



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1991

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GOVERNOR CALLS FOR CONTINUED FULL CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN GOVT AND PEOPLE

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WITH THE CONTINUED FULL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG SHALL BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO THE COMING CHANGES IN A PEACEFUL AND STABLE ATMOSPHERE AND MAINTAIN ITS STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SPRING FESTIVAL RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SIR DAVID SAID: "I AM CONFIDENT THAT SO LONG AS WE WORK TOGETHER WITH UNITY OF PURPOSE, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS, OVERCOME ALL DIFFICULTIES AND KEEP THE FRUITS OF OUR HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS."

THE GOVERNOR SAID DURING THE PAST YEAR, THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF CHANGES IN THE WORLD'S POLITICAL SCENE WHICH HAD ALSO GREATLY AFFECTED HONG KONG.

"HAVING REGARD TO HONG KONG'S OWN CONSTRAINTS AND THOSE IMPOSED BY THE OBJECTIVE ENVIRONMENT, WE MUST AGAIN BE FULLY PREPARED PSYCHOLOGICALLY TO FACE THE CHALLENGING YEAR AHEAD," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THIS YEAR WAS THE YEAR OF THE RAM AND ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE TRADITION, THE RAM WAS A TAME AND GENTLE CREATURE.

"MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL THE BEST OF LUCK AND EVERY SUCCESS IN THE NEW YEAR," SIR DAVID SAID.

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VISIT BY LU PING MUCH WELCOMED: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TONIGHT (MONDAY) THAT HE VERY MUCH WELCOMED NEXT WEEK'S VISIT TO HONG KONG BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF CHINA'S STATE COUNCIL, MR LU PING, AND ITS FORMER DIRECTOR, MR JI PENGFEI.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A SPRING RECEPTION OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, SIR DAVID SAID: "I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK DIRECTLY TO MR LU PING AGAIN.

"WHAT THE VISIT BY MR LU PING WILL DO IS GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSIONS, IT'S NOT JUST ON THE AIRPORT, THERE ARE MANY THINGS I HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH MR LU PING.

"I DON'T AT THIS STAGE, OBVIOUSLY KNOW HOW FAR WE'LL GET IN OUR DISCUSSIONS," HE ADDED.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR OF THE RAM, HE HOPED WE WOULD SUCCEED IN GETTING AHEAD WITH A NEW AIRPORT, WHICH WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE LONG TERM PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

"I HOPE WE WILL DO IT WITH WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG AND I HOPE WE WILL DO IT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE SUPPORT OF CHINA AS WELL.

"THOSE THREE THINGS I THINK SHOULD BE OUR OBJECTIVE; TO TRY TO BUILD AN AIRPORT QUICKLY FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND IN AN ECONOMIC AND AN EFFECTIVE WAY," SIR DAVID SAID.

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HOTLINE SERVICE FOR BRITISH NATIONALITY PACKAGE EXTENDED
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AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) SAID FIVE EXTRA HOTLINES FOR THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME WILL BE ADDED IN VIEW OF A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES RECEIVED LAST WEEK.

THE NEW HOTLINES (829 4025 - 29) WILL BE OPERATED WITHIN OFFICE HOURS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS EXTRA SERVICE WAS IN ADDITION TO THE 10 HOTLINES (802 3300) CURRENTLY IN OPERATION FROM 9 AM TO 10 PM.

MEANWHILE, AS SOME 75 PER CENT OF THE APPLICATION FORMS WERE BEING DELIVERED IN PERSON, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE OPERATION HOURS OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY DIVISION TO 8 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND ON WEDNESDAY WHILE THE OPERATION HOURS FOR THE LAST DAY FOR APPLICATIONS ON THURSDAY WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

"THIS IS TO FACILITATE THE LIKELY LAST-MINUTE RUSH OF APPLICATIONS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED WOULD-BE APPLICANTS THAT THEY COULD ALSO CHOOSE TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION FORMS BY REGISTERED MAIL.

HE SAID ALL FORMS RECEIVED WITH POSTAL CHOPS SHOWING FEBRUARY 28 WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ALL APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BRITISH NATIONALITY DIVISION, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL TO BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY

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THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL WILL BE GAZETTED ON FRIDAY (MARCH 1) AND FORMALLY MOVED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH ON MARCH 6, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR BEGINNING ON APRIL 1, 1991 HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"THE APPROPRIATION BILL PROVIDES FOR EXPENDITURE FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT OF \$73.5 BILLION ON THE EXPENSES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR - AN INCREASE OF 12 PER CENT OVER THE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR 1990/91," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"OF THIS SUM, \$16 BILLION IS FOR EDUCATION; \$14 BILLION FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE; AND \$12.1 BILLION FOR SECURITY INCLUDING POLICE. THESE THREE AREAS TOGETHER WILL ACCOUNT FOR 57 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL," HE SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT ESTIMATES BEFORE THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL EXAMINE THE EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL PROVIDES, IN ADDITION, FOR THE TRANSFER OF A TOTAL OF \$26.8 BILLION TO THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND, THE LOAN FUND AND THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND.

