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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1992

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## DFCC EFFORTS YIELD GOOD RESULTS

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PUBLICITY EFFORTS IN SPREADING THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC) IN THE PAST YEARS HAVE WON THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND YIELDED GOOD RESULTS, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL AT THE PIAZZA OF THE KOWLOON PARK, MR LI SAID THESE EFFORTS HAD MADE LOCAL RESIDENTS MORE ALERT TO CRIMES, LED THEM TO TAKE PART IN FIGHT CRIME ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ENCOURAGED THEM TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE POLICE IN COMBATING CRIME.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE 7,523 CRIME CASES LAST YEAR IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH WAS 439 CASES OR 5.5 PER CENT LESS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURES IN 1990.

AS REGARDS VIOLENCE CRIME, MR LI SAID IT HAD DECREASED FROM 1,997 CASES IN 1990 TO 1,808 CASES LAST YEAR, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 9.5 PER CENT.

NOTING THAT THE DETECTION RATE FOR THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT MAINTAINED AT OVER 48 PER CENT, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE OVERALL CRIME RATE IN THE DISTRICT WAS ON THE LOW SIDE WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER MAJOR CITIES.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE POLICE WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE LAW AND ORDER IN THE DISTRICT AND BE FLEXIBLE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF MANPOWER AND RESOURCES TO COPE WITH FUTURE NEEDS," MR LI SAID.

HE SAID PUBLICITY WAS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO COMBAT CRIME AND A GUIDELINE ON CRIME PREVENTION WAS BEING PRODUCED TO TEACH THE PUBLIC HOW TO PREVENT CRIME AND ENSURE HOME AND PROPERTY SAFETY.

"THIS COLOURFUL BOOKLET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE TERRITORY SOON, WITH THE HOPE THAT THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE COULD REACH EVERY FAMILY," MR LI ADDED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DFCC CHAIRMAN, MR YANG TZE-KIANG, URGED RESIDENTS NOT TO FORGET TO FULFIL THEIR CIVIC OBLIGATION BY ACTIVELY TAKING PART IN FIGHT CRIME ACTIVITIES.

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT THE POLICE IN MAINTAINING A STABLE COMMUNITY.

"WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES IN OUR DAILY LIVES, LEAVING NO CHANCE FOR CRIMINALS.

"WE ALSO MUST REPORT TO THE POLICE IF WE ENCOUNTER ANY CRIME AS WELL AS COME FORWARD AS WITNESSES," MR YANG SAID.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ATTENDED THE CARNIVAL WHICH WAS ORGANISED BY THE DFCC WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

/IN ADDITION .....

IN ADDITION TO PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS AND A POLICE BAND, THE CARNIVAL ALSO FEATURED GAMESTALLS, QUIZ ON COMBATING CRIME, DISPLAYS OF CRIME PREVENTION INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATIONS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE HANDICRAFT.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE YAU TSIM AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG; YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR YIP WAH; AND YAU TSIM POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR PETER FERRY.

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### LOCAL WORKERS' INTERESTS WELL PROTECTED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF LOCAL WORKERS AND TO HELP THEM OBTAIN BETTER OR ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH RETRAINING.

"EMPLOYERS WHO REGISTERED THEIR VACANCIES WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME MUST FIRST OFFER JOBS TO LOCAL WORKERS AT MEDIUM WAGES BEFORE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO ALLOW THEM TO IMPORT WORKERS," THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR CHAN REITERATED THAT QUOTAS WOULD BE GIVEN ONLY TO EMPLOYERS WHO HAD A GENUINE NEED FOR LABOUR AND WHO WERE WILLING TO FIRST TAKE ON LOCAL WORKERS REFERRED TO THEM BY THE LES.

"OUR STAFF ARE NOW GOING THROUGH RECORDS OF REGISTERED JOB-SEEKERS TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR REFERRAL TO PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS," HE SAID.

