



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1991

BILL TO STRENGTHEN MONITORING OF PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANT STANDARDS INTRODUCED

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THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 SEEKS TO MAKE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR YEUNG SAID THE AMENDMENTS, WHICH WERE PROPOSED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS, WERE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIETY'S ABILITY TO MONITOR THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF ITS PRACTISING MEMBERS.

"AT PRESENT, THE SOCIETY REGULATES THE ACTIVITIES OF ITS MEMBERS THROUGH A REACTIVE SYSTEM," HE SAID.

"UNDER THIS SYSTEM THE WORK AND CONDUCT OF A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT CAN ONLY BE EXAMINED AFTER A FORMAL COMPLAINT."

HOWEVER, MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT GIVEN RISING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, THE SOCIETY NOW BELIEVED THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO ENHANCE ITS REGULATORY ACTIVITIES.

HE NOTED THAT THE BILL PROVIDED THE SOCIETY WITH ADDITIONAL POWERS THAT WOULD ENABLE IT TO REVIEW, OR EXAMINE, THE METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF PRACTISING MEMBERS RELATING TO THEIR AUDIT WORK TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY COMPLIED WITH THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS THAT HAD BEEN LAID DOWN BY THE SOCIETY.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERED THE SOCIETY TO INSTIGATE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANY MEMBER WHO REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF A REVIEW, OR WHO WAS FOUND TO BE IN BREACH OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE SOCIETY.

MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, AS THEY REPRESENTED A FURTHER POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS ENSURING THAT HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN ACCOUNTANCY WERE MAINTAINED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

"TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AND THEIR CLIENTS ARE PROTECTED, THE BILL ALSO MAKES SPECIFIC PROVISIONS CONCERNING IMMUNITY AND SECRECY," HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL, WHICH WAS GAZETTED ON OCTOBER 11, WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO FURTHER DISCOURAGE SMOKING INTRODUCED

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A BILL TO INTRODUCE MORE MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING AND TO MINIMISE THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF SMOKING WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID IT WAS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRESSIVE MEASURES TO TIGHTEN UP CONTROL ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND TO DISSUADE PEOPLE FROM PICKING UP OR CONTINUING WITH THE HABIT OF SMOKING.

"IT COMPLEMENTS OUR OTHER MEASURES IN RESPECT OF HEALTH EDUCATION," SHE ADDED.

EXPLAINING THE PROPOSED MAJOR AREAS OF CHANGE, MRS WONG SAID THE FIRST AREA INVOLVED THE DESIGNATION OF "NO SMOKING" AREAS.

THE BILL SOUGHT TO IMPOSE A TOTAL BAN OF SMOKING IN CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS, AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT CARRIERS INCLUDING TAXIS WHEN CARRYING PASSENGERS.

UNDER THE EXISTING LAW, SMOKING WAS PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC LIFTS, HALF OF THE SEATING ACCOMMODATION IN CINEMAS AND CONCERT HALLS, ALL SINGLE DECK PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND THE LOWER DECK OF MULTI-DECK PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

THE BILL ALSO SOUGHT TO REVISE THE CONTENTS OF THE "NO SMOKING" SIGNS SUCH THAT THEY WOULD INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR COMMITTING THE OFFENCE OF SMOKING IN A "NO SMOKING" AREA.

ON CHANGES TO TAR CONTENT, MRS WONG SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO IMPOSE A MAXIMUM TAR CONTENT OF 20 MILLIGRAMS PER CIGARETTE.

"I ALSO INTEND TO REVISE THE TAR GROUP DESIGNATION IN THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) REGULATIONS.

"CIGARETTES WITH A TAR CONTENT OF ZERO TO NINE MILLIGRAMS ARE TO FALL WITHIN THE LOW TAR GROUP, THOSE OF 10 TO 14 MILLIGRAMS TO BE WITHIN THE LOW TO MIDDLE TAR GROUP, 15 TO 17 MILLIGRAMS THE MIDDLE TAR GROUP, AND 18 TO 20 THE HIGH TAR GROUP," SHE SAID.

TURNING TO CIGARETTE ADVERTISING, MRS WONG SAID THE BILL PROPOSED TO IMPOSE A TOTAL BAN IN CINEMAS.

OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO PROVIDE FOR A SIMILAR BAN ON SUCH ADVERTISING ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, WHICH BAN HAD ALREADY BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE DECEMBER 1 LAST YEAR BY CONDITIONS OF LICENCE ISSUED BY THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY, SHE ADDED.

REGARDING CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP, SHE SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO DISTINGUISH CLEARLY BETWEEN ADVERTISEMENT OF TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP PER SE FROM THAT OF CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP BY COMPANIES WHOSE LINE OF BUSINESS HAPPENED TO INCLUDE CIGARETTES.

WHILST HEALTH WARNING WOULD BE REQUIRED OF TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP, MRS WONG NOTED THAT CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM CARRYING A HEALTH WARNING PROVIDED THAT THE WORDS "SMOKING" OR "CIGARETTE" OR "TOBACCO" DO NOT APPEAR.

TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE RISK OF SMOKING AND TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS, SHE SAID: "I INTEND TO MAKE AN ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 8 AND 9 OF THE ORDINANCE SUCH THAT THE EXISTING HEALTH WARNING BE REPLACED BY FOUR STRONGER MESSAGES TO BE USED IN ROTATION."

THESE INCLUDE "SMOKING CAN KILL", "SMOKING CAN CAUSE CANCER", "SMOKING CAN CAUSE HEART DISEASE" AND "SMOKING HARMS YOURSELF AND OTHERS".

THE ORDER WOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE HEALTH WARNING MESSAGE TO APPEAR ON THE TWO LARGEST FACES OF CIGARETTE PACKETS AND THE WARNING PANEL SHOULD OCCUPY NOT LESS THAN 20 PER CENT OF THE SURFACE.

