



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

GOVERNMENT FURTHER ECONOMISES ON ITS RESOURCES	1
WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON FOREX DEALING INVITED	3
PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED	4
795 SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS RECEIVED	5
NEGOTIATIONS ON TRANSFERRING INSURANCE FIRM'S BUSINESS AT ADVANCED STAGE ...	5
HK RED CROSS A PIONEER IN PROVIDING SPECIAL EDUCATION	6
EXCO DECISION ON MONUMENTS WELCOMED	7
SCS PAYS VISIT TO TREASURY	8
ACTION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS: SHA	8
DEMONSTRATION FARM REPORT TO BE READY SOON	10
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS NEW GMB ROUTE	11
FLOWER TRADERS GIVEN LICENCE REMINDER ON WILD ORCHIDS	11
TWO CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPT SURVEYS COMMENCED	12
PUBLIC URGED TO REPORT LITTERING FROM VEHICLES	14
MAIL SERVICES DURING FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS	15
CONTRACT SIGNED FOR TSEUNG KWAN O ENGINEERING WORKS	15
LOAN FUNDS FOR STUDENTS	16
SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	17
TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO	17
URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHA TIN	18

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 1 -

GOVERNMENT FURTHER ECONOMISES ON ITS RESOURCES

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THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO CUT THE EXPENDITURE OF ALL DEPARTMENTS BY 15 PER CENT BUT IT DOES TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY THE NEED TO CONTROL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TIGHTLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BECOME INCREASINGLY EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE WAS ALSO TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY.

"AND TO THIS END, WE ARE AIMING FOR MANY DEPARTMENTS TO ACHIEVE NIL GROWTH IN ESTABLISHMENT - THAT IS TO SAY, NIL GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF POSTS WHICH THE DEPARTMENTS ARE ALLOWED TO TRY TO RECRUIT TO - OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS OR SO," HE SAID.

THIS WOULD BE THE GENERAL PATTERN, ALTHOUGH SOME DEPARTMENTS MIGHT NEED A LITTLE MORE, SOME A LITTLE LESS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE DETAILS WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

"ALL THIS IS I BELIEVE IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE PUBLIC - WE SHALL BE TAKING EVEN MORE CARE THAT OUR EXPENDITURE GOES WHERE IT WILL DO MOST GOOD - MARGINAL ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE TO BE SLIMMED OR STOPPED," MR MACLEOD SAID AT A HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION LUNCH THIS AFTERNOON.

"BUT WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT IT NEEDS A DELICATE TOUCH; NEW HOSPITALS WILL REQUIRE STAFFING, FOR EXAMPLE; WE NEED TO TAKE CARE NOT TO OVER-REACT, OR TO DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE, AND TO LEAVE SOME ELEMENT OF CHOICE WITH DEPARTMENTS AS TO HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIES; CLEARLY RESOURCE AND STAFF MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE GOING TO BE OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

"THIS WILL BE A CHALLENGE TO US ALL," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT TO HELP FIND ECONOMIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAD AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF STUDIES BY THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES SIDE OF THE FINANCE BRANCH.

THIS WAS SUPPLEMENTED BY DISCUSSIONS BY THE SO-CALLED STAR CHAMBER, COMPRISING THE CHIEF SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND MR MACLEOD HIMSELF, TOGETHER WITH POLICY SECRETARIES TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE POLICIES OR PRACTICES COULD BE CHANGED, PRIVATISATION INTRODUCED AND SAVINGS EFFECTED.

"WE ARE ALSO LOOKING MORE CLOSELY AT WAYS OF RAISING REVENUE THROUGH A MORE COMMERCIAL APPROACH," HE SAID, REMINDING HIS AUDIENCE THAT A LOWER GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH (GDP) WOULD ALSO MEAN LOWER REVENUE.

"THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL SOON BE PUTTING A GOVERNMENT OFFICE CARPARK OUT TO TENDER FOR PUBLIC USE OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS; IT HAS IDENTIFIED SCOPE FOR SIGNIFICANT ADVERTISING REVENUE BY USING SPACE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS; AND FOR RETAIL PREMISES IN THE LOWER FLOORS OF SUCH BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

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TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WAS OUT OF CONTROL, MR MACLEOD SAID THE CURRENT SITUATION COULD NOT REASONABLY BE DESCRIBED AS SUCH.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY NECESSARY TO LOWER THE RATE OF GROWTH SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, PARTICULARLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

FIGURES IN THE LAST BUDGET SHOWED THAT PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE IN 1990-91 WOULD BE UP OVER NINE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, ROUGHLY THE SAME PERCENTAGE WHETHER FOR RECURRENT OR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

"LOOKING BACK OVER THE 80'S, WE HAVE KEPT PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE SLIGHTLY BELOW GDP GROWTH, PERHAPS HELPED SOMETIMES BY HIGHER THAN EXPECTED GDP GROWTH, ESPECIALLY IN 1986 AND 1987.

"LAST YEAR WAS THE FIRST SERIOUS WARNING SIGNAL, WHEN PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE INCREASED BY SOME 13 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

"AND INDEED A WARNING WAS SOUNDED IN THE 1989-90 BUDGET SPEECH THAT WE WOULD NEED TO BE INCREASINGLY VIGOROUS IN OUR ATTACK ON BASELINE EXPENDITURE," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD EXPLAINED THAT IN THE PERIOD TO 1993-94, ALTHOUGH PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE WOULD BE LOWER, AT 6.6 PER CENT EACH YEAR, IT TOO WOULD STILL EXCEED THE GUIDELINE OF 5.5 PER CENT, THE TREND GDP GROWTH RATE.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT TO KEEP WITHIN THE GUIDELINE EVERY YEAR, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID SO OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, HE SAID.

"AND THE NINE PER CENT PLUS GROWTH FIGURE WAS RIGHTLY TAKEN BY US AND OTHERS AS A WARNING SIGNAL THAT SOME CORRECTIVE ACTION WAS NEEDED," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD REITERATED THAT TO DATE THE AIRPORT PROJECT WAS NOT A MAJOR REASON FOR THE INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE.

"IT HAS OF COURSE RESULTED IN SOME RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, BUT THE MAJOR PROVISION WILL BE NEEDED IN 1991-92 AND LATER.

"WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE LESS CONCERNED IF THERE ARE TEMPORARY LUMPS OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WHICH TAKE US OVER OUR GUIDELINES - CAPITAL IS ONLY ONE THIRD THE SIZE OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, AND LESS PERMANENT - BUT NATURALLY WE WISH TO KEEP SUCH LUMPS TO THE MINIMUM, SO AGAIN THE CONTROL IN CAPITAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR 1991-92 WILL BE PARTICULARLY TIGHT," HE SAID.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 3 -

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON FOREX DEALING INVITED

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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS HAS SET UP AN INTERNAL WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS ANY NEED TO IMPOSE CONTROLS ON LEVERAGED DEALINGS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY COMPANIES WHICH FALL OUTSIDE EXISTING FIELDS OF SUPERVISION AND REGULATION, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO RECOMMEND COURSES OF ACTION.

THE GROUP IS TO BE CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR JOSEPH YAM.

"THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH HAS IN FACT BEEN LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE SUBJECT OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS AND HAS SOUGHT LEGAL ADVICE," THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"BUT BEFORE ACTUAL PROPOSALS ARE DRAWN UP, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON THE SUBJECT FROM THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN IT," HE SAID.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF JULY THIS YEAR AND SHOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS AT THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, 24TH FLOOR, ADMIRALTY CENTRE, TOWER 2, 18 HARCOURT ROAD. INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

MR NENDICK EMPHASISED THAT ANY PROPOSALS WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED NOT TO AFFECT LEGITIMATE TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED BY PROFESSIONALS AND BY THOSE INVESTORS CAPABLE OF PROPERLY ASSESSING THE RISKS INVOLVED.

HE ADVISED THAT NON-PROFESSIONAL INVESTORS SHOULD ALWAYS TAKE GREAT CARE IN CONSIDERING WHETHER IT IS PRUDENT TO GIVE VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED DISCRETION TO UNREGULATED COMPANIES TO "INVEST" ON THEIR BEHALF IN LEVERAGED FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTRACTS.

"PLUSH OFFICES ARE NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD INDICATION OF RELIABILITY. IT WILL BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER WHO PAYS FOR THE EXPENSIVE DECOR AT THE END OF THE DAY," HE ADDED.

HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT INVESTORS SHOULD ALWAYS CONSIDER WHETHER THE SERVICES THEY REQUIRED COULD BE PROVIDED INSTEAD BY A BANK OR DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANY.

