



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS GENERATES INTEREST

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID ABOUT 3,600 COPIES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED SINCE IT WAS RELEASED A FORTNIGHT AGO.

MR MATHEWS TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST.

"WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF FAVOURABLE COMMENTS ON THE DETAILS AND HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.

"THIS WE WELCOME AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING MANY MORE VIEWS," HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE A TRAFFIC OF INFORMED OPINION, NOT ONLY FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION BUT FROM OTHER PROFESSIONS, FROM FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FROM THE CLIENTS OF LAWYERS.

"WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON ALL OF THESE DETAILS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED A THREE MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE DOCUMENT AND COMMENTS SHOULD BE MADE BY JULY 31.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS WAS PART OF THE WORLD-WIDE TREND TOWARDS INTERNATIONALISATION IN THE PROFESSIONS.

"WE SEE IT AS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, FOR IT RECOGNISES THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF HONG KONG AS A WORLD CENTRE FOR FINANCE AND BUSINESS.

"THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN HONG KONG IS A VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE STRENGTH AND VIGOUR OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY AND ITS ATTITUDES TOWARDS FREE TRADE.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE FULLY RECOGNISE AND UNRESERVEDLY SUBSCRIBE TO THE WISH OF THE PROFESSION TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE, TO PROMOTE THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TO PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH A HIGHLY EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE.

"WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PROPOSAL FULFILS ALL THESE AIMS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LAW SOCIETY, DEVISE A STATUTORY SCHEME LAYING DOWN FORMAL CRITERIA FOR THE ADMISSION, THROUGH THE CHIEF JUSTICE, OF FOREIGN LAW FIRMS;

/(B) THAT THE

- (B) THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LAW SOCIETY, DEVISE A SCHEME, WITH CLEARLY LAID DOWN POWERS, TO ENABLE THE LAW SOCIETY TO EXERCISE POWERS OF DISCIPLINE OVER FOREIGN LAW FIRMS SIMILAR TO THE POWERS THEY PRESENTLY EXERCISE OVER HONG KONG SOLICITORS; AND
- (C) THAT FOREIGN LAW FIRMS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO TAKE IN, AS PARTNERS OR EMPLOYEES, HONG KONG SOLICITORS WHO MAY PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID: "THIS PROPOSAL WAS ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR. BUT IT WAS A BROAD PROPOSAL AND OBVIOUSLY NEEDED TO BE FLESHED OUT SO THAT ITS EFFECT COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN."

THEREFORE ON MAY 2, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WHICH SETS OUT THE DETAILS OF HOW THE POLICY PROPOSAL COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE PROPOSAL WAS ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY HAD EXPRESSED A NUMBER OF CONCERNS ABOUT THE PARTICULAR ASPECT OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD PERMIT FOREIGN LAW FIRMS TO EMPLOY, OR TO TAKE INTO PARTNERSHIP, HONG KONG SOLICITORS.

"IN THIS CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT I BELIEVE THAT THE EXPRESSED CONCERNS OF THE LAW SOCIETY HAVE BEEN MET, AND THAT WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE DETAILS SET OUT IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, IT WOULD BE SEEN THAT IT IS A SENSIBLE AND LOGICAL ENHANCEMENT OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

IN DEVISING THE SCHEME OF CONTROL FOR FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD A NUMBER OF POINTS IN MIND.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID: "FIRSTLY, WE WISHED TO ESTABLISH QUALITATIVE CONTROLS TO ENSURE THAT ONLY FOREIGN LAW FIRMS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEGRITY AND REPUTATION AND WITH SOMETHING TO OFFER HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO SET UP HERE.

"AS WITH APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION AS SOLICITORS WE WISH TO BE SURE THAT APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION AS FOREIGN LAWYERS IN HONG KONG ARE FIT AND PROPER PERONS.

"SECONDLY, THOSE FOREIGN LAWYERS WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO HONG KONG TO WORK MUST DO SO ON HONG KONG'S TERMS. THAT IS THEY MUST COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF ETHICS, PRACTICE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE SOLICITOR'S PROFESSION.

