCIAL AND RELATED PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AUTHORITY, AND EMPOWERS THE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SUCH COMMITTEES AS IT THINKS FIT FOR THE BETTER PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS.

MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL SPECIFIED NOW FEES FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES WOULD BE DETERMINED.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL GIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE AUTHORITY ON THE GENERAL LEVEL OF FEES TO BE CHARGED AND ON THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE DETERMINATION OF FEES; AND THAT THE AUTHORITY WILL, WITHIN THE AMBIT OF SUCH DIRECTIONS, DETERMINE STANDARD FEES WHICH THE HOSPITAL GOVERNING COMMITTEES MAY THEN VARY WITHIN LIMITS SET BY THE AUTHORITY.

"BY THIS MEANS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT ANY INCREASE IN FEES IS FULLY JUSTIFIED AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"SEPARATELY THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WAIVING FEES, AND NEW WAIVER ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN SERVICES WILL BE IN PLACE BEFORE ANY REAL INCREASE IN FEES IS CONTEMPLATED," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE PROPER CONTROL WITHIN PUBLIC HOSPITAL ESTATES AND OTHER PROPERTY UNDER ITS MANAGEMENT, THE BILL EMPOWERED THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE BY-LAWS, WHICH SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"SUCH BY-LAWS MAY PROVIDE THAT THE CONTRAVENTION OF SPECIFIED PROVISIONS SHALL BE AN OFFENCE AND MAY PRESCRIBE PENALTIES NOT EXCEEDING A FINE OF \$2,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THREE MONTHS."

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BILL TO REVISE MOTOR VEHICLES' FIRST REGISTRATION TAX

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THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR PIERS SAID: "IT SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT FROM MARCH 7, 1990 TO THE PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO REVISE THE SCALE WHICH REDEFINES BASIC, SEMI-LUXURY AND LUXURY CARS TO REFLECT MORE REALISTICALLY THE CURRENT VALUE OF VEHICLES, AND TO INCREASE THE TAX RATES FOR PRIVATE CARS, MOTOR-CYCLES, TRICYCLES AND GOODS VEHICLES BY 10 PER CENT."

/THE PRESENT

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THE PRESENT SCALE WAS INTRODUCED IN 1978 AND THE LAST REAL INCREASE OF THIS TAX WAS IN 1982, HE SAID.

"THIS INCREASE WILL YIELD AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL \$200 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," SIR PIERS ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL SEEKS TO GIVE EFFECT TO FEE INCREASES

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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT FROM MARCH 7, 1990 TO THE PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO INCREASE THE FEES FOR DRIVING AND VEHICLE LICENCES, DRIVING TESTS AND VARIOUS CERTIFICATES AND PERMITS.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THESE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989.

"THE INCREASES OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT IS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE REVENUE YIELD IN REAL TERMS.

"THE INCREASES WILL YIELD AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL \$150 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO REVISE BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEE

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THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO INCREASE THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEE FROM \$630 TO \$900 WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1990.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

/"THIS INCREASE

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"THIS INCREASE WILL YIELD AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL \$140 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," HE SAID.

"IT ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE EXEMPTION LIMITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES," SIR PIERS ADDED.

UNDER THE LAW AT PRESENT, HE SAID, A BUSINESS WAS EXEMPT FROM THE FEE IF ITS AVERAGE SALES DID NOT EXCEED \$1,500 PER MONTH OR, WHERE THE BUSINESS CONSISTED OF RENDERING SERVICES, IF ITS AVERAGE RECEIPTS DID NOT EXCEED \$450 PER MONTH.

"IF ENACTED, EXEMPTION WILL TAKE EFFECT IF AVERAGE SALES OR RECEIPTS OF A BUSINESS DO NOT EXCEED \$5,000 PER MONTH OR \$1,500 PER MONTH RESPECTIVELY," SIR PIERS SAID.

SIR PIERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE REGISTRATION FEE WAS LAST REVISED IN 1989.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO INCREASE REGISTRATION FEE FOR LIMITED COMPANIES

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A BILL TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO INCREASE WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1990 THE REGISTRATION FEE PAYABLE BY LIMITED COMPANIES UPON INCORPORATION FROM \$600 TO \$1,000, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE FEE WAS LAST REVISED IN 1983.

"THIS INCREASE IN REGISTRATION FEE WILL YIELD AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL \$13 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," SIR PIERS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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INCREASE IN FEES PAYABLE BY BANKS AND DTC'S

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THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSALS IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET TO INCREASE WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1990 THE FEES PAYABLE BY BANKS, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID SUCH FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989.

"IN THE CASE OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, THE INCREASE WILL HELP TO REDUCE THE UNDER-RECOVERY OF GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION COSTS INCURRED.

"THE INCREASES WILL YIELD AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL \$30 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO GIVE EFFECT TO PROPOSED TAXATION CONCESSIONS

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE TAXATION CONCESSIONS PROPOSED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE TAX CONCESSIONS INCLUDED ZERO-RATING THE CLAWBACK ON ADDITIONAL PERSONAL ALLOWANCES, INCREASED CHILD AND DEPENDENT PARENT ALLOWANCES AND A REDUCTION IN THE FIRST TWO MARGINAL RATE BANDS OF SALARIES TAX AND PERSONAL ASSESSMENT.

"THIS BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF ANNUAL COMMERCIAL REBUILDING ALLOWANCE FROM 0.75 PER CENT TO TWO PER CENT.

"THE COST TO GENERAL REVENUE OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$770 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, AND \$1,065 MILLION PER ANNUM THEREAFTER AT PRESENT LEVELS OF CHARGEABLE INCOME," SIR PIERS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 INTRODUCED

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THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, WHICH SEEKS TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE TAXATION CONCESSIONS PROPOSED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THE BILL INCLUDED EXEMPTION FROM ESTATE DUTY FOR ALL DEATH BENEFITS ARISING FROM APPROVED RETIREMENT SCHEMES, AN INCREASED ESTATE DUTY EXEMPTION LIMIT FROM \$2 MILLION TO \$4 MILLION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE PRESENT SCHEDULE OF RATES WITH A NEW SCHEDULE SCALED FROM SIX PER CENT ON ESTATE BETWEEN \$4 MILLION AND \$4.5 MILLION TO 18 PER CENT ON ESTATES OVER \$5 MILLION.

"THE COST TO GENERAL REVENUE OF IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$50 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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FS MOVES SECOND READING OF SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) AMENDMENT BILL

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 IS TO AMEND THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND TO GRANT IMMUNITY TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LTD IN RELATION TO THE BONA FIDE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR PIERS SAID THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO MAKE TWO MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ORDINANCE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ORDINANCE IMPOSED CERTAIN DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO THE INTERESTS IN SHARES OF SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS AND THE INTERESTS IN SHARES AND DEBENTURES OF DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF LISTED COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG.

"ANY SUCH INTERESTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED TO THE LISTED COMPANY CONCERNED WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE OBLIGATION ARISING.

"THE COMPANY, IN TURN, IS GIVEN UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOLLOWING DAY TO REPORT THE INFORMATION TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION.

/"THE STOCK

"THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS THEN REQUIRED TO PUBLISH THE INFORMATION RECEIVED IN SUCH MANNER AND FOR SUCH PERIOD AS THE COMMISSION MAY SPECIFY," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY EXPLAINED.

SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THESE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

"THEY DO NOT ENSURE THE PROMPT RELEASE OF PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC. FURTHERMORE, THEY CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INSIDER DEALING.

"FOR EXAMPLE, OFFICERS OF THE LISTED COMPANY CONCERNED CAN BE IN POSSESSION OF PRICE-SENSITIVE INFORMATION FOR UP TO TWO DAYS BEFORE IT IS PASSED ON TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE FOR PUBLICATION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THEREFORE, THAT WHERE A DUTY OF DISCLOSURE AROSE UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE PERSON CONCERNED SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY BOTH THE LISTED COMPANY AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE NOTIFICATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE BEFORE IT WAS RECEIVED BY THE LISTED COMPANY, SIR PIERS SAID.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE AN OFFENCE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT TO AVOID POSSIBLE INJUSTICE, IT WOULD BE A DEFENCE FOR A PERSON TO SHOW THAT HE HAD TAKEN ALL REASONABLY PRACTICABLE STEPS TO NOTIFY THE STOCK EXCHANGE BEFORE THE LISTED COMPANY CONCERNED.

"ONCE IT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THE STOCK EXCHANGE WILL BE UNDER A STATUTORY DUTY TO PUBLISH THE INFORMATION NOTIFIED," HE SAID.

HAVING REGARD TO THE LARGE VOLUME OF NOTIFICATIONS EXPECTED AND THE NEED TO PROCESS AND PUBLISH THE INFORMATION QUICKLY, SIR PIERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THAT THE STOCK EXCHANGE SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM LEGAL ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE PUBLICATION IN GOOD FAITH OF INCORRECT INFORMATION.

"WE PROPOSE THEREFORE THAT NO LIABILITY SHOULD BE INCURRED BY THE STOCK EXCHANGE OR ITS EMPLOYEES IN THE PERFORMANCE IN GOOD FAITH OF ANY DUTY IMPOSED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE UNDER THE ORDINANCE," HE ADDED.

TWO MINOR AMENDMENTS PROPOSED UNDER THE BILL ARE:-

- * FIRST, THE TERM "UNIFIED EXCHANGE" BE REPLACED BY "EXCHANGE COMPANY" WHEREVER THE DUTIES IMPOSED UNDER THE ORDINANCE APPLY TO THE LICENSED COMPANY, THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED, AND NOT TO THE STOCK MARKET ITSELF.
- * SECONDLY, IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT METHODS OF NOTIFICATION, NAMELY BY POST OR PERSONAL DELIVERY, NOTIFICATIONS SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF BEING MADE IN SUCH OTHER MANNER AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

"THIS IS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF MARKET PRACTICES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY," SIR PIERS EXPLAINED.

SIR PIERS SAID THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN JULY 1988 BUT HAD YET TO BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR INTENTION THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE ONCE THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE IN A POSITION TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE. THIS CONDITION HAS NOW BEEN MET.

"SUBJECT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL NOW BEFORE THE COUNCIL, IT IS OUR INTENTION TO BRING THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE INTO FORCE ON JULY 1, 1990," THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID.

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BILL TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON BOARD SPACE OBJECTS

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THE TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 SEEKS TO AMEND THE TELECOMMUNICATION ORDINANCE (THE ORDINANCE) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON BOARD SPACE OBJECTS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON ANSON CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MRS CHAN SAID: "THE PURPOSE OF THIS LICENSING REQUIREMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ARE MADE SUBJECT TO PROPER REGULATORY CONTROL, FOR EXAMPLE WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF RADIO FREQUENCIES."

THE AMENDMENT HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE ASIASAT 1 SATELLITE BY ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATION CO LTD, SHE ADDED.

"THIS SATELLITE IS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG AS A SPACE OBJECT UNDER THE UK OUTER SPACE ACT AS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY THE OUTER SPACE (HONG KONG) ORDER 1990.

"THE COMPANY HAS PLANS TO LAUNCH OTHER SATELLITES IN FUTURE, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE REGISTERED IN HONG KONG," MRS CHAN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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MERGER OF TWO BANKS

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THE HON LAU WAH-SUM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INTRODUCED A PRIVATE BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE MERGER OF THE DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK AND BERGEN BANK A/S.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE DEN NORSKE BANK BILL 1990, MR LAU SAID HONG KONG HAD AN INTEREST IN AFFORDING CERTAINTY AND SECURITY OF BUSINESS TO INTERNATIONAL BANKS OPERATING HERE.

AND THIS ENABLING LEGISLATION WAS THE BEST MANNER IN WHICH TO AFFORD CERTAINTY TO THE CUSTOMERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK IN HONG KONG, HE SAID.

THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE DEN NORSKE CREDITBANK WAS LICENSED AS A BANK UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS BILL SUPPORTED

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THE CONCEPT OF REGISTERING PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IS WELL RECEIVED BOTH BY THE ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND THE COMMUNITY, THE HON MARIA TAM SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MISS TAM, WHO CHAIRED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP TO STUDY THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BILL AND THE ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL, SAID THE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE A GENERAL STATUTORY REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR THE PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN HONG KONG.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJOR ARGUMENT WHICH AROSE DURING THE AD HOC GROUP'S DELIBERATION OF THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BILL WAS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TERMS "ARCHITECT" SHOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY BY PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED ARCHITECTS IN THE DESCRIPTION OF HIS TRADE AND PROFESSION, AND MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR OTHERS, INCLUDING SAY BUILDING SURVEYORS, TO DO SO.

NOTING THAT THE BILL MERELY RESTRICTS THE USE OF THE WORD "ARCHITECTS" BUT DOES NOT RESTRICT ANY SURVEYOR TO CARRY OUT ARCHITECTURAL WORK AS LONG AS HE DID NOT DESCRIBE HIMSELF TO BE AN ARCHITECT, MISS TAM SAID THE AD HOC GROUP, AFTER LONG DELIBERATION, DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL.

"THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT AFFECT THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE SURVEYORS," SHE ADDED.

/THE AD

THE AD HOC GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED AT LENGTH CLAUSES WHICH REQUIRED A CANDIDATE TO HAVE ONE YEAR'S LOCAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE REGISTRATION.

MISS TAM SAID THE AD HOC GROUP SHARED THE CONCERN OF THE SURVEYING AND THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSIONS THAT THE REQUIREMENT MIGHT DISSUADE THOSE WHO HAD EMIGRATED FROM RETURNING IF THEY HAD TO WORK ONE MORE YEAR IN HONG KONG BEFORE THEY COULD BE REGISTERED.

IT WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT THE NEWLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WOULD HAVE TO WORK ONE YEAR BEFORE THEY COULD BE REGISTERED, SHE ADDED.

AFTER PROTRACTED DISCUSSION, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE AD HOC GROUP CAME TO A COMPROMISE AND AGREED THAT THE REGISTRATION BOARD SHOULD BE RESTED WITH THE DISCRETION TO GAUGE THE APPLICANT'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSE AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO SPECIFY IN THE BILLS THAT THE ONE-YEAR RELEVANT LOCAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE HAD TO BE OBTAINED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, SHE SAID.

ON THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PERSON HAS TO BE "ORDINARILY RESIDENT" IN HONG KONG BEFORE HE CAN BE REGISTERED AND THE PROVISIONS THAT A REGISTERED PERSON WHO HAS FAILED TO RESIDE IN HONG KONG COULD BE DE-REGISTERED, MISS TAM SAID AFTER MUCH PERSUASION, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD AGREED TO AMEND THE PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS "ORDINARY RESIDENT".

WELCOMING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BILL, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THE HON EDWARD HO, SAID: "THE BILL GOES BEYOND THE ABOVE PRIMARY PURPOSE IN THAT IT ESTABLISHES CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES ON PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION RELATING NOT ONLY TO THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION BUT ALSO TO OTHER PROFESSIONS."

HE REMARKED THAT THOSE BASIC PRINCIPLES WERE CONSIDERED OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BY THE PROFESSIONS IN HONG KONG NOT ONLY FOR THE SOCIETY TODAY BUT PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR THE YEARS TO COME.

"IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNISED THAT THE PROFESSIONS IN HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPEN TO PROFESSIONALS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND HENCE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT A PROPER SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION WOULD BE VITAL FOR MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONALISM IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL, WHEN THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTS IN OUR COMMUNITY WAS MORE CLEARLY DEFINED, ARCHITECTS WOULD DEDICATE EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE TO THE CREATION OF BETTER ARCHITECTURE IN HONG KONG.

REGULATIONS FOR CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL
PRODUCTS AND POISONS APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 AND THE POISONS LIST (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1990 MADE BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD ON MARCH 4, 1990.

MOVING THE MOTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, EXPLAINED THAT THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE EMPOWERED THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO MAKE REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND POISONS.

"THE SCHEDULES TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS AND THE POISONS LIST SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE POISONS LIST REGULATIONS ARE UPDATED BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN NEW PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS REQUIRING CONTROL APPEAR ON THE MARKET.

"THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO SETS OF REGULATIONS REFLECT THE LATEST UP-DATING OF THE SCHEDULES AND THE LIST BY THE BOARD," MR WONG SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION, THE BOARD HAD RESOLVED TO AMEND REGULATION 40 OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS TO MAKE A CONTRAVENTION OF REGULATION 38A AN OFFENCE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN REGULATION 40.

"REGULATION 38A WHICH REQUIRES MEDICINES SOLD OVER THE COUNTER TO BEAR A LABEL IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE REGARDING DOSAGE AND THE ROUTE AND FREQUENCY OF ADMINISTRATION WAS INTRODUCED IN 1987 AND CAME INTO OPERATION ON OCTOBER 1, 1988.

"OWING TO AN OVERSIGHT, THE PRESENT REGULATIONS CONTAIN NO PROVISION WHICH WILL MAKE CONTRAVENTION OF REGULATION 38A AN OFFENCE."

MRS WONG SAID ALTHOUGH THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A PROVISION HAD NOT SO FAR UNDERMINED COMPLIANCE WITH THE LABELLING REQUIREMENT, THE BOARD CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENTION OF REGULATION 38A IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.

THE PRESENT AMENDMENT SOUGHT TO BRING REGULATION 38A WITHIN THE PENALTY PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 40, SHE SAID.

"THAT IS TO SAY, MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE BILINGUAL LABELLING REQUIREMENT WILL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$2,500 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE AND HIGHER PENALTIES FOR SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES.

"IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE REQUESTED THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO REVIEW THE LEVEL OF FINES CONTAINED IN REGULATION 40 TO SEE WHETHER THEY NEED TO BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY DETERRENT EFFECT," SHE ADDED.

CHANGES TO APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE TABLED
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A SUMMARY OF ALL CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1989-90 WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(8)(B) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

SPEAKING ON THE CHANGES MADE TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF \$636.3 MILLION WAS APPROVED.

"IT WAS FULLY OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME OR OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS SUBHEADS," SIR PIERS SAID.

THIS INCLUDED \$284.3 MILLION TO ENABLE THE FIVE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS TO AWARD SALARY INCREASES TO THEIR ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF FOLLOWING AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE CIVIL SERVICE PAY SCALES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 LAST YEAR AND \$142.3 MILLION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMATION OF A NEW DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON JULY 1, 1989, HE SAID.

DURING THE PERIOD APPROVED NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS WERE INCREASED BY \$18.5 MILLION, AND NEW NON-RECURRENT COMMITMENTS OF \$52.5 MILLION WERE ALSO APPROVED.

SIR PIERS ALSO NOTED THAT A NET INCREASE OF 2,043 POSTS WAS APPROVED IN THE SAME PERIOD.

"ITEMS IN THE SUMMARY HAVE BEEN APPROVED EITHER BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY.

"THE LATTER HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(8)(A) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

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HK MAY HOST TECHNOLOGY FAIR
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AN INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FAIR MAY BE STAGED TO PROMOTE HONG KONG AS A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PROFESSOR THE HON POON CHUNG-KWONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

TABLING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PROF POON SAID A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE FAIR WAS BEING CONDUCTED.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECEIVE RESULTS FROM CONSULTANCY STUDIES ON HONG KONG'S POTENTIAL NEED FOR SUPERCOMPUTING FACILITIES; ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE AND MANPOWER IN HONG KONG; AND ON THE POTENTIAL FOR A BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN THE TERRITORY.

A CONSULTATION EXERCISE WOULD ALSO BE LAUNCHED ON A DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFE USE AND MANUFACTURE OF LASERS, HE ADDED.

AS FOR THE MAIN TASKS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, PROF POON SAID THE TOP PRIORITY WAS FOR A STUDY ON THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN HONG KONG AS COMPARED WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE AIM OF THE STUDY WOULD BE TO PROVIDE A FIRM BASE FOR CONSIDERING WHETHER HONG KONG'S CURRENT APPROACH TO HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS APPROPRIATE AND IF NOT, WHAT SPECIFIC CHANGES NEEDED TO BE MADE.

ON TECHNOLOGY SAFETY, THE YEAR'S FOCUS WOULD BE ON THE CONTROL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR THE DRAWING UP OF PROPOSALS TO TACKLE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

THE THIRD NEW ITEM WAS A STUDY OF WHAT WAS BEING DONE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BY VOLUNTARY BODIES AND SOCIETIES TO AROUSE YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID.

"IT IS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL TO INSTIL ENTHUSIASM FOR SCIENCE AT AN EARLY STAGE IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN A STEADY SUPPLY OF SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS FOR THE FUTURE.

"THE COMMITTEE WILL BE REVIEWING EXISTING ACTIVITIES AND IDENTIFYING ANY AREAS WHERE THERE ARE GAPS OR WHERE CO-ORDINATION IS NEEDED," HE SAID.

PROF POON ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION OF \$5 MILLION THIS YEAR -- \$3 MILLION FROM A ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DONATION AND \$2 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT -- TO SUPPORT ITS ACTIVITIES.

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GUIDELINES ON FEES BETTER CONSIDERED BY MEDICAL PROFESSION

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ANY GUIDELINES ON FEES ARE BETTER CONSIDERED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-REGULATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON JAMES TIEN, MRS WONG SAID THAT SHE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE OR TO PRESCRIBE GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

/"THE FEES

"THE FEES TO BE LEVIED FOR SURGERY OR OTHER PRIVATE MEDICAL TREATMENT ARE A MATTER BETWEEN THE DOCTOR AND HIS PATIENT, AND PATIENTS WOULD WELL BE ADVISED TO SEEK AN ESTIMATE OF CHARGES IN ADVANCE," SHE ADDED.

MRS WONG SAID THE HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WAS CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF SURGICAL CHARGES AMONG ITS MEMBERS, ADDING THAT IT MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHETHER THE ALLEGATIONS REFERRED TO IN THE QUESTION COULD BE SUBSTANTIATED.

MRS WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL SCALES OF FEES CHARGED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

"THESE PUBLISHED RATES PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSUMER.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION IS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD PRIVATE MEDICAL FEES HAVE A SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TREATMENT," SHE SAID.

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MEASURES TAKEN TO CURB GANG ACTIVITIES IN VBP CENTRES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AWARE OF GANG ACTIVITY IN SOME OF THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRES AND REFUGEE CAMPS, AND HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO CURB SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES MCGREGOR, MR ASPREY SAID THE GANGS TENDED TO FORM AROUND REGIONAL GROUPINGS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE AIMED MAINLY AT CONTROLLING FACILITIES WITHIN THE CENTRES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL REPORTS OF GANG RELATED CRIME WERE INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE, AND WHERE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WAS AVAILABLE THE OFFENDERS WERE PROSECUTED.

"IN 1989 SOME 380 VBP/REFUGEES WERE SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES.

"NOT ALL OF THESE OFFENCES WERE GANG RELATED, BUT A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION WERE," HE SAID.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ENDEAVOURING TO CURTAIL THE INFLUENCE OF THE GANGS BY DEVELOPING A MORE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONAL STRUCTURE IN THE CAMPS, MR ASPREY ADDED.

"ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEE POPULATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE GANGS.

"OUR AIM IS TO IMPROVE TRUST AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN AN EFFORT TO LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF THE GANGS, AND TO GATHER EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE ON GANG ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CHI MA WAN UPPER CENTRE WAS BEING CONVERTED INTO A SEGREGATION CAMP FOR PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS GANG MEMBERS AND TROUBLEMAKERS.

"THE CAMP WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL LATER THIS MONTH.

"IT SHOULD HELP US BREAK UP SOME OF THE GANGS AND LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF OTHERS," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE A POLICY OF FREQUENT AND THOROUGH SEARCHING OF THE CENTRES FOR WEAPONS.

"THE MANUFACTURE OF WEAPONS IS A MAJOR CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

"IN THE LAST TWO YEARS A TOTAL OF ABOUT 8,000 WEAPONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CENTRES," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH IT IS A SMALL MINORITY OF THE BOAT PEOPLE AND REFUGEES WHO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL AND GANG ACTIVITIES, THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED TO CURB SUCH ACTIVITIES," MR ASPREY STRESSED.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE POLICIES TO THAT END," HE ADDED.

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FISHERMEN'S WEATHER INFORMATION NOT AFFECTED BY FREQUENCY CHANGE
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NO CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE TO RTHK'S AM FREQUENCIES FOLLOWING THE RADIO FREQUENCY RE-ALLOCATION EXERCISE IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, AND FISHERMEN CAN THEREFORE STILL TUNE IN TO THE SAME FREQUENCIES FOR WEATHER INFORMATION AS THEY DID IN THE PAST, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR TSAO SAID THE ONLY CHANGE HAD BEEN THAT ONE OF THE FREQUENCIES NOW CARRIED A DIFFERENT PROGRAMME CONTENT.

"HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO, ON THE OTHER HAND, NOW USES ITS AM CHANNEL TO BROADCAST IN ENGLISH AND THEREFORE NO LONGER PROVIDES WEATHER INFORMATION IN CANTONESE," MR TSAO SAID.

/HE POINTED

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HE POINTED OUT THAT FISHERMEN OPERATING CLOSE TO SHORE COULD STILL RECEIVE WEATHER INFORMATION ON FM CHANNELS OF BOTH STATIONS.

ON THE RADIO FREQUENCY RE-ALLOCATION EXERCISE, MR TSAO SAID EXTENSIVE MEDIA PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO IT PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND SPECIAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CHINA COASTAL WEATHER INFORMATION BROADCAST WAS SENT TO ALL THE FISHERMEN ASSOCIATIONS.

"RTHK WILL SEND A FURTHER LETTER TO ALL FISHERMEN ASSOCIATIONS AND WILL IN ADDITION BROADCAST RADIO TRAILERS ON ALL AM AND FM CHANNELS TO EXPLAIN THE ARRANGEMENTS," HE ADDED.

MR TSAO ADDED THAT NEW TRANSMITTERS HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN MARCH THIS YEAR TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE TWO AM CHANNELS INVOLVED AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WOULD TAKE PLACE WHEN NEW MASTS WERE INSTALLED LATER THIS YEAR.

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EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON AIR GUNS ADEQUATE

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THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON AIR GUNS ARE ADEQUATE, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO IMPOSE FURTHER CONTROLS AT PRESENT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEUNG WAI-TUNG, MR ASPREY SAID THE SALE OF AIR GUNS WAS REGULARLY MONITORED BY THE POLICE.

HE NOTED THAT THE MUZZLE ENERGY OF MOST SUCH GUNS WAS IN THE RANGE OF 0.4 TO 0.6 JOULES, WHICH WAS SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE 2-JOULE LIMIT -- THE POINT WHERE THE FORCE OF AN AIR GUN PELLET WAS SUFFICIENT TO PENETRATE HUMAN SKIN.

"AN AIR GUN WITH A MUZZLE ENERGY GREATER THAN 2 JOULES IS SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL UNDER THE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER FIREARMS.

"AN AIR GUN WITH A MUZZLE ENERGY OF LESS THAN 2 JOULES IS NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL," MR ASPREY SAID.

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COMMITTEE ON RURAL IMPROVEMENT TO MEET SOON

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THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE PRIORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT WILL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DETAILED WORKS PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL IMPROVEMENT AND PLANNING, MR BARNES SAID A LIST OF WORKS PROGRAMMES FOR EACH NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT COVERING THE YEARS 1989/90 TO 1993/94 HAD BEEN DRAWN UP.

IT INCLUDED THE PROVISION AND IMPROVEMENT OF VILLAGE ACCESS ROADS AND FOOTPATHS, THE PROVISION OF SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

"THERE ARE NO FIXED CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIES, BUT THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE, ON WHICH THE HEUNG YEE KUK WILL HAVE THREE REPRESENTATIVES, WILL DETERMINE THE PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION," MR BARNES SAID.

A DETAILED LIST OF WORKS FOR 1994/95 HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN UP.

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ADDITIONAL POLICE COVERAGE OF JEWELLERY SHOPS PROVIDED

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO NORMAL BEAT PATROLS, ADDITIONAL POLICE COVERAGE OF JEWELLERY SHOPS IS PROVIDED BY THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT AND OTHER MOBILE PATROLS, ALL OF WHICH ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE, IN ORDER TO DETER ARMED ROBBERIES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU WONG-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ASPREY SAID PLAIN CLOTHES POLICEMEN WERE ALSO DEPLOYED IN AREAS WHERE THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SUCH PREMISES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU REGULARLY GAVE ADVICE TO ALL GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERY SHOP PROPRIETORS.

"QUARTERLY MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH THE GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERY SHOP OPERATORS ASSOCIATION, AND ALL PREMISES ARE VISITED AND ADVISED ON PRECAUTIONS, PARTICULARLY BEFORE AND DURING FESTIVE PERIODS SUCH AS CHRISTMAS AND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

"IN ADDITION, SHOPS ARE VISITED BY CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING WEAKNESSES IN SECURITY SYSTEMS AND ADVISING ON THE INSTALLATION OF APPROPRIATE SECURITY DEVICES," HE SAID.

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UNABLE TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS: CS

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THAT HE IS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON RECENT PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT ADVICE GIVEN BY THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION IN A PARTICULAR CASE.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS ELSIE TU, SIR DAVID SAID NOR WAS HE ABLE TO SAY WHETHER ANY INVESTIGATION WAS BEING MADE IN RELATION TO THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION, SINCE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT ENQUIRIES WERE BEING UNDERTAKEN COULD LEND CREDENCE TO THE ASSERTIONS IN THOSE REPORTS.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT QUESTION WHICH SOUGHT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS WERE ACCURATE DID NOT CONFORM WITH THE RULES SET OUT IN STANDING ORDER 18(1)(I) OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE GOVERNOR ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

"COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNOR ON SUCH MATTERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL BY REASON OF SECTION 11 OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDINANCE," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IT WAS AN OFFENCE BY REASON OF SECTION 12 OF THE ORDINANCE FOR A PERSON, OTHERWISE THAN IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTY, TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION.

"THE CHIEF JUSTICE, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, INFORMS ME THAT, TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO SUCH ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE EITHER IN THE CASE REFERRED TO, OR IN ANY OTHER CASE.

"IF SUCH AN ATTEMPT WERE TO BE MADE THEN, OF COURSE, APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN," SIR DAVID SAID.

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POSITIVE MEASURES TAKEN TO CONTAIN LEVEL OF JUVENILE CRIME

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POSITIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO MONITOR AND CONTAIN THE LEVEL OF JUVENILE CRIME, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MICHAEL CHENG TAK-KIN, MR ASPREY OUTLINED THE MEASURES TAKEN TO COUNTER JUVENILE CRIME. THESE INCLUDED:

- * REGULAR SCHOOLS VISITS AND LECTURES BY DISTRICT POLICE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS;

- * SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS ON CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES;
- * THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS IN JUNIOR POLICE CALL ACTIVITIES; AND
- * WARNINGS AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME THROUGH EDUCATIONAL FILMS, PAMPHLETS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST ON TELEVISION.

HE NOTED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE REGULARLY REVIEWED TO ENSURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.

MR ASPREY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT AMONG THE CAUSES OF THE INCREASE IN CRIME BY JUVENILES AND YOUNG PERSONS IN RECENT YEARS WERE THE TEMPTATION OF AN INCREASINGLY AFFLUENT SOCIETY, A DECLINE IN PARENTAL CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND A DECLINE IN SELF-DISCIPLINE AMONG YOUNG PERSONS.

HE ADDED THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD ALSO GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE CRIME, AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG OFFENDERS ADVISED ON WAYS OF PREVENTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME.

"THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO PLACED THE EMPHASIS ON YOUNG PERSONS IN ITS FIGHT CRIME PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN," MR ASPREY SAID.

"THE ANTI-TRIAD CAMPAIGN, WHICH AIMS TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO REPORT ALL ASPECTS OF TRIAD ACTIVITIES, IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED AT YOUNG PEOPLE TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING RECRUITED INTO TRIAD SOCIETIES."

IN ADDITION, THE RECENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS HAD GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SHOP THEFT AND JUVENILE HOOLIGANISM.

"THE AIM IS TO DISSUADE YOUNGSTERS FROM INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME AND TO REMIND PARENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL CARE AND CONTROL," HE SAID.

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CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IMPROVE

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THE OVERCROWDING CONDITIONS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED IN THE PAST DECADE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, MR TSAO SAID THAT AT THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR, 34,229 HOUSEHOLDS WERE OCCUPYING A LIVING AREA OF LESS THAN 3.25 SQUARE METRES PER PERSON IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE TERRITORY.

/THIS FIGURE

THIS FIGURE REPRESENTED 6.4 PER CENT OF THE 532,000 HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING, AND WAS A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION FROM THE POSITION IN MARCH 1981 WHEN THERE WERE OVER 123,000 SUCH HOUSEHOLDS, REPRESENTING 34.8 PER CENT OF THE 353,000 PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSEHOLDS THEN.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DEGREE OF OVERCROWDEDNESS VARIED FROM ESTATE TO ESTATE; AND THE PROBLEM MAINLY EXISTED IN THE OLDER ESTATES WHICH WERE BUILT TO MORE STRINGENT ALLOCATION STANDARDS.

"UNDER CURRENT POLICY, FAMILIES IN OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS MAY APPLY FOR TRANSFER TO LARGER ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED THAT THEIR HOUSEHOLD INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME INCOME LIMIT AND THAT THEY DO NOT OWN ANY DOMESTIC PROPERTY," HE SAID.

"PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO THESE HOUSEHOLDS TO APPLY FOR CASUAL VACANCIES IN THE SAME ESTATE AS THEY ARISE, OR FOR NEWLY COMPLETED ESTATES.

"THEY MAY ALSO APPLY FOR AN HOS/PSPS FLAT OR TAKE OUT AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO BUY A PRIVATE SECTOR FLAT, AGAIN WITH PRIORITY STATUS.

"SOME MAY CHOOSE TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING THROUGH THE GENERAL WAITING LIST."

MR TSAO SAID THE MOST EFFECTIVE VEHICLE IN THE RELIEF OF OVERCROWDEDNESS WAS THE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD PROGRESSIVELY BRING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE OLDER ESTATES TO MODERN STANDARDS.

"IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS ALONE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 10,000 (OR 29.2 PER CENT) HOUSEHOLDS CURRENTLY SUFFERING FROM OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS WILL BE ALLOCATED A NEW FLAT WITH MUCH BETTER AMENITIES AND FACILITIES.

"BY 2001, 82 PER CENT OF THESE HOUSEHOLDS WILL HAVE BEEN REHOUSED UNDER THIS PROGRAMME IF THEY HAVE NOT CHOSEN BEFORE THEN TO USE THE VARIOUS OTHER MEANS AVAILABLE TO THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS," HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1990

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2,189 CASUAL VACANCIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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THERE WERE 2,189 CASUAL VACANCIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE TERRITORY AS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, WHICH REPRESENTED 0.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STOCK OF 635,000 RENTAL FLATS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARTIN LEE, MR TSAO SAID 1,629 OF THESE FLATS WERE IN THE URBAN AND EXTENDED URBAN AREAS, AND THE REMAINING 560 WERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"MOST OF THE CASUAL VACANCIES IN THE URBAN OR EXTENDED URBAN AREAS ARE RESERVED AS LOCAL RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OR THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE SAID.

MR TSAO POINTED OUT THAT CASUAL VACANCIES NOT RESERVED FOR THESE PURPOSES WERE IMMEDIATELY OFFERED FOR RELETTING UPON RECOVERY, AND THE AVERAGE TIME TO RELET THESE FLATS WAS FOUR WEEKS.

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GOVT CONCERNED ABOUT ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCIDENCE OF ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) HAD AT ITS MEETING IN APRIL ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES LIABLE TO ABUSE IN PART I OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO SUBJECT THESE DRUGS TO MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS, SHE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH WAS NOW SEEKING THE ADVICE OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD WITH A VIEW TO RECOMMENDING TO ACAN THE PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES TO BE SO SCHEDULED.

MRS WONG STATED THIS IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW.

ON THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, REGISTERED DISPENSARIES AND DRUG STORES, MRS WONG GAVE THE FIGURES AS SHOWN BELOW:

/NUMBER OF

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NUMBER OF REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN
PRIVATE PRACTICE BY YEAR 1983-1989

END OF YEAR	NO. OF REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
1983	1,992
1984	2,097
1985	2,291
1986	2,479
1987	2,695
1988	2,880
1989	3,072

NUMBER OF REGISTERED DISPENSARIES AND DRUG
STORES BY YEAR 1983-1989

END OF YEAR	REGISTERED DISPENSARIES (AUTHORISED SELLERS)	DRUG STORES (LISTED SELLERS)
1983	147	2,468
1984	152	2,539
1985	163	2,566
1986	177	2,633
1987	181	2,661
1988	175	2,666
1989	176	2,647

THESE WERE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED DISPENSARIES (AUTHORISED SELLERS) AND DRUG STORES (LISTED SELLERS) LICENSED BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

MRS WONG ADDED THAT UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WERE REQUIRED TO KEEP COMPLETE RECORDS OF ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS.

"HOWEVER, THE LAW DOES NOT EMPOWER THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS TO SUBMIT RETURNS ON THEIR SALES RECORDS EITHER ON A REGULAR BASIS OR AS AND WHEN REQUESTED.

"THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE VALUE OF THE ANNUAL IMPORTS OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS INTO HONG KONG AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT SALES TO THE VARIOUS OUTLETS," SHE SAID.

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COST OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE NT

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THE TOTAL NET COST TO GOVERNMENT AND THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PROVIDING A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH A NEW PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL FLAT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS IS ESTIMATED AT \$71,000, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH, MR TSAO SAID THE LAND COST, BUILDING COST (INCLUDING OVERHEADS), AND THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL OF \$127,201.

AFTER REDUCING THE RENTAL INCOME OF \$56,297, THE NET COST IS ABOUT \$71,000, MR TSAO SAID.

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TV PROGRAMMES UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES ARE CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) TO ENSURE THAT THE TELEVISION LICENSEES, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON PROGRAMME STANDARDS ISSUED BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, MR TSAO SAID THE CODE SET OUT CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED WITH REGARD TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SEX, VIOLENCE, AND THE USE OF LANGUAGE, IN TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.

"THE LICENSEES ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE GREAT CARE IN THE PRESENTATION OF SCENES LIKELY TO FRIGHTEN, UNNERVE OR UNSETTLE YOUNG VIEWERS AND THOSE THEY MIGHT COPY AT RISK OF INJURY TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

"UNDER THE CODE, THE LICENSEES ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING WHICH IS UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN IS BROADCAST BETWEEN 4 PM AND 8.30 PM.

"MATERIAL LESS SUITABLE FOR YOUNG VIEWERS MAY ONLY BE INTRODUCED PROGRESSIVELY AFTER 8.30 PM," MR TSAO SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE, AND PUBLIC COMPLAINTS, WERE INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY WHICH COULD ALSO IMPOSE PENALTIES ON THE LICENSEES AS THE CASES MIGHT JUSTIFY.

"IN ADDITION, TELA RECEIVES FEEDBACK FROM HOME VIEWING GROUPS IN EACH OF THE 19 DISTRICT, AND CONDUCTS SURVEYS FROM TIME TO TIME, FOR GAUGING PUBLIC OPINION ON THE STANDARDS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES," HE ADDED.

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PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR LEGCO ELECTION DAY BEING CONSIDERED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING CAREFULLY THE QUESTION OF DESIGNATING THE 1991 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION DAY AS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR DAVID FORD, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DAVID CHEUNG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER DECLARING THE 1991 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION DAY A PUBLIC HOLIDAY WOULD ACHIEVE THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE OF ATTRACTING MORE ELECTORS TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND HENCE BE JUSTIFIED ON THAT BASIS.

THIS WOULD NEED CAREFUL STUDY AND JUDGEMENT, SIR DAVID ADDED.

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SOME 20,000 VBP TO TAKE PART IN SKILLS TRAINING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS AIMING TO INVOLVE UP TO 20,000 VIETNAMESE ADULTS IN DETENTION CENTRES IN THE SKILLS TRAINING, WORK OR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ACCOMMODATION IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO EXPAND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCY PROGRAMMES," MR ASPREY SAID IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU.

MR ASPREY SAID IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNHCR THE GOVERNMENT HAD ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXTENSION PROGRAMME OF SERVICES TO BOAT PEOPLE IN THE DETENTION CENTRES.

THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THIS PROGRAMME WERE SOCIAL SERVICES, FAMILY WELFARE, ADULT AND CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, RECREATION, COTTAGE INDUSTRY AND SKILLS TRAINING.

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN CONSTRAINT IN THE PROVISION OF THESE SERVICES WAS ACCOMMODATION.

"THE HIGH LEVEL OF VBP ARRIVALS DURING 1989 MEANT THAT THE CENTRES BECAME OVERCROWDED AND ACCOMMODATION NORMALLY USED FOR SERVICES HAD TO BE USED FOR ACCOMMODATION.

"THERE WAS CONSEQUENTLY SERIOUS DISRUPTION TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCY PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

NONETHELESS, MORE THAN 2,000 VBP HAD TAKEN PART IN A TRAINING PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY HONG KONG CHRISTIAN AID TO REFUGEES LAST YEAR, MR ASPREY SAID.

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"THE SIX TO 12 WEEK COURSES PROVIDED TRAINING IN ELECTRICAL REPAIRS, CLOTHING MANUFACTURE, BASIC CARPENTRY AND PAINTING.

"IN ADDITION A TOTAL OF 13,000 VBP PARTICIPATED IN THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES WHICH CONCENTRATE ON BASIC LITERACY AND NUMERACY," HE ADDED.

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NO AUTOMATIC POLICY ON COMPENSATING CRIME VICTIMS

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OPERATE AN AUTOMATIC POLICY OF PAYING COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF CRIMES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR ASPREY SAID THIS WAS THE CASE NO MATTER WHETHER THE CRIME, SUCH AS THEFT, WAS COMMITTED BY A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE OR BOAT PEOPLE, AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM CHINA OR ANY OTHER PERSON.

"HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT A VICTIM OF SUCH CRIMES APPLYING FOR COMPENSATION IF THEY FEEL THEY HAVE A LEGITIMATE CLAIM," HE SAID.

"EACH CLAIM IS EXAMINED ON ITS MERITS AND A NUMBER OF CLAIMS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT."

HE POINTED OUT THAT ANY PERSON WHO WAS INJURED AS A RESULT OF A VIOLENT CRIME MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE COULD BE OBTAINED FROM POLICE STATIONS, DISTRICT OFFICES AND OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

MR ASPREY ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ASKED OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO UNDERTAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A COMPENSATION SCHEME.

"THIS IS A MATTER OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION AND THEREFORE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

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NO NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN CRIMINAL OFFENCES BY STUDENTS

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THERE HAS NOT BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL OFFENCES OVER THE LAST 15 MONTHS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PEGGY LAM, MR ASPREY SUPPORTED HIS STATEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

PERIOD	NO. OF STUDENTS ARRESTED
FIRST QUARTER 1989	1,452
SECOND QUARTER 1989	1,507
THIRD QUARTER 1989	1,265
FOURTH QUARTER 1989	1,388
FIRST QUARTER 1990	1,404

HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE POLICE AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MONITORED CLOSELY THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN SCHOOLS THROUGH AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS.

MR ASPREY SAID THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE POLICE AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO COUNTER JUVENILE CRIME INCLUDED:

- * REGULAR SCHOOL VISITS AND LECTURES BY THE 19 DISTRICT POLICE SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS TO EXPLAIN TO STUDENTS THE CONSEQUENCES OF CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS, AND TO ADVISE THEM AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME;
- * SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF UNRULY AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES;
- * DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS OF MATERIAL ON CRIME AND TRIAD ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE AWARENESS OF BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS;
- * INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN JUNIOR POLICE CALL ACTIVITIES; AND
- * WARNINGS AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME THROUGH EDUCATIONAL FILMS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND PAMPHLETS.

"THESE MEASURES ARE REGULARLY REVIEWED AND MODIFIED TO ENSURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS," MR ASPREY ADDED.

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GOVT CONSIDERING WAY FORWARD ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS

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AS HONG KONG CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AND THRIVE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CENTRE, THE GOVERNMENT SEES A NEED FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVICE ON A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL BASIS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAUL CHENG, MR MATHEWS SAID THE POLICY OBJECTIVES BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS WERE FIRSTLY, TO PROVIDE A SCHEME OF REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS PRACTISING FOREIGN LAW IN HONG KONG; AND SECONDLY, TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND RATIONAL MEANS BY WHICH PEOPLE WISHING TO UNDERTAKE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING HONG KONG LAW COULD OBTAIN THE LEGAL ADVICE THEY NEEDED TO FACILITATE THOSE TRANSACTIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS WERE NOT AIMED AT STEMMING ANY POSSIBLE "BRAIN DRAIN".

HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A WIDE RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE SUBJECT ISSUED EARLY LAST YEAR.

"THE VIEWS SUBMITTED, MANY FROM NON-LAWYERS, HAVE BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE, SUBJECTED TO CLOSE ANALYSIS," HE SAID.

MR MATHEWS SAID DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG PUT FORWARD A COUNTER PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION.

THAT COUNTER PROPOSAL HAD THREE MAIN ELEMENTS:

- * FOREIGN FIRMS WITH OFFICES IN HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE FEES WITH LOCAL FIRMS IN RESPECT OF MATTERS REQUIRING THE JOINT SERVICES OF A FOREIGN FIRM AND A LOCAL FIRM;
- * THE REMOVAL OF THE PRESENT REQUIREMENT THAT ONLY A PERSON WHO WAS A COMMONWEALTH CITIZEN OR WHO HAD BEEN RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS MIGHT BE ADMITTED AS A HONG KONG SOLICITOR; AND
- * CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO INTRODUCING AN ACCREDITATION SYSTEM ALLOWING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A FOREIGN LAWYER TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING WHETHER THE LAW SOCIETY'S COUNTER PROPOSAL COULD MEET THE POLICY OBJECTIVES.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING THE WAY FORWARD, BOTH IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, AND ALSO IN THE LIGHT OF THE LAW SOCIETY'S COUNTER PROPOSAL," MR MATHEWS SAID.

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HE SAID CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO THE APPROACH BEING ADOPTED TOWARDS FOREIGN LAWYERS IN ENGLAND, WHERE THE POSITION WAS NOT YET WHOLLY RESOLVED IN SO FAR AS IT RELATED BOTH TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LAWYERS AND NON-EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LAWYERS.

MR MATHEWS SAID GOVERNMENT LEGAL SERVICES ALREADY EMPLOYED HONG KONG LAWYERS AS WELL AS LAWYERS FROM MANY DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS AND WITH A VAST RANGE OF EXPERIENCE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

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FOUR BILLS PASSED
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FOUR BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES (JOINT LIAISON GROUP AND LAND COMMISSION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BILL 1989, ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 1989 AND GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990.

IN ADDITION, 11 BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY WERE THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1990, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1990, ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, TELECOMMUNICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BILL 1990. THE ELEVENTH BILL IS A PRIVATE ONE, THE DEN NORSKE BANK BILL 1990.

DEBATE ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

A MOTION UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, MOVED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WAS ALSO APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

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HONG KONG: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

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HONG KONG'S COMMISSIONER IN THE UK, MR JOHN YAXLEY, IN A SPEECH TO THE INFLUENTIAL LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TITLED HONG KONG: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE, SPELT OUT THE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANS THE TERRITORY HAS FOR ITS FUTURE.

THESE INCLUDE LAND RECLAMATION FOR HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, CONTAINER PORTS WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THE TERRITORY'S POSITION AS NUMBER ONE PORT IN THE WORLD, AND A PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS). ALL THIS AMOUNTS TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUILDING PROGRAMMES.

"TO CATER FOR THE ESTIMATED EXPANSION IN DEMAND FOR HONG KONG PORT SERVICES, AND THIS IS CRUCIAL TO OUR ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA, WE HAVE PUT THE FIRST PRIORITY ON BUILDING THE NEXT CONTAINER TERMINAL ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND THEN TSING YI ISLAND LATER THIS DECADE," MR YAXLEY SAID.

THEREAFTER WE PLAN TO MOVE THE FOCUS OF THE PORT WESTWARDS TO NORTH LANTAU.

"THE MASSIVE GROWTH OF AIR PASSENGERS HAS LED TO THE NEED FOR A NEW AIRPORT. IF HONG KONG DOES NOT BUILD THE NEW AIRPORT IT COULD LOSE OVER \$100 BILLION BETWEEN 1996 AND 2010.

"THESE ARE THE COMPELLING ECONOMIC REASONS TO PROCEED WITH CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE," MR YAXLEY SAID.

HE SAID THE NEW AIRPORT WOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING 80 MILLION PASSENGERS AND FOUR MILLION TONNES OF AIR CARGO A YEAR, THAT IS TO SAY, MORE THAN THE COMBINED CAPACITY OF HEATHROW AND GATWICK COMBINED.

"IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE FIRST RUNWAY WILL BE OPERATIONAL BY EARLY 1997. TO KEEP THIS TIGHT SCHEDULE THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED LAST MONTH BECHTEL, AS THE PROJECT MANAGER," HE SAID.

MR YAXLEY WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE NEW AIRPORT WAS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE FIXED CROSSING, ROAD AND RAIL LINKS AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE.

"THESE PROJECTS ARE INDIVIDUALLY LARGE AND COMPLEX. THEY PRESENT CHALLENGING PROBLEMS WITHIN THEMSELVES."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AIRPORT MASTERPLAN WAS A SEPARATE CONSULTANCY WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INVITE BIDS FOR CONTRACTORS. ALREADY THE MAJOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE HAD ATTRACTED HIGH INTEREST FROM PARTICIPANTS WORLDWIDE.

IN MARCH, SEPARATE CONSULTANTS WERE APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

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SEVERAL OF THESE PROJECTS WWOULD BE FUNDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THESE INCLUDED ALL THE PORT AND MANY OF THE AIRPORT FACILITIES, HE SAID.

"THIS AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME OF WORKS WILL GIVE HONG KONG A NEW MODERN AIRPORT AND A LARGER PORT, PLUS ALL THE NECESSARY TRANSPORT LINKS AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES.

"AS I HAVE INDICATED THE COST WILL BE SOME \$127 BILLION AT CURRECT PRICES OVER THE PERIOD UP TO 2006. THIS IS AN ENORMOUS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT," MR YAXLEY SAID.

"WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUES TO HAVE THE FACILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS NOT ONLY OF OUR ECONOMY BUT ALSO THAT OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

"WE MUST ALSO BE REALISTIC, AND MAKE SURE THAT WE PHASE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE NEW PROJECTS IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT PLACE TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON OUR ECONOMY," HE ADDED.

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SAFETY TRAINING TO MEET PADS NEEDS

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GREATER EMPHASIS MUST BE LAID ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION IN FUTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE MASSIVE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS), THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT, MR KWOK SAID THE PADS WOULD CREATE A NEW WORKING ENVIRONMENT WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF MUCH LARGER AND MORE SOPHISTICATED MODERN CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

"WE MUST, THEREFORE, BE FULLY PREPARED IN TERMS OF SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT TO MEET OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS," HE STRESSED.

MR KWOK TOLD THE GATHERING THAT TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE, INDUSTRIALISTS, WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS ALL HAD A PART TO PLAY AND TO RENDER SUPPORT.

"IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING SAFETY POLICIES TO CONTRIBUTE," HE ADDED.

MR KWOK NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS BEGAN TO DROP FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1985 FROM 27,125 CASES IN 1988 TO 26,399 CASES LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO INTRODUCE A SERIES OF MEASURES IN THE COMING YEAR TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY AWARENESS OF WORKERS IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

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"WITH THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, IT IS HOPED THAT WORK SITE ACCIDENTS COULD BE TREMENDOUSLY REDUCED AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO FOLLOW," MR KWOK SAID.

ATTENDED BY 110 INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PERSONNEL FROM 54 ORGANISATIONS, THE THREE-DAY RESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM FOCUSSES ON PROMOTING IN-PLANT SAFETY PROGRAMMES AND A SELF-REGULATORY APPROACH TO SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.

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PAC TO HOLD OPEN HEARING TOMORROW
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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD AN OPEN HEARING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT WHICH WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST WEDNESDAY.

THE REPORT IS ON THE RESULTS OF VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS COMPLETED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1989 AND FEBRUARY 1990.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THE MORNING SESSION WILL RUN FROM 9.30 AM TO 12.15 PM, AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 2.30 PM TO 3.45 PM.

APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO ANSWER POINTS RAISED IN THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT WILL BE THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

THE TIMETABLE FOR THE HEARING IS AS FOLLOWS:

9.30 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PARAGRAPHS 9.1 - 9.10.
10 AM	SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, PARAGRAPHS 4.1 - 4.11.
10.45 AM	COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, PARAGRAPHS 10.1 - 10.10.
11.30 AM	DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, PARAGRAPHS 6.1 - 6.20.

/2.30 PM

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2.30 PM SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER
AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION,
PARAGRAPHS 7.1 - 7.12.

3 PM REGISTRAR GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES,
PARAGRAPHS 8.1 - 8.10.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING THE OPEN HEARING ARE ADVISED TO
BRING WITH THEM A COPY OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT.

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LEGCO APPROVES PROPOSALS TO REGISTER ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS

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BILLS DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF
ENGINEERS OF VARIOUS DISCIPLINES, AND QUALIFIED ARCHITECTS WHILE AT
THE SAME TIME SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER PUBLIC HAVE
BEEN PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE 1990 AND THE ENGINEERS
REGISTRATION ORDINANCE 1990 FORM THE FRAMEWORK FOR SETTING UP
REGISTRATION BOARDS FOR PRACTISING ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN HONG
KONG.

THE BOARDS WILL BE INDEPENDENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE TWO
PROFESSIONAL BODIES INVOLVED. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGISTRATION
SYSTEMS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARDS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE HONG KONG
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (HKIA) AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF
ENGINEERS (HKIE) RESPECTIVELY.

THE CONCEPT OF REGISTRATION IS TO CONFER ON SUITABLE
APPLICANTS A TITLE WHICH DEMONSTRATES TO FELLOW PROFESSIONALS AND TO
THE PUBLIC A HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, CURRENT
COMPETENCE TO PRACTICE AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND FOR WORKING IN HONG
KONG.

THE REGISTER WILL LIST ONLY COMPETENT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS
WORKING IN HONG KONG, AND REGISTRATION HAS TO BE RENEWED ANNUALLY.

APART FROM SETTING OUT QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION, THE
ORDINANCES ALSO OUTLINE DETAILS OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. THESE
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHEME TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN
THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

/SIMILAR LEGISLATION

SIMILAR LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR SURVEYORS AND PLANNERS IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION (1990-91). THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS AND THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS WILL BE THE ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND COMMENTS ON REGISTRATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE:

- * LEGCO MEMBER MR EDWARD HO (TEL. 890 9333)
- * PRESIDENT OF HKIA, MR KIT HAFFNER (TEL. 544 7007)
- * THE HON. SECRETARY OF HKIA,
MR ANTHONY NG (TEL. 880 1288)
- * GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE,
MR HUGH PHILLIPSON (TEL. 848 6144)

ENGINEERS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE:

- * LEGCO MEMBER MR CHENG HON-KWAN (TEL. 576 4343)
- * HKIE, DR PETER KENDRICK (TEL. 895 4446)
- * GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE,
MR HUGH PHILLIPSON (TEL. 848 6144)

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AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW NOMINEE SHAREHOLDINGS IN TV LICENSEE COMPANIES
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR AMENDMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE SO AS TO ALLOW NOMINEE SHAREHOLDINGS IN TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES.

IN ADDITION, A SYSTEM WILL BE ADOPTED TO ENSURE THAT THE VOTING RIGHTS OF UNQUALIFIED SHAREHOLDERS (THAT IS PEOPLE OR COMPANIES NOT ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG) AT ANY GENERAL MEETING OF A TELEVISION LICENSEE ARE RESTRICTED TO 49 PER CENT OF THE VOTING RIGHTS EXERCISABLE AT THAT MEETING.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT, UNDER THE PROPOSED SYSTEM, REFERRED TO AS THE "SNAP SHOT" APPROACH, REGISTERED SHAREHOLDERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A DECLARATION OF THEIR RESIDENCY STATUS BY A CUT-OFF DATE PRIOR TO A GENERAL MEETING.

IF VOTES IN THE HANDS OF UNQUALIFIED PERSONS EXCEEDED 49 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VOTING SHARES OF THE LICENSEE, ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE, BY A VOTE WEIGHTING SYSTEM, TO ENSURE THAT NO MORE THAN 49 PER CENT OF THE VOTING RIGHTS WERE EXERCISABLE BY SUCH PERSONS AT GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE LICENSEE COMPANIES.

UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS IN THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE, TRANSFERS OF SHARES OF A LICENSEE MAY NOT BE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A NOMINEE.

THE RELEVANT INTEREST IN SHARES HELD BY INDIVIDUAL UNQUALIFIED PERSONS IS RESTRICTED TO A HOLDING OF LESS THAN 10 PER CENT WITH BROADCASTING AUTHORITY'S APPROVAL HAVING TO BE SOUGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL HOLDINGS AT THE LOWER LEVELS OF TWO PER CENT, FOUR PER CENT, SIX PER CENT AND EIGHT PER CENT.

"THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBLE INHIBITING EFFECT THE RESTRICTION ON NOMINEE SHAREHOLDINGS MAY HAVE ON THE OPERATION OF NORMAL MARKET PRACTICES RELATING TO SHARE PURCHASE AND REGISTRATION IN THE CASE OF TELEVISION LICENSEE COMPANIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"NONETHELESS, ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS MUST BE PUT IN PLACE TO PRESERVE THE BASIC POLICY AIM THAT HONG KONG TELEVISION COMPANIES SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY HONG KONG PEOPLE."

"THE THRESHOLDS FOR BROADCASTING AUTHORITY'S APPROVAL FOR INDIVIDUAL HOLDINGS AND THE OVERALL 10 PER CENT RESTRICTION SHOULD REMAIN BUT THE OPPORTUNITY WILL BE TAKEN TO REVIEW THE EXISTING LEGISLATION WHERE THE CURRENT USE OF THE CONCEPT OF 'RELEVANT INTEREST' APPEARS TO BE UNNECESSARILY COMPLEX, LEADING TO AVOIDABLE CONFUSION FOR SHAREHOLDERS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSAL IS TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM OF CONTROL FROM REGULATING THE AGGREGATE REGISTERED OWNERSHIP OF SHARES BY UNQUALIFIED PERSONS TO REGULATING THE VOTING CONTROL OF SUCH PERSONS AT GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE LICENSEE, TO ENSURE THAT QUALIFIED PERSONS ALWAYS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTROL TELEVISION COMPANIES.

AMENDMENTS TO RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE ARE BEING DRAFTED AS A PRIORITY ITEM.

FSD ATHLETIC TEAM RETURNS

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC TEAM RETURNED TO HONG KONG THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING AFTER WINNING A TOTAL OF 61 MEDALS IN THE FIRST WORLD FIREFIGHTERS GAMES IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, HELD BETWEEN APRIL 23 AND 27.

THE TEAM OBTAINED 29 GOLD MEDALS IN 10 EVENTS INCLUDING SWIMMING, TABLE TENNIS, BADMINTON, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL, CROSS COUNTRY RUN, TRACK AND FIELD, MARATHON, HALF MARATHON AND SNOOKER. THE BASKETBALL TEAM GOT A BRONZE MEDAL.

THE MOST OUTSTANDING RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED IN SWIMMING, IN WHICH MEMBERS SCORED A TOTAL OF 30 MEDALS INCLUDING 15 GOLD, EIGHT SILVER AND SEVEN BRONZE.

THE TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON PLAYERS OBTAINED A TOTAL OF SIX GOLD, FOUR SILVER AND FOUR BRONZE MEDALS.

IN THE TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, MEMBERS TOOK AWAY TWO GOLD, TWO SILVER AND THREE BRONZE MEDALS.

IN THE SOCCER EVENTS, HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES TEAM WON THE GOLD MEDAL WITH A TOTAL SCORE OF 21 GOALS AFTER BEATING WELLINGTON 6 TO 0, AUCKLAND 2 TO 0, SOLOMON ISLANDS 3 TO 0, BERMUDA 3 TO 0 AND CROOKWELL (AUSTRALIA) 1 TO 0 IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS. IN THE FINAL, THE TEAM BEAT SOLOMON ISLANDS 6 TO 0.

IN SNOOKER INDIVIDUAL, HONG KONG'S REPRESENTATIVE GOT THE GOLD MEDAL AFTER ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST RECORD OF 49 SCORES.

THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPORTS AND WELFARE CLUB SENT A 68-MEMBER DELEGATION TO TAKE PART IN THE GAMES WHICH WAS HOSTED BY THE NEW ZEALAND FIRE SERVICES SPORTS COUNCIL.

THE DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR PETER CHEUNG.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GAMES IS FRIENDSHIP, FRATERNITY AND COMPETITION AMONG FIREFIGHTERS IN THE WORLD.

THE RESULTS OBTAINED BY THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC TEAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
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BASKETBALL	-	-	1	1
CROSS COUNTRY	1	-	-	1
SWIMMING	15	8	7	30

/VOLLEYBALL 1

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VOLLEYBALL	1	-	1	2
SOCCER	1	-	-	1
TABLE TENNIS	3	2	2	7
TRACK AND FIELD	2	2	3	7
BADMINTON	3	2	2	7
HALF MARATHON	1	-	1	2
MARATHON	1	-	-	1
SNOOKER	1	1	-	2
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TOTAL :	29	15	17	61

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BUN FESTIVAL ON CHEUNG CHAU

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THOUSANDS OF LOCAL AND OVERSEAS VISITORS ARE EXPECTED TO FLOCK TO CHEUNG CHAU ON SUNDAY (MAY 6) WHEN THE ISLANDERS HOLD A GRAND PROCESSION TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL BUN FESTIVAL.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR LAU WONG-FAT WILL OFFICIATE AT THE FUNCTION WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE AND THE CHEUNG CHAU "TA CHIU" 1990 COMMITTEE.

THE TWO-HOUR PROCESSION, INVOLVING ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE AND SEVERAL HUNDRED SCHOOL CHILDREN, WILL START AT 2 PM FROM THE PAK TEI TEMPLE AND MAKE ITS WAY THROUGH THE BUSTLING ALLEYS TO FUNG SHUI LANE IN FRONT OF THE TIN HAU TEMPLE AT TAI SHEK HAU.

AFTER PERFORMING AT FUNG SHUI LANE, THE PROCESSION WILL MAKE A CIRCUIT OF CHEUNG CHAU TOWN AND RETURN TO THE PAK TEI TEMPLE.

THERE WILL BE 13 FLOATS, LION AND UNICORN DANCES, FLAG PARADES AND CHINESE FOLK DANCES.

SHRINES OF DEITIES AND THE FAMED SWORD OF THE GOD, PAK TEI, WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED.

THE BUN FESTIVAL, HELD TO APPEASE THE WANDERING SPIRITS OF PEOPLE KILLED BY PIRATES ON THE ISLAND IN THE EARLY DAYS, HAS BEEN ORGANISED ANNUALLY WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

/CELEBRATIONS IN

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CELEBRATIONS IN THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL INCLUDE CANTONESE OPERA, EYE-DOTTING CEREMONIES FOR LION AND UNICORN DANCES, A GHOST-WORSHIPPING CEREMONY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF BUNS.

AS AN ACT OF SINCERITY AND HUMILITY, THE ISLANDERS WILL ABSTAIN FROM MEAT FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS FROM FRIDAY AND NO ANIMAL WILL BE SLAUGHTERED DURING THIS PERIOD.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CHEUNG CHAU BUN FESTIVAL PROCESSION WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM ON SUNDAY (MAY 6).

PRESS BADGES FOR THE EVENT ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF THE CNTA HEADQUARTERS, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI. PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH ORGANISATION WILL BE GIVEN ONLY ONE BADGE.

A SPECIAL LAUNCH TO TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND GUESTS TO CHEUNG CHAU WILL LEAVE THE CENTRAL HARBOUR FERRY PIER AT 12.15 PM ON SUNDAY.

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CLOSURE OF LORRY CARPARK ON DB AGENDA

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE CLOSURE OF A LORRY CARPARK IN TAI KOK TSUI IN JULY AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF CHERRY STREET AND FERRY STREET, THE CARPARK WILL BE TEMPORARILY USED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A WORKS AREA FOR NEARBY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE USE OF FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON INDUSTRIAL LIABILITIES
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A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BRIEF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE ON THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS - GENERAL LIABILITY PROVISIONS AT THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN TUEN MUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUND ALLOCATION
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THE RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR ORGANISING RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE USE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT IN MAY AND JUNE, AND A REPORT FROM THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, JOCKEY CLUB ROAD, FANLING.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPT PRAISED
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) COMMENDED FOR SMASHING A GANG INVOLVED IN MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTING COUNTERFEIT CANNED GINSENG.

THE SOLE AGENT IN HONG KONG FOR THE BRAND OF GINSENG, MR CHANG SUN-CHULL OF LOTTE TRADING COMPANY LIMITED, PRESENTED A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AND A DONATION OF \$50,000 TO THE WELFARE FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTING COMMISSIONER, MR TONG KANG-SING.

THE CASE CAME TO LIGHT IN MARCH AFTER THREE MONTHS OF INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, AND CANNED GINSENG WORTH \$12 MILLION WAS SEIZED.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS MOUNTED A TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION INVOLVING 130 OFFICERS, WHO SEARCHED FOUR PLACES OF MANUFACTURE AND STORAGE, AS WELL AS 117 RETAIL OUTLETS.

SIX MEN, INCLUDING THE ALLEGED RINGLEADER, AND ONE WOMAN WERE ARRESTED, ALONG WITH ALL THE KEY FIGURES IN THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.

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SEMINAR ON SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND CHANGING FAMILY PATTERN
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THE JOINT UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC ADMISSIONS SYSTEM AND CHANGING FAMILY PATTERN IN RELATION TO GUIDANCE WORK IN SCHOOLS WILL BE THE TOPICS AT THE ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR CAREERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS ON FRIDAY (MAY 4).

THE SEMINAR IS SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS AND HENG SENG BANK.

THE SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR B. FRENCH, WILL GIVE THE OPENING SPEECH WHILE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE, PROF D.K.O. CHAN, AND THE PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER, HONG KONG FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY, MISS HO WAI-MAN, WILL BE THE MAIN SPEAKERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL SEMINAR OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (MAY 4), BEGINNING AT 9 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE HENG SENG BANK AT 77 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, 20TH FLOOR.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 4), KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KORNHILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 240 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION, IN EASTERN DISTRICT, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY FOR 15 MONTHS TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF KING'S ROAD.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING TEMPORARY 24-HOUR RESTRICTED AREA ON KING'S ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH KORNHILL ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 175 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CANCELLED.

IN CENTRAL, THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF STAUNTON STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH SHING WONG STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES EAST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY 24 HOURS DAILY FOR ONE MONTH TO FACILITATE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE, DRIVERS OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS.

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ROAD CLOSURES IN WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT DUE TO THE SUBSIDENCE OF A SECTION OF BOWRINGTON ROAD IN WAN CHAI, TWO SECTIONS OF ROADS ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO FACILITATE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORKS.

THE SECTION OF BOWRINGTON ROAD FROM HOUSE NO. 30 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH SHARP STREET WEST IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR FIVE WEEKS. DURING THE CLOSURE, CHEUNG WOO LANE WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.

THE SECTION OF SHARP STREET WEST BETWEEN MORRISON HILL ROAD AND BOWRINGTON ROAD IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR ONE WEEK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, BOWRINGTON ROAD BETWEEN SHARP STREET WEST AND WAN CHAI ROAD, CHAN TONG LANE, AND SHARP STREET WEST BETWEEN BOWRINGTON ROAD AND CANAL ROAD WEST WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC.

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GOODS VEHICLE BAN ZONES IN SHA TIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 4), THE CARPARK ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR PIPER'S HILL, AND THE CARPARK ADJACENT TO THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR KOWLOON RESERVOIR WILL BE DESIGNATED BAN ZONES FOR GOODS VEHICLES.

ALL GOODS VEHICLES, EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THE PROHIBITED ZONES 24 HOURS DAILY.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TOLO HIGHWAY, TAI PO
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF TOLO HIGHWAY IN TAI PO WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * ON FRIDAY (MAY 4), A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.8 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE;
- * ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (MAY 7 AND 8), A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRES OF THE OUTERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND NEAR PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE;
- * ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 9), A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.7 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND NEAR PAK SHEK KOK BRIDGE.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES IN TUEN MUN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE THE DISMANTLING OF ROAD CROSSING STEEL BEAM FALSEWORK, THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI) OUTSIDE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1.30 AM TO 5.30 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 4).

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON NORTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI) OUTSIDE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE SOUTHBOUND LANES OF THE SAME ROAD SECTION BEFORE REJOINING THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY.

TRAFFIC ON SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI), NORTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD D9, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED ALONG SOUTHBOUND CASTLE PEAK ROAD (SAN HUI) BUT WILL HAVE TO USE ROAD D9.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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