"SUCH INSTITUTIONS ARE AUTHORISED UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE AND ARE SUPERVISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING," HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 4 -

PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF HONG KONG'S NEW PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE MR JOHN GRAY, WHO IS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE HONGKONG BANK, AND THE MEMBERS ARE:

FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

THE HON EDWARD HO SING-TIN, JP

MR STEVEN BAKER

DR FRANK CHAO

MR RAYMOND KWOK

MR SIMON MURRAY

MR ANTHONY NIGHTINGALE

MR PETER THOMPSON, JP

MR TONG CHEE-GUANG

MR TUNG CHEE-HWA

MR BENJAMIN WONG

MR DAVID WONG SHOU-YEH, JP

FROM THE GOVERNMENT:

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

THE INTENTION TO ESTABLISH THE BOARD WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THE BOARD'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION WILL BE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF HONG KONG.

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- 5 -

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WHILST THE EXISTING SYSTEM HAD SERVED HONG KONG WELL, THE SCALE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WAS NEEDED TO ENSURE THE PORT CONTINUED TO MEET THE DEMANDS UPON IT WAS SO LARGE AS TO REQUIRE A NEW APPROACH.

THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD WILL BE THE FORUM FOR THE INJECTION OF KEY PRIVATE SECTOR ADVICE INTO THE GOVERNMENT PLANNING SYSTEM SO THAT THE PORT CONTINUES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS USERS AND ACHIEVES THE BEST ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE FOR HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE EXPECTED THE FIRST FORMAL SESSION OF THE BOARD TO BE HELD IN EARLY AUGUST.

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795 SUBMISSIONS ON DRAFT BILL OF RIGHTS RECEIVED
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THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 795 SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE 1990 WHEN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDED YESTERDAY (JUNE 6).

"OF THESE SUBMISSIONS, 32 WERE FROM ORGANISATIONS AND 33 FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS. THE REMAINING 730 WERE IN THE FORM OF PRE-PRINTED LETTERS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WHICH BEGAN ON MARCH 16, 1990, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT ALSO ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AD HOC GROUP ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS, 14 DISTRICT BOARDS, AND THE HEUNG YEE KUK, AND TOOK NOTE OF THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS.

"THE ADMINISTRATION IS STUDYING THE COMMENTS RECEIVED AND WILL TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN FINALISING THE DRAFT BILL," THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NEGOTIATIONS ON TRANSFERRING INSURANCE FIRM'S
BUSINESS AT ADVANCED STAGE
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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, IN HIS CAPACITY AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF NATIONAL EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL GENERAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED, TODAY (THURSDAY) INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF NATIONAL EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL'S BUSINESS IN HONG KONG TO A THIRD PARTY HAD REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE.

AGREEMENT WITH THE THIRD PARTY HAD BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE AND IT WAS HOPED TO COMPLETE THE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF THE BUSINESS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 6 -

AS IT WAS NOT HIS INTENTION TO CANCEL ANY OF THE POLICIES THEY WOULD ALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT IN THE MEANTIME.

AS INSURANCE AUTHORITY HE HAD APPROVED THE TRANSFER IN PRINCIPLE AND BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF POLICY HOLDERS AND CLAIMANTS.

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HK RED CROSS A PIONEER IN PROVIDING SPECIAL EDUCATION
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THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TODAY (THURSDAY) HAILED THE HONG KONG RED CROSS AS "A PIONEER" IN PROVIDING SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AS WELL AS FOR CONVALESCING CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS.

SPEAKING AT THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONG KONG RED CROSS AND OPEN DAYS OF RED CROSS SCHOOLS, SHE SAID SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1950, THE RED CROSS HAD CARED FOR AND SERVED THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG BY ITS INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND MITIGATING DISEASE AND PAIN.

"SINCE 1954, WITH THE HELP OF PRINCIPALS AND STAFF, THE RED CROSS SCHOOLS FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED HAVE HELPED YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL AND TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN ADAPTING THEMSELVES IN LIVING AND LEARNING," SHE SAID.

"THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED INTO WELL-ADJUSTED AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"THE HOSPITAL SCHOOLS PROVIDE TEACHING TO HOSPITALISED YOUNG PATIENTS SO THAT THEIR SCHOOLING IS NOT INTERRUPTED AND FACILITATE THEIR RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITALS."

