



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1994

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SENIOR LEVEL APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) A SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

MR DOMINIC WONG, OBE, JP, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WILL BE APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR HOUSING IN DECEMBER 1994.

MR PETER LAI, JP, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, WILL BE APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR SECURITY IN FEBRUARY 1995. HE WILL SUCCEED MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, CBE, AE, JP, WHO HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO RETIRE IN THE INTEREST OF LOCALISATION.

MR BOWEN LEUNG, JP, PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WILL BE APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS IN MAY 1995. HE WILL SUCCEED MR TONY EASON, JP, WHO HAS SIMILARLY BEEN DIRECTED TO RETIRE IN THE INTEREST OF LOCALISATION.

MR LAM WOON-KWONG, JP, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR DOMINIC WONG, OBE, JP AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION. THIS SUPERSEDES THE EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT OF MR LAM'S APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

MR STEPHEN IP, JP, COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, WILL BE APPOINTED COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

MRS PAMELA TAN, JP, DEPUTY HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR IP AS COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE.

MR ALAN LAI, JP, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MRS TAN AS DEPUTY HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT.

MISS JACQUELINE WILLIS, JP, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR LAM WOON-KWONG AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

MR STEPHEN LAM WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR PETER LAI AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

MR JOHN TSANG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, WILL TAKE OVER FROM MR BOWEN LEUNG AS PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MR WONG SHING-WAH, DOMINIC, OBE, JP

AGED 52. MR WONG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1991. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, SECURITY BRANCH, THE FORMER SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, THE POLICE AND CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH. HE BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1984 TO 1988 AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER FROM 1988 TO 1989. HE WAS APPOINTED POSTMASTER GENERAL FROM 1989 TO 1992. IN MAY 1992, HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

/MR LAI

MR LAI HING-LING, PETER, JP

AGED 43. MR LAI JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1994. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, SECURITY BRANCH, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE FORMER GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH. HE BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH FROM 1988 TO 1989 AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1989 TO 1991. HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS IN FEBRUARY 1991.

MR ASPREY ALISTAIR PETER, CBE, AE, JP

AGED 50. MR ASPREY JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1965 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN 1991. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN THE FORMER COLONIAL SECRETARIAT, THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT. HE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING FROM 1980 TO 1983, PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE FROM 1984 TO 1987, DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH FROM 1986 TO 1989, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY FROM 1989 TO 1990. HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF SECRETARY FOR SECURITY IN FEBRUARY 1990.

MR LEUNG PO-WING, BOWEN, JP

AGED 45. MR LEUNG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1992. HE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, SECURITY BRANCH, THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION. HE BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (FORMERLY TITLED DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION) FROM 1987 TO 1990. HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS FROM 1990 TO 1992. HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN DECEMBER 1992.

MR EASON ANTHONY GORDON, JP

AGED 56. MR EASON JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1968 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN 1993. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE FORMER ENVIRONMENT BRANCH AND THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. HE BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY IN THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH FROM 1981 TO 1986, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY FROM 1986 TO 1987, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1987 TO 1989. HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE FORMER BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT FROM 1989 TO 1992. HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS IN APRIL 1992.

MR LAM WOON-KWONG, JP

AGED 43. MR LAM JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1974 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1993. DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS CAREER, HE SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSTS IN THE THEN NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND LATER THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE BRANCH, THE THEN ENVIRONMENT BRANCH AND THE THEN UMELCO OFFICE. ON RETURN FROM A TRAINING COURSE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN 1987, HE WAS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND THEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT. HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1991 TO 1993, WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER.

MR IP SHU-KWAN, STEPHEN, JP

AGED 43. MR IP JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1993. HE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING HOUSING DEPARTMENT, FINANCE BRANCH, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE FORMER UMELCO, THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE FORMER LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH. HE TOOK UP THE POST OF PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE FORMER MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH IN 1986 AND LATER BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY IN DECEMBER 1988. HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1992 AND TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE IN MAY 1993.

MRS TAN KAM MI-WAH, PAMELA, JP

AGED 38. MRS TAN JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1977 AND ROSE TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN 1993. SHE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE FORMER SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, FINANCE BRANCH, REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH. SHE BECAME PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH FROM 1989 TO 1990 AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURANCE POLICY IN THE FORMER MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH FROM 1990 TO 1992. SHE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT IN JULY 1992.

MR LAI NIN, ALAN, JP

AGED 43. MR LAI JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1976 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN 1993. HE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE FORMER UMELCO. HE WAS ON SECONDMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION FROM 1984 TO 1987. HE ASSUMED DUTY AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE FROM 1987 TO 1991 AND LATER BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE FROM 1991 TO 1993. HE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION IN MARCH 1993.