"THIRDLY, WE HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO ENSURE THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS DO NOT ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW AND, TO STATE THE OBVERSE, ONLY HONG KONG SOLICITORS IN A FOREIGN LAW FIRM WILL BE ABLE TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW.

/"FINALLY WHEN

"FINALLY WHEN SUGGESTING THE POLICING POWERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY, WE HAVE TRIED TO BALANCE WHAT IS NECESSARY WITH WHAT IS REASONABLE. ONE PRINCIPLE WE HAVE HAD IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS IS THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH PROFESSIONAL MEN AND WOMEN FOR WHOM THE CONSEQUENCES OF STEPPING OUT OF LINE WOULD BE SEVERE.

"THESE SPECIFIC POLICING RULES ARE PREDICATED ON THE BELIEF THAT PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROFESSIONALLY.

"WE NO MORE EXPECT THE LAW SOCIETY TO BE PEERING OVER THE SHOULDERS OF FOREIGN LAWYERS, OR HONG KONG SOLICITORS EMPLOYED IN, OR TAKEN IN AS PARTNERS BY, FOREIGN LAW FIRMS, THAN THEY DO IN THE CASE OF HONG KONG SOLICITORS IN LOCAL SOLICITORS FIRMS."

MR MATHEWS SAID HE WAS AWARE OF CONCERNS THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER PROFESSIONS AND THAT IT FORESHADOWED A WISH BY GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES TO CONTROL THEIR PROFESSION.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THIS WAS NOT SO AND THAT "THE PROPOSAL CARRIED NO IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER PROFESSIONS.

"IT ADDRESSES A PARTICULAR SITUATION PECULIAR TO THE SOLICITOR'S PROFESSION AND FOREIGN LAWYERS."

TURNING TO THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, MR MATHEWS SAID THERE ARE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE AND THEY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) THE ORDINANCE WILL BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT FOREIGN LAWYERS WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ADVISE ON ANY ASPECT OF HONG KONG LAW. THUS THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROHIBITION WILL BECOME A CLEAR, STATUTORY PROHIBITION, WITH SEVERE PENALTIES FOR ITS BREACH;
- (2) NO FOREIGN LAWYER WILL BE PERMITTED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG AS A FOREIGN LAWYER UNLESS ADMITTED BY THE COURT WHICH MUST BE SATISFIED THAT, AMONG OTHER CRITERIA, HE HAS AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE. BUT THIS "FIVE-YEAR" RULE WILL NOT APPLY TO A HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENT.

IN OTHER WORDS, A YOUNG HONG KONG PERSON WHO QUALIFIES AS A LAWYER IN, SAY, CANADA CAN RETURN HERE AND BE ADMITTED TO PRACTISE AS A FOREIGN LAWYER WITHOUT HAVING TO PRACTISE IN CANADA FOR FIVE YEARS.

- (3) NO FOREIGN LAW FIRM WILL BE PERMITTED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG AS A FOREIGN LAW FIRM UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE COURT WHICH MUST BE SATISFIED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THAT FIRM HAS BEEN PRACTISING LAW IN A PLACE OTHER THAN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AND THAT IT ENJOYS SUBSTANTIAL REPUTATION IN THAT PLACE.

- (4) ALL FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS CURRENTLY PRACTISING IN HONG KONG WILL HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION OF REQUIREMENTS. THEY WILL BE GIVEN AN ADEQUATE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH TO DO SO.