"WHEN PROCESSING VACANCIES RECEIVED, LES STAFF WILL ALSO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA SET FOR LOCAL WORKERS IN EACH CASE TO SEE IF THEY MATCH," HE SAID, NOTING THAT 6,677 EMPLOYERS HAD SO FAR REGISTERED 75,315 JOB VACANCIES UNDER THE SCHEME.

"IF AN EMPLOYER IS FOUND TO HAVE DELIBERATELY SET EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE NATURE OF THE JOB FOR LOCAL WORKERS, HIS APPLICATION FOR QUOTA TO IMPORT LABOUR MAY BE REJECTED," HE REMINDED.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL WORKERS WILL BE GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO CHOOSE A JOB AND THAT THEIR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WILL NOT BE UNDULY AFFECTED," HE NOTED.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO FAILED TO RECRUIT LOCALLY AND WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN QUOTAS TO IMPORT LABOUR WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY A LUMP SUM LEVY IN RESPECT OF EACH IMPORTED WORKER UPON THE ISSUE OF EMPLOYMENT VISA.

THE LUMP SUM WILL BE PAYABLE AT THE RATE OF \$400 PER WORKER MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERED IN THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT, WHICH WILL BE \$9,600 FOR A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT.

"AS THE PAYMENT WILL NOT BE REFUNDABLE IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WILL DISCOURAGE EMPLOYERS FROM OVERSTATING THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED WORKERS WHEN MAKING AN APPLICATION," HE SAID.

MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT THE LEVY WOULD BE USED TO ENHANCE TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL WORKERS, WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON THOSE SECTORS WITH THE HIGHEST VACANCY RATES AND ON THOSE INDUSTRIES UNLIKELY TO BE RELOCATED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

"THIS IS INTENDED TO HELP WORKERS, WHOSE JOBS ARE BEING THREATENED BY THE CHANGING ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, TO ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS OR TO UPGRADE THEIR EXISTING SKILLS, SO AS TO QUALIFY THEMSELVES EITHER FOR EMPLOYMENT IN ANOTHER TRADE OR FOR A HIGHER-LEVEL JOB IN THE SAME TRADE," HE ADDED.

TO ENSURE AN EARLY START OF SUCH RETRAINING SERVICES TO LOCAL WORKERS, MR CHAN SAID A PROVISIONAL RETRAINING FUND BOARD HAD RECENTLY BEEN ESTABLISHED COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, THE GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT TRAINING AUTHORITIES.

THE BOARD WILL ENSURE THAT RETRAINING IS PROVIDED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE LABOUR MARKET.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LES WILL IDENTIFY LOCAL WORKERS INTERESTED IN RETRAINING AND WILL ARRANGE THEM TO GO ON SUITABLE COURSES.

"WE WILL ALSO ASSIST WORKERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR RETRAINING IN OBTAINING RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT," MR CHAN ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF LABOUR HAVE ALSO BEEN TIGHTENED TO MINIMISE POSSIBLE ABUSES BY EMPLOYERS, SO THAT IMPORTED WORKERS WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED.

UNDER THE GENERAL SCHEME, EMPLOYERS MUST PAY WAGES IN FULL TO AN IMPORTED WORKER BY AUTOPAY AS A CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENT.

"ANY BREACH OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHEME BY AN EMPLOYER MAY RESULT IN HIS APPROVED QUOTAS BEING WITHDRAWN WHILE THE EMPLOYER WILL BE DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN ANY FUTURE IMPORTATION SCHEMES," MR CHAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, A BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SEEKING TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION OF WAGES AND WILFUL SUPPLY OF FALSE INFORMATION BY EMPLOYERS FROM \$10,000 TO \$100,000.

THE PENALTY FOR UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES WOULD BE RAISED FROM \$20,000 TO \$200,000.

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"ALSO, THE BILL PROPOSES CUSTODIAL SENTENCE OF UP TO ONE YEAR FOR OFFENDING EMPLOYERS IN BOTH CASES," HE NOTED.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ABUSES OF THE LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME AND WOULD SPARE NO EFFORTS IN PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH LOCAL AND IMPORTED WORKERS.