THE HEALTH WARNING PANEL ON CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO TWICE THE PRESENT SIZE.

FOR OUTDOOR CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS, THE HEALTH WARNING MESSAGE MUST BE PROPERLY LIT AND UNOBSTRUCTED.

TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT, MRS WONG SAID THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS WAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE BY 100 PER CENT AND THOSE FOR CORPORATE OFFENDERS BY 200 PER CENT.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING LEVELS OF FINE HAD BEEN SET IN THE EARLY 1980'S AND HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE THEN.

REGARDING THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION, MRS WONG SAID: "I PROPOSED TO ALLOW A REASONABLE LEAD TIME IN ORDER THAT AFFECTED PARTIES MAY CARRY OUT PREPARATORY WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW MEASURES."

AS DIFFERENT GRACE PERIODS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS, DIFFERENT PROVISIONS SHOULD COME INTO OPERATION ON DIFFERENT DATES, SHE ADDED.

"WHERE PREPARATORY WORK IS REQUIRED, WE WILL ALLOW A LEAD TIME OF SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR," SHE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

BILL TO FURTHER IMPROVE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME INTRODUCED

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THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) BILL 1991, WHICH SEEKS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME BY REDUCING THE DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT BASED ON AGE, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SCHEME, WHICH WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1985 AND AMENDED IN 1988, PROVIDED FOR A LUMP SUM PAYMENT TO AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT HAD BEEN TERMINATED AFTER WORKING WITH AN EMPLOYER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE BILL PROPOSED THE EXISTING DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF PAYMENT BASED ON AGE SHOULD BE REMOVED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD.

DURING THE FIRST YEAR AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BILL, AN EMPLOYEE AGED BELOW 36 WOULD BECOME ENTITLED TO 75 PER CENT OF THE PAYMENT. FROM THE SECOND YEAR ONWARDS, ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES WOULD BE ENTITLED TO FULL PAYMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR AGE.

"SECONDLY, WE PROPOSE THAT THE QUALIFYING SERVICE FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES AGED BELOW 45 SHOULD BE REDUCED TO FIVE YEARS SO THAT, IN EFFECT, THE QUALIFYING SERVICE WILL BECOME STANDARDISED TO FIVE YEARS IRRESPECTIVE OF AN EMPLOYEE'S AGE.

"HOWEVER, AN EMPLOYEE WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE QUALIFYING SERVICE UNDER THE EXISTING SCHEME BUT BECOMES QUALIFIED UNDER THIS BILL WILL ONLY BE ENTITLED TO A PERCENTAGE OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT, DEPENDING ON HIS LENGTH OF SERVICE," HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, MR CHAN SAID AN EMPLOYEE AGED 40 OR BELOW WOULD BE ENTITLED TO 50 PER CENT OF THE PAYMENT IF HE HAD FIVE YEARS' SERVICE, HIS ENTITLEMENT WOULD BE INCREASED TO 60 PER CENT IF HE HAD SIX YEARS' SERVICE.

HIS PERCENTAGE OF ENTITLEMENT WOULD KEEP ON INCREASING AS HIS LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREASES UNTIL HE WAS ENTITLED TO FULL PAYMENT WHEN HE HAD CLOCKED UP 10 YEARS' SERVICE.

NOTING THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD ENABLE YOUNGER EMPLOYEES TO BECOME ENTITLED TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT EARLIER, MR CHAN SAID EMPLOYEES AGED 45 OR ABOVE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

"ALTHOUGH THERE MAY STILL BE A DIFFERENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT RECEIVABLE BY TWO EMPLOYEES OF THE SAME LENGTH OF SERVICE BUT OF DIFFERENT AGES, THE DIFFERENCE WILL BE VERY MUCH REDUCED AS COMPARED WITH THAT UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS," HE POINTED OUT.

NOTING THAT THE VIEWS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES DIFFERED ON THE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SCHEME, MR CHAN SAID PROPOSALS IN THE BILL HAD BEEN REACHED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

/"THE SCHEME

"THE SCHEME WILL BE REVIEWED AFTER THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED FOR SOME TIME. FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE IF THERE IS SUCH A NEED," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE QUALIFYING FOR THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT VARIED DEPENDING ON THE AGE OF THE EMPLOYEE. THE YOUNGER THE EMPLOYEE, THE LONGER THE QUALIFYING SERVICE.

FOR RETIREMENT ON GROUNDS OF OLD AGE, THE QUALIFYING SERVICE WAS 10 YEARS. FOR OTHER GROUNDS OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT, THE QUALIFYING SERVICE WAS FIVE YEARS FOR AN EMPLOYEE AGED 45 OR ABOVE, SIX YEARS FOR ONE AGED 44, SEVEN YEARS FOR ONE AGED 43, AND SO ON UP TO A QUALIFYING SERVICE OF 10 YEARS FOR AN EMPLOYEE AGED 40 OR BELOW.

THE AMOUNT OF LONG SERVICE PAYMENT DEPENDED MAINLY ON AN EMPLOYEE'S WAGES AND LENGTH OF SERVICE. FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE AN EMPLOYEE IS ELIGIBLE FOR TWO-THIRDS OF A MONTH'S WAGES AS AT THE TIME OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT, OR TWO-THIRDS OF \$15,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

REDUCED PAYMENTS WERE SPECIFIED FOR YOUNGER WORKERS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THOSE AGED BELOW 36 WERE ENTITLED TO 50 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE AGED 36 OR MORE BUT LESS THAN 40 WERE ENTITLED TO 75 PER CENT OF THE PAYMENT.