MISS WILLIS JACQUELINE ANN, JP

AGED 47. MISS WILLIS JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1969 AND ROSE TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1994. SHE HELD APPOINTMENTS IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE FORMER RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND INFORMATION BRANCH. SHE WAS ON ATTACHMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY IN UK FROM 1987 TO 1988. SHE ASSUMED DUTY AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES IN 1988 AND LATER BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS FROM 1990 TO 1992. SHE TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN OCTOBER 1992.

MR LAM SUI-LUNG, STEPHEN

AGED 39. MR LAM JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1978 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B IN 1993. HE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, THE FORMER MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, THE FORMER ENVIRONMENT BRANCH, HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE LONDON OFFICE. HE WAS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES FROM 1987 TO 1989 AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY FROM 1989 TO 1991. HE TOOK UP THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TORONTO FROM 1991 TO 1994. HE HAS BEEN ON ATTACHMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH SINCE SEPTEMBER 1994.

MR TSANG CHUN-WAH, JOHN

AGED 43. MR TSANG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1982 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN 1990. HE SERVED IN A NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE BRANCH, THE FORMER ASSESSMENT OFFICE, THE FORMER OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING, ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH AND THE FORMER MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH. HE BECAME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY FROM 1987 TO 1991 AND TOOK UP THE PRESENT POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE IN SEPTEMBER 1991.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE PROMOTIONS

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS TO THE SENIOR RANKS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE:

TO THE RANK OF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1995

- MR HAIDER BARMA SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT
- MR GORDON SIU SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES
- MR DONALD TSANG SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY
- MR NICHOLAS NG SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

TO THE RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A

WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1995

- MRS HELEN YU DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS
- MR BOWEN LEUNG PRIVATE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
- MR LAM WOON-KWONG DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER

WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 1, 1995

- MR KWONG KI-CHI DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY

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LABOUR IMPORTATION CEILING RAISED FOR AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO RAISE THE CEILING OF THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS SCHEME (THE ACP SCHEME) TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY WAS NOW MOVING INTO A NEW PHASE OF ACTIVITY WITH THE AWARD IN THE COMING MONTHS OF MAJOR CONTRACTS TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY \$35 BILLION.

"TO ENSURE THAT THESE CONTRACTS CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN BUDGET AND AT THE SPEED REQUIRED, IT IS NECESSARY TO ADJUST THE CEILING OF THE ACP SCHEME UPWARDS IMMEDIATELY, FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF 5,500 TO 17,000, TO MEET THE WORKER REQUIREMENT OF THE ACP PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.

"FURTHER REVISIONS OF THE IMPORTED LABOUR CEILING TO 27,000 MAY BE IMPLEMENTED WHEN ALL THE OTHER REMAINING ACP WORKS ARE COMMITTED AND FUNDED AND AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TAKE-UP RATE UNDER THE FIRST REVISION AND THE CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN," MR LAM SAID.

"THE NEW CEILING IS A PROSPECTIVE PEAK FIGURE WHICH, EVEN IF REACHED, WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR RELATIVELY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.

"IT WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY PERMANENT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF IMPORTED LABOUR IN HONG KONG AS WORKERS ADMITTED UNDER THE ACP SCHEME MAY ONLY BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN HONG KONG FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF TWO YEARS EACH," HE SAID.

MR LAM SAID ACCORDING TO THE TERRITORY'S LABOUR PROJECTIONS FOR 1996, OF THE 62,000 LOCAL CONSTRUCTION SITE WORKERS AVAILABLE, 59,000 WILL BE EMPLOYED IN NON-ACP PROJECTS.

THIS LEAVES ONLY 3,000 LOCAL SITE WORKERS AVAILABLE FOR THE ACP PROJECTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PEAK DEMANDS FOR LABOUR FOR ALL ACP PROJECTS, WHICH WOULD OCCUR IN 1996, WOULD BE AROUND 30,000. THE SHORTFALL OF 27,000 MAY HAVE TO BE MET BY IMPORTED LABOUR.

"THE MARKET FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS HAS TIGHTENED IN RECENT MONTHS AS WORK ON THE TERRITORY'S MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAD INTENSIFIED. CONSTRUCTION SITE EMPLOYMENT TOTALS AROUND 58,000 RECENTLY," MR LAM SAID.

A SPECIAL SCHEME FOR IMPORTING UP TO 2,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON ACP SITES WAS INTRODUCED IN MAY 1990. THE CEILING WAS RAISED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR TO 5,500.

BY NEXT MONTH, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IMPORTED UNDER THE SCHEME WILL REACH 5,195.

AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING LAST FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 18), MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT WITH FINANCIAL APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH AIRPORT RAILWAY WORKS, THERE WOULD BE URGENT NEED TO RAISE THE CEILING OF THE SCHEME TO COPE WITH THE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AMOUNT OF WORKS THAT WOULD NOW HAVE BEEN FUNDED AND COMMITTED.

MR LAM SAID THE CRITERIA UNDER WHICH THE SCHEME OPERATED SHOULD ENSURE THAT JOBS WERE NOT TAKEN AWAY FROM LOCAL WORKERS AND THAT LOCAL WAGES ARE NOT UNDERCUT.

COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO SAFEGUARD THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF LOCAL WORKERS.

"CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED ACP WORKS CONTRACTS MAY APPLY TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR IMPORTATION OF WORKERS UNDER THE SCHEME.

"AS A PRE-REQUISITE, THEY MUST REGISTER THEIR VACANCIES WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR APPLICATION BY LOCAL JOB-SEEKERS.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT JOB OFFERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL WORKERS PRIOR TO GIVING APPROVAL TO INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS TO IMPORT LABOUR," MR LAM SAID.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IMPORTED WORKERS WERE ONLY PERMITTED TO PERFORM DUTIES STIPULATED IN THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND NO CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE ALLOWED.

THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE LIMITED POOL OF IMPORTED WORKERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ACP CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE A GENUINE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM.

"IN THE EVENT OF REDUNDANCY, IMPORTED WORKERS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE FIRST. THIS SERVES TO PREVENT DISPLACEMENT OF LOCAL WORKERS BY IMPORTED WORKERS," MR LAM SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A LIAISON GROUP, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, LABOUR DEPARTMENT, CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO) AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, HAS BEEN SET UP TO MONITOR AND ASSESS THE APPLICATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME.

THE DIRECTOR OF NAPCO, MR BILLY LAM, SAID ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAMME OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA), TENDERS FOR THE TWO MAJOR CONTRACTS FOR THE AIRPORT PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING WERE TO BE RETURNED IN EARLY DECEMBER 1994.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT CONTRACTORS CURRENTLY TENDERING TO THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA) AND THE MTRC FOR COMMITTED CONTRACTS ARE ASSURED THAT THE NECESSARY LABOUR WOULD BE AVAILABLE," MR LAM SAID.

THE COMMITTED ACP PROJECTS COMPRISE FUNDED WORKS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND PROJECTS, AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

"THE SCHEME HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE TO TENDERERS FOR ACP PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY INTERNATIONAL TENDERERS, THAT AVAILABILITY OF LABOUR WOULD NOT BE A CONSTRAINT ON THEIR WORK.

"THIS WILL HELP TO CONTAIN TENDER PRICES, IN LINE WITH OUR INTEREST IN KEEPING PROJECT COSTS WITHIN BUDGET," MR LAM SAID.

"WE HOPE THAT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WILL REALISE THAT WE HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION WORKLOAD AHEAD OF US, AND THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ACP PROJECTS TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND SMOOTHLY FOR TIMELY COMPLETION.

"THE ADDITIONAL IMPORTED WORKERS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE CONSTRUCTION CAPACITY WILL BE HERE WHEN THE WORKLOAD IS ELEVATED PROGRESSIVELY TOWARDS ITS PEAK.

"FAILURE TO RENDER THIS CAPACITY WILL HAVE PROFOUND ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR COSTS AND INFLATION, NOT ONLY FOR THE ACP PROJECTS BUT ALSO FOR OTHER PROJECTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WITH SPILL-OVER EFFECTS TO THE REST OF THE ECONOMY," HE ADDED.

A NEW HOUSING BRANCH

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A NEW HOUSING BRANCH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT. IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND FOR CO-ORDINATING GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTING HOUSING POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.

THE NEW BRANCH WILL BE HEADED BY THE NEW SECRETARY FOR HOUSING.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE NEW SECRETARY FOR HOUSING WILL ALSO COVER DEVELOPMENT OF REHOUSING POLICY IN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AND RENT CONTROL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE LATTER OF WHICH CURRENTLY RESTS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS.

THE CREATION OF THE BRANCH WILL NOT AFFECT THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY (HA). THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN AS ITS EXECUTIVE ARM.

"A DEDICATED POLICY BRANCH WITH SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING WILL ENSURE THAT HOUSING IS GIVEN THE PRIORITY AND UNDIVIDED ATTENTION IT DESERVES," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

OTHER SENIOR STAFF IN THE NEW BRANCH WILL INCLUDE A DEPUTY SECRETARY, THREE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, AND A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

THE BRANCH WILL HAVE FOUR DIVISIONS WHOSE TITLES AND FUNCTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PUBLIC HOUSING DIVISION

IT WILL FOSTER A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HA, FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME.