MRS WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EDUCATING PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WAS NOT AN EASY TASK AS IT CALLED FOR IMMENSE PATIENCE, LOVE AND CO-ORDINATION AMONG VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS.

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD BEFORE A COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED EDUCATION CAN BE OFFERED. IN THIS RESPECT YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN EXEMPLARY," SHE TOLD RED CROSS OFFICIALS.

"I AM SURE THAT WITH THE CONTINUOUS AND CO-ORDINATED EFFORTS BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL BE A BETTER TOMORROW FOR OUR CHILDREN."

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 7 -

EXCO DECISION ON MONUMENTS WELCOMED

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MEMBERS OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD (AAB) TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE RECENT DECISIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO DECLARE FOUR HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AS MONUMENTS.

THE BUILDINGS ARE THE OLD KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CLOCK TOWER IN TSIM SHA TSUI, THE OLD PATHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT CAINE LANE, THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST AND THE WESTERN MARKET AT THE JUNCTION OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CLOCK TOWER WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1915 AS PART OF THE FORMER RAILWAY STATION.

THE OLD PATHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1905 TO HOUSE HONG KONG'S FIRST BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE HAS BEEN USED AS A POST OFFICE SINCE 1915, AND WAS GAZETTED AS A MONUMENT UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE LAST MONTH. IT WILL SHORTLY BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTRE.

THE WESTERN MARKET WILL BE RENOVATED BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND USED TO ACCOMMODATE A TRADITIONAL MARKET AND VENUE FOR CRAFT ACTIVITIES.

AT THEIR MEETING TODAY, THE AAB MEMBERS ALSO WELCOMED THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB'S DONATION OF \$2.35 MILLION FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL AT TSZ TONG TSUEN, FANLING.

THE ANCESTRAL HALL, ONE OF THE OLDEST ANCESTRAL HALLS IN THE TERRITORY, IS A LARGE BUILDING WITH THREE HALLS AND TWO COURTYARDS.

IT HAS BEEN USED BY THE TANGS OF LUNG YEUK TAU FOR ANCESTRAL WORSHIP AND AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR FESTIVALS AND CEREMONIES FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS, AND IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY FOR THE EXCELLENT CARVING OF ITS WOODEN BEAMS, BRACKETS AND EAVES BOARDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE WELCOME TO VISIT THE HALL ON COMPLETION OF THE RESTORATION WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT SOON BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE AAB ALSO RECOMMENDED THE DECLARATION OF THE HISTORICAL KANG YUNG SHU UK IN SHA TAU KOK AS A MONUMENT.

THE BUILDING IS A SIMPLE HAKKA STUDY HALL WHICH WAS USED BY THE LI CLAN OF WO HANG VILLAGE AS A SCHOOL FOR MORE THAN 120 YEARS.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 8 -

SCS PAYS VISIT TO TREASURY
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, TODAY (THURSDAY) WAS GIVEN AN INSIGHT INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TREASURY DURING A VISIT TO ITS VARIOUS DIVISIONS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, MR C.F.M. O'KELLY, MR WIGGHAM VISITED THE DEPARTMENT'S PROVIDENT FUNDS BRANCH AND COMPUTER DIVISION OF THE ACCOUNTING SERVICES BRANCH.

MR WIGGHAM ALSO HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TREASURY.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS THE 12TH IN A SERIES OF FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE URBAN SERVICES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE, THE EDUCATION AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENTS.

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ACTION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS: SHA
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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING THAT MEASURES HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF BEDSPACE APARTMENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF KOWLOON, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE "VERY POOR" LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THOSE APARTMENTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ROUGHLY 4,200 "CAGED MEN" LIVING IN ABOUT 150 BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, MOSTLY IN MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO, CENTRAL AND WESTERN, YAU TSIM AND WAN CHAI. MANY OF THEM WERE OLD PEOPLE, AND ABOUT 35 PER CENT OF THEM WERE RECEIVING SOME FORM OF WELFARE SERVICES.

MR TSAO SAID HE HAD VISITED SOME BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, AND FOUND THEM AFFECTED BY A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS, SUCH AS OBSOLETE AND DEFICIENT SANITATION, ILLEGAL WIRING AND UNLAWFUL STRUCTURES BOLTED ON TO THE OUTSIDE OF BUILDINGS.

