DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON SUNDAY
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HONG KONG WILL WITNESS THE SECOND MAJOR SET OF ELECTIONS OF THE YEAR THIS SUNDAY, MAY 5, WITH THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS, MR SUEN SAID 36 CANDIDATES WOULD BE CONTESTING 14 SEATS IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AND 23 CANDIDATES WOULD BE VYING FOR 11 SEATS IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

"ADDITIONALLY, ONE CANDIDATE EACH HAS BEEN ELECTED UNCONTESTED IN THE WONG TAI SIN NORTH CONSTITUENCY IN THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA, AND THE NORTH CONSTITUENCY IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA," HE SAID.

MR SUEN NOTED THAT A RECORD OF SOME 1.7 MILLION REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE 25 CONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

"AS WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HELD EARLIER IN MARCH AND THE COMING DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON A SUNDAY.

"THE ARRANGEMENT IS INTENDED TO FACILITATE REGISTERED ELECTORS TO VOTE. FOR A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF THE PUBLIC, SUNDAY IS A HOLIDAY AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THEM TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT WHETHER BEFORE OR AFTER THEIR LEISURE ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

ALL 311 POLLING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WILL BE OPEN FROM 7.30 AM UNTIL 10.30 PM. THE POLLING STATIONS ARE THE SAME AS THE ONES USED FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND ARE ALL SITUATED WITHIN A SHORT DISTANCE OF THE ELECTORS' HOME.

"VOTING ITSELF ONLY TAKES ABOUT THREE MINUTES," MR SUEN SAID. ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESIGNATED POLLING STATION, AN ELECTOR'S STATUS WOULD BE VERIFIED; HE WOULD BE GIVEN A BALLOT PAPER AND ALL HE HAS TO DO IS MARK A CROSS IN THE BOX AGAINST THE CANDIDATE OF HIS CHOICE, FOLD THE BALLOT PAPER AND PUT IT IN THE BALLOT BOX.

"THE WHOLE PROCESS IS QUICK AND SECRECY OF VOTING IS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT," HE ADDED.

MR SUEN URGED ELECTORS TO BRING ALONG THEIR POLL CARDS AS THIS WOULD SPEED UP THE PROCESSING. "HOWEVER, IN CASE THE POLL CARDS HAVE BEEN MISLAID OR ARE NOT ON HAND, I URGE VOTERS STILL TO GO TO THE DESIGNATED STATIONS TO CAST THEIR VOTES. THE PRODUCTION OF THEIR IDENTITY CARDS WILL BE SUFFICIENT."

A HOTLINE, 827 1122, WHICH WILL BE MANNED FROM 7 AM UNTIL THE POLLS CLOSE AT 10.30 PM ON ELECTION DAY, HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY SET UP TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON THE ELECTIONS. IF VOTERS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE ABOUT THEIR ELECTORAL STATUS OR THE POLLING DETAILS, THEY CAN CALL THIS NUMBER.

/STAFF AT .....

STAFF AT THE POLLING STATIONS WILL ALSO BE READY TO ASSIST THOSE VOTERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO MARK THEIR BALLOT PAPERS ON THEIR OWN.

COUNTING OF VOTES WILL BEGIN SOON AFTER THE POLLS CLOSE AT 10.30 PM AT THE 17 COUNTING STATIONS, WITH THE FIRST RESULTS EXPECTED AROUND 2 AM EARLY MONDAY MORNING, AND THE LAST RESULTS AT DAWN.

MR SUEN SAID AS A STEP TO PUBLICISE THE ELECTIONS, TWO "VOTE '91" BUS TOURS TOGETHER WITH PERFORMANCES BY A BALLOON SCULPTURED LION WILL BE ORGANISED FOR BOTH THE URBAN COUNCIL AREA AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

"THE TOURS WILL BE LAUNCHED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO COUNCILS OUTSIDE THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND THE CITY HALL AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE MORNING AND ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITIES WILL ALSO BE ON HAND TO ASSIST IN THE PUBLICITY," HE SAID.

"ON DISPLAY AT THE TWO VENUES WILL BE A 20-FOOT BALLOON SCULPTURE OF THE 'VOTE '91' LOGO AND BALLOON GARLANDS," HE ADDED.

"I AM SURE REGISTERED ELECTORS ARE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK OF THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN BETTERING THE QUALITY OF OUR LIFE," MR SUEN SAID.