INCLUDED IN THE SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE RULES TO BE MADE BY THE LAW SOCIETY RELATING TO FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN LAWYER PARTNER IN A FOREIGN LAW FIRM SHOULD BE A RESIDENT PARTNER WHO, AMONG OTHER REQUIREMENTS, SHOULD BE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS IN EACH YEAR.
- (2) A FOREIGN LAW FIRM SHOULD NOT TAKE INTO PARTNERSHIP A HONG KONG SOLICITOR WITH LESS THAN 10 YEARS' EXPERIENCE.
- (3) A FOREIGN LAW FIRM SHOULD NOT EMPLOY A HONG KONG SOLICITOR TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW UNLESS HE HAS FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE.
- (4) FOREIGN LAW FIRM INTENDING TO EMPLOY A HONG KONG SOLICITOR TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW SHOULD HAVE A HONG KONG SOLICITOR AS A PARTNER. THERE SHOULD BE A RATIO OF ONE SUCH PARTNER FOR EVERY THREE HONG KONG SOLICITORS EMPLOYED.
- (5) A FOREIGN LAWYER, WHETHER HE IS IN A FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC LAW FIRM, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THERE IS A SOLICITOR EMPLOYEE OR SOLICITOR PARTNER IN THE FIRM.
- (6) A HONG KONG SOLICITOR EMPLOYED IN A FOREIGN LAW FIRM SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO A HONG KONG SOLICITOR PARTNER OF THAT FIRM FOR ANY ADVICE GIVEN BY HIM ON HONG KONG LAW.
- (7) A REGISTER OF ADVICE ON HONG KONG LAW SHOULD BE KEPT BY A FOREIGN LAW FIRM TAKING IN A SOLICITOR AS A PARTNER OR EMPLOYEE TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.
- (8) THE LAW SOCIETY MAY REQUIRE ANY FOREIGN LAWYER TO PRODUCE THE REGISTER OF ADVICE OR ANY FILES OR DOCUMENTS FOR INSPECTION IF THEY HAVE REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE FILES OR DOCUMENTS CONTAIN ADVICE PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH HONG KONG LAW.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER HIS SPEECH, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL ON FOREIGN LAW FIRMS WOULD GIVE CLIENTS THE BENEFIT OF A MORE EFFICIENT LEGAL SERVICE.

MR MATHEWS SAID THE ABILITY FOR USERS OF THE LEGAL SERVICE TO GO TO ONE LAW FIRM FOR ADVICE RATHER THAN HAVING TO GO TO TWO FIRMS WAS MORE EFFICIENT.

"THE SCHEME OF CONTROL HAS MORE THAN ONE FACET. THERE IS THE PROFESSIONAL ASPECT OF BRINGING FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS UNDER A CLEARLY DEFINED SCHEME OF CONTROL AND THAT IS BENEFICIAL FROM THE PROFESSIONAL POINT OF VIEW.

"ULTIMATELY, IT IS TO THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE ALL LAWYERS OPERATING IN THE SAME SCHEME AND BEING SUBJECT TO THE SAME RULES. THAT IS ONE ASPECT.

"THE BENEFIT TO THE CLIENTS I'VE ALREADY DESCRIBED," HE SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR MATHEWS MENTIONED ABOUT "CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM" RECEIVED CONCERNING THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT. ASKED WHAT SORT OF "CRITICISM" THESE HAD BEEN, MR MATHEWS REPLIED: "THERE'S BEEN SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE. SOME SAY THAT THEY ARE PITCHED TOO HIGH. WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT."

HE WAS REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL THAT LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE BE STIPULATED FOR SOLICITORS EMPLOYED OR TAKEN INTO PARTNERSHIP BY FOREIGN LAW FIRMS.

UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL, A FOREIGN LAW FIRM SHOULD NOT TAKE INTO PARTNERSHIP A HONG KONG SOLICITOR WITH LESS THAN 10 YEARS' EXPERIENCE. NOR SHOULD IT EMPLOY A HONG KONG SOLICITOR TO ADVISE ON HONG KONG LAW UNLESS HE HAS FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

MR POON IS AN ACCOUNTANT - BY PROFESSION AND A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILOR. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SRC WHICH PUT FORWARD THE RECONSTITUTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HKFE.

APPOINTMENT OF FUTURES EXCHANGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DAVID NENDICK, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD APPOINTED MR RONALD CARSTAIRS, MR RAYMOND KWOK, MR NICHOLAS PRIOR AND MR PETER POON AS MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NC) FOR THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE LTD (HKFE).

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES THAT APPOINTMENTS TOOK EFFECT FROM MAY 15, 1989 UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

UNDER THE REVISED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE HKFE ADOPTED AT THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 9, 1989, THE BOARD WILL CONSIST OF 13 DIRECTORS, NAMELY EIGHT MEMBER DIRECTORS, FOUR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WHO SHALL HOLD OFFICE EX-OFFICIO.