"MY BIGGEST WORRY IS OVER-CROWDING. LIGHTING AND VENTILATION ARE POOR OWING TO THE CONGESTED PLACING OF TRIPLE-BUNK BEDS. TOILETS AND KITCHEN FACILITIES ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

"I HAVE SEEN ELDERLY LODGERS WHO HAVE TO TAKE THEIR DINNER, IN BED, AT 4 PM IN ORDER TO BE AT THE HEAD OF QUEUE BEFORE THE OTHER RESIDENTS RETURN AFTER WORK IN THE EVENING," HE NOTED.

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MEASURES WERE REQUIRED TO REGULATE THE CONDITIONS IN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS, AND LICENSING WAS AN OPTION, MR TSAO CONTINUED, ADDING THAT HE HAD ASKED THE DISTRICT OFFICES TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY ON ALL THE BEDSPACE APARTMENTS IN THE TERRITORY.

"WHEN WE HAVE ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON THE OPERATION OF SUCH APARTMENTS AND ON THE LODGERS, WE SHALL BE BETTER ABLE TO MEASURE PRECISELY THE SIZE AND EXTENT OF THE PROBLEMS, AND CONSIDER PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THEM," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MANY PEOPLE LIVED IN BEDSPACE APARTMENTS BECAUSE OF THE LOW RENTAL AND BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO BE NEAR THEIR PLACE OF WORK, MR TSAO SAID HE WAS TRYING TO INTEREST SOME ORGANISATIONS IN SPONSORING HOSTEL PROJECTS IN CERTAIN URBAN LOCATIONS TO CATER FOR THE LODGERS WHO WOULD NEED TO BE DISPLACED FROM CONGESTED APARTMENTS.

"I HAVE RECEIVED SOME ENCOURAGING RESPONSE, AND I HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING YOUR CLUB, CAN JOIN IN TO SUPPORT THESE ENDEAVOURS.

"THE JOB WON'T BE EASY, NEITHER CAN I GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL GET RESULTS. OTHERS HAVE TRIED AND FAILED. BUT WHAT I DO PROMISE IS THAT I SHALL PERSONALLY DEVOTE TIME, ENERGY AND ATTENTION TO THIS SITUATION, ONE OF WHICH A RICH COMMUNITY SUCH AS HONG KONG SHOULD FEEL ASHAMED," HE ADDED.

MR TSAO SAID THAT THE DETERIORATION, BOTH IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT, OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM ABOUT WHICH HE WAS VERY CONCERNED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE 1985, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAD FORMED BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAMS IN 10 DISTRICTS TO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO FLAT OWNERS IN MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR BUILDINGS.

SO FAR, THE CONDITIONS OF ABOUT 450 BUILDINGS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED. THE CNTA WAS RESTRUCTURING AND RE-DEPLOYING SOME TEAMS SO THAT THEIR SERVICES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MORE DISTRICTS.

SPEAKING ON OTHER GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, MR TSAO SAID HE SHARED THE VIEWS FROM MANY QUARTERS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS AND FLAT OWNERS, THAT A TRIBUNAL WAS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE QUICK, INFORMAL AND INEXPENSIVE PROCEDURES TO ENFORCE STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS AND TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AMONG OWNERS AND BETWEEN OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANIES.

"PROVIDED FINANCIAL AND STAFF RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE, OUR HOPE IS TO SET UP A BUILDING MANAGEMENT TRIBUNAL BY LAW AND APPOINT SUITABLE PERSONS AS MEMBERS. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND THE PROCEDURES FOR OPERATION ARE BEING EXAMINED IN DETAIL," HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUILDING MANAGEMENT, MR TSAO SAID IT HAD GIVEN VALUABLE ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS CONCERNING DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT, THE WORK OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAMS, UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, TRAINING OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, LICENSING OF GUESTHOUSES, AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY.

FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE EXAMINING THE ISSUES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, GENERAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS, AND PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY.

PUBLICITY ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT WAS "MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE SUCCESS OF ALL THE MEASURES WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE MOTIVATION OF THE FLAT OWNERS THEMSELVES," MR TSAO SAID.

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DEMONSTRATION FARM REPORT TO BE READY SOON

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A CONSULTANCY REPORT ON THE PRIVATE FARM DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IS BEING DRAFTED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON.