THE FUNDS ARE USED TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, LOANS TO STUDENTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND PERMANENT INVESTMENT IN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND OTHER STATUTORY BODIES.

DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE TO THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT WILL BE ISSUED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET SPEECH.

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NEW MULTICHANNEL SOUND IN TV BROADCASTS TO BE ADOPTED

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, SIR ROGER LOBO, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MULTICHANNEL SOUND USING THE "NICAM" STANDARD WILL BE ADOPTED IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS IN HONG KONG AS FROM JULY 1.

IT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON BOTH TVB AND ATV.

SIR ROGER SAID THAT THE "NICAM" (NEAR INSTANTANEOUS COMPANDING AND MULTIPLEXING) STANDARD WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT PROVIDES EXCELLENT SOUND QUALITY AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTING BROADCAST STANDARD USED IN HONG KONG.

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IT CAN BE USED TO BROADCAST EITHER HIGH FIDELITY STEREO SOUND OR MULTI-LINGUAL PROGRAMMES.

EXISTING TELEVISION SETS AND VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDS (VCR) WILL CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE CONVENTIONAL SOUND TRACK.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE STEREO SOUND OR MULTI-LINGUAL BROADCASTS, VIEWERS WILL NEED TO USE TV SETS OR VCR WHICH CONTAIN "NICAM" DECODERS.

THE TELEVISION COMPANIES AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WILL BE PUBLICISING IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ON HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PRODUCTS FOR RECEIVING MULTICHANNEL SOUND SIGNALS.

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CALL FOR ENTRIES TO 1991 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON MANUFACTURERS TO ENTER COMPETITIONS FOR THE 1991 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY - THE HIGHEST RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY WAS SET UP IN 1989 TO RECOGNISE AND ENCOURAGE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE AREAS OF CONSUMER PRODUCT DESIGN; MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN; PRODUCTIVITY; AND QUALITY.

"IT IS IN JUST THESE AREAS WHERE OUR MANUFACTURERS MUST EXCEL IF THEY ARE TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN OUR MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS," HE SAID.

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT DESIGN AND THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN AWARD CATEGORIES ARE PRODUCT-BASED, AND ARE AIMED AT RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD DESIGN IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING.

THE PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY AWARD CATEGORIES ARE COMPANY-BASED, AND RECOGNISE ENDEAVOURS BY HONG KONG COMPANIES TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND BETTER QUALITY IN THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESS.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING THE CONSUMER PRODUCT DESIGN CATEGORY; THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN CATEGORY; THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL THE PRODUCTIVITY CATEGORY; AND THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT THE QUALITY CATEGORY.

MR CHAN SAID ONE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY WAS MADE IN EACH AWARD CATEGORY WHICH ENTITLED ITS HOLDER TO DISPLAY AN OFFICIAL LOGO FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

"THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD IS THE HIGHEST RECOGNITION AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRY AND WINNING IT AGAINST FIERCE COMPETITION IS AN OUTSTANDING HONOUR WITH A LASTING VALUE."

LAST YEAR'S AWARD PRESENTATIONS ATTRACTED AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 750 GUESTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST CONSULATES AND TRADE COMMISSIONS IN HONG KONG AND MANY LARGE LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS AND BUYERS.

"I THEREFORE STRONGLY URGE OUR MANUFACTURERS TO ENTER THIS YEAR'S COMPETITIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY," MR CHAN SAID.

THE CLOSING DATE IN ALL FOUR AWARD CATEGORIES IS JUNE 21 AND ENQUIRIES ON ENTRY CRITERIA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE ORGANISATION CONCERNED OR THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL PRESENT THE AWARDS HIMSELF AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE ON NOVEMBER 5.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THE QUALITY AWARD WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING A WIDER APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY AMONG HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS.

"ALL COMPANIES MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG WHICH QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE COMPETITION," HE SAID.

THERE ARE SIX PRODUCT CATEGORIES UNDER THE AWARD SCHEME AND A COMPANY CAN ENTER ANY ONE CATEGORY. THE SIX CATEGORIES ARE: CLOTHING, ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, TOYS AND DOLLS, AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

MR BARMA SAID ENTRIES WOULD BE EVALUATED BY AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR, WHO WOULD SUBMIT FINDINGS TO A PANEL OF JUDGES TO BE APPOINTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THERE WILL BE ONE WINNING ENTRY IN EACH OF THE SIX CATEGORIES AND THESE SIX WINNING ENTRIES WILL EACH RECEIVE AN INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT QUALITY AWARD.