THE REVISED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE LATER THIS MONTH CONCURRENT WITH THEIR FORMAL APPROVAL BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION.

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THE NEW ARTICLES ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NC TO NOMINATE IN EACH YEAR PERSONS TO STAND FOR ELECTION AS MEMBER DIRECTORS OF THE HKFE BOARD.

THE NC WILL COMPRISE FOUR PERSONS, NAMELY, AN INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR, TWO NON-DIRECTOR MEMBERS OF THE HKFE AND AN INDEPENDENT NON-BROKER OUTSIDER. THE FIRST NC IS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; SUBSEQUENT NC'S WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD ITSELF.

"THE NC WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NOMINATION OF A BALANCED SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF HKFE MEMBERS.

"TOGETHER WITH THE FOUR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THIS WILL HELP ENSURE THE FORMATION OF A BROADLY-BASED AND REPRESENTATIVE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC) RECOMMENDATIONS," MR NENDICK SAID.

MR CARSTAIRS IS THE CHIEF MANAGER OF THE HONG KONG STANDARD CHARTERED BANK. HE IS AN INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HKFE BOARD. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NOW DISSOLVED COMMODITIES TRADING COMMISSION.

MR KWOK IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HONOURS FUTURES LTD, A MEMBER OF THE HKFE.

MR PRIOR IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HOARE GOVETTE ASIA FUTURES LTD, A MEMBER OF THE HKFE.

MR POON IS AN ACCOUNTANT BY PROFESSION AND A LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SRC WHICH PUT FORWARD THE RECONSTITUTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HKFE.

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MEMBERS OF DISCIPLINED SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE VISIT CSD

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MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINED SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TODAY (TUESDAY) SAW FOR THEMSELVES THE WORK OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE TRAINING OF ITS STAFF WHEN THEY VISITED TWO OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTITUTIONS.

THE VISITORS WERE THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, MR JOHN SWAINE, AND MEMBERS, MR PAUL CHENG, MR ANTHONY CHEUNG AND MR BRIAN RENWICK. MR CHENG IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL DISCIPLINED SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK, THE PARTY FIRST VISITED STANLEY PRISON WHICH IS A MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION TO HOUSE PRISONERS SERVING LONG SENTENCES.

/WHEN TOURING

WHEN TOURING THE WORKSHOPS, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT ALL PRISONERS ARE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS TRADES, SUCH AS GARMENT MAKING, CARPENTRY, PRINTING, SILKSCREENING AND SHOE MAKING.

THEY ALSO VISITED THE CELL BLOCKS, HOSPITAL AND KITCHEN.

THE PARTY THEN VISITED THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE WHICH PROVIDES ALL NECESSARY TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR CSD STAFF. THEY VIEWED THE GYMNASIUM, INDOOR FIRING RANGE, PARADE GROUND, MOCK COURT ROOM AND VARIOUS LECTURE ROOMS.

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE LATER DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMISSIONER, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MR GARTH HYDES, AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH WERE OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS STAFF.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE FAMILIARISATION TOURS TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PLANNED FOR MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE THIS YEAR.

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12 QUESTIONS BEFORE LEGCO

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 12 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECOND READING DEBATES ON FIVE BILLS WILL BE RESUMED, AFTER WHICH EACH BILL IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE BILLS ARE THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989; THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989; AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING LICENCES REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1989.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1989 IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WILL MOVE TWO MOTIONS, UNDER THE PENSIONS (INCREASE) ORDINANCE AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DEBATE A MOTION ON VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE. THIS WILL BE MOVED BY THE SENIOR MEMBERS, THE HON ALLEN LEE.

THE MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL, CONSIDERING THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCREENING POLICY FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DEPENDS UPON THE SUCCESSFUL REPATRIATION OF ALL THOSE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES AND THE RESETTLEMENT OF ALL REFUGEES, URGES HMG TO FULFIL ITS RESPONSIBILITY BY TAKING A LEADING ROLE IN ACTIVELY PURSUING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPATRIATION, AND IN ACCEPTING FOR RESETTLEMENT MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG."