THE PROJECTS ARE AIMED AT DEMONSTRATING TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS, WHO WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR BUSINESS IN CONTROL AREAS, THE VARIOUS TREATMENT METHODS WHICH CAN HELP THEM COMPLY WITH ANTI-POLLUTION REQUIREMENTS.

AT A MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON PRIVATE FARMS THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TOLD THE MEMBERS THAT THE DRAFTING WORK WAS NOW AT ITS FINAL STAGE AND THE REPORT WOULD BE AVAILABLE SOON.

ON PROGRESS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, THE REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT OUT OF THE NINE PARTICIPATING LIVESTOCK FARMS, SIX HAD ALREADY COMPLETED THEIR RESPECTIVE SIX-MONTH DEMONSTRATION PERIOD.

"A FARM USING THE PIG-ON-LITTER SYSTEM STARTED ITS DEMONSTRATION PERIOD IN FEBRUARY, AND THE REMAINING TWO FARMS, ONE ON THE HYBRID SYSTEM AND THE OTHER ON THE WET MUCK-OUT SYSTEM, ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR DEMONSTRATION IN JULY," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE OPERATION OF THE PIG-ON-LITTER FARM ON DEMONSTRATION AND THE PROBLEMS IT HAD ENCOUNTERED.

AFTER THE MEETING, MEMBERS VISITED THE FARM TO INSPECT ITS OPERATIONS.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 11 -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS NEW GMB ROUTE

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THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE BETWEEN HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL AND LYTTTELTON ROAD AT THE MID-LEVELS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO CONSIDER SEVERAL MEMBERS' REQUEST TO RELOCATE A SECTION OF THE TRAM TRACK FROM WHITTY STREET TO HILL ROAD FOLLOWING RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT EXCESSIVE NOISE GENERATED BY THE TRAMS.

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENT ON A PROPOSAL ASKING THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO INTRODUCE A SUPPLEMENTARY GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE BETWEEN THE MID-LEVELS AND THE WATERFRONT IN WESTERN.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE UPGRADING AND DUALLING OF CONNAUGHT ROAD WILL BE TABLED.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 14TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG.

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FLOWER TRADERS GIVEN LICENCE REMINDER ON WILD ORCHIDS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ADVISED FLOWER TRADERS AND ORCHID LOVERS TO REFRAIN FROM TRADING OR BUYING WILD ORCHIDS OBTAINED FROM DOUBTFUL SOURCES OR WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF THEIR ORIGIN AND VALID POSSESSION LICENCES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE ADVICE FOLLOWED A REVIEW OF A COURT CASE AT THE SHA TIN MAGISTRACY ON SATURDAY (JUNE 2) IN WHICH THE DEFENDANT WAS FINED \$7,500 FOR POSSESSING 3,264 WILD CHINESE SLIPPER ORCHIDS WITHOUT A LICENCE ISSUED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE. THIS INCREASED THE ORIGINAL FINE.

ALL THE WILD ORCHIDS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$25,000 IN THE LOCAL MARKET AND ABLE TO FETCH AS MUCH AS \$250,000 IF SOLD OVERSEAS, WERE CONFISCATED.

/A SPOKESMAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 12 -

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "ALL WILD ORCHIDS ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND IT IS AN OFFENCE TO IMPORT, EXPORT OR POSSESS WILD ORCHIDS EXCEPT UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LICENCE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

"OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 FOR THE FIRST OFFENCE AND \$50,000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR A REPEAT OFFENCE. IN ADDITION, THE ORCHIDS IN QUESTION WILL BE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY FORFEITURE UNDER THE ORDINANCE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE CASE IN QUESTION.

THE DEFENDANT ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN FINED ONLY \$1,000

"BUT AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION OF ALL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE ADVICE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS DECIDED TO APPLY FOR A REVIEW OF THE SENTENCE," HE SAID.

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TWO CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPT SURVEYS COMMENCED
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THE SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES AND THE SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES FOR 1989 HAVE JUST COMMENCED, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED ANNUALLY AND REPRESENT PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME IN THE DEPARTMENT TO COLLECT STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC SECTORS IN HONG KONG.

THE AIMS OF THE SURVEYS ARE TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE DATA FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SECTORS CONCERNED TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AND FOR ASCERTAINING THEIR COST STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTPUT LEVELS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEYS ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

ABOUT 2,400 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES.