WHILE THESE DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF PAYMENT AND QUALIFYING PERIODS OF SERVICE BASED ON AGE WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO GIVE GREATER PROTECTION TO THE OLDER WORKERS, THEY HAD BECOME A SOURCE OF DISCONTENT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST YOUNGER WORKERS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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RESULTS OF PUBLIC RENTAL FLAT SALES EXERCISE TO BE REVIEWED

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL SHORTLY BE REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF THE EXERCISE TO SELL PUBLIC RENTAL FLATS TO SITTING TENANTS, INCLUDING THE REASONS FOR THE DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE, AND WILL DECIDE ON THE WAY FORWARD.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG SAID AT THE CLOSE OF THE TWO-MONTH APPLICATION PERIOD OF THE SALES SCHEME TWO DAYS AGO, ONLY 510 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED.

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UNDER THE SCHEME THE SALE OF FLATS IN A SELECTED BLOCK WOULD ONLY PROCEED IF THE TENANTS OF MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS IN THAT BLOCK HAD OPTED TO BUY, HE SAID.

IN NONE OF THE BLOCKS WAS THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS SUFFICIENT TO REACH THE REQUIRED 50 PER CENT TAKE-UP RATE FOR THE SALE TO PROCEED, HE ADDED.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SCHEME INVOLVES SOME 6,900 FLATS IN 11 SELECTED BLOCKS IN SEVEN ESTATES.

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PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT TO BUILDING,
PLANNING, LEASE CONTROLS

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PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IS SUBJECT TO BUILDING, PLANNING AND LEASE CONTROLS WHICH REQUIRE THE APPROVAL AND CONSENT OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY FOR BUILDING WORKS AND THE COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY TOWN PLANS AND CONDITIONS OF LAND DISPOSAL.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, PERSONS WISHING TO UNDERTAKE BUILDING WORKS MUST FIRST OBTAIN FROM THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HIS APPROVAL OF PLANS AND CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORKS THROUGH SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO).

THE BOO THEN PLAYED A CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING ROLE UNDER A CENTRALISED PROCESSING SYSTEM IN OBTAINING THE COMMENTS OR APPROVALS OF OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR OFFICES IN ADDITION TO PROCESSING PLANS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THE PERIODS AFTER WHICH THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN HIS APPROVAL OR CONSENT WERE LAID DOWN IN THE BUILDING (ADMINISTRATION) REGULATIONS.

SUCH PERIODS RANGE FROM 60 DAYS IN RELATION TO PLANS SUBMITTED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO 30 DAYS FOR OTHER PLANS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED.

ON PLANNING CONTROL, MR LEUNG SAID PLANNING PERMISSION WAS REQUIRED FROM THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD IF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT A USE PERMITTED AS OF RIGHT UNDER THE RELEVANT STATUTORY TOWN PLAN, BUT WAS ONE OF THE USES WHICH MIGHT BE PERMITTED UPON APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

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UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE BOARD MUST CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE DATE OF APPLICATION.

TURNING TO LEASE CONTROL, MR LEUNG NOTED THAT ALL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEASE CONDITIONS, OTHERWISE MODIFICATION OF THE LEASE MUST BE SOUGHT FROM THE LAND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.

"IN STRAIGHT FORWARD CASES, THE APPLICATION WOULD USUALLY TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO PROCESS.

"IN SOME CASES, APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED UNDER THE LEASE CONDITIONS," HE SAID.

THE PROCEDURES WOULD TAKE ABOUT 10 WEEKS TO PROCESS.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE PROCESSING OF THE VARIOUS AUTHORISATIONS COULD BE CARRIED OUT CONCURRENTLY.

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\$1.8 BILLION EARMARKED FOR RPIS PROJECTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO DATE SPENT ABOUT \$300 MILLION FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE RURAL PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RPIS) WITH A SUM OF \$1.8 BILLION EARMARKED FOR THE PURPOSE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID THIS WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON GILBERT LEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT NINE MAJOR PROJECTS INCLUDING RIVER TRAINING, DRAINAGE CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT, FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES, SITE FORMATION AND SERVICING FOR THE EXPANSION OF VILLAGES AND PROVISION OF SITES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES HAD BEEN COMPLETED UNDER THE RPIS.

IN ADDITION, AROUND 240 PROJECTS UNDER THE URBAN FRINGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AND THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WHICH FORMED PART OF THE STRATEGY HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

"GIVEN THAT THE RPIS IS AIMED AT TACKLING MANY PROBLEMS IN THE RURAL AREAS WHICH ARE LONG-TERM ISSUES, SUCH AS FLOODING, POLLUTION AND UNPLANNED DEVELOPMENT, IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ACHIEVE ITS OVERALL OBJECTIVES," HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS SO FAR, AND WITH THE MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING GAINING OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE, WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A FASTER PACE OF PROGRESS IN THE COMING YEARS.

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MEASURES TO RELIEVE TSING YI TRAFFIC CONGESTION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND IS IMPLEMENTING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO TACKLE THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION PROBLEMS AT THE TSING YI NORTH AND SOUTH BRIDGES, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ALBERT CHAN, MR LEUNG SAID TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE TSING YI NORTH AND SOUTH BRIDGES WAS CAUSED MAINLY BY THE RESTRICTED CAPACITY OF INTERCHANGES LOCATED AT THE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG EXITS TO THE BRIDGES.

HE SAID FOR TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE, PLANS WERE IN HAND TO INSTITUTE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TEXACO ROAD/TSUEN WAN BYPASS INTERCHANGE.

"THESE WILL EFFECTIVELY RELIEVE THE CONGESTION. WORK WILL START EARLY NEXT YEAR FOR COMPLETION IN 1994," MR LEUNG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE INTERIM, VARIOUS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAD ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE JUNCTION.

"AS A RESULT, AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME FOR CROSSING THE BRIDGE IN PEAK HOURS HAS RECENTLY BEEN REDUCED FROM 20 MINUTES TO FIVE MINUTES. FURTHER INTERIM IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

ON WORKS TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE, THE SECRETARY SAID WORK ON MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HING FONG ROAD/KWAI TSING ROAD JUNCTION WOULD START AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1994.