PRIVATE HOUSING DIVISION

IT WILL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS, ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF LAND TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR PRIVATE HOUSING AND WHERE NECESSARY, EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL HOUSING PROJECT ACTION TEAM (HPAT) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TASK FORCE ON LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY PRICES. IT WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET, INTRODUCING MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF HOME BUYERS AND REVIEWING THE RENT CONTROL POLICY.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

IT WILL CO-ORDINATE THE EFFORTS IN IDENTIFYING HOUSING SITES, DETERMINING PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR LAND SUPPLY FOR HOUSING, AND MONITORING PROGRESS THROUGH THE HPAT.

ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

IT WILL PROVIDE GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE BRANCH, MONITOR AND REVIEW THE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN LAND SUPPLY AND HOUSING PRODUCTION AND MANAGE EXPENDITURE FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE.

AS AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS WILL OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE HOUSING BRANCH UNTIL THE NEW SECRETARY IS IN POST IN DECEMBER.

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LBAC BRIEFED ON HOUSING BRANCH

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THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC) WAS BRIEFED YESTERDAY (MONDAY) ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANISATION OF THE NEW HOUSING BRANCH ESTABLISHED.

THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR CHENG HON-KWAN, WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICE MARKET AND THE FINAL REPORT ON LAND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS.

THE COMMITTEE WAS TOLD THAT THE HOUSING BRANCH WAS ESTABLISHED ON NOVEMBER 18 AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING AND CO-ORDINATING THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY WHICH AIMED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HOUSING TO MEET THE DEMAND, TO PROMOTE HOME OWNERSHIP AND TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE USE OF HOUSING RESOURCES IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING WOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING POLICIES AND PROVISION, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MONITORING THE DEMAND FOR PRIVATE HOUSING SUPPLY, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF REHOUSING POLICY.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THERE WERE FOUR DIVISIONS IN THE HOUSING BRANCH RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, PRIVATE HOUSING, PROJECT MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

ON THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICE MARKET, THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED THAT THE PRICES OF THE OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS, IN PARTICULAR HIGH QUALITY ACCOMMODATIONS, HAD INCREASED BY AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 33.5 PER CENT BETWEEN 1991 AND 1994.

BY COMPARISON, RENTAL HAD BEEN MORE MODERATE, AVERAGING 12.8 PER CENT ANNUALLY OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE SCOPE FOR SPECULATION WAS LIMITED SINCE OFFICES WERE PREDOMINANTLY OFFERED FOR RENT DIRECTLY BY THE DEVELOPERS.

SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DRAW A LINE BETWEEN INVESTORS AND SPECULATORS IN THE OFFICE MARKET WHERE BUYERS LOOKED FOR AN INVESTMENT RETURN, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEE THE NEED FOR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO DAMPEN SPECULATION AT THIS TIME.

ON THE FINAL REPORT ON LAND AUCTION ARRANGEMENTS, MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE PRESENT LAND DISPOSAL POLICY WORKED WELL AND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR DRASTIC CHANGES.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DISCUSSING WITH THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS ON A PROPOSED REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE, AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN REACHED FOR A SYSTEM WITH A GREATER ELEMENT OF SELF-REGULATION TO BE INTRODUCED WITHIN THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION.

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SCA SPEAKS ON 1995 ELECTIONS

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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR NICHOLAS NG, TODAY (TUESDAY) EXPLAINED THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES IN NEXT SEPTEMBER'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND CALLED ON RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT BOTH THE LEGCO ELECTIONS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

IN A SPEECH TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHWEST LUNCHEON MEETING, MR NG SAID AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE EXACT DATE FOR THE LEGCO ELECTIONS, WHICH WOULD RETURN HONG KONG'S FIRST COMPLETELY-ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE WILL COMMENCE IN JANUARY AND WILL END ON JUNE 1, 1995.

AS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5, THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL COMMENCE ON JANUARY 9.

GIVING DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGCO ELECTIONS, MR NG SAID IT WOULD BE THREE ELECTIONS ROLLED INTO ONE.

"OF THE 60 SEATS, 20 WILL BE ELECTED FROM 20 SINGLE-SEAT GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, 30 SEATS WILL BE FILLED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND 10 SEATS WILL BE FILLED BY THOSE ELECTED FROM OPEN CANDIDATURE BY AN ELECTION COMMITTEE MADE UP OF THE 300-PLUS ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS," HE SAID.