THE SURVEY COVERS LAND, SEA AND AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES, SUCH AS PUBLIC BUSES, TRAMWAYS, TAXIS, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, TRUCKS, FERRIES, SHIPPING COMPANIES AND AIRLINES. IT ALSO COVERS SUCH TRANSPORT-RELATED SERVICES AS THOSE PROVIDED BY CARPARKS, TRAVEL AGENTS AND CARGO FORWARDING AGENTS.

/ABOUT 1,400

ABOUT 1,400 ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES. THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE COVERED IN THE SURVEY:

- * STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING FACILITIES FOR HIRE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC;
- * POSTAL, TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS, MESSAGE DELIVERY AND MESSAGE EXCHANGE SERVICES;
- * ALL FINANCE (EXCEPT BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES; LOAN, MORTGAGE AND DISCOUNT COMPANIES; DEALERS/BROKERS AND EXCHANGES IN STOCKS AND SHARES, COMMODITY FUTURES, GOLD BULLION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE; PAWNSHOPS; MONEY CHANGERS; AND OTHER FINANCIAL UNDERTAKINGS;
- * INSURERS, RE-INSURERS, AGENTS AND BROKERS OF ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE AND INSURANCE-RELATED SERVICES;
- * ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING, ADVERTISING, DATA PROCESSING, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY RENTAL, LEGAL, NEWS AGENCY, SECRETARIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES.

INFORMATION SOUGHT IN THE SURVEYS INCLUDES: TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES (I.E. WAGES, SALARIES AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS), OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

THE SURVEYS ARE BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES) ORDER 1984 AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (ANNUAL SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES) ORDER 1984, WHICH WERE MADE UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 316) AND ISSUED AS LEGAL NOTICE NOS. 11 AND 12 RESPECTIVELY IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON JANUARY 13, 1984.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE ESTABLISHMENTS SAMPLED FOR THE SURVEYS. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31, 1990.

IF REQUIRED, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND ASSIST THEM IN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRES. THESE OFFICERS WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEYS WHILST ON DUTY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO THE MANagements OF ALL SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES PROMPTLY AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE SURVEYS, SO AS TO FULFIL THEIR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 14 -

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE. ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION, WHICH DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS, WILL BE RELEASED.

THE COMMISSIONER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUPPLY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA REQUIRED IN THE SURVEYS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATES WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE RETURNS, IF AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEYS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 556 9581.

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PUBLIC URGED TO REPORT LITTERING FROM VEHICLES
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THE PUBLIC CAN NOW USE A 24-HOUR HOTLINE SERVICE -- 868 0000 OR 414 5555 -- TO REPORT LITTERING FROM VEHICLES.

THIS SERVICE IS PROVIDED JOINTLY BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AS PART OF THEIR CONTINUED EFFORT TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST LITTER OFFENDERS.

UNDER THE PUBLIC CLEANSING AND PREVENTION OF NUISANCES (URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL) BY-LAWS, IT IS AN OFFENCE TO DEPOSIT LITTER OR WASTE FROM VEHICLES ONTO THE STREETS OR PUBLIC PLACES.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR LITTERING FROM VEHICLES IS A \$10,000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

AUTHORISED PUBLIC OFFICERS CAN ISSUE SUMMONSES TO LITTER OFFENDERS IF THEY ARE APPREHENDED ON THE SPOT.

IF THE VEHICLES CANNOT BE STOPPED, ANY PERSON WHO WITNESSES THE ACT OF LITTERING MAY TAKE DOWN PARTICULARS OF THE OFFENCE INCLUDING DATE AND TIME, LOCATION, VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER, AND VEHICLE PARTICULARS AND REPORT THE OFFENCE TO THE TWO MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS BY TELEPHONING THE ABOVE HOTLINE NUMBERS.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE WITNESS MAY REPORT DIRECT TO THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE TWO MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.

/THE CHAIRMAN

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR TONG KAM-BIU, CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COME FORWARD AND REPORT LITTERING FROM VEHICLES BY MAKING USE OF THE HOTLINE SERVICE.

"RESIDENTS SHOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE TWO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY IN KEEPING HONG KONG CLEAN BY DISCIPLINING THEMSELVES AND AT THE SAME TIME REPORTING LITTERING CASES."

HE SAID LITTERING IN PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES, ESPECIALLY HIGH-SPEED ROADS, CONSTITUTED GRAVE DANGER TO ROAD USERS.