"THIS PROJECT WILL DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE KWAI TSING INTERCHANGE AND WILL ALLEVIATE CONGESTION," HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES ALREADY INTRODUCED AT THE TSING YI NORTH BRIDGE HAD ALSO BENEFITTED THE SOUTHERN BRIDGE, MR LEUNG SAID.

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WOULD BE INTRODUCED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR TO FURTHER IMPROVE CONDITIONS AT THE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE.

MR LEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE INTERNAL ROAD NETWORK AND THE TWO BRIDGES AT TSING YI WERE KEY ELEMENTS IN ALL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES FOR THE AREA.

IN THE LONGER TERM, WITH THE COMPLETION OF AIRPORT RELATED PROJECTS, TSING YI RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A RAIL LINK AND DIRECT ROAD ACCESS TO WEST KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

ON PLANNING OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, MR LEUNG SAID THAT WAS AN ONGOING INTERACTIVE PROCESS.

"WHERE LAND USE PROPOSALS ARE LIKELY TO GENERATE MORE TRAFFIC, AN ASSESSMENT IS MADE OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ROAD SYSTEM.

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"THIS REVEALED WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD NETWORK ARE REQUIRED OR WHETHER THE SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TO BE RECONSIDERED," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID WHERE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS WERE NEEDED, THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM WAS TO COMPLETE THEM TO TIE IN WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT.

"HOWEVER, THIS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING LAND RESUMPTION PROBLEMS AND THE NEED TO COMPETE FOR RESOURCES," HE SAID.

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MANPOWER SHORTAGE HAMPERS FULL OPERATION OF TUEN MUN HOSPITAL

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MANPOWER SHORTAGE, PARTICULARLY OF NURSES, HAS BEEN THE MAIN CONSTRAINT IN BRINGING THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL INTO FULL OPERATION, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS WONG SAID INTENSIVE EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE TO INTRODUCE INCENTIVES FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF AND IN RE-DEPLOYING EXISTING RESOURCES.

SHE SAID THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WAS A MAJOR ACUTE HOSPITAL COMPRISING 1,606 BEDS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PATIENT SERVICES IN MANY CLINICAL SPECIALTIES.

THESE SERVICES AND SPECIALTIES INCLUDED SURGERY, MEDICINE, PAEDIATRICS, GERIATRICS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY, ORTHOPAEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY, ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY, RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY.

THE SECRETARY SAID IT HAD BEEN THE PLAN THAT A HOSPITAL OF SUCH MAGNITUDE AND COMPLEXITY SHOULD BE COMMISSIONED IN PHASES, HAVING REGARD TO THE EXIGENCIES OF SERVICE AND ANTICIPATED PATIENT NEEDS.

SHE TOLD MEMBERS THAT THE TUEN MUN HOSPITAL WAS OPENED IN MARCH LAST YEAR BRINGING 366 BEDS INTO IMMEDIATE USE.

AN EIGHT-HOUR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE WAS INTRODUCED IN JULY LAST YEAR AND THIS WAS EXTENDED TO A 12-HOUR ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE THIS JANUARY.

AS OF TODAY, THE NUMBER OF BEDS IN USE IN THE HOSPITAL STANDS AT 753, WITH A STAFFING COMPLEMENT OF 1,807.

/MRS WONG

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1991

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MRS WONG ADDED THAT THE HOSPITAL WOULD OPERATE ITS ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ROUND-THE-CLOCK IN TWO MONTHS' TIME, FROM JANUARY NEXT YEAR. AT THE SAME TIME, 100 ADDITIONAL BEDS WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SERVICE.

ACCORDING TO PRESENT SCHEDULE, THE SECRETARY SAID THE HOSPITAL WOULD BE IN FULL OPERATION BY MID-1993 WITH OVER 3,000 STAFF. THEY WOULD INCLUDE DOCTORS IN DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES, NURSES, VARIOUS SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, AND OTHER SUPPORTING STAFF.

"THIS REPRESENTS A DEFERMENT OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM THE EARLIER TARGET DATE OF END-1992, WHICH I REPORTED TO THIS COUNCIL IN JULY LAST YEAR," THE SECRETARY SAID.

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3,100 II'S FROM CHINA IN HK PRISONS

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ABOUT 3,100 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA ARE SERVING PRISON TERMS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ELSIE TU, MR ASPREY SAID SOME 2,600 OF THESE HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES AND THE REST CONVICTED OF OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

HE ADDED THAT ABOUT 2,500 WERE FIRST OFFENDERS; 489 CLAIMED TO BE BETWEEN 14 AND 21 YEARS OLD.

"OF THESE 489, 25 ARE AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 15, 271 BETWEEN 16 AND 18, AND 193 BETWEEN 19 AND 21," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEND ANYONE UNDER 14 TO PRISON.

"IF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS UNDER 14 ARE CONVICTED, THEY WILL BE KEPT IN BOYS' OR GIRLS' HOMES.

"AT PRESENT, THERE IS ONE SUCH OFFENDER, AGED 13, IN THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME," HE SAID.

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TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS CLOSELY MONITORED

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THE POLICE CLOSELY MONITOR TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS AS PART OF ANTI-TRIAD OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, MR ASPREY SAID THEY DID THAT THROUGH THE SCHOOL LIAISON SYSTEM.

"POLICE LIAISON OFFICERS VISIT SCHOOLS REGULARLY TO GIVE TALKS TO STUDENTS TO EXPLAIN THE DANGERS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH TRIADS AND THE PROPER ACTION TO BE TAKEN IF THEY ARE APPROACHED BY TRIAD MEMBERS," HE SAID.

A TEACHING PACKAGE ON THE DANGERS OF TRIAD INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"WITHIN SCHOOLS, THE APPROACH IS TO ENSURE THAT THE EDUCATION PROVIDED IS AS POSITIVE AND REWARDING AS POSSIBLE SO THAT SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE LESS VULNERABLE TO TRIAD INFLUENCE," MR ASPREY SAID.