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EXHIBITION OF CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS
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THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE WHICH IS CHAIRED BY LEGCO MEMBER MR SZETO WAH, WILL HOLD AN EXHIBITION OF NEWLY PRODUCED CHINESE TEXTBOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON SATURDAY (MAY 20) BETWEEN 10 AM AND 5 PM.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE OVER 110 SETS OF CHINESE TEXTBOOKS PRODUCED BY ABOUT 30 PUBLISHERS UNDER PHASE ONE OF AN INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE PUBLISHERS TO PRODUCE GOOD QUALITY CHINESE TEXTBOOKS.

THE BOOKS ARE ON GENERAL SUBJECTS FOR USE BY SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION TO TAKE PLACE AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE AT PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

THEY CAN BROWSE NOT ONLY AMONG THESE NEW CHINESE TEXTBOOKS, BUT ALSO THOSE ALREADY ON THE RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS LISTS.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY AT 10 AM TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION OF CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AT ROOM 103, HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, ON SATURDAY (MAY 20) AT 10 AM.

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FINDLAY TO SIT AS DEPUTY JUDGE OF HIGH COURT
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THE JUDICIARY ANNOUNCED THAT WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 22, 1989 MR J.K. FINDLAY, QC, JP, THE CROWN PROSECUTOR, WOULD BE SITTING AS A DEPUTY JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT. MR FINDLAY WILL BE HEARING CIVIL CASES TO WHICH THE CROWN IS NOT A PARTY.

HE WILL SIT AS A DEPUTY JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER VACATION WHICH IS JULY 31, 1989.

MR FINDLAY PRACTISED AS AN ATTORNEY (SOLICITOR) IN ZIMBABWE FOR 15 YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE UK IN 1977.

/HE CAME

HE CAME TO HONG KONG IN 1981 WHEN HE JOINED THE DRAFTING DIVISION OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT. IN 1984 HE WAS APPOINTED SOLICITOR GENERAL.

HE BECAME A BARRISTER IN LONDON AND HONG KONG IN 1985 AND WAS APPOINTED QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1986. HE WAS MADE CROWN PROSECUTOR IN 1986.

IT IS THE PRACTICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO INVITE QUEEN'S COUNSEL TO SIT AS DEPUTY JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT. IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR SEVERAL QUEEN'S COUNSEL HAVE SAT IN THIS CAPACITY FOR SHORT PERIODS INCLUDING HENRY LITTON, QC, RICHARD MILLS-OWENS, QC, ANTHONY ROGERS, QC, K.H. WOO, QC, AND NEIL KAPLAN, QC.

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TRAVELLERS WARNED NOT TO ACT AS DRUG COURIERS

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LOCAL RESIDENTS SHOULD BEWARE OF APPROACHES FROM DRUG TRAFFICKERS SEEKING TO ENTICE THEM TO ACT AS DRUG COURIERS WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

THIS WARNING WAS ISSUED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GARETH MULLOY, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HONG KONG PEOPLE APPREHENDED BY FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES.

"NAIVE AND GREEDY TRAVELLERS ARE ALWAYS THE TARGETS OF THE WELL-ORGANISED DRUG SYNDICATES," MR MULLOY SAID.

"THE REWARD OFTEN IS SMALL - PERHAPS ONE OR TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A FREE AIR TICKET. BUT THE PRICE WHEN CAUGHT CAN BE VERY HIGH.

"THE DEATH PENALTY IS MANDATORY FOR TRAFFICKING IN SOME COUNTRIES, AND PRISON SENTENCES OF UP TO 25 YEARS IN VERY PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS ARE ALSO QUITE COMMON."

THE COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER DRUG ABUSE AND ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN RECENT YEARS HAD LED TO MORE STRINGENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES, IN MOST COUNTRIES.

MR MULLOY SAID HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT DRUG SYNDICATES HAD DELIBERATELY TIPPED-OFF AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF SMALL-LEVEL COURIERS IN ORDER TO DISTRACT THE ATTENTION OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND ENABLE COURIERS WITH BIGGER CONSIGNMENTS TO SLIP THROUGH.