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NO SIGNS OF INVESTORS FLEEING HK: SMA

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DESPITE SOME RECENT UNCERTAINTIES, THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNS OF INVESTORS FLEEING THE TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH THIS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST PACIFIC BANK CENTRE, MR NENDICK SAID HONG KONG'S HISTORY HAD BEEN MARKED BY PERIODS OF UNCERTAINTY.

"YET DESPITE THIS, THE TERRITORY HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE GROWTH OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS AND HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING FINANCIAL CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK STRESSED THAT HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL MARKETS WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO FLOURISH AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS HOWEVER CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS CONDUCIVE TO INVESTMENT AND A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK WHICH AFFORDS ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO THE SAVINGS OF THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT STIFLING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.

"WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS CONTINUE TO MEASURE UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

/"AS AN .....

"AS AN EXAMPLE, THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY, AIMS AT AMENDING THE PROVISIONS IN THE BANKING ORDINANCE GOVERNING LARGE EXPOSURE LIMITS TO BRING THE REGULATORY REGIME INTO LINE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BASLE COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW OFFICE BY THE FIRST PACIFIC BANCSHARES GROUP REFLECTED THE GROUP'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG.

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REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR WELCOMES U.S. STATEMENT ON VM'S

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES TODAY (FRIDAY), THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, WELCOMED THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH QUASHED RUMOURS THAT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS STRANDED IN FIRST ASYLUM TERRITORIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO TO KUWAIT FOR ITS POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

SUCH RUMOURS ONLY RAISED FALSE HOPES AMONG THE VIETNAMESE, WITH THE CRUEL EFFECT THAT SOME VIETNAMESE MIGHT BE MISLED INTO FLEEING VIETNAM, ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES IN DETENTION CENTRES WITHOUT ANY PROSPECT OF OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT.

AS HAS BEEN MADE VERY CLEAR BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GENEVA, THE ONLY PROSPECT AWAITING NON-REFUGEES IS TO RETURN TO VIETNAM, HE SAID.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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HKEF

	DATE	$ MILLION
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	2.5.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	3.5.91	-40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+40
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.2 **+0.0* 3.5.91

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING $ MILLION	
Q115	10.7.91	340	+140
Q116	17.7.91	360	+120
Q117	24.7.91	318.5	+161.5
Q118	31.7.91	490	-10
Q106	8.5.91	533.5	-53.5
Q107	15.5.91	501	-21
Q108	22.5.91	490	-10
Q109	29.5.91	510	-30
Q110	5.6.91	280	+200
Q111	12.6.91	344	+136
Q112	19.6.91	610	-130
Q113	26.6.91	430	+50
Q114	3.7.91	490	-10

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING $ MILLION	
H002	15.5.91	227.5	+32.5
H003	29.5.91	210	+50
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	143	+117
H156	24.7.91	150	+110
H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	200	+60
H159	4.9.91	200	+60
H160	18.9.91	280	-20
H161	2.10.91	80	+180
H162	17.10.91	84	+176
H163	30.10.91	180	+80

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING $ MILLION	
Y187	26.2.92	230	+30
Y188	25.3.92	180	+80
Y189	22.4.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 3.5.91 WAS 5,080 MN

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H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	200	+60
H159	4.9.91	200	+60
H160	18.9.91	280	-20
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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1991 COMBINED INCREASED BY 10% WHILE THEIR VOLUME INCREASED BY 2% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE 2% INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS ACTUALLY MADE UP OF A DECREASE OF 7% IN JANUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 14% IN FEBRUARY.

THE LARGE INCREASE IN FEBRUARY WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR BUT IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES REFER TO CHANGES IN THE VALUES OF RETAIL SALES AFTER DISCOUNTING ESTIMATED CHANGES IN PRICES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, FUELS WENT UP BY 35% IN SALES VALUE AND 5% IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 11% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 12% IN SALES VALUE AND 4% IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES DECREASED BY 1% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 11% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1991 COMBINED WENT UP BY 14% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 10% IN SALES VALUE AND 4% IN SALES VOLUME.

DEPARTMENT STORES SALES ROSE BY 2% IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 5% IN VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 18% IN SALES VALUE AND 25% IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 22% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FUELS GREW BY 37% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 35% IN VALUE AND 22% IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 33% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME.

/CONSUMER DURABLES .....

CONSUMER DURABLES, HOWEVER, DROPPED BY 6% IN SALES VALUE AND 9% IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 24% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 55% IN VALUE AND 41% IN VOLUME.

SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES WENT UP BY 21% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 15% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DROPPED BY 32% IN VALUE AND 37% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1991, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1991 INCREASED BY 1% IN VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO WENT UP BY 13% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME. FUELS DROPPED BY 18% IN SALES VALUE AND 17% IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 7% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF CONSUMER DURABLES DECREASED BY 14% IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 2% IN VALUE AND 1% IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SUPERMARKET SALES ROSE BY 21% IN VALUE AND 20% IN VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, DEPARTMENT STORES AND "CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS" DROPPED BY 9% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME, WHILE RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 17% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF FEBRUARY 1991 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT $1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 802 1258.

/NOTE TO .....

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TWO TABLES SHOWING RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JANUARY 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1991.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1991 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100. COMPARISONS OF FEBRUARY 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JANUARY 1991 AND WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1990, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

/TABLE 1 .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for February 1991 (Provisional Figure) = HK$10,647 million
for January 1991 (Revised Figure) = HK$10,552 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR JANUARY 1991 AND FEBRUARY 1991

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	January 1991	February 1991	February 1991 compared with January 1991		February 1991 compared with February 1990		Jan.-Feb. 1991 compared with Jan.-Feb. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	188	190	+2	+1	+34	+22	+17	+10
	Volume	134	133	#	#	+16	+14	+3	+2
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	162	184	+22	+13	+47	+35	+17	+11
	Volume	116	126	+10	+9	+23	+22	+3	+2
Fuels	Value	160	131	-29	-18	+36	+37	+37	+35
	Volume	116	96	-20	-17	+8	+9	+5	+5
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	233	248	+15	+7	+62	+33	+26	+12
	Volume	153	165	+12	+8	+31	+23	+6	+4
Consumer durables	Value	176	151	-25	-14	-10	-6	-2	-1
	Volume	125	107	-18	-14	-11	-9	-7	-6
Other consumer goods	Value	203	207	+4	+2	+40	+24	+20	+11
	Volume	145	147	+2	+1	+22	+18	+7	+5
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below) Supermarkets	Value	207	249	+43	+21	+88	+55	+28	+14
	Volume	139	167	+28	+20	+48	+41	+5	+3
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	257	213	-44	-17	-99	-32	-51	-18
	Volume	152	125	-27	-18	-75	-37	-45	-25
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	152	132	-19	-13	+18	+15	+13	+10
	Volume	117	102	-15	-13	+8	+9	+4	+4
Department stores	Value	289	264	-26	-9	+46	+21	+7	+2
	Volume	195	178	-17	-9	+19	+12	-10	-5

NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :
(a) "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
(b) "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
(c) "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
(d) "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.
2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
3. "#" denotes a figure within ±0.5.

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SUMMER HYGIENE REMINDER
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WITH THE APPROACH OF SUMMER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR M.B. ALI, POINTED OUT THAT FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, TYPHOID, FOOD POISONING AND VIRAL HEPATITIS A ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EATING AND DRINKING OF UNCLEAN FOOD AND WATER.

"PROPER PRACTICE IN FOOD AND PERSONAL HYGIENE SHOULD THEREFORE BE OBSERVED TO ENSURE THAT THE FOOD CONSUMED IS HYGIENIC AND FREE FROM CONTAMINATION AND DETERIORATION," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE URBAN AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS HAVE TAKEN POSITIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES.

THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION MESSAGES AND ADVICE TO THE LICENSEES AND STAFF OF LICENSED FOOD PREMISES AND RESIDENTS IN REMOTE AREAS AS WELL AS PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKERS.

STEPPED-UP PUBLICITY HAS ALSO BEEN MOUNTED TO DISSEMINATE HEALTH MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC ON FOOD, PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

DR ALI ADVISED THE PUBLIC NOT TO PATRONISE ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKERS AND UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES AS THEIR FOOD MIGHT BE UNCLEAN, THUS POSING A THREAT TO HEALTH.

CUT FRUIT FROM ANY ILLEGAL FRUIT VENDORS, HE ADDED, SHOULD NOT BE PURCHASED AS OPEN CUT FRUIT CAN EASILY GET CONTAMINATED.