HE NOTED THAT A PRIORITY AREA WAS TO GIVE GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS AT RISK. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING WORK IN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.

THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THE FIGHT AGAINST TRIADS WAS TAKEN TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE THROUGH EDUCATIONAL FILMS, PAMPHLETS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

A PRIMARY TARGET OF THIS PUBLICITY WAS SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

MEANWHILE, MR ASPREY SAID POLICE OFFICERS ALSO VISITED AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRES AND OTHER LOCATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE FREQUENTED BY STUDENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS, AND INFILTRATED BY TRIADS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. THIS HAD RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF TRIAD MEMBERS.

"THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAS SET UP A WORKING GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLICE AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO IMPROVE THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION OF DELINQUENCY," MR ASPREY ADDED.

"AMONG OTHER THINGS, A 60-HOUR COURSE ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DEvised AND PROVIDED TO STAFF IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION."

THE SECRETARY URGED THE PUBLIC, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS THEMSELVES TO REPORT CRIME, PROVIDE EVIDENCE AND BE WILLING TO TESTIFY AGAINST CULPRITS.

"WE NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TRIADS," HE SAID.

"WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE WE CAN AND WILL MAKE PROGRESS TO PROTECT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FROM HARASSMENT."

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FREE GOODS TRADING IN HK
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THE ADMINISTRATION'S GENERAL POLICY ON THE EXPORT OR RE-EXPORT OF GOODS IS THAT, PROVIDED THAT THIS DOES NOT INFRINGE ANY HONG KONG LAW OR ANY OF OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, GOODS CAN BE TRADED FREELY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON J.D. MCGREGOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THERE IS CURRENTLY NO HONG KONG LAW OR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE EXPORT OR RE-EXPORT OF GOODS PROCESSED OR MANUFACTURED IN HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE BY PRISON LABOUR," HE SAID.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD A GENERAL POLICY OF KEEPING ITS IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS INFORMED OF THE TRADE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY ISSUED AN ADVISORY CIRCULAR INFORMING OUR TRADING COMMUNITY THAT IT UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S. LAWS PROHIBIT THE IMPORT OF PRISON-MADE GOODS AND THAT IT IS CHINA'S POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE EXPORT OF SUCH GOODS," HE SAID.

"THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE HAS ALSO BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS ON THE ISSUE," HE ADDED.

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NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN PROSECUTION OF CHIT-FUND OFFENDERS
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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE CONSIDERS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS UNDER THE CHIT-FUND BUSINESS (PROHIBITION) ORDINANCE AND BELIEVES THE LEGISLATION TO BE ADEQUATE FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES.

THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON NG MING-YUM.

HE SAID CONTROL OF CHIT-FUND BUSINESSES IN HONG KONG WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SAID ORDINANCE. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PROHIBIT RATHER THAN REGULATE THE OPERATION OF CHIT-FUNDS.

"UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE ORDINANCE, SUBJECT TO THE EXEMPTION UNDER SECTION 5, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO OPERATE A CHIT-FUND," THE SECRETARY SAID.

/HE EXPLAINED

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TERM "OPERATE" WAS DEFINED TO INCLUDE "MANAGE, FORM, CONDUCT, ORGANISE, ADVERTISE AND AID, ASSIST OR TAKE PART IN OPERATING" AND THAT AN OFFENDER WAS LIABLE TO A FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.

"ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT CHIT-FUNDS CASES REPORTED FROM 1987 TO 1990 WERE 10, 15, FIVE AND SIX RESPECTIVELY AND THERE WERE NINE CASES REPORTED UP TO SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

STATISTICS OF PENALTIES IMPOSED ON OFFENDERS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SENTENCING OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH OPERATING A
CHIT-FUND BUSINESS 1989-1991

	1989 ----	1990 ----	1991 (UP TO MARCH) -----
NO. OF CASES	9	2	2
ACQUITTED	1	-	1
CONVICTED	8	2	1
SENTENCE			

- BOUND OVER/ CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE	-	2	1
- IMMEDIATE IMPRISONMENT	1 (2 MTHS)	-	-
- FINE (HK\$)			
- 500	2	-	-
- 501-1,000	2	-	-
- 1,001-2,000	2	-	-
- ABOVE 2,000	1	-	-

NOTE: PERSONS CHARGED IN A PARTICULAR YEAR MIGHT BE ARRESTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

"ALTHOUGH THE FIGURES DO NOT INDICATE THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITH CHIT-FUND ASSOCIATIONS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND REVIEW THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON CHIT-FUNDS IF THE SITUATION SO REQUIRES," THE SECRETARY ADDED.

TAXI SERVICES IN HK GENERALLY ADEQUATE

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SURVEYS CARRIED OUT BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAVE SHOWN THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF TAXI SERVICES IN HONG KONG IS GENERALLY ADEQUATE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG HONG-YUEN, MR LEUNG SAID THE AVAILABILITY OF URBAN TAXI SERVICES HAD IMPROVED SINCE LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S ROADSIDE AND TAXI STAND SURVEYS WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY EACH YEAR.

THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF OCCUPIED TAXIS DROPPED FROM 83 PER CENT TO 80 PER CENT, THE AVERAGE VACANT TAXI HEADWAY REDUCED FROM 1.8 TO 1.4 MINUTES, AND THE AVERAGE PASSENGER WAITING TIME AT TAXI STANDS LOWERED FROM 1.2 TO 0.6 MINUTE.

HE SAID SIMILARLY, SURVEYS ON NEW TERRITORIES TAXI SERVICES INDICATED THAT THE PASSENGER WAITING TIME AT TAXI STANDS AVERAGED 0.2 MINUTE FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDING 1990 AND HAD SINCE IMPROVED TO 0.1 MINUTE.