MR NG SAID OF THE 30 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, 21 WOULD BE ELECTED BY THE EXISTING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WHILE THE NINE NEW ONES WOULD BE ELECTED BY ALL THOSE ELIGIBLE AMONG THE ESTIMATED 2.7 MILLION WORKFORCE, WHO WERE NOT ALREADY IN THE OLD FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES.

"DELINEATION OF THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL BE BASED ON THE BROAD INDUSTRIAL SECTORS UNDER THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION," HE SAID.

"OUR WORKFORCE WILL BE GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS IN WHICH THEY WORK. A WORKING PERSON'S POST OR OCCUPATION IN THE WORK ORGANISATION IS NOT THE DETERMINING FACTOR.

/"FOR EXAMPLE

"FOR EXAMPLE, A DRIVER WHO WORKS FOR A MANUFACTURING FACTORY SHOULD REGISTER IN THE MANUFACTURING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY. SIMILARLY, A DRIVER WHO WORKS IN AN IMPORT/EXPORT FIRM SHOULD REGISTER WITH THE IMPORT AND EXPORT FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

"THE DRIVER WILL NOT BE REGISTERED UNDER THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY IN THESE TWO EXAMPLES. THE CHOICE OF A PARTICULAR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY FOR AN EMPLOYEE IS THEREFORE DEPENDENT ON THE MAIN LINE OF BUSINESS OF HIS EMPLOYER," HE EXPLAINED.

MR NG SAID TO FACILITATE PEOPLE TO REGISTER, THE AUTHORITIES HAD COME UP WITH A METHOD WHICH WOULD MAKE REGISTRATION EASY FOR THE 2.45 MILLION PEOPLE ALREADY ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL.

"TO BEGIN WITH, THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION WILL ASK ALL EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE THE NAME AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS CONFIRMATION ABOUT THEIR MAIN LINE OF BUSINESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLASSIFYING THEIR EMPLOYEES.

"AFTER RECEIVING THE INFORMATION THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE WILL CHECK WHETHER THE EMPLOYEES ARE ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL AND IF SO, ALLOCATE A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TO THEM ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYER'S MAIN LINE OF BUSINESS.

"A NOTIFICATION WITH THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY IDENTIFIED WILL BE SENT TO THE EMPLOYEES THAT THEY WILL BE SO REGISTERED IF THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION," HE SAID.

MR NG GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION WOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE ANY CHANGE IN HIS CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR EXAMPLE CHANGE OF EMPLOYER, OR TO MAKE A CHOICE OF HIS FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY BY COMPLETING A NEW APPLICATION FORM IF HE WAS ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION IN MORE THAN ONE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

"HE CAN, OF COURSE, CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER AS A FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTOR," HE ADDED.

AS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER IN A NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY BUT HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED IN THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL, THEY COULD APPLY TO THE REGISTRATION OFFICER FOR REGISTRATION AT THE SAME TIME IN BOTH THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL AND A NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY.

"SELF-EMPLOYED, FREE-LANCERS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE PERSONS COULD BECOME ELECTORS IN AN APPROPRIATE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY BY MAKING AN APPLICATION TO THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE," HE SAID.

WHILE CALLING ON ALL EMPLOYERS TO GIVE THE FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY REGISTERING EXERCISE THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION, MR NG ADDRESSED SOME EMPLOYERS' CONCERN ABOUT THE REQUIREMENT UNDER LAW TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES TO THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION.

/HE SAID

HE SAID SUCH REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE EASY TO MEET AND THAT THERE WOULD BE PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS AND LEGAL SANCTIONS TO ENSURE THAT INFORMATION OBTAINED WOULD BE USED STRICTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO INVADE ELECTORS' PRIVACY, ONLY THE BARE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF INFORMATION IS BEING ASKED FOR," HE SAID.

"IN FACT, EMPLOYERS ARE ALREADY REQUIRED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND OTHER ORDINANCES TO KEEP RECORDS OF THEIR STAFF, INCLUDING THEIR NAMES AND IDENTITY CARD NUMBERS. WE ARE ONLY ASKING FOR READY INFORMATION," HE ADDED.

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CHINESE DELEGATION TO VISIT HK

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A CHINESE DELEGATION TO BE LED BY MR ZHAO BINGXIN, HEAD OF HONG KONG SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE (HKMAO), CHINESE STATE COUNCIL, WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM NOVEMBER 24 TO DECEMBER 3.

THERE WILL BE SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS IN THE DELEGATION. THEY WORK IN THE STATE COUNCIL'S HKMAO, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THIS WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF SPONSORED VISITS BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SPONSORED VISIT PROGRAMME IS TO INCREASE CHINESE AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S SYSTEMS AND WAYS OF LIFE.