DR ALI REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN EATING AT HOME:

* MAINTAIN A CLEAN KITCHEN;

* WASH HANDS AFTER TOILET AND BEFORE PREPARING FOOD;

* USE WHOLESOME FOOD AND WATER AND CLEAN COOKING UTENSILS;

* STORE PERISHABLE FOOD IN A REFRIGERATOR IF NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION;

* THAW OUT FROZEN FOOD ONLY WHEN NEEDED;

* CLEAN THE CHOPPING BLOCK AND KNIFE BEFORE USE, ESPECIALLY AFTER CUTTING RAW FOOD, SUCH AS MEAT AND POULTRY;

* WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING;

/* EAT COOKED .....

* EAT COOKED FOOD WHILST IT IS STILL HOT, DO NOT LEAVE IT EXPOSED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME;

* FOOD TO BE KEPT OVERNIGHT SHOULD BE PUT IN A REFRIGERATOR AND RE-COOKED THOROUGHLY BEFORE EATING; AND

* STORE ALL GARBAGE AND WASTE IN A COVERED CONTAINER BEFORE DISPOSAL.

DR ALI ALSO REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WHEN TRAVELLING TO TROPICAL COUNTRIES, THEY SHOULD EXERCISE EXTRA CARE IN CHOOSING THEIR FOODS AND DRINKS.

"SAFE FOOD, AND GOOD PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES," HE ADDED.

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WASTE DISPOSAL BILL PUBLISHED

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THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME OF CONTROL ON CHEMICAL WASTE WHICH WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE HANDLING OF SUCH WASTE, INCLUDING PACKAGING, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR PROPER CONTROLS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL WASTE FOR SOME TIME. BUT THERE HAS BEEN A SHORTAGE OF PROPER FACILITIES FOR DISPOSAL IN HONG KONG.

"WITH THE NEW CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES ON TSING YI COMING ON STREAM TOWARDS THE END OF 1992, THIS WILL NO LONGER BE THE CASE. THE TIME IS THEREFORE RIGHT TO BRING IN REGULATORY CONTROLS."

THE BILL ENABLES "CHEMICAL WASTE" TO BE DEFINED IN REGULATIONS AND CLARIFIES THAT PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE RELATING TO LICENSING OF COLLECTORS AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES CAN BE APPLIED TO CHEMICAL WASTE.

THE BILL ALSO EXPANDS THE POWER OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

"MOST OF THE CONTROLS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH DETAILED CHEMICAL WASTE REGULATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED. "THE BILL IS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR THESE REGULATIONS."

"WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSULTING THE INDUSTRY ON THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF CONTROL AND WILL THEN FINALISE THE REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN THE SUMMER.

/"WE EXPECT .....

"WE EXPECT TO IMPLEMENT THE CONTROLS IN PHASES BEGINNING TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 15.

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WORK TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR AIRCRAFT PARKING
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT A TAXIWAY BRIDGE ACROSS THE SEA CHANNEL BETWEEN THE EXISTING RUNWAY AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION AREA FOR AIRPORT EXPANSION PURPOSES.

UPON COMPLETION BY MID-1993, THE BRIDGE WILL PROVIDE ACCESS FOR AIRCRAFT FROM THE RUNWAY TO THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION AREA, WHICH WILL BE CONVERTED INTO AN AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON UNDER THE KAI TAK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

ABOUT 3.45 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BEFORE JULY 2.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPIING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, 141-143 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD.

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PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION AND DREDGING WORKS OVER AND UPON AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.05 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT ROCKY BAY IN SHEK O.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE ABOUT 3,160 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT AND THE ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROAD.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 2.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

THE NOTICE TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN.

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DRAFT LDC PLAN FOR MONG KOK DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED
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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) SCHEME PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN SHAMCHUN STREET IN MONG KOK.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME PLAN IS TO DESIGNATE THE SCHEME AREA AS "COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA" FOR THE LDC TO UNDERTAKE COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT.

APART FROM THE EXISTING MONG KOK MARKET, THE PRIVATE PROPERTIES IN THE SCHEME AREA ARE GENERALLY SIX TO SEVEN STOREYS HIGH PUT UP IN THE 1960'S.

MOST OF THE EXISTING LOTS WITHIN THE AREA ARE TOO SMALL FOR SATISFACTORY REDEVELOPMENT ON THEIR OWN.

/ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS .....

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WITHIN THE AREA ARE POOR OWING TO THE CONCENTRATION OF ON-STREET WET AND DRY GOODS HAWKERS, WHICH CAUSE PROBLEMS OF HYGIENE, REFUSE AND OBSTRUCTION TO FREE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC MOVEMENT.

THE EXISTING ROAD SYSTEM IS INEFFICIENT AND REQUIRES RATIONALISATION TO IMPROVE THE CIRCULATION.