LIKewise, THE LEVEL OF LANTAU TAXI SERVICES HAD BEEN SHOWN TO BE ADEQUATE ON THE WHOLE.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SAID TO MEET PUBLIC DEMAND FOR TAXI SERVICES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ASSESSED THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL TAXI LICENCES TO BE ISSUED EACH YEAR WITH REFERENCE TO THE FINDINGS OF THOSE SURVEYS.

HOWEVER, SUCH DEMAND NEEDED TO BE BALANCED AGAINST THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF ROADS. ACCOUNT HAD ALSO TO BE TAKEN OF THE IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL LICENCES ON THE VIABILITY OF TAXI OPERATION, HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID THE CURRENT POLICY WAS TO ISSUE NO MORE THAN 400 URBAN TAXI LICENCES EVERY TWO YEARS AND UP TO 100 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES IN 1991 AND 1992.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ALSO KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TAXI SERVICES AND PROPOSALS WOULD BE PUT TO THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE AS NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

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CENTRAL RENAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS REVISION OF TREATMENT GUIDELINES

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REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES IN THE TREATMENT OF KIDNEY PATIENTS IN RESPECT OF THE AGE FACTOR WILL BE DISCUSSED BY THE CENTRAL RENAL COMMITTEE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HO MUN-KA, MRS WONG SAID SHE STOOD TO BE ADVISED OF ITS DELIBERATION.

ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED ON THE ADVICE OF THE CENTRAL RENAL COMMITTEE, A PATIENT FOR MAINTENANCE THERAPY (HAEMODIALYSIS OR CAPD, THAT IS CONTINUOUS AMBULATORY PERITONEAL DIALYSIS) SHOULD PREFERABLY BE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 55 AND NOT SUFFERING FROM UNRELATED DISEASES WITH POOR PROGNOSIS OR FROM SEVERE PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES.

MRS WONG SAID CURRENTLY, 1,212 PATIENTS WERE RECEIVING VARIOUS FORMS OF MAINTENANCE THERAPY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

"OF THIS TOTAL, 889 ARE ON CAPD PROGRAMME AND 384 OF WHICH DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE ABOVE GUIDELINES, SHE SAID.

"THESE 384 PATIENTS ARE, HOWEVER, ALSO UNDER TREATMENT. THEY EITHER BUY THEIR OWN FLUID FOR DIALYSIS OR GET THE FLUID FROM VARIOUS CHARITABLE AGENCIES, WITH GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING OTHER NECESSARY DRUGS, MEDICAL ATTENTION AND TRAINING.

MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED THE CONTRIBUTION OF AGENCIES IN THE COMMUNITY.

"IF WE WERE TO TAKE OVER THEIR ROLE, THE ADDITIONAL ANNUAL COST TO THE PUBLIC PURSE COULD BE IN THE REGION OF \$14 MILLION," SHE SAID.

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POLICY FOR CHEUNG CHAU DEVELOPMENT EXPLAINED

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THE OVERALL POLICY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHEUNG CHAU IS TO MAINTAIN THE RURAL CHARACTER OF THE ISLAND IN RELATION TO DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING BULK AND BUILDING HEIGHT WHILE PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR VARIOUS LAND USES IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/MR LEUNG

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MR LEUNG SAID THIS POLICY WAS TRANSLATED ONTO THE CHEUNG CHAU OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WHICH WAS ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC, AND IN THE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION.

"IN ADDITION, LAYOUT PLANS FOR CHEUNG CHAU CENTRAL, NORTH, SOUTH AND WEST ARE AVAILABLE, WHICH PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND IN MORE DETAILED TERMS," HE SAID.

THE ACTING SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE PLANNING INTENTION WAS TO MAINTAIN AN OVERALL RURAL CHARACTER FOR THE ISLAND THROUGH LOW-RISE, LOW DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS, SPATIAL VARIATION IN DENSITY WAS ALLOWED FOR A MORE DENSELY POPULATED CENTRAL CHEUNG CHAU, KEEPING THE NORTH, SOUTH AND EASTERN PARTS MORE "OPEN" AND LESS DENSELY POPULATED.

AS FOR THE PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN CHEUNG CHAU, HE SAID THE PLANNING PROCESS WAS GENERALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HONG KONG PLANNING STANDARD AND GUIDELINES.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PEACEFUL LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF CHEUNG CHAU INCLUDED THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS, THE ZONING OF FUNG SHUI LANES, AND THE PRESENT POLICY OF ONLY ALLOWING THE USE OF VILLAGE MOTORISED VEHICLES.

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CT9 INTENDS ON TSING YI

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THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT IS PRESENTLY INTENDED THAT ADDITIONAL CONTAINER FACILITIES, WHICH WILL FORM CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 (CT9), SHOULD BE SITED AT SOUTH EAST TSING YI.

REPLYING TO THE QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MRS CHAN SAID SHOULD THAT BE CONFIRMED, WORKS WOULD COMMENCE IN EARLY 1993.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE AN IRREVERSIBLE DECISION WAS TAKEN, HOWEVER, IT WAS PRUDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW ALL OPTIONS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL HANDLING CAPACITY IN THE PORT.

MRS CHAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CONTAINER TERMINALS WAS KEPT UNDER REGULAR REVIEW.

BASED ON FORECASTS OF GROWTH IN CONTAINER THROUGHPUT, THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED THAT ALL EXISTING TERMINALS PLUS TERMINAL 8 ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND WOULD BE FULLY UTILISED DURING 1995, MRS CHAN SAID.

/"THIS WILL

"THIS WILL MEAN THAT ADDITIONAL FACILITIES SHOULD COME ON STREAM AT THAT TIME OR WE WILL SUFFER FROM INCREASING CONGESTION IN THE PORT AND CONSEQUENTIAL ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS," THE SECRETARY SAID.

ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER LOCATING CT9 AT LANTAU NORTH, MRS CHAN SAID AN EXERCISE SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THE ISSUE AND INCLUDING THE NEED FOR THE TSING VI SITE AND THE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WAS NOW IN HAND.

"I EXPECT A CONCLUSION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR," MRS CHAN SAID.

MRS CHAN CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A SUSTAINED STRONG GROWTH IN CONTAINER THROUGHPUT THIS YEAR, AND THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL CONTAINER FACILITIES ON STREAM SOME TWO YEARS AHEAD OF THE OPENING OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, THE SCOPE FOR MANOEUVRE WAS LIMITED IF HONG KONG WAS TO CONTINUE TO MEET DEMAND.

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THREE BILLS INTRODUCED

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THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) BILL 1991.

DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

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STATEMENT ON VIETNAMESE 'DOUBLE BACKERS'

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS THAT VIETNAMESE DOUBLE BACKERS ARE LIKELY TO FACE PUNITIVE TREATMENT ON THEIR RETURN TO VIETNAM, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

"THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN GUARANTEES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT ANY OF THEIR CITIZENS WHO HAVE LEFT VIETNAM CLANDESTINELY AND WHO SUBSEQUENTLY RETURN WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO PUNITIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.

"THESE GUARANTEES ARE SET OUT FIRST IN THE DECEMBER 1988 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

"THEY WERE REITERATED IN THE DECLARATION MADE BY ALL COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES STEERING COMMITTEE ON APRIL 30/MAY 1 1991 IN GENEVA, AT WHICH VIETNAM CONFIRMED THAT 'IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS, NO ASYLUM SEEKER WHO RETURNS WOULD FACE PERSECUTION'.

"UPON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE BACKERS EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAD ONCE AGAIN REPEATED THEIR UNDERTAKINGS THAT NO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WHO RETURNS TO VIETNAM WILL FACE PERSECUTION AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO FACILITATE THE MONITORING OF RETURNEES BY UNHCR AND OTHERS TO ENSURE THAT THESE GUARANTEES ARE FULLY RESPECTED.

"IN MAY 1991, A TEAM OF SIX REPRESENTATIVES FROM NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGO'S) FROM THE USA, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA - INDOCHINESE RESOURCE ACTION CENTRE (WASHINGTON), EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES (NEW YORK), IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROGRAM OF THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (NEW YORK), LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE (NEW YORK), INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES (TORONTO), AND THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID (CANBERRA) - VISITED VIETNAM TO ASSESS THE SITUATION OF THOSE WHO HAD RETURNED. THEY CONCLUDED INTER ALIA THAT:

'IN OUR INTERVIEWS WITH RETURNEES AND DISCUSSIONS WITH A VARIETY OF SOURCES (INTERNATIONAL NGO STAFF, DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND UNHCR OFFICIALS), WE HEARD NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT RETURNEES SUFFER HARASSMENT, MALTREATMENT OR DISCRIMINATION ON RETURN.'

'WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT UNHCR AND VIETNAM ARE IN GOOD FAITH COMPLYING WITH THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VIETNAM AND UNHCR (13 DECEMBER 1988) WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE VOLUNTARY RETURN FROM COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM IN CONDITIONS OF SAFETY AND DIGNITY.' AND:

'IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS AN INFORMAL AND EFFECTIVE NETWORK FOR COMMUNICATION IN VIETNAM AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL VIETNAMESE REFUGEE COMMUNITY. NEWS TRAVELS FAST AND TRAVELS WITH EASE TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.'

'MONITORING OCCURS IN THIS CONTEXT AND MUST BE SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT. NOT ALL RETURNEES ARE VISITED ON A SYSTEMATIC AND REGULAR BASIS BUT RATHER ON A RANDOM BASIS.'

'THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL NGO STAFF IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS CONTRIBUTES TO THE INCREASED FLOW OF INFORMATION AND THUS ENHANCES THE CONFIDENCE IN THE MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES IN VIETNAM.'

'GIVEN AVAILABLE RESOURCES, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT UNHCR IS ADEQUATELY FULFILLING ITS MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES IN VIETNAM.'

('OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE NGO VISIT TO VIETNAM, 14-21 MAY').

"TO COMPLEMENT THE EFFORTS OF UNHCR IN MONITORING, VISITS ARE PERIODICALLY MADE TO RETURNEES BY MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN HANOI, BY NGO'S AND BY VISITING DIGNITARIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM OVERSEAS. NONE HAS EVER FOUND ANY INDICATION OF PERSECUTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL RETURNEE.

"IN ADDITION TO UNHCR ACTIVITIES, THE WORK OF NGO'S, WHICH PROVIDES A FORM OF DE FACTO MONITORING, IS EXPANDING FAST. ALREADY AT WORK IN VIETNAM PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AREAS WHERE MOST VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS COME FROM ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER CENTRE, THE NORWEGIAN AND DANISH REFUGEE COUNCILS, AUSTCARE AND THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

"IN ADDITION, AMONG THOSE WITH PLANS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM ARE ACTION AID, WORLD RELIEF COUNCIL, OXFAM, THE U.S. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE, WORLD VISION, A GROUP OF SCANDINAVIAN NGO'S, L'ORGANISATION CANADIENNE POUR LA SOLIDARITE ET LE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING OF THE NETHERLANDS."

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263 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 263 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 105 MEN, 62 WOMEN, 41 BOYS AND 55 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 72ND BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,729 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 11,025 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR REVIEW OF TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE EXTENDED
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IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR THE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE, WHICH WAS TO HAVE ENDED ON NOVEMBER 30 THIS YEAR, WILL NOW END ON JANUARY 11 NEXT YEAR.

THIS SIX-WEEK EXTENSION ALSO APPLIES TO THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT.

"IN VIEW OF THE STRONG INTEREST IN THE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE, PARTICULARLY FROM THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, AN EXTENSION IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH SAID.