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#### SEMINARS FOR RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS

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THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH (CSB) WILL CONDUCT A SERIES OF SEMINARS STARTING THIS WEEK TO HELP RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS ADAPT TO LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT.

THREE SEMINARS, ONE IN ENGLISH AND TWO IN CANTONESE, ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OFFICERS.

THE FIRST ONE WILL CATER FOR DIRECTORATE STAFF, EXPATRIATE AND NON-EXPATRIATE OFFICERS ON UPPER AND MIDDLE MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS) OR EQUIVALENT AS WELL AS OFFICERS WHO ARE GOING TO RETIRE OVERSEAS.

THE SECOND ONE WILL CATER FOR NON-EXPATRIATE STAFF ON LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER MPS OR EQUIVALENT WHILE THE THIRD ONE WILL CATER FOR NON-EXPATRIATE STAFF ON MODEL SCALE I AND LOWER MPS OR EQUIVALENT.

THE SEMINARS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON PARTICULAR MATTERS OF CONCERN TO RETIRING OFFICERS, INCLUDING PRE-RETIREMENT PREPARATION, HOW TO COPE WITH STRESS AFTER RETIREMENT, PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH, BASIC FINANCE PLANNING AND INVESTMENT CONCEPTS.

THESE SEMINARS WILL ALSO HELP THEM TO CONFRONT LATENT FEARS AND APPREHENSIONS AND TO DEVELOP A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO RETIREMENT.

EACH SEMINAR WILL LAST FOR TWO DAYS AND WILL BE ATTENDED BY SOME 700 OFFICERS.

THE SEMINARS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, AND THE FIRST ONE WILL BE OPENED BY THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE (DEVELOPMENT), MR MIKE WATERS, ON NEXT TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 25).

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE FIRST PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR IN ENGLISH WILL BE HELD AT HENRY G. LEONG YAU MA TEI COMMUNITY CENTRE, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET, YAU MA TEI, AT 9 AM ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 25). YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER.

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PUBLIC LAND AUCTION ON TUESDAY

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FIVE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE IN A PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA KEMPINSKI, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 25).

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST SITE IS LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF WYLIE ROAD AND KING'S PARK RISE, KOWLOON. THE SITE WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,811 SQUARE METRES IS INTENDED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 39, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,548 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE THIRD SITE IS LOCATED IN AREA 15, SHUI WAI, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 21,060 SQUARE METRES AND IS ALSO DESIGNATED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE FOURTH SITE IS LOCATED AT WANG YIP STREET WEST, TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,300 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR GODOWN PURPOSES EXCLUDING THE STORAGE OF "DANGEROUS GOODS" AS DEFINED IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE OR ANY AMENDING LEGISLATION (EXCEPT SUCH FUEL AS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF MACHINES INSTALLED IN THE BUILDINGS PUT UP ON THE LOT).

THE REMAINING LOT IS LOCATED AT A KUNG NGAM, HONG KONG. IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,115 SQUARE METRES AND IS DESIGNATED FOR GODOWN PURPOSES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE MEDIA COVERAGE WILL BE INTRODUCED. A DESIGNATED PRESS AREA WILL BE ALLOCATED AT THE VENUE.

PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOULD BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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41 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN DECEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 41 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 14 WERE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 11 FOR KOWLOON AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 22 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, SIX FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ONE FOR FACTORY AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 45 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 198,926.6 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 106,259.2 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$4,546 MILLION. USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 417,266.4 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 118,231.2 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

ALSO DURING DECEMBER, THE OFFICE ISSUED 38 OCCUPATION PERMITS - 11 EACH FOR HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON, AND 16 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 27 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 50 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 457 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,181 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 70 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 567 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED TWO EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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SURVEY ON INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FACILITIES TO START NEXT MONTH

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT A SURVEY ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICES, SHOWROOMS AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES IN EXISTING INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WOULD BE USED IN THE REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANNING GUIDELINES AND FORMULATION OF NEW ONES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH USES IN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE SURVEY, TO BE CARRIED OUT BY A PRIVATE RESEARCH FIRM COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WOULD BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE AND WOULD COVER ALL EXISTING INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN AREAS ZONED AS "INDUSTRIAL" ON OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

DIRECTORATE AND MANAGERIAL LEVEL STAFF FROM TARGET COMPANIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION IN THE SURVEY EXERCISE.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE RESPONDENTS WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND DATA OF ANY INDIVIDUAL FIRM WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED.