A TOTAL OF 435 HONG KONG RESIDENTS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED OVERSEAS FOR DRUG OFFENCES DURING THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1979 TO 1988.

MR MULLOY SAID THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS HAD INCREASED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS - 80 IN 1987 AND 87 IN 1988, AGAINST 40 AND 27 IN 1985 AND 1986.

"MORE THAN 230 HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE DETAINED OR IMPRISONED IN 22 COUNTRIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES AS AT MARCH 31 THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

"OVER TWO THIRDS OF THEM ARE IN THAILAND, FRANCE, JAPAN, THE U.S.A. AND THE NETHERLANDS."

THE COMMISSIONER GAVE THE FOLLOWING ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS:

- * DON'T CARRY PACKAGES OR BAGGAGE FOR ANYONE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY SURE THEY CONTAIN NO ILLICIT DRUGS OR OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS.
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO SAY "IT IS ALRIGHT OR LEGAL TO USE DRUGS OVER THERE". ALL COUNTRIES PROHIBIT ILLICIT DRUG USE.
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT THE TYPE THE CUSTOMS GO FOR.
- * DO REPORT TO THE POLICE OR THE CUSTOMS IF A POSSIBLE DRUG-CARRYING DEAL IS PUT TO YOU. THE SYNDICATE WILL GET THE PROFIT; YOU WILL TAKE THE RISK.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO STRESSED THE HARD LINE THAT THE LAW TOOK IN HONG KONG AGAINST TRAFFICKING - THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 MILLION.

EVEN PERSONS FOUND IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A SMALL QUANTITY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE LIABLE TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000.

MR MULLOY APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO CALL THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU ON 5-271234 OR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE ON 5-456182 OR 5-8521437 IF THEY SUSPECTED THAT ANY PERSON WAS A DRUG TRAFFICKER.

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SAFETY AWARD SCHEME PRIZE PRESENTATION

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A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR WINNERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY AWARD SCHEME 1988-89 WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW WORLD HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI, ON THURSDAY (MAY 18).

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, MR HO SAI-CHU; THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR TONY HAMMOND; AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION, MR K.L. CHONG.

THE SCHEME IS ORGANISED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL.

IT OFFERS THREE AWARDS -- THE OUTSTANDING SAFETY SUPERVISOR CONTEST, THE SAFETY SITE CONTEST AND THE "WHAT'S WRONG IN THE PICTURE" IQ SAFETY CONTEST.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT AT THE FOUR SEASONS ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, NEW WORLD HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI, ON THURSDAY. IT WILL BEGIN AT 3.30 PM.

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PROPERTY OWNERS URGED TO LOOK AFTER THEIR BUILDINGS

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GARY YEUNG, TONIGHT (TUESDAY) CALLED ON PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

MR YEUNG WAS ADDRESSING ABOUT 80 MEMBERS OF OWNERS' INCORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES WHO HAD COMPLETED A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE.

THE COURSE WAS ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE EASTERN DISTRICT FEDERATION OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING ORGANISATIONS.

ALTHOUGH CO-OWNERS OF A BUILDING WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR PREMISES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE POSITIVE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS IN RECENT YEARS, MR YEUNG SAID.

/SINCE 1985,

SINCE 1985, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHING BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAMS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS TO OFFER ADVICE TO RESIDENTS.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE DRAFTING OF NEW DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT WERE INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1987 AND LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS WERE BEING MADE TO THE MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, COMPRISING BUILDING MANAGEMENT EXPERTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WAS ESTABLISHED LAST NOVEMBER TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES TO PROVIDE A BETTER LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR FLAT OWNERS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PROPERTIES, HE ADDED.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND MUTUAL CO-OPERATION ON THE PART OF FLAT OWNERS AND RESIDENTS WERE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, AND WOULD TIE IN WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS.

HE URGED THE PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE WITH THEIR FELLOW FLAT OWNERS AND RESIDENTS THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THEY HAD ACQUIRED FROM THE COURSE.

THE COURSE WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE THOSE ATTENDING A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IN PUBLIC AREAS, AND BUILDING SECURITY.