THE PANEL OF JUDGES WILL ALSO SELECT FROM AMONG THE SIX WINNING ENTRIES ONE OVERALL WINNING ENTRY TO RECEIVE THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY: QUALITY.

MR BARMA SAID ENTRIES FOR THE QUALITY AWARD WOULD BE EVALUATED ON TWO MAIN CRITERIA.

"THE FIRST CRITERION IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH A COMPANY'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPLIED TO DESIGN, MATERIALS SOURCING, PRODUCTION AND TESTING ELIMINATES DELAYS AND REJECTIONS DURING THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS AND CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AFTERWARDS.

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"THE SECOND CRITERION IS THE QUALITY OF THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS, IN TERMS OF FITNESS FOR PURPOSE, CONSISTENCY OF PERFORMANCE, APPEARANCE, VALUE FOR MONEY AND SAFENESS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID ENTRIES WOULD BE EVALUATED IN JULY AND AUGUST, AND THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSOR MIGHT NEED ACCESS TO A MANUFACTURER'S PREMISES IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE COMPANY'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

"I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL," HE SAID.

MANUFACTURERS INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY AWARD COMPETITION ARE ASKED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 21.

BROCHURES AND APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OR BY TELEPHONING 736 0003. THIS NUMBER CAN ALSO BE CALLED IN CASE OF ENQUIRIES ON THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR STEPHEN CHEONG; THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, MR CHAN WING-KEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, MR JAMES TIEN, ALSO OUTLINED THE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY IN RESPECT OF THEIR AWARD CATEGORIES.

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YOUNG PEOPLE URGED TO VOTE

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THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION HAVE URGED VOTERS IN THE 21-25 AGE GROUP TO SUPPORT THE THREE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR BY CASTING THEIR BALLOTS.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE DURING A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO BODIES LAST WEEK.

MEMBERS OF THE TWO BODIES NOTED THAT THE VOTER REGISTRATION RATE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 21 TO 25 IN THE RECENT EXERCISE WAS 26.9 PER CENT WHICH WAS WELL BELOW THE AVERAGE RATE OF 50.2 PER CENT.

THEY SHARED A COMMON CONCERN AS TO HOW YOUNG PEOPLE COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE PART IN ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES. THEREFORE, THE TWO BODIES HAD DECIDED TO PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO JOINTLY DISCUSS THE ISSUE.

HOWEVER, AS IT WAS OBSERVED THAT SUCH PHENOMENON EXISTS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE ELSEWHERE, MEMBERS BELIEVED THAT THE PROMOTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SHOULD BE A LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE.

AS REGARDS WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO TAKE PART IN ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES, MEMBERS MADE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- * YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY ACQUIRED CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ELECTORAL AFFAIRS THROUGH CIVIC EDUCATION, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO STIMULATE THEM TO PUT THIS KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE.
- * CIVIC AWARENESS SHOULD BE CULTIVATED PARTICULARLY AT HOME AND IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN HAVE THE CHANCE TO PUT THEIR IDEAS INTO PRACTICE BEFORE GRADUALLY PROCEEDING TO ACTUAL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.
- * THE COMMUNITY SHOULD ENCOURAGE YOUNGSTERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON MAJOR COMMUNITY ISSUES. THE MASS MEDIA CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS RESPECT.
- * MORE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR INTEREST IN ELECTORAL MATTERS THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND PRACTICE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MRS ROSANNA TAM, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, MR CHENG KAI-NAM, ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON VOTERS OF OTHER AGE GROUPS TO SUPPORT THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

MRS TAM NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONTACTS WITH THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER ADVISORY BODIES ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT.

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LEGCO TO CONSIDER SEVEN BILLS ON WEDNESDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK FOUR QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SEVEN BILLS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 27).

OF THE SEVEN BILLS, FIVE WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THEY ARE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1991, RATING (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1991, HEUNG YEE KUK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THE OTHER TWO BILLS WHICH ARE DUE FOR SECOND READING BEFORE GOING THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING ARE THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WILL MOVE THREE MOTIONS UNDER THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE AND LEGITIMACY ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY.

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MEANWHILE, THE HON MARIA TAM WILL MOVE A MOTION ON BEDSPACE APARTMENT. IT READS: "THAT, RECOGNISING THE APPALLING LIVING CONDITIONS OF TENANTS OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS AS A PRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEM, THIS COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE".

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG WILL SPEAK ON HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90.