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE EXISTING PROBLEMS AND CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE AND WORK, THE SCHEME PLAN PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHEME AREA BY RESTRUCTURING THE EXISTING LAND USE PATTERN AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

THE SCHEME PLAN WILL MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF A MARKET, A COOKED FOOD CENTRE, PET-BIRD STALLS AND AN AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE AT THE LOWER FLOORS AND TWO RESIDENTIAL TOWERS ABOVE THE PODIUM.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE PODIUM LEVEL TO SERVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND USERS OF THE BUILDINGS.

LDC WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A MASTER LAYOUT PLAN FOR THE SCHEME AREA TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE DRAFT SCHEME PLAN IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION FOR TWO MONTHS AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

* GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE, WEST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL;

* TOWN PLANNING BOARD SECTION, PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL;

* MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 30 LUEN WAN STREET.

COPIES OF THE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD AT $10 EACH UNCOLOURED AND $60 EACH COLOURED.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE LDC SCHEME PLAN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD BY JULY 3.

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ROAD PROJECTS FOR TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT
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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT NEW ROADS, FOOTPATHS, CYCLE TRACKS AND A FOOTBRIDGE AS PART OF THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

EXISTING ACCESSES WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

ON COMPLETION OF THE WORKS, ACCESS TO THE NORTHERN PART OF TIN SHUI WAI CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE NEW ROADS ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL ARE PUBLISHED IN A GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE TODAY (FRIDAY). THE NOTICE CAN ALSO BE SEEN NEAR THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

THE PLANS AND SCHEME OF THE PROPOSED WORKS MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

* CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;

* YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, NINTH TO 11TH FLOORS, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG;

* YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

THOSE WHO WISH TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN JULY 2.

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SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT SPECIAL MARINE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT JOSS HOUSE BAY ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (MAY 6 AND 7) TO FACILITATE WORSHIPPERS GOING TO TIN HAU TEMPLE TO CELEBRATE THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL.

THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (EAST REGION) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR KHIN HLA, SAID: "SPECIAL EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION ARRANAGEMENTS WILL BE MADE AT THE PIER ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF JOSS HOUSE BAY.

"OFFICERS FROM THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AND MARINE POLICE WILL BE ON SPECIAL PATROL DUTY TO ASSIST OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL CRAFT TRANSPORTING WORSHIPPERS."

MR HLA URGED ALL LOCAL CRAFT OWNERS AND OPERATORS HEADING FOR JOSS HOUSE BAY TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MARINE SAFETY AND NOT TO OVERLOAD THEIR VESSELS.

"THEY SHOULD EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHER USERS," MR HLA SAID.

WORSHIPPERS SHOULD TAKE CARE WHEN BOARDING AND ALIGHTING THE VESSELS INCLUDING SPECIAL HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY FERRIES OPERATING BETWEEN JOSS HOUSE BAY AND NORTH POINT NEXT MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

IN ADDITION, HE ADVISED MASTERS OF OCEAN-GOING SHIPS NAVIGATING THROUGH TATHONG CHANNEL DURING THESE TWO DAYS TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION BECAUSE NUMEROUS LOCAL CRAFT WOULD BE SAILING THROUGH LEI YUE MUN TO JOSS HOUSE BAY.

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ATLA PUBLIC INQUIRY NEXT WEEK

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THE AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING AUTHORITY (ATLA) WILL HOLD AN INQUIRY IN THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 6, 1991 (EXCEPT ON MAY 7) TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LIMITED (CATHAY) TO OPERATE SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES TO THE FOLLOWING ROUTE, COVERING 26 POINTS IN ASIA AND EUROPE:

HONG KONG/BANGKOK/CALCUTTA/BOMBAY/DELHI/COLOMBO/
BAHRAIN/DUBAI/ABU DHABI/JEDDAH/DHAHRAN/FRANKFURT/
PARIS/ZURICH/ROME/AMSTERDAM/MANCHESTER/LONDON/MUNICH/
COLOGNE (BONN)/BERLIN/DUSSELDORF/MILAN/MADRID/
COPENHAGEN/STOCKHOLM AND VICE VERSA

EXCEPT FOR THE APPLICATION TO BERLIN, WHICH IS CONTESTED BY AIR HONG KONG LIMITED, CATHAY IS ALREADY LICENSED TO SERVE ALL OTHER POINTS BY ATLA LICENCE NO. 10 OF 1989.