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TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPIALS' CONCERN UNDERSTOOD: SDA
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS OVER THE SETTING UP OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR LIAO WAS SPEAKING DURING A COURTESY CALL ON THE CNTA BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

HE NOTED THAT THE OBJECTIVE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE TERRITORY.

"THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG HISTORY AND TRADITION OF TUNG WAH AND TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES SO THAT THE GROUP MAY SERVE THE COMMUNITY MORE EFFECTIVELY UNDER THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY," MR LIAO SAID.

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED THAT THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY RECOGNISED THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS IN HONG KONG'S MEDICAL SERVICES AND WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR VIEWS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE FUTURE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND RELATED ARRANGEMENTS.

MR LIAO SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS MAINTAINING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FREE OUT-PATIENT SERVICE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT TUNG WAH CAN STRIKE A SOUND BALANCE BETWEEN THE WISH TO MAINTAIN ITS CHARITABLE TRADITION AND TO ENHANCE THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS OUT-PATIENT SERVICES," HE SAID.

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EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING ON DB AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (MAY 18) ON THE NEW TRAFFIC ROUTEING AND PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO BE INTRODUCED UPON THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON A REVIEW ON THE CONTROL, LICENSING AND SAFETY OF LOCAL MARINE CRAFT.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE TWO PROGRESS REPORTS - ONE ON THE KOWLOON AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AND THE OTHER ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN KWUN TONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY (MAY 18) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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YUEN LONG DB COMMITTEE TO MEET

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THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING FOR 1989-90 TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE MEETING WILL SEEK MEMBERS' ENDORSEMENT OF THREE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT OF URBAN FRINGES AND RURAL AREAS IN THE DISTRICT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO CONSIDER AND ENDORSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATERWORKS RESERVE BETWEEN WANG CHAU SERVICE RESERVOIR AND PHASE I OF THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD'S TOWN PLANNING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 13TH FLOOR, TAI KIU GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FUND APPLICATIONS

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER, AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), 38 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FOR HOLDING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

TWO OF THE APPLICATIONS ARE FROM THE TUEN MUN SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION, TUEN MUN BRANCH.

ALSO, THE TUEN MUN FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE IS REQUESTING \$300,000 FOR HOLDING A LARGE-SCALE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR.

MEANWHILE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION'S NEW TERRITORIES NORTH WEST REGIONAL OFFICE WILL PRESENT A PAPER ON THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR.

/OTHER ITEMS

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE A VETTING REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT; A REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CO-ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND TUEN MUN SPORTS ASSOCIATION; AND A STUDY ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 1 TUEN HI ROAD.

THE MEETING WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

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PROPERTY REVIEW 1989 ON SALE TOMORROW

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S 1989 PROPERTY REVIEW WILL GO ON SALE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL. IT IS PRICED AT \$65 PER COPY.

A SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE REVIEW WAS RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 1.

THE REVIEW COVERS THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1988 AND PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, VACANCIES, TAKE-UP, RENTAL AND PURCHASE PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET.

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AUCTION OF SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS ON SATURDAY (MAY 20) AT 10 AM AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING.

/THEY ARE:

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THEY ARE:

EA708	EA128	DZ777	EA7889
EA8681	DA728	EA139	EA2516
DF25	7832	EA9809	AK357
EA6378	EA2318	BK136	EB823
EA911	DZ9283	1986	DZ8
BV892	DY2	EA6618	BB6662
535	EA143	AA337	EA1398
EB339	EA688	DC735	EA5292
AA350	389	CD9000	AK1631
DZ111	EA776	EA7741	EA9899

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 138TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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SUSPENSION OF WATER SUPPLY IN TWO AREAS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO ALL VILLAGES IN FANLING SOUTH WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 19) TO 8 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER WORKS.

THE VILLAGES AFFECTED INCLUDE WO HOP SHEK SAN TSUEN, WO HING TSUEN, TIN SAM TSUEN, WA WEI SHAN AND PAK FUK TSUEN.

ON SATURDAY (MAY 20), SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN SOUTHEAST KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO MIDNIGHT BECAUSE OF WATER WORKS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON CITY, KOWLOON TONG, SAN PO KONG AND WONG TAI SIN.

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