THE DELEGATION WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON POLICIES RELATING TO THE ECONOMY, FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, SOCIAL WELFARE AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

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URBAN RENEWAL VITAL TO COMMUNITY

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THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HAS HAD TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF PEOPLE WHOSE PATTERNS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED BY ITS URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID.

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CORPORATION'S LI CHIT STREET URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT IN WAN CHAI TODAY (TUESDAY).

"BUT FACING THIS CHALLENGE, BRINGING RENEWAL TO OLD PARTS OF OUR CITY, IS AS VITAL FOR THE HEALTH AND FOR THE LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY AS NEW RECLAMATION AND NEW DEVELOPMENT," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO BRING NEW LIFE TO OLD AND RUN-DOWN CITY AREAS FACED A FAR TOUGHER CHALLENGE.

/"THEY HAVE

"THEY HAVE TO COPE WITH THE CONSTRAINTS OF OLD PLANS AND OLD INFRASTRUCTURE."

"MORE IMPORTANT, THEY HAVE TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS AND TO THE LIFE OF EXISTING COMMUNITIES," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN SAID THE LI CHIT STREET PROJECT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE CORPORATION, SHOWING TO THE COMMUNITY THE CARE AND QUALITY THAT IT WAS BRINGING TO THIS IMPORTANT BUT OFTEN DIFFICULT WORK OF URBAN RENEWAL.

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION RESPONDS TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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FOLLOWING IS THE RESPONSE BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY FOR HOUSING:

"EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY AREA OF GREAT INTEREST. I FEEL SAD TO LEAVE THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM GLAD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION IN THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

"I THANK EVERYONE IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND ALL MY FRIENDS, INCLUDING MY LOYAL AND DEDICATED STAFF IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, FOR THEIR ADVICE, SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION, WITHOUT WHICH THE SERIES OF MEASURES AIMED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED.

"I WELCOME MY SUCCESSOR, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, WHO IS AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR WITH EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING EDUCATION POLICIES, AND WISH HIM WELL.

"I AM PLEASED TO BE GIVEN THE NEW JOB OF SECRETARY FOR HOUSING. IT IS AN INTERESTING, CHALLENGING AND BY NO MEANS EASY ONE. I SHALL TAKE UP THIS NEW APPOINTMENT IN MID-DECEMBER, AND WILL OFFER MY BEST SERVICE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING POLICIES AND MEASURES."

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SPECIAL LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING CONVENED

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HELD A SPECIAL MEETING THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON DURING WHICH TWO PROPOSALS RELATING TO AMENDING LABOUR LEGISLATION WERE DISCUSSED.

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR YIU YAN-NANG. BOARD MEMBERS WERE ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE TO IMPROVE THE COVERAGE OF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND IN RESPECT OF SEVERANCE PAYMENT (SP).

THEY LEARNED THAT THE FUND FIRST CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1985 AND SINCE THEN ITS COVERAGE HAS BEEN IMPROVED ON FOUR OCCASIONS. A REVIEW OF THE FUND'S COVERAGE IN RESPECT OF SP HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

/HAVING STUDIED

HAVING STUDIED THE PATTERN OF APPLICANTS' ENTITLEMENTS TO SP AND THE LIKELY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS ON THE FUND, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE LIMIT OF PAYING SP FROM THE FUND BE INCREASED FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF \$8,000 PLUS 50 PER CENT OF ANY ENTITLEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$8,000 TO \$18,000 PLUS 50 PER CENT OF ANY ENTITLEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$18,000.

THE PROPOSAL WAS GENERALLY AGREED BY THE MEMBERS.

BOARD MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE TO BE PURCHASED BY EMPLOYERS UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

THEY WERE BRIEFED THAT THERE WAS A GLOBAL TREND FOR THE REINSURANCE MARKET TO REFRAIN FROM PROVIDING REINSURANCE FOR AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT.

THIS MEANS THAT INSURERS IN HONG KONG WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO PROVIDE UNLIMITED EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE TO EMPLOYERS WHEN UNLIMITED REINSURANCE IS WITHDRAWN.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE GENERAL INSURANCE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG HAS RECOMMENDED A MINIMUM LIMIT OF COVER OF \$100 MILLION IN RESPECT OF CLAIMS RELATING TO ONE OR MORE EMPLOYEES ARISING OUT OF ANY ONE OCCURRENCE INCLUDING LEGAL COSTS.

THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY THE MEMBERS.