THE HON CHENG HON-KWAN WILL SPEAK ON CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90 AND FINANCIAL REPORT 1989/90 AND THE HON LAU WAH-SUM WILL SPEAK ON HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT 1989/90.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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STUDY ON FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY COMMISSIONED

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A \$23.5 MILLION CONSULTANCY WAS COMMISSIONED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (DSD) TO DEVELOP DRAINAGE BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE FLOOD-PRONE NORTH WESTERN AND NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES AS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE TERRITORIAL LAND DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL STRATEGY STUDY.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN DSD'S ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MR D.M. MUDD, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF A JOINT VENTURE OF TWO CONSULTANT COMPANIES.

THE 24-MONTH CONSULTANCY ARISES FROM THE FINDINGS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE STRATEGY STUDY COMPLETED LAST YEAR. THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE CONSULTANCY WILL ADDRESS SPECIFICALLY THE FLOODING PROBLEM IN THE DRAINAGE CATCHMENTS OF RIVERS IN TIN SHUI WAI, YUEN LONG, NGAU TAM MEI, MAI PO, SAN TIN AS WELL AS THE INDUS AND GANGES. THE PRINCIPAL STUDY COMPONENTS COMPRISE:

- * DRAINAGE BASIN MANAGEMNT PLANNING.
- * MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF RIVER FLOOD HYDRAULICS IN THE STUDY AREA.
- * HYDROLOGICAL DATA ACQUISITION (DATA ON TIDES, RAINFALL, RIVER AND WATER LEVELS).

/* ADVICE ON

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1991

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- * ADVICE ON FLOOD PROOFING OF BUILDINGS, FLOOD WARNING SIREN'S INSTALLATION AND WATER HYACINITH REMOVAL FROM RIVERS.
- * REPORTING OF MAJOR FLOODING EVENTS IN STUDY PERIOD.
- * TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OF MATHEMATICAL MODELLING EXPERTISE TO GOVERNMENT STAFF.

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FURTHER COMPUTERISATION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG, THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, DR C.C. GREENFIELD, AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IBM, MR ROBERT M. SAVAGE, INAUGURATED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMMIGRATION RECORDS INFORMATION SYSTEM, ACRONYMED IRIS, AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS TODAY (MONDAY).

THE IRIS IS AN ON-LINE REAL-TIME SYSTEM RUNNING ON A MAINFRAME COMPUTER. IT HAS A NETWORK OF OVER 150 TERMINALS EXTENDING TO MORE THAN 20 LOCATIONS FOR DECENTRALISED DATA INPUT, ENQUIRY AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR YEUNG SAID THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM WAS ANOTHER MILESTONE ON THE WAY TOWARDS COMPUTERISATION. HE ALSO THANKED HIS STAFF AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE THE PROJECT A SUCCESS.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES AND FEASIBILITY OF FURTHER COMPUTERISATION TO FURTHER IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

"AT PRESENT, A NUMBER OF AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS ARE EMPLOYED TO PROCESS THE APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND IDENTITY CARDS.

"WE HOPE THAT THE EXTENT OF COMPUTERISATION IN SUCH AREAS COULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED SO AS TO PROVIDE A BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC," MR YEUNG SAID.

MR YEUNG ADDED THAT PLANS ARE ALSO IN HAND TO EMPLOY OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY TO SPEED UP THE IMMIGRATION EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS AT THE CONTROL POINTS.

"WE HOPE THAT BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ADVANCED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, BETTER WAYS OF DOING OUR WORK CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1991

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DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS URGED TO RENEW LICENCES EARLY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEIR LICENCES EXPIRE BEFORE THEY CAN DO SO.

THEY CAN APPLY AT ANY TIME DURING THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE EXPIRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE LICENSING OFFICES WERE USUALLY BUSY IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH AS PEOPLE RUSHED TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES JUST BEFORE THE ANNUAL BUDGET WAS ANNOUNCED.

ON HECTIC DAYS, THE LICENSING OFFICES WILL ADOPT A QUOTA SYSTEM UNDER WHICH APPLICANTS ARE GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT DISC FOR A SPECIFIED TIME TO HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS. THE APPOINTMENT DISCS WILL HANDED OUT ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

TO AVOID LONG QUEUES AT THE LICENSING OFFICES, THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OWNERS THAT THEY COULD SAVE TIME BY APPLYING TO RENEW THEIR DRIVING OR VEHICLE LICENCES BY POST.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTED POSTAL APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES; LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCES AND VEHICLE LICENCES; THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS; AND THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL POST OFFICES, ENQUIRY CENTRES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE EXISTING LICENCE FEES WOULD STILL BE APPLIED TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITH POSTAL CHOPS BEFORE 2.30 PM ON BUDGET DAY, WHETHER OR NOT THE FEES WOULD BE INCREASED.

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