THE FINAL SURVEY REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER.

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#### INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PRODUCE A-LEVEL CHINESE BOOKS

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THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE, MR SZETO WAH AND MR PETER LEE, WILL MEET EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS ON TUESDAY (FEBRUARY 25) TO EXPLAIN DETAILS OF THE INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME TO PRODUCE CHINESE-MEDIUM ADVANCED LEVEL REFERENCE BOOKS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID THIS IN REFERRING TO THE RECENT FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF \$9.1 MILLION FOR THE INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME TO PRODUCE REFERENCE BOOKS ON BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ECONOMICS, GEOGRAPHY, WESTERN HISTORY AND PHYSICS.

"THESE BOOKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR USE IN SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 1993 TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOLS ADOPTING CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR THEIR ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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#### PROPER LABELLING FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED THAT PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS, WHETHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY PACKED, MUST BE PROPERLY LABELLED OR MARKED AS STIPULATED BY THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS WHEN CONVICTED ARE SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF SIX RETAILERS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF SELLING IMPROPERLY LABELLED PREPACKAGED FOOD ITEMS AND ORDERED TO PAY FINES TOTALLING \$6,000.

/OF THEM, .....

OF THEM, FOUR MEDICINE COMPANIES IN TAI PO, TSUEN WAN AND MONG KOK DISTRICTS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF SELLING IMPROPERLY MARKED HIGH PROTEIN MILK FOOD AND MILK POWDER.

THE OTHER TWO SHOPS IN TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN AREAS ALSO COMMITTED SIMILAR OFFENCES FOR PUTTING ON SALE PRESERVED OLIVES AND FRIED PORK SKINS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN LABELLED PROPERLY.

THEY HAD TO PAY FINES RANGING FROM \$250 TO \$2,500.

THE FOOD ITEMS DID NOT HAVE THE NAME OR DESIGNATION OF THE FOOD, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS, AND INDICATION OF MINIMUM DURABILITY, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MANUFACTURER OR PACKER OF THE FOOD AND THE NUMERICAL COUNT OF THE CONTENTS OR THE NET WEIGHT OF THE FOOD AS STIPULATED IN THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS (COMPOSITION AND LABELLING) REGULATIONS.

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#### BUS SERVICE SURVEY IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT UNDERWAY

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A SURVEY ON BUS SERVICE IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

IT IS PART OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S STUDY ON LOCAL BUS SERVICE.

A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE QUESTIONNAIRE POLL WOULD LAST UNTIL EARLY NEXT MONTH.

SOME 3,000 RESIDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY POLL STAFF.

THESE STAFF WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS AND OTHER RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS. THEY ARE HELPING OUT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

HE CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO FULLY CO-OPERATE WITH THE STAFF BY SPARING 10 TO 15 MINUTES ON THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

"RESIDENTS' INPUTS WILL PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL DATA TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO BUS ROUTES AND SERVICE QUALITY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUS OPERATORS," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

HE ASSURED THAT ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRES WOULD BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND BE DESTROYED ONCE THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED.

THE FOUR-MONTH STUDY WILL ALSO INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF DATA PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER RELEVANT BODIES, AND A SERIES OF FIELD SURVEYS ON BUS SERVICES.

IN ADDITION, SIMILAR QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY TARGETED AT SECONDARY STUDENTS AS WELL AS FACTORY AND OFFICE WORKERS IN THE DISTRICT WILL BE CARRIED OUT SHORTLY.

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