DURING THE MEETING, BOARD MEMBERS NOTED THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIAL IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

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SALARY INDICES FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL
EMPLOYEES FOR JUNE 1994

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THE AVERAGE SALARY LEVEL FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AS INDICATED BY THE OVERALL NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A), INCREASED BY 10.4% BETWEEN JUNE 1994 AND JUNE 1993.

THE OVERALL NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B), WHICH MEASURES CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE SALARY LEVEL ONLY FOR THOSE MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO REMAINED IN THE SAME OCCUPATION AND IN THE SAME COMPANY IN BOTH 1993 AND 1994, ROSE BY 14.7% OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE ABOVE RESULTS ARE BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE 1994 SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BOTH SALARY INDICES (A) AND (B) ARE DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEASURING CHANGES IN SALARY LEVELS FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF SELECTED COMPANIES.

HOWEVER, BY CONFINING TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO REMAINED IN THE SAME OCCUPATION AND IN THE SAME COMPANY IN 1993 AND 1994, THE SALARY INDEX (B) ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR SALARY CHANGES DUE TO GENERAL INCREMENT, MERITORIOUS INCREASE AND GAIN IN SENIORITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SALARY INDEX (A) TAKES INTO ACCOUNT EFFECTS OF LABOUR MOBILITY AS WELL.

THE RATE OF INCREASE OF THE SALARY INDEX (B) IS USUALLY HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE SALARY INDEX (A) BECAUSE THE SALARY INDEX (A) INCLUDES THE SALARIES OF NEWLY RECRUITED AND NEWLY PROMOTED EMPLOYEES, WHO TEND TO BE PAID COMPARATIVELY LOWER SALARIES THAN THOSE ALREADY IN THE SAME RANK.

BETWEEN JUNE 1993 AND JUNE 1994, THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A) FOR LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES INCREASED BY 9.6% AND 10.6% RESPECTIVELY. AS REGARDS THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B), THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 13.1% AND 15.1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A) AND NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B) FOR JUNE 1994 ANALYSED BY MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL SALARY INDICES BY THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE REAL SALARY INDICES ARE OBTAINED TO MEASURE CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY EARNED.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE REAL SALARY INDICES (A) AND (B) REGISTERED INCREASES OF 0.2% AND 4.1% IN JUNE 1994 RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THE MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COVERED IN THE SURVEY, 66% OF THEM WERE ENTITLED TO PROFIT-SHARING BONUS, 37% TO HOUSING BENEFITS OF SOME KIND AND 82% TO PROVIDENT/RETIREMENT FUND OR PENSION. IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT 88% OF THEM WERE ENTITLED TO GUARANTEED YEAR-END BONUS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) SINCE 1984 TO MEASURE CHANGES IN SALARY RATES FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 200 LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES IS COVERED IN THE SURVEY. BOTH LOCAL AND EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES WORKING IN COMMON OCCUPATIONS OF MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS ARE ENUMERATED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE SALARY RATE IS DEFINED TO INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO BASIC SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, GUARANTEED YEAR-END BONUS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE TOTAL PAY PACKAGE OF EMPLOYEES AT MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS, SUCH AS PROFIT-SHARING BONUS, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF THE SALARY RATE.

HOWEVER, STATISTICS ON FRINGE BENEFITS ARE SEPARATELY COMPILED. THEY ARE EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGES OF EMPLOYEES INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY ENTITLED TO THEM.

DETAILS OF THE SALARY MOVEMENT, AVERAGE SALARY RATE FOR MAJOR OCCUPATIONS, AND STATISTICS ON EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENT TO VARIOUS FRINGE BENEFITS, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY, ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "1994 REPORT OF SALARY AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT)".

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT \$25 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SALARY INDICES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4746 OR 582 5595.

NOMINAL SALARY INDICES (A) AND (B) ANALYSED
BY MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS FOR JUNE 1994

(JUNE 1983 = 100)

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTOR	NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A)	NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B)
MANUFACTURING/ELECTRICITY AND GAS	294.3 (+8.0)	408.4 (+12.2)
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED TRADES	322.8 (+12.4)	493.2 (+18.4)
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES	316.3 (+10.8)	467.3 (+13.7)
TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION	278.3 (+10.3)	413.3 (+12.9)
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE	361.8 (+9.8)	498.8 (+13.5)
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	319.6 (+10.4)	464.2 (+14.7)

NOTE: FIGURES IN BRACKETS ARE PERCENTAGE CHANGES FOR JUNE 1994 OVER JUNE 1993.

THREE LOTS FOR SALE

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL AUCTION THREE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ON NOVEMBER 23 (WEDNESDAY).