"LITTERING FROM VEHICLES POSES A GREAT THREAT TO ROAD SAFETY AND ENDANGERS THE LIVES OF MOTORISTS.

"IT IS, THEREFORE, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY CITIZEN TO REPORT SUCH CASES. THIS MAY HELP TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF ACCIDENTS," HE ADDED.

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MAIL SERVICES DURING FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS

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ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD FROM JUNE 16 TO 18 WHEN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WILL BE CELEBRATED, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE WILL OPEN FOR COUNTER BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON JUNE 16.

LETTERS WILL BE DELIVERED ON JUNE 16 ONLY.

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR TSEUNG KWAN O ENGINEERING WORKS

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THE LARGEST ENGINEERING WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN TSEUNG KWAN O ARE TO BEGIN FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE \$356-MILLION CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION.

THE DEPARTMENT'S PROJECT MANAGER OF ITS SOUTH EAST NEW TERRITORIES OFFICE, MR BERNARD M.T. LAM, SAID THAT UNDER THE CONTRACT 35 HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE FORMED TOGETHER WITH INFRASTRUCTURAL ITEMS SUCH AS ROADS, STORM-WATER DRAINS AND SEWERS.

PROVISION WOULD BE MADE FOR A SHORT SECTION OF CONCRETE BOX TO BE FORMED WHERE A POSSIBLE MTR ALIGNMENT PASSES BENEATH A MAJOR ROAD, TO AVOID ANY FUTURE CONSTRUCTION, TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

"THE CONTRACT CONFIRMS THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TSEUNG KWAN O AS A NEW TOWN," MR LAM SAID.

THE WORKS, WHICH WERE DESIGNED BY MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LTD, WILL TAKE ALMOST THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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LOAN FUNDS FOR STUDENTS

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TERTIARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NOW BEING INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS' LOAN FUND AND THE SING TAO FOUNDATION STUDENTS' LOAN FUND.

THE FUNDS PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR STUDENTS OF TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE 1990-91 ACADEMIC YEAR CAN NOW BE OBTAINED EITHER AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OR AT THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICES OF THE FIVE UNIVERSITIES AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT LOANS RANGE FROM \$2,520 PER YEAR FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT TO \$7,500 FOR A POST-SECONDARY STUDENT.

"PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES," HE SAID.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR BOTH LOAN FUNDS WHICH GRANTED 348 LOANS AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN \$1.1 MILLION IN THE PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR.

"SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FROM EITHER LOAN FUND ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY BY INSTALMENTS AFTER COMPLETING THEIR STUDIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE LOANS ARE MADE ON A YEARLY BASIS. PRESENT RECIPIENTS WISHING TO APPLY FOR FURTHER LOANS FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE TO COMPLETE A PRESCRIBED FORM.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 17 -

SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

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MORE THAN 130 SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND YOUTH WORKERS FROM KWUN TONG DISTRICT WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AT A TSIM SHA TSUI HOTEL ON SATURDAY (JUNE 9).

THE SEMINAR IS ORGANISED BY THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FORMED BY OFFICERS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES AND SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

"THE GATHERING, THE FIRST PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR, IS AIMED AT PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE ON MENTAL ILLNESS AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED EARLY THIS YEAR, HAS BEEN TASKED TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE EAST KOWLOON REGIONAL OFFICER OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, MR LOK MAN-PAN. EXPERTS IN THE FIELD, INCLUDING A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, A PSYCHIATRIST AND A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER, WILL THEN GIVE TALKS ON THE SUBJECT AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE PARTICIPANTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION TO BE HELD AT FOUR SEASONS ROOM, NEW WORLD HOTEL, TSIM SHA TSUI, STARTING AT 9.15 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 9).

TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR UNDERPASS IN SHAM SHUI PO

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 1 AM TO 5 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 9), THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD/NAM CHEONG STREET VEHICULAR UNDERPASS LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND, IN SHAM SHUI PO, WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE CLEANING WORKS IN THE UNDERPASS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, MOTORISTS ON LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA LUNG PING ROAD, FLYOVER AND NAM CHEONG STREET SOUTHBOUND.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1990

- 18 -

URBAN CLEARWAY IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY), THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TAM KON PO STREET FROM A POINT 45 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHA TIN CENTRE STREET TO A POINT 70 METRES SOUTH OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

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