JOINING THE CHAIRMAN OF ATLA, MR JUSTICE PENLINGTON, FOR THIS INQUIRY WILL BE PANEL MEMBERS MESSRS ANTHONY Y.M. KAN AND TANG KWAI-NANG.

THE INQUIRY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL TAKE PLACE AT COURT NO. 12, SIXTH FLOOR, SUPREME COURT, QUEENSWAY.

THE HOURS OF SITTING WILL BE FROM 9.30 AM TO 1 PM AND 2.15 PM TO 5 PM EACH DAY.

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NOTE:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A FIVE-MINUTE PHOTO SESSION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT 9.30 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 6), RIGHT BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INQUIRY.

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PRACTICE OF REGISTERING TEACHERS TO BE REGULARISED
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THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WHICH SEEKS TO REGULARISE THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF REGISTERING TEACHERS, IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT A PROSPECTIVE TEACHER IS DEEMED NOT TO CONTRAVENE SECTION 42 OF THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE IF IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS HE HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, OR HIS EMPLOYER HAS SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO EMPLOY HIM AS A PERMITTED TEACHER, PROVIDED THAT THIS APPLICATION IS NOT PART OF A SUCCESSION OF SIMILAR APPLICATIONS.

"UNDER THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE, ONLY A REGISTERED TEACHER OR A PERMITTED TEACHER IS ALLOWED TO TEACH IN A SCHOOL," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT ALSO CONSTITUTES AN OFFENCE FOR THE EMPLOYER," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS TEACHING VACANCIES FREQUENTLY OCCURRED AT SHORT NOTICE, IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF REPLACEMENT TEACHER TO COMMENCE WITHOUT DELAY.

"TO ENSURE THAT THE EDUCATION OF PUPILS WILL NOT BE INTERRUPTED, THE PRESENT PRACTICE IS NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST A PROSPECTIVE TEACHER WHILE HIS APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OR A PERMIT IS BEING PROCESSED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

"WHILE THE PRESENT PRACTICE HAS NOT CAUSED PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AS ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF REGISTRATION OR PERMIT APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REFUSED, THE OPPORTUNITY IS TAKEN TO RECTIFY THIS ANOMALY," HE SAID.

THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 15.

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SUPER SWEET CORN HITS MARKET AGAIN
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LOCALLY-PRODUCED SUPER SWEET CORN IS HITTING THE MARKET AGAIN.

AN AVERAGE OF 4,000 COBS OF "GOLD AND SILVER" SUPER SWEET CORN ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE DAILY IN SUPERMARKETS OF MAJOR JAPANESE DEPARTMENT STORES.

THE SUPPLY IS EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL THE END OF JUNE.

/THE "GOLD .....

THE "GOLD AND SILVER" SUPER SWEET CORN IS AMONG A VARIETY OF EXOTIC VEGETABLES GROWN BY LOCAL FARMERS UNDER A PILOT PROJECT INITIATED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TO HELP FARMERS MOVE UP MARKET.

THE DEPARTMENT'S AGRICULTURAL OFFICER, MR HO KOON-YU, SAID SOME 60 FARMERS HAD GROWN EXOTIC VEGETABLES ON SEVEN HECTARES OF LAND THIS SPRING.

"SUPER SWEET CORN IS STILL THE FAVOURITE AMONG FARMERS, BUT OTHER EXOTIC VEGETABLE VARIETIES, INCLUDING BUTTERHEAD, RED LETTUCE, CHERRY TOMATO, RADISH, ENDIVE, FRENCH BEANS, AND MINI CUCUMBERS ARE ALSO GROWN," MR HO ADDED.

HE SAID 48 FARMERS HAD SET ASIDE 5.5 HECTARES OF LAND FOR GROWING EXOTIC VEGETABLES IN THE PRODUCTION PROGRAMME LAST AUTUMN.

"THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND THE ACREAGE OF LAND USED FOR THE SPRING PRODUCTION SHOWS THAT MORE AND MORE FARMERS ARE NOW CONVINCED OF THE MERITS OF GROWING EXOTIC VEGETABLES AND ARE THUS WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY.

"SOME OF THESE FARMERS HAVE JOINED THE SPRING PRODUCTION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES WITH AFD'S ASSISTANCE. OTHERS CHOOSE TO GROW EXOTIC VEGETABLES ON THEIR OWN AFTER ACQUIRING THE GENERAL CONCEPT AND SKILLS FROM AFD," MR HO SAID.