THE PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 .PM IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED AT 351-361 SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 452 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES EXCLUDING GODOWN, WAREHOUSE, PETROL FILLING STATION, RETAIL (EXCEPT RETAIL BANKING), RESTAURANT, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL FLATS.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED IN 212 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 83 SQUARE METRES.

THE LOWEST THREE FLOORS, INCLUDING ANY BASEMENT LEVEL, ARE TO BE USED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, BUT EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT AND PETROL FILLING STATION, AND THE REMAINING FLOORS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE REMAINING LOT IS SITUATED IN AREA 2, TAI PO KAU HUI, TAI PO. COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,367 SQUARE METRES, THE LOT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, EXCLUDING GODOWN.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

A PRESS AREA WILL BE DESIGNATED AND PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG TELEPHOTO LENSES.

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LUNG CHEUNG ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO START

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WORKS TO IMPROVE THE SECTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD WILL SOON START WITH THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CONTRACT MARKS THE PHASE II WORKS OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND CHING CHEUNG ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID THE \$294-MILLION CONTRACT COMPRISED THE WIDENING OF ABOUT 2.3-KILOMETRE LONG DUAL-TWO TO DUAL-THREE LANE CARRIAGEWAY TOGETHER WITH THE FORMATION OF CUT AND FILL SLOPES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS, A FOOTBRIDGE NEAR PHOENIX HOUSE AND AN UNDERPASS TO CONNECT TO PHASE I CONTRACT WHICH IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE LANDSCAPING WORKS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NOISE BARRIERS ALONG RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD TO REDUCE THE TRAFFIC NOISE LEVEL.

/WORKS WILL

WORKS WILL START IN A FEW DAYS AND THE ROADWORKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY JUNE 1997.

"ON COMPLETION OF THE WORKS, A MORE DURABLE AND BETTER DRIVING ROAD WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE TRAFFIC BETWEEN EAST AND WEST KOWLOON," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD WILL MAINTAIN TWO-LANE TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE OTHER ROUTES TO BYPASS THE WORKS AREA WHERE TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

"LOCAL COMMUTERS ARE RECOMMENDED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE," HE SAID.

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AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL AUCTION 100 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 26) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 50 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING AT 9.30 AM. THEY ARE:

GE9931	CL9788	GE9388	XX489
GE9699	GE1498	BL8183	GE1861
*CH3300	*AG3030	*CC27	*FC171
DL925	GE338	GE3308	CH1029
GD8219	GE122	GE978	GE301
FC917	FM318	GE8889	GE448
GE877	GE591	GE6008	EA807
*EF737	*AR656	*GE303	*AR727
GE205	GE998	AA489	GE8034
GE8892	XX657	GE6689	GF807
GE4515	GE443	*DB2626	GE550
AV6160	CF1227	GF1029	*GE1717
AC489	GF169		

IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM, ANOTHER 50 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

GE8868	AG1838	GE2328	HK1797
BC8219	GE228	GF3168	GE1689
*DB100	*FC9	*GA4	*ET91
GE6669	GE668	GE1398	AC379
GF9388	GE8893	GE832	GF2016
GE893	AW1018	CM1688	GF925
AH148	CL6318	GE6638	GF3186
*DA27	*5683	*FR7	*GE161
GE3363	GF2818	GF978	GE6636
GF882	EF807	CC3778	BT530
GF4111	HK811	*AK4747	AB139
AK910	GF3089	CX439	*CH5050
GF812	CC809		

/*SPECIAL VEHICLE ...

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK 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 BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CONDUCT THEREOF, WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTIONS WILL BE THE 248TH AND 249TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	22 NOV 94	22 NOV 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q447	H478
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD6,060 MN	HKD1,850 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,500 MN	HKD800 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	5.22 PCT	5.61 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	5.23 PCT	5.63 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 51 PCT	ABOUT 20 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	5.26 PCT	5.63 PCT

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 28 NOV 1994 -

TENDER DATE	29 NOV 94	29 NOV 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q448	Y496
ISSUE DATE	30 NOV 94	30 NOV 94
MATURITY DATE	1 MAR 95	29 NOV 95
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,500 + 300 MN	HKD500 + 150 MN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1994

- 20 -

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,871	0930	-338
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,210	1000	-338
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-143
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-143	1200	-143
LAF TODAY	-518	1500	-143
		1600	-143

LAF RATE 3.75% BID/5.75% OFFER TWI 121.5 *-0.1* 22.11.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.78	18 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.64	6.72
1 MONTH	4.81	23 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.80	7.13
3 MONTHS	5.21	29 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.43	7.45
6 MONTHS	5.57	36 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.12	7.73
12 MONTHS	6.19	58 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.10	8.35

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,614 MN

CLOSED 22 NOVEMBER 1994

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