



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
INTO WITNESS PROTECTION

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE REPORT OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER OF HIS INQUIRY INTO THE WITNESS PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CASE OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANT NGUYEN VAN BAU, WHOSE MURDER TRIAL WAS ABORTED LAST OCTOBER.

THE REPORT GIVES A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WERE OFFERED TO THE VIETNAMESE WITNESS, MR BUI VAN-XUAN, THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH LED TO HIS REFUSAL TO TESTIFY IN COURT AND THE PROSECUTION'S SUBSEQUENT DECISION TO OFFER NO EVIDENCE IN THE CASE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WERE STUDYING MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER'S REPORT AND WOULD CONSIDER WHAT LESSONS COULD BE LEARNED FOR THE FUTURE.

DEPARTMENTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, WOULD ALSO BE REVIEWING THE ACTIONS OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE CASE.

HE NOTED THAT ACTION HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO REVISE PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANT WITNESSES.

"THE NEW PROCEDURES PROVIDE FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN POLICE, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE INVOKED IN CASES WHERE THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT A VIETNAMESE MIGRANT IS UNDER THREAT AND MIGHT NEED PROTECTION."

"FURTHERMORE, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE ON WITNESS PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS GENERALLY. A COPY OF THE FCC REPORT HAS BEEN SENT TO MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER," HE ADDED.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE RELATE TO THE VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT WITNESSES ARE NOT INTERFERED BEFORE THEIR GIVING EVIDENCE.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE THE SETTING UP OF A FORMAL WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME AND CENTRAL WITNESS PROTECTION UNITS IN THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND IN OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, MEASURES TO PROTECT WITNESSES GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT AND A PUBLICITY STRATEGY TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THESE MEASURES.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER WOULD BE SUBMITTING HIS FINAL REPORT ON WITNESS PROTECTION IN GENERAL WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.

"A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF EFFORT HAS GONE INTO THE PRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO JUSTICE KEMPSTER FOR COMPLETING THIS DIFFICULT TASK SO QUICKLY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT IN ENGLISH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT DISTRICT OFFICES PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS FROM TODAY (THURSDAY). THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS THE TRANSLATION WORK IS COMPLETED.

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AGC'S RESPONSE TO REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

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IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO WITNESS PROTECTION PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

SINCE THE ENDING OF THE ABORTED MURDER TRIAL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS AND THE RELEVANT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE PUT INTO OPERATION NEW PRACTICES THAT WILL PREVENT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE A RECURRENCE OF DIFFICULTIES SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT OCCURRED DURING THE COURSE OF THAT PARTICULAR TRIAL.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT IN ALL FUTURE CASES WHERE WITNESS PROTECTION IS REQUIRED, THERE WILL BE CLOSE LIAISON, AT A HIGH LEVEL, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE STAGE BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, THE POLICE AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE REPORT BY MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER WILL BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FURTHER CONSIDERING WHAT LESSONS CAN BE LEARNT.

A POINT MENTIONED BY MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER IS THAT THE LAW IN HONG KONG HAS NO EQUIVALENT TO SECTION 23(1) AND (3)(B) OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 1988 WHICH PERMITS THE ADMISSION IN EVIDENCE OF THE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A WITNESS, MADE TO A POLICE OR EQUIVALENT OFFICER, WHO FAILS TO GIVE ORAL TESTIMONY THROUGH FEAR. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IS NOW BEING GIVEN TO WHETHER SIMILAR PROVISIONS SHOULD BE ADOPTED IN HONG KONG'S CRIMINAL LAW.

THE REPORT ALSO DISCUSSES THE LAW ON THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS UNDER DETENTION, WHILST MAKING CLEAR THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAW IN THIS AREA IS ULTIMATELY A MATTER FOR THE COURT TO RULE ON.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS HAS PROVIDED ITS LEGAL VIEWS ON THIS MATTER TO THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE PRACTICALITIES OF VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE ARE MATTERS OF POLICY FOR THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CONSIDER.

THE CASE HAS REVEALED THAT THERE MAY BE A NEED, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF SOME CATEGORIES OF WITNESSES, FOR BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG TO BE PROVIDED.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT LEAFLETS EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE AND DUTIES OF A WITNESS IN A TRIAL BE GIVEN TO ALL WITNESSES BEFORE THEY COME TO COURT SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF THEM IN COURT.

ANOTHER POINT MENTIONED IN THE REPORT CONCERNS THE USE OF NOLLE PROSEQUI. THE POLICY ON THE USE OF NOLLE PROSEQUI WAS FORMULATED IN 1989 FOLLOWING SERIOUS CONCERN AND CRITICISM EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ABOUT THE PREVIOUS POLICY AND ITS APPLICATION.