THE FARMERS' PRODUCE ARE ALL MARKETED THROUGH THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO), A STATUTORY AND NON-PROFIT-MAKING PUBLIC BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR MARKETING LOCALLY-PRODUCED VEGETABLES.

THE EXOTIC VEGETABLES HAVE BEEN FETCHING GOOD PRICES BECAUSE BUYERS OF HOTEL CATERERS AND SUPERMARKET CHAINS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THEIR FRESHNESS AND GOOD QUALITY, ACCORDING TO SENIOR MANAGER OF THE VMO, MR EDWARD LAI.

MR LAI SAID IN MARKETING THE EXOTIC VEGETABLES, THE VMO HAD STARTED A TRIAL SCHEME IN MARCH THIS YEAR TO ENSURE A STEADY SUPPLY FOR BUYERS AND AT THE SAME TIME GUARANTEE A MARKET FOR GROWERS.

"FIRST OF ALL WE WOULD APPROACH BUYERS TO IDENTIFY WHICH VEGETABLE SPECIES ARE NEEDED AS WELL AS THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY WANTED. WE WOULD ALSO SEEK THE BUYERS' ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD PURCHASE FROM THE VMO IF THE VEGETABLES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFIED TERMS.

"WE THEN APPROACH EXPERIENCED FARMERS, TELL THEM OF THE BUYERS' REQUIREMENTS, AND ASK THEM TO GROW THE IDENTIFIED VEGETABLE SPECIES, BUT NO MORE THAN THE AMOUNT THE BUYERS NEEDED TO AVOID WASTAGE. IN SUCH CASES, THE CROP MAY HAVE TO BE STAGGERED IN ORDER TO KEEP UP A STABLE SUPPLY WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME," MR LAI EXPLAINED.

CURRENTLY, EIGHT VEGETABLE FARMERS WELL-VERSED WITH THEIR TRADE HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN THIS GROW-ON-REQUEST TRIAL WHICH HAS PROVEN TO BE SUCCESSFUL SO FAR, MR LAI CONTINUED.

/"SOME BUYERS .....

"SOME BUYERS ARE SO KEEN THAT THEY HAVE EVEN OFFERED TO PROVIDE SEEDS TO FARMERS. THE VMO IS HOPING TO EXTEND THIS MATCH-MAKING SCHEME BIT BY BIT," HE SAID.

MR LAI ADDED THAT AS PART OF HIS ORGANISATION'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE LOCALLY-GROWN VEGETABLES, PERMANENT VMO COUNTERS WOULD BE SET UP FROM THIS MONTH IN SUPERMARKET OF SEVERAL LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES.

"ALL VEGETABLES SOLD THROUGH SUCH COUNTERS WILL BEAR THE VMO LABEL, WHICH IS A GUARANTEE FOR FRESH AND HIGH-QUALITY VEGETABLES," HE SAID.

TO IMPROVE ITS MARKETING SERVICE, THE VMO HAS RECENTLY SET UP A COOL STORE AT THE ORGANISATION'S PREMISES AND ADDED TWO REFRIGERATING TRUCKS TO ITS FLEET OF LORRIES FOR TRANSPORTING VEGETABLES.

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NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR FIRE SERVICES DEPT

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THE FIRE HAZARD HOTLINE AND A NUMBER OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS AT THE FIRE SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTRE (FSCC) WILL BE CHANGED FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIRE HAZARD HOTLINE IS FOR THE PUBLIC TO REPORT ANY ALLEGED FIRE HAZARD, AND TO ENQUIRE AND COMPLAIN ABOUT ANY BREACH OF THE DANGEROUS GOODS AND FIRE SAFETY LEGISLATION.

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO BE IN USE FROM 8 AM TOMORROW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRE HAZARD HOTLINE:	723 8787
FIRE SERVICES MAIN EXCHANGE:	723 2233
AMBULANCE SERVICES MAIN EXCHANGE:	735 3355

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NEW FISH CULTURE ZONE DESIGNATED

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE DESIGNATION OF A SITE OFF TUNG LUNG CHAU AS A NEW FISH CULTURE ZONE FOR RELOCATING THE TIN HA WAN MARICULTURISTS.

A NOTICE ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE NEW ZONE, COVERING AN AREA OF EIGHT HECTARES NORTH OF TUNG LUNG CHAU, WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR PATSY WONG, SAID THE DESIGNATION WAS MADE BECAUSE THE TIN HA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE HAD TO BE CLEARED BEFORE JUNE TO MAKE WAY FOR TSEUNG KWAN O DEVELOPMENT.