"A SIX-WEEK EXTENSION WILL MAKE THIS A CONSULTATION PERIOD OF MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AND SHOULD ALLOW CONCERNED PARTIES TO BE ABLE TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE REVIEWS, WITHOUT DELAYING THE WHOLE REVISION EXERCISE TOO MUCH," HE ADDED.

THE PUBLIC IS URGED TO SEND IN THEIR COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT TO THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THEIR VIEWS ON COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

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KAIFONGS URGED TO CONTINUE MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS
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KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY TAKE PART IN, AND SUPPORT, COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IN THE 1990'S.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL WONG KAM-CHIU, MADE THE APPEAL WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAIFONG FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR WONG NOTED THAT KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, AS WELL-ESTABLISHED GRASSROOT BODIES, HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH RESIDENTS.

"THROUGH THESE CONTACTS, RESIDENTS' LIVELIHOOD, HOUSING PROBLEMS AND THEIR VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION CAN BE FULLY REFLECTED TO THE AUTHORITIES," HE SAID.

THIS WOULD ENABLE THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT VARIOUS POLICIES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FUNCTIONS AND IMPORTANCE OF KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY ALSO COMMENDED KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS FOR BEING FORERUNNERS IN ORGANISING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, AND FOR HELPING TO LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE TERRITORY'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY WAS BUILT.

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NORTH DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION SCHEME

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ENTRIES ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE NORTH DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES PRODUCTION SCHEME.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISER, THE NORTH DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ENTRIES SHOULD BE PROJECTS WITH "PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, DUTY OF A CITIZEN" AS THEIR THEME, OR TEACHING MATERIALS RELATED TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

"THERE IS NO RESTRICTIONS ON ITS FORMAT. IT CAN BE AN ACTIVITY, AN AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTION, A MODEL, AN EXHIBITION, A BOOKLET OR A SET OF TEACHING MATERIALS," HE SAID.

THE SELECTED PROJECTS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE NORTH DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION DAY TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 1, AND WILL THEN BE KEPT AT THE DISTRICT'S CIVIC EDUCATION RESOURCES CENTRE FOR REFERENCE.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE FANLING PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRE OF THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE, AS WELL AS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE PROJECTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE ORGANISER ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING BEFORE NOVEMBER 15.

ALSO, THE ORGANISER MAY GRANT UP TO \$300 IN CASH ASSISTANCE FOR EACH PROJECT, AFTER PRELIMINARY VETTING, PRODUCED BY AN INDIVIDUAL, AN ORGANISATION OR A TEAM.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP, IF REQUIRED, SHOULD BE MADE TO THE ORGANISER BY FRIDAY (OCTOBER 25).

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 675 1584.

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SELF CARE EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL

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A FOUR-DAY HEALTH EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF SELF CARE WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 25) AT THE EXHIBITION HALL, CITY HALL LOW BLOCK, CENTRAL:

ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT, THE EXHIBITION AIMS TO DISSEMINATE MEDICAL AND HEALTH MESSAGES AMONG RESIDENTS, FOSTER THEIR CONFIDENCE IN TACKLING HEALTH PROBLEMS AND ENCOURAGE MORE EFFICIENT UTILISATION OF HEALTH RESOURCES.

THE EMPHASIS OF THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ON COMMON AILMENTS INCLUDING UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION, LOW BACK PAIN AND OTHER CHRONIC ILLNESSES SUCH AS HYPERTENSION, DIABETES MELLITUS AND SKIN PROBLEMS.

/APART FROM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1991

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APART FROM STATIC DISPLAYS, THERE WILL BE AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW, VIVID ANATOMICAL MODELS AND COMPUTER GAMES.

WINNING ENTRIES IN A RECENTLY-HELD DESIGN CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY.

IN ADDITION, OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR VISITORS TO HAVE THEIR BLOOD PRESSURE MEASURED AND LUNG FUNCTION TESTED.

THROUGH THE EXHIBITION, VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MEASURES, PRINCIPLES AND SKILLS OF PATIENT CARE AT HOME AND TAKE HEED OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS' ADVICE, THUS LEADING TO A HEALTHY LIFE-STYLE.

THE "SELF CARE" EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 3 PM TO 6.30 PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND FROM 10.30 AM TO 6.30 PM BETWEEN OCTOBER 26 AND 28.

STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE PRESENT TO GIVE ADVICE AND ANSWER ENQUIRIES.

FREE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST ONE IS A 510 SQUARE METRE SITE IN SHAM TSENG, TSUEN WAN.

IT IS INTENDED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK FOR THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES (EXCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS) CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE MONTHLY AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND LOT, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 750 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED AT TAM KON SHAN ROAD, AREA 9, TSING YI.

IT IS EARMARKED FOR A FEE-PAYING CARPARK FOR PARKING OF PRIVATE CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS) CURRENTLY LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT FOR USE ON PUBLIC STREETS AND ROADS UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

/THE TENANCY

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THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 8.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL; AND KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET; AS WELL AS THE TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF ROBINA CREDIT LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS YESTERDAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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FLUSHING WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN

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SUPPLY OF FLUSHING WATER TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES, WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 25) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT TSUEN KING CIRCUIT, ON YAT STREET AND ON YUK ROAD AND INCLUDING ALLWAY GARDENS, TSUEN WAN ADVENTIST HOSPITAL AND QUARTERS, LIM POR YEN SECONDARY SCHOOL, KEI WAI PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE WU CHUNG PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	22.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	23.10.91	+49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-49
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.2 *+0.1* 23.10.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	23.10.91	22.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.08 PCT	4.26 PCT
1 MONTH	4.25 PCT	4.34 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.57 PCT	4.57 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.12 PCT	5.12 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.13 PCT	6.08 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	8,870 MN	8,150 MN

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