THE POLICY WAS ADOPTED AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION AND COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

/IN DECIDING

IN DECIDING WHEN TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO PERSONALLY DECIDES WHEN TO ENTER A NOLLE PROSEQUI, TAKES INTO ACCOUNT TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL LAW:

- * AN ACCUSED PERSON HAS A RIGHT TO BE TRIED ONCE AND ONCE ONLY IN RESPECT OF THE SAME MATTER AND THE SAME OFFENCE;
- * THAT ONCE CHARGED AND BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT THE TRIAL AGAINST AN ACCUSED PERSON LIES ENTIRELY WITHIN THE HANDS OF THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

THESE PRINCIPLES MEAN THAT NOLLES ARE ONLY VERY RARELY ENTERED - MAINLY WHERE A DEFENDANT IS FOUND PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY UNFIT TO STAND TRIAL.

THE PRESENT POLICY ON NOLLE PROSEQUI IS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH IS ADOPTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS RECONSIDERED HIS POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF THIS CASE AND THE REPORT OF MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER, BUT SEES NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY CHANGE.

REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE IN THE REPORT TO THE BRIEFING GIVEN BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE LEGCO SECURITY PANEL ON OCTOBER 30.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AND THE COMMENTS MADE ON THAT OCCASION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WERE BASED ON THE INFORMATION THEN AVAILABLE TO HIM.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS NOT, AT THAT TIME, IN POSSESSION OF THE FULL FACTS OF THE CASE AS ARE NOW REVEALED, AFTER MANY DAYS OF HEARINGS BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AND AFTER THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF ORAL EVIDENCE.

REFERENCE IS ALSO MADE IN THE REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL GIVING THE LEGCO SECURITY PANEL A "PRETEXT" FOR HIS ABSENCE FROM COURT ON THE MORNING OF 26 OCTOBER.

ALTHOUGH RECOLLECTIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS TOLD ABOUT THE REQUEST TO ATTEND COURT DIFFER, THE REFERENCE TO THE TALK WHICH HE GAVE THAT MORNING WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A PRETEXT OR EXCUSE.

IT WAS SIMPLY A DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES FACING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THAT MORNING.

CLEARLY, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULTY FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO RUSH TO COURT HAD HE BEEN TOLD OF THE JUDGE'S REQUEST. HE HAD NO PAPERS, KNEW FEW OF THE DETAILS OF THE CASE AND HAD HAD ONLY TWO BRIEF PHONE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE CASE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS.

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON FINANCING OF NEW SHARE ISSUES

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THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF A GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP ON THE MONETARY AND BANKING IMPLICATIONS OF OVER SUBSCRIPTION OF NEW SHARE ISSUES WERE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY, MR JOSEPH YAM, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, SAID FIRST, THE WORKING GROUP WAS SATISFIED THAT THE MACRO MONETARY IMPLICATIONS WERE BROADLY ACCEPTABLE GIVEN THE MONETARY MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS ALREADY IN PLACE.

"IN OTHER WORDS, UNDER PRESENT MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS, CURRENCY STABILITY IS UNLIKELY TO BE THREATENED BY LARGE OVER SUBSCRIPTION OF NEW SHARE ISSUES," HE SAID, WHEN ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG.

"BUT THE EFFECT OF THE SHARP INCREASE AND THE SUBSEQUENT FALL OFF IN INTER BANK LIQUIDITY, IN BANK CREDIT AND THE MONEY SUPPLY, WHAT WE NOW CALL 'THE SOUFFLE EFFECT', NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY MONITORED, AND IF NECESSARY SPECIFIC MONETARY OPERATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO ENSURE MONETARY STABILITY," HE ADDED.

SECOND, HE SAID, THE WORKING GROUP WAS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT THE RISKS TO INDIVIDUAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS WERE ADEQUATELY UNDERSTOOD AND MANAGED BY THEM.

WHILE THERE WERE ARRANGEMENTS TO LIMIT THE RISKS OF BANKS TO SHARE APPLICANTS TO WITHIN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RAISED BY THE ISSUER, INTER BANK RISKS WERE AS LARGE AS THE GROSS SUBSCRIPTION AMOUNT.

"WE THEREFORE HAVE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION BY THE AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS," MR YAM SAID.

THIRD, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING GROUP WAS BROADLY SATISFIED THAT THE PAYMENTS SYSTEM WAS CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE HEAVY PAYMENTS TRAFFIC ARISING FROM THE LARGE OVER SUBSCRIPTION OF NEW SHARE ISSUES.

TURNING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE INVOLVED IN NEW SHARE ISSUES, MR YAM SAID COMMENTS WERE WELCOMED ON THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH COULD LATER BE FORMALISED AS GUIDELINES ISSUED UNDER SECTION 7(3) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE BY THE MONETARY AUTHORITY.

"OUR FIRST RECOMMENDATION IS THAT ALL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ESTABLISH AND DOCUMENT A LENDING POLICY FOR THE FINANCING OF NEW SHARE ISSUES," HE SAID.

"SECOND, THEY SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR LENDING ARRANGEMENTS IS SUCH THAT THEY ARE PROTECTED, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, FROM THE WINDING UP OR BANKRUPTCY OF THE BROKER, THE CUSTOMER, THE ISSUER AND THE RECEIVING BANK," HE CONTINUED.

/"THIS MEANS,

"THIS MEANS, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THAT THEIR LOAN DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUCH AS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE APPLICATION MONEYS ARE LENT ON 'PURPOSE' TRUSTS AND REFUND MONEYS ARE THEREFORE HELD ON TRUST FOR THE LENDING BANK.

"AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SHOULD TAKE THEIR OWN LEGAL ADVICE ON THIS.

"THEY SHOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED AND REFUND MONEYS RECEIVED BY THEIR OWN NOMINEE COMPANIES," HE EXPLAINED.

THE THIRD RECOMMENDATION IS THAT EACH AUTHORISED INSTITUTION'S LENDING POLICY SHOULD SET A CAP ON THE MAXIMUM EXPOSURE WHICH IT IS PREPARED TO INCUR ON LENDING TO INDIVIDUAL BROKERS AND CUSTOMERS.

"HOWEVER, FOR LOCALLY INCORPORATED AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SUCH EXPOSURES CANNOT IN ANY CASE BE MORE THAN 25 PER CENT OF CAPITAL BASE EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE SECURED BY CASH DEPOSITS," MR YAM SAID.

"THE SAME SHOULD APPLY TO OVERSEAS INCORPORATED INSTITUTIONS IN RELATION TO PARENTAL CAPITAL.

"HOWEVER, THE 25 PER CENT LIMIT SETS THE UPPER CAP FOR EXPOSURES: AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE IN RELATION TO EACH INDIVIDUAL BROKER OR CUSTOMER," HE ADDED.

THE FOURTH RECOMMENDATION IS THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS TO MAKE IT THEIR STANDARD PRACTICE TO TAKE ADEQUATE MARGIN.

THE WORKING GROUP BELIEVED THAT 10 PER CENT WOULD BE A SUITABLY CONSERVATIVE FIGURE, MR YAM SAID.

FIFTH, HE SAID, LENDING BANKS SHOULD ALSO HAVE A LIMIT ON THEIR OVERALL EXPOSURE TO BROKERS AND CUSTOMERS IN RESPECT OF EACH ISSUE.

"SINCE THIS IS EFFECTIVELY A CREDIT RISK ON THE RECEIVING BANK, THE OVERALL LIMIT SHOULD BE SET IN RELATION TO EACH AUTHORISED INSTITUTION'S NORMAL CREDIT LIMIT ON RECEIVING BANK," HE ADDED.

THE SIXTH RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE EXPOSURE OF THE RECEIVING BANK TO INDIVIDUAL LENDING BANKS TO WHICH IT RECYCLES APPLICATION MONEYS SHOULD BE NO HIGHER THAN ITS NORMAL CREDIT LIMIT FOR THE AUTHORISED INSTITUTION IN QUESTION.

"THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION IS THAT ANY TEMPORARY INCREASE ABOVE NORMAL INTER BANK LIMITS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY JUSTIFIED AND CONTROLLED, AND SHOULD NOT IN ANY CASE RESULT IN THE EXPOSURE TO AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTER PARTY BEING INCREASED TO MORE THAN 25 PER CENT OF THE AUTHORISED INSTITUTION'S OR THE PARENT BANK'S CAPITAL BASE," MR YAM SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, HE STRESSED THAT OVER SUBSCRIPTION OF NEW SHARE ISSUES WAS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT THAT THE NEW HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY TOOK SERIOUSLY, IN VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT ON OVERALL FINANCIAL STABILITY.

"BUT WE WILL ALWAYS DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP RATHER THAN CONSTRICT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THEIR LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

THERE HAVE BEEN QUITE A NUMBER OF NEW SHARE ISSUES RECENTLY AND SOME OF THEM MANY TIMES OVERSUBSCRIBED. THE WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP IN MID-FEBRUARY TO EXAMINE THE MONETARY AND BANKING IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH EVENTS.

MR YAM NOTED THAT THE REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUP WAS COMPLETED LAST WEEK BUT IT WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED IN FULL AS THE INFORMATION ON THE OPERATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS WAS PROVIDED TO MONETARY AUTHORITY IN CONFIDENCE AND AS THE AUTHORITY WAS BOUND BY THE SECRECY PROVISIONS OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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FEES UNDER BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO BE REVISED

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FEES RELATED TO THE INSPECTION OF BUILDING AND DRAINAGE WORKS, AND ISSUE/RENEWAL OF OIL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENCES WILL BE REVISED FROM MAY 1 TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF THE SERVICES.

THE NEW FEES ARE PRESCRIBED IN THE BUILDING (ADMINISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 AND BUILDING (OIL STORAGE INSTALLATIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) REGULATION 1993 GAZETTED TODAY (THURSDAY). THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

* FOR REGISTRATION AS AN AUTHORISED PERSON OR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	\$3,780
* FOR RETENTION OF THE REGISTRATION	\$790
* FOR RESTORATION OF THE REGISTRATION	\$1,890
* FOR REGISTRATION AS A CONTRACTOR	\$3,930
* FOR REGISTRATION AS A VENTILATION CONTRACTOR	\$6,510
* FOR AN EXAMINATION ORGANISED BY THE AUTHORISED PERSONS' AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS' REGISTRATION COMMITTEE	\$2,360
* FOR ADDITIONAL INSPECTION OF COMPLETED BUILDING WORKS OR STREET WORKS	\$1,770
* FOR RE-INSPECTION AND RE-TESTING OF COMPLETED DRAINAGE WORKS	\$700

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- * FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPIES, PRINTS OR EXTRACTS OF ANY DOCUMENT, OTHER THAN A PLAN \$150
- * FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPIES, PRINTS OR EXTRACTS OF ANY PLAN \$250
- * FOR THE ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF LICENCES FOR STORING OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN AN OIL STORAGE INSTALLATION \$17,400

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE FEE REVISION IS THE LAST OF A TWO-PHASE EXERCISE TO BRING THE LEVEL OF FEES FOR THESE SERVICES UP TO THE COST-RECOVERY LEVEL."

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REVENUE BILLS FOR 1993/94 BUDGET GAZETTED
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A TOTAL OF 10 BILLS, INTENDED CHIEFLY TO IMPLEMENT THE SIGNIFICANT REVENUE CONCESSIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON MARCH 3, WERE GAZETTED TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 21," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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BILL GAZETTED ON LAND EASEMENT FOR SEWAGE TUNNEL WORK
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A BILL THAT SEEKS TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT THE LEGAL RIGHTS TO PROCEED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND SEWAGE TUNNELS BENEATH PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SEWAGE TUNNELS (STATUTORY EASEMENTS) BILL, IF APPROVED, WILL ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE EASEMENT OF LAND BELOW SURFACE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DEEP UNDERGROUND TUNNELS TO TRANSPORT SEWAGE TO MAJOR TREATMENT WORKS ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND MOUNT DAVIS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH SAID THE SEWAGE TUNNELS WOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SEWAGE STRATEGY AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO CONTROLLING THE SERIOUS WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN THE CENTRAL HARBOUR.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE EASEMENT, IF REQUIRED, WOULD ONLY INVOLVE LAND DEEP BENEATH SURFACE FOR TUNNELING WORK. THE PROPOSED SEWAGE TUNNELS WOULD BE LAID USUALLY AT A DEPTH OF MORE THAN 100 METRES BELOW GROUND LEVEL.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID EXISTING ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE INDICATED THAT LITTLE LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTIES COULD RESULT FROM THE TUNNEL WORKS.

THE BILL REQUIRES THE GOVERNMENT TO GAZETTE A NOTICE OF THE PLAN SHOWING THE ROUTE OF THE PROPOSED SEWAGE TUNNEL, THE MINIMUM DEPTH UNDER WHICH THE TUNNEL LIES AND THE LAND THROUGH WHICH EASEMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BE CREATED. THE PLAN WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

THE BILL ALSO GIVES OWNERS THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO AN EASEMENT.

THEY CAN ALSO MAKE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION FOR ANY PROVEN LOSS OR DAMAGE TO LAND OR BUILDINGS OR REDUCTION IN LAND VALUE RELATED TO AN EASEMENT.

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MONITORING OF TWO RAIL COMPANIES ADEQUATE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT A PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF THE TWO RAIL CORPORATIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THERE ARE ADEQUATE LEGAL PROVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES AND OPERATION OF THE TWO RAIL CORPORATIONS."

THESE ENQUIRIES AROSE FROM THE FARE INCREASES ANNOUNCED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

"UNDER THE LAW, THE TWO RAIL CORPORATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE ON PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES AND TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT REVENUE TO MEET RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND TO FINANCE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION WITHOUT SUBSIDY FROM TAXPAYERS."

"MOREOVER, THE SERVICES OF BOTH CORPORATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE REGULAR SCRUTINY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT BOARDS THROUGH QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN."

"NEVERTHELESS, AS WE EXPLAINED IN A MOTION DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST FEBRUARY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN TO REVIEW SPECIFIC AREAS OF OPERATION WHERE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED. THE REVIEW IS NOW UNDERWAY."

ON THE QUESTION OF KCRC'S PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID:

/"IN DECIDING

"IN DECIDING ON THE \$150 MILLION DIVIDEND PAYMENT BY KCRC FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1992, IT WAS RECOGNISED THAT THIS WOULD NOT AFFECT THE CASH FLOW REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CORPORATION'S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME OR HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ITS FARE ADJUSTMENT IN 1993 WHICH WAS NECESSARY TO OFFSET AN INCREASE IN OPERATING COSTS."

ON THE IMPACT OF SUCH FARE INCREASES ON INFLATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE PROPOSED RAIL FARE REVISIONS ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A SMALL INCREASE OF ONLY 0.19% IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)."

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REVIEW OF PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO REVIEW PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS AS ONE OF THE NEW MEASURES TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MISS ELAINE CHUNG, AT A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (THURSDAY).

MISS CHUNG SAID THE REVIEW WILL BE MONITORED BY A STEERING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WITH SECRETARY FOR WORKS, SECRETARY FOR TREASURY, SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS AND SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES AND A NUMBER OF EXPERTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS MEMBERS.

THE REVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY GOVERNMENT STAFF AND A CONSULTANCY FIRM WILL BE APPOINTED SOON.

MISS CHUNG SAID THE REVIEW WOULD BE CLOSELY TIED UP WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMME WHICH AIMED TO MODIFY AND CLARIFY ROLES OF POLICY BRANCHES AND THEIR DEPARTMENTS.

ISSUES TO BE EXPLORED WILL INCLUDE:

- * THE UNDERLYING STRATEGY AND ORGANISATIONAL IMPEDIMENTS TO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS PROJECTS;
- * WAYS TO IMPROVE THE AWARD OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS AS SCHEDULED;
- * POSSIBLE CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AT EACH STAGE OF A PROJECT FROM THE START OF DESIGN TO COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION;
- * TIMELY EXPENDITURE FORECASTING TECHNIQUES;
- * EARLIER COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES TO IMPROVE PROJECT ESTIMATES.

IT WAS ALSO STATED AT THE MEETING THAT THE REORGANISED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS HAD MET RECENTLY TO DISCUSS PLANS TO STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

AS ONE OF THE NEW MEASURES, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO ENTRUST MORE PROJECTS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND TO ADOPT THE "DESIGN AND BUILD" APPROACH IN THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS.

OTHER NEW MEASURES INCLUDE:

- * UPGRADING OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS WHICH WILL STANDARDISE THE PROCEDURE AND FORMAT OF REPORTING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. AS A RESULT OF THIS IMPROVEMENT, FINANCIAL REPORTS OF A PROJECT UPON COMPLETION ARE NOW AVAILABLE WITHIN ONE WEEK COMPARED WITH ONE MONTH PREVIOUSLY;
- * MORE CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR A PROJECT WHICH FAILS TO MEET ITS EXPENDITURE TARGET SO THAT FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE IN THE MONITORING PROCESS;
- * MORE MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO IMPROVE THEIR ESTIMATE FORECASTING TECHNIQUES AND TO IDENTIFY OTHER IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES; AND
- * THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS HAS ASSUMED A NEW AND EXPANDED ROLE TO ENSURE THAT WORKS PROJECTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

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TWO OF THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO COURSES RUN BY THE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE WILL BE MADE MORE FLEXIBLE AS FROM THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) PAST RECORDS REVEALED THAT MANY APPLICANTS WHO GAINED BETTER RESULTS THAN SOME OF THOSE ADMITTED HAD BEEN TURNED AWAY BECAUSE THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS WERE TOO RIGID.

AT PRESENT, TO MEET THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION, APPLICANTS MUST HAVE OBTAINED IN ONE SITTING OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (HKCEE) GRADE E OR ABOVE IN SIX DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, INCLUDING CHINESE LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE, WITH GRADE C OR ABOVE IN AT LEAST TWO OF THE SUBJECTS AND GRADE D OR ABOVE IN AT LEAST ONE OTHER SUBJECT.

"TO ENSURE FAIRNESS TO CANDIDATES WITH GOOD POTENTIAL, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO REVISE TWO OF THE EXISTING BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR A GREATER DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY," HE SAID.

THE REVISED REQUIREMENTS ARE:

- * APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE ATTAINED GRADE E OR ABOVE IN SIX DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CHINESE LANGUAGE, AT HKCEE LEVEL IN NOT MORE THAN TWO SITTINGS, WITH AT LEAST FOUR SUBJECTS IN ONE SITTING; AND
- * APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED NOT LESS THAN 11 POINTS FOR THE SIX SUBJECTS, CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF ONE POINT FOR GRADE E, PROGRESSING TO FIVE POINTS FOR GRADE A.

THE OTHER ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE CONCEPT OF ACCUMULATING PASSES IN TWO SITTINGS WAS IN LINE WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS ADOPTED BY SOME TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND WITH EXISTING PRACTICE IN CIVIL SERVICE RECRUITMENT EXERCISES.

"THE GRADE POINT SYSTEM IS USED FOR SECONDARY 6 ADMISSION. THE 11 POINTS FOR SIX SUBJECTS AT THE HKCEE IS HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY TO THE HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL (HKAL) EXAMINATION, WHICH IS EITHER GRADE E IN SIX SUBJECTS (I.E. SIX POINTS) OR FIVE SUBJECTS WITH A TOTAL OF EIGHT POINTS," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE ADVANTAGES OF THE TWO REVISED REQUIREMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FLEXIBILITY WOULD WIDEN THE CHOICE OF CANDIDATES, SOME OF WHOM WOULD HAVE GOOD ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND DESERVE TO BE CONSIDERED.

"SINCE MORE CANDIDATES WITH HIGHER GRADE POINTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE REVISED REQUIREMENTS, THE STANDARD OF SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL CORRESPONDINGLY BE HIGHER.

"BASED ON THE 1992 COLLEGES ADMISSION EXERCISE, FOR EXAMPLE, 1,077 MORE APPLICANTS WITH 11 GRADE POINTS OR ABOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE THREE-YEAR COURSE."

FURTHERMORE, MORE CANDIDATES WITH A FLAIR IN SUBJECTS WITH SPECIAL DEMAND, SUCH AS ENGLISH, MUSIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS, COULD HAVE BEEN FAVOURABLY CONSIDERED.

"SIMILARLY, 587 MORE APPLICANTS FOR THE TWO-YEAR COURSE WHO HAD GOOD HKAL RESULTS BUT WHOSE HKCEE RESULTS DID NOT EXACTLY MATCH THE PREVIOUSLY RIGID CRITERIA COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE REVISED FLEXIBLE REQUIREMENTS WOULD ONLY WIDEN THE POOL OF SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR SELECTION, AND WOULD NOT LOWER THE STANDARD OF CANDIDATES EVENTUALLY ADMITTED INTO THE COLLEGES.

"APART FROM SATISFYING THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, THE SELECTION PROCEDURE ALSO INCLUDES INTERVIEWS AND CERTAIN SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ELECTIVE SUBJECTS, WHICH FURTHER DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF CANDIDATES.

"ONCE ADMITTED, THE PROGRESS OF STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGES WILL BE CAREFULLY MONITORED THROUGH CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, PROJECT WORK AND PRACTICAL TEACHING BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO GRADUATE," HE ADDED. "THIS WILL ENSURE THE QUALITY OF PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS."

THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THE TWO REVISED FLEXIBLE REQUIREMENTS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON EDUCATION AT THREE SEPARATE MEETINGS, AS WELL AS THOSE EXPRESSED BY OTHERS IN THE EDUCATION FIELD AND THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE MEDIA.

AS ADVISED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION PANEL, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL CAREFULLY MONITOR THE ADMISSION EXERCISE THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THAT THE FLEXIBILITY AFFORDED BY THE REVISED REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT LOWER THE ACADEMIC STANDARD.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT PRAISED FOR ITS PROFESSIONALISM

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THE EX-DIRECTOR OF MARINE AND CURRENT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRAISED THE HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONALISM OF OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

"THE PORT OF HONG KONG HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH SUCCESS, WITH EFFICIENCY, WITH QUALITY AND WITH SAFETY," MR MILLER SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON.

"THIS IS IN NO SMALL MEASURE DUE TO THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION OF OFFICERS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD IN THE VERY BROAD RANGE OF FUNCTIONS WHICH IT PERFORMED.

"MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT DOES. SOME MISTAKENLY THINK IT RUNS THE MARINE POLICE. OTHERS THINK THAT ALL IT DOES IS LICENSE PLEASURE CRAFT.

"IN FACT, IT HAS A KALEIDOSCOPIIC VARIETY OF DUTIES.

"THESE INCLUDE MANAGING THE HUGE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC THROUGH THE PORT, CO-ORDINATING MARITIME SEARCH RESCUE OPERATIONS ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE 10TH PARALLEL, ENFORCING INTERNATIONAL SAFETY CONVENTIONS ON ALL VESSELS USING HONG KONG WATERS, LICENSING AND PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOME 20,000 LOCAL VESSELS, REPRESENTING HONG KONG'S INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL FORA SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO), AND MAINTAINING THE LARGE GOVERNMENT FLEET.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS PART PORT ADMINISTRATOR, PART TRAFFIC REGULATOR, PART DOCKYARD AND PART ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR.

"NOWHERE IN THE WORLD DOES IT QUITE LIKE THIS. NOWHERE IN THE WORLD DOES IT QUITE SO SUCCESSFULLY."

MR MILLER NOTED THAT THE WAY THE PORT OF HONG KONG OPERATED REFLECTED HONG KONG'S TRADITIONAL PREFERENCE FOR RESTRICTING THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO ESSENTIALS.

"UNLIKE PORT AUTHORITIES ELSEWHERE, WE DO NOT OPERATE MANY FACILITIES OURSELVES."

INSTEAD 90 PER CENT OF CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES ARE PRIVATELY FINANCED, BUILT AND OPERATED.

THIS TRADITION OF MINIMUM PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT, AND MAXIMUM PRIVATE INVESTMENT HAS ENABLED HONG KONG TO EXPAND PORT FACILITIES VERY RAPIDLY IN RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC REVOLUTION IN SOUTHERN CHINA, AND TO BECOME THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONTAINER PORT.

MR MILLER WENT ON TO SAY THAT RELIANCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR CARGO HANDLING HAS LEFT THE GOVERNMENT FREE TO CONCENTRATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ON THE ESSENTIAL BUREAUCRATIC INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE PORT.

AS REGARDS THE LATTER, HONG KONG LED THE WORLD IN MANY AREAS.

"WE HAVE IN HONG KONG, A STATE-OF-THE-ART ELECTRONIC VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM."

VERY FEW PORTS HAVE THIS SYSTEM.

HONG KONG IS WORKING WITH THESE FEW IN DEVELOPING THE SYSTEMS AND THE OPERATING PROCEDURES THAT GO WITH THEM.

SIMILARLY, IN THE AREA OF HIGH SPEED CRAFT OPERATION, HONG KONG HAS MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ANY OTHER ADMINISTRATION AND IS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN THE IMO IN WRITING THE RULES FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THIS SORT OF CRAFT.

COMMENTING ON THE HUGE DEVELOPMENT WORKS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, MR MILLER SAID SOME CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR MORE AND HIGHER QUALITY RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES AND THE ESTABLISHED NEEDS OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY WAS NATURAL, PARTICULARLY IN HONG KONG'S HIGHLY CONCENTRATED URBAN SETTING.

THEY COULD, HOWEVER, BE RESOLVED BY CAREFUL PLANNING AND MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.

"THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PLANNING THE LOGISTICS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ENSURING THAT ESSENTIAL SHORE-LINE FACILITIES ARE KEPT RUNNING PRIOR TO REPROVISIONING."

"IT MAY SEEM TO SOME THAT WE ARE SIMPLY FILLING IN THE HARBOUR. IN FACT WHAT YOU ARE SEEING IS A PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE WEST, AS THE URBAN SHORE-LINE ENCROACHES ON THE TRADITIONAL PORT AREA," HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS WOULD ALLOW FOR EXPANSION OF THE PORT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REDUCING SOME OF THE NUISANCES WHICH GO WITH PORT OPERATIONS.

"I WOULD HOWEVER CAUTION THAT NOT EVERY PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA CAN BECOME A PLEASANT PROMENADE. THE PORT IS AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND, UNLIKE MUCH INDUSTRY, IT CANNOT SIMPLY BE MOVED AWAY," HE ADDED.

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CFPA TO RESPOND TO ARTS REVIEW REPORT

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA), PROFESSOR WANG GUNGWU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT CFPA HAD CONSIDERED THAT IT SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON ARTS POLICY REVIEW ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

PROF WANG SAID MEMBERS, AT A CFPA MEETING YESTERDAY, CONSIDERED THAT THE ARTS POLICY REVIEW REPORT WAS AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT AND THE CFPA, BEING THE PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS, SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED.

PROF WANG SAID: "HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT ANY CONSULTATION EXERCISE SHOULD BEST BE UNDERTAKEN BY INVOLVING THE ARTS COMMUNITY THROUGH THE HONG KONG ARTS RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE (ARIC) WHICH IS A RESOURCE CENTRE (AND NOT AN ARTS GROUP SERVING SPECIFIC INTEREST), EQUIPPED WITH EXPERTISE IN GATHERING VIEWS OF THE ARTS COMMUNITY, AND WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF OPERATION IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WITH SUBVENTIONS BY THE CFPA."

THE CFPA HAD ALSO DECIDED THAT ITS THREE SUBJECT COMMITTEES ON DANCE, MUSIC AND DRAMA SHOULD ALSO WORK OUT THE CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS TOGETHER WITH ARIC TO FOCUS ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT OF INTEREST TO THE ARTS COMMUNITY.

THE CFPA HAD THEREFORE AGREED TO ALLOCATE \$150,000 TO ARIC TO UNDERTAKE THIS EXERCISE.

IT WOULD BE UP TO ARIC TO INVOLVE OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS, AS IT SEES FIT, WHEN CONDUCTING THE EXERCISE.

THE CFPA HAD ALSO ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT TO AWARD GENERAL SUPPORT GRANTS OF \$31.078 MILLION TO FIVE LOCAL FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94:

- * \$11.03 MILLION TO HONG KONG BALLET LTD;
- * \$5.348 MILLION TO CITY CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY LTD;
- * \$5.4 MILLION TO CHUNG YING THEATRE COMPANY;

- * \$5.8 MILLION TO HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY LTD AND;
- * \$3.5 MILLION TO EXPLORATION THEATRE.

THE EXPLORATION THEATRE WAS THE FIRST ORGANISATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE COUNCIL'S SEEDING GRANT IN 1989/90 TO HELP ITS DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

THE COUNCIL HAD REVIEWED THE EXPLORATION THEATRE'S PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE HIGH ARTISTIC STANDARD ACHIEVED BY THE COMPANY, ITS INTEREST IN PRESENTATION OF ORIGINAL SCRIPTS BY LOCAL PLAYWRIGHTS, ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN AUDIENCE BUILDING AND ITS WELL-ESTABLISHED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE RUNNING OF A FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING COMPANY, THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO UPGRADE THE STATUS OF THE THEATRE FROM THAT OF A SEEDING GRANT TO A GENERAL SUPPORT GRANT WITH EFFECT FROM 1993/94.

IN ADDITION, THE CFPA HAD APPROVED A SEEDING GRANT OF \$1.5 MILLION TO HONG KONG SINFONIETTA TO HELP ITS DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

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ENCLOSING WALLS AND WATCH TOWERS IN FANLING DECLARED MONUMENTS
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THE ENCLOSING WALLS AND CORNER WATCH TOWERS OF KUN LUNG WAI IN LUNG YEUK TAU, FANLING, WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) GAZETTED AS A MONUMENT UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE.

THE WALLED VILLAGE OF KUN LUNG WAI, MORE POPULARLY KNOWN AS SAN WAI, IS ONE OF THE 11 TANG VILLAGES IN LUNG YEUK TAU, FANLING.

ALTHOUGH THIS VILLAGE WAS REPORTEDLY SETTLED BY MEMBERS OF THE TANG CLAN DURING THE 14TH CENTURY, THE WALLS OF KUN LUNG WAI WERE BUILT PERHAPS IN 1744 AS THE STONE LINTEL ABOVE THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE. IT IS ENGRAVED WITH 'KUN LUNG, DATED THIS JIAZI OF THE QIAN-LONG REIGN'.

KUN LUNG WAI WAS ORIGINALLY ENCLOSED WITH FOUR BRICK WALLS WITH A WATCH TOWER AT EACH CORNER.

FIVE ROWS OF HOUSES WERE LOCATED INSIDE THE WALLS, TOGETHER WITH A VILLAGE TEMPLE AND A GATE HOUSE AT THE AXIS.

WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE MANAGERS OF KUN LUNG WAI, THE GATE HOUSE WAS DECLARED A MONUMENT IN 1988 AND HAS BEEN PROPERLY RESTORED BY GOVERNMENT.

AFTER YEARS OF NEGOTIATION, THE MANAGERS HAVE ALSO AGREED TO THE DECLARATION OF THE ENCLOSING WALLS AND CORNER TOWERS OF THE VILLAGE AS A MONUMENT.

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SINCE, THE WALLS AND WATCH TOWERS ARE IN DILAPIDATED CONDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THEIR RESTORATION.

THE WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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MOBILE EXHIBITION ON HK'S SEWAGE STRATEGY
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A FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION ON HONG KONG'S SEWAGE STRATEGY WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT EXHIBITION HALL, TAK TIN SHOPPING CENTRE, LAM TIN.

RESIDENTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND CAN VISIT THE EXHIBITION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT THE BASEMENT EXHIBITION AREA OF SHUN TAK CENTRE.

ORGANISED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, THE EXHIBITION AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC CONCERN OVER WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM IN THE HARBOUR AND INFORMING THEM OF THE NEED FOR AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION.

"PICTURES AND CARTOON DRAWINGS WILL BE ON DISPLAY TO DEPICT HOW THE SERIOUS WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM ENDANGERS OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DEVELOP AN OVERALL SEWAGE STRATEGY THAT WOULD TACKLE THE WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM.

"THIS INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERIES OF 150 METRES DEEP UNDERGROUND TUNNELS THREE METRES IN DIAMETER AND 22 KM IN LENGTH TO COLLECT ALL SEWAGE FROM THE URBAN AREA FOR TREATMENT."

THE EXHIBITION AT TAK TIN SHOPPING CENTRE, LAM TIN WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON APRIL 9 TO 12. THE EXHIBITION AT SHUN TAK CENTRE OPENS FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM ON APRIL 10 AND 11.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,750
REVERSAL OF LAF	+400
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-860
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,290
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.9 *-0.1* 8.4.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.05 PCT	13 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.38	3.30
1 MONTH	2.88 PCT	16 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.20	3.48
3 MONTHS	2.91 PCT	19 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.48	3.69
6 MONTHS	3.07 PCT	22 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.58	3.89
12 MONTHS	3.31 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 2,975MN

CLOSED 8 APRIL 1993

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