/"THE DEVELOPMENT .....

"THE DEVELOPMENT WORKS WILL MAKE WATERS IN TIN HA WAN UNSUITABLE FOR FISH FARMING, AND MARICULTURISTS THEREFORE HAVE TO BE RELOCATED.

"THE DECISION TO DESIGNATE TUNG LUNG CHAU AS A NEW FISH CULTURE ZONE IS MADE AFTER A SERIES OF STUDIES AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT CONCERNED," SHE SAID.

THE TIN HA WAN ZONE, WITH AN AREA OF 3.9 HECTARES AND A TOTAL OF 63 LICENSED MARICULTURISTS, WAS DESIGNATED IN 1983 UNDER THE MARINE FISH CULTURE ORDINANCE.

THE ZONE, UPON CLEARANCE OF ALL MARICULTURE OPERATIONS, WILL BE DEGAZETTED IN DUE COURSE.

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TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACES
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THE TUEN MUN DRAGON BOAT RACE COMMITTEE 1991 WILL HOLD DRAGON BOAT RACES ON JUNE 16 (SUNDAY) TO CELEBRATE THE TRADITIONAL TUEN NG FESTIVAL.

ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN FORM TEAMS TO COMPETE IN THE RACES WHICH WILL BE HELD AT CASTLE PEAK BAY ADJACENT TO AREA 16, TUEN MUN.

FOR TEAMS COMPETING IN THE LARGE DRAGON BOAT CATEGORY, THE CREW MUST NOT EXCEED 58 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE COXSWAIN AND DRUMMER. THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF A TEAM IN THE MEDIUM DRAGON BOAT RACES SHOULD BE BETWEEN 22 AND 26, WHILE THAT IN THE SMALL DRAGON BOAT RACE IS LIMITED TO NINE AND IN THE PHOENIX BOAT RACE, TO 12.

THERE WILL BE AN ENTRY FEE OF BETWEEN $300 AND $500 FOR THE MEDIUM AND THE SMALL BOAT COMPETITIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE'S WU KING/BUTTERFLY SUB-OFFICE AT ROOM 108, FIRST FLOOR, BUTTERFLY BAY COMMUNITY CENTRE.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE ABOVE OFFICE BEFORE MAY 15. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 467 6380.

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YOUNG THESPIANS TO PERFORM AT GALA EVENING
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YOUNG THESPIANS WILL BE PERFORMING AND RECEIVING THEIR PRIZES AT A SPECIAL GALA EVENING TO BE HELD AT THE SHOUSON THEATRE OF THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

SELECTED TO PERFORM AT THE GALA EVENING ARE STUDENTS FROM TUEN MUN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND HO L^P COLLEGE.

THEY WERE SELECTED FROM 42 SCHOOLS WHICH TOOK PART IN THE SCHOOLS CHINESE DRAMA PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE GUESTS OF HONOUR WILL INCLUDE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING; MTRC'S DEPUTY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, MR ROGER KYNASTON; KCRC'S LIGHT RAIL DIRECTOR, MR JONATHAN YU AND HEAD OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, MR BARRY CHOI; AND THE DEAN OF DRAMA, HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, MR CHUNG KING-FAI.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CHINESE DRAMA GALA EVENING AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE 1991 SCHOOLS CHINESE DRAMA PROJECT TO BE HELD AT SHOUSON THEATRE, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, TOMORROW (SATURDAY). THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR SPORTS COMPLEX SURFACING PROJECT
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND LAYING OF ALL WEATHER SPORTS SURFACING FOR THE SPORTS COMPLEX AT AREA 22, TAI PO.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN JULY AND WILL TAKE THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FORM OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

TENDERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOARD BEFORE NOON ON MAY 24.

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PO LEUNG KUK PRAISED
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, TODAY (FRIDAY) COMMENDED PO LEUNG KUK FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY.

IN A MEETING WITH THE KUK'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS DURING THEIR COURTESY CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT, MR CARTLAND NOTED THAT THE KUK'S SERVICES FOCUSSED ON RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE, DAY NURSERY AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, AS WELL AS REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

HE ASSURED THE VISITORS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM.

DURING THE MEETING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MRS KATHY LEE, OUTLINED THE KUK'S EXISTING SERVICES AND PLANNED PROJECTS, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING THE COURTESY VISIT WILL BE